



BAINBRIDGE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Strong Minds, Strong Hearts, Strong Community

NEWS

Issue 5
April 2016

District announces four finalists for superintendent position

The Bainbridge Island School District Board of Directors has announced the names of four superintendent candidates who will participate in interviews Tuesday, April 12, and Wednesday, April 13.

The finalists are:

- **Dr. Peter Bang-Knudsen**, associate superintendent for administrative services, Bainbridge Island School District, Bainbridge Island, Wash.
- **Dr. Molly Evans**, assistant superintendent for educational services, Litchfield Elementary School District, Litchfield Park, Ariz.
- **Dr. Steve Matthews**, superintendent, Novi Community School District, Novi, Mich.
- **Mr. Michael Tolley**, associate superintendent for teaching and learning, Seattle Public Schools, Seattle, Wash.



Clockwise from top left: Dr. Peter Bang-Knudsen, Dr. Molly Evans, Mr. Michael Tolley and Dr. Steve Matthews. The finalists will meet with staff and community members from 5:30-9:05 p.m. on April 12.

“After reviewing the qualifications of 24 applicants from across the nation, and even a few from overseas, we feel these candidates represent a rich variety of leadership experiences that would benefit our district,” said Board President Mev Hoberg.

Each finalist will participate in interviews with board directors and attend meetings with various stakeholder groups, including a forum Tuesday, April 12, beginning at 5:30 p.m., where candidates will take questions from community members who will have an opportunity to provide written feedback.

“We’ve crafted a schedule that enables the community to meet all four candidates in one evening, so we hope people will take the time to come out and get to know them,” Hoberg said.

District board directors began their search last November after Superintendent Faith Chapel announced her decision to retire in June after eight years at the helm.

[Read more on the BIRD website.](http://www.bisd303.org)

Superintendent finalists: Interview schedule

The Bainbridge Island community will have an opportunity to meet the superintendent finalists on Tuesday, April 12, 5:30-9:05 p.m. in the Bainbridge High School Commons. There will be four 50-minute sessions. To provide equity for the candidates, board directors ask participants to be present at all four sessions, if possible. Staff sessions will take place simultaneously.

5:30-6:20 p.m. Dr. Steve Matthews

7:20-8:10 p.m. Dr. Peter Bang-Knudsen

6:25-7:15 p.m. Mr. Michael Tolley

8:15-9:05 p.m. Dr. Molly Evans

Register for STEAM Camp by midnight, April 15

Registration is open for Bainbridge Island School District students to attend this summer’s Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) Camp. The annual camp will take place Monday, July 18, through Friday, July 22, at Wilkes Elementary School as follows: 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. for grades 2, 3, 4 and 5; 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. for grades 6 and 7.

Students will be grouped according to the grade level they will enter next fall.

Camp description

Each grade band will have its own set of instructors who will expose all students to the five components of STEAM. Every student will experience robotics.

The district will require teachers for the sixth and seventh grades to have advanced STEAM skills that will challenge older students. The district will hire teachers and develop complete course descriptions once the student count is complete.

The cost of STEAM Camp 2016 is \$275.

Registration closes midnight, April 15.

[Learn more on the STEAM Camp Web page.](#)

High school students: Volunteer for STEAM Camp by May 1

STEAM Camp is looking to recruit district students who will enter high school next fall to serve as mentors and volunteers in the following positions:

Counselors: Will work directly with students building team spirit, escorting them to and from classes and breaks, and helping as needed in classrooms.

Teaching assistants: Will work directly with grade-band teachers on daily set-ups and take-downs, and provide support during instructional times.

Administrative assistant: Will provide daily, daylong assistance to the camp director.

Photographer and videographer (two positions): Will capture camp moments and prepare a slideshow and video for the final day of camp.

Application deadline is May 1

Interested in becoming a STEAM Camp volunteer? [Please apply here](#) by Sunday, May 1.

All volunteers must attend each day of camp and a staff orientation/preparation day on Friday, July 15.

Read more BIRD news at www.bisd303.org.

