

Lake Washington School District *Connections*

School News and Events to our Community

Winter 2004

State Must Stop Forcing Schools to Use Voter-Approved Levy Funds for Basic Education

State's failure to fully fund mandated programs like Special Education violates Constitution

By forcing school districts to use voter-approved levy funds for mandated programs such as special education and transportation, the State of Washington is failing its constitutional obligation to fully fund basic education, Lake Washington School District says.

In the resolution approved by the Lake Washington School Board, the board says that the State has failed to fully fund the costs of special education services. In Lake Washington School District, the combination of state and federal funding is \$1.9 million below what was required to provide services to special education students in 2001-02.

"In the past, we have brought this issue to the attention of the Governor and Legislature, but the problem continues year after year," said **Nancy Bernard**, Chair of the Lake Washington School Board. "That has to change — the stakes are simply too high. Using local levy money to pay for mandated programs such as special education and transportation means that less local levy money is available to fund or improve other educational programs in the District."

Dr. Don Saul, superintendent, stated that, "State budget challenges are no excuse — the State has failed to meet its special education and transportation funding obligations in both good and bad economic times. This year, however, must be different."

Based on reports filed with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, school districts across the State were shortchanged by more than \$200 million in special education funding during a two-year period (2000-02). District officials predict that the under-funding will be even worse in the next two years.

Lake Washington School District joined several other School Districts across Washington State in urging the Governor and the Legislature to address the special



Shiela Cape's music class at Redmond High.

Child Find/Guidance Team Screenings

Child Find screenings will be available throughout the year through the Special Education Guidance Team program. If you have a child between the ages of Birth to 21, and are concerned about his/her language/communication skills, motor skills, intellectual, social, emotional, and/or physical skills, screening is available to residents of Lake Washington School District.

For the child who has previously been diagnosed with a health impairment or other disability, these teams can help parents obtain appropriate services.

Contacts

Birth – 3 Preschool

Willows Special Services Office (425) 882-8170

K – 21

Local School Psychologist, Special Education Teacher, or District Special Services Office (425) 702-3201

Calendar Revisions

District schools were closed for two days in January due to snow, weather, and other related issues. In order to make-up those two days, the last day of school will now be **Thursday, June 24.**

Other calendar revisions and information can be found on the district website (www.lkwash.wednet.edu).

We also want to remind families that due to the Labor Day Holiday falling a week later than normal, next year school will start on August 30, 2004.

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Awards & Achievements

Redmond Elementary's Tomi Ohta was a key volunteer for the RedmondLights Festival. She was part of a committee of parents, teachers, and volunteers who organized the culminating event of the annual holiday festival. The program included a play by Redmond Elementary students on Los Santos Reyes (a traditional holiday of Latin countries), Mariachi Fiesta Mexicana, and a folk dance group, Bailadores de Bronce.

Counselor **Carolyn Jones** shared that the Rotary Club of Redmond, families from **Wilder, Dickinson, Alcott, and Einstein**, a neighborhood group, and young men from Scout Pack 556 adopted 47 school families for this holiday season.

As part of its "Shoes from Santa" program, Windermere Realty and Fred Meyer have partnered to help **Redmond, Juanita, and Frost Elementary** students for the holidays. Over 120 students from Juanita and Frost joined Frost Principal **Sue Anne Sullivan** and Counselor **Marian Illingsworth** to receive new shoes, socks, gloves, and a food basket at Fred Meyer Totem Lake.

On November 18, 19 and 22, **McAuliffe students** and the PTA had a Food Drive for Hopelink in Redmond. The families and students brought food to school in plastic bags, backpacks or by car. Student Leadership Council members collected the food and placed the food in vans to be taken to the food bank. Principal **Christy Collins** made Elves hats for the students to wear as they helped with the food collection. McAuliffe families donated 3,545 pounds of food equivalent to \$5,317.50. Additionally, student leaders collected \$700.35 in cash donations!!

For the second holiday effort, PTA organized a "Giving Tree". **Linda Wenzinger** served as the chair of the program. Counselor **Cherri Mann** confidentially identified nine local families in need. There were over 300 stars on the two trees which identified gifts family members had on their wish list. McAuliffe families provided a complete holiday package with

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Barbara Sampson's art students at International Community School.

2004 No Child Left Behind Blue Ribbon nominees announced

The *No Child Left Behind – Blue Ribbon Schools Program* (NCLB-BRS) honors elementary and secondary schools in the United States that make significant progress in closing the achievement gap or whose students achieve at the highest levels on state assessments. The program recognizes and presents as models elementary and secondary schools that (1) have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds and dramatically improve student performance in reading (English or language arts) and mathematics on state assessments, or (2) schools whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent in reading and mathematics on state tests.

Each year, the U.S. Department of Education requests that state education agencies identify schools that meet one of those two criteria. In 2003, Washington was asked to nominate seven schools for this honor, one for each individual in Washington's congressional delegation. Nominated schools will be invited to submit an application documenting their achievement. Blue Ribbon awards will be issued next fall.

