

The

# **Linking Loop**

**By Anne Scheck**

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Coverage of

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School Board

TOPIC ORDER --

■ *Board News:* Agreement

■ *Class Notes:* **Supernovas**

■ *Meeting-to-Mark:* Oct 2, 2017

□ **Front & Center:** Test Scores

■ *Parting Word:* 1<sup>st</sup> Day (!)

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*Board News:*

## **AGREEMENT PENDING**

An agreement to help define the relationship between the new superintendent and the school board is expected to be approved Monday night, marking the first time a contract focused on creating good communication between the superintendent and the board has been a formal part of the district process.

“It is a way for us to start off on in the right direction and to have ways and ideas for us to continue to build on our relationships as my position unfolds in serving Central School District and the communities we serve,” explained Superintendent Jennifer Kubista EdD. Part of the agreement centers on ways to foster good communication, according to a discussion at the last school board meeting.

The document represents a new approach by the board, but it’s a tool that’s been used in lots of other places, said School Board President Steve Moser. Both the National School Boards Association and the American Association of School Administrators recommend this strategy on their joint website.

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*Class Notes:*

## **DISTRICT STUDENTS PUT**

## **PROJECT IN OUTER SPACE**

Some students in Monmouth and Independence became aeronautical scientists this summer, transporting their project into outer space while remaining earthbound themselves.

It was all part of a special NASA-backed course in which local students, who called themselves the "Supernovas," wrote computer code that moved objects in zero gravity, using the same principles that mobilize satellites. With the help of Monmouth Mayor Steve Milligan, who worked as their "guide," they took online tutorials and competed with others teams of youth from across the United States. The students and Mr. Milligan reported on their astronomical achievement at the last school board meeting.

The Supernova team was one of four in Oregon. Initially, the students' code-writing underwent digital simulation to evaluate performance. Eventually, the program was uploaded to the *International Space Station*, where it ran a "sphere" – which looked a little like a floating, multi-sided beach ball. Video footage shown at the school board meeting showed astronauts looking on, as the sphere made twists and turns around them. Oregon clinched 8<sup>th</sup> place in the challenge. Student participants told school board members that it was a space trip they'll never forget -- even though they never left their home planet.

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**Meeting-to-Mark: Monday, Oct. 2, Board Meets 6:30 pm @ Henry Hill**

*Front & Center:*

### **TEST SCORES**

The statewide Smarter Balance test results are in – and the only widespread conclusion so far seems to be that they're harder for parents and educators alike to understand -- in part, because of their newness. A work session to discuss how to interpret scores is slated to be held this month. The Central School District 13J results can be accessed at the link below. After landing on the screen, use the window titled "school district," then use the arrow to select "Central School District 13J", and scroll down to find all school listings in the district.

<http://www.ode.state.or.us/data/reportcard/reports.aspx>

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*Parting Word:*

**There were tears** from reluctant kindergartners, high-decibel school-bus rides and enough smoke in the air to prompt discussions about whether

recess should be held outside. It was all part of the first day of school, and Superintendent Jennifer Kubista EdD was there to see it up close and personal -- on bus trips, at parent drop-offs and in school corridors. She pronounced it a great day, as she recounted the experience for school board members at their first meeting after summer break.

Even the Eagle Creek forest fire, which made the Willamette Valley seem unnaturally gray, didn't seem to put a dent the day. By the time the final bell rang, kindergartners were getting used to classrooms and buses that had been quiet that morning turned noisy with chatter on the afternoon ride. One high point during her day was watching 8<sup>th</sup>-graders help new 6<sup>th</sup>-graders learn the ins and outs of locker utilization. "Lockers are a big thing," Dr. Kubista noted.

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