

NEXT GENERATION

**RUCH SCHOOL**

**“Aliens Versus Dragon Myth”  
by Gage Mena**

A long long time ago a huge fire-breathing dragon lived beneath the earth in a large cave. The cave was at the bottom of Mount Mazama in the land that is now called Oregon. The dragon’s name was Draco. He was very large, in fact he was bigger than a normal sized house today. His long spikey tail was 15 feet long, or about half as long as a school bus. Draco was 280 years old. He was the last of his kind, and the only dragon alive on earth. Draco’s job was to protect Mount Mazama and the people, animals, trees, and rivers that were near by. For over 100 years Draco had not even left his cave. The land was quiet and peaceful and not very exciting.

One night there were many lights in the sky coming closer and closer to Mount Mazama. The people woke up stared into the sky, wondering what the strange lights were. “Are they falling stars, Father?” a little boy named Gage asked his dad. Gage’s brother, Naz, went inside their hut and hid under his bed. Gage’s father told him to go inside the hut for safety. The family dog, Lady, was barking and going crazy. Gage peeked out of his window and saw that the lights were round flying ships. He heard a strange sound and saw a red beam of light shoot past their hut and hit the ground. Flames from the red light caught a tall tree on fire. Gage’s family was in the middle of an alien attack!

Down beneath the earth, in Draco’s cave the giant dragon woke up to the smell of smoke. He poked his head out of his cave and saw the burning tree on Mount Mazama and the strange flying ships. Draco knew he needed to save the villagers and the mountain, even if he had to destroy a piece of it. He flew up to the space ships and wiped them out with one

blow of fire. The giant ships fell so hard that they formed a big hole in the earth. Draco had to make sure they couldn’t get out of the hole. He breathed fire on the snow at the top of the mountain and the melted snow filled the hole with water and buried the aliens forever.

Gage and his family were grateful for Draco’s help. Sadly he died a few years later at the age of 284, but he was always a hero to the Mount Mazama people.



**“The Creation of Crater Lake”  
by Gabrielle Cesaro**

Many people have told stories about how Crater Lake was formed, but I know mine is the only true one.

It all started when two Indian babies were born in a village in paradise, Nanuk and Lokni. They were the Chiefs sons. The Chief thought highly of them and they were his prize possession. As the twin brothers began to get older, they fought more. They fought over dinner, where to sit, what child dad loved more, and of course who would be Chief first. Their bickering and fighting became so bad that the Chief decided that the contest between whose chief would start that day.

That made the boys happy. One of

them could win easily! “I’m the son that’s going to win!” exclaimed Nanuk. “No I am!” Lokni protested. The boys bickering and fighting started again and the Chief began to get angry. “That is it!” the Chief shouted. “Neither of you are going to be chief!” That was it the chief went to bed and so did the village.

But later that night, the two boys had an idea. “If we have a race to see who can go to the top of the mountain first, that boy will be the chief!” They both agreed and started the race. But at the very top they started to mock and bicker about who had won the race. Then all of a sudden the earth began to shake around them. But the boys didn’t stop fighting. The sky opened up and the moon god that they worshipped swallowed them and the mountain whole. All that was left was a huge crater looking hole. After that the village fled, living the land and the houses around them and were never to be seen again. About a decade after, Americans found the land and the crater looking hole. By now the hole was filled with snow and rain that now melted. “This is marvelous!” one of them exclaimed. “I’m going to call this Crater Lake!”

And that’s how Crater Lake was created.



**Ruch School fourth- and fifth-grade students** took a trip to Crater Lake this spring, where Crater Lake guide Larry Smith passed along his expertise on the great outdoors with “dedication and passion,” according to Julie Hill, Ruch School principal.