



OLYMPIA SCHOOL DISTRICT

Olympia School District

News & Notes

February 12, 2016

McKenny Celebrates International Night

McKenny Elementary School recently opened its doors for International Night, a tradition at the school dating back many years. This is a night for students and families to share their culture, heritage and customs with the McKenny community. Families participated in a variety of ways including bringing in food samples, wearing or displaying traditional clothing, demonstrating a craft, and sharing stories, poetry or other forms of writing.



Participants shared information and delicacies representing their culture. Staff and families also brought in breads from around the world to share with those attending. Throughout the evening there were performances, including McKenny Principal Michael Havens leading kindergartners in a song featuring greetings from around the world.



McKenny Elementary parents and teachers helped to organize this wonderful event.

Pacific Science Center *Physics on Wheels* Visits Centennial Elementary

The Pacific Science Center’s *Physics on Wheels* van recently visited Centennial Elementary School. The visit began with an all-school assembly featuring exciting physics demonstrations, exhibits and experiments. The assembly was followed up with classroom workshops and a variety of hands-on displays in the library.

Students from all grades visited the library to take turns spinning a bicycle-wheel gyroscope, talking to one another on a “whisper-ma-phone,” and spinning coins down a “gravity well.” Other displays taught students about the physics behind magnets, pulleys, forces, electricity and more! The most popular exhibit with Mrs. Hayes’ fourth-grade class was the bicycle-wheel gyroscope, where students spun a wheel while standing on a rotating platform, giving them the momentum to spin in place.

The *Physics On Wheels* van travels across the Pacific Northwest with interactive workshops, live stage shows and portable exhibit sets that build excitement for science, math, engineering and more. Programs are designed to support current science standards and range in length from 40 minutes to a full day of fun and learning.



Learn All About Kindergarten Day Is Saturday, February 20

On Saturday, February 20, the Olympia School District will hold its annual “Learn All About Kindergarten” informational event starting at 10 a.m. at Capital High School.

If you know of anyone in your neighborhood who has a child entering kindergarten in fall 2016, please share this information with them and encourage them to attend.

The event begins with a welcome by Superintendent Dick Cvitanich and general overview in the school theater followed by an information fair until noon in the Commons.

During the event parents will learn about a variety of topics related to kindergarten and school in general, including how to register for kindergarten, kindergarten program options, riding the bus, and how to use the district’s Family Access student information system to stay updated on everything from grades to lunch accounts.

A reminder that children should be 5 years old by August 31, 2016 to be eligible to start kindergarten this fall.

The event is geared for adults of incoming kindergartners in the Olympia School District. Child care is not provided.

Capital High School is located at 2707 Conger Ave. N.W. in Olympia.

Unified Sports Featured at Halftime of OHS Boy’s Basketball Playoff Game

This past Wednesday the Olympia High School boy’s basketball team began what they hoped is a deep playoff run against Todd Beamer at Chick Rockey Gymnasium. While the Bears cruised to victory over the Titans, there was an equally exciting competition taking place at halftime as Unified Sports students participated in a truncated basketball game.

Unified Sports gives students in special education the opportunity to experience being part of a high school sports team. Students play on a team alongside their general education classmates. Teams practice weekly and compete in tournaments on weekends. Unified Sports is run by Special Olympics and operates year-round.

ASB President Devan Hollar was integral in bringing the Unified Sports Program to Olympia High School. Devan worked directly with Special Olympics staff, building administrators and special services staff to get this program off the ground. ASB Leadership Advisor Kristin Costello is very familiar with Devan and his efforts and had this to say about his dedication: “I am impressed with his tenacity and commitment to make sure we have programs that include all students. He selflessly works to make our school better.”

Congratulations to all participating athletes and kudos to Devan for making this event possible!



Reeves MS Band Performs at University of Washington

The Reeves Middle School Band performed at the University of Washington on February 9 as part of the Pacific Northwest Music Festival. The band was adjudicated and critiqued by a few of the preeminent band directors in the country: Frank Battisti, Gary Green and Craig Kirchhoff. Reeves Middle School Band director Randy Grostick said, "It is quite an honor as numerous bands are not accepted, and this is probably the only event known nationally where a middle school band is able to get this level of assessment from such renowned band directors."

Students learned numerous concert band techniques and concepts as well as lessons in popular music during a visit the same day to the Experience Music Project Museum in Seattle. In addition, three Reeves students were selected to perform in concert with the University of Washington Symphonic Band, and students watched some excellent performances by other high school and college ensembles.



"It is amazing how much we talk in our schools about attending college, yet so many of our students have not even been to one. It is our hope that by performing at and seeing what learning looks like at the college level that our students have a better idea of how to set their educational goals and be motivated to attain them," Grostick said.

Thank You Voters! Levy and Bond Measures Passing

Olympia School District voters have overwhelmingly approved a four-year maintenance and operations replacement levy and a school bond in the February 9 Special Election, based on unofficial election results.

The Thurston County Auditor's Office announced the first set of returns before a crowd of about 50 Thurston County area school district staff members and supporters who gathered at the ballot processing center in Tumwater on election night. Those results have been updated daily since Tuesday's election.

Thank You Voters!

Levy - 76.01% YES

Bond - 72.19% YES

As of February 11, Olympia School District's four-year Maintenance and Operations Replacement Levy (Proposition 1) received 76.01 percent yes votes. The replacement levy pays for nearly one-quarter of the school district's day-to-day programs and operations and renews an expiring four-year levy approved by voters in 2012.

Voters also approved a \$160.7 million school improvements bond (Proposition 2) with 72.19 percent yes votes, according to the unofficial results.

“We want to thank our voters for their ongoing support of our schools,” said Superintendent Dick Cvitanich, who was at the election ballot processing center when the results were announced. “I also want to thank the many volunteers who worked so hard on this campaign, including longtime Olympia Citizens for Schools chairperson Bob Marra, as well as co-chairs Cheryl Selby and Allen Miller.”

Cvitanich continued, “We are excited to move forward with the school bond projects to address continued enrollment growth, smaller class sizes, school safety and security, and aging buildings. Our students, families and community at large will benefit from continued excellent school programs and services that will maintain our tradition of excellence in the Olympia School District.”



Mark Your Calendar - Upcoming Dates

- **Mid-Winter Break (No School)** - February 15-16
- **Learn All About Kindergarten Day (Capital HS)**
February 20 at 10:00 a.m.
- **A Really Big Shoe ‘Folk Fest’ Concert (Washington Center)**
February 21 at 2:00 p.m.
- **Special Education PTO Meeting** - February 22 at 6-7:30 p.m.
- **Board Meeting (Roosevelt ES)** - February 22 at 6:30 p.m.
- **HONK! An OSDEF Production** - Feb. 26-28
- **ES & MS Collaboration (Half Day)** - March 2
- **Board Meeting (Knox)** - March 7 at 6:30 p.m.