

SEPTEMBER 2008:

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 9/30/08

Pioneer Elementary School to Kick Off "Ride Your Bike to Cool the Planet" Program

On October 1, Pioneer Elementary School students will kick off their "Ride Your Bike to Cool the Planet" program.

The program, sponsored by the Bicycle Alliance of Washington, REI and the Forest Stewardship Council, educates students on the importance of using cycling and walking as alternative modes of transportation to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, which heat up the environment, and safety precautions to adopt when cycling such as wearing a helmet and reflective clothing, and using appropriate hand signals for turning.

Pioneer students will be encouraged to ride their bicycles to and from school, as well as to the library, store, playground and more. Each student will receive a calendar to track how many times in a month they cycle or walk to school and how many times they ride in a vehicle. Students will receive incentives when they increase the number of times they walk or cycle in lieu of driving.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 9/29/08

Gildo Rey Elementary School Receives 453 Donated Emergency Kits from Grace Community Church

On September 29, the Grace Community Church Children's Ministry presented Gildo Rey Elementary School students and principal Robin Logan with 453 emergency kits.

Each emergency kit contains comfort items for one child during the first three hours of an emergency situation. Items include: bottled water, white socks, garbage bags, hand sanitizer, fruit snacks, granola bar, card game and more.

Grace Community Church donated enough kits for all Gildo Rey students. The school was in need of kits, so Grace Community Church selected Gildo Rey's need for its summer community service project.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 9/29/08

Auburn High School Marching Band and Color Guard Take First Prize at Peninsula Classic

On September 27, the Auburn High School "Trojan" marching band captured first place in the A Division at the Peninsula Classic Marching Band Competition in Silverdale.

The Auburn High School Trojan color guard also earned top prize as Best Auxiliary overall, outcompeting 12 other guards.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 9/26/08

Auburn High School Student Selected as 2008-09 National Hispanic Recognition Program Scholar

Rebecca Nelson, a senior at Auburn High School, has been selected as a 2008-09 National Hispanic Recognition Program (NHRP) Scholar.

Rebecca has been identified as 1 of 5,000 Hispanic/Latino high school students from a pool of over 200,000 Hispanic/Latino high school students who achieved a minimum score for their region in the 2007 PSAT/NMSQT/PAA and hold a GPA of 3.5 or higher.

The NHRP was initiated in 1983 to identify outstanding Hispanic/Latino high school students like Rebecca, and to share information about these academically prepared students with colleges and universities.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 9/26/08

Auburn Riverside High School Choirs to Sponsor Benefit Concert for Ugandan Youth

On Sunday, October 19, the Auburn Riverside High School (ARHS) choirs will sponsor an "I Am The Village" scholarship benefit concert for Ugandan Mukisa Willy at 2:00 p.m. at the Auburn Performing Arts Center, 700 E. Main Street, Auburn.

"I Am The Village" (www.iamthevillage.com) is a non-profit foundation started by Paul and Shelley Sharpe to help Mukisa Willy, a Ugandan orphan, and other orphaned Ugandan youth, with provision of food, clothing, shelter, medicine and education. Willy will be the first recipient of the foundation's scholarship and intends to attend Spokane Community College's automotive technology program.

To make this scholarship become a reality and not just a wish, a very special scholarship concert will be sponsored by the Auburn Riverside High School choirs. All ticket proceeds will be donated to Willy's scholarship fund. Tickets are \$15.00 adult, \$12.00 student/senior, \$50.00 family pack (2 adults and 2 children) and are available now through the ARHS cashier at (253) 804-5154, or through Linda Fahlgren-Moe at (253) 939-8673.

The scholarship concert will feature popular local performing groups who have donated their time and talents. Coming from Seattle, the Total Experience Gospel Choir will burst forth with love, joy and enthusiasm. It is hailed as one of the Pacific Northwest's finest soulful ensembles. Director Pastor Pat Wright started the group as a gospel music class at Seattle's Franklin High School in 1973. Since then the choir has grown to become a nationally and internationally known gospel-singing group.

The delightful 40-voice Harmony Kings Chorus, directed by Glen Smith, will appear along with talented newcomers Beginner's Luck quartet. The Harmony Kings are the 2008 Evergreen District Division II Champions.

Auburn Riverside High School Vocal Jazz Ensemble will open the concert and additional local talent will perform.

For more information contact Linda Fahlgren-Moe, former Auburn Riverside High School teacher, at (253) 939-8673; (206) 941-1329; or lafm_tmoe@msn.com. For additional "I Am The Village" information, visit www.iamthevillage.com.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 9/25/08

Vietnam Veteran Jeff McIntyre Earns High School Diploma

The Auburn School District Board of Directors presented a high school diploma to Vietnam veteran Jeff McIntyre on Monday, September 22, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Jeff McIntyre served in the Vietnam War, bravely fighting for his country yet forfeiting the opportunity to earn his high school diploma. Through Washington State legislation, Jeff McIntyre recently became eligible to earn his high school diploma.

The Washington State Legislature passed three bills to issue high school diplomas to veterans of WWII, Korea and Vietnam starting in 2002. "Operation Recognition" is being instituted through individual school districts to award full high school diplomas to qualifying veterans. The first to be recognized were World War II veterans. In 2003, the legislature expanded the law to honor those veterans who served in the Korean conflict. The most recent group of veterans to be added to the law is Vietnam veterans. The law became effective June 12, 2008.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 9/25/08

Auburn School District Wins Association of School Business Officials International's Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Program

Auburn School District won the Association of School Business Officials International's (ASBO) Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Program (COE) for excellence in fiscal reporting for the 2006-07 school year. The award, the highest recognition for school district financial operations offered by ASBO, is only conferred to school systems that have met or exceeded the standards of the program. This is Auburn School District's twentieth year in a row receiving this award.

The district's high-quality Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) validates the credibility of the school system's operations, measures the integrity and technical competence of the business staff, assists in strengthening the presentations for bond issuance statements and provides professional recognition.

The Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Program was designed by ASBO International to enable school business officials to achieve a high standard of financial reporting.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 9/18/08

10th Annual Reaching Out Fair Scheduled for Thursday, October 9

On Thursday, October 9, the public is invited to attend the tenth annual Reaching Out Fair at the Auburn Performing Arts Center from 6:00-8:30 p.m. Co-hosted by the Auburn School District, the Cities of Auburn, Algona and Pacific, Green River Community College and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, the evening focuses on how to keep children and youth safe.

A resource information fair will be available from 6-7 p.m. Resources from various organizations such as Auburn Parks and Recreation, YMCA and Auburn Youth Resources will be shared with the community. The information fair is specifically geared toward middle school students. They are encouraged to attend to learn more about the resources available to them, as well as to be entered into a drawing to win one of three \$100 SuperMall gift certificates. Free pizza, juice and cookies will be provided.

After the resource information fair, the community is in for a treat, as student presenters show off their talent and share testimonials about individuals who have made a difference in their lives. This part of the event highlights student success and is intended to communicate that all children can make an impact in their homes, schools and communities.

The live finale includes a ballroom dance-off between the middle school principals and their professional dance partners from the Pacific Ballroom Dance Company. Last year's champion was former Mt. Baker Middle School principal Louanne Decker.

The four middle school assemblies promoting the Reaching Out Fair will be held on the following dates:

- Cascade Middle School—Monday, October 6 at 1:15 p.m.
- Rainier Middle School—Tuesday, October 7 at 8:15 a.m.
- Olympic Middle School—Wednesday, October 8 at 1:15 p.m.
- Mt. Baker Middle School—Thursday, October 9 at 8:15 a.m.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 9/16/08

Auburn School District's Board of Directors to Honor Ilalko Fourth Grader Jhordin Prescott

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Jhordin Prescott, a fourth grader at Ilalko Elementary School, for being an outstanding student on Monday, September 22, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Jhordin Prescott, a fourth grade student at Ilalko Elementary School, is "an amazing girl," according to her teacher, Ms. Nielsen, and Mr. Couch, the principal at Ilalko.

Jhordin excels in all academic areas and maintains a perfect 4.0 grade point average. She always puts forth her best effort, giving 100 percent in everything she does. Jhordin is a classroom helper, assisting Ms. Nielsen, and is always looking for ways to share knowledge with her classmates.

Jhordin is a prime example of what a good citizen should look like. She has been the student council representative for her classroom and strives to represent her class in the best possible way.

Outside of school, Jhordin enjoys jazz and hip/hop dancing. She spends her free time at home reading lots of books and playing with her younger brother.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 9/23/08

Auburn Cities and Schools Forum Accepting Nominations for the 2008 Betty Smith Spirit of Education Award

Auburn Cities and Schools Forum is accepting nominations for the 2008 Betty Smith Spirit of Education Award through October 2, 2008. The winner of the Betty Smith Spirit of Education Award will be invited to and presented with the award at the tenth annual "Reaching Out Fair" on October 9, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.

Betty Smith was known for her dedication to community. She worked tirelessly, often behind-the-scenes, but was known for her work with the Auburn School Board, local community organizations and being a part of developing the cooperative relationship with the Auburn Cities and Schools Forum.

All nominations should include a brief answer to the following statement: "This person has demonstrated their commitment to community and education by..." Nominees should be:

a) known for their dedication to improving the lives and education of children (dedication might be presented through community activities, personal efforts or as part of an organized long-term committee such as PTSA or Auburn Citizens for Schools);

b) known for working behind-the-scenes and not for being in the spotlight.

E-mail nominations to Auburn School Board President Craig Schumaker, cschumaker@auburn.wednet.edu, or mail to Betty Smith Award Nomination, c/o Craig Schumaker, 915 4th Street NE, Auburn, WA 98002.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 9/16/08

USA Olympic Weightlifter Melanie Roach to Speak to Washington Elementary School Students About Her Beijing Olympics Competition

On Friday, October 3, at 2:00 p.m., USA Olympic weightlifter Melanie Roach will share her Beijing Olympics experience with students at Washington Elementary School during a school-wide assembly.

Melanie will perform a weightlifting demonstration for students and share a slideshow of her competition at the Beijing Olympics.

Melanie Roach placed sixth overall on day three of the Olympic games, perfecting all six of her lifts for a total of 193 kilograms (425.5 pounds). While she did not win a trip to the metal stand, Melanie set a personal record and shattered the existing US record that was set 10 years ago. Melanie is an Auburn High School graduate and former gymnast.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 9/15/08

Anne Chatman to be Awarded Auburn School Board of Directors' Gold Star Volunteer Award

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will present the Gold Star Volunteer Award to Anne Chatman, in recognition of her volunteer support to Auburn School District, on Monday, September 22, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Fourteen years ago when Anne Chatman, her four children and husband moved to town, Anne began volunteering in her children's school, Lea Hill Elementary...and she has been volunteering ever since.

Committed to helping students however she can, Anne volunteers at Lea Hill one full day or two half days a week, depending on what needs to be done, and two hours a week in the Rainier Middle School front office. Beginning last year, Anne splits her time at Lea Hill in Connie Say-O'Donnell's first grade classroom and Regina Butler's reading specialist program.

Anne has worked with Connie's first graders for six years. She primarily works with students on their reading and vocabulary. Anne also volunteers to chaperone field trips whenever she is available. In Regina's reading specialist program, Anne works with students who need extra attention and assistance with their reading assignments. She also created a Reading Room bulletin board in the Lea Hill courtyard where students and teachers alike can post their favorite books. According to Anne, "It's a great way to encourage students to read and to recognize them for their reading. It is also a great suggested reading list for a child who doesn't know what to read next."

Anne's love of working one-on-one with kids began years ago when she decided to pursue her teaching certificate. Starting a family though became her priority, and she is content sticking to her volunteerism and perhaps beginning to substitute in the classroom.

Anne also volunteers with Lea Hill's music program for the annual holiday concert; assists with Rainier Middle School's PTA events; and previously served on Lea Hill's PTA leadership team as the fundraising chair.

"I see a need to help out in the classroom and there aren't a lot of volunteers, so I feel blessed to be able to help out. It's a lot of fun!" says Anne.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 9/15/08

Auburn School District's Board of Directors to Honor Staff Member Darci Brewer

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Darci Brewer, dean of students at Auburn Mountainview High School, for her outstanding service on Monday, September 22, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

As dean of students at Auburn Mountainview High School, Darci Brewer feels her primary responsibility is to serve the students by first ensuring their safety and second making sure they are in school every day. From her advisory students to truant students, Darci is an advocate for all students and believes education is about the one student who you can make a difference for, whether it is helping a student establish regular attendance or graduate on time. Darci has personally mentored students to graduation and attributes a solid advisory program at Mountainview for those successes.

Darci acknowledges the challenging nature of her job. "Making sure students are in school every day is tough because you have to meet with truant students and hold them accountable; notify parents of absences; and create working plans for kids to stay in school," remarks Darci. Darci has risen above the traditional call of duties and has committed to making home visits with parents and students when necessary and bolstered the school's Thursday night program, which encourages students to work on school assignments, study for exams and prepare for presentations, including Student-Led Conferences. "It is all about the personal connection and that kids know I really care about them and their future," says Darci.

Darci holds an undergraduate education degree and masters in language, reading and culture, with a reading endorsement, from the University of Arizona. She is a devoted Wildcat fan. Additionally, Darci holds an administrator's certificate from the University of Washington. Prior to serving as dean of students, Darci was a classroom teacher for 15 years, nine of those years teaching seventh grade language arts, math and pre-algebra at Rainier Middle School. Darci has used her writing expertise to train district staff, served on several district and building level committees, and coached middle-level sports throughout the years.

Darci's commitment to education mirrors her commitment to her family. She and her husband have four grown children and four—soon to be—five grandchildren—all of whom live outside Washington State. "I am so grateful for the ability to Webcam with my grandchildren," remarks Darci, "because I am constantly on the Webcam catching up with the kids." Darci attributes her success as a professional to her success as a mother. While growing up her children would always say mom liked them the best. Darci would like to set the story straight and say, "I love each of my kids dearly—they really are wonderful people—but the in-law children are my favorite and the 'best.'"

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 9/12/08

Former NASA Astronaut Jon McBride to Visit Dick Scobee, Washington and Chinook Elementary Schools

On Wednesday, September 17, the Association of Space Explorers (ASE) is sending NASA astronaut Jon McBride to visit Dick Scobee, Washington and Chinook Elementary Schools in celebration of its XXI Planetary Congress in Seattle, Washington, the week of September 14-20.

At 9:15 a.m., astronaut Jon McBride, who trained directly with Auburn High School graduate Dick Scobee and flew two space shuttles—once as pilot and once as commander—will speak about his experiences to the students of Dick Scobee Elementary School at a school-wide assembly.

Jon McBride will continue on his district visit by speaking with the students of Washington Elementary School at 1:00 p.m., followed by Chinook Elementary School at 2:15 p.m.

Jon McBride was the first astronaut to fly a seven-passenger crew aboard any space shuttle, which happened to be the Challenger. He was scheduled to fly again in March 1986 but the flight was cancelled due to the Challenger accident in January of that same year.

The ASE Planetary Congress is ASE's primary forum for professional exchange among U.S., Russian and international astronauts and cosmonauts. It is designed to promote the exchange of space flight experiences and technical information concerning space operations, scientific research, mission development and astronaut training. ASE members meet to review and discuss developments in their respective space programs, to evaluate existing ASE programs and plan future ASE activities. The weeklong Congress affords a unique opportunity for communication between members of the international space community, government agencies and the public.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 9/12/08

Auburn School District's Child Nutrition Services Department Serves 72,500 Free Summer Meals to Children

Auburn School District's Child Nutrition Services department served an official 72,500 free meals to children ages 1 through 18 during its summer feeding program June 23 through August 22.

Children ages 1 through 18 were served breakfast and lunch meals at over 40 different parks, schools and apartment complexes throughout Auburn, Algona and Pacific. Varieties of hot and cold lunches were offered daily and included cold milk and fresh fruits and vegetables. Breakfasts and afternoon snacks were also available free of charge at select locations.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 9/10/08

Auburn School District Superintendent to Join Communities in Schools Executive Director from Suspended Bus at the Puyallup Fair

Auburn School District superintendent Dr. Kip Herren will join Communities In Schools (CIS) Puyallup executive director Chris Loftis as a guest bus driver on a suspended school bus at the Puyallup Fair on Saturday, September 13 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. Dr. Kip Herren is asking the Auburn schools and community to help pay his way off the suspended bus. His goal is to raise \$396 in two hours or less for CIS Auburn.

The "Boosted Bus," located in front of Sillyville next to the Big Red Petting Barn, is an old Auburn school bus suspended in the air for the entire 17-day run of the Puyallup Fair (September 5-21). CIS Puyallup executive director Chris Loftis is actually living in the bus for the 17-day fair. Kip Herren will join him as a guest bus driver to interact with the crowd below through a closed circuit TV.

Guest bus drivers such as Kip Herren will spend a few hours with Chris Loftis in order to raise awareness about CIS and to raise funds for their local schools. Since Chris Loftis will be living in the suspended bus for a total of 396 hours, all guest bus drivers are required to spend time in the bus until they reach \$396 in donations for their local CIS chapter. "Stay or pay" is the motto.

CIS Auburn is part of the National Communities In Schools Network, embracing the CIS mission to champion the connection of community resources with schools. Through clothing and book drives, scholarships, after-school programs and academic performance incentives, CIS Auburn has helped thousands of kids in the past 18 years succeed in school and prepare for life.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 9/8/08

Gildo Rey Elementary School Awarded Page Ahead Grant

Gildo Rey Elementary School in Auburn was awarded a Page Ahead grant.

The grant will provide books valued at over \$4,000 for all students of Gildo Rey to take home to read with siblings and families. The home reading will help children increase their vocabulary, improve their reading comprehension and communicate what they have read to others.

Page Ahead is a children's literacy program committed to provide new books and develop reading activities that empower at-risk children. Page Ahead serves programs that clearly demonstrate that at least 60% of children served are at economic or educational risk of not developing their full reading potential.

For more information contact Robin Logan, principal at Gildo Rey Elementary School, at (253) 931-4952.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002
Newsrelease: 9/2/08

Auburn School District Announces New Administrative Hires

Auburn School District welcomes seven new administrators to the district leadership team for the 2008-09 school year:

Darin Adams, Mt. Baker Middle School principal, recently served as principal at Thunder Mountain Middle School in the Enumclaw School District.

Steve DuBay, Auburn Mountainview High School assistant principal, transitions into his new role after teaching as a behavior support specialist at Puyallup High School.

Maryn Feliciano, Olympic Middle School assistant principal, was the former instructional facilitator/dean of students at Jason Lee Middle School in Tacoma.

Jason Hill, Olympic Middle School principal, made the move to Olympic after serving as assistant principal at Cedar Heights Middle School in Kent.

Andrea McHenry, Auburn Mountainview High School assistant principal, returns to the Auburn School District after spending two years as assistant principal/building athletic director at Franklin Pierce High School.

Jana Jo Uhlendorf, Mt. Baker assistant principal, was the former educational assistant at Kent's Cedar Heights Middle School from 2006-2008.

Richard Zimmerman, Auburn High School principal, joins the Auburn High School leadership team from the principal post at Camas High School.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002
Newsrelease: 9/2/08

Auburn School District Announces New Administrative Changes

Auburn School District announces administrative promotions of 11 current staff members for the 2008-09 school year:

Louanne Decker, assistant superintendent, PK-12 school programs, recently served as the principal at Mt. Baker Middle School.

Julie DeBolt, director assessment, ESEA and Native American Programs, joins the administrative team from Auburn Riverside High School, where she was an English Language Learner (ELL) teacher.

Dennis Grad, director of transportation, was the former principal at Cascade Middle School.

Heidi Harris, director of elementary student learning, recently served as the coordinator of elementary student learning.

Kip Herren, superintendent, accepted his new position after serving as deputy superintendent.

Terri Herren, Auburn Mountainview High School principal, was a former assistant principal at Auburn Mountainview.

Isaiah Johnson, Cascade Middle School principal, was the former assistant principal at Mt. Baker Middle School.

Roger Lee, Auburn High School assistant principal, served as Auburn High School's dean of students before accepting his new position.

Debbie Leighton, executive director of human resources, recently served as the director of human resources.

Rod Luke, assistant superintendent, student learning and district technology, was the former executive director of student learning.

Mike Newman, deputy superintendent of business and operations, served as associate superintendent of business and operations.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

OCTOBER 2008:

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 10/29/08

Retired Auburn High School Marketing Teacher Inducted Into Washington DECA Hall of Fame

Jim Burton, retired Auburn High School marketing instructor and DECA advisor, was recently inducted into the Washington DECA Hall of Fame at the annual statewide DECA leadership conference on October 26-28.

Serving in the Auburn School District for 22 years and in public education for 30 years, Mr. Burton dedicated himself to providing students hands-on experiences in the fields of marketing, business and entrepreneurship, both in the classroom and through DECA conferences and competitions.

In addition to his time in the classroom, he served as area leader on the Washington DECA Management Team and on the Board of Directors.

Mr. Burton was honored as a Washington DECA Advisor of the Year earlier in his career. Mr. Burton retired from the Auburn School District in June 2007.

For more information contact Amy Spence, publications and grants supervisor, at (253) 931-4713.

