



BAINBRIDGE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

Strong Minds, Strong Hearts, Strong Community

NEWS

Issue 4
February 25, 2016



Thank you community for supporting our school bond measure!

We are extremely grateful for the support and trust of our community. Approval of the Feb. 9 bond measure enables us to move forward and better serve our students, staff, teachers and community by improving district facilities and learning environments. We take this responsibility seriously and are committed to being careful stewards of the island's investment in our schools.

Next steps

The district is currently soliciting Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) for the selection of an architect for the replacement of Blakely Elementary School. Among many responsibilities, the winning firm must create an exceptional, energy-efficient and sustainable design that will provide optimal learning environments, incite student enthusiasm for learning, meet community needs, and respect the district's financial stewardship throughout the design, construction and demolition process.

RFQs for this first phase are due March 3. A committee—comprised of representatives from Blakely, including Principal Reese Ande, teachers, classified staff and parents; three community at large representatives; two school board directors; two representatives from Capital Projects and one district administrator—will make the final architect selection on March 25.

Once the district has selected an architecture firm, the Educational Specifications (edspec) process will begin. The edspec team will include a variety of stakeholders including teachers, administrators, community members, parents, board members and classified staff.

For ongoing information about Blakely, the replacement of the Bainbridge High School 100 Building, and asset preservation work, please [visit the Capital Projects Web page](#).

Once again, we sincerely thank you for your support!

Read more BISD news at www.bisd303.org.

Community Robotics Open House March 2

See STEM and robotics in action
Wednesday, March 2, 6-8 p.m. at
Bainbridge High School.
Read more about it on Page two.

Upcoming program nights

Sakai Parent Night

Sakai Intermediate School will hold an information night for incoming parents Tuesday, March 8, 7-8:30 p.m. The event will take place throughout the school.

Woodward Parent Night

Woodward Middle School will hold an information night for incoming parents on Wednesday, March 16, 6:30 p.m. in the gym.

Superintendent survey and interview process update

School board directors hope you will add your voice to the process of finding the district's next superintendent. There are two ways to do so:

Superintendent Search Survey

A survey to guide the creation of a candidate profile is available until Feb. 29. [Just follow the link here or on the BISD website.](#)

The survey presents four qualities or characteristics at a time and asks respondents to identify those 'Most Important' and 'Least Important.' Characteristics reappear in 10 different groupings.

Finalist interviews April 11-13

There will be opportunities to meet the finalists and ask questions during community forums that will take place April 11-13. Look for more information via email and on the district website.

Also in this edition ...

- Spartronics Open House
- Schmit, Carson vie for national honor
- Donations for Helpline House
- Albergine, Kiefler advance to state geography bee

Team Spartronics will unveil new competitive robot during Community Open House March 2

During the past six weeks 50 Bainbridge High School students and their adult mentors have been quietly creating a robot capable of firing foam boulders, scaling walls and capturing towers. With building, programming and testing now complete, the members of Team Spartronics are ready to introduce ARES—an Advanced Robot Engineered for Siege—during a Community Open House Wednesday, March 2, 6-8 p.m. in the BHS 300 Building.

“We are hoping the community will come out in force to see, hear and support students who are having the ‘hardest fun of their lives,” said teacher Enrique Chee, who leads the Spartronics, also known as FIRST Team 4915. “You will meet our programming, mechanical, electrical and marketing teams, and you’ll get a first look at ARES in action.”

While Team Spartronics is hosting the event and will publically unveil ARES for the first time, the open house will also showcase the talents of two middle school FTC (First Technical Challenge) robotics teams and four FLL (FIRST Lego League) community teams comprised of students ages 9-14.



Team members used Lego bricks to prototype a design before building a robot capable of completing the FIRST Stronghold game challenge.

“With multiple age groups demonstrating science, technology, engineering and math education in action, the open house offers an opportunity for us all to show our appreciation and demonstrate how much community support enables us to do,” Coach Chee said.

The Spartronics are heading into their third year as a FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics team. FIRST challenges team members to build and program a robot that can perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors, raise funds, design a team “brand,” and hone teamwork skills.

After a national kickoff in January, Team Spartronics began creating their new robot using a kit of parts purchased from FIRST and custom parts designed by the team. They will join more than 3,000 teams from around the world competing for glory in Stronghold, the 2016 FIRST Competition game. Played by two alliances of three teams each, the game involves breaching the opponents’ defenses and capturing then scaling their tower.

