

Chili, cornbread, coding draws a crowd

SUBMITTED INFORMATION

The Payette Primary School hosted a family fun night, "Code With a Kindergartner," for 3 to 6-year-olds and their families to learn about coding. This community event, held March 13, was supported by the Payette WICAP Head Start, Payette High School, Payette Primary School, and the Idaho STEM Action Center.

Delicious home-made chili, cornbread and honey butter were prepared and served by the Payette High School Culinary Class, and members of the Future Hispanic Leaders of America helped participants navigate the coding activities.

Kindergartners and Primary staff members taught coding skills to families using iPads and Lego Coding Express, Osmo, and PBS Scratch Jr. They also introduced KIBO, a coding robot which does not need a computer, but uses coding blocks to give the robot directions.

Participants received take-home packets with unplugged coding activities which teach coding skills without the use of technology. Included were three literature-based sequencing activities based on the books, "Ten Apples on Top," "Very Hungry Caterpillar," and "We're Going on a Bear Hunt." Aniyah Aguilera was the lucky winner of the Code-A-Pillar raffle prize.

Jody Greif, 21st CCLC Kindergarten director, explained some highlights of Early STEM, Science Technology Engineering and Math,



Children at the family fun night event use Osmo to learn coding. SUBMITTED PHOTO

education and told parents that STEM is not about the materials but a way to learn that starts with the thoughts, interests and questions of young children. She pointed out that the most important tool in children's learning is a caring, engaged adult running alongside them.

What is coding? A new type of literacy that incorporates creativity and logical sequencing. Kari Wardle, Idaho Public Television teacher ambassador, informed parents that teaching children to code is as important as teaching them to read.

Why coding for young

kids? It teaches sequencing, critical thinking, identifying problems, persistence and collaboration. Coding jobs are growing in number around 12 percent faster than the market average, and jobs requiring coding skills pay \$22,000 per year more than jobs that don't. While we are preparing students for many careers that require coding skills even those who pursue non-coding professions will benefit from learning to code. As Wardle noted, we teach all students to write, even though we don't expect them all to become professional writers.



PHOTO BY L. DAVIS | INDEPENDENT-ENTERPRISE

One of the three televisions Hally had installed in the hallways at New Plymouth Middle School in order to play music and promote kindness in his school can be seen in the upper right portion of the hallway in this photo.

AWARD: 'Trying to do a lot of inclusion'

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ing more STEM opportunities for students, after seeing science was an area that students did not exceed the state average in that subject last year. Hally visited with staff and adjusted the schedule, as necessary to make this happen, Sotutu said.

"I thought, in order to be honored with something like that, I couldn't do it without the staff and teachers' support," Hally said. "They're the ones in the trenches. I view this award, more as a reflection of their hard work."

While he was taken aback when receiving it, he said earning it was an honor and a reflection of the staff and students.

"Without them, I couldn't make the wheels turn," Hally said.

He also praised his students' parent involvement, saying parents hold students accountable and promote student success.

At the middle school, there are 14 teachers, four paraprofessionals and one counselor. Two faculty members, Counselor Rick Hartshorn and math teacher Roy Gasparotti, were on staff when Hally attended New Plymouth Middle School.

Of being the principal of his former teachers, Hally said, "It's a small world."

"I enjoy teaching and

being principal," he said. "But, there are days when I miss the classroom, seeing the learning process every day."

When deciding whether to teach in high school or middle school, Hally said, "I tend to gravitate towards the middle school. ... They have this common goal to succeed, which makes my job easier."

Hally stocks his own vending machines with soda he picks up from frequent Costco runs. He does this in an effort to give money back to the students. All the money used from the vending machine sales goes back to students. The money helps support students in need, as well as support teachers.

Hally also serves as the school's athletic director. On Sunday evenings, he plays basketball with community members and school staff.

"It adds to the community feeling. The kids, when they see you in basketball gear you're able to relate to them on a different level than just sitting behind a desk. I'm trying to do a lot of inclusion," he said.

In addition, he encourages good attendance by rewarding students with special treats, such as hat day, or pajama day (which is big), or a visit to class to give them a candy bar.

Hally says he is looking forward to head-

ing up kindness week at his school. He and some of the students planned on spending Monday putting kindness notes on every single student locker.

Hally has also had three televisions installed in the hallways with students' benefit in mind, saying he's set up the TVs to play music and promote kindness in his school "creating the climate and culture you ultimately want to create in your school."

In addition, he likes to spend his day being visible to students.

"I don't think the principal should necessarily be viewed as, 'Hey you there — you're in trouble.' There's a place for that, but I don't want my only interactions with them to be discipline," Hally said. "We have fun here. The students have fun, with the expectation of hard work, and accountability. We're here to learn."

Sotutu said Hally is an effective communicator, who keeps him in the loop.

"I have a good understanding what's happening in his building. ... He has a good understanding of students, as well as helping them review the rules and refresh students' memories. He's out in the hallway with students, daily," Sotutu said of Hally. "That's what he does to build the culture in his buildings."

AVIATION

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Hendricks said 16 Head Start students and two younger children accompanying Head Start parents made for a total of 18 children in this year's airport event. She said the children had been studying the subject of travel during the preceding week, and had performed some experiments with wind.

In addition to Peterson and Clark, other local pilots who participated in the educational morning at the airport were Fruitland's Dave Koeppen, and Charles Storer, Paul Sunderlin and Pete Morgan all of Payette. Paul Sunderlin's wife, Beverly Sunderlin, took photographs.

Locals earn degrees at college

UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO

MOSCOW — University of Idaho has named its 2018 semester graduates. A total of 587 degrees were distributed following the fall 2018 semester, which ended Dec. 14.

Two graduates were from Fruitland, including Alicia S. Williams, who received her Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education, and Rafael Hernandez, who received an MLA in Landscape Architecture.

Three graduates were from Weiser, including Grant D. Loomis who earned his Master of Science in Plant Science; Linda Ruiz, who received a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish Political Science; and McKayla A. Mills who received her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education.

JOB SEEKERS: NFL drafts styled event

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and Thursday; it will be held the following week in Nampa.

During the two-day combine, job seekers will be able to show their construction skills, as well as learn new ones, according to a flyer about the event.

Working under the direction of participating contractors trainees will be able to learn skills

such as framing, concrete, roofing, painting, plumbing and electrical, the flyer reads.

Trainees will not just be doing busy work, they will also be building sheds, which will be donated to local veterans.

The end game goal is that with interaction with the contractors, showing skills and motivation, trainees may be offered jobs directly during the "drafts" of the

NFL-styled event, and contractors will be able to obtain the workers they need.

People in Oregon who want to participate must be at least 18 and in Idaho they must be at least 16, and other limitations may apply.

For more information about the event, in Oregon, call (541) 889-5394 or (541) 881-5755; in Idaho, call (208) 364-7718, ext. 3876 or (208) 455 6860.

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Independent-Enterprise is an independent newspaper published weekly at 124 S. Main St., Payette, Idaho 83661. Periodicals postage paid at Payette, Idaho. Postmaster: Send change of address to Independent-Enterprise, 124 S. Main St., Payette, ID 83661.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For news, obituaries, story ideas, advertising and general information contact:

PUBLISHER - STEPHANIE SPIESS (541) 823-4830 stephanies@argusobserver.com

BUSINESS MANAGER - DAWNITA HAUETER (541) 823-4804 dawnitah@argusobserver.com

MANAGING EDITOR - LESLIE THOMPSON (541) 823-4818 editor@argusobserver.com

REPORTER - ROB RUTH (208) 642-5258 robr@argusobserver.com

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