

Olympia School District

October 2, 2009

From Superintendent Bill Lahmann

OSD Educators Teach Love of Art

As businesses and citizens prepare for the autumn Arts Walk this evening, it reminds me of the dedication of our teachers and staff as they foster a love of art among our students. Last weekend, Washington Middle School teacher Greg Allison conducted a classical music concert of Prokofiev's Peter and the Wolf, performed by the Student Orchestras of Greater Olympia at the Washington Center for the Performing Arts. From all accounts, it was a terrific performance. This weekend, Charlotte's Web opens at the Olympia Family Theater, a venture that is co-founded by Washington Middle School teacher Samantha Chandler. Greg and Samantha are only two examples of educators who continue to encourage a love of the arts among our students. If I were to list the names of all of the educators in this district who were passionate about bringing art alive in our schools, it would go on for many pages. At a time when there is more and more pressure to narrow our curriculum to "the basics," it is heartening to know that in Olympia, we have people who are passionate about making sure art is at the forefront of student learning.

Lincoln 15th Annual Harvest Festival Shines With Life

The Lincoln Harvest Festival is a photographer's dream. Imagine students jumping into a huge pile of hay, bobbing for apples, spitting pumpkin seeds, husking sweet corn and walking through the school's organic garden. Several hundred parents, students, staff and community members soaked in the morning sun earlier today as the Lincoln community celebrated the fall harvest with games, singing, music and fresh food grown in their garden. The Harvest Festival is a great tradition and one that keeps getting better every year.

CHS Soccer Players To Help Out at Shelter

This evening while many people are attending sporting events, having dinner with their families or attending Arts Walk, students on the Capital High School Girls Soccer Team will be helping folks at the Women and Children's Overflow Shelter in downtown Olympia. The soccer team has been collecting personal hygiene items and will deliver them to the shelter, along with some fresh baked cookies. It's another reminder of the community service ethic that so many of our students demonstrate throughout the school year.



Schools Receive Grants for Healthy Foods

Two of our elementary schools have been awarded a grant to provide students fresh fruit and vegetable snacks throughout the school day. Madison Elementary has secured a state-funded grant worth more than \$10,000 and Garfield Elementary won a federal grant for nearly \$24,000. The goal of the grants is to create healthier school environments by expanding the variety of fruits and vegetables that children eat. Buying arrangements have been made with several local farmers to provide their fruit and vegetables for these programs. Both programs will get underway next week and will continue until the end of this school year. Kudos to the staff at Madison, Garfield and Child Nutrition Services Supervisor Paul Flock and his crew for all of their hard work on this.

Upcoming School Board Meetings

October 12, 2009 -- Regular Board Meeting, Knox Administrative Center, 6:30 p.m.

October 19, 2009 -- Study Session, Knox Administrative Center, 6:30 p.m.

October 26, 2009 -- Regular Board Meeting, Hansen Elementary School, 6:30 p.m.