Every Student a Graduate Prepared for a Bright and Successful Future

Springfield Public Schools

NEWS RELEASE

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Springfield's 18th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Day March and Celebration

Student art, speeches to be highlighted

SPRINGFIELD, ORE.— Springfield's Martin Luther King, Jr. Day march and celebration begins at the Springfield Justice Center at 1:30 p.m. with a march to Springfield High School, which is again hosting this year's celebration, award ceremony and keynote presentation.

What: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day celebration and march

When: Monday, January 18
March: 1:30 p.m.
Celebration: 2:00–4:00 p.m. (program begins at 2:30)

Where: March: Springfield Justice Center, 230 4th Street
Celebration: Springfield High School, 875 7th Street

Students, staff and community members are invited to join in the march alongside Superintendent Dr. Sue Rieke-Smith, Mayor Christine Lundberg and other district and community leaders. Marchers are encouraged to bring their own signs.

At the high school, the main program will begin at 2:30 p.m. with welcome speeches by SHS Principal José da Silva and Dr. Rieke-Smith, followed by the announcement of the winners of the student, poetry, essay, speech, and artwork contests. This year's theme was "The Time Is Always Right to Do Right."

This year, the three winners of the high school speech contest (which is open to all high schools, though this year only Thurston High participated) will be the keynote speakers: 1st place – Tiffany Hilkey; 2nd place – Charlie Emery; and 3rd place – Sean Gley. All are 10th-graders at Thurston High. The contest is judged by Rotary members, and the three winners will split a $500 award provided by Oregon Community Credit Union.

The winner of this year's Springfield Alliance for Equality and Respect Human Rights Award will also be announced during the event.

Entertainment during the celebration will be provided by Eric Richardson's Invisible Art Project; the Rockin' Amigos, directed by Amy Danziger; and the Springfield High Jazz Band and Mariachi del Sol group, directed by Chris Holt. The event will be wheelchair-accessible, and sign language and Spanish interpretation services will be available.

Co-sponsors of the event include the Springfield Alliance for Equality and Respect (SAfER), the City of Springfield, Willamalane Park and Recreation District, Lane County Commissioners, Oregon Community Credit Union, SELCO, Springfield Arts Commission, Springfield Education Association and Springfield Family Resource Centers.

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