

## Excited about math? You bet!

Excitement about math is palpable in our elementary schools! Take the framework for the K-6 Mathematics Program Review, add the outcomes of ST (Spatial Temporal) and ZENO math opportunities, and no wonder there's excitement.



Above: Kids and parents are enthusiastically engaged in math games at Blakely's first Family Math Night.

Below: Wilkes 1-2 graders' hands go up quickly during lunch to respond to Principal Sheryl Belt's question, "Who can tell me what our math challenge is?"



"I'm excited to witness the adoption of researched math resources that will provide educators with the best tools to improve our students' understanding of math fundamentals and get students excited about math," commented parent Laurie Rice, who is serving on the K-6 Math Program Review Committee.

Catch a glimpse of zeal and relaxation as kids do math vocabulary and other activities during their after-school Math Club at Ordway. Action and engagement underscore students' relationships with math. An objective that the new math TOSA (Teacher on Special Assignment) Jennifer Ledbetter shares, "Infinite possibilities arise from an individual's relationship with math." The district hired Ledbetter with a Title IIa grant to support teachers in the transition to the math curriculum adoption and to build enthusiasm for numeracy, the mathematical equivalent to literacy.

Ordway held their first Family Math Night last spring. You get an additional sense of excitement in Blakely's announcement for their first Family Math Night. "This is a one-of-a-kind event, where kindergartners through 4th graders and their families get to have fun playing games as they engage in all things math." Odyssey's and Wilkes' plans are in process. At each school, parents, siblings and grandparents pack the schools as they have a great time "getting math on."

You'll see eagerness when Wilkes 1-2 grade students respond to math questions from Principal Sheryl Belt during lunch, as she reminds students of the Math Challenge awaiting every class's response.

So what are these new ST (Spatial Temporal) and Zeno math programs?

Give kids instructional software that is designed to help them reach math proficiency through



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For more K-12 Math Curriculum

self-paced, language-independent, mastery-based objectives, and you've got ST math, which:

- is highly engaging
- builds conceptual understanding
- teaches multi-step problem solving skills
- and has proven results.

The Zeno program builds students' relationships with math by extending engagement beyond a math lesson. It includes those activities noted above and explained here:

- **Math Clubs**—before and after school where students revel in interactive, hands-on math activities and games.
- **Monthly Math Challenge Boards**—students vie to catapult their classroom to math stardom by answering the rigorous and challenging monthly math questions.
- **Family Math Nights**—where students and families play math games together, engaging a larger community in developing math enthusiasts.

District administrators are excited too, as the math review will improve students' abilities in problem solving, understanding mathematical ideas, communicating their thought processes, and justifying their reasoning.

"We hope the excitement for numeracy catches fire and spreads!" proclaimed Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction Julie Goldsmith.

### IN THE KNOW

## Budget Corner

Are you aware of McCleary vs. State of Washington and the positive impact it will have on the funding of public education?

In 2011, this lawsuit was filed alleging that the State was not fulfilling its paramount duty as contained in the Washington State Constitution, Article IX, section 1: "It is the paramount duty of the state to make ample provision for the education of all children residing within its borders."

The Washington State Supreme Court ruled in favor of the plaintiffs, stating clearly that the State of Washington is violating its constitutional duty to amply (more than just adequately) fund the education of all K-12 students. The State must demonstrate "real, measurable, and steady" progress towards compliance with the ruling by 2018.

Our Legislature will convene its 2013 session with the implicit challenge of funding K-12 education as "the highest priority before any other State programs and operations."

"This is an absolute game-changer in the funding of public education," commented Superintendent Faith Chapel, "and it is an ongoing key story as we consider possible contrasts from the past years of dramatic state budget cuts to education."

The district also recognizes the need to address higher and early education funding.

## Monday 90-Minutes Key to Continuity for Required Teacher Training

A key school district goal focuses on improving student learning. The most important element in achieving this goal is the teacher. The 90-minute early release for our educators provides regular professional development and collaborative opportunities.

While acknowledging that the weekly Monday early dismissal for staff training is a transition for all involved, we are pleased with the initial training and the focus on student learning.

"I see this time as a significant gift of trust, to be used efficiently and effectively, so that I can provide the best program for my students," shared Wilkes 4th grade teacher Warren Read. "As a parent, I also feel confident knowing my kids' teachers will be fully trained on the new standards, programs and curriculum."

At the secondary level, staff members are seeing value in the continuity that the weekly format allows. "Our staff can now see the benefits of weekly as opposed to monthly training, where there is greater continuity in conversations and collaboration that benefits our students," noted Bainbridge High School Principal Brent Peterson.