Teams participate in regional and district events designed to measure the effectiveness of each robot, the power of collaboration and the determination of students. The competitive season will culminate with the FIRST Championship at the Edward Jones Dome, April 27-30 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Inventor, entrepreneur and science and technology advocate Dean Kamen founded [FIRST](#) in 1989. His goal was to inspire young people’s interest in science and technology with robot-building activities he calls “Sport for the Mind.” It’s the only school sport where all members are eligible to turn pro if they choose. Based in Manchester, NH, the not-for-profit organization works to motivate young people to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering and math, while building self-confidence, knowledge and life skills.

To learn more, [visit the Team Spartronics website](#).

BHS seniors nominated for presidential scholars program

The U.S. Department of Education has announced the nomination of Bainbridge High School’s Sophie Carson and Robin Schmit for the United States Presidential Scholars Program, one of the nation’s highest honors for graduating seniors.

Each year, out of more than 4,000 candidates, the White House Commission on Presidential Scholars selects approximately 161 Scholars based on broad academic achievement and exceptional SAT or ACT scores, and academic and artistic scholarship in the visual arts, performing arts or creative writing. This year the Commission will select an additional 20 Scholars based on their accomplishment in career and technical education fields.

“I’m excited by this opportunity,” said Carson, who plans to study engineering in college. “It sounds like a really amazing program.”

“Being nominated will really help with college admission,” Schmit said. “It is definitely a good thing.”

A committee will select approximately 800 semifinalists. In April, the Commission will review applications of all semifinalists and select winners. As guests of US Department of Education and the Commission, Scholars will receive an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. in June to participate in the National Recognition Program that will culminate in the presentation of the Presidential Scholars Medallion during a White House-sponsored ceremony.



Robin Schmit and Sophie Carson are in the running to become U.S. Presidential Scholars, an honor that includes recognition during a White House-sponsored ceremony.

Sakai, Woodward students collect truckloads of food donations for Helpline House



Pictured directly above and lower right: Students from Sakai Intermediate School. Sakai photos by Adam Rabinowitz. Below, members of the Woodward Middle School Builders Club.



Students at Sakai Intermediate School delivered more than 14,000 food items to Helpline House, surpassing their 10,000 item food-drive goal. Their thanks go out to all the households that contributed, to Bainbridge Self Storage for donating a truck to transport items to Helpline House, to the Sakai Student Council for helping load the truck, and to parent volunteers who handled the unloading.

At Woodward Middle School, members of the Builders Club inspired families and staff to contribute more than 3,000 nonperishable food items for Helpline House—enough to fill seven SUVs and one truck. Senora Walsh’s seventh-grade class and Madame Knell’s eighth-grade class won for generating the most donations.

Builders Club, which started at Woodward in the fall of 2011, is the middle-school level of the Kiwanis Club. “Typically, we work on four to five projects a year, depending on what we can find and what is going on in the world,” said Susan Knell, adviser. “I always tell students they should come when they can, or when a project interests them. There are usually about 40 students who come and go throughout the year.”

At both schools, students undertook food drives to meet the needs of community members during winter months that are typically slow for donations. Missions accomplished!



From left, Woodward’s Steven Albergine; Sakai Principal Jim Corsetti is pictured with Alicia Kiefler.

Albergine, Kiefler advance to state geography bee

Steven Albergine, an eighth-grader at Woodward Middle School, and Alicia Kiefler, a sixth grader at Sakai Intermediate School, have qualified for the state-level competition of the National Geographic Bee. They are among 100 highest-scoring students statewide. The Washington State Bee will take place Friday, April 1.

“It is quite an accomplishment for a student to make it to the state National Geographic Bee level,” said Woodward Principal Mike Florian. “Steven’s classmates gave him a round of applause when they heard the news.”

“Alicia has diligently studied for each level of the geography bee, so it is nice to see her experience success and be recognized for all she has done in preparation for this competition,” said social studies teacher Nikolas Tsolomitis.

One champion from each state and territory will advance to the national competition, which will take place May 22-25 at the National Geographic Society headquarters in Washington, D.C. The winner will receive a \$50,000 scholarship, a lifetime subscription to National Geographic magazine, a Galapagos trip, and \$500 cash.

Each year thousands of schools participate in the National Geographic Bee. The goal of the contest is to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography.