

# Klamath Falls City Schools PRESS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Roosevelt Elementary Competitive Readers Advance to Regionals**

Written by Malea Hunt and Susan Kramer

**March 8, 2018, Klamath Falls, OR** - The Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) is now underway. Each year students across the state team up to join the Oregon Battle of the Books (OBOB) competition. Just like in athletics, schools create teams who compete against teams from other schools.

Winning teams advance to regional and, finally, state competitions. This year students from Roosevelt Elementary formed two teams with the goal of reaching the state competition.

Training for the competitions involves, you guessed it, a lot of reading. All students receive that year's list of 16 books and then start cracking spines. They spend the winter knuckling down and committing those stories to memory. OBOB announces titles, arranged by grade level, a year in advance so hard-core readers can even train pre-season.

On Battle days beginning in February, teams gather with the judges and a moderator to compete in their knowledge of the books they've read. Competitions are organized similarly to other academic competitions. The moderator asks 8 questions about the 16 books, with questions becoming progressively more difficult. Teams score points for each correct answer. If a team answers incorrectly, the opponent has the opportunity to answer the same question and competitions can be fierce.

Enough students at Roosevelt expressed interest in OBOB that they formed two teams this year. The "Fictionary Flyers" consists of teammates of Kenzie Freid, Rachel Humphrey, Seattle Trejo and Anna Xu. Students Bryce Petersen, Kinna Freid, Ella Cox, Nathan Ferns and Farrah Zumwalt formed "An Eruption of Readers." Students are supported by Roosevelt staff members Jennifer Laitinen, Gianna Row and Renee Ferns who act as mentors, moderators and judges.

*The mission of Klamath Falls City Schools is that every student be prepared to enter the next grade at the end of each school year. We strive for success measuring three pillars of excellence – Student Excellence, Collaborative Excellence and Operational Excellence. We accomplish these goals utilizing Ignite, the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program, Credit Recovery, Extra Tutoring, and many other programs. "100% Graduation is Our Expectation."*  
Visit [www.kfalls.k12.or.us](http://www.kfalls.k12.or.us) to learn more.

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*Klamath Union High School, Ponderosa Middle School, Joseph Conger Elementary, Mills Elementary, Pelican Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary.*

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On February 12<sup>th</sup>, Roosevelt hosted a round-robin tournament where the two teams competed against each other and teams from Triad and Hosanna. It was a heated Battle and the scores were close right up to the end when An Eruption of Readers pulled ahead for the win.

While the tournament did not count toward advancement, it did help students prepare for other competitions. “These Battles were a fun way to practice [and] to get to know other teams in our area,” said Laitinen.

By the end of February, An Eruption of Readers had scored well enough in Battles to move on to the regional competition. The team will represent Roosevelt Elementary and Klamath Falls City Schools against other schools from Southern Oregon on March 17<sup>th</sup> at North Medford High School.

Oregon Battle of the Books is a volunteer-based program in its 10<sup>th</sup> year. It functions through the Oregon Association of School Libraries (OASL). According to the OASL, by exposing students “quality literature representing a variety of literary styles and viewpoints,” the mission of OBOB is to “encourage and recognize students who enjoy reading, to broaden reading interests, to increase reading comprehension, promote academic excellence, and to promote cooperative learning and teamwork among students.”

For more information about Oregon Battle of the Books, visit [www.oregonbattleofthebooks.org](http://www.oregonbattleofthebooks.org). For more information about the program at Roosevelt Elementary, contact Jennifer Laitinen at 541-883-4750.

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