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 10/22/08

Dick Scobee Elementary School to Collect Donations to Provide Hats for Cancer Patients

On Thursday, October 23, Dick Scobee Elementary School's Associated Student Body (ASB) will host an all-day outreach event for the Heavenly Hats Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to provide brand-new hats for cancer patients and other medical patients who lose their hair due to a disease or the treatment of a disease.

Typically hats are not allowed at school per school dress code, but on October 23, students can wear hats to school if they bring a \$1 donation for the Heavenly Hats Foundation. For students who do not have a hat to wear to school, the ASB will provide brand-new visors that students can buy with their \$1 donation and keep afterwards for their personal use.

The Heavenly Hats Foundation was started by 17-year-old Anthony D. Leanna in 2001 when he was just 10 years old.

For more information contact Greg Brown, principal of Dick Scobee Elementary School, at (253) 931-4984.

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 10/21/08

Pioneer Elementary School Awarded State Superintendents' Learning Improvement Award

Pioneer Elementary School has been selected as 1 of only 100 schools statewide to receive the State Superintendent's Learning Improvement Award.

This award celebrates the top five percent of elementary, middle, high and alternative schools that exceeded this year's state average performance on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) in reading and mathematics, as well as demonstrated outstanding improvement over time in both of those subjects.

Pioneer Elementary School will be honored at this year's "Schools of Distinction" awards ceremony on October 22, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at Garfield High School in Seattle. Principal Debra Gary will accept the award on behalf of the school's achievements.

Terry Bergeson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, created this award in 2007 to honor students, teachers, administrators, parents, schools and communities for the gains they have made in preparing the children of Washington to learn, work, live and succeed in the 21st century.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 10/20/08

Auburn School District's Board of Directors to Honor Arthur Jacobsen Fifth Grader Gresch Jensen

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Gresch Jensen, a fifth grader at Arthur Jacobsen Elementary School, for being an outstanding student on Monday, October 27, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Gresch Jensen is every teacher's dream student. He comes to school every day, on time, ready to learn with a smile on his face. When Gresch is handed a math or reading test, a sincere "thank you" always follows. If he gets an answer wrong, he wants to know how to do it right and then again offers a genuine "thank you" for helping him to understand. Gresch is an A student who has met all of the WASL standards so far. Gresch also plays the sax in Rainier Middle School's band program and is the starting quarterback for the Kent Knights and plays catcher and first base for Auburn's Little League. All that and his homework is never late. Gresch was recently awarded the 2008 Ryan Brunner Sportsmanship Scholarship for his outstanding athletic, scholastic and personal achievement.

Gresch is AJ's best citizen. He was overwhelmingly elected to be his class's representative for the upcoming year. He was AJ's vice president last year and has been the acting president this year, which means he leads the flag salute for the entire student body every morning. He is an Early Childhood Education gym assistant, helping the three and four year olds with their gross motor skills. He is also a Kindergarten bus helper, safely navigating the students to the bus every day. If you log onto AJ's website, you will hear Gresch co-podcasting the school news for September—a future career perhaps.

Gresch is every neighborhood's favorite neighbor. Gresch and his buddies go around the neighborhood each fall offering to rake up leaves for free. When he walks his dog, Lambo, he takes along supplies to clean up after the dog.

Gresch is everybody's best friend, especially Barry Bains. According to Barry, Gresch is kind; he always includes him in whatever game that he is playing. Barry and Gresch share the same favorite color, green, and their favorite football player is Brett Favre. No wonder Barry has offered to be Gresch's campaign manager this year.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 10/20/08

Auburn School District's Board of Directors to Honor Staff Member Heidi Erdmann

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Heidi Erdmann, school counselor at Terminal Park Elementary School and Auburn High School, for her outstanding service on Monday, October 27, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Heidi Erdmann's connection with her high school counselor as a teen led her into the profession. Now 23 years later Heidi continues to passionately help children develop socially and emotionally so they can excel academically. Working part-time at Terminal Park Elementary School and part-time at Auburn High School as a school counselor, Heidi devotes her time and attention to a diverse group of students.

Despite the age range and different types of problems between elementary and high school students, Heidi finds that kids are still kids and her main avenue to help them succeed in school is through developing trust and repertoire with the students. Heidi's goal is to meet students where they are at, which means she may work with students individually, in small groups or in a larger classroom setting. Her flexible style allows her to adapt to changing needs, especially among at-risk students. For example, at the elementary school, Heidi uses sand tray counseling to encourage students to share their feelings by interacting with a miniature sandbox. Heidi is most proud of the moments when students return to share with her how much of an impact she made in their lives. At Auburn High, Heidi provides an opportunity for students in her small groups to share their thoughts about the group. Overwhelmingly students respond with comments like: "I really don't know where I would be right now if I couldn't have been able to come to groups...I most likely would've dropped out by now."

Heidi is a 17-year veteran of Auburn School District. She is an avid lifelong learner and annually presents on small group counseling at the University of Puget Sound's counselor education workshop. Heidi attended Luther College in Iowa and received her bachelors in psychology, followed by a masters in counseling at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. A photo of Heidi's 12-year-old Maltese is readily available for viewing in her office. She lives in Tacoma with her partner of 25 years and is an avid outdoorsperson. She enjoys tending to her vegetable garden, traveling—up next: Africa and South America—and helping others as a certified spiritual director.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 10/10/08

Tracy Apata Awarded Cities and School Forum 2008 Betty Smith Spirit of Education Award

On Thursday, October 9, Tracy Apata was awarded the Cities and Schools Forum 2008 Betty Smith Spirit of Education Award at the tenth annual Reaching Out Fair, co-hosted by the Auburn School District, the Cities of Auburn, Algona and Pacific, Green River Community College and the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe.

Tracy Apata was selected from a pool of nominees based on her dedication to improving the lives and education of children behind-the-scenes. Tracy is the owner of the local Dairy Queen in Pacific. She is not only consistently involved in her own children's schools, but she actively supports high school students with jobs and mentoring. Tracy will often call the local high schools to check in on students, ask about the needs of student-employees, and offer support or incentives to kids in need through the schools. She is quick to work with schools, community members and police to support the success of student-employees. Additionally, Tracy is currently organizing a Pacific Algona Lions Club and her first item on the agenda is determining ways that the club can support kids and schools in the area.

Betty Smith was known for her dedication to community. She worked tirelessly, often behind-the-scenes, and was known for her work with the Auburn School Board, local community organizations and being a part of developing the cooperative relationship with the Cities and Schools Forum. The Cities and Schools Forum honors her spirit each year with the Betty Smith Spirit of Education Award.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 10/7/08

Auburn Mountainview High School and Auburn Riverside High School Students Capture National Merit Honors

Two seniors from Auburn Mountainview High School, Elise Ransom and Karen Jolly, have been recognized as Semifinalists in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program. Additionally, five seniors from Auburn Mountainview

High School—Meghan Deaton, Matt Heiszler, Kien-Thiet Nguyen, Brooke Reed and Kelley Voss—and Michael Fain from Auburn Riverside High School have been recognized as Commended Students in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program. Elise and Karen placed among the top 1 percent of more than 1.4 million students who entered the competition by taking the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) and National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMSQT) in their junior year and will compete for National Merit Scholarships to be announced in early spring. The six Commended Students placed among the top 5 percent. Although Commended Students do not continue in the competition for Merit Scholarship awards, some of these students do become candidates for special scholarships sponsored by corporations and businesses.

Of the 1.4 million entrants, some 50,000 with the highest [PSAT/NMSQT](#) Selection Index scores (critical reading + mathematics + writing skills scores) qualify for recognition in the National Merit Scholarship Program. In April following the fall test administration, high-scoring participants from every state are invited to name two colleges or universities to which they would like to be referred by NMSC. In September, these high scorers are notified through their schools that they have qualified as either a Commended Student or Semifinalist.

For more information contact Amy Spence, publications and grants supervisor, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 10/7/08

Auburn School District to Host "College Night for Seniors" on October 13

The Auburn School District will host a "College Night for Seniors" at the Auburn Performing Arts Center (APAC) on Monday, October 13, at 7 p.m.

Counselors from Auburn High School, Auburn Mountainview High School and Auburn Riverside High School will present important information pertaining to the college admissions process. Additionally, representatives from the Housing and Student Programs offices from two local universities will discuss how students and their parents can make a successful and safe transition to the college environment.

Informational materials will be available in the PAC Lobby before and during the event.

For more information contact Amy Spence, publications and grants supervisor, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002
Newsrelease: 10/2/08

Olympic Middle School's Laura Hogenson Wins 2008 Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year Award

On September 30, Laura Hogenson, a seventh grade math and science teacher at Olympic Middle School, won the outstanding educator award through Wal-Mart's 13th annual Teacher of the Year program. During a school-wide assembly, the Auburn Wal-Mart store manager presented Mrs. Hogenson with a \$1,000 educational grant from the Wal-Mart/SAM'S CLUB Foundation to benefit Olympic, a \$100 Wal-Mart gift card for Mrs. Hogenson and a personalized certificate. Mrs. Hogenson was nominated by her students and the Olympic community at the Auburn Wal-Mart and Auburn SAM'S CLUB stores.

Mrs. Hogenson relates math to the real world in order to teach students that math is practical and necessary outside of school. Her goal is for students to learn to appreciate math. Attending Olympic Middle School herself, Mrs. Hogenson is grateful for the teachers who sparked her interest in math. "I want to do the same and interest students in math-related careers," says Mrs. Hogenson. Mrs. Hogenson also teaches earth science, which focuses on natural disasters, weather, astronomy and more. Some of her favorite topics to cover are aviation and rockets.

More than 4,000 outstanding teachers were recognized nationwide by Wal-Mart's 2008 Teacher of the Year program. One teacher was selected by each neighborhood Wal-Mart store, SAM'S CLUB, Neighborhood Market store and Wal-Mart Distribution Center across the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

NOVEMBER 2008:

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 11/20/08

Auburn High School Orchestra Students Selected

Outstanding music students from the six Northwest states (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming) have received top honors by being selected to participate in the 41st biennial MENC All Northwest Band, Orchestra and Treble Choir, Mixed Choir, Jazz Band and/or Jazz Choir. The students listed below will join nearly 1,000 other outstanding high school student musicians in this gala event.

The MENC All –Northwest band, orchestra, choirs and jazz groups will convene in Spokane, Washington on February 12-15, 2009. The finest high school musicians in each of these musical genres will rehearse under the direction of world –renowned conductors and present their final concerts in Spokane’s beautiful INB Performing Arts Center. These MENC All-Northwest musicians were selected through auditions to participate in this outstanding event, which is sponsored by the Northwest Division of MENC: The National Association of Music Education.

