

1986-1987

In 1986 the sixth grade class raised funds to have a Bulldog mural painted on the gym wall. The new design was then used the following fall on sweatshirts and t-shirts.

Second and third graders created richly colored banners for the Bell Library during the Spring of 1986. Students sketched designs and colored them with fabric paint. PTSA volunteers helped the children quilt the pictures and then sewed on the borders.

When school started in September of 1987 the enrollment was 421 students. Ten Kindergarten students were transferred to Carl Sandburg when 60 children registered. A second portable was added to our campus to assist in housing students. Vocal music and Extended Day were relocated to the “new” portable. The other portable at Bell housed the Learning Resource Center.

The first All-School Potluck Picnic in September of 1986 gave families and teachers a chance to get acquainted. More than 250 attended.

Throughout the 86-87 school year the PTSA provided Activities at Noon to give children an alternative to playing in the rain. Games a Noon provided non-competitive activities in the gym supervised by parents. Crafts at Noon was offered monthly. Projects ranged from wax candles, to bell ornaments and hear memo clips. Computer at Noon gave students an opportunity to use the computer lab during their non recess.

The Super Moon Dome was finally installed above the marble field in January of 1987. Other items purchased by the '86 Spring Jogathon money included the book binder, quadro jump rope set, establishment of the Children –In-Need fund, and mini portable basketball sets.

During all of January 1987 PTSA coordinated an “I Am Somebody” self-esteem month. Personalized notebooks, individual buttons, photographs, scrolls from teachers, music and helium balloons were used in daily and weekly activities. Responses from the “I Am Somebody” helium balloon launch came from as far away as Pocatello, Idaho. Another was found by a hiker in the Cascades who replied.

On February 19 and 20, 1987, Bell celebrated their 20th birthday with an ice cream social and student assembly. School administration dignitaries and people associated with Bell over the past 20 years were invited to attend.

At the State PTA Convention on May 8th 1987, Bell PTSA received a “People Taking Significant Action Award” for the coordination of the Bell Birthday Banner project.

An English Oak Tree and bronze memorial plaque were placed on the school ground in memory of a special ed student. Bell PTSA also established the Phillip Meier Special Education Fund for use by special ed teachers and their students.

1987-1988

In August of 1987 PTSA volunteers repainted the US map on the back black top.

A reader sign-board by the school entrance was installed by the PTSA for important messages.

In November of 1987 PTSA hosted a Conference Week Movie. For \$2.00 students received admission to "Ernest Goes to Camp", popcorn, and a drink.

A Make-it/Take-it Fair for children and the Holiday Bazaar for adults were brought back by popular demand in 1987.

In the fall of 1987 Student Council petitions Principal Roger Long for permission to ride bikes to school. They conducted surveys of near-by schools and discovered all but one allowed 4th-6th graders to ride. After much research, permission was granted in March of 1988.

Several Students from each classroom helped plant 500 daffodil and tulip bulbs and candy-tuft plants in front of the 112th Street fence in October of 1987. Red azaleas and forsythia were added in the spring. This project was financed by the Student Council, PTSA and the principal.

The first "Twelve Days of Christmas" program was performed by first graders in December of 1987.

In February 1988 voters pass the Lake Washington bond and levy which provided Bell with: improvement in heating, fire alarm and clock system; updating library and additional computer; enlarging teacher/administration work area; upgrading playgrounds; carpeting 12 classrooms; increased parking stalls; and additional portables.

During the 1987-88 school year Writing Resource Teachers were added to the district to help teachers with introduction of "Writing Workshop" to most grade-level curriculums.

A. G. Bell Parent Mary Nash taught adult classes in italic writing in February 1988. From 1986-90 students learned this style of writing.

The Park at Forbes Creek opened in April 1988. When the 496 apartments are fully occupied, 110-130 new students are expected to attend A. G. Bell.

Chimes, Bell PTSA parent newsletter, received the top newsletter award from the State PTA at their annual convention in May 1988. Bell's local unit also received their first "Certificate of Excellence" award and six other awards at the Service Area 2 Awards banquet.

Alex, Bell's bulldog mascot, is given a new look by Brian Daly, husband of first grade teacher Cathy Daly and a special education teacher at Rose Hill El in September of 1987. The next year Mr. Daly is commissioned to design a new sweatshirt and graphics for school publications.

At the end of the 1987-88 school year PTSA donated \$1000 toward the purchase of improved speakers and microphones for the public address system for the gym.

At the end of the 1987-88 school year, Student Council allocated their funds to have carved wooden signs identifying each building at Bell. These signs say "Mossy rock, Eagles's Nest, Silver Pines, and Mossy Timbers."

1988-1989

In September of 1988 new principal, Ann Marie Hanel, and two more portables are added to Bell.

Enrollment on October 1, 1988, was 496 students - - 51 students more than the previous year. Fourth and fifth grade classes were reorganized and a new teacher was added after three weeks of school.

A principal's survey in October of 1988 asked parents to list the outstanding features at Bell. They were: parent involvement in the PTSA; the caring atmosphere created by the staff; the outdoor education program; and open communication between staff and parents. Areas for improvement were the need for computers and a computer program and improved parking and drop-off and pick-up area.

A special Pioneer Farm Museum project celebrating the Washington Centennial came to Bell on February 16, 1989. The traveling museum exposed students to the cultures of the Ohop Valley 100 years ago. There were five dozen activities from eight learning centers.