The following schools met the *No Child Left Behind – Blue Ribbon Schools* criteria and were submitted to the U.S. Department of Education for consideration:

- **In Category 1** – Pateros Elementary School, Pateros School District; Franklin Elementary School, Spokane School District; and Wainwright Elementary School, Tacoma School District.
- **In Category 2** – Marvista Elementary School, Highline School District; Federal Way Public Academy (7-9), Federal Way School District; Bellevue International School (6-12), Bellevue School District; **International Community School** (7-12), Lake Washington School District.

Congratulations to each of these fine schools!

International Community School and Rose Hill Elementary Enjoy Celebration Fiesta Day

Three years ago, an energetic dialog spearheaded by Rose Hill English Language Learner (ELL) Teacher **Diane Gwynne** with RH Principal **Joyce Teshima**, and ICS Principal **Cindy Duenas** created a powerful learning program for both elementary and high school students.

For one hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays, ICS Honors Spanish students work one on one with Rose Hill ELL youngsters on homework and English skills. Students are paired for the entire school year. Initially, the program started with four high school students, but has now grown to 28. The older students apply to the program and are usually in their fifth year of Spanish while the younger ones are selected based on need.

During December, ICS students hosted the Rose Hill youngsters at the high school to show them the school, introduced them to friends, share treats and watch "Finding Nemo" with Spanish subtitles. The ICS mentors coordinated the entire day including the treats to designing a commemorative T-shirt for all participants. School staff were quick to point out that the schools' partnership doesn't end there and mentioned several other projects between RH/ICS and ELL students and parents. The ICS students involved in the program appreciate learning better Spanish from the Rose Hill kids while helping them with homework and their English skills.

Variance Process

The variance process for **all secondary schools** and elementary **schools in the Juanita and Lake Washington feeder pattern** is unchanged. Prior to the open enrollment period, scheduled for March 22-April 9, closed schools will be identified. Current in-district variance requests will remain in effect at the school level. New in-district requests will be received by open schools during the open enrollment period and accepted by schools. Current out-of-district variances will need to be renewed following established procedure. Students from 6th to 7th grade or 9th to 10th grade will be considered as new variance requests. They will request new releases from their home district and forward them to our district office. New out-of-district requests will be accepted beginning August 1, 2004.

For those parents and students at the **twelve schools involved in the school boundary** adjustments, variances at these schools terminate at the end of the 2003-2004 school year. The district's boundary committee wanted a clean slate when trying to balance the enrollment at the Sammamish and Redmond elementary schools involved in the boundary process. Parents at these schools must re-apply for a variance for the 2004-2005 school year. In-district requests will be received during open enrollment. Out-of-district requests will be received beginning August 1, 2004. Individual requests for in-district variances received prior to August 1 will be held at schools. Out-of-district requests received prior to August 1 will be held at the district office.

Requests will be accepted on a space available basis using the following criteria:

- 1.) Space is available in the school as defined by building capacity.
- 2.) Space is available in the grade level requested as defined by contract size limit and I-728.
- 3.) Current in-district students with the longest prior continuous enrollment in the requested school will be accepted in rank order for available spaces. Multiples of same longevity will be ranked by lottery.
- 4.) Current out-of-district students' variance requests will be granted for remaining spaces beginning August 23, 2004 in rank order of continuous district enrollment. Multiples of the same longevity will be ranked by lottery.
- 5.) New in-district requests will be placed on school waitlists by date of request. All will be accepted if spaces are available after current students are placed.
- 6.) New out-of-district requests will be placed on waitlists by date of request and will be accepted if space is available after placing in-district student requests.

Awards & Achievements

food, gifts for each member of the family, and Christmas trees when requested. In conjunction with this effort, Boy Scout Troop, 571 adopted a local family and provided that family with a complete holiday package.

Krista Daily, 5th grade student; **Linda Wenzinger**, chair of program; and **Marni Parry** with son **Garrett**, helped to sort gifts for local families.

Exciting news from **Juanita High's** Music Department: last October, high school musicians from across the state had the opportunity to submit tapes to be used to select the Washington All-State Musicians. While most schools would be fortunate to have one or two selected for such a high honor, Juanita High has 11! Well over 2000 tapes were submitted and these Rebels were judged to be among the best:

Eric Wong, violin
Ashley Wong, harp
Marla Bustad, voice
Josh Kieffer, voice
Angela Simpson, voice
Alex Cain, trombone
Chris Carlson, drum set
Sara Kamal, trombone
Laura Rosen, flute
Nina Saldana, flute
Tessa Salo, contra alto clarinet

Students will travel to Yakima in February to perform with others chosen for All-State ensembles as part of the Washington Music Educators State Conference.

