



Preschool Concert Report

Yoncalla Preschool held their annual winter concert on January 11th at the Yoncalla Community Center. There was an amazing turn out of students participating and family support! We literally could not pack more people in for this event!

A big thank you to our preschool teachers Jill and Fatemah as well as our supportive staff members Jessica, Lorrie, Lilly, and Flor for all their hard work and dedication. It was wonderful partnering with Mr. Gavin, our elementary music teacher and fantastic MC for the night. We greatly appreciate the volunteers who helped with setup and clean up afterwards – cannot thank you enough!



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Semester 1 ends
on January 25th...

Are you ready for it???

After School Tutoring is available from 3:30pm-4:30pm on Tuesday and Wednesday each week. Transportation is available. Can't make it after school, come join us for Academic Friday (1/12) from 8am-12pm.

Remember... Our goal is to help you succeed!

***Thanks to the Yoncalla School Board
for the time and efforts that they
make for our students every day!
School Board Appreciation Month***

Christmas Twinsies



December Activities



Yoncalla School

District Priorities

1. Each student will enjoy positive, engaging learning environments.
2. Each child will possess the knowledge and skills necessary to be successful in post secondary education and careers, and the self-reliance to be a productive citizen.
3. A strong sense of community is recognized and nurtured among all stakeholders
4. Facilities and finances are managed effectively and efficiently for the benefit of each child.



YHS Students Finalist for NSBA Summit

Two students from Yoncalla High School have been nominated to attend the NSBA (National School Board Association) National Rural Education Summit in New Orleans in April of this year. Bella Sybrant and Riley Templeton, both sophomores at YHS are among the finalists from all over the state of Oregon vying for this honor.

The NSBA 2024 Rural Education Summit is designed for rural school board members to come together, share experiences, and learn from experts in the field. It will delve into crucial topics that are pivotal for the success of rural school districts. From addressing teacher shortages to ensuring effective special education programs, safeguarding school environments, and bridging the digital divide through broadband internet access — featured sessions and discussions will provide you with actionable insights to address these challenges. Whether you serve our sprawling countryside or remote communities, this summit is designed to empower you with insights, strategies, and solutions that cater to the specific needs of rural education. Attendees will explore innovative solutions, exchange ideas, and forge a path forward to strengthen rural education and create better opportunities for students in every corner of our country.

<https://www.nsba.org/Events/NSBA-2024-Rural-Education-Summit>

If selected, the students will fly to New Orleans for this conference and be part of a small schools' student panel to discuss issues that they experience with attending a rural school. These issues will be both positive and the challenges that come with attending a small school. Applicants for this prestigious event had to be nominated by a school district administrator, have a letter of recommendation that included school and community activities, and they were required to submit a video answering two questions: What is the greatest strength or positive aspect you've experienced from attending a rural school? What is the biggest challenge for you with attending a rural school?

The YHS family is very proud of these two young ladies and wish them both the best of luck as decisions will be made by a committee of rural school board members by the end of January.



YHS Hosts Regional IRRE Conference

Yoncalla High School hosted a regional training for the IRRE (Institute for Research and Reform in Education) team. Douglas County schools have been working with IRRE for the past 8 years.

