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Capitola



From left, Linda Bransford, Matt Wagner and Chris Fugate with 'Capitola Capsule'

Capitola 'Time Capsule' Will Tell Of 1977 Period

By MARK BERGSTROM
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What was Capitola like way back in 1977?

Folks who will be watching "Star Wars" and "Close Encounters" as re-runs on the late show 20 years from now will find the answer under the flagpole at City Hall.

That answer has been prepared in advance by students in the communities studies class at Capitola Junior High and soon will be tucked away in a time capsule and entombed near the flagpole at city hall.

Included in the capsule, designed to resist the forces of time by the seventh and eighth grade students, will be such items as a street directory, TV Guide, school yearbook and an issue of The Sentinel.

The class, under the direction of teacher Tim Goss, decided on the project, and three of the students — Linda Bransford, Matt Wagner and Chris Fugate — presented the idea this month at a Capitola City Council meeting.

After hearing the articulate presentation, councilmen not only approved of the plan, but showed their commendation to the students by voting to purchase a plaque to designate the spot where the time capsule will rest.

Goss says he's due to meet with City Manager Max Kludt this week to make final arrangements for the project.

The time capsule is just one of several projects in the two-year-old community studies class taught by Goss, Lee Davis and Alan Juverick.

The class was conceived of by Goss and presented as a concept to the county Office of Education for funding, which it received.

Goss says the class was the outgrowth of his frustration of trying to teach by paper and textbook alone. He felt an "experiential approach" to learning would be a beneficial supplement, hence the classroom without walls.

This year's class serves 30 students on an elective basis, meeting one period a day.

The program is divided into three sections — career awareness, discover a city and environmental studies. The time capsule is a project from the discover a city section.

The next project for that section is city planning and zoning. Students will be hearing from city planners and attend a planning commission meeting.

They're currently involved in a gameboard planning contest, a bit like the famous Parker Bros. "Monopoly."

Grouped into teams, the students, says Goss, win points for sound design and placement of schools, housing and industry and for installing anti-pollution devices.

They hold town meetings to decide on locations and then go to the board to try to outplan the other groups.

Goss feels the community studies program has been effective, but far from perfected.

"It's still evolving with the kids adding input and all of us doing a lot of evaluating," he says.

"We want to do what they're (the students) interested in and to give them what we (the teachers) think are relevant experiences."

It's been that philosophy that's led to such past projects as taking over the yearbook, presenting a free speech message on television to save an endangered species and tutoring elementary students.