



**November 4, 2011**

**From Superintendent Bill Lahmann**

### **Flamenco Group Visits Capital**

Earlier this week, Capital High School enjoyed a performance by Flamenco Algarabia -- a music and dance troupe who have traveled to Washington under the direction of the Honorary Consul General of Spain, Luis F. Esteban. In honor of their visit, Governor Gregoire signed a proclamation stating that October 30 through November 5 is Flamenco Awareness Week. Flamenco is a genre of music and dance that originates from Spain, and singing, guitar playing, dance and hand claps are the principal facets. While the group is in Washington, they will also perform at The Washington Center for the Performing Arts and Benaroya Hall in Seattle. Special thanks to Assistant Principal Michelle Anderson for making this event possible!



### **OSD Hosts Teachers from the Philippines**

Five visiting science teachers from the Philippines spent a good part of this week touring our District and observing our science and education programs in action. Visitors observed our robotics program, met with science coach Vicki Horton, visited New Market Skills Center, traveled to Jefferson Middle School to see our new JAMS program, spent time at Reeves Middle School, and got to see science lessons in action at Roosevelt Elementary. On Monday, they will visit Washington Middle School and observe a seventh and eighth grade science class. The group is part of an exchange program with local Rotary Clubs. Their goal is to bring back curriculum and teaching strategy ideas to their home country in hopes of improving the overall quality of their education program. When asked about the biggest difference seen between the schools in Olympia and the Philippines, the teachers all commented about technology and class size. In the Philippines, a school has only one computer and is usually used for administrative purposes and not teaching. Visiting teachers also said class sizes range from 50 to 70 students.

### **ORLA Montessori Holds Curriculum Night**

So what does a Curriculum Night look like for the Montessori program? Students demonstrated their skills by being teachers of the parents, while parents were the pupils. Parents learned how to use the Montessori curricular materials for math, geography and science -- among other hands-on learning activities. Students led a variety of stations to show parents how to use the Montessori

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materials. After parents were given instruction by the student leader of a station, they attempted the activity. The student leader checked-off the parent task sheet upon completion. Parents expressed an appreciation for this format because it helped them to better understand the Montessori method and how their child is learning. Montessori teachers Kristin Weed, Jason Santa, and Jann Clare have done a very fine job in getting ORLA Montessori off to a great start. Keep up the good work!



## **OSD Placed on the College Board's 2nd Annual AP District Honor Roll**

Olympia School District is one of approximately 400 public school districts in the nation that were recently honored by the College Board with a place on the 2nd Annual AP Honor Roll. The OSD earns this honor for simultaneously increasing access to Advanced Placement coursework while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP exams. In fact, the OSD is one of only four districts in Washington to make the honor roll two years in a row. Since 2009, we have increased the number of students participating in AP from 335 to 396, while maintaining the percentage of students earning a 3 or higher on an exam. The majority of U.S. colleges and universities grant college credit, depending on a student's advanced placement exam score. *"I am so proud of our students and teaching staff who work so hard to make great strides in the classroom,"* says Matt Grant, Principal at Olympia High School. *"Our AP program really gives students a leg up in preparing for college and their future careers. I am really excited about the fact that we have been able to open up our AP courses to many more students to help them grow both personally and academically. I am also very pleased to see we have a greater number of students representing our diverse school population both taking and passing the AP exams."*

## **Upcoming Board Meetings & Events**

- Monday, November 7, 2011: Study Session at Knox Administrative Center, 5:30 p.m.
- Monday, November 14, 2011: Regular Board Meeting at Knox Administrative Center, 6:30 p.m.
- Monday, November 28, 2011: Regular Board Meeting at Capital High School, 6:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, November 30, 2011: Retirement Seminar for Plan 3 at Knox Administrative Center, beginning at 3:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.