The challenge: build a pirate ship to transport as many gold doubloons as possible without sinking.

The materials: aluminum foil, popsicle sticks, straws, tape, plastic eggs and miniature cups.

The size: no bigger than six inches by six inches.

With these simple instructions in mind, the teachers quickly divide into pairs and start sketching out their designs for a boat.

Then comes the construction and test – first each team floats their creation in a container of water, then starts adding doubloons (metal washers) one at a time, keeping count until the vessel sinks to the bottom.

The goal with this project, presented Jan. 13 by Sharon Defrees (high school science teacher) and Nicole Sullivan (middle school science teacher), was to teach other teachers how to do a simple science experiment that they can take back to their own students. Staff from Brooklyn Primary and Haines Elementary attended the training.

“arrrgg! A pirate's life for me!" Elementary teachers learn science project, then take it to their own classes

then kids will want to do science,” Sharon said.

The “fun” started with Nicole's rapid-fire pirate jokes, followed by a reading of the book “How I Became a Pirate” by Melinda Long.

Katie Collier (Haines second grade teacher), Angela Willison (Brooklyn third grade) and Kelly Nichols (Brooklyn second grade) test out their pirate ship to see how many doubloons it will hold before sinking.

See Page 3

Haines students Blake Stevens, left, Taylor Peppers and Sawyer Blatchford test their pirate ship design.
Thanks, custodians

I want to give a shout out to the custodial staff at Baker High School. This amazing team does so much for our school. They were recently a man down, and it wasn’t until one of them was missing that I realized how vital all of this team is to our school. Thank you for all the hard work.

Annie Fale, Baker High School

Whitleys help a lot

Wayne and April Whitley have been instrumental in our playground renovations this summer and many other activities. Mr. Whitley has spent many hours dismantling and rebuilding our playground structures. He has also supervised a boy scout in the renovations of our sand box. Mrs. Whitley has helped with supervising centers during our Grinch Day as well as providing breakfast for our students on many occasions! We appreciate your hard work and dedication!

Toni Myers, Keating School

Teaching Spanish

Katrina Wise has served on our PTO board for many years. She helps to organize and set up our yearly book fair. Ms. Wise also teaches our students Spanish every week. She works with students from pre-school through 6th grade on becoming fluent in Spanish. This gives our students a great foundation for second languages in high school!

Ms. Wise also dedicates her time to helping our students bake for our yearly Thanksgiving Feast. Thank you for everything you have done!

Toni Myers, Keating School

Always smiling

In the forestry unit of the Natural Resources course, Sharon Defrees agreed to be interviewed by the students concerning the issues, challenges and hard work of private forest ownership. The history and explanations of the forestry practices that she and her family employ gave students a perspective they sincerely respected when considering public and private land management. Thank you for bringing the real world into our classroom!

Burke Smejkal, Baker High School

Thanks, Susan!

A big shout-out to Susan Myers for her extremely hard work and dedication in keeping Marla’s Mall, Bulldog Bubbles, and Bulldog Blender running smoothly. She puts forth an extreme amount of energy, organization and patience all while teaching math, life skills and social skills to high school and middle school students. We couldn’t do it without her! Thank you for all you do, Susan!

Gail Ebell, co-worker

An asset to the school

I would like to do a shoutout to Curtis Dunn. Curtis is on our maintenance crew and such an asset to the district. South Baker Intermediate needed some reconstruction work done in our library over holiday break and he made it happen. His carpentry and creative skills were amazing and beyond my expectations. He went above and beyond the call of duty to complete the task in a timely manner. Thanks Curtis!

Nanette Lehman, South Baker principal

Stepping up

I want to give a shout out to Debbi Wray for stepping up to the plate and doing an amazing job with a difficult situation everyday and doing it with flying colors. We are so glad she is part of South Baker!

Lisa Davis, South Baker

A helping hand

It is so awesome to have such wonderful community folks coming and helping our schools and students. This morning (Jan. 6) Don Taggart (EMT with the Baker City Fire Department) came and asked if he could help get our students into our building so they are safe and warm. He was so awesome and greatly appreciated. Please share our huge appreciation.

Marilyn McBride, Brooklyn Primary dean of students

A help at drop off

I would like to give a shout out to Heather Vaughn and LeAnn Cripe who helped this morning (Jan. 6) with the many parent drop offs due to the cold and buses not going out of town, all while buses were dropping off. Thank you so much ladies for coming to my rescue!!

