BAINBRIDGE ISLAND
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Strong Minds, Strong Hearts, Strong Community

NEWS

Issue 1
September 28, 2015

Welcome to the 2015-2016 School Year!

After a relaxing summer of reconnecting with family and friends, I hope you are experiencing a great start to a new year of learning and possibilities. As the journey begins each year, educators commit ourselves anew to discovering the best paths for working together, moving forward and turning challenges into opportunities for greater growth.

As this school year starts, we are working to enhance communication and reach out to you with important news about events taking place in the district and issues that affect education. In this first newsletter, we invite you to participate in a discussion about the future of our district facilities, including possible options for the replacement of Blakely Elementary School and the Bainbridge High School 100 Building. The process of updating the district's 2015 Facilities Master Plan began during the school year before last, and we want everyone to take part in shaping board recommendations for the path forward.

Another important issue surrounds the current state of funding for education. On Thursday, Oct. 8 a group of legislators will host a meeting in Bremerton to hear your thoughts about strategies to fully fund K-12 education. The district has moved the school board meeting originally scheduled for that date to Oct. 15 to enable more people to participate in this crucial discussion. We need our voices to be heard, and I look forward to seeing you in Bremerton and at an upcoming community discussion.

District expands community discussion on Blakely, BHS 100 Building

The Bainbridge Island School District's board of directors seeks community input in determining the future for school district facilities, focusing on Blakely Elementary School and the Bainbridge High School 100 Building. Community members can learn about the district's master plan and discuss the possibility of building replacement by attending one of the following forums:

- Tuesday, Sept. 29, 6-7 p.m. in the Ordway Library
- Wednesday, Sept. 30, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Bainbridge High School 100 Building Large Group Instruction Room (LGI)
- Thursday, Oct. 1, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Commodore Commons
- Wednesday, Oct. 7, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Wilkes Gymnasium
- Wednesday, Oct. 14, 7-8:30 p.m. in the Woodward Commons

Click here to read more about the past, present and future for district facilities.

Scenes from the first day

From the top: Kay Sakai Nakao waves during opening day ceremonies at the intermediate school that bears her family's name.

Superintendent Faith Chapel and Sakai Principal Jim Corsetti teach students the Japanese word for "resilience."

At Ordway Elementary School, and across the district, kindergartners venture into a new world of learning.

Tell legislators how you feel about school funding Oct. 8 in Bremerton

Members of the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee will host a two-hour forum at the Bremerton High School Performing Arts Center, Thursday, Oct. 8, 5-7 p.m. This will be part of a seven-city Working/Listening Tour that begins Sept. 30 in Vancouver and ends Oct. 27 in Yakima. Each stop will provide an opportunity for lawmakers to hear how students, parents, teachers and taxpayers feel about "Funding Public Schools." The event is part of an ongoing effort to comply with the state Supreme Court's McCleary lawsuit.

Sen. Bruce Dammeier (Puyallup), who, with Sen. Christine Rolfes (Bainbridge Island), Sen. Ann Rivers (Vancouver) and Sen. James Hargrove (Hoquiam), co-sponsored a bill to address funding basic education without overreliance on local property tax levies (SB 6130), said the purpose of the listening tour is to communicate information about funding proposals under consideration in the legislature and to hear what citizens are thinking.

"I really hope Bainbridge Islanders will attend the forum and share their thoughts about strategies to fully fund K-12 education," said district Superintendent Faith Chapel. "The Bremerton High School Performing Arts Center holds about 1,200 people, and I think it would be a great opportunity to show legislators how important this issue is to Washington state citizens."

To learn more:

- Click here to read this complete article on the BISD website.
- Read an article in the Everett Herald about how you can help legislators "improve and fund public schools."
  .

Meet our new district teachers

New BISD teachers include (front row from left): Cammy McDowell, Odyssey & Mosaic; Christine Marion, Blakely; Nicole Hebner, Sakai; Brittany Hilborn, Blakely; Suzanne McClaire, BHS; Jeffrey Hale, BHS. Row two, from left: Dana Ashton, Odyssey & Mosaic; Megan Walsh, BHS & Woodward; Adèle Berg-Layton, Ordway & Commodore; April Cross, Ordway. Row three, from left: Emily Hilberdink, BHS; Coleen Turner, Wilkes; D'Arcy Clements, BHS; Sharon Tuinukuafe, BHS. Row four: Carrie DeFoe, BHS; Beth Mass, Wilkes; Annie Grattan, Eagle Harbor. Row five: Cathy Grant, Sakai; Mackenzie Foley, Ordway; Shannon Whitaker, Woodward & Sakai; Cara Menard, Bainbridge & Eagle Harbor high schools; Bridget Lockett, Sakai. Row six: Julee Longridge, Woodward; Lisa Deen, Sakai & Commodore. Row seven: Kathryn Hund, Ordway & Wilkes; Stacy Gray, Woodward; Michelle Smith, Sakai. Row eight (top row): Kirsten Rohrbach, BHS; Michele Shields, Odyssey; Trude Winters, Ordway; Amy Smith, Ordway.

Support your schools ...

... and get paid! BISD needs on-call substitutes for the following positions/departments:

- **Substitute Paraeducators**
  Pay rate $12.89 per hour.
- **Substitute Food & Nutrition Services**
  Pay rate $11.21 per hour.
- **Substitute Custodians**
  Pay rate $14.45 per hour.
- **Substitute Bus Drivers**
  Pay rate $16.02 per hour.

New employees who will have unsupervised access to children must complete a satisfactory fingerprint check with the Washington State Patrol and the FBI. Employment will be temporary and conditional pending a satisfactory background check. The cost of the background check is $55.75.