



The Clowder

Upcoming Events

- 4/5 Basin Jazz Festival @ Mills
- 4/07 No School
- 4/11 Gold Card Bowling
- 4/12-13 Parent Conferences
- 4/14 No School
- 4/25 OSF Ashland Trip
- 4/27 Spring Pictures

Community Members Help PMS Students Finances

This Spring, Ponderosa's 7th grade Social Studies classes are learning how to choose a career and manage money in Junior Achievement's Economics for Success program. JA Economics for Success is a program that uses real life financial dilemmas to educate students on the importance of financial and career planning. During the six class sessions the following concepts are covered: Budget, Credit, Credit card, Credit score, Co-pay insurance, Debit card, Decision making, Deductible, Goal setting, Gross income, Higher education, Interest, Interests, Needs and wants,

Net income, Opportunity cost, Policy, Premium, Risk, Self-knowledge, Skills, Values, and World of work. Additional educational skills that are taught at the same time are: Analyzing information, Critical-thinking, Inquiry and critical thinking skills, Interpreting data, Math calculations, Oral and written communication, Problem solving, Reading for understanding, Self-assessment, Working in groups and pairs presentation, Oral and written communication, Organizing information, Reading for understanding.

The lessons are led by community volunteers who believe in the importance of conveying financial and career knowledge to our youth. Having our community involved in the education of our students is both enriching and empowering for them. The program helps build a relationship between students and community that encourages financially healthy future generations to return to the Klamath Basin.



PMS Students learn financial literacy skills through JA

Battle of the Books

Did you catch the reading bug? Ponderosa Middle School students certainly did! Five students traveled to North Medford High School on March 18th to compete against other middle schoolers. 16 books were assigned and questions from each of these books were asked. We began

reading, practicing, and challenging each other in November. Once a week about 15 students met, shared stories, and had intellectual discourse about our favorite books and characters.

Maia Norton, Linnea Gebauer, Kate Rodriguez, Dean Garlitz, and

Jude Garlitz made up the team of Pondo competitors. This year the team made it to the round of 16, eventually losing to the team who won the regional competition.

This is only the second time that PMS has competed in BOB. For a young team, they performed admirably!

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“Having our community involved in the education of our students is both enriching and empowering for them”

Ponderosa Middle School Teacher Stacia Hanson on the impact of Junior Achievement

Track is in Full Swing

Track started March 6th with all sorts of snow covering the ground...brrrr, nothing quite like track season in Klamath Falls!

We are super excited for another great season with Dave Coker, Lori Garcia and Evan Mortenson coaching our Bobcats. We will participate in four meets, two of those at KU and then end the season with prelims and district meets.

Track fees were waived and currently we have about 100 kids who are participating! We have also introduced the "turbo jav" into the field events.

Our first track meet is Wednesday April 5th at Ashland Middle School.

Ponderosa is currently the only middle school in the Klamath basin that participates in the Southern Oregon Middle School Athletic Conference (SOMSAC). This allows our student athletes to showcase their talents against some of the best athletes in the state.

The complete track schedule is at the end of this article.

We'd also like to give a special "thank you" to Brian Gray for volunteering and getting supplies and equipment donated to fix up our long jump pit!

- April 5 @ Ashland MS
- April 11 @ Klamath Union HS
- April 17 Pictures
- April 18 @ Klamath Union HS
- April 26 @ Crater HS
- May 2 @ Grants Pass HS (Girls Prelims)
- May 3 @ Grants Pass HS (Boys Prelims)
- May 4 @ Ashland MS (6th Grade Districts)
- May 6 @ Eagle Point HS (District Meet)



Ponderosa track and field athletes will have the opportunity to throw the "turbo javelin" for the first time this year.

Student Led Conferences Next Week

On April 12 and 13, Ponderosa Middle School will hold Spring student led conferences. Conferences are a great opportunity for students, parents and teachers to come together to support student achievement.

This year, our Spring conferences will have a student led format. This conference format gives your student the opportunity to take you

through their progress thus far this year. They will be showing you samples of their work as well as discussing the progress they are making on their annual learning goals.

Along with the student led portion of the conference, parents will also have the opportunity to meet with current teachers to discuss their child's progress during second semester.

Conference information along with appointment cards will be mailed home shortly. If you have any questions or need more information with regards to conferences, please do not hesitate to call the main office at (541)884-4740



Student Clubs Keep Kids Connected

Ponderosa has a rich tradition of student generated student led clubs. These clubs give students a great opportunity to spend time with like minded students in a safe atmosphere.

Our clubs cover a va-

riety of topics and interest areas. Essentially, if a student has an idea for a club they can create one. The only requirement is that each club must have at least one staff advisor.

This year, we currently have students involved

in Upstanders' Club, Good Mythical Morning Club, Symphony Orchestra, Chess Club, Improv Club, AVID Club, Comic's Club, Harry Potter Club and Robotics. Something for just about everyone!

We know that when

students are connected to school, their achievement improves. At Ponderosa, we are proud of the variety of opportunities our student have. From athletics to academic clubs to Harry Potter Club, we have an opportunity to suit everyone.