



March Newsletter

Legislation Impacting Charter Schools

As with any state in our nation, a new year brings out new legislation that is being proposed for the state. This year, the suggested legislation includes many that may apply to charter schools directly.

In Oregon, there are two types of charter schools: one that is independent of a school district and one that is under the sponsorship of a school district. South Columbia Family School falls under the latter category.

Along with the two major divisions, we have charter schools that are a full school district such as in

very small, rural areas (many in Eastern Oregon), virtual schools which are completely online, hybrid schools that use both virtual and face-to-face, full face-to-face, and some that work with parents who choose to home-based most of their child's instruction. This final category is what our school follows.

All of these charter schools are funded by the state through their attendance and other factors such as poverty rates and Title I or Title II schools.

SCSFS receives its monies based on enrollment, Special Education, poverty, and

grants. During the past year, we have received the additional money from the Student Investment Account.

However, the amount we current receive may be less in future years if one piece of legislation passes. Currently, virtual schools do not receive SIA money. But a new bill is proposed that would allow this to occur. The Oregon Legislature allocates how much money goes into the SIA accounts, and this would mean that more schools will have access to the money, thus making the pot smaller than before.

South Columbia Family School

Volume 6, No. 7

March, 2023

Special points of interest:

- ☺ PICKLEBALL AFTER SCHOOL ON TUESDAY for grades 5 and up.
- ☺ March 3: 2nd Trimester Ends
- ☺ March 27: Spring Break March
- ☺ April TBA Swim Party

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Middle School Basketball Winners

Two of our middle school students, Sylvie Garver and Jasy Kearse, were participants on Oregon's 7th Grade, Division 2 team basketball championship in Salem.

Not only were they on the

team, but their team won the state championship for its division

Along with that, Jasy scored a three-point shot in overtime to win the game for the team.

Congratulations!



Sylvie Garver on the left, and Jasy Kearse on the right

Our Trip to the Symphony—Grades 3-8

On Wednesday, February 8, our grades 3-8 went to the Oregon Symphony at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall in Portland, Oregon.

For those who have never been there, the concert hall is of Italian Renaissance design, built in the 1920s. Students were impressed with the interior and its impressive designs.

The students were nicely dressed, and they represented themselves quite well. They even received compliments from some of the staff for the way they looked and behaved.

This was an introduction for many of the students to the symphony. Al-

though all of them were familiar with music, few had seen a symphonic concert.

The program included the following:

- Beethoven's *Pastoral Symphony*
- Akiho's *Synesthesia Suite*
- Mussorsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*
- Debussy's *Petite Suite*
- Stuppler's *Illuminations* (World Premier)
- Proto's *A Carmen Fantasy for Double Bass*
- Frank's *Three Latin American*

dances

- Williams's *ET: Flying*

The responses from both the students and the staff were remarkable. All seemed to enjoy both the bus ride (always a highlight) and the concert.

In the future, we would like to have more opportunities to engage our students in cultural events, local events, and outdoor experiences. Plus, we would like to see our students involved with some charitable work, as was done by our middle school this year.

Pictures from the Symphony



From the looks of our students, they seemed to be enjoying their trip to the Oregon Symphony. Who says that youth of today have to be on an electronic device to enjoy themselves.

Thanks to our students for being good representatives of our school, our staff for helping to organize this event, and for our chaperones in assisting us in making sure our children were safe.

Dragons Love Tacos—Grades K-2

Our K-2 grade students were excited to attend the play *Dragons Love Tacos*, based on a popular children's book.

On Thursday, February 16, they boarded the bus and headed to the Oregon Children's Theater on Broadway in Portland, Oregon. Many of them were thrilled by being on the bus, but the chaperones may have felt differently.

The children were very well-behaved on the bus, and were anxiously awaiting our arrival to the theater. Once there, they were able to go inside of the Newmark Theater. Most had

never been there, so it was something completely new for them. Once seated, they waited for the performance to begin.

Dragons Love Tacos is about how dragons love tacos. They love chicken tacos, beef tacos, and very small tacos. They definitely love tacos—large amounts of tacos. But, they don't like hot salsa. So, if you feed a dragon a taco with salsa, be careful.

The play had multi-colored dragons, each with a different personality.

The ride back to school was filled with excited children. But, they still had great behavior on the bus.

Their day ended with a taco party, hosted by the school and our volunteers. The food was prepared and ready for the eating. The students had no problems eating a lot, as did some of the staff.

The day ended for the kids with a taco piñata, which the students, after much effort, were able to break it open to find the candy inside. They all seemed to have a wonderful day at the play.

Thanks to our K-2 graders for such good behavior and our volunteers for caring so much for the children.

Pictures from the Play and Taco Party



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December Students of the Month

Kindergarten: **Peighton Pierce** is always thinking of others in the class and is so curious..

Grades 1-2: **Charlie Cates** enjoys being helpful and puts in such great efforts with his schoolwork.

Grades 3-5 **Liam Walker** for working hard and always having a good attitude.

Grades 6-8 **Gavin Braun** for working hard on his Algebra 1, and questioning everything.

Work on School's Structure

During the rainy winter, the school has had some unique situations regarding our structure.

Due to the moisture, the building did shift slightly at the south end of the building, impacting two doors in our middle school area.

Contractors who specialize in foundational work are not readily available, especially when it comes to modular buildings.

SCFS was able to contract with River Rock Contractors who specialize in this type of work.

They came and completed the work on Friday, February 17, for a reasonable amount.

Now, we can close the doors!

We are waiting to hear from the school's insurance company to see if any of the \$1925 bill is covered, but, of course, our deductible is \$1,000, so we would only receive \$925.00 from insurance, but that is better than no money.

As we move forward, we don't see any need to have any major work completed on the school within the next school year.

Our roof was replaced four years ago. We had our building painted within the past three years and had new steps put in at the end of the deck.

Last summer, of course, we had our flooring replaced.

The only thing we are now lacking

would be a swimming pool or a spa, but those additions probably won't occur..



However, we are trying to schedule Eisenchmidt pool in St. Helens for a swim party in April.