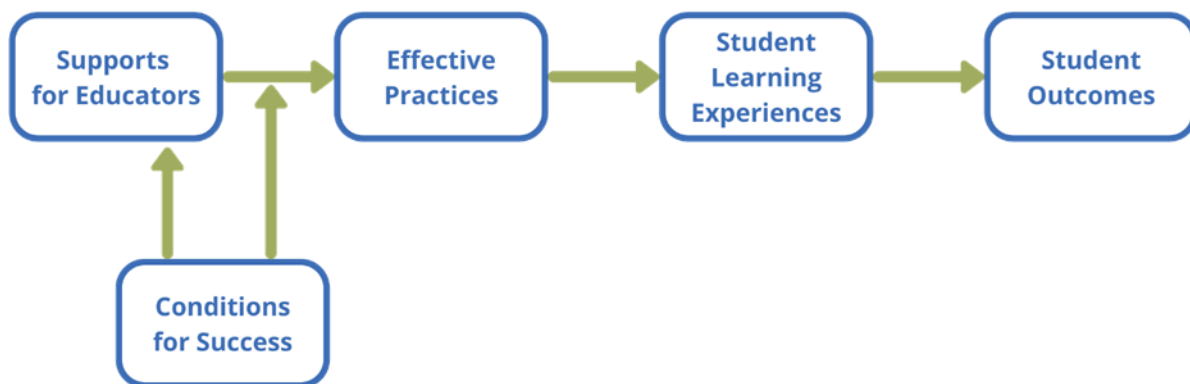
The Institute for Research and Reform in Education is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to improving the lives of children, especially in underserved areas, through data-guided insight and action.

We partner with foundations, school districts, government agencies, community organizations, collaboratives, and individual investors dedicated to educational and social change benefiting children and youth.

<https://irre.org/>

Superintendents and Principals representing 6 districts in Douglas County converged on YHS to learn how to interpret data from the annual report. The data is taken from teachers, instructional assistants, and students grades 3-12. Questions such as school safety, culture, and educational opportunities are all covered and synthesized into a convenient set of data points that is used to help formulate plans for spending throughout the district.

This partnership was brought to Douglas County schools by our local Douglas ESD and is funded by the Ford Family Foundation. IRRE has been around for over 30 years with a mission to improve the lives of children through data guided action. Everything that they do is grounded in their Theory of Change model.



School Board Appreciation Month

As January begins, the staff at Yoncalla School District would like to take a moment to thank our school board members for all of the hard work and effort they put into making sure that the priorities of the district are enforced. They make sure that the District budget is balanced and that it provides funding to hire staff, prioritize technology, make sure our buildings are heated, and so much more! They tackle the tough questions while partnering with parents and the community. They oversee the superintendent and make sure that the district is accountable for ensuring that ALL students are learning and receiving the support needed to thrive in this ever changing world.

School board members are the unsung heroes of the education system. They are community volunteers who dedicate their time, expertise, and energy to ensuring educational excellence from preschool all the way through high school.

The responsibilities of school board members are vast and diverse. They are responsible for setting district policies, making critical decisions about curriculum, overseeing budgets, and ensuring the overall well-being and success of all students. With this knowledge in mind, it is no wonder that some call board members the "guardians of our educational institutions." While doing this, they also work together to create a nurturing and effective environment for learning in the Yoncalla community.

School Board Appreciation Month provides a unique opportunity to celebrate the dedication of our school board members. These individuals often work long hours attending meetings, collaborating with educators and community members, and making difficult decisions that affect the lives of all students and families. Please join me in thanking our incredible board members:



**Cathey Grimes
Della Orcutt
Fawn Sybrant
Lisa Frasier
Twila McDonald**

LEADERSHIP UPDATES

It was another really successful year for our annual canned food drive here at YHS. While we did come up just short of our goal of 1000 cans, we still ended up with 944 with a mad dash right at the end. Leadership would like to thank everyone for their generous support and Mrs. Ross for taking a few pies to the face 😊. Moving forward, this week (12/4-12/7), we will be playing a new schoolwide game of rock-paper-scissors where each student can win beaded necklaces off one another. If you collect enough beads, you can redeem them for various prizes like ice cream or the coveted "get out of an assignment" free card. Tune in next month for another update!

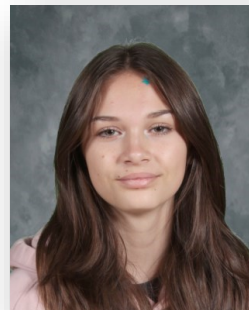


Middle/High School Students of the Month - January

Tori Noffsinger
Yoncalla Middle School
January 2024



Hope Meza
Yoncalla High School
January 2024



HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

