



October 30, 2009

From Superintendent Bill Lahmann

Students Learn Hands-On Environmental Lessons

Over the past couple of weeks, students from several of our schools have been carrying out water-quality testing at local waterways like Capital Lake and Moxlie Creek. Students tested the water and drew conclusions about animals and plants living in our waterways. The field trips were part of a larger effort organized by South Sound GREEN, the Nisqually River Education Project and the Chehalis Basin Education Project. Representatives from the classes will meet later this year to compare their test results with other students from across the area. Students from L.P. Brown were featured in an Olympian article about the water quality testing. To read it, click here:

<http://www.theolympian.com/education/story/1007265.html>]<http://www.theolympian.com/education/story/1007265.html>

OHS Students Show Spirit of Collaboration

Last week, 10 students in Washington Middle School teacher Annette Pasquariello's 6th grade math class stayed after school to review for an upcoming test. Annette had contacted OHS math teacher Jan Stuckey to see if any OHS students would be interested in serving as tutors for the students and, as luck would have it, ten of them showed up at WMS to help out. The high school students worked one-on-one with the 6th graders for an hour as part of the test preparation, and offered to help again in the future. What a great way to engage both the middle school and high school students in meaningful opportunities after school.

CHS Student is Finalist in Qwest-Seahawks Challenge

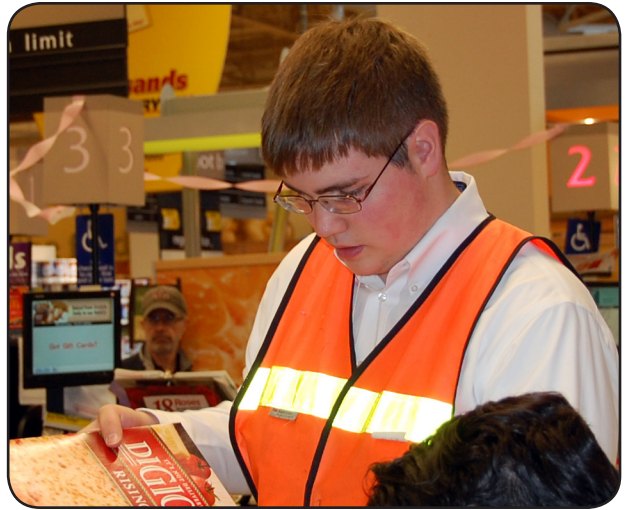
Staff and students at Capital High School will tell you senior Courtney Johnson is a leader and over the past several months, she has developed those skills even further. Last spring, the CHS soccer player was nominated for the Qwest-Seahawks Leadership Challenge, a leadership development program for high school varsity athletes. The program promotes and inspires involvement in charitable causes and community service. After writing essays and participating in interviews, Courtney is now a finalist for scholarships available to the most exemplary students in the program. She will be one of a handful of students who will be honored at the Seahawks game on November 8th. Good luck, Courtney.

United Way Fund Drive Under Way

As the current President of the Board of the United Way of Thurston County, I wish I could thank each one of you individually for your financial support over the years, a generosity that has made the Olympia School District one of the largest contributors to this annual fund drive. With your assistance, our local United Way has taken the lead on early childhood education and been able to provide funds to 65 local organizations. Thank you in advance for supporting our local United Way and for making our community a great place for all of its citizens.

Transition Students Learn Life Skills, Work Skills

What kinds of skills does it take to work in different kinds of jobs? That was the question several of our students in the Transition Program asked last week as they had an opportunity to job shadow employees at several local companies and organizations. One of the students got to learn about working in a grocery store at Safeway. Another helped with duties at the Intercity Transit center in Lacey. These kinds of opportunities help prepare our students for when they will graduate from our schools and also learn some important life skills. We appreciate all of our community partners who made these opportunities available to the students in our Transition Program.



Upcoming Board Meetings

November 9, Regular Board Meeting, Knox Administrative Center, 6:30 p.m.

November 16, Study Session, Knox Administrative Center, 6:30 p.m.

November 23, Regular Board Meeting, Marshall Middle School, 6:30 p.m.