

# Hamilton Construction Gives Safety Grant to Salem Elementary School

**H**amilton Construction from Springfield celebrated more than 50,000 hours of accident-free work on its I-5 project in Salem by providing a \$2,500 safety grant to nearby Marion Miller Elementary School.

School principal Mary Russell and six Miller students accepted the grant from Hamilton Vice President **Bob Sherman** and a number of Hamilton employees who work on the North Santiam to Kuebler Boulevard Project for the Oregon Department of Transportation. The \$52 million project is replacing seven I-5 bridges, repairing another bridge, and widening the freeway to three

lanes in both directions. The work is funded by the Oregon Transportation Investment Act and the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program.

"We wanted our safety milestone to be acknowledged by extending our safety commitment to kids in the community," Sherman said. "Our grant will help the school that is closest to our job site improve safety for its students."

"Our students are very aware of safety because it is a part of almost everything we teach at Miller Elementary," Russell said.

A school committee will decide to direct the money to a project where it will do the most good.

"We are looking at several possibilities for safety improvements around the school, including adding a padded surface to our playground, installing key pads to more of our outside doors, or adding surveillance cameras on the outside of our building," Russell added.

According to ODOT spokesman Lou Torres, safety is the department's top priority for both highway workers and drivers, and that Hamilton's grant shows the positive effect that ODOT's bridge program has on communities beyond the construction zone.

"Construction projects stimulate local economies, but in this case the contractor is showing school kids that good safety practices lead to lasting rewards," he said. "It doesn't get better than this." ❖



Principal Mary Russell and students from Marion Miller Elementary School in Salem accepted a \$2,500 safety grant from Hamilton Construction employees. The grant celebrated 50,000 hours of accident free work on the company's I-5 project in Salem for ODOT.



The students at Miller Elementary are well-educated in safety practices. In fact, "Be Safe" is the first part of the school's four-part motto.

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