

# Horizons Hogwarts Academy

The Herald Journal



With her wand raised above her head, Mikayla Doyle, 11, takes a defensive stance while dueling in the honor of the Ravenclaw House.

## Harry Potter Fans Attend Hogwarts Summer Camp At Hillcrest Elementary.

**S**tupefy!"  
"Expelliarmus!"  
The casting of spells drift out of the library at Hillcrest Elementary School as a pair of muggles, brandishing wands and dressed in graduation robes, stand on a table. No it's not Halloween, it's just a group of students dueling while taking part in teacher Reed Olson's Hogwarts Academy.

"I started the Harry Potter camp because there were some kids in my class that just would not put these books down and finally I ended up reading them and thought, 'This is great,'" said Olson. "It's the first time I've ever seen kids carry books around like they're little babies. They just love them and take them places. As a teacher, that's what you want them to do. I just thought, what better way to keep

kids engaged during the summer than to have a camp."

For five weeks, students lived and breathed the world of their favorite literary characters. They dressed in robes, they carried wands and they studied the subjects that all witches and wizards study while they attend Hogwarts; Defense Against The Dark Arts, Herbology, Potions, Care Of Magical Creatures and Astronomy.

"I really liked Potions and Herbology, because in Herbology we got to rip up plants and get the juice and gookey stuff out of them," said Lexie Hart, 9.

For Jaycen Hill, 9, it wasn't just astronomy class that he enjoyed, but also "playing games and watching movies and learning a lot of cool stuff about Harry Potter."



# Hillcrest's Hogwarts



Mitch Mascaro/Herald Journal

Wizards- and witches-in-training look at one of their classmates, bottom right, who was just "killed" by Voldemort while playing a game Monday morning in Reed Olson's Hogwarts Academy at Hillcrest Elementary.

## Program focuses on series, teaches elementary basics

By Emilie H. Wheeler  
staff writer

**N**ine-year-old Emmy Visick didn't get a chance to bring her magical creature last week.

So on Monday, her chicken got to visit 20 little wizards and witches at Hogwarts Academy. The chicken got its time in the limelight in between the astronomy lesson and a version of the Murder in the Dark game — Voldemort-Harry Potter style.

Emmy is one of about 40 third- through sixth-graders participating in teacher Reed Olson's Hogwarts Academy this summer. In its fifth year, the five-week program has a morning and afternoon session, and comes complete with witch and wizard robes. While the focus is on Harry Potter — and everything related —

the children are actually learning everything from elementary physics to basic herbology.

Olson, a third-grade teacher at Hillcrest Elementary in Logan, teaches the class in the school's library. He said the "Harry Potter" books first caught his attention when he started noticing several of his students reading them.

"Only after that did I consider using it as a teaching tool," he said. "It has turned out to be a wonderful tool to teach the core curriculum while at the same time teaching reading."

Each week of the "academy" is dedicated to learning about one aspect related to the "Potter" books. Students learned last week about the care of magical creatures. This week, astronomy and Greek mythology are the focus. In the next three weeks, Olson will teach about quidditch (the sport Harry and his buddies play in

the books), herbology and potions.

In quidditch, students learn elementary physics, Olson said. In herbology, they will be studying plants and soil. Potions, which Olson said is his favorite, teaches basic chemistry.

The Potter camp has been a way for Olson to teach kids to love reading — not just how to read.

"It's important to teach kids how to read, but it's just as important to teach them to love to read," he said. "That's what every teacher really wants."

Kids come from all over the valley — and outside, as well — to participate in the camp. Amy Bradfield, from Star Valley, Wyo., has an aunt in Logan who heard of the camp.

"She signed me up and I came down to do it," Amy said.

# Magic

Continued from A1

Now the 11-year-old stays in the valley during weekdays and goes home for the weekends. She started reading "Harry Potter" books when she was 5.

The students have been divided into houses — Hufflepuff, Gryffindor, Ravenclaw and Slytherin — just like in the books. There are house contests for points, which are awarded for wins like finding the snitch, a small ball used in quidditch. The major goal of the camp is to win the Hogwarts House Cup, a trophy awarded to the house with the most points at the end of the five weeks.

The camp comes just in time for the release of J.K. Rowling's sixth "Harry Potter" book: "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince." The book, which will be released July 16, is the sixth installment in a series Olson said is unlike any other he has seen. The British Broadcasting Corporation reported Monday that pre-orders for the book have



Mitch Mascaro/Herald Journal

Caitlyn Parker, right, holds up the golden snitch as fellow classmates celebrate. Finding the snitch earned her house, Slytherin, 100 points in the Hogwarts House Cup competition. The Hogwarts Academy, taught by Reed Olson at Hillcrest Elementary, uses the "Harry Potter" series to teach subjects such as chemistry, Greek and Roman mythology and astrology.

topped 1 million.

Olson has been reading aloud to the students from the fifth book, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix." He

will finish it the day before the "Half-Blood Prince" is released and then start reading the new book aloud for the last week of the camp.