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Lake Washington School District

School News and Events in our Community

Board Begins Talks on Education Levy

Discussions begin this month on renewing the LWSD Educational Maintenance and Operation levy and a proposed capital projects levy.

The levy funds the costs of education not supported by the state government. The current levy expires in 2002. Local levies must be renewed periodically to provide support for the current programs in all of Lake Washington's schools. The new levy would be collected in the spring of 2003.

The capital projects levy will help the district to upgrade school facilities and provide for technology improvements.

Local levies provide revenue for about one-sixth of the funding for operating schools. The state's funding of basic education only provides 70% of what the district spends to educate public school students.

Local levy dollars help support: additional staff, curriculum materials, staff training, planning and preparation, transportation, gifted and special education, safety net programs for struggling students, extra curricular activities and athletics, and utility costs.

District Prepares to Tackle I-728 Classroom Space Needs

Through an extensive district and community decision making process, I-728 Student Achievement Funds were targeted to reduce K-4 class size, lower preschool class size and expand the program, provide targeted assistance for grades 5-12, and fund meaningful staff development. The implementation of the district's I-728 plan to reduce class size will necessitate the need to reallocate elementary students in order to match school capacities.

Assistant Superintendent of Support Services Bob Collard explains, "By 2003-04, 21 of 25 elementary schools will not have the capacity to house students at the newly established ratios based on current uses."

A committee is being formed to develop a recommendation of how the district should meet the need to address elementary classroom space and will bring it to the school board by April 2002. The 29-member committee will consist of 12 parents (three parents per high school region with each level equally represented), 1 choice school rep, 1 accelerated programs rep, 6 teachers (2 teaching staff members per level), 1 LWEA rep, 2 non-parents, 3 principals, 2 central office staff (committee support), and 1 central office chair.

The group will examine possible ways to address the classroom crunch, such as creating new school boundaries, moving to a middle school model and 4 year high schools, implementing multi-track/year-round schools or various combinations. There certainly will be pros, cons, and questions with all of these options, but the impetus behind the work is to ultimately benefit student learning by lowering class size.

After the board makes a final decision in May or June of 2002, a follow-up committee will be formed to determine how to implement the recommendation.



photo by Richard McNamee



photo by Richard McNamee

WASL Scores - Some of the Best in the State

Lake Washington School District students did well when compared to districts with over 5,000 students. Fourth graders had the second highest reading scores in the state on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). Eighty-one percent of our students met the state reading standard. Students ranked fourth in the state on both math and writing with district scores of 63.2% and 59.7% respectively. In listening, the district ranked third with a score of 82%.

Seventh graders had the best writing scores in the state with 68% of our students meeting the standard. Students ranked second in the state on listening with a district score of 92.7%. In math, the district ranked third with a score of 47.2% and seventh in reading with a score of 59.4%.

Tenth graders had the third highest math scores with 59.9% of our students achieving the standard. Students ranked fourth in the

Students Display Civic Responsibility Through Giving

Young people reached into their hearts and souls to provide financial, emotional, and spiritual support to families, emergency response personnel, and rescue and relief organizations in NYC and Washington, D.C.

Rose Hill Elementary students raised money by selling lemonade, baked goods, and "friendship" bracelets to help address the needs of children and schools affected by the tragedy. The entire student body created a "Thinking of You" banner that was sent to Alfred E. Smith School, located less than a mile from the World Trade Center.

While at lunch, students at Inglewood Junior High are digging deep into their pockets to donate to a coin drive.

Students at Alexander Graham Bell Elementary collected \$2,000 to donate to the families of the victims in the NYC, D.C. and Pennsylvania tragedies.

Kamiakin Associated Student Body Officers organized a one-day Red Cross Disaster Relief Money Drive and raised over \$4,200. Students also collected poems, songs, letters, and artwork to send to President Bush and American and United Airlines. Firefighters from Kingsgate Station 34 and King County Sheriff Officers were served a "Thank You" breakfast by students in recognition of all they do to keep our community safe.

Redmond High School students collected donations during lunch breaks and at football games for the

American Red Cross. On Friday, Sept. 14, before the minute of silence, student Danny Taylor read an original essay and Lauren Chambers proudly sang the national anthem over the intercom.

The leadership class at Finn Hill Junior High put together a car wash on Sept. 22 and raised \$1,800 for the American Red Cross. The class also made a huge banner that was signed by students during lunch and sent to a middle school in NYC.

Students in Jennifer Widman's fourth grade class at Margaret Mead studied the importance and symbolism of our American flag. After learning about the significance of the colors, stars and stripes, each student then created their own colorful flag to represent peace. The flags now adorn the walls of the school.

Einstein students in Jack Tobin and Carrie Creek's third grade class, decided to raise money for the NYC schools by having a car wash. On Oct. 7th, sponsored by the Einstein PTSA, they washed 40 cars, and raised \$454 dollars to be sent to the kids of NYC schools for school supplies. The students also made a video documenting the project and included student testimonials about how it feels to help others in need.

These schools have shown how kids can make a difference and contribute to the community.

Students as well educated as any in the world.

state on writing with a district score of 64.7%. In both reading and listening, the district ranked fifth with scores of 77.4% and 91.7% respectively.

Since the WASL was implemented, district scores have risen between 6% and 16%.

"We are extremely pleased with the consistent improvement our students are making on the WASL," commented Superintendent Karen Bates. "It's due to the excellent work of our teachers and staff, students, parents, and the community. We need to carry this momentum forward and continue to focus on higher gains in student achievement."

District staff pinpoint the significant writing gains to the continued focus on reading with an emphasis on writing skills as well. The district has also invested a significant amount of time, money, and effort on teacher training and staff development. Classroom teachers have been able to take these new skills, ideas, and curriculum into the classroom and translate it into powerful learning experiences for students.

Assessment staff are analyzing the student testing data and scores to suggest further improvements and refinements to district materials and teaching methods. Their analysis is shared with school principals, who then work with staff on understanding the information and developing a school-wide plan to increase student achievement.

"The information gained from the WASL is useful, critical data that educators throughout the state use to do a better job for all our students," said Bates.

"We are extremely pleased with the consistent improvement our students are making on the WASL."

Superintendent Karen Bates

Awards & Achievements



School board member Jackie Pendergrass was selected as the district nominee for the NFL "Community Quarterback" award. She has over twenty years of service to the district as a PTSA member and leader, Juanita Schools Foundation founding member, as well as service to the community through Assistance League of the Eastside, Little League, Boy Scouts, Children's Hospital, Boys & Girls Club of Kirkland, and Women for Women's Health.

Emily Dickinson Elementary teacher Cathy Nishimura and Elizabeth Blackwell Elementary teacher Lynette Benaltabe were recently awarded the 2001 Heritage Education Award by the Association of King County Historical Organizations for creating a district wide local history curriculum. The awards ceremony took place at the Museum of History and Industry.

Kamiakin Junior High student artwork is being published in a new Art Text fall 2001 publication, *Art and the Human Experience*, produced by Davis Publications. Kristin Bott, Cheng Lor and Sarah Nixon are the talented students.

Ginny Romano, a Samantha Smith Elementary teacher, has been cited for outstanding performance in reading education by the School Renaissance Institute. Her students receive a minimum of sixty minutes of reading practice time daily and have made considerable gains in student reading performances.

The entire student body and staff at Northstar Junior High spent a day caring for Rose Hill Park on Sept. 21. The park has been adopted by the school and has benefited from the efforts of the students, staff and parents over the years. A natural-looking park, the setting was overgrown with blackberry bushes before the school's involvement.

Christa McAuliffe first-grade teacher Anna Whitesel's students received donated bicycle helmets from Think First, a spinal cord/brain injury curriculum company, as a thank you for piloting the company's curriculum. Many of the students were fortunate enough to already have bike helmets, so the youngsters decided to donate them to Cathy Daly's first-grade class at Alexander Graham Bell.

Free Community Computer Classes

The district is offering free community computer classes held at the Resource Center building, Redmond Town Center, 16250 NE 74th St., Redmond.

To register, call (425) 702-3297 or register online at www.lkwash.wednet.edu/publicsd.

Use Excel as a Spreadsheet

Create formulas and graphs for home budgets and other projects, Oct. 23, 6:30 - 8:30 pm.

Intro to Surfing the Web

Learn how to connect to the Internet and use a Browser, Nov. 1, 6:30 - 8:30 pm.

Research Investments on the Internet

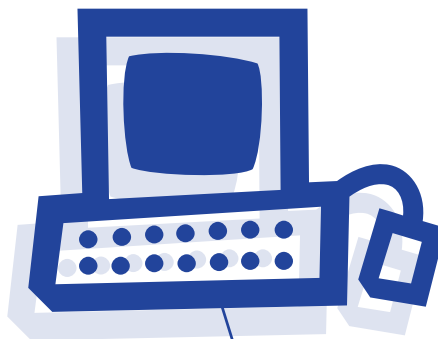
Learn what powerful resources are available to stock market investors, Nov. 7, 6:30 - 8:30 pm.

Advanced Searching on the Web

Learn key searching strategies and explore topics of your own interest on the internet, Nov. 13, 6:30 - 8:30 pm.

Greeting Cards & Newsletters

Create publications to wow your family and friends, Nov. 17, 10 am - 12 pm.



Call or register online soon, classes fill quickly. Each class is a complete session.

Modernization

Modernization Projects Completed

Audubon Elementary

Audubon Elementary was one of the first two schools, out of eleven in the district, to reap the benefits of a \$160 million bond measure approved by voters in 1998. The existing school still stands, but was significantly remodeled. During the construction, students continued attending the school, but had to move their classrooms as work proceeded.



photo by Peter Daniels

Director of Support Services Forrest Miller explains the landscaping plan for Audubon, which includes gardening boxes for students to explore science and ecology.

The school was built in 1965 and was determined to be one of the most in need of updating. Everything from energy efficient windows to heating systems to a redesign of educational classroom space were part of the remodel.

The completion of the final two classrooms occurred in July and the landscaping was completed during the summer. The school board and district administrators toured the school in August before the completed project opened to students, staff, and families in September.

Lakeview Elementary

Construction on phase two of the project (the two-story classroom section of the school) is now complete and was occupied by students and staff on the first day of school. Demolition of the last remaining portion of the old build-

ing (the current office and primary section of the school) is complete and construction is progressing rapidly. Occupancy of the new building is set for the end of November.

Redmond Junior High

Several construction related issues delayed the opening of Redmond Junior High, students and staff moved into the new school on October 16. Demolition of the old school buildings and construction of the new fields will begin in October and continue through the fall.

District Receives PSE Conservation Grant



Four schools received PSE Conservation Grants through participation in a lighting retrofit program by McKinstry Lighting. Rush Elementary, Northstar, Frost Elementary and Inglewood Junior High will have energy-saving lighting installed for an estimated kilowatt savings of over 300,000. The total grant amount awarded between all four schools equals \$39,000.

Other Conservation Efforts:

The district has started an aggressive conservation campaign designed to reduce energy costs. The program is called "Bright Ideas" to conserve energy and it shares simple and practical ways to reduce energy consumption.

Posters were designed by the district and posted throughout schools to remind students and staff ways in which they can be energy smart.

Calendar *November/December*

Nov. 5 School Board meeting
Resource Center Board Room 7:30 P.M.

Nov. 6 Election Day

Nov. 9 No School - Professional Development

Nov. 11 Veterans Day

Nov. 12 No School - Veterans Day observed

Nov. 14 Senior High HIV/AIDS Parent Info.
Resource Center Board Room 7:00 P.M.

Nov 15-20 Optional Goal Setting Elementary
Conferences - check school/half day

Nov. 19 School Board meeting
Resource Center Board Room 7:30 P.M.

Nov. 21 Half Day all students - Grade Prep.

Nov. 22-23 No School - Thanksgiving Break

Nov. 27 Junior High HIV/AIDS Parent Info.
Resource Center Board Room 7:00 P.M.

Nov. 29 Elementary HIV/AIDS Parent Info.
Resource Center Board Room 7:00 P.M.

Dec. 3 School Board meeting
Resource Center Board Room 7:30 P.M.

Dec. 10-17 Hanukkah

Dec. 25 Christmas

Dec. 26-31 Kwanzaa

Dec. 24-Jan1 No school - Winter Break

www.lkwash.wednet.edu

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Superintendent

Peter Daniels
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Carol Brozman
Graphic Designer

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Janice Linville, President
Nancy Bernard, Vice President
Douglas Eglington
Robert Hughes
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.

photos by Richard McNamee