Many professional musicians credit their honor group experience as crucial in their decision to choose music as a career. Thousands of others whose career paths took them in other directions have great memories of participating in this inspiring and motivating musical experience and claim that it was a life-changing experience for them.

Well-known Northwesterners who have participated in the past years’ honor groups include world-renowned trumpeters Doc Severinson and Allen Vizzutti, The Seattle Post–Intelligencer’s Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist and columnist David Horsey, 2008 National Teacher of the Year Andrea Peterson and jazz saxophonist Kenny G.

Students selected:

- Emily Golan – senior – violin
- Julie Chang – sophomore - violin

For more information, contact Dale Johnson, Director, Auburn High School Orchestra at 253-931-4719 ext.1515 or via e-mail at: djohnson@auburn.wednet.edu.

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 11/14/08

Auburn Riverside High School Business and Marketing Teacher Published in DECA Dimensions

Chris Wilson, Auburn Riverside High School business and marketing teacher, wrote an article discussing the success of the “Raven’s Nest,” the student store at Auburn Riverside High School, in the national publication DECA Dimensions.

Featured on page 18 of the November/December 2008 issue, Mr. Wilson describes the student store as an ideal way for business and marketing students to explore the real world of retail sales. After students successfully complete a year of Introduction to Marketing, they can enroll in Store Operations and become a PIC (Person In Charge) who oversees the sales floor during operating hours. Additionally, there is a store director who is hired for the next year by the student management prior to the end of the school year.

Students are assigned tasks throughout the year that are critical to the success of the store such as promotions, new offering research and ordering of supplies. Student workers are assessed on their customer service by Mr. Wilson as well as by a peer review process in the form of mystery shoppers.

This student-based enterprise (SBE) has been a DECA Gold Certified SBE for the past five years.

For more information contact Chris Wilson, Auburn Riverside High School business and marketing teacher, at (253) 804-5154.

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 11/14/08

Olympic Middle School Creates Recreation Facility for Students and Community

Olympic Middle School in Auburn is pleased to announce the new addition of the "Cougar Rec Room" recreation facility for students and community. The room holds four air hockey tables, four foosball tables, four Ping-Pong tables, four double-shot basketball games, and three dance revolution games and monitors. The recreation facility was made possible by generous community contributions and donations.

The Cougar Rec Room will be used daily at lunches. It also is available to classroom teachers to offer as an incentive for students who exhibit positive classroom behavior, improved academic performance and decreased absenteeism. Additionally, the Olympic PTA and Booster Club will be able to use it for community events in the evenings.

For more information contact Deb Landis, Olympic Middle School counselor, at (253) 931-4966.

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 11/13/08

Pioneer Elementary School Celebrates Culmination of "Ride Your Bike to Cool the Planet" Program with Bicycle Giveaway

On November 26, Pioneer Elementary School will celebrate the culmination of its "Ride Your Bike to Cool the Planet" program with a bicycle giveaway during a school-wide assembly at 12:10 p.m.

Pioneer students have been cycling and walking to school since the event kickoff on October 1. The program educates students on the importance of using cycling and walking as alternative modes of transportation to reduce carbon dioxide emissions, and teaches students safety precautions to adopt when cycling such as wearing a helmet and reflective clothing, and using appropriate hand signals for turning.

For the culminating celebration on November 26, students wrote essays that explained how they can contribute to the health of their planet, families and/or themselves. Bicycles will be awarded to at least 12 essay winners. The event sponsors are: Auburn Kiwanis Club of the Valley, Valley Regional Fire Authority, REI and the Bicycle Alliance of Washington.

During the two-month event, Pioneer students were encouraged to ride their bicycles to and from school, as well as to the library, store, playground and more. Each student received a calendar to track how many times in a month they cycled or walked to school and how many times they rode in a vehicle. Students received incentives when they increased the number of times they walked or cycled in lieu of driving.

For more information contact Debra Gary, principal at Pioneer Elementary School, at (253) 931-4986.

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 11/13/08

Olympic Middle School to Host Rachel's Challenge Community Presentation

On Monday, November 17, Olympic Middle School will host a Rachel's Challenge community presentation at 6 p.m. in the school gymnasium.

Rachel's Challenge is an assembly program that communicates the events of the Columbine tragedy through the life of Rachel Scott, the first person killed in the tragedy. Through powerful video/audio footage, the presentation motivates students to positively change the way they treat others.

The presentation is followed by an interactive 45-minute training session involving both adult and student leaders that shows how to sustain the momentum created by the assembly. The assembly creates the "want to" or desire for positive change. The training session teaches the "how to" and ensures that the positive impact will continue.

For more information contact Maryn Feliciano, assistant principal at Olympic Middle School, at (253) 931-4966.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 11/13/08

Auburn Riverside High School SkillsUSA Chapter to be Honored by the City of Pacific

On October 25, the Auburn Riverside High School SkillsUSA chapter volunteered to restore a wetlands area in the City of Pacific by removing invasive species and planting native plants. Due to their dedicated service, the mayor of Pacific, Richard Hildreth, will read and sign a proclamation on December 8 declaring the week of December 8-12 as SkillsUSA week in the City of Pacific. A reception will be held during the week to honor the students and introduce them to local business owners.

For more information contact Frank Medina, Auburn Riverside High School electronics and computer repair instructor, at (253) 804-5154.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 11/12/08

Auburn School District's Board of Directors to Honor Terminal Park Fifth Grader Spencer Steinle

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Spencer Steinle, a fifth grader at Terminal Park Elementary School, for being an outstanding student on Monday, November 24, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Spencer Steinle exhibits all the positive characteristics teachers and parents strive to instill in young people. He has a natural thirst for knowledge and always looks to challenge himself academically. His first year at Terminal Park was last year in Mr. Martin's class. Spencer found many opportunities to go above and beyond the requirements. Whether it was earning 40 Accelerated Reader points in a month, mastering above grade level math standards or researching ways to educate his peers through the Terminal Park Green Team, Spencer always found a way to enrich his learning.

Spencer has earned a reputation among staff and students as a dependable, honest and helpful student. He had no trouble making friends within days of entering school. Spencer is a kind friend to all students and is mature beyond his years.

One characteristic exhibited by Spencer that stands out most is his willingness to respond to and use feedback to better himself. Mr. Martin recalls that Spencer was shy at the start of last year. He opted not to present projects to the class, teach other students as part of the Green Team, and was sometimes shy about reading aloud. Mr. Martin even suspected that he would intentionally miss a word on the spelling pre-tests so he would not have to stand and give the final test on Friday (a reward earned by getting 100 percent on the pre-test). After Mr. Martin talked to Spencer about how helpful he could be by sharing his knowledge with others, he slowly started to take more risks. He started by becoming more willing to present ideas to the class and school. By the end of the year, he voluntarily ran for an ASB fifth grade secretary position.

Currently Spencer is working on a school production of "Annie." He is Daddy Warbucks, a lead role. Spencer is also part of Terminal Park's morning safety patrol. According to Spencer's fifth grade teacher Mrs. Brown, "Spencer is one of the outstanding fifth grade students in my class. My first impression of Spencer on day one began with a warm smile and a hearty handshake. He is more than just a smart student; he has incredible wit and makes our classroom a better place because of his humor, care and thoughtfulness. I feel lucky to be a person who can make a difference in his life, and I know by the end of the year he will have made a difference in mine and his fellow classmates."

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002
Newsrelease: 11/12/08

Auburn School District's Board of Directors to Honor Staff Member Jean Branesky

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Jean Branesky, physical therapist assistant (PTA) in the Student Special Services department, for her outstanding service on Monday, November 24, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Jean Branesky, physical therapist assistant (PTA) in the Student Special Services department, offers students with special needs innovative, effective and fun exercises in her therapy sessions. Known for her creativity, Jean started a yoga class for students in self-contained classrooms in order to teach children how to focus and calm their bodies. She has taught "Brain Dance" in the Early Childhood Education (ECE) program, which uses music and motion to recreate childhood developmental stages for the participating students. She also introduced acupressure into her repertoire. She recently completed a three-year weekend acupressure certification course. Acupressure uses point pressure to relieve tension, relax muscles and more.

Essentially Jean's role is to visit students in the district who need therapeutic assistance, such as students who use wheelchairs or walkers, or students with conditions such as cerebral palsy, spina bifida, developmental delays, etc. Currently she works with students in six different schools. Jean has been a PT assistant for 10 years and has had the opportunity to help many students. Her goal is to improve students' physical conditions, yet attributes much of the joy of her job to building relationships with the students. "The therapy goes beyond trying to decrease their disability. The emotional connection is so important as well. They really enjoy seeing us on a regular basis," says Jean.

Jean first discovered she was interested in physical therapy after overhearing a woman at a local grocery store discussing her physical therapy. "It immediately sparked my interest," says Jean. So Jean enrolled in the PT assistant program at Green River Community College and discovered it would be a perfect match—more work with the patient and less paperwork. According to Jean, "My job is the best. Everyone is so great to work with; they are very supportive and intelligent. I learn so much from them." Jean continues to challenge herself through workshops, inservices and any other programs that will benefit her students. In addition to yoga and acupressure, Jean has taken classes in autism, neurodevelopmental treatment and visual perception. She plans to take an upcoming class on craniosacral therapy. On two occasions when Jean needed equipment for students, she applied for and received grants from Fred Meyer to cover the cost.

Jean and her husband, Don, have been married for nearly 36 years. They have four children and one grandson.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002
Newsrelease: 11/12/08

Auburn School District's Board of Directors to Honor Staff Member Regina Butler

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Regina Butler, language arts specialist at Lea Hill Elementary School, for her outstanding service on Monday, December 8, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Regina Butler, language arts specialist at Lea Hill Elementary School, spices up her Learning Assistance Program (LAP) with activities that make learning fun and effective. Regina teaches students in grades K-5 who read below benchmark and has found her students to be most successful when they are engaged. An actress by heart—earning her first bachelor's degree in dramatic arts—Regina incorporates song, presentations and authentic learning experiences into her curriculum. For instance, her fourth grade students make a WASL preparation video for their third grade classmates. "What's so great," remarks Regina, "is the fourth graders are excited to prepare the third graders for their upcoming WASL experience, yet at the same time, they are reviewing what they need to know to take the test themselves."

Regina's LAP children are presenting a dramatic performance about the Writing Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) at a school-wide assembly. Students will then be invited to participate in a songwriting contest about the GLEs. Students in the LAP program also present the perks of the Accelerated Reader (AR) program to their classmates at assemblies. Regina promotes inclusivity at Lea Hill, connecting her program to the rest of the schoolhouse to ensure students who are not in the LAP program understand and relate to it. Regina accomplishes this through activities like storytelling and leading Lea Hill's five Global Reading Challenge teams.

