



Olympia School District

News & Notes

November 25, 2015

'I AM' Wall at Washington MS Opens Discussion on Awareness of Stereotypes

Students at Washington Middle School recently began a school wide activity titled Classroom: 'I AM' Wall, a guided instructional lesson designed to dig into stereotypes. Through this lesson students built the bricks for the "I AM" wall.

Students began by discussing with their classmates how people often use labels or categories to describe others and how these labels can be based on such characteristics as clothing, looks, the way a person talks, or the groups to which he or she belongs. After this discussion students were given a colored piece of paper and asked to write down a word that best described themselves.

The idea was to develop student awareness of the influence of stereotypes in their perceptions and behaviors, to develop self-awareness, and to develop an awareness of the similarities between oneself and others.



WMS Principal Paul Anders said; "I was extremely impressed with how honest kids were and how seriously they took this activity. As a staff member it was amazing to look over all the papers and see such a variety of responses. It was a really poignant reminder that we work with, and for, these kids."

The "I Am" wall originally started as a language arts class project for individual students to shatter the stereotypes that they felt have been placed on them. The students and staff at Washington MS then modified the lesson to serve as a school-wide project.



OSDEF Breakfast & Wreath Sale a Smashing Success

The Olympia School District Education Foundation held its annual Principals' Emergency Checkbook Fund Breakfast on September 17 at The Olympia Center in downtown Olympia. This year 238 people attended the breakfast. The breakfast was complementary to all attendees, as the 11 generous event sponsors covered costs.

Currently the OSDEF has received approximately \$47,500 in contributions and sponsorship money with checks continuing to roll in. The expectation is that total donations will surpass \$50,000, a record total for the breakfast.



The OSDEF wreath sale also had a banner year, with 200 more wreaths sold this year than last. The Foundation raises \$25,000 annually through the wreath sale that goes directly toward the OSD Cispus (outdoor education) program. This helps make it possible for all district fifth graders to attend. These funds don't pay for Cispus in its entirety, but help cut the cost to parents and the Olympia School District.



As a school district we could not be more grateful for everything the OSDEF does for our students, their families and our community. We are extremely lucky to have such an amazing group of individuals in our corner. Thank you OSDEF!



Capital HS Career & Tech Ed Programs Attend Pierce County Career Day

Students from Capital High School's Career and Technical Education programs attended Pierce County Career Day on Thursday, November 19 at the Washington State Fairgrounds. According to event sponsor, WorkForce Central, the Pierce County Construction Partnership works to bring students, educators and employees together to explore career paths in construction, manufacturing, aerospace, transportation, utilities and public safety.

Through hands-on exhibits, more than 2,000 local students experience carpentry, welding, ironworking, sheet metal and more. They take turns driving backhoes and front-end loaders, and discuss potential careers with industry professionals, apprenticeship coordinators and college and training program representatives.

A special "Girls Power Zone" offered the opportunity for girls to speak with women in the trades and listen to female career speakers that included a police officer, a firefighter and a construction laborer. This event was a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn more about occupations that are in demand that they may not have considered for their futures!



ORLA Team Volunteers Time at Family Support Center of South Sound

Recently the Olympia Regional Learning Academy (ORLA) leadership and ASB students volunteered at the Family Support Center of South Sound in the donation room. They worked to sort and hang clothing that families in need can get free of charge.

The Family Support Center has a number of additional projects taking place around the holiday season. ORLA students will be back at the Support Center on December 15 to help sort and store gifts that are being donated for families who are not able to afford gifts this year. There are donations for more than 30 families scheduled to come in that night, so the more hands, the lighter the work!

ORLA teacher Cristy Havens was integral in the coordination of this event and has this to say about their volunteer efforts; "This was a great opportunity for our students to provide some much needed service to our community."

As is the case with many nonprofit organizations this time of year, the Family Support Center of South Sound is always looking for volunteers, donations - or both. As a district we have many families that directly benefit from the support of the Family Support Center. If interested in donating, please contact the Family Support Center directly at (360) 754-9297, or visit the Center's [website](#).



Mark Your Calendar - Upcoming Dates

- **Thanksgiving Break (No School)** - November 26-27
- **ES & MS Collaboration (Half Day)** - December 2
- **Board Meeting (Knox)** - December 14 at 6:30 p.m.
- **Winter Break (No School)** - December 21- January 1