Rochelle Adams, Brooklyn Primary

A great team

Every day I am able to walk through the doors at South Baker, I feel privileged to be working with its people. Each person has his or her own niche and, without each of us working together and doing our designated jobs (duties, planning, etc.), teaching can be an even harder job. I’m especially grateful for the teams in our building and particularly for mine: Victoria Howard, Cassie Moore, and Tay Mohr, as well as all of our support personnel. Kudos!

Erin Callahan, South Baker teacher

Books and cookies

The Literacy program through Jim Tomlinson and our Culinary class provided funds for books for every ELL student to take home over break and Scott Craig’s Culinary class provided the sugar cookies!! Aysha Vidales, ELL instructor, chose the books specific for each student, then ordered using Literacy Program funds.

Ma’lena Wirth, ESL Interpreter/Translator

Flexibility an asset

I want to send a Shout out to Faith Plummer for smoothly making the changes to her schedule that needed to be made and having a wonderful attitude and smile each day! We are so glad she is here at South Baker.

Lisa Davis, South Baker

A great field trip

The entire second grade team would like to make a huge shout-out to Marvin Wood Products for hosting a field trip for all the second grade students. Marvin employees provided stations and the students learned a lot about the transformation of wood and things wood can be used for. They also each received a pair of safety glasses and ear plugs to keep. It was truly an amazing day and an amazing field trip. One of the best we had ever been on.

Julie Stout
Ann Rowan
Heather Palmer-Johnson
Kelly Nichols
Kathy Mitchell

Thanks, Mrs. Lehman

Mrs. Lehman (South Baker Intermediate principal) is always helping students and staff. She even sewed a student’s glove last night!

Erin Callahan, South Baker teacher

Second-graders from Brooklyn Primary visited Marvin Wood Products for a field trip to learn about the many uses of wood.

Submissions welcome!

We welcome “Shout Out” submissions from teachers, parents, community members - anyone who wants to recognize someone for a job well done. Submissions can be 100 words or less, and include a photograph if available. Email entries to shout.out@bakersd.org.
BHS presents 'The Curious Savage'
The Baker High School drama department will present "The Curious Savage," written by John Patrick and directed by Scot Violette.
Performances will be at 7 p.m. Feb. 27 and 28 at the high school auditorium, 2500 E St. Admission is $5.
Violette said this play is a comedy about Ethel P. Savage, an elderly woman whose husband recently died and left her approximately 10 million dollars.
Here is the plot description: "Contrasting the kindness and loyalty of psychiatric patients with the avarice and vanity of 'respectable' public figures, it calls into question conventional definitions of sanity while lampooning celebrity culture."

Spring break ski/snowboard camp
Anthony Lake Mountain Resort will again offer spring break camp March 27-31.
This camp is open to the first 100 skiers/riders ages 7-18. Participants will receive five consecutive days of lift tickets, rentals and lessons for $80. Transportation is not included.
A new optional afternoon lesson is available for $30 per day.
Each day, campers will check in from 9 a.m. to 9:45 a.m., and group lessons are from 10:30-11:30 a.m.
After that, kids are free to ski or ride on their lift ticket and equipment rentals for the remainder of the day.
For registration, go to anthonylakes.com or contact Chelsea Judy at 541-856-3277 x12 or chelsea@anthonylakes.com.

Pirates:
Continued from Page 1
After sketching their design, the teachers made a prediction about how many doubloons they thought their ship would hold before sinking.
And, Sharon told the teachers, if the design fails the first time, just re-adjust and try again.
"In engineering design, you want to adjust over and over," she said.
And on the second try, nearly all the ships — most redesigned — held all the doubloons provided. Sharon and Nicole then handed out cups full of water, to see how much liquid the ships could hold before sinking.
The packet of instructions, which will go along with the lesson for the students, includes art (drawing the designs), writing about observations and how it was redesigned, and math by counting the doubloons and comparing that number to other teams.
"One thing we want to do with science is incorporate reading and writing," Sharon said.
Prior to this presentation, Sharon and Nicole developed the science projects that would be appropriate for younger elementary students. This was the first STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) project they brought to the teachers. In addition to the instruction, the elementary school teachers also left with a kit containing all the necessary materials for the project.
"We want to put it in right, so it's meeting the standards," Sharon said of the science lessons.
After the pirate adventure — one ship built by Stephanie Mays and Karen Tannehill held 58 doubloons on the first try — the teachers had time to plan the project for their own classrooms. Then they came back together to learn some more science, this time about light and sound — physics presented in a way to make sense to young students, such as sound experiments with vibrations.
Teachers have been implementing the lesson in class during the past month — at Haines Elementary, kindergarten, first and second grades joined each other to design and test their ships.