Other events Regina has sponsored are "Reading with Rover," a program designed to help children with reading difficulties read stories to a guide dog. Her students also adopted senior pen pals from Wesley Homes and correspond through letters and occasional ice cream socials. Regina uses these programs to not only teach reading and writing skills but also a love of reading, and to help children build their self-confidence and see themselves as readers and writers.

Regina leads a fantastic team that includes two paraeducators, Julie Buck and Gwyn Vukich. She also attributes her success as an educator to her husband, Jeff, who watched her two girls when they were young, so she could take night classes. Regina fits her role perfectly as it is her primary goal to know exactly where kids are at, and to learn how to best meet their needs. "Watching the students grow is the best thing, and when they benchmark we are so happy for them because they are reaching their full potential," says Regina.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002
Newsrelease: 11/12/08

Dan and Liz Irwin to be Awarded Auburn School Board of Directors' Gold Star Volunteer Award

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will present the Gold Star Volunteer Award to Dan and Liz Irwin, in recognition of their volunteer support to Auburn School District, on Monday, December 8, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

For Dan and Liz Irwin, giving back to their community is second nature. Raising five children in Auburn, the Irwins have volunteered nearly three decades in Auburn schools. From PTA to the classroom to booster clubs, Dan and Liz were always involved in their children's activities. It was easy to get involved, according to Liz, because of the children's busy schedules, particularly athletic schedules.

And even now with all five children beyond high school, the Irwins continue to support Auburn schools. In 2000, Dan began coaching football at Auburn High School and is also a track coach. He always finds the time to mentor players who are in need. Having the players over to his home is always a treat for them and a way for Dan to build relationships with the players. One of his former players told him he would have never made it through his tour in Iraq without the toughness Dan had taught him.

Liz currently volunteers for the Auburn High School football program and is nicknamed the "Team Mom." She is responsible for the publication of all game-day programs including the recruitment of advertisers, and printing and selling. Each year she raises over \$3,000 for the football program through the sales of the programs. She also organizes two annual potluck events—one to kick off the beginning of the season and an awards night at the end of the season to reflect on the team's successes. Liz also volunteers with the football booster club and used to serve as vice president and president of the Auburn High School athletics and activities booster club from 1994-2005. This season Liz organized a much-anticipated alumni homecoming event where Auburn High School alumni football players were invited to a pre-game barbecue and all record holders were honored at halftime of the homecoming game.

According to Liz, she and Dan stay involved because it's how they feel they can return the favor for all the benefits their children received while attending Auburn schools.

Dan and Liz are also known throughout the community for their support. Every Sunday morning, they pick up food from local grocers and take it to the United Methodist Church to prepare and sort for their Monday night community supper. In fact, it was Liz's 87-year-old mother, Elaine Prenovost, also an Auburn High School graduate, who was on the board that started the community supper and is Liz's inspiration for wanting to give back to her community.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002
Newsrelease: 11/10/08

Auburn Rotary Selects West Auburn High School Senior as November Student of the Month

On November 19, Liliana Morales will be honored as Auburn Rotary's student of the month for November at a Rotary luncheon meeting. She will attend the recognition luncheon with her school advisor, Larry Laush.

Liliana is academically strong, earning a 3.7 GPA on her first quarter report card. She is also West Auburn's student body president and has been active with many school projects such as the school-wide blood drive.

According to Mr. Laush, Liliana's math teacher and school advisor, she is about to complete her second semester of geometry credit. Liliana has passed two years of math in less than a year and a half. She plans on attending Green River Community College next fall to begin pursuing a teaching career.

For more information contact Amy Spence, publications and grants supervisor, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002
Newsrelease: 11/10/08

Auburn Mountainview High School Girls' Soccer Team Captures 2008 Class 3A Academic State Champions Title

For the second year in a row, the Auburn Mountainview High School (AMHS) girls' varsity soccer team has captured the Class 3A Academic State Champions title for girls' soccer with a combined team GPA of 3.813. The title was based on the combined grade-point averages of all varsity soccer players.

Coach Davidson and the AMHS girls' soccer team will receive the award at halftime of the 3A finals on November 22 at Harry Lang Stadium in Lakewood.

For more information contact Murray Johnson, AMHS athletic director, at 253-804-4539.

DECEMBER 2008:

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 12/10/08

Seven Auburn School District Teachers Complete and Receive National Board Certification

Congratulations to a number of teachers in the Auburn School District having earned the National Board Certification—Sarah Samuelson, Treena Daniels, Sharon Thompson Saito, Deanna Tompkins, Sue Hovde, Heather Hartley and Teri Churchill. This now brings Auburn School District's National Board recipients total to 19, with several others working on their certification at this time.

The certification process, developed by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)—an organization comprised of classroom teachers, administrators, school board leaders, governors, state legislators, higher education officials, teacher union leaders, and business and community leaders—is a symbol of professional teaching excellence. Certification is optional to anyone with a baccalaureate degree and three years of classroom experience in either a public or private school, and it complements, but does not replace, state licensing. State licensing systems set entry-level standards for beginning teachers, while National Board Certification establishes advanced standards for experienced teachers.

Teachers who participate must pass a rigorous, two-part assessment. Part one includes a portfolio consisting of four entries, which include videotapes of classroom teaching, lesson plans with student work samples and an analysis as evidence of the teacher's impact on student learning. Part two requires demonstration of subject-area knowledge, classroom practices, curriculum design and student learning through computer assessments. The process typically takes one school year, which means teachers spend between 200-400 hours on average compiling their portfolio activities and studying for the written assessment.

Many teachers receive scholarships to pursue National Board Certification through the Washington Initiative, a public-private effort coordinated through OSPI to increase the number of National Board Certified teachers. The Take One process allows teachers to "try it on" to see if they want to complete the certification process. Most candidates receive support from mentors or facilitators in nearby universities.

Beyond receiving national recognition and more visibility in their roles, these teachers receive a \$3,500 stipend annually, fulfill the requirements for obtaining or renewing the Professional Teachers Certificate, and receive 90 hours toward state renewal requirements. NBPTS also provides resources, leadership opportunities and training through their network of board-certified teachers.

For more information, contact Superintendent Dr. Kip Herren at (253) 931-4914.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 12/01/08

Mt. Baker Middle School Music Students Selected for WMEA Junior All-State

Outstanding eighth grade music students from across Washington have received top honors by being selected to participate in the fourth annual WMEA Junior All-State West Band and Choir or WMEA Junior All-State Orchestra. The students listed below will join more than 200 other outstanding young performers in this gala event.

These WMEA Junior All-State groups will meet March 14. These outstanding musicians will rehearse together under the direction of outstanding music educators. They will present a final concert that afternoon in Burien's Highline Performing Arts Center. These musicians were selected through auditions to participate in this outstanding event, which is sponsored by the Washington Music Educators Association.

Many professional musicians credit their All-State experience as crucial in their decision to choose music as a career. Thousands of others whose career paths took them in other directions have great memories of participating in this inspiring and motivating musical experience and claim that it was a life-changing experience for them.

Well-known Washingtonians who have participated in past years' WMEA All-State groups include The Seattle Post-Intelligencer's Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist and columnist, David Horsey, 2008 National Teacher of the Year, Andrea Peterson, former Spokane County Sheriff, Mark Sterk, and Jazz saxophonist Kenny G.

Students selected:

- Lizzy Lee–violin–orchestra
- Gia Hy Tu–violin–orchestra
- Connor Heilborn–cello–orchestra
- Jessica Fletcher–flute–band
- Jocelyn Mitchell–trumpet–band
- Adam Benabid–trombone-band

For more information, contact Mt. Baker Middle School music directors, Melinda Wharton at mwharton@auburn.wednet.edu or Kevin Paustian at kpaustian@auburn.wednet.edu or by calling (253) 804-4555.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002
Newsrelease: 12/01/08

Thursday, December 11, 2008 at Lakeland Hills Elementary School-Little House: Genealogy of People and Literature

Mark your calendar for **DECEMBER 11, 2008** 5:30-7:00 at Lakeland Hills for our first joint historical fiction/genealogical adventure with Ilalko Elementary.

Our communities will be able to travel back in time through literature (Did you know that the Little House books cover four generations and 2 continents?). Then map our own schools' genealogy (Do you know which school started this area and then subdivided out?).

Do you know how big a covered wagon was? Can you load one and still ride inside? What was they type of doll many children played with and do you own one? Would your miniature sled win in a "motion" (from 2nd grade science) race? Would your solid/liquid mixture turn viscous (from 1st grade science)? Could you do some of the things that fourth graders need to know to pass the Washington State Curriculum Based Assessment (CBAs for fourth grade revolve around the Oregon Trail)? Or do you like to just have plain, old-fashioned F...U...N? To answer all of these questions and most importantly socialize, learn and have fun attend "Little House: Genealogy of People and Literature" on December 11th at 5:30-7:00 at Lakeland Hills.

Did you know that Lakeland Hills Elementary was formed from Ilalko and Gildo Rey Elementary? Ilalko was formed from Gildo and Alpac.... Genealogy even applies to our very own schools and the whole community!

For more information visit the website (<http://vleaf.weebly.com/little-house-2008.html>) describing all that will take place on that evening or contact Vickie Leaf at 253-876-7711 ext. 1240.

JANUARY 2009:

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 1/19/09

Auburn High School Band Students Selected for Northwest 2009 Honor Band

Congratulations to T.J. Zabriskie, James Gifford and Jon Urmenita on their selection and performance with Pacific Northwest 2009 Honor Band. Over 175 musicians selected from 40+ high schools from around Washington State participated at Pacific Lutheran University in this yearly event.

The bands, under the direction of renowned conductors, Dr. David Holsinger from Lee University and Dr. Sarah McKoin from Texas Tech University, performed works by Ralph Vaughn Williams, Percy Grainger, David Holsinger and many others.

For more information, contact Superintendent Dr. Kip Herren at (253) 931-4914.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 1/12/09

Auburn Riverside High School Forensics Team Competes Well at UPS Tournament

The Auburn Riverside High School Forensics team competed well and earned several awards at the 76th Annual University of Puget Sound High School Forensics Tournament on Friday and Saturday, January 9-10, 2009.

Below are Auburn Riverside students that earned awards. Congratulations on a job well done!

- Emily Angulo and Blaine Nuttal, Superior Award in Open Dual and a State Bid
- Korey Krotzer, Superior Award in Novice Expository
- Shannon Keith, Superior Award in Open Oratory and a State Bid
- Katherine Nash, Excellent Award in Novice Interpretive reading
- Brian Morgan, Quarterfinalist in Novice Lincoln Douglas Debate
- Chris Bok, Quarterfinalist in Junior Lincoln Douglas Debate

For more information, contact Superintendent Dr. Kip Herren at (253) 931-4914.