The first Family Swim Night at Juanita High School was held in January 1989. Admission was a canned good. The event was used as a kick-off for the annual PTSA Canned Food Drive.

Successful fundraisers made it possible for the PTSA to provide an additional \$1900 for field trip in the spring of 1989. Classes visited the Mother Goose Theater, Point Defiance Zoo, Boeing Field, BCC Observatory, The Underground tour in Seattle, and the Children's Festival and Omnidome.

The Chimes newsletter wins the top award from the State PTA for the second year in a row.

An AIDS video is added to the district health curriculum for 5th and 6th graders in the spring of 1989.

First Bell Young Author's all-school workshop is May 5th, 1989. Teachers and parents served as group leaders so students could read their writing.

1989-1990

When classes started in September of 1989, Bell had enrolled 100 new students since September of '88 and welcomed fifteen new staff members.

Bell PTSA received an award from the National PTA for an increase in membership. Total number of dues paying members reached 332.

S. A. I. N. T. s (Social And Instructional Natural Tutors) were added to every first grade in the Lake Washington district. These trained instructional assistants worked with the teachers, providing an extra pair of eyes and hands in every classroom. Elementary school counselors were placed in each school half time. Both additions came in the fall of 1989.

A new Math curriculum was implemented during the 1989-90 school year. It emphasized problem solving, number concepts, mental math and estimation, use of concrete objects or manipulatives, and reasoning.

D. A. R. E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) begins for 6th graders at Bell. The 17-week course was a joint venture of the Lake Washington School District and the City of Kirkland.

A study Club started in January 1990 to help students complete homework assignments. The club met four times each week for half hour sessions immediately after school. Both parent and student volunteers donated time as tutor under the direction of two teachers.

Canned Food Drive is again joined with the Family Swim Party at Juanita Pool. Admission of \$1.00 for the Food Bank or two cans of food per person.

A special Step Out Lake Washington! Community rally is held at Peter Kirk Park in February 1990. Teachers joined with community leaders, parents, and administrators to tell Olympia to step up and foot the total bill for education and to increase teacher's salaries.

Bond/Levy that passes in February 1990 provided funding for new buses and an addition to Bell.

A. G. Bell celebrated writing with the 2nd Annual Young Author's Day on April 13, 1990. Author Pleasant DeSpain was the featured speaker.

The spring fundraiser for 1990 was a "Back To The Future" Silent Auction and Sock Hop.

A publishing room in the 100 building called THHE WRITE PLACE is finalized in the spring of 1990. A grant from the Lake Washington Foundation helped to provide this and a speaker for the Young Author's Day.

Gladys Criss, Bell's secretary for 23 years, retired at the end of the 89-90 school year. During Secretary Week in April, the school hosted a special "Pride Assembly" to honor Gladys. She was presented with a huge book written by students, teachers and parents from Bell. In addition, there was a special slide show and 23 cakes that spelled out: A. G. Bell Thanks You, Mrs. Criss.

An Artist in Residence rotated through all classes and spent seven days at Bell in May 1990. PTSA provided for the artists, lots of bright, new florescent tempura paints and brushes. Students learned how to mix and blend paints and proper brushing strokes.

1990-1991

Signs of growth were all around Bell when school started in the fall of 1990. A third kindergarten session was added, SAINTS were in the 2nd grade (as well as first), there were three classes at each grade level, and three more portable classrooms were in place (bringing the total to eight).

The Lake Washington School District offers a Homework Hotline on two cable television stations. Students can call and get help with math homework, solve puzzlers for prizes, and learn special tricks and problem solving skills.

The Italic handwriting program is thrown out and the D'Nealian handwriting program is implemented in grades K-3 in September 1990. Grades 4-6 did not switch since they had already learned a form of cursive.

Special Needs Awareness Week is held January 7-11, 1991. Special assemblies with Danny Deardorf and the Bellevue Bombers, a wheelchair basketball team, are held. Students participated in five different stations set up in the gym.

Fourteen inches of snow fall on December 18, 1990, closing schools (and most businesses). Winter break starts three days early and time is made up at the end of the year.

In February of 1991 volunteers started a brief storytime for first graders. Interested students were read to for 10-15 minutes, then headed out for the rest of their lunch recess.

A Bell parent trains a student video crew to record events at school. Material is edited and put together as a school yearbook take.

1991-1992

During the summer of 1991 the two portables in front of the 300 wing are moved to the parking lot island. Construction on an eight classroom addition, located in front of the 300 building is scheduled to begin in January 1992. Additional changes include a new library to be located in the present covered area, a remodeled office, workroom and staff room, a new covered area and a new expanded parking lot with a better drop off and pick up area. The project is scheduled to be completed in August 1992.

The 1991 PTSA fall fundraiser is a pizza sale. More than two thousand one hundred pizzas are sold.

During the 1991-92 school year staff and parents begin looking at ways to restructure the educational system. The district is divided into three teams by high school areas.

A new computer lab outfitted with Apple computers is opened in the fall of 1991. A Computer Instructional Assistant is added to the staff and students are able to have weekly computer exposure.

In February 1992 all A. G. Bell students participated in a papermaking project from recycled construction paper. PTSA hired an artist who spent seven days at the school working with the students and staff. Strips from the hand-made paper will be used in a weaving that will hang in the new addition. Third graders recorded the history of Bell and published their findings for the 25th Anniversary celebration.