



May 12, 2014

**KFCS' District Newsletter**

By Paul Hillyer, KFCS' Superintendent

**Give Back Day: Thanksgiving Without the Turkey**

Klamath Falls' citizens do a great deal for our schools. This goes all the way from the financial support approved in the 2012 operating levy to the countless volunteers who are in our schools daily helping teachers and students. The one danger with this proud tradition of support is that our district can take it for granted and not appreciate this ongoing kindness enough. To ensure this does not happen, KFCS is kicking off an event on May 23<sup>rd</sup> that will not only call to mind our appreciation but show it. The district is calling this event, "Give Back Day."

All students in the Klamath Falls City Schools will be involved with community service projects on this day. These projects are far reaching. They go everywhere from picking up trash to painting a mural in the downtown area. It is hoped that the example of these students will strike a chord with all Klamath Falls' residents to get out and help enhance the natural beauty of Klamath Falls by cleaning up, planting and improving the area. Already the Downtown Merchants, the City of Klamath Falls, Klamath Sustainable Communities, and the Parks' Department have signed on to the effort.

The plan is to make this the first of many "Give Back Days" KFCS will do. In fact, the plan is to make this an annual event with students leading the charge with the help of all community members to take responsibility for our city and create a drive for ongoing community betterment and upkeep. It is also hoped that this annual event will serve as a lesson to our young people about how important it is to take care of the city in which they live and to take ownership for making it a source of pride for all who call it home.

Two high school teachers, Valli Lonner and Mary Mateos, are the organizers of this event. If you would like to help out, please contact them: [lonnerv@kfalls.k12.or.us](mailto:lonnerv@kfalls.k12.or.us) and [mateosm@kfalls.k12.or.us](mailto:mateosm@kfalls.k12.or.us). "Give Back Day" provides a valuable opportunity for our students to say thank you to Klamath Falls' citizens for supporting our classrooms. It also is a lesson in the importance of making our community an attractive place to work and live. We have been blessed with the natural beauty of Klamath Falls. Now it is up to us to take care of this great gift by getting out and doing all we can to maintain and enhance it. This is a key to making Klamath Falls an attractive place to which others will want to come, live, establish roots, and contribute.

**Other News:**

1. On Wednesday, May 21, @ 7:00 p.m., DLR Architects will be conducting an input gathering session in the KU library on the proposed bond project. An overview of current plans will be given along with a tour for those interested.

2. Thanks to Adkins Consulting Engineering for a donation to the after-school programs at Conger School for an end-of-year celebration.
3. Have you visited the Klamath Promise website? [Klamathpromise.org](http://Klamathpromise.org)
4. The work to revitalize Modoc Field has begun. We hope the project will be completed and we will be able to have the grand opening on our first home football game on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Many sports will enjoy using the field next fall including boys' and girls' soccer and youth sports such as Pop Warner football. Saving on water use and maintenance will also be great benefits of the field.
5. As part of this project, it is hoped the tennis courts can also be redone. Thus far, about \$50,000 has been pledged for that work. Let us know if you have an interest in contributing. Contributions to the whole Modoc project are over \$360,000! Along with the savings from the zero-interest loan (one percent administrative fee) to pay off the project, more than \$600,000 will be saved for the community. Thanks to all the generous people who have made this come together.

Please forward this to anyone you know who might have an interest in the information.