FEBRUARY 2009:

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 2/18/09

DECA Recognizes Outstanding School Stores

The School-Based Enterprise (SBE) at Auburn High School of Auburn, WA was among the school stores that achieved Gold Level Certification (or Re-certification) this year and will be recognized at DECA's International Career Development Conference in Anaheim, California. The students that worked on the Certification were Kara Lewis Chair and numerous other store employees, with the assistance of their advisor Lori Jacobs. The school store at Auburn High School has operated a certified SBE for 5 years and are to be commended for this achievement.

School-based Enterprises are effective educational tools in helping to prepare students for the transition from school to work or college. For many students, they provide the first work experience; for others, they provide an opportunity to build management, supervision and leadership skills. While some in the education community have only recently discovered the value of school-based enterprises, marketing educators and DECA advisors have used them as a powerful teaching tool for more than four decades

DECA's School-based Enterprise (SBE) Certification Program was developed to provide recognition for outstanding achievement by school-based enterprises and to motivate SBEs to strive for excellence and to grow.

School stores can be certified at three levels: Bronze, Silver or Gold. In order to apply for the certification, SBEs must submit extensive documentation showing how they have achieved set standards that are outlined in the Certification Guidelines. After the documentation is submitted, a Review Committee evaluates the documentation to determine which level of certification has been achieved.

DECA is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit student organization preparing its membership for careers in marketing, management and entrepreneurship. DECA operates in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Canada, Germany and Mexico through charters held by each state's/province's department of education. DECA has over 185,000 members nationwide.

Complete information about DECA's School-based Enterprise Certification Program can be found at, www.schoolbasedenterprises.org. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Sissy Long, DECA's School-based Enterprise Project Manager at 205-223-0204 or sjldeca@aol.com.

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 2/11/09

Auburn Riverside High School to State Speech Tournament

The ARHS speech and debate team competed at the state qualifying tournament on February 10, 2009. The following students qualified to the state tournament in their events and will be competing at the state tournament on March 14, 2009. Congratulate them on a job well done!

- Tricey Anderson 1st Alternate in Dramatic Interp
- Kyle Bessone - Dramatic Interp
- Katie Reifert and Telisha Amero - Dual Interp
- Brennan Bredl - Humorous Interp and 1st Alternate in Expository
- Erin Kumar - Expository
- Julie Mironchuk - Expository
- Shannon Keith - Expository
- Shauna Free - Humorous Interp
- Brooke Agather - 2nd Alternate in Humorous Interp
- Telisha Amero - Interpretive Reading

Previously earning bids to the state tournament are:

- Emily Angulo and Blaine Nuttall in Dual Interp
- Shannon Keith - Oratory

Good luck to all at the State Tournament in March!

For more information, contact Mark Davis at 253-804-5154.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 2/3/09

Auburn Riverside High School Teacher Awarded PLU T.O.H. Karl Coach of the Year Award

Mark Davis, Auburn Riverside High School debate teacher, was awarded the PLU T.O.H. Karl Coach of the Year Award for 2009 at the PLU tournament on January 31, 2009. This award is voted on by other coaches attending the tournament. Mark has been a very dedicated coach, spending many hours with his debate students and with coaches from other districts helping them with their programs. Mark is one of the senior members of the debate community and is highly respected by his peers.

For more information, contact Dr. Kip Herren, Superintendent, at 253-931-4914.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 2/2/09

Auburn School District's "Beyond High School Night" Offers Students and Parents Options for Life After High School

The Auburn School District will be hosting its thirteenth annual "Beyond High School Night" on Thursday, February 12, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Auburn Riverside High School (ARHS). The evening's program encourages students and parents to explore various post-high school options, such as community and technical colleges, four-year public and private colleges, career training programs, apprenticeship programs and the military services. Parents and students from all district middle schools and high schools are invited to attend this event. Home school and private school students are also welcome.

There will be opportunities to attend break-out sessions on numerous topics beginning at 7 p.m., including how to navigate the admissions process at four-year public and private colleges and universities and community and technical colleges; financial aid; collegiate athletics; and Running Start/Advanced Placement options. Additionally, over 80 different colleges, universities, career schools, the military services and apprenticeship programs will be available to answer questions and share information.

This event will provide valuable information for students as they map out their "life after high school."

For more information, contact Steve Mead, Auburn Riverside High School college/career counselor, at 253-804-5161 ext. 3391, Jon Morrow, Auburn High School college/career counselor, at 253-931-4719 ext. 1017, or Carolynn Hanson, Auburn Mountainview High School college/career counselor, at 253-804-5195. Please contact Steve Mead if assistance is required for the hearing impaired.

MARCH 2009:

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 3/26/09

Auburn School District All-Schools Food Drive Brings in Over 56,000 Pounds of Food and \$18,000 in Cash Donations

From February 23-March 6, all 22 Auburn schools participated in the Fifth Annual All-Schools Food Drive. For 10 days, Auburn schools collected canned foods and cash donations for families and people in need in the Auburn community. This year 56,568 pounds of food was collected, which equals 29.34 pounds of food per student, and \$18,869.30 was donated. This year's total cash donation was \$11,100 more than last year's total donations. One hundred percent of the food and proceeds were donated to the Auburn Food Bank and the Algona/Pacific Food Bank.

The schools to bring in the most food at the elementary, middle and high school levels were:

- Evergreen Heights Elementary School with 2,347 pounds and \$1,943.94 cash donations
- Olympic Middle School with 5,526 pounds and \$841.75 cash donations
- Auburn Mountainview High School with 7,742 pounds and \$2,217.21 cash donations

Each of these three schools will receive a trophy and be recognized at the Auburn Food Bank's annual Harvest Breakfast in the fall of 2009.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 3/26/09

Auburn High School Students to Participate in Statewide Robotics Competition

Robotics Team 2907, a team of 39 students from Auburn Mountainview, Auburn Senior and Kentwood High Schools, will be competing against 63 other robotics teams at the FIRST Microsoft Seattle Regional Robotics Competition on March 27-March 28 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in KeyArena at Seattle Center. The event is free and open to the public.

Team 2907 is based at Auburn Mountainview High School. The team has volunteer mentors from industry and is sponsored by The Boeing Company. Team 2907 is just one of thousands of high school teams from around the world who will compete to build a 100-120 pound robot that can complete an assigned task. Teams are given a standard set of parts and the game details at the beginning of January and are given six weeks to construct a competitive robot that can accomplish the game's tasks. Teams bring their final robots to compete at the regional competition. Winning teams move on to the 2009 FIRST Championship on April 16-18 in Atlanta, Georgia.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 3/26/09

Ilalko Elementary School to Host Annual "Family Science Fair"

Ilalko Elementary School will host its annual "Family Science Fair" on Thursday, April 2, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the gymnasium. The event is free.

Students in kindergarten through fifth grade will present their student science projects. Additionally, the Auburn Riverside High School science students will host a "Mad Scientist Show."

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

***Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002***

Newsrelease: 3/19/09

A Former Teacher and a Former Student of Auburn High School to be Inducted Into Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) 2009 Hall of Fame

Mike Burton, former English teacher and speech and debate coach at Auburn High School, and Lisa Raschkow Johnson, Auburn High School graduate and basketball star, will be inducted into the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) 2009 Hall of Fame on Wednesday, April 15, at 12:00 p.m., at the Spirit of Washington Events Center in Renton, Washington.

Mike Burton will be inducted in both the fine arts and officiating categories. Mike's career spans four decades in an array of stellar programs and services such as forensics, baseball, national boards and officiating. In addition, he was a master teacher who received the coveted Golden Apple Award from KCTS Channel 9 and PEMCO Insurance for excellence in education.

Mike's career as a debate coach included 25 years in the Auburn School District, at Olympic Junior High and then Auburn High School, and concluded at Eastside Catholic School. Both programs received national recognition. Below are some of the awards and accomplishments he and his teams received:

- Bruno Jacob for Service
- University of Kentucky Tournament of Champions Hall of Fame
- 36 State Championships
- 1995 NW National Federation High Schools (NFHS) Instructor of the Year
- 2000 NFHS National Citation Award for Officiating
- 2004 Minnesota Coaches Golden Apple for Excellence in Forensics
- 2007 National Forensic League Living Legends Award
- 2007 Bronx Achievement Award

Mike shaped policy and programs throughout the state and nation with his leadership, service and expertise. His contributions in forensics and officiating are unprecedented. During his career, he has served in the following capacities:

- Washington Interscholastic Activities Association Forensics Committee (14 years)
- National Catholic Forensics League Executive Committee
- Football Commissioner for the Northwest Intercollegiate Football Officials
- Executive Board National Forensics League 1996-2000
- Washington Officials Association Executive Board 1985-2007
- President of the National Federation of Officials in 1998
- 2000 National Federation Citation Award Winner for Officiating Excellence
- 2009 Washington Officials Association Hall of Fame

Lisa Raschkow Johnson will be inducted as a standout athlete. Lisa was a gifted athlete who played many sports at Auburn High School. In 1982, she helped her softball team to a first place finish at the state championships and her soccer team to a third place finish at the state championships. But Lisa will mainly be remembered for the things she did on the basketball court. She was a three-year starter at point guard, participated on a state championship team with an undefeated season in 1982-83, and finished with 550 assists in her three years at Auburn—246 more than any other player in school history. She was also named a Converse All-American in 1983.

After Auburn High School, Lisa received a full scholarship to the University of Washington. There, she was a four-year varsity letter winner, 1986 and 1987 Women's Team Captain, and 1987 Pac-10 Medal of Honor Recipient. Lisa ended her career with a record in assists that held for 15 years. Lisa graduated from the UW with a science major and a 3.4 GPA. After a successful 15-year career in computer software business, Lisa lives with her husband, Mark, and two children in Bremerton.

Tickets to attend the WIAA Hall of Fame Ceremony and Luncheon on April 15 are \$20 per person and can be purchased by sending payment to: Hall of Fame Tickets, WIAA, 435 Main Avenue South, Renton, WA 98057. Please include a return address and designate if you would like to be seated with Mike Burton or Lisa Raschkow Johnson.

For more information on the 2009 WIAA Hall of Fame inductees and ticket information, contact Andy Barnes, WIAA assistant executive director, at (425) 282-5237 or abarnes@wiaa.com.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 3/17/09

Bobby Vogel to be Awarded Auburn School Board of Directors' Gold Star Volunteer Award

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will present the Gold Star Volunteer Award to Bobby Vogel, in recognition of his volunteer support to Auburn School District, on Monday, March 23, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

There is no better time to honor Auburn High School's number one basketball fan and athletics volunteer than during the month of March—the month many basketball aficionados celebrate the very best of the sport at the high school and college level.

