

Olympia School District

Friday Update



September 9, 2011

From Superintendent Bill Lahmann

School Supplies Pour in for OSD Students

It was heartening to hear that so many local organizations lent a helping hand by providing back-to-school supplies for our Welcome Room program. The Welcome Room is a District-wide program (housed at Madison Elementary) that supports students who are at-risk or homeless. West Coast Bank donated a generous supply of new backpacks and school supplies like notepads, pens, pencils and glue sticks -- totaling \$1,500 worth of items. First United Methodist Church also gave many backpacks and classroom supplies, and provided classroom stipends for Madison teachers that are used to purchase classroom supplies throughout the year. Washington State Association for Justice, Altrusa and Curves also donated back-to-school supplies for our students in need. Kudos to the many generous organizations in our community for their generosity and support!

Garfield Teacher Helps Build New Pathway for Students

With the help of parent volunteer Mai Brayden, landscaper Jaimie Harris of Harris Landscaping, Inc., and others, kindergarten teacher Tara Otonicar worked this summer to create a new pathway for Garfield Elementary. Wanting to make the drop-off area more accessible for younger students and students who are not highly mobile, Tara began building a rock path that bridges the parking lot with the sidewalk. In addition to a more accessible walkway, this path will be an ongoing science project for Tara's students. Parent volunteer Mai Brayden built planter boxes where students can plant bulbs now and observe flower growth later. Jaimie Harris voluntarily designed the pathway and worked feverishly to embed river rock -- creating a beautiful and natural looking pathway for students, staff, and Garfield visitors.



Orchestra Teacher Receives Once-in-a-Lifetime Opportunity

Teacher Chip Schooler recently received news of his appointment to the National Association for Music Education (MENC) Orchestral Music Education Council. Chip was selected for his commitment and support of the MENC mission and his expertise as an orchestral music educator. In this role, he will provide leadership and implement fresh, new ideas in music education for classrooms across the nation. We truly have an exceptional group of educators in the Olympia School District, and this is a wonderful example of the many high-caliber teachers who influence our students, classrooms and beyond. Great work, Chip!

CTE Director Earns CTE Administrator of the Year

Brad Hooper received some very exciting news this summer: he was selected by the Washington Association of Career & Technical Educators as the CTE Administrator of the Year. This is a prestigious award, and I am so proud of the energy Brad has invested in our District's CTE efforts. The CTE program has seen tremendous growth these past few years, and introduces new and innovative technical programs and opportunities for many of our students. Congratulations, Brad!