Below is a snapshot of types of training and collaboration that have occurred on the 90-minute early release for required staff training days:

- Implementing the new ST Math computer program
- Establishing school-wide student achievement goals
- Analyzing student data to enhance individual student learning
- Sharing best practices related to establishing a positive classroom environment.

# Stars in Our Schools

The stars in our schools rival the number of stars in the sky! So let us tease you with these brief introductions, and invite you to read more about each of the following in the News on the district website.

## BHS Marching Band & Color Guard win Auburn Veteran's Day Parade and Marching Band Competition

On November 10, the BHS Marching Band placed first overall in the "A" division at the 2012 competition. This competition is the state's largest, featuring 32 bands from Washington and Oregon. Read more about their performance and specific awards, including the four caption awards in their division.

## The Effect of Microgravity on the Spontaneous Differentiation of Mouse Embryonic Stem Cells

A team of four BHS students received notice that their microgravity experiment design for the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP) placed them as one of three finalists in this program. SSEP challenges grades 5-16 students in the US and internationally to propose a single experiment that will be conducted during SSEP Mission 3 to the International Space Station (ISS) in early April 2013. On the website, read about this real life process, the students, their experiment, when the finalist will be chosen, and what will follow.

[www.bisd303.org](http://www.bisd303.org) > News  
For more on these Stars in Our Schools

## Students conduct Health Surveys in Kenya

After spending seven months learning about Africa and how to conduct health surveys, 17 BHS students and three BHS teachers spent 19 days living on a farm in Kenya. Their purpose: survey the neighboring impoverished villages to present a "health profile" that would provide data for medical care and health education. Read more on the website about this service and the students and teachers involved.



Taking a break from their health data collection, BHS students experience a social exchange with Kenyan students.

## BUILDING OUR SCHOOLS

# Bond Dollars at Work



In addition to the opening of another remarkable learning environment at Wilkes (see invitation to the Community Open House on cover), Capital Projects staff members continue to support taxpayer investments with Small Works construction and improvement projects focused on resource conservation and reducing operating costs.

Summer 2012 projects brought lighting and heating improvements at Bainbridge High School (BHS) in the administration area. Improvements in BHS classrooms where construction and technical education are taught included new student work stations. Asphalt and drainage replacements occurred at Blakely, Ordway, Commodore, and BHS. At Woodward Middle School, projector and audio upgrades were completed in the Commons, and a projector was installed in the gym. All of these projects improve educational environments and reduce maintenance and utility costs.

In addition, coordination with Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and Verizon provided the completion of electrical line upgrades in school/community corridors and completion of the cell tower project at the BHS water tower.

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## Open and Read About Your Schools

- Excited About Math!
- 90-Minutes for Required Training
- Your Bond Dollars at Work
- Stars in Our Schools

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

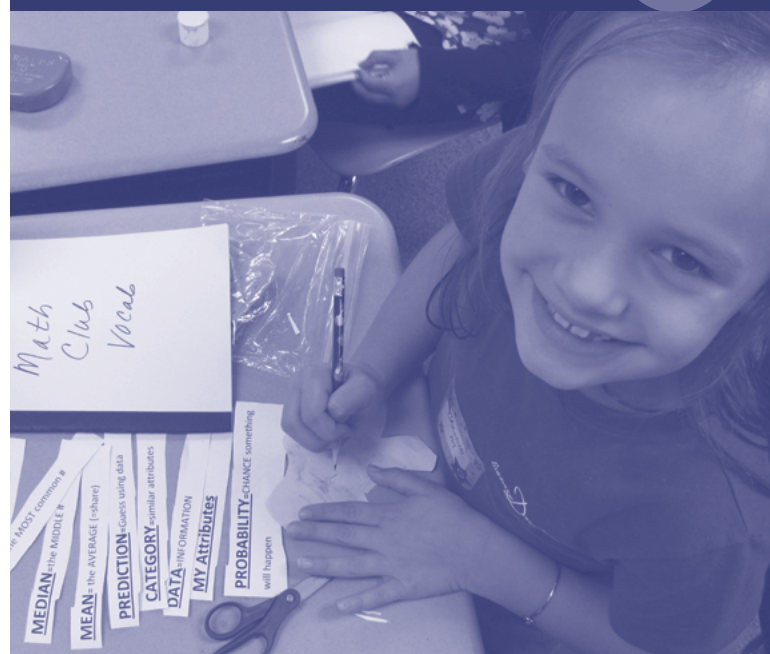
# Join us for the Wilkes community open house

Saturday, February 2, 2013  
1:00-3:30pm

Wilkes Elementary School  
12781 Madison Avenue NE

FALL 2012

Bainbridge Island School District No. 303



# math on the rise!

- 90-Minutes for Required Training
- Your Bond Dollars at Work
- Stars in Our Schools
- State Law Suit Key to Education Funding

OpenBook

Where Our Schools and Our Community Connect