

Winter 2003

# Today@

## Lake Washington School District

*School News and Events in our Community*

### Education Funding Issues at the Heart of January 14 "Day of Action"

January 14, 2003 is an important day for public education. It is a day in which we hope all educational agencies, school districts, and supporters will have a unified voice demanding appropriate legislative funding for our children. This has never been more critical, given the anticipated \$2 to \$2.5 billion deficit the State will be grappling with in the next legislative session.

Adding to the urgency of appropriate funding is the public's justifiable demands for schools to be held accountable for getting all kids to standard. As educators, we know what it will take to meet the needs of our students, staff, and schools and what it will take to meet and exceed high State standards. Adequate resources are at the top of that list! Lake Washington has invested large amounts of time, money, and energy into training our teachers, providing state-of-the-art technology, and safe and healthy learning environments.

On November 20, our teachers voted to participate in the "Day of Action" and we have modified the school calendar. **School will be closed January 14 and open May 7.** The modification does not lengthen the school year for students, and teachers will make up the day through rescheduling of professional development activities. May 7, which was initially scheduled for teacher professional development, is a student day and the May 7 professional development activities will be rescheduled outside of the regular school calendar.



You should know that the District and School Board support the January 14 "Day of Action." We do not view it as a "strike" or "walk out" because we worked cooperatively with the association to adjust the school calendar. We are also pleased that our District PTSA Council unanimously voted to support the "Day of Action" and is sending a letter to legislators to urge them to protect education funding.

Public education is fundamental to the well-being of our democracy. Ensuring adequate resources to support student achievement and success is at the heart of the January 14 "Day of Action."

**Today**

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## Awards & Achievements



**Donald Bolton-Haughton**, a student at **Northstar Jr. High School**, recently won third prize in the 6-8th grade division of the World Affairs Council World Citizen Essay Contest. **Juanita High** students **Colleen Reed** and **Christine O'Connell** placed second and third, respectively, in the grades 9-12th category.

**Eastlake High's Michael Skinner** is the first LWSD student to pass the EXPERT Excel Microsoft Office Specialist Certification. His teacher is **Joyce Fess**.

1989 **Juanita High** graduate Sally Nuemann paid a visit to the social studies classes at her Alma mater sharing her experiences as a program analyst with the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking of Persons at the State Department. She was in town to speak at the International Conference at the University of Washington.

Edmonds Community College has been awarded a grant from the National Science Foundation which will help shape the teaching of Materials Technology in Manufacturing for high school and community college students. **Jill Van Glubt**, materials science technology teacher at **Eastlake High**, led and developed the curriculum for the first of four workshops held at Eastlake for participants across the state.

The Biotech Expo will receive KCTS' Golden Apple Award in January. Student from **Juanita High's** Biotechnology class participate in this competition every year. KCTS will film students in the class taught by **Mary Glodowski** for this on-air presentation.

Out of 4000 school annuals, **Finn Hill Jr. High's** was selected as one of the most outstanding annuals published last year. Journalism teacher **Phyllis Saarela** and her student editors did a masterful job creating the publication.

In their article, "Shaping Global Classrooms," **Gerrit Kischner**, who teaches ninth grade Pacific Rim Studies at **Kamiakin Jr. High** and coauthor Nancy Bacon, Vice President of the World Affairs Council, emphasize the need for a new global curriculum which helps students view the world from multiple perspectives. The article appeared in the October issue of *Education Leadership*.

The **Juanita High** School Girls Soccer team placed third in state academically with a 3.69 team GPA. Talk about brains and brawn.

## Business Technology Education — Eastlake High School

Thirty-three Business Technology students have passed the MOS (Microsoft Office Specialist) certification exams since the start of school. Twenty-eight students passed the Excel Core exam, three students passed the Excel Expert exam, and two students passed the PowerPoint exam. **Eastlake High School** will have at least double this number passing the PowerPoint and Word Core exams before the end of the semester in the combined classes of Microsoft Computer Applications and in Keyboarding/Word Processing.

## Marketing/DECA — Redmond High School

This semester, the members of **Redmond High School** DECA have been working hard on organizing Waterhouse, blood drives, pumpkin carving contests, and manuals. The Entrepreneurship and the Advanced Senior Marketing classes attended Waterhouse this year. Waterhouse is a field trip designed to help students build skills in communication, teamwork, and listening. On Halloween, Redmond High held its semi-annual blood drive which was successful in collecting 60 pints of blood. The pumpkin carving contest was also held in October allowing students to create many interesting pumpkin faces during their lunch periods. Once pumpkins were completed, they were judged by faculty members and then donated to the YMCA. The DECA members have been working hard on manuals this semester to compete at the state competition held in Bellevue.



## Juanita Third Graders Participate in the Great Community Cookie Giveaway

**Juanita Elementary** third graders and DoubleTree Hotel Bellevue participated in the Great Community Cookie Giveaway with other schools and hotels across America. The giveaway is part of a DoubleTree program called Teaching Kids to Care.

This educational learning module, which was developed with elementary educators and administrators, promotes civic pride from within and asks third graders if they had 2,002 cookies that could be given to special people in their own community, who would they give them to and why.

On Thursday, November 7 representatives from the DoubleTree Hotel Bellevue worked with third-grade students to determine who gets the cookies. The students took a survey asking who they would give the cookies to and why. The charitable organization the students selected was HopeLink. A representative from the organization received the cookies on November 20 from **Elisabeth Beebe's** class.

Recent examples of the Great Community Cookie Giveaway include telethon workers at a Children's Miracle Network telethon in Washington State and firefighters during wildfires in Arizona and Colorado.

Students and teachers worked hand in hand with DoubleTree Hotel members during the entire process. This includes the Great Community Cookie Giveaway during the week of November 18, where participants donated and presented the treats to the group they admire the most.