Ryan Hansen, the head boys' basketball coach, approached Bobby seven years ago in hopes he would be interested in becoming part of the program. Since then Bobby has only missed three practices as the official team manager. He is not only the most dependable person around, but he also cares for the success and well-being of all the players—and the feeling is mutual for the players' support of Bobby.

Bobby's daily duties as basketball manager include: organizing practice equipment, folding pregame warm-ups, delivering towels and water to players, and carrying the basketballs to games. Bobby attends every home and away game, and is always eager to greet the opposing team with a friendly hello.

Bobby recently retired from his job at Safeway and now also volunteers with the football and track programs. During the fall he paces the sidelines along with football players and coaches, anticipating the next first down, while in the spring he is often found at the finish line cheering runners home or helping to setup and teardown for track practices and meets.

Bobby is committed to the success of students in their athletic and academic pursuits. He is only a quick walk away from school and enjoys wearing the letterman's jackets students have gifted him over the years. When asked why he volunteers so much of his time, Bobby responded, "Because I like the school, the people and the kids at the school."

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 3/16/09

Auburn School District's Board of Directors Honors Staff Member Teri Peterson

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Teri Peterson, office professional at Lakeland Hills Elementary School, for her outstanding service on Monday, March 23, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

On any given day, Teri Peterson, office professional at Lakeland Hills Elementary School, busily tracks attendance, answers phone calls, and authors the weekly bulletins and monthly newsletters.

Teri has successfully managed her role as support to the office manager and principal since Lakeland Hills's doors opened three years ago. She has also served the district as a class size paraeducator at Alpac, substitute and parent volunteer at Evergreen Heights.

Teri rejuvenates herself each day during recess duty. She ensures the safety and well-being of all students at play, which sometimes means acting as mediator to help students work out problems and learn to communicate with respect. According to Teri, "I am always out there trying to help the children and be kind to them, so they can learn to be kind to others." Teri's care and concern for the students are also evident in the main office. She enthusiastically greets children as they arrive to school and never misses an opportunity to congratulate a child who earns Friday lunch with the principal.

Teri recently completed the Professional Standards Program through the National Association of Educational Office Professionals and is currently earning her bachelor's degree in Humanities through the University of Washington.

Outside her career and lifelong learning pursuits, Teri is the proud mother of two children: one daughter is in seventh grade at Mt. Baker and her other daughter is in the STEP program at Terminal Park. Her proudest accomplishment to date is the time she dedicated to her children as a full-time homemaker. The opportunity to stay at home and help her daughters succeed in school and life also afforded her the time to volunteer in the school district and help other children reach their full potential. "My goal is to do my part in making Auburn School District a good starting place in life for my kids and every student. This is my bottom line, and it is the very reason that I enjoy my job," says Teri.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 3/16/09

Auburn School District's Board of Directors Honors Evergreen Heights Fifth Grade Student Ashly Marta

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Ashly Marta, a fifth grade student at Evergreen Heights Elementary School, for being an outstanding student on Monday, March 23, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Ashly Marta's fifth grade year at Evergreen Heights Elementary School has been filled with new and exciting responsibilities. It is Ashly's first year in ASB. She was elected president by her classmates and organizes spirit days to fundraisers. During the school's recent participation in the Auburn Food Bank All-Schools Food Drive, Ashly joined other volunteer students and teachers on a field trip to the local Albertson's where they spent an entire day handing out wish lists of food items for the Auburn Food Bank and then collecting items as people left the store.

Ashly is a member of Evergreen Heights' global reading challenge team. She has already met 100 percent of her accelerated reader goal this school year and easily digests mystery and suspense novels, particularly the Twilight series.

Outside the classroom Ashly volunteers as a recess mediator for the primary students and is an Early Childhood Education (ECE) helper. She and her gym buddy meet up weekly. They particularly enjoy the big parachute and Ashly always makes sure her gym buddy is having fun.

Ashly also enjoys watching and playing with her siblings and has even cared for her neighbor's two-year-old child for short periods of time. Ashly participates on the fifth grade basketball team and recently tried out for the YMCA swim team. According to Ashly's fifth grade teacher, Ms. Mitchell, "Lisa is very motivated, honest and helpful. She is most deserving of this recognition."

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 3/11/09

Auburn School District's Director of Secondary Student Learning Awarded Scholarship for PhD Pursuits

Cindi Blansfield, director of secondary student learning in the Auburn School District, was selected by the American Association of School Administrators (AASA) to receive a \$2,000 scholarship during AASA's 2009 National Conference on Education in San Francisco on February 19-21.

Ms. Blansfield, along with six other outstanding graduate students in educational administration, were selected based on their experience and excellence in school administration, personal essays about their qualifications and recommendations from university faculty, including the dean of the graduate school in which they are enrolled.

Each of the seven scholarships is named in honor of a former AASA executive director. Ms. Blansfield was the winner of the Forrest E. Connor Award, which she was nominated for by Seattle University. She is working on a doctoral degree at Seattle University in the Superintendent Program.

Prior to her tenure as director of secondary student learning, Ms. Blansfield worked in the district as administrator for career and technical education and a business education teacher. She also worked as a program supervisor with the state education agency. Ms. Blansfield earned a master's degree in education and a B.A. in education, both from Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002
Newsrelease: 3/11/09

Three Auburn School District Students Selected as 2009 Washington Aerospace Scholars

Three exceptional students in the Auburn School District have been selected as 2009 Washington Aerospace Scholars:

- Tyler Anderson—Auburn High School
- Brooke Krinsky—Auburn Riverside High School
- Cameron Peterson—Auburn High School

The students named above are among 260 talented juniors from across the state who have been accepted into the first phase of the Washington Aerospace Scholars (WAS) program. The Washington Aerospace Scholars program selects outstanding high school juniors to participate in a state-wide, interactive, online learning experience, culminating in a six-day residential internship for select participants at The Museum of Flight in Seattle. Selected students are encouraged to study math, science, engineering and computer science as they interact with aerospace engineers and educators. Students from every legislative district across Washington State compete to take part in this exciting program. The students are recommended by teachers and chosen for the summer residency by state legislators.

At this time, the scholars are participating in phase one: distance learning with a NASA-designed curriculum. From home, school or public library, students complete Web-based activities including: space exploration studies in space shuttle, space station, lunar and Mars explorations; quizzes, math problems, essays and graphics concerning these studies; and links to virtual reality models, interactive tutorials, videos and 3-D graphics.

Students will undergo a second round of selection for phase two of the program: the summer residency. Selected scholars will attend a six-day residential summer experience at The Museum of Flight. During this experience, students will work in teams to complete hands-on engineering activities associated with the design of a human mission to Mars; participate in briefings from engineers, scientists and aerospace professionals; and attend tours and field trips. Students will be mentored by aerospace engineers, college staff/students and teachers. Certified Washington teachers serve as program counselors during the residential summer experience. Selected teachers receive transportation, housing and meals, and they guide the students through their learning experiences. Teachers are invited to apply via: www.museumofflight.org/washingtonaerospacescholars.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002
Newsrelease: 3/11/09

Auburn High School Students Qualify for DECA National Tournament

The following Auburn High School DECA business students competed at the State DECA competition and qualified for the International Career Development Conference (ICDC) annual competition in Anaheim, California, April 29-May 2:

- Haylee Rice, Food Marketing, 2nd place
- Holly Frampton, Diamond Level Membership Campaign/School-Based Enterprise, Gold Level
- Kara Lewis, School-Based Enterprise, Gold Level
- Haylee Rice and Alyssa Opland, Entrepreneurship Promotion Project, 2nd place
- Shannen Morgan, Shelby Whitacre and Skyler Atkinson, Chapter Awards Project, Gold Level

For more information contact Lori Jacobs, Auburn High School marketing and DECA instructor, at (253) 931-4880.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002
Newsrelease: 3/10/09

Auburn School District Students Compete in First Annual District-Wide Math Competition

On February 25, Auburn School District third and fourth grade students participated in the district's first annual district-wide math competition at Ilalko Elementary School, organized by Peter Voiles, Ilalko Elementary School math teacher.

Fifteen teams of four students tested their math skills in three rounds of competition. Round one challenged each team member to complete as many basic facts (adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing) in a five-minute period; round two required each team member to complete as many word problems in a five-minute period; and round three posed each team with a challenge question.

Five Auburn Riverside High School calculus students volunteered as judges and scored each round of competition. Individual medals were awarded to one third and one fourth grade student in rounds one and two, and team medals were awarded to one third and one fourth grade team who amassed the most team points throughout all three rounds. The individual winners were:

- Peter Pham and Vivian Dao, round one, third grade
- Jonathan Tran, round two, third grade
- Harman Singh, round one, fourth grade
- Harman Singh, round two, fourth grade

The third grade team medal was awarded to the Arthur Jacobsen Elementary School team of: Max Adams, Michaela Corbett, Seerat Mann and Peter Pham. The fourth grade team medal was shared by the Evergreen Heights Elementary School team of: Celine Liulamaga, Vonnai Phair, Yuliya Senyuk and Harman Singh; and the Ilalko Elementary School team of Daniel Bronitskiy, Sydney Haener, Nik Tyson and Jaylynn Wolf.

According to Adam Couch, principal of Ilalko Elementary School, "It was a huge success. There are a lot of opportunities for students to participate in competitions around activities and athletics, but this was an excellent opportunity for students to participate in an academics-based competition outside of school. Students really enjoyed showing off their math skills."

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002
Newsrelease: 3/10/09

Auburn Riverside High School Speech and Debate Team Qualifies for State and National Tournament

Auburn Riverside High School's Emily Angulo and Blaine Nuttall were the top qualifiers in Dual Interpretation at the state-qualifying tournament on February 10, 2009. This achievement automatically qualifies the duo to compete at the 2009 National Tournament in Birmingham, Alabama, June 14-19. They will also be competing along with many other teammates at the State Speech Tournament on March 14 at the University of Puget Sound, including:

- Tricey Anderson—1st Alternate in Dramatic Interpretation
- Kyle Bessone—Dramatic Interpretation
- Katie Reifert and Telisha Amero—Dual Interpretation
- Brennan Bredl—Humorous Interpretation and 1st Alternate in Expository
- Erin Kumar—Expository
- Julie Mironchuk—Expository
- Shannon Keith—Expository and Oratory
- Shauna Free—Humorous Interpretation
- Brooke Agather—2nd Alternate in Humorous Interpretation
- Telisha Amero—Interpretive Reading

For additional information contact Mark Davis, Auburn Riverside High School forensics instructor, at (253) 804-5154.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002
Newsrelease: 3/10/09

Auburn High School Teacher Named Washington State DECA Advisor of the Year

Lori Jacobs, Auburn High School marketing and DECA instructor, was named the Washington State DECA Advisor of the Year at the annual Washington State Career Development DECA Conference on March 5-7 in Bellevue.