Karreman, Bautista win 2016 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards

Bainbridge High School (BHS) junior Grace Bautista doesn't know what she wants to do when she grows up, but the American Voices Award she won for a personal memoir places her on a path paved by well-known writers including Truman Capote, Stephen King and Lena Dunham.

Last year, Anneke Karreman's sculpture "Creature" went on exhibition at Bainbridge Arts and Crafts along with other award-winning works by BHS students. This year, the senior's Gold Medal winning painting "Precious Culture" will be on exhibition at the Pratt Institute's Manhattan Gallery. Illustrator Andy Warhol, photographer Richard Avedon and painter Philip Pearlstein had similar starts; they won Scholastic Art & Writing Awards as teens.

Students from across the nation, grades seven to 12, submitted nearly 320,000 works of art and writing to the 2016 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. [Twenty-two students from BHS won regional recognition.](#) Karreman's painting and Bautista's personal memoir landed them among the top one percent of the program's national award winners. Both will participate in a ceremony June 2 at Carnegie Hall.



Grace Bautista wrote "Rebolusyon." The Filipino word means insurrection, revolution or rising.

'This is who I am'

English teacher, Kirrin Coleman, challenged Bautista to vie for awards, and for a specific assignment last December asked students to document their life experiences in a style similar to Sherman Alexie's writings about being an American Indian. Bautista wrote about being biracial in "Rebolusyon."

"... Mouthfuls of heritage burned my tongue, the lumpia still hot from the fryer. But we ate it anyway, savoring the taste of a home I'd never been to, a motherland I knew nothing about, ancestors whose names I could not pronounce. I wondered if my white cousins from my mother's side would turn their noses up at the unfamiliar words and flavors. I wondered if by eating the food I would become more of an anomaly at those reunions; the only dark-haired, brown-skinned one there among my blonde and blue-eyed family. But I ate it anyway."

It's always been a "weird experience," said Bautista, who was born in Germany. "You never really know where you fit in. Not Filipino enough or white enough. It's so stressful."

An identity crisis led to Bautista wanting to learn as much as possible about her Filipino culture and history. She read about the Philippine-American War and learned about people dying in concentration camps.

"It's sad to realize people from the country you live in killed people in the culture you are from," Bautista said. "It's weird to be both us and other. My memoir is me saying this is who I am. My feelings and my experiences are valid."



Anneke Karreman's painting celebrates "Precious Culture."

Inspired to work even harder

"I made my painting to remind others to celebrate and value differences in all cultures," Karreman said. "I used a photograph of a girl for inspiration who I did not relate to but found very intriguing. As I worked, I wondered what her life is like. What do these symbols mean?"

In addition to winning a Gold Medal for her acrylic painting, Karreman won the following: a Gold Key and an American Visions nomination for a ceramic

and glass piece entitled "Earth and Ice;" an Honorable Mention in the drawing and illustration category for "Origin of Species;" a Silver Key for her mixed media "In Memoriam;" an Honorable Mention for the sculpture "Creature;" and a Silver Key for another sculpture, "Curious Creature."

"Winning a gold medal means that I have something to prove, that putting my artistic voice out there is worth it," Karreman said. "Achieving this gives me confidence that others appreciate my skills and passion for art. This inspires me to want to work harder and further develop as an artist."



Sakai sixth-grader Merrill Keating is a published author.

Meet Sakai author Merrill Keating at book-signing event April 17

"Quietly, I got out of my sleeping bag and stood outside. I thought I saw a man, but when he looked up I couldn't see a face. It looked like smoke curling off his body and he was wearing a black cloak. He started to walk toward me whispering 'Annabeth, Annabeth, Annabeth,' and kept saying this over and over again. I felt terrified! He sounded a million-years-old with a voice ready to crack at any moment."

— From "Drowned in Darkness: A Very Short Story"

Sakai Intermediate School teacher Jim Stars asked his sixth-grade language arts class to write a story about anything. Eleven-year-old Merrill Keating had so much fun writing about Annabeth and friends, and their magical, adventure-packed hiking trip, she decided to edit, illustrate and self-publish her assignment. "Drowned in Darkness: A Very Short Story," is now available at Eagle Harbor Book Company. Keating will be present at the bookstore for an author event Sunday, April 17, 3-4:30 p.m.

