

Olympia School District

Friday Update



October 7, 2011

From Superintendent Bill Lahmann

A Day Made Better at McLane

To the delight of staff and students during a special assembly, Office Max gave more than \$1,000 worth of office and school supplies for teachers and classrooms, including pens, pencils, notebooks, glue and fun project items. Office Max began the national program “A Day Made Better” to honor educators and to provide necessary supplies so classrooms can thrive despite challenging economic circumstances like low funding. In addition to the supply bags, McLane was surprised by a special presentation by an Office Max associate who wrote and performed a song to commemorate the event. The assembly didn’t stop there. Hollie Myhr, a second grade teacher, was awarded a new office chair, printer, camera and much more. She was selected for her excellence as a teacher and her enthusiastic commitment to students. Congratulations, Hollie, and thank you to Office Max for this incredible program.



OSD Receives \$10,000 Intel Grant for Science Expos

For the second year in a row, the OSD has been selected by Intel to receive a \$10,000 grant to support science fairs throughout the District. Most elementary, middle and high schools host science fairs or expos, and according to OSD Science Instructional Coach Vicki Horton, “Many students use their science project as a first step to participate in the South Sound Regional Science Fair at Pacific Lutheran University.” The Intel grant is used to purchase science equipment and staff development for teachers, and provides training and science research for students that occur outside of regular class hours. Intel hopes the funds increase higher participation in science expos, particularly from high school students, so they have the opportunity to move forward from regionals to the International Science and Engineering Fair.

OSD Celebrates National Walk to School Day

Many students, parents and staff celebrated National Walk to School Day on Wednesday. The Pioneer community is known for its large school walking and biking groups, and this year, state representatives from the Department of Transportation and Principal Randy Weeks joined students. By the time the group reached the crosswalk intersection at Carlyon and Henderson, the group had grown to more than two dozen students with younger siblings, parents and a few dogs in tow.

[Read more...](#)

The purpose of National Walk to School Day is to promote safe walking and bicycling, and encourages healthy exercise habits for kids. Kudos to the Pioneer and other Olympia communities for encouraging and supporting this program!

OSD to Host Regional Robotics Competition

I am pleased to announce that our District has been selected to host two regional robotics competitions this year. On December 3, the First Lego League (FLL) will bring teams of elementary and middle school students from around the state to build Lego robots for a series of competitive activities. For the First Tech Challenge (FTC) on December 4, teams of high school students will design, build and program prototype robots for tournament challenges at Olympia High School. The FLL and FTC are fun, innovative ways for students to become engaged in science, technology, engineering and math, while gaining valuable organizational, problem-solving and team-building skills. As these two events will host many students and visitors, volunteers are needed. If you are interested, please contact CTE teacher Randy Steele. Good luck to our students in the coming months!



Pumpkin Fund Run a Smashing Success

Each year, Centennial Elementary does a tremendous job with their Pumpkin Fund Run, an event that raises funds for their ASB to provide library books, P.E. items, and services that benefit all Centennial students. To celebrate the event, students, staff and volunteers dress in their orange garb and hit the track. This event has grown to include many neighbors and community members, and it's great to see students working hard to benefit Centennial.

Madison Celebrates Harvest Festival and Farm Stand Friday

Despite the cooler weather today, Madison students eagerly celebrated the start of the Fall season with its first Farm Stand Friday. In partnership with the Thurston County Food Bank, Avanti High School, and many parent volunteers, Madison students selected produce from the Giving Garden to take home. Students also sampled garden fresh snacks like salsa verde, baked potato wedges and garlic zucchini -- with many ingredients from the garden. Madison also celebrated their annual Harvest Festival, a fun event filled of activities like face painting, a cider press and petting zoo. I am proud of the efforts and time Madison staff and volunteers put into this event, and thanks to the dozens of Avanti High School students and community members who made today so special.



Local Dentist Hosts Supply Drive for OSD Students

Thanks to Dr. Zachary Ehrmantrout, OSD students have additional school supplies for the year. Dr. Ehrmantrout, his staff and patients held a school supply drive and collected pens, crayons, notebooks, filler paper, Kleenex, and hand sanitizer for the Welcome Room Program. These year-round supply campaigns make a big difference in helping students in need throughout the year, and we are grateful for those organizations and individuals who help provide Olympia School District with the necessities that help students be prepared for success.

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Project SEARCH Students Celebrate Success

This week, Project SEARCH students celebrated a successful start to the school year with a special reception hosted by The Evergreen State College's (TESC) President Les Purce. As a one-year program for students with disabilities in their last year of high school, Project SEARCH targets students whose goal is competitive employment. Transition Program students will participate in three, 10-week internships that rotate within various departments on the Evergreen campus, such as residential housing, dining services, facilities and grounds maintenance. The goal for each Project SEARCH student is to identify an area of interest and develop the skills necessary for employment in that field by the end of the school year. TESC is the first college in the Northwest to host a Project SEARCH program that involves high school Transition program students. This program was developed through partnership with the OSD, Morningside, TESC and the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation, and I am so proud to see our students learning new skills that will help them succeed in the workforce and beyond.



Upcoming Board Meetings

- Monday, October 10, 2011: Regular Board Meeting at Knox Administrative Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, October 17, 2011: Community Forum on upcoming Maintenance & Operation Levy and Capital Improvement Bond at Knox Administrative Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, October 24, 2011: Regular Board Meeting at Madison Elementary School, 6:30 p.m.