

Report to the Board
Year end 2008-2009
Fort Vannoy School
June 5, 2009

The 150th Celebration was wonderful. The school day was filled with activities for the students. Classes rotated through four activities during the day. The activities varied by age group. Some of the displays and performers were Wildlife Images, Banjo Bill, the Bowden family with Native American artifacts, Talk About Trees and the Nature Trail, archives of old pictures from years past, Old Time Fiddlers, and the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

In the evening families enjoyed hotdogs and baked beans with all the fixin's cooked by Michael Morris. In addition to many of the activities from the daytime, we also offered wagon rides from Little Red Wagons and papermaking with Talk About Trees. An estimated 400 people enjoyed the evening together. Shuttle transportation was provided by First Student to the Dutcher Creek Golf Course.

Michelle Gallas from SOASTC and the PTA were a tremendous help in pulling this off! Michelle organized all of the presentations for both the school day and the evening. PTA started working last summer to ready the Nature Trail. Work parties over two weekends in early spring had the trail ready for use. This required hundreds of wheelbarrow trips to spread the mulch donated by the Kraus Farm.

The murals were completed just in time for the Celebration. The murals outside the building were painted by Gene Holland, retired ERC assistant and Via Kelly, PTA parent. Inside murals were painted by Ellie DeBo, retired Kindergarten teacher. Student art work was on display in the gym all day and evening.

This was truly a community event. The next big project for the Fort Vannoy area is a community garden. With a \$750 donation from Grants Pass Rotary Club, we were able to purchase lumber for raised beds. The fifth grade students, with the help of several parents, built the beds. The third grade students planted vegetables donated by Sandy's Nursery.

Many more community members will be necessary to tend the garden over the summer. Julie Toledo, Fort Vannoy parents, and Kari O'Brien, Fort Vannoy fifth grade teacher, have headed the project from its inception by the Site Council. There is a great deal of local support for community gardens, including Food Share. Guy Vogt from Food Share is writing a grant to include the community gardens. Michelle Gallas is working with many local volunteers to include educational programs around the garden theme.

Our music teacher, Dayna Hankins put on a terrific spring musical, "No Strings Attached" with 60 third, fourth and fifth grade students. These students practiced after school two days a week. A highlight for me was to see the fifth grade boy, who had one of the leads, jump into the arms of his father as he came off of the stage at the end of the musical. The father showed as much pride in his son for his musical performance as he had after his championship basketball game.