The award recognizes Ms. Jacobs's professional leadership and commitment to her students, including preparing members for regional, state and national competitions, encouraging members to apply for DECA scholarships and opportunities, and providing overall contributions that impact the betterment of Washington DECA.

Ms. Jacobs has dedicated 12 years to DECA, her students and her peers. She is currently the Washington Association of Marketing Educators (WAME) President, a member of the Washington DECA Board of Directors Executive Committee, and an active participant of various other leadership positions at the chapter and state levels.

The award was presented by Doug Aubert, chairman of the board of directors for Washington DECA and Auburn Riverside High School marketing and DECA instructor. Ms. Jacobs received a plaque and a \$1,000 monetary award from CenterStone Executive Search, Inc.

For more information contact Doug Aubert, Auburn Riverside High School marketing and DECA instructor, at (253) 804-5154.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002
Newsrelease: 3/10/09

Auburn School District 2009-10 Kindergarten Round-Up Schedule

All elementary schools in the Auburn School District will host kindergarten round-up orientation activities for incoming kindergarteners and their families for the 2009-10 school year. The schedule is as follows:

SCHOOL	DAY	DATE	TIME
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Alpac	Thursday	May 21	6:30 p.m.
Arthur Jacobsen	Wednesday	May 12	6:30 p.m.
Chinook	Tuesday	May 19	7:00 p.m.
Dick Scobee	Thursday	April 23	6:00 p.m.
Evergreen Heights	Thursday	April 16	6:00 p.m.
Gildo Rey	Tuesday	May 19	3:30 p.m.
Hazelwood	Wednesday	May 13	3:30 p.m.
Ilalko	Thursday	April 29	5:30 p.m.
Lake View	Wednesday	May 13	6:30 p.m.
Lakeland Hills	Wednesday	May 6	3:30 p.m.
Lea Hill	Thursday	May 14	4:00 p.m.
Pioneer	Wednesday	May 13	3:30 p.m.
Terminal Park	Tuesday	May 19	6:00 p.m.
Washington	Wednesday	May 6	3:30 p.m.

For additional information contact your neighborhood elementary school or Louanne Decker, assistant superintendent of PK-12 school programs, at (253) 931-4920.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002
Newsrelease: 3/4/09

Auburn Schools Compete to Donate Food for Local Families

From canned peaches to baby food to bags of potatoes, the students of the Auburn School District are collecting thousands of pounds of food for the fifth annual Auburn Food Bank All-Schools Food Drive held February 23-March 6.

The two-week drive culminates this Friday, March 6. Auburn schools plan to surpass the 65,429 pounds of food collected in last year's food drive. Auburn schools are also collecting monetary donations for families and people in need in the Auburn community. All food and proceeds will be donated to the Auburn Food Bank.

Local restaurants will donate free lunches to the winning classes in each school. Additionally, the school to bring in the most food at the elementary, middle and high school levels will receive a trophy and be recognized at the Auburn Food Bank's annual Harvest Breakfast in the fall of 2009.

For more information, contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002
Newsrelease: 3/4/09

Auburn School District's "College Night for Juniors" Offers Students and Parents College Preparation Advice

The Auburn School District will be hosting "College Night for Juniors" on Tuesday, March 24, at 7:00 p.m. at Auburn Mountainview High School (AMHS).

All Auburn School District juniors and their parents are invited to attend an evening presentation by the career counselors from Auburn high schools that will focus on what juniors and their parents need to know and what they should be doing from now until graduation to get them prepared for college.

The following topics will be discussed: the admissions process for all types of schools, testing requirements and financial aid basics.

For more information, contact Steve Mead, Auburn Riverside High School college/career counselor, at 253-804-5161 ext. 3391, Jon Morrow, Auburn High School college/career counselor, at 253-931-4719 ext. 1017, or Carollynn Hanson, Auburn Mountainview High School college/career counselor, at 253-804-5195.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002
Newsrelease: 3/3/09

Auburn School District Staff Celebrates Read Across America Day with Weeklong Reading Events

In celebration of the National Education Association's Read Across America Day on March 2, non-teaching staff members in the Auburn School District are volunteering to read to second graders throughout the district for the entire week.

Over 35 staff members are volunteering their time to motivate children to read and help them master their reading skills. Staff members are reading at designated times throughout the day at Auburn School District elementary schools.

Staff volunteers read two to three books, one of which must include a book written by Dr. Seuss to emphasize his great works and celebrate his birthday.

Read Across America is in its twelfth year and takes place on or near March 2, the birthday of Dr. Seuss. Across the country, thousands of schools, libraries, community centers and more participate by bringing together kids and books.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002
Newsrelease: 3/3/09

Auburn School District and Auburn Chamber of Commerce to Host Greater Auburn Community Career Conference for Area High School Students

On Tuesday, March 31, the Greater Auburn Community Career Conference for high school students will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Grace Community Church in Auburn.

The career conference is a partnership between the Auburn School District and the Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce. Key Bank, BECU, Boeing, Councilmember Pete von Reichbauer, Exotic Metals Forming Company, SKC Tech Prep, Kiwanis Club of Auburn, Auburn Rotary Club, Soroptimists Club of Auburn and the Auburn Noon Lions are some of the conference sponsors. Approximately 50 businesses and post-secondary institutions will be on-site to participate in student interviews and provide informational career booths. Approximately 300 students from the Auburn and Kent School Districts are expected to attend.

The purpose of the career conference is to expose students to a variety of career pathways and opportunities, as well as to help them gain firsthand knowledge and support from local businesses and leaders. This is sure to be an enthusiastic, worthwhile and enlightening experience for all who participate.

For more information contact Rob Swaim, director of career and technical education, at 253-931-4903.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002
Newsrelease: 3/3/09

Auburn School District 2009-10 Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for Auburn School District's 2009-10 school year will begin on Monday, April 13, 2009. Elementary schools will be open for registration between 8:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. daily. Parents are encouraged to register their five-year-old children on or shortly after this date. Early registration helps the schools plan effectively, have sufficient staff and create a smooth introduction for students entering kindergarten.

Parents must bring their child's official birth certificate and a current immunization record at the time of registration. State law requires parents to present immunization information documenting that their children meet the state requirements before being registered at school.

The local elementary schools can provide a list of all needed immunizations, or view them online at www.auburn.wednet.edu/immunization/Default.htm. Required immunizations include:

- MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) - 2 doses 1st dose on or after first birthday; 2nd dose at least 28 days after 1st dose
- DTaP (diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis) - 4 doses if last dose is on or after fourth birthday
- Polio:
 - *3 doses if last dose is on or after fourth birthday
 - *4 doses if all doses are before fourth birthday
- Hepatitis B (3-shot series)
- Varicella (chicken pox) - 2 doses 1st dose on or after first birthday; blood titer or medical provider diagnosis is needed for verification of disease

For additional information, contact your neighborhood elementary school or Louanne Decker, assistant superintendent of PK-12 school programs, at (253) 931-4920.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002
Newsrelease: 3/3/09

Auburn High School and Auburn Riverside High School Students Excel at SkillsUSA Puget Sound Regional Cabinetry Contest

On Saturday, January 31, Auburn High School (AHS) and Auburn Riverside High School (ARHS) cabinetry students captured top honors at the annual SkillsUSA Puget Sound Regional cabinetry contest held at Auburn High School.

The following Auburn students brought home honors:

- 1st place Jon Klemkow, senior, AHS
- 2nd place Mike Craig, junior, AHS
- 3rd place Mitch Susner, junior, AHS
- 4th place Jeremy Anderson, senior, ARHS
- 5th place Robert Vernon, senior, AHS
- 6th place Gavin Aubert, junior, AHS
- 8th place Kevin Powers, senior, ARHS
- 12th place Brian Smyser, junior, ARHS
- 13th place Andrew Elliott, senior, ARHS
- 17th place Kreig Indreginal, senior, ARHS

The top four students, at a minimum, qualified for the SkillsUSA Washington State Skills and Leadership Conference State Tournament to be held April 9-11 in Yakima, Washington.

For more information contact Jim Wickens, Auburn Riverside High School construction manufacturing instructor, at 253-804-5154.

APRIL 2009:

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 4/28/09

Two Auburn School District Seniors Awarded Washington Awards for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) Scholarships

Christina Ho, a senior at Auburn High School, and Sarah Williams, a senior at Auburn Mountainview High School, have been selected as Washington Awards for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) Scholarship winners. In 2009, only three vocational students from each of the 49 legislative districts were selected for outstanding achievement in vocational/technical education. More than 450 students applied for the award. High schools, skills centers, and community and technical colleges are eligible to nominate students based on the following criteria: occupational proficiency, leadership, community activities, work experience and other qualities.

Christina Ho applied for the WAVE scholarship for her participation in sports medicine. She is a student athletic trainer and commits over 150 hours each semester to the sports medicine program. Her focus is with football, boys' soccer, boys' and girls' cross country, and boys' basketball. Christina is responsible for taping athletes to rehabilitating athletes to teaching injury prevention. This year the Auburn High School sports medicine program won third place at the Washington Vocational Sports Medicine Association (WVSMA) state competition. Outside of sports medicine, Christina is the president of Auburn High's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club, Associated Student Body (ASB) president, varsity water polo captain, Key Club treasurer, public relations officer for the orchestra and a member of the girls' varsity cross country team. Christina hopes to attend Seattle Pacific University in the fall and pursue a degree in nursing or other medical-related field such as sports medicine.

Sarah Williams applied for the WAVE scholarship for her participation in graphic design. Sarah has taken every art class offered at Auburn Mountainview High School and plans to study art at either Western Washington University or Pacific Lutheran University. She plans to pursue a career in graphic design. Sarah attributes her creativity to the art classes and skills she has learned over the years. She particularly enjoys seeing how the technical skills she has acquired through AP art translate into her talent as a graphic designer. This year Sarah designed the marketing poster for one of the school's drama productions and the senior T-shirts and sweatshirts.

The WAVE scholarship provides six quarters or four semesters of undergraduate tuition and services/activities fees at a Washington State institution of higher education, an accredited Washington State independent college or university, or a licensed private vocational school.

For more information contact Amy Spence, publications and grants supervisor, at (253) 931-4713.

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 4/28/09

Dick Scobee Elementary School Teachers Selected by KING 5 and Sylvan as "Teachers Who Make a Difference"

Six teachers from Dick Scobee Elementary School in Auburn were declared "Teachers Who Make a Difference" by Sylvan and King 5 TV's "Teachers Who Make a Difference" program.

Dick Scobee was one of the schools with the highest number of teachers nominated and selected for the honor. The teachers are:

- Lori Adams, kindergarten
- Julie Dean, resource room
- Linda Harmaning, fifth grade