Ruby Heriza, Joshua Bradford and Theo Pepera see how many "doubloons" (heavy-duty washers) their ship will hold before sinking.

Julie Stout, second-grade teacher at Brooklyn Primary, tests her ship by seeing how much water it can hold. The re-design was so successful that there weren't enough doubloons, so they just added water until it sunk.
Erupting volcanoes, ecosystems and more — students at South Baker Intermediate School are enriching their studies with expeditions in learning this year.

The approach is called "Expeditionary Learning," which has five key dimensions: curriculum, instruction, assessment, culture and character, and leadership.

A recent "mini expedition" happened in sixth grade, where students studied a real volcano, then created display boards and built models using a variety of materials, including plastic bottles, paper mache, salt dough and lots of paint.

The finale included several days of erupting volcanoes using baking soda, vinegar and Pop Rocks candy.

"The erupting is just for fun," said Mandie Rose, one of four sixth-grade teachers.

As the kids poured baking soda in, then added the vinegar (which creates the reaction for eruption), Rose just smiled as a student advised to "Add more! Pour it all in!"

(Even with a good amount of vinegar, the eruption simply flowed down the sides of the volcano.)

"I don't tell them how much," Mandie said, which allows the students to experiment.

The volcano lesson was part of a unit on plate tectonics, which includes learning about earthquakes and volcanoes.

Much of the focus on Expeditionary Learning is happening in South Baker's fifth-grade classes this year.

"They started the year working on culture, character, and leadership," said Jandy Eskew, math coach and expeditionary learning coach. "They worked on the idea of 'crew' — the belief that we are all part of the crew working together to facilitate the journey and guide the direction in which we are headed."

Fifth-grade classes have now started a full-blown expedition, which runs eight to 12 weeks.

"We have taken the Oregon standards and based an expedition on meeting the standards and combining with real-world applications," Jandy said.

This expedition is focusing on ecosystems around the world, and includes a field study of a man-made ecosystem at Baker Technical Institute. Students will also study the real-world issue of a 2017 proposed house bill regarding deer populations.

5 dimensions of Expeditionary Learning:

Curriculum: The goal is for students to look at real-world issues and needs and use case studies, projects and fieldwork to meet the standards.

Instruction: Through discovery, inquiry, and peer collaboration, students take ownership and responsibility over their learning targets. Students are given the learning targets to discuss and research while teachers take a facilitators role in this journey.

Assessment: Students are given a rubric with clear learning targets and it becomes their own reflection of how they are doing to achieve those learning targets.

Culture and character: This is a school-wide model that fosters student leadership, responsibility, courage, kindness, and respect.

Leadership: It is the role of the staff to provide great vision and leadership for students to celebrate their journey in learning.
Friday Academy
Offerings vary from physical activity and science to conversation

A combination of fierce concentration mixed with laughter at January’s first Friday Academy at South Baker Intermediate — because who can resist smiling when you’re hitting exercise balls with drum sticks to make music?

Friday Academy is a new offering this year at schools across the district. Some offer activity, such as the exercise ball routine called "Drums Alive" and snowshoeing excursions for high school students. Others have focused on science, making art from repurposed items, or engineering.

"It has been inspiring to observe the students’ enthusiasm for trying new activities such as a drumming exercise to fun music, using creativity to repurpose items and innovative thinking through the lens of an engineer," said Nanette Lehman, South Baker principal. "The building is a buzz of energy on those Fridays and there are more in the planning stages."

For parent Melissa Gentili, Friday Academy has filled a niche in her fourth-grader’s life.

"It is exposing her to new ways of doing things as well as new ways of thinking and she is embracing both," Melissa said. "Friday Academy is helping us foster that love of learning in our child and she is excited to see what programs will be offered next."

At Baker High School, an ongoing Friday Academy is bringing about conversation about other places — "Culture, Diversity and Expressionism" is a four-part seminar developed by high school instructors Tom Joseph and Dave Laws. "We wanted to offer something philosophical and cerebral in nature to expose the kids to diversity in thought," Tom said.

The first two sessions focused on the Middle East with the films "The Kite Runner" and "The White Helmets."

Tom said he and Dave do give some background preceding the main topic, but the sessions are mainly about conversation and letting the students pose the questions and consider the power of artistic expression.

"Let them deliver the questions. We just want them to think," Tom said.

