

Fort Vannoy Elementary School

First Trimester

We love involving the community and having students experience the world outside of Fort Vannoy. Our murals and scarecrows have drawn community attention and the SMART Reading program brings citizens into the school. Through field trips and assemblies our students gain experience about science and the many opportunities in southern Oregon.

Our murals started appearing last year and have expanded to other walls both outside and inside the school. We plan to have the murals completed for our 150th Celebration on April 13, 2009. There has been a school on this site since the year Oregon became a state. We will have a community celebration with pioneer themed activities. These will tie in with the fourth grade study of Oregon history.

We had nearly 100 hour of volunteering in November just in the SMART program. Students in grades 1, 2 and 3 are able to read with a community volunteer each week. Students earn books for their participation. It is an excellent way to promote reading.

The fifth grade classes have reached out to the community as well as experienced what southern Oregon has to offer. Each student created a scarecrow and these were arranged along the fence line on Upper River Road. It was fun to watch drivers slow down and admire the student creations. The fifth graders went on the annual trip to Crater Lake to study the geology of the region. They had a wonderful trip to Harry and David in Medford to learn about career opportunities in the area.

Our PTA holds fund raisers, including the fall Jog-A-Thon to pay for a part time music teacher. On December 8th the whole school will perform at the Grants Pass Performing Arts Center with traditional Christmas songs. The Center is a wonderful setting with plenty of parking and comfortable seating where everyone can see their child perform.

Science experiences were provided by the Oregon Coast Aquarium outreach program, a third grade field trip to Science Works of Ashland and a guest speaker to "Talk About Trees".

We started a Breakfast Club with Michael Morris of Sedexho to promote the free breakfast program at Fort Vannoy. With the help of Michelle Gallas, SOASTC community/school advocate, Michael served breakfast for 12 students. This will be a monthly breakfast with the principal on the third Monday of each month.

We are having a food drive competition to collect food for Fort Vannoy families. Teachers will be using the daily collection of food to do math activities appropriate for the grade level.

Teachers have been implementing techniques for cooperative learning and checking for understanding with good results.

Our first trimester PRIDE assembly will feature Dave Hegdahl with his drums on December 10th.