

# **Knappa School District**

## **Community Connections Newsletter**

**Great Schools Make Great Communities;**

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**December 2020**

### **A Bit of Brownsmead History**

At the end of October, just before the elementary students returned from distance learning, Charlotte Langsev, a long time Brownsmead resident met with the daycare students at the Brownsmead Grange.

When she visited, she taught them about what Brownsmead used to look like, how she used to play with frogs from the ditch on the way to school, what the store used to be like, how the daily train would go by, and even how they hung the mail bag on a tree limb so the train could grab the mail without stopping if they needed to.

The students enjoyed learning about “how things used to be” and even showed her the grasshoppers they found outside of the grange hall, not that different than the pastimes that Ms. Langsev experienced many years ago when she attended the Brownsmead School.



### **They Play Basketball and Make Blankets Too!**

As a service project, the girls' basketball team spent a few hours making blankets that we will be donating to foster families around the community.



## 🎵 Music Program Begins: Do You Have an Instrument? 🎵

Through the Student Investment Act Grant, the Knappa School District has been able to re-start our music program. Jim Achilles is our new teacher. He comes to us having served most recently as a band and choral teacher in Wheatland, CA.

Mr. Achilles built an award winning program there and is excited about building the program in Knappa. His specialties include brass instruments, guitar, and vocals, but he is versatile in most any band instrument.

The District is committed to supporting the growth of this program, but would welcome community donations of “gently used” instruments. If you have a flute in the attic or a trumpet in the closet we would love to put them to good use. This will help offset the launch cost for this program. Instruments can be dropped by the KHS office.

Mr. Achilles has already started working with students at the elementary level and is planning to build spring programs for all grade levels. These programs will be limited to those that can be done safely in these time (like percussion), but over the next three years, he has a plan to grow the program into a full high quality music program.



## Culinary Arts at Home



High School students in KVA Culinary Arts get the chance to prepare food at home for class assignments. Their first assignment was a, "Brownie in a Mug", which required them to measure ingredients, follow a recipe, cook (in a microwave), and reflect on their process. Students were excited to do this as a really fun thing they got to do with their families. Most plan to make this again during the holidays.

After the brownie project students learned to clean and cook shrimp! Pictured (left) is a student and a wonderful dish they made

## Preliminary Facilities Planning

Starting in January, Architects will be partnering with the Knappa School District to engage the community in identifying priorities for upcoming capital projects. The District is in need of some building repairs (heating and ventilation replacement, security and seismic improvements, etc.) to existing buildings to bring the building to current standards.

The district is also planning for a middle school facility that will meet current educational standards.

Invites will be sent to the community in January to allow public engagement in this planning process. We want as much participation as possible.

Additionally, in late February and into March, there will be some community polling to make sure that any future bond levy proposal is aligned with citizen priorities. Knappa's schools are community schools and your input is invaluable to the planning process.



## Hilda Lahti December Dress Up Days



Each day this month, the students at HLE are dressing up for fun. December 3 was Who-Ville Hair Day (from the Grinch) and to the right is Mr. Van De Griff's hair. Quite the Do for Mr. Who! It is nice that students and staff can be festive in these challenging times.

*Do you know somebody who may wish to enjoy a copy of this newsletter? Please send their name and e-mail address to [morganj@knappak12.org](mailto:morganj@knappak12.org) and we'll add them to the list!*

*The mission of the Knappa School District is to INSPIRE all students to ACHIEVE academically and THRIVE as independent and PRODUCTIVE citizens*

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