The second part of the seminar focuses on China — one Friday dedicated to artist Ai Weiwei, and one to the Chinese tradition of shadow puppet theater.

"It is more of a college-level course," Dave said. "It is a very discussion based, argument driven approach to analyzing how culture and expression relate to diversity and cultivating a more cosmopolitan worldview."

Tom took care of the Middle East conversations, while Dave, who has a graduate degree from Stanford University in Chinese Literature, leads the sessions that focus on China.

Tom said he’ll just be part of the crowd as he learns about Ai Weiwei along with the kids. "I have a PhD and I can sit there and say ‘I know nothing,’” he said.

This seminar style is a different approach from the traditional student-teacher lecture model.

"It’s the dynamic of seeing the teacher not as a disseminator of information, but to see us as the learner," Tom said. "And that's why it's fun."

Accacia Wright, left, and Cheyanne McQuiston share a laugh during a "Drums Alive" Friday Academy session at South Baker. Participants made music by hitting exercise balls with drum sticks.

To see the offerings of Friday Academy sessions, visit the website bakerfridayacademy.com

Mike Aguirre of Gypsy Soul Wood helps South Baker students make a project out of repurposed materials.

District moves ahead with long-range plan

Baker School District 5J is moving head in the Long-range Facility Planning (LRFP) process. The district has submitted paperwork to ODE to access the $25,000 in Technical Assistance Program LRFP grant funds and formally brought on board the Wenaha Group to provide support to the District’s effort.

Preliminary timelines have been established for the LRFP process, and a project organizational chart has been created to provide a purpose and reporting structure to each of the subcommittees.

A Steering Committee consisting of district administration, board members, and consultants from Wenaha Group has been formed to provide overall guidance and determine a communications strategy with the community.

In addition, a Strategic Communications Team has also met to discuss the district’s strategies for communication and provided input regarding the outreach efforts to potential members of Long-range Facilities Planning Committee.

Within the next month the District will also establish Site Teams at each school building that will act as liaisons for their building staff and provide input regarding current and future facility needs related to instruction, capacity, efficiency and student achievement.

Superintendent Mark Witty and members of the board are currently reaching out to community members to gauge their interest in participating in the committee. The goal will be to have about 20-25 community members committed to the 10-month process which is to begin in late February. Some of the committee activities will include a review of the Facilities Master Plan, a review of the LRFP grant requirements, school tours, site visits to districts, and community meetings.

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Bulldog Pride

Baker High School students have taken advantage of the snowy winter by exploring the outdoors on snowshoes during several Friday Academy excursions.

ABOVE: During a Friday Academy focused on engineering at South Baker Intermediate, fourth-graders try to disassemble a tower without making it collapse.

In a STEM project for Karen Tannehill's first-grade class, students worked together to move a tennis ball. To begin, strings were tied to a metal ring and each child held a string. "We practiced working together to raise and lower the ring — adjusting string tightness as needed, and trying to get a group flow. Then we added a tennis ball, tried a bigger ball, then a toy which we also flung up," she said.

ABOVE: The four winners of the annual "Ugly Sweater Contest" held Jan. 6 at Baker Middle School were (from left to right): Gabe Gambleton (Ugliest), Sydney Bowling (Most Creative), Silas Carter (Most Flammable), and Wyatt Harris (Most Rash Inducing).

ABOVE: Third-grader Madison Sullivan poses with Brooklyn principal Phil Anderson, who dressed up as Cookie Monster because the students surpassed the $400 goal for an all-school coin drive. The total raised was $1,380. In addition, Dr. Marilyn McBride (dean of students) dressed up as the Baker Bulldog, and she helped Cookie Monster deliver cookies to every class.
Chelsea Hurliman got her first taste of travel in middle school on a trip to Washington, D.C., and now she's helping other students experience the world.

“That’s when the travel bug hit me,” she said of that D.C. trip.

Chelsea is the vice principal at Baker High School. The trip she took, while a student at Baker Middle School, was organized by teacher Bill Mitchell, who worked with E.F. Tours (E.F. stands for “Education First”). Years later, Chelsea returned to Baker City to teach at BMS. Nicole Sullivan, her best friend since middle school, also taught there, and Bill passed the travel torch to the two women when he retired.

The two women organize middle school trips to Washington, D.C. and New York City every other year, and have also added international trips for high schoolers. Next up is a trip to the Mediterranean during spring break. They’ll start in Italy, then go to the French Riviera, then work their way along the coast to Spain. Some sightseeing plans include art museums, a monastery and a show featuring flamenco dancers.

