



*Thank you LINKS
Supporters!*

LINKS enthusiastically thanks the following organizations who have supported our program through the **Lake Washington Schools Foundation:**

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Celebrating the time you share in our schools!



Volunteer Appreciation Reception

Date: June 1, 2011

Time: 1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Place: Lake Washington School District Resource Center
Board Room

Light snacks, coffee, tea and dessert will be provided.

Don't miss the chance to win a great raffle prize!

Local business have donated items including a one night get-a-way, dinner out and more!

Please RSVP by May 25th by emailing links@lwsd.org.

Because of you...

- An elementary age student had a caring adult meet her weekly to have lunch, play games, draw, or simply listen.
- A student got 100% on their spelling test!
- The student you tutored in study hall improved his math grade from a failing grade to a B-.
- Students who were having trouble fitting in, can now enjoy new friendships.
- Students have made great progress with their reading skills.
- They believe in their ability to succeed in school.
- A student proudly performed in an orchestra concert.

Phyllis Platz

Lunch Buddy at Juanita Elementary

The lunch buddy program is a wonderful way for volunteers to meet one-on-one with a student to have fun exploring common interests and sharing unconditional time together. The lunch buddy match between Phyllis and Amethyst began five years ago. They have shared hundreds of hours creating cherished memories throughout their time together.

As a retired teacher, Phyllis knows all too well there's a time to work and a time to have fun. She shared, "It certainly can't hurt to have another caring adult involved in a student's life. One-on-one attention is important in this hectic busy world." Having a lunch buddy gives students that special time once a week when they can put their school work aside to enjoy lunch and laughter with their buddy. When asked what makes Ms. Platz special, Amethyst replied, "It is so much fun to talk to her and play games. Our time together is fantastic!"

Being a lunch buddy is an easy fun way for Phyllis to brighten her buddy's day and hers too. When Phyllis was asked about her experience as a lunch buddy she replied, "I especially love it when she talks about something she learned in class or something she did with her family or friends. Being a lunch buddy has been wonderful!"



Help Make Every Hour Count!



*LINKS volunteers serve hundreds of students in Lake Washington School District. It is **very** important that you sign into the **LINKS** binder in addition to the schools volunteer sign-in log each time you visit a school. Tracking volunteer time helps us report program progress to our funders that graciously support LINKS.*

Thomas Emery

Tutor at Finn Hill Junior High and Redmond High School



Thomas Emery came to the LINKS program eager to help students succeed. As a newcomer to the United States with experience teaching math in England, he wanted to share his time to make a difference in students understanding of math. Thomas shared, “As a math teacher in the UK, I wanted to see how things were done here and it’s always nice helping others, especially in mathematics. I have enjoyed working with the pupils and I’m happy they have gained from my assistance. They are very receptive to my help.”

When asked if Thomas recalled an “Ah Ha” moment while working with students he reflected on teaching a Redmond High student how to calculate the surface area of a cylinder and the reward of knowing she ‘got it’. At Finn Hill Junior High, Thomas was working with students on probability and he used ‘penny dropping’ as a fun way to explain the theory.

Math teacher Sara Aubrey-Erikson welcomed Thomas’ help during the Finn Hill Junior High after-school math tutoring sessions. Sara commented, “The students who are here every day are making great progress. We could not run this program without the help of our volunteers. Students get a lot of individualized attention that not only helps them with math, but also with their self-esteem. I have multiple students who have decreased their missing assignments and increased their grade in math due to attending the tutoring sessions. We have had many success stories!”

Volunteers share their time tutoring students in seven LWSD junior high and high schools.



DATES TO REMEMBER

'No School Days'

May 6th

May 30th

Volunteer Appreciation

June 1, 2011
1:00 P.M.

Last day of school:

June 22nd



LINKS

Program Coordinator:
Nanci Wehr
425-936-1410
links@lwsd.org

Making the Best of Challenging Times

We are experiencing very challenging times, with the economic situation worse than it has been in decades. People are impacted to varying degrees and our students aren't protected from the stresses that go along with it. We know that when parents, teachers and other people in students' lives are anxious, the feelings can carry over to the student.

It is important to be sensitive to the stresses students may be experiencing in their personal life. Finding healthy and effective ways to reduce their anxiety in order to focus on school work may be challenging. Below is a list of suggestions that may be helpful to you while your tutoring and mentoring during the last couple months of the school year.

- ◆ **Positive thinking can change an attitude in a minute.** Helping students grasp this concept can relieve some of the pressures they may be feeling about school or what is going on at home.
- ◆ **Control what you can and let go of the rest.** Resilience comes from taking actions on the aspects of a situation that you can control. Rather than focusing on what you can't control, focus on what you can.
- ◆ **Take one day at a time.** Encourage students to focus on one assignment at a time so they don't feel overwhelmed. They will have a greater sense of accomplishment and bit-by-bit they'll get their class work and homework done.
- ◆ **Help others...help yourself.** The first beneficiary of acts of kindness is you. When you make someone else feel good, you feel great!
- ◆ **Emotions, good and bad, are contagious.** Being surrounded by happy people will improve your mood and make daily stresses seem less daunting.
- ◆ **A smile speaks a thousand words.**

