#### Yoncalla School District's Community Newsletter





# Update

Yoncalla, Oregon

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Ms. Wilde's Natural Resource II class has been working on a project—worm composting. And that project made it to the state finals in Samsung's Solve for Tomorrow competition.

The competition is designed to boost interest and proficiency in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). This nationwide contest challenges public school teachers and students in grades 6-

12 to show how STEM can be applied to help improve their local community.

The Natural Resource class proposed to help with the recycling problem in Yoncalla the problem that we can't recycle—by composting the food scraps from the kitchen and some of the paper from the school, and make worm castings (worm poo!). Worm castings make a fabulous additive for soil. This idea brought a top 5 finish in Oregon! We were given a Samsung tablet for this finish and were entered to be finalists in Oregon. Unfortunately, a win in Oregon was not to be but we came away from the competition with the tablet and a great idea that we intend to follow through on.

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# THE CASE OF THE MISSING GINGERBREAD PEOPLE !!!

The Preschool class has been enjoying reading the story of the Gingerbread Man. They had the marvelous idea to make their own gingerbread people during class one day. We rolled out the dough and cut out the little figures. Together, we all put the gingerbread into the oven, but Teach Megan reminded us that we can NOT open the oven door. The students remember that being a major problem in the Gingerbread Man story.



But things went *horribly* wrong during rest time. The students decided to turn the oven light to check on how their gingerbread was cooking. Only come to find out, ALL OF THE GINGERBREAD PEOPLE WERE GONE!!! Those sneaky gingerbread people even left us a note saying, "Run, run, run, as fast as you can! You can't catch me, I'm the gingerbread man!" Gee, that sounds familiar.

The teachers stayed up all night looking for the lost gingerbread people but to no avail.



#### Con't on page 3





#### con't from page 2

Thankfully, our class dog, Clifford, sniffed out the gingerbread and left us a map to find them again.





Together we tiptoed through the elementary school, following the treasure map to find our long lost

gingerbread people. Making sure we could sneak up on them, we caught our treats in a basket (conveniently located in the front office). We raced back to the classroom to quickly decorate our gingerbread people so they couldn't run away again. Our preschool friends promised to wait until they got home before they would eat

their gingerbread person. Everyone is excited to pretend to be the clever fox at the end of the book (who was the only one to catch the fast and sneaky gingerbread man)!



January

Tues 15th HSBB @ New Hope Girls Only Wed 16th College T-Shirt Day Thurs 17th UCC Ag Day Fri 18th HSBB Pacific @ YHS Sat 19th HSBB @ Camas Valley Mon 21st NO SCHOOL Mon 21st MSBB @ YES Tues 22nd HSBB New Hope @ YHS Fri 25th HSBB @ Riddle Tues 22nd HSBB New Hope @ YHS Fri 25th HSBB @ Riddle Sat 26th HSBB Elkton @ YHS Sat 26th MSBB @ YES Tues 29th HSBB @ UVC Thur 31st MSBB @ YES Thur 31st END OF 1ST SEMESTER

### 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.
- A strong sense of community is recognized and nurtured among all stakeholders
- 4. Facilities and finances are managed effectively and efficiently for the

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month is college t-shirt day. Be proud and wear the college t-shirt of your choice.





A talented and hard-working group of musicians will attend the OMEA District 10 Junior Honor Band event on January 23. This event challenges 3rd and 4th-year instrumentalists by bringing them together for a day of rehearsal and an evening concert. Students participating this year are: Marilyn Deese, flute; Ali Van Loon, flute; Grace Dover, clarinet; Michelle Wilson, clarinet; Kim Houtz, bass clarinet; Farah Strickland, tenor saxophone; Nichole Noffsinger, trombone; Jakob Evans, percussion.

The concert is at 7:00pm at Jacoby Auditorium at UCC and is free and open to the public.

# **AVID Corner**

Over the next several weeks, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and 8<sup>th</sup> grade AVID Class will be working on their first major writing units of the year. The 7<sup>th</sup> Grade AVID class will be writing a descriptive essay where they write their own memoirs. Here, students will recount events in their life, both positive and negative, that have helped them develop into the person they are today and who they want to be in the future.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade AVID class will be writing an argumentative essay with the topic of "Take a Stand". Here students will choose something they are passionate about and state a claim related to the topic. Their claim should be something with which some people would disagree or even find controversial. Students will then defend and justify their opinion by explaining their reasoning, providing supporting evidence, and addressing opposing points of view.

In both units, students will be working through the Five Phases of Writing – prewriting, drafting, revising/editing, polishing, publishing. These units will be done through the month of January and will finish out our first semester of AVID at Yoncalla!

# Student of the Month



Farah Strickland—Our Middle School Student of the Month



Ian Sprinkle—Our High Student of the Month

# Math and Games... What?!?!

During our Math Unit on Equations, Yoncalla seventh graders got to combine math with games... WHAT?!?!?! We played... One Step Equations Battleship! In this game, students solved various one step equations and then gave the answer as the location of the "ship". Students rallied back and forth with each other with the goal of sinking each other's "math ships". Through the year Mrs. Ross has been trying to incorporate games into the curriculum to increase student engagement and make learning more fun and relevant.



Kaydee Blanchfill plays against Grace Stroud



Zaiden Simon (6<sup>th</sup> grade) plays against Ivan Murphy

# Yoncalla HS Engineering and Design Students Compete in Model Bridge Contest at OSU

For the past several weeks, ten students in Mr. Staudhammer's Engineering and Design class have

been constructing model bridges that will be entered in the 50th Oregon Regional High School Model Bridge Contest on February 23 at Oregon State University. This will be the sixth year that YHS students will enter their self-designed and build bridges in the state regional competition. Students who place first or second in the Oregon regional contest are eligible to compete in the International Bridge Building Contest!

This year, YHS students are required to build at least two different bridges from plans they design to meet specifications of the contest, which changes each year. Sophomore Jordan Aguilar explains, "We are trying to build the most efficient structure from our own plans and designs. I am looking forward to seeing how my own bridges will perform." Freshman Gina Santos, the sole female student in the class is quoted as saying, "I can't wait to show the boys how this is done!"



The construction and testing of these model bridges promotes the study and application of fundamental STEM concepts and also helps students develop "hands on" skills through bridge construction. By entering the competition students get a flavor of what it is to be an Engineer, designing structures to a set of specifications and then seeing them perform their function. The Oregon re-



gional contest is also an opportunity for high school students to interact with OSU engineering students, professors, and practicing engineers.

