



# BAINBRIDGE ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

*Strong Minds, Strong Hearts, Strong Community*

## NEWS

Issue 3  
January 22, 2016

### Tour district schools Jan. 23

Open Houses and guided tours will take place at the Bainbridge High School 100 Building and Blakely and Wilkes Elementary schools Saturday, Jan. 23, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

### Informational meeting for free full-day kindergarten Feb. 3

Get ready for the 2016-2017 school year and free state-funded full-day kindergarten at Blakely, Ordway and Wilkes elementary schools. Learn more Wednesday, Feb. 3, 6-7:30 p.m. in the Ordway Elementary School Multipurpose Room.



Ordway Elementary School teacher Bonnie Hansen works with students in small groups to prepare them for their first day of kindergarten.

The district's kindergarten program features:

- Outstanding, experienced teachers
- Art, music, physical education and STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education taught by specialists
- Developmentally appropriate curriculum
- Small class sizes
- State-funded full day

Students must be 5 years old by Aug. 31, 2016. Registration packets will be available at the meeting.

### Additional information nights

#### Commodore Options Program

Attend a public school options information night Tuesday, Feb. 2, 6:30-8 p.m. in the Commodore Commons.

#### Spanish Immersion Program

Learn about the El Veleo Spanish Immersion Program Tuesday, Feb. 9, 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Ordway Library.

### Superintendent search firm consultants seek your input

If you missed meeting the Atlantic Research Partners consultants conducting the search for a new Bainbridge Island School District superintendent, you still have an opportunity to offer input.

"We are very happy with the choice of Jim Hager and Jim Huger to head up our superintendent search," said Board Director Sheila Jakubik. "They've spent two days talking with district staff, students and other stakeholders and are now working on a survey to aid in the creation of a candidate profile."

Families will receive an email with a link to the survey. The survey, which will use a MaxDiff (best-worst) scaling, will also be available on the district's website.

The [superintendent job is posted](#) and open until Feb. 29 or until filled. [Read more about the search process here.](#)

### Meet author Julie Lythcott-Haims Feb. 3

What really matters when it comes to helping a child become a competent, confident, caring adult? Find out when Julie Lythcott-Haims discusses her book, "How to Raise an Adult," Wednesday, Feb. 3, 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Bainbridge High School Commons.

According to Lythcott-Haims, our ever-increasing focus on higher student achievement and well-intentioned yet overly involved parenting styles may hurt more than help. She'll explain how to 'break free of the overparenting trap and better prepare our children for success.'



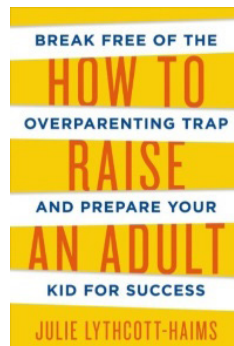
Based on 10 years as Stanford's Freshman Dean of Students and extensive research, Lythcott-Haims maps out a trend that reveals how many academically successful students lack the life skills needed to create healthy, independent lives. She will explore what needs to change—what we need to start doing and

stop doing—to assure our kids develop the skills and traits to become self-reliant adults.

Families with children of all ages can benefit from her message—it is never too early to help children begin to build the skills needed to become thriving adults.

Register at [raisingresilience.org](http://raisingresilience.org). Admission: \$15. [Get a sneak peek here.](#)

Books will be available for sale at Eagle Harbor Book Company and at the event starting at 7 p.m. Book signing will follow the presentation.



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### Also in this edition ...

- Students try an Hour of Code
- Acclaimed Internet safety expert to speak Feb. 11
- BSF funding support; donations
- Cousteau's ocean acidification project features Eagle Harbor students
- Scenes from celebrations of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Read more BIRD news at [www.bisd303.org](http://www.bisd303.org).

## District students participate in an Hour of Code



District schools observed an Hour of Code in December. Pictured are students from Woodward Middle School.

Every school. Every classroom. Every child. That's the reach the creators of Code.org envisioned for their annual Hour of Code. The public nonprofit organization asks people all over the world to spend at least one hour during one week each December engaged in hands-on computer programming with the idea that anyone, anywhere can learn the basics of computer science.

Bainbridge Island School District students participated in an Hour of Code Dec. 8-18 with activities that varied at each school.

Studying computer science is important because it helps nurture problem-solving skills, logic and creativity. Starting early can give students a foundation for success in any 21st century career path. Almost every job requires some knowledge of computers or technology. Last year more than 25,000 positions went unfilled in the Puget Sound region because applicants did not have the technology skills to be successful.

While no one can become an expert computer scientist in one hour, the idea behind the grassroots campaign is that one hour may be all it takes to teach students that computer science is fun, creative, and that all ages and all backgrounds can do it. Worldwide, more than 100 million students have tried an Hour of Code. Many participating teachers and students go beyond the hour. Some even decide to pursue professional development or a career in computer science.

Hour of Code tutorials are available year round. Go to the [Hour of Code website](http://code.org) and see how much you can learn about programming in one hour.

Code.org is working to expand participation in computer science in every school in the belief that if students can change technology, they can change the world. To learn more, visit <https://code.org>.

## Acclaimed Internet-safety expert to speak Feb. 11



Katie LeClerc Greer

How can we keep children safe in a world where technology is changing the way we act and interact with each other? Find out when the Woodward Middle School Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) hosts two presentations on

Thursday, Feb. 11 by acclaimed Internet safety expert Katie LeClerc Greer. She will meet with 5-12th-grade students during the day and offer a session for families, educators and community members from 7-9 p.m. in the Woodward Commons.

With children using their devices or some form of technology an average of seven and a half hours each day, keeping up with the latest trends and dangers can seem like an impossible task. However, Greer has spent nearly a decade providing Internet/technology safety education to schools, law enforcement agencies, community organizations and at conferences in the United States and Canada.

The former Massachusetts State Police intelligence analyst, who has appeared in *USA Today*, *TIME Magazine* and *Good Housekeeping*, will help families navigate the digital waters and gain strategies to keep kids safe. [Read more here.](#)

## Funding to seven schools will enhance district's core curriculum in new and innovative ways

**B**ainbridge Schools Foundation (BSF) awarded \$60,000 in grants last month to all the public schools on the island—Blakely, Ordway and Wilkes Elementary schools, Sakai Intermediate School, Woodward Middle School, Bainbridge High School (BHS) and Odyssey Multiage Program.

The BSF grants will support a wide variety of student programs during the 2015/16 school year from STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) to arts and music, literature and humanities and other specialized programs not typically funded by the district. In all, the foundation awarded 20 grants. Among them were grants to:

- Fund an elementary math intervention program that will provide assistance at all elementary schools for students who would benefit from an 'extra dose' of math support.
- Purchase a digital piano and ukuleles to support music education at the elementary school level.
- Support middle school and high school robotics clubs.
- Support computer science learning and the Biomedical Engineering Club at the BHS.
- Purchase video equipment to aid teachers in using film to improve student learning.

The foundation received a total of 40 grant proposals during the fall grant application process, totaling more than \$131,000. "This shows the need that remains in the district for additional teaching resources," said Mairead Shutt, BSF executive director. "I wished that we had more money to have rewarded all of these worthy requests."

BSF has pledged more than \$900,000 this school year to fill critical gaps in state funding, providing additional academic support for students and seed innovative programs. Washington state continues to struggle to fully fund education during a time when schools are expected to meet the rapidly changing needs of the future. Because of levy lids, Bainbridge students do not receive the same level of funding as many other districts.

## Cousteau's ocean acidification project features Eagle Harbor students



Phillippe Cousteau, Jr. meets with AP Environmental Science students at Eagle Harbor High School.

This fall, Eagle Harbor students in Tricia Corsetti's Advanced Placement (AP) Environmental Science class dove deep into an exploration of Puget Sound. Their mission—to help Phillippe Cousteau Jr. and his organization [EarthEcho International](#) fight the growing threat of ocean acidification.

Ocean acidification occurs as seawater absorbs carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and carbon from land-based sources, such as stormwater and other pollution. The result is an increase in acidity that damages the basic building blocks of life needed by oysters, clams and corals to make their shells and skeletons. The Pacific Northwest's unique geography and cold, deep waters make our region especially susceptible to the impacts of ocean acidification.

"Ocean acidification isn't a future problem; it's already affecting the individuals, communities and natural ecosystems that depend on a variety of shellfish and marine animals for their survival," said Cousteau, grandchild of legendary explorer Jacques Cousteau and co-founder and president of EarthEcho. "With EarthEcho Expedition: Acid Apocalypse, we are working with youth leaders on the changing chemistry of our ocean to help illuminate one of our most pressing and inscrutable environmental issues."

Washington Sea Grant education coordinator Meg Chadsey identified local high school students in programs that focus on ocean acidification in the classroom or through field experiences. As EarthEcho Expedition: Acid Apocalypse participants, Corsetti's class and students from Neah Bay, Chief Kitsap Academy; and Garfield High School in Seattle worked with Cousteau and Chadsey to conduct field explorations and help produce documentary-style videos, lesson plans and other ocean acidification curriculum materials.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for my AP Environmental Science students to engage in relevant research for a long-term study with community partners," Corsetti said. "We have an oyster tank in the classroom and will continue to work with Meg Chadsey to develop labs, curriculum and field studies to understand ocean acidification in the Puget Sound."

EarthEcho will provide all resources, including a film and video blog, free to registered educators and youth beginning in February.

## Thanks for your support!

In addition to grants from the Bainbridge Schools Foundation, school board directors have recently acknowledged:

- Funds to the BHS Class of 2019 from That's A Some Pizza.
- Funds to Wilkes Elementary School from the Wilkes PTO for field trips, classroom support, subscriptions, handheld radios and supplementary classroom supplies.
- A donation to the Odyssey Multiage Program from the Odyssey PTO for field trip support, supplies and subscriptions.
- Robotics sponsorship funds from Ace Hardware to Bainbridge High School.
- Funds to the district from Bainbridge Roots Basketball for three automated external defibrillators and cabinets.
- Funds to Blakely Elementary School from the Blakely PTO for supplemental classroom supplies, subscriptions, field trip support and afterschool teacher stipends.
- Support to Ordway Elementary School from the Ordway PTO for Renaissance Learning subscriptions.
- Copies of Primo Levi's "Survival in Auschwitz" from Simon and Schuster Publishing Company to Eagle Harbor High School.



A grant from the Bainbridge Schools Foundation enabled Eagle Harbor teacher Jillian Price to purchase copies of "100 Years of Solitude." Pictured are students from her third-period world literature class.

# Celebrations of Martin Luther King Jr. Day

While commemorations of the birth of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. may last a day, students in the Bainbridge Island School District wrote poems, talked about truth, tolerance and kindness, and learned lessons designed for a lifetime.



Commodore Options School joined schools across the country in "The Great Kindness Challenge." Counselor Sue Constan helped student leaders plan acts of kindness and an assembly. The schoolwide effort culminated in the production of a video.



Bainbridge High School (BHS) students recognized the long-time leadership of retiring multicultural adviser and Spanish teacher Maria Rivera and "Mama" Karen Vargas.



The Ordway Elementary School student council organized the school's MLK Day assembly.

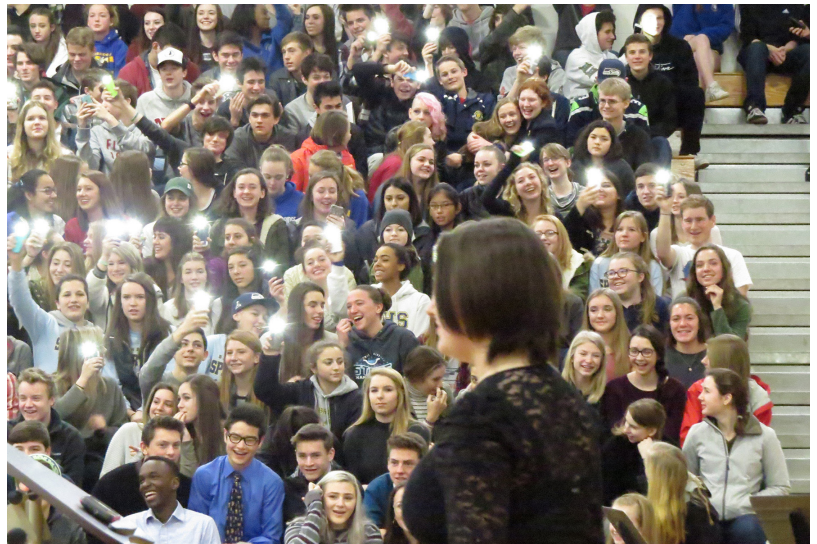
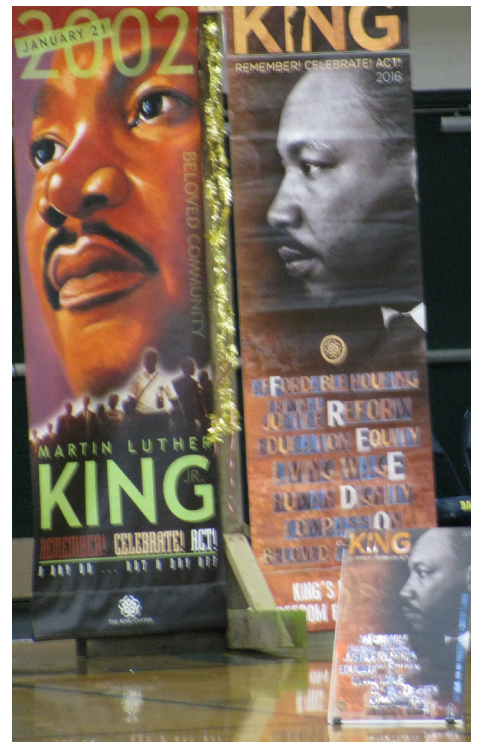
## With Kindness

By Alice Dunning, Odyssey 3/4

With kindness  
The world is  
Happy and bright.

With kindness  
There is no need  
To fight.

With kindness  
The day will go  
Right.



BHS students brought out their cellphone candles while Jessie Allen-Felts sang "Dare to Live" during the assembly presented annually by the United Brothers and Sisters Club.

Sakai's assembly featured a talk about the civil rights movement by Melvin E. Clark. Planning for The March on Washington took place around his grandfather's dining table, and he joined the march as a child. Clark is the founder and CEO of the only minority-owned railroad construction company in the country and is an advocate for small disadvantaged businesses.

