



December 9, 2011

From Superintendent Bill Lahmann

The OSD Gets in the Holiday Spirit

The holiday season was under way last week, as dozens of volunteers filled the Madison library to wrap more than 2,600 gifts given by one very generous individual. For the past few years, Donna Lowery has generously donated thousands of gifts to support our highly mobile and at-risk students, bringing cheer and enjoyment to many students and families. Retired teacher-librarian Kathy Moore helped coordinate the gift wrapping party, where OSD staff, community members and CHS DECA students wrapped the gifts. *"The Capital students were fabulous! They had a terrific attitude, were dedicated wrappers, helped one another and were a pleasure to have,"* Kathy said.



It is remarkable to see how our District and community responds to activities that help support those in need. Thank you to Kathy for coordinating, and to our staff, DECA students and community for taking a few hours to create some very special memories for our students.

Boston Harbor Starts Math Club

On Mondays and Thursdays after school, Boston Harbor holds a math club that supports students who struggle or need some extra practice in mathematics. Peer tutors, middle and high school volunteers, staff and a college student are on hand to help. Although the program is relatively new, it has experienced some great results. Keep up the good work!

OSD Robots Rule

Last weekend proved to be an exciting time for Olympia School District, as robotics teams from our high schools and middle schools competed against other teams from around Washington State. Avanti brought home two trophies: 1st in the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) tournament and the Robot Design Award. Also taking home an award from the FTC tournament was CHS, who won the Think Award. Jefferson won the Strategy & Innovation Award in the FIRST LEGO League (FLL) competition as well. AHS and CHS will compete in the FTC State Championship later in the school year, and Jefferson moves forward to compete in the FLL State Championships in January. Congratulations to our students and their teachers on a job well done!

[Read more...](#)

Washington Bulldogs Take Newsletter to New Level

Our schools do a tremendous job of producing newsletters and getting information out to our parents and public, so I was pleased to see that Alyssa Ramsfield's 6th grade journalism class has taken a website approach. The Monthly Bark is an online newsletter that shares information like WMS sports, school weather, riddles, movie recommendations from staff, and more. This is a creative and innovative way for students, parents and our community to connect. I hope you get the chance to read through some of these fun, informative webpages at <http://themonthlybark.weebly.com/index.html>.

Avanti Kicks Off Culminating Projects

A handful of AHS seniors got the first crack at presenting their culminating projects today. This activity is a graduation requirement where students present to a panel about their learning experiences and academic growth during high school. Students also discuss their plans for the future. I was pleased to hear how well AHS students performed and to learn about their future goals. It is always refreshing to see how a student's experiences in high school helps pave the road for a successful post-secondary education and professional career. Congratulations to our seniors who presented today, and kudos to the AHS staff who work hard to prepare students for their culminating projects.

Upcoming Board Meetings

- **Monday, December 12, 2011:** Regular Board Meeting at Knox Administrative Center, 6:30 p.m. (Swearing in of Board members and election of Board officers for 2012)
- **Monday, December 12, 2011:** Study Session will follow regular meeting at Knox Administrative Center, 6:30 p.m. The Board will meet with the Superintendent Search consultant to develop guidelines and establish the process.