Lake Washington High's Jim Peterson reports that outstanding choir students from Lyrica Vocal Ensemble also made All-State Choir this year. They include **Jenn Evora**, **Laura Raff**, **Luba Kogan**, **Lauren Shively**, **Dakotah Graham**, **Maia Bradescu**, and **Sierra Kagen**.

Blackwell 5th grader **Matt Matula** won the *Holes* Fictional Memoir Writing Contest. Nearly 400 stories were submitted and *Holes* author/screen writer Louis Sachar selected Matt's work as the winner. Part of his grand prize included autographed *Holes* book, DVD, movie poster, soundtrack and scrapbook. His work was also published on the web.

Lake Washington School District

DECA Award Winners at the Area 3 Regional Career Pathway Competition on January 16, 2004 at Microsoft

Lake Washington High School

Financial Team Management

Casey Larson/Ian Lonnberg-Hicklin

Written Test - 1st place

Overall - 4th place

E-Commerce Management Team

Brittany Skelcher/Stephanie Jones

Role Play - 3rd place

Written Test - 3rd place

Overall - 3rd place

Josh Brokaw/David Duffy

Role Play - 1st place

Written Test - 2nd place

Overall - 1st place

Travel and Tourism Team Management

Nicole Bukoskey/Michele Beaulaurier

Written Test - 3rd place

Role Play - 2nd place

Overall - 2nd place

Hospitality Team Management

Samantha Hogan/Kari Gurtel

Role Play - 1st place

Overall - 2nd place

Hillary Dendy/Simone Hylton

Written Test - 3rd place

Sports and Entertainment Team Marketing

Uland Lau/Mitchel Amsler

Written Test - 1st place

Kevin Penitsch/Alex Whitney

Written Test - 2nd place

Overall - 2nd place

Advertising Campaign

Jenna Quedado/Kelsey Perrin

Written Test - 3rd place

Alex Knight/Katie Peterson

Role Play - 3rd place

Overall - 4th place

Full Serve Restaurant

Ian Walker

Role Play - 3rd place

Food Marketing

Mark Hammer

Written Test - 1st place

Role Play - 1st place

Overall - 1st place

Mark Coon

Overall - 6th place

Quick Serve Restaurant

Maria Ramos

Written Test - 2nd place

Retail Merchandise

David Lemieux

Overall - 5th place

Vehicles and Petroleum

Dan Shinstrom

Written Test - 3rd place

Role Play - 1st place

Overall - 2nd place

Fashion Merchandise Promotion Plan

Nina Vartanian

Overall - 5th place

Apparel & Accessories

Alison Avery

Overall - 3rd place

Jacque Chausee

Overall - 8th place

Business Services

Heather Dunning

Role Play - 1st place

Overall - 2nd place

Jake Ferrigno

Overall - 3rd place

Redmond High School

Marketing Management

Megan Klingensmith

Overall - 1st place

Advertising

Kristin Osterberg

Overall - 2nd place

Role Play - 2nd place

Apparel & Accessories

Tyler Christian

Overall - 11th place

Vehicles & Petroleum

Karin MacDonald-Schmid

Overall - 5th place

Hospitality Services Team Decision Making Event

Aly Dines/Luke Yocum

Overall - 4th place

Technical Sales Representative Event

Kurt Fellrath

Overall - 5th place

Food Marketing

Paul Iman

Overall - 5th place

Quick Service Restaurant

Heather Tansill

Overall - 4th place

Written Test - 3rd place

Role Play - 1st place

E-commerce Team Decision Making Event

Jeremy Bridon/Xander Saddler

Overall - 5th place

Juanita High School

Food Marketing

Sean Isacson

Overall - 7th place

Full-Serve Restaurant Marketing

Rachel Moland

Overall - 4th place

Sports and Entertainment Management Decision-making team event

Lindsay Matz/Travis Colahan

Overall - 4th place

Lindsay Matz/Travis Colahan

Role Play - 1st place

The state Marketing/DECA competition will be in Seattle on March 7-9, 2004. The international competition will be held in Nashville, Tennessee on May 1 - 5 2004.

Eastlake High School

Robotics Competition

Students in the Robotics club will be competing in a robotics competition put on by USFIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in Portland, or on March 4-6. They will be competing against 30 other clubs. The robots have to perform certain functions (moving balls, lifting some balls, and raising itself off the floor from a 10 foot bar) and the team that performs the functions the best wins. The robotics club was made possible by a \$6000 grant from NASA. The school is looking for additional funding to cover the high cost of building the robot. To make a donation, please contact Eastlake High School.

Connections

Peter Daniels - Communications Director
Carol Brozman - Graphic Designer

photos by Carol Brozman

Don Saul - Superintendent

Board of Directors

Nancy Bernard
Douglas Eglinton
Robert Hughes
Janice Linville
Jackie Pendergrass

Lake Washington School District complies with all state and federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, or disability. This holds true for all district employment and opportunities.

www.lkwash.wednet.edu