## Awards & Achievements



**Northstar Jr. High** participated in a food drive for Northwest Harvest during November. The school did an outstanding job, especially since enrollment is just 89 students! Special recognition goes to three students, **Darlene Lybyer**, **Kristen Kurka**, and **Mary Bowdish**, and a former Northstar student (now a sophomore at LWHS), who collected 1178 pounds all by themselves. The total school donation was 1943 pounds and \$142.30. Northstar would also like to recognize Top Food and Drug and Kirkland QFC for allowing students to collect cans at their entrances.

Under the skilled leadership of **Chrys Buringrud**, **Rose Hill Elementary** now has 79 lunch buddies. That means that over 26% of their students have buddies—some mentors even have two students that they are mentoring! Kudos to the school for an exceptional program and thank you to Chrys for her dedication.

**Juanita High** has its very own internationally acclaimed poet . . . **Gaia Hawkin!** Gaia took fourth (out of 1200 entries) in the International Poet Society competition held November 16 in Hollywood, California. She also had a social studies teacher's field day hobnobbing with people from all over the world who shared very interesting personal stories.

Congratulations to **Eastlake High** band student **Kevin Barry** for being chosen to perform at Carnegie Hall with the National Wind Ensemble. Kevin, who plays clarinet, will represent Washington in this honor band. The concert is scheduled for May 25, 2003.

**Juanita Elementary** students were invited by the Mutual of Omaha Wild Kingdom to participate in an essay writing activity/contest on the topic of specific ways to preserve endangered wildlife in North America. The Wild Kingdom conducted an assembly for intermediate students on November 14. They brought animals to capture the students' interest and shared details about them. The contest is to write an essay on strategies to save endangered species. The school has posted student essays on their web page.

## Career and Technical Education – Creating Opportunities for Students

On December 3, 2002, the Auto Technology Class at **Lake Washington High School** received a donated 1998 Mercedes ML320 SUV from Barrier Motors in Bellevue. Representatives from Barrier Motors as well as Mercedes-Benz regional training office in San Francisco and the national training office in New Jersey were at the school to present the donation.

The vehicle will be used for training Career and Technical Education students who are enrolled in the Auto Technology classes taught by **Allan Pedersen**. Students will study the electrical systems, brake systems, suspension and steering systems, and engine performance systems on this vehicle. Donations such as these afford the students the opportunity to work on systems in vehicles that are being replicated in industry.

Lake Washington Marketing/DECA program has provided an opportunity for five students to attend the Western Regional Leadership Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico to learn about career pathways, leadership skills, and other DECA activities available throughout the year. The first competitive venue will be January 15, 2003 for the Regional DECA Career Pathway competitions. Parents interested in helping with judging should contact teacher Ron Cooper at 828-3371.



## Operation School Bell Helps 1,800 Students

Make shift dressing rooms are set up on one side of the room with volunteers passing jeans and T-shirts of various shapes, sizes, and colors over the door. At the opposite end of the room, students line up to try on crisp, white tennis shoes. Squeezed into another corner are volunteers assisting students with trying on jackets. You may think it's just another ordinary day at a major department store, but it's a busy day at **Keller Elementary** as students, parents, and volunteers participate in Operation School Bell.

The program is based on the philosophy that children perform better in school when they have a positive self image.

Assistance League of the Eastside (ALE) provides new clothing and school supplies to children whose self-image and performance may have been adversely affected by the lack of suitable clothing caused by socio-economic circumstances beyond their control. Students are identified by counselors, nurses, and other school personnel.

Teams of ALE members visit elementary schools to conduct fittings to determine each child's size and style/color preferences. Orders are filled at a Redmond "warehouse" portable. A bag containing new clothing including a jacket, a shoe voucher, hygiene items, and age-appropriate school supplies for each child is delivered to the student's school within days.

ALE president Leslie Young has noticed an increase in the number of students participating in the program. "Last year we assisted approximately 1,600 students, this year we have helped an additional 200." She said part of the increase could be attributed to the downturn in the economy, particularly in Washington State.

"There are some misperceptions about the amount of need on the eastside," noted Leslie. "Properly preparing all our children for school is a challenge for the entire community."

While Operation School Bell provides supplies and clothing to Lake Washington, Bellevue, and Northshore students, a majority of the students served are from Lake Washington. In partnership with Mervyn's California, ALE provides funds for junior high students to participate in ChildSpree, a one-day event held before the store opens on the first Saturday in August. Each student is matched with a volunteer "personal shopper" to help them spend the \$125 Mervyn's gift certificate provided by ALE.



*School Board Member Jackie Pendergrass works with the Assistance League of the Eastside on Operation School Bell.*

## Finn Hill Jr. High and Medina Elementary Create Tech Pals—a Technology Partnership

Led by **Jennifer Baullinger** of **Finn Hill Junior High** and Benay Weinstein, Shelly Bouse, and Thomas Cunningham of Medina Elementary (Bellevue School District), fourth graders and junior high literacy students joined forces to write and publish on the web book, movie, and game reviews.

The goals of the Tech Pals program are to collaborate through technology; improve reading, writing, and editing skills; enhance leadership skills; bring a community of students together via the internet; and give a voice to students.

The elementary students traveled to Finn Hill on November 15 to work on web pages with their junior high partners. Each elementary student was paired with a junior high student. The older student edited and shared suggestions on written reviews created by their fourth grader. Each review has a personally designed web page done by Finn Hill students and a self portrait next to the review. Elementary students critiqued colors, graphics, backgrounds, and other electronic elements on their web page. Finn Hill students traveled to Medina Elementary of November 25 to celebrate the publication of their web pages and partnerships.



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*photos by Carol Brozman*