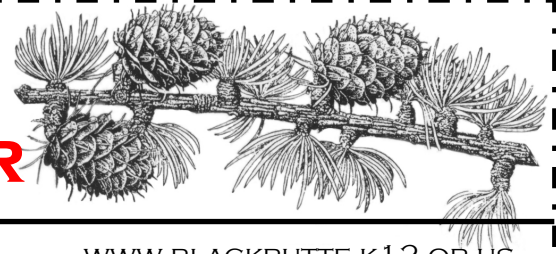


BLACK BUTTE SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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Black Butte School Gets Ready for Winter: By Delaney Sharp, Head Teacher **Winter Magic** By Nitram Eniat

With snow on the ground we at the Black Butte School have shifted our focus to wintertime fun. One of the most exciting parts of winter is our historic ski program. For over 40 years, students have braved the winter weather to head up to Hoodoo Ski Area to learn to ski. The unique program allows students to develop their physical fitness, confidence, and personal responsibility out on the slopes.

Although the ski program has been a highlight of going to our school for many students, the current program is in jeopardy. Ski days have



Students working to build a fort in the snow

been almost non-existent the last two years as rising temperatures have pushed the snow level higher. Although we remain hopeful for a snowier winter this year, the school is preparing for a future with less snow. This is just one reminder that our younger generations will live in a very different world than the ones their elders grew up in. As world leaders spend this month in Paris negotiating solutions to climate change, children around the world are preparing to deal with the effects.

In order to help students understand the situation they face, we will be monitoring snow pack throughout the Cascades this winter and comparing our findings to historic patterns. Climate change is one of the most important issues our students will face in their lifetime, and the school is committed to providing an education that will prepare them to understand and confront this reality. Whether in ski boots or hiking boots BBS students are excited for adventures in the mountains this winter, where the natural world will teach us how we are all connected.

Fire Ecology By Ilya (Grade 6)

Last month, we continued our field studies classes on Fire Ecology. We went to the High Desert Museum and the B&B Complex Fire to study fire and its behavior. At the museum we did some experiments to see how fire behaves. Out of these experiments, we found that fire needs oxygen that it rises up slopes and hillsides.

The Black Butte School is a K-8, two room schoolhouse nestled in the small community of Camp Sherman OR.

To learn more about our programs contact Delaney Sharp at 541-595-6203.

Like us on



On Thursday December 17th at 6 pm in the Camp Sherman Community Hall we will host our annual winter performance, this year called Winter Magic. This performance is a big tradition that has been going on for decades. During this year's performance every student will participate in a short play, The Gingerbread Girl by D. M. Lawrence, and sing fun holiday songs. Other acts will be skits, dances, and video animation. After the performance we invite you to join us for a festive dessert potluck. It does not cost anything to get in so, please come to our performance!

Letters from Ghana By Inanna (Grade 6)

This school year each student, third grade and above, got a pen pal from Ghana, a country in West Africa. We will hopefully send three letters to our pen pals and they will send three to us. One of the kids, Nana Yaa, is practically a princess! Her grandmother is the mother of the King of the Ashanti region. Ghana is split into regions and the Ashanti is one of them. The Ashanti were once very rich and powerful. Mr. Sharp told us that the kids there might talk about being part of the Ashanti with great pride.

Most of the students here at BBS really enjoyed getting the letters. Conner Petke said, "I enjoyed reading a letter that a student from Ghana wrote about what life is like over there and what types of entertainment they have." Some of the questions that we asked them in our letters were: What religion do you follow? What do you look like? Do you have any siblings? and many more. We will be keeping in touch with the kids in Ghana for hopefully the rest of the school year.



A letter written by Maddie (grade 1) for her Ghanaian pen pal

On another field trip we went to take a look at the effects of the B&B Complex Fire. We saw some old growth trees that were not killed. In fact where we were there weren't too many snags (dead trees) in comparison to the ridge behind us, which was completely devastated. We learned how to identify the plants that spring up after fire, like Manzanita and Snowbrush. It was cool to see how a big fire changes the landscape in different ways.