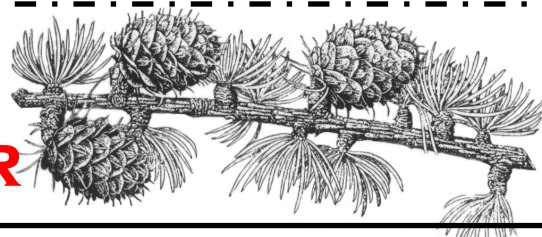


BLACK BUTTE SCHOOL MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



VOL. 1 No. 5

JANUARY 5, 2016

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New Enrichment Classes By Delaney Sharp, Head Teacher **Winter Magic** By Kelly Davis Martin (BBS parent)

The new calendar year brings some new and exciting classes to the students of BBS. Starting in January we will begin guitar and Spanish classes at the school. Twice a week students will rotate through the new classes in small groups that will allow lots of hands-on instruction. Sisters native Benji Nagel will lead the guitar class. Benji has years of experience teaching young people the joy of learning the guitar. He is excited to bring his talents to our little school this Winter. I will teach the beginning Spanish class, which will focus on building basic language skills and oral fluency. We will also use the language as a platform to better understand other cultures and regions of the world. The new enrichment classes will bring new challenges and lots of fun to the students of BBS.



Left: Shelby (grade 7) performing a vocal solo Right: Students acting

STEM Electricity Unit By Ilya (Grade 6)

Every Friday of November and December during STEM class (Science Technology Engineering and Math) BBS students worked on building their own machines. Our teacher Ms. Craig gave us 6 leads, 2 motors, 2 batteries, and a light. First, we were taught some safety: number 1, don't plug your creation into the wall and number 2, don't put your creation in water. Ms Craig also taught us how to make a "circuit board" with aluminum foil, tape, and paper. Then the fun and creativity began.

The first few classes we just tested and had fun exploring ideas but on the 4th of December we needed to make at least one functional machine. One student made "The Cup Launcher 5000" and another made "The Mesmerizing Fan". They all were useful in some way (fun included). Inanna (grade 6) said "It was fun!" Making the inventions helped us understand how circuits work. I am looking forward to building more!

What does holiday magic mean to you? For me, it is all about connecting with my friends, family and community and sharing the spirit of hope and generosity. The Winter performance was a perfect example of holiday magic. The children showcased their talents in the Camp Sherman Community Hall on a snowy evening in December. The students performed musical acts, skits and a play to a standing-room-only audience of teachers, parents, family, community members, and alumni. They sent out hand written invitations to members of the Camp Sherman Community and their efforts paid off—it was the largest crowd in recent past.

This school tradition epitomizes the giving spirit and community connectedness. The music and drama teacher, Jennie Sharp, spent months planning and rehearsing with the children and tapped into their individual strengths, talents, and personalities. The entire school performed "The Gingerbread Girl", a one act play by D.M. Larson, that had the crowd laughing. Holly Foster, grandmother of one of the students, volunteered her musical talents rehearsing, and playing piano during the performance. The physical space was made festive with the help of Rachel Gonzalez and Gavin Ferguson built a stage for the children. All of the children present were surprised with a gift from Santa that was presented by the Camp Sherman Community Hall Association. The audience was thoroughly entertained and enjoyed the desserts and refreshments organized by the Parent Teacher Organization.

Teacher Spotlight: Mr. B. By Inanna (Grade 6)

Mr. B (Ethan Barrons) is a really great teacher. During my interview with Mr. B he had a great answer to the question, "what is your favorite thing about our school?" He said, "the freedom to tinker with things. I feel like in a lot of districts and a lot of schools you just have to do what is scripted and I don't think I would function very well."

Mr. B. is definitely not a normal teacher. But none of our teachers at BBS are! He has a unique style of teaching that is awesome. It is hard to explain why he is different from most teachers, but one reason is because he lets us be us. We can be weird and awesome. He lets us write crazy stories and play weird card games and just be normal humans. I appreciate being encouraged to be me in middle school—something many kids don't get to feel!

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.

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