

**BLACK
BUTTE**



SCHOOL

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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A Note From the Head Teacher, Delaney Sharp

Black Butte School is back for another exciting school year. Students and staff have had a nice long summer break and now we are back to school learning and growing together. We are looking forward to an action-packed year filled with new adventures and challenges.

One thing people will notice when they see the school this year is the number of students. We currently have 34 students at the school in grades K-8. Talking with some alumni it sounds like this is about as big as the school has ever been.

Our curriculum this year will continue our focus on offering rich project-based experiences that challenge students to dive deep into a variety of issues. We will spend numerous days out on the Metolius learning what makes this river so special. We will also explore various forms of energy in our lives including how renewable energy has the potential to change our local region. Food and plants will be another focus as we grow a variety of things at school in our native plant garden and solarium. We will combine these efforts with trips to Seed to Table farm in Sisters to learn about our local food system.

As always if you are interested in being involved with the school please let us know. You can give me a call or stop by after school some day between 3-5PM to introduce yourself or check in. We appreciate all the positive feedback we have received lately and we hope we can continue to make the Camp Sherman community proud of our little school.



Left: photos of students learning during the first week of school Above: BBS grad, Conner's 8th grade project decorating the native plant garden



Multipurpose Room Re-design

By Jennie Sharp (staff)

This summer BBS staff and many volunteers worked to de-clutter, clean, organize, and beautify the multipurpose room (the old gym). The project got off the ground last year as staff started to dream about how the space could better accommodate all of the different activities we'd like to use space for. We enlisted the help of parent and local building designer, Abraham Gonzalez, to design a plan, and got to work this July. We removed many loads of trash and unwanted materials, painted the walls a fresh clean white, moved furniture around, and created a space that is open, useful, and good looking.

Now that the work is done, the results are better than we expected! Education research suggests that schools that are well-designed, clean, and free of visual distractions encourage kids to feel calm, focused, and cared for. Even after starting the school year with more students than ever, the students are calmer, focused, and more energized to learn than they were last year. We have heard many positive comments from kids about our cozy library space, which students are already using during our daily silent reading time.

Hopefully soon we will be opening our library to the greater Camp Sherman community with regular weekly hours. We are working now to catalogue all of our books in a computer system that will allow library patrons to check out books. We will be hosting a community event this fall to dedicate the library and open it for lending. We hope you will be able to join us!

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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