“It’s so busy — you never have a break until you go to bed.”

- Chelsea Hurliman, talking about the national and international student trips

The trips cost about $3,500, which covers all expenses except lunches and souvenirs. Group fundraisers have included selling Krispy Kreme doughnuts, Tupperware, and Sorbenots gift cards, and the students also raise money on their own.

“Some of us help family members — that’s how I raised my money,” said Michaela Watkins, a junior who went to Washington, D.C. in eighth grade and is now going to the Mediterranean this spring.

“We had a kid this year fund his trip entirely by (recycling) pop cans,” Chelsea said.

The tour company tries to keep groups to about 50, so the Baker City group is usually paired with another one. Hurliman usually has 20 to 25 on the D.C. trips and 15 on the international adventures.

Michaela remembers the Canadian group that joined them on the D.C. trip four years ago.

“We took the same bus, and went to the same places,” she said. “We took the bus all the way to New York. It was a long bus ride.”

But she cherishes the chance to go on these trips despite jet lag, lack of sleep and time on a bus.

“It’s totally worth it,” Michaela said. “Not many can say they (traveled) that young.”

The next middle school trip to Washington, D.C. will be during spring break in 2018. Future international trips are Costa Rica in 2018 and a World War II tour in the summer of 2019.

The Costa Rica trip will include attending a language school.

“The Costa Rica trip will include attending a language school.”

- Stran Siddoway, talking about the national and international student trips

Chelsea has quite a few repeat students on these trips. “It’s been fun to travel with these kids,” she said. “Everywhere we go, people say ‘Where are you from? Your kids are so well-behaved.’”

Parents are also welcome on the trips, for an additional cost. The kids use a buddy system, and groups are paired with adults. At night, security guards are posted at the hotels.

And the leaders keep a close eye on the group.

“I’m constantly counting,” Chelsea said.
Learning happens when sparks fly

Baker Technical Institute's welding school teaches high-level skills

One weld at a time, students and adults are shaping up their future in bright showers of sparks.

Thanks to a $358,000 grant for CTE Revitalization (CTE stands for Career and Technical Education) and a Leo Adler Community Foundation grant, the welding lab at Baker Technical Institute has become a place where high school students and adults from around the region are honing welding skills to carry into a career, advance a career, or perpetuate a personal interest.

"If you have certain certifications, you can go wherever you want to go," said Jerry Peacock, BTI director.

But in order to provide a professional level of welding instruction and experience, the existing space needed an upgrade.

"In order to be successful, we had to totally upgrade the electrical power," Jerry said.

In addition, the shop has 20 new welding booths, a new ventilation system, weld testing equipment and top-of-the-line equipment — all paid for by the grants.

"The students are able to use industry-level equipment," said Griffin Judy, who instructs four periods of welding a day at BTI for high schoolers, plus numerous courses for community learners including a comprehensive 12-week welding course in the evenings, which includes two students from BHS.

Griffin is a certified welder, certified welding inspector, and a certified welding educator.

Prior to the formation of BTI, welding classes at Baker High School were part of the agriculture courses. Now separated, both welding and agriculture have expanded to offer more opportunities for students, Jerry said, including a two-hour block of advanced welding every school day.

"It's an incredible program," Jerry said. 

"(Griffin) makes it like working in a shop, what it's like to work every single day."

Jerry said part of BTI's mission is "positively impacting economic development" through developing the workforce.

"We have several manufacturers in the region who struggle to have enough employees," he said.

Doug Dalton, BTI spokesman, said as an example, the welding program has trained more than 50 welders to work at Behlen Manufacturing in Baker City. And that, he said, fits the BTI mission of "providing workforce training to allow businesses to grow and communities to thrive."

BTI has created, he said, a school of welding that provides a higher-level of training, and students can complete the program with earning American Welding Society (AWS) credentials, which is internationally recognized and never expires.

"It gives them a transferable set of skills," Griffin said of the program. "You can go anywhere in the world and get a job."

He is anticipating that about five students in his advanced welding course will be certified by the end of the school year.

People are coming from great distances to take advantage of BTI courses, such as the professional welding courses. Doug said participants have come from many states so far to enroll in courses.

"We've got students coming from all over," he said.

"People are traveling to Baker to take these courses. This has the potential of driving economic development."

BTI's school of welding has offered a variety of courses, including women's welding, industry-specific training, general welding and career AWS courses. These have attracted a variety of students, including high schoolers, career welders, local artists, and lifelong learners.

"We get to do some cool things," Griffin said, "and we're not done yet."