

Students really get into the role of education

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NESKOWIN - The **Neskowin Valley School** held their annual Landforms and Land-Lovers Biography Ball on Friday, Feb. 1. The children in the middles class - third-, fourth- and fifth-graders - created characters and landmarks from throughout Oregon's history and gave presentations on stage. During intermission, the audience was prompted to visit each character to try to guess who he or she was.

Each child was assigned to do research on either a landform, a land-lover or a historical personality. They took themselves back through time and researched how settlements and weather evolved their landforms or if they were a person, what their life was like during that time and what problems they would solve or adventures they would go on.

As the students got ready for the ball, they had to read books, articles and refer to internet resources about the landform or person they represented. Students then had to write a report, including a bibliography, and prepare a poster with a portrait of their character along with a short paragraph about that person or landform. The students also created costumes with materials at NVS or at home that they would wear while delivering a memorized monologue on stage.

Jackie Farah, a teacher for the middles class, said NVS has held the Biography Ball every year she's been there, and at least for the last 15 years. Farah said the students work on their projects for about a month.

"We study the land for three months," Farah said. "But the students had to do their own research using three to five references."

Farah is not the only faculty member of NVS to help the students prepare for the Biography Ball; Judith Schlicting, the art and drama teacher also prepares the students for the event.

"It's a different way of learning," Farah said. "It gets the students involved and teaches them self-learning skills."

According to Farah, this project helps the students become strong learners.