

## STEM—an Energizing Initiative



A focus on Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) is now taking shape in BISD schools through a generous grant from the Bainbridge Schools Foundation. This is an exciting and ambitious opportunity to increase students' interest in pursuing STEM careers.

Why STEM now? According to the National Academy of Sciences Report, *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, "Employment projections indicate that most new jobs will be STEM related and new international competitors in science and engineering are forcing the U.S. to consider coherent, proactive, and sustained efforts to identify and develop our Nation's STEM education." This message was not lost on the BISD learning community.

As a first step, the Schools Foundation grant allowed the administration to hire Dr. Greg Moncada as the new STEM Coordinator. He will lead the process to:

1. Enhance student interest in science, technology, engineering, and math, and their exposure to related careers.
2. Increase student performance and success in STEM schoolwork.

3. Foster the development of local and global citizenship skills that demonstrate related civic responsibility.

The initiative includes a number of important strategies to:

- Identify curriculum and classes that will benefit the most from STEM support and improve student engagement in STEM fields. This includes teacher training and materials.
- Develop relationships with local Puget Sound businesses related to STEM fields. These collaborations will focus on helping students experience real-world research problems, as well as learn more about new careers.

Other strategies will provide a sustainable foundation for future STEM activities. Strategies include: forming a STEM Advisory Committee to

*The STEM initiative drives more comprehensive and innovative proposals. (Top left) BHS teacher Tom Armentrout assists students as they construct Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) used for ocean floor research in their Marine Science class. (Top right) Students in Rory Wilson's Math Lab analyze a solar panel as they apply and extend math principles in practice. (Bottom right) Sakai students are enthusiastic as 6th grade teacher Amy Evans introduces them to principles of robotic design, building and programming.*

guide long-term goals and assist with community connections; developing baseline data on students' graduate career choices; developing a resource-rich website; developing a grant process to help teachers and schools achieve their innovations to improve STEM learning.

"The real challenge," states Dr. Moncada, "will be to improve learning for all students in a way that helps them love learning and motivates them to learn more." He adds, "It's impressive, inspiring and energizing when one considers the potential within our students, teachers and community." The STEM initiative is on its way!

### IN THE KNOW

## Building Our Schools **WILKES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REPLACEMENT UNDERWAY**



*This rendering of the Wilkes Elementary School replacement project looks across classroom wings from the northeast to the southwest.*

Thank you Bainbridge Island taxpayers for supporting BISD student learning through continued facility improvements, which include replacing Wilkes Elementary School and essential renovations at almost every other district building.

Phase I of the Wilkes replacement began last June and is scheduled for completion in August 2012. The design adheres to aggressive energy conservation targets and sustainable standards. Some examples: use of ground source heat; heat recovery ventilators; automatic light sensors; efficient radiant floor heating; day lighting; and a highly insulated building envelope. With these, the new school is projected to use 60% less energy than

the existing school and 40% less than a typical school. Onsite water management is another resource saving element. Phase 2 includes demolition of the current structure and site completion.

Examples of essential renovations at other schools range from roof repairs to exterior and interior lighting upgrades that save energy; from revisions that serve student needs in special education classrooms to enhanced acoustics or site safety improvements in music rooms. HVAC control upgrades at several sites also contribute to energy conservation.



# Stars in Our Schools

## EduCulture Project Provides Real Food for Thought

Following John Dewey's century-old idea that schools are an authentic form of active community life, rather than "a place set apart in which to learn lessons," The EduCulture Project at Global Source Education has partnered with and provided BISD students, teachers and community members "lived experiences." Their edible education programs are transforming our local farms into community classrooms.

Under Jon Garfunkel's leadership, The EduCulture Project is coordinating student and staff experiences with local farms, integrating curricula (science,

math, language arts, and social studies) into the planting, harvesting and eating of food grown by students. BISD Food Services Supervisor Patty Rounsley brings those efforts into school lunches with a Bite of Bainbridge featured on menus throughout the school year.

In school lunches this fall, a variety of potatoes planted and harvested by students from Wilkes and Blakely were featured in recipes like homemade Creamy Potato Cheddar or Creamy Potato, Cheddar and Chicken soups. At Sakai, Commodore, Blakely, Ordway and Wilkes, 300 pounds of raspberries grown by Island treasure Akio Suyematsu (Class of '42) were served in a fruit, yogurt and granola parfait.

Since the start of the school year, the EduCulture Project has served close to 700 students through the edible education programs at Suyematsu-Bentryn, Morales and Heyday Farms, harvesting more than 2500 lbs. of locally grown, student-sown produce. Master farmers like Brian MacWhorter, Betsey Wittick, Karen Selvar (Class of '82), and community partners like Friends of the Farms and COBI, have been key to the process.

For the scholarship, stewardship, citizenship and sustainability shared, Garfunkel and Rounsley are certainly Stars In Our Schools.



*BISD Food Services Supervisor Patty Rounsley and Jon Garfunkel, Managing Director of Global Source Education, bring farms and food to students.*

## budget update

### State Cuts Challenge Basic Education

**The Governor's** budget was released and was the starting point for discussion during the special legislative session. All students, families and staff would be affected by a proposed reduction of 4 school days (176-day school year instead of 180). However, this replaced a previous proposal to increase the class size/student-teacher ratio, especially for Gr. 4-12 classes.

As budget challenges face all of us, BISD continues to be intensely grateful for our community's support of education—fundraising by Bainbridge Schools Foundation and Parent Teacher Organizations (PTOs), and local voters' approval of our Programs & Operations levy, and the supplemental and technology levies. These are life lines in delivering the high quality education for our students. (See STEM article)

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### Open and Read About Your Schools

- STEM – An Energizing Initiative
- The EduCulture Project is a Star
- Wilkes Replacement Project is Underway



*New Wilkes Elementary Courtyard*

*OpenBook is a publication by the Bainbridge Island School District to connect with and bring timely information to our community.*



## thumbs up for Science, Technology, Engineering & Math

- STEM Initiative on Its Way!
- Facility Improvements Support Student Learning
- State Cuts Challenge Basic Education

**FALL 2011**  
**OpenBook**  
Bainbridge Island School District No. 303

*Where Our Schools and Our Community Connect*