Q: One reviewer described your book as "a bit of Harry Potter meets Matilda." Another wants you to write more. What does all this attention mean to you?

A: I feel excited and proud about my accomplishment as an author, and I am already writing a second book for the Drowned in Darkness series.

Q: What would you like to say to young people who want to write a book, but think they could never find an audience?

A: There is always an audience somewhere, just not where you might expect it. It's important to enjoy what you do and not allow anyone to discourage you. Also, make sure it's in your own words and ideas; don't let anyone change that. It doesn't have to be perfect, just keep going and let your story unfold.

Read more at www.bisd303.org.

Spartronics battle toward regional championship

Stronghold, the 2016 FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Competition game, is a punishing event where robots capable of firing foam boulders, scaling tall walls and capturing towers often fall disabled on the field. Despite software glitches and the fact ARES—Advanced Robot Engineered for Siege—was not ready in time for the final match, the members of [Team Spartronics](#) were part of a four-team alliance that won the Glacier Peak District Championship.

It was the three-year-old high school team's first competition of the season and only their second time winning a district championship. Thanks to the team's innovative 14-inch metal Omni Wheels, they also took home an Excellence in Engineering Award.

Spartronics made it to the semifinals of their second battle of the season in Mt. Vernon. They also received the Gracious Professionalism Award for their ability to work with other FRC (FIRST Robotics Competition) teams and compete on and off the field in a manner reflective of FIRST standards.

Students have nominated Kevin Hawkins, one of the founding mentors of Team Spartronics, for the Woodie Flowers Award. The award celebrates effective communication in the art and science of engineering and design. Dr. William Murphy founded the prestigious award in 1996 to recognize mentors who lead, inspire and empower using excellent communication skills. Hawkins will be among top mentors eligible for selection as a Woodie Flowers Award Finalist at the Portland Regional Competition.

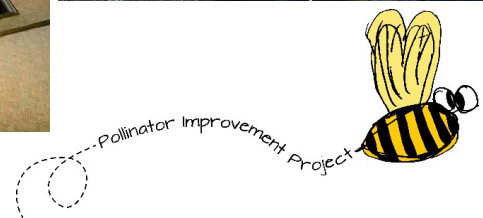
Will Team Spartronics get to compete in the FIRST FRC Pacific Northwest District Championship for the third year in a row? Currently, the team is ranked 27th in the region. The top 64 teams from Washington, Oregon and Alaska will be eligible to play Stronghold at the April 6-9 championship in Portland. Stay tuned.



Lucas Rininger, a junior at Eagle Harbor High School, described the design and engineering of the 14-inch Omni Wheels at the Team Spartronics Open House in March.



Above: Odyssey students with their Mason bee houses. To the right: Third-grader Kate Breen and fourth-grader Stirling Thornburgh show off their bee houses. A seventh/eighth-grader drew the bee.



Commodore students want to make Bainbridge “bee-friendly”

Students at Commodore Options School want to make Bainbridge Island “a better place to be a bee.” In conjunction with a yearlong study of the plight of bees, students in grades 1-8 are helping the city and several community organizations create a campaign to help protect them. The Pollinator Improvement Plan (PIP) partnership will work to educate our community about steps we can take to help pollinators survive and thrive on Bainbridge Island.

Through artwork and slogans, students are helping inform residents that one of the best ways to support pollination is through the use of “bee-friendly” products on home gardens. That means strict avoidance of any product that contains neonicotinoids, a chemical linked to Colony Collapse Disorder, which has decimated bee colonies worldwide.

The goal of the PIP partnership is to:

- Increase the pollination population on Bainbridge Island by reducing or eliminating the use of harmful pesticides.
- Increase habitat by creating access to green space within built environments.
- Increase public awareness about the importance of pollinators and environmental threats they currently face.

Activities planned by PIP partners include a pollinator project presentation to the City Council on June 14, a presentation to the City Council of the Commodore Bee's Eye View project, and a proclamation declaring June 20-26 Pollinator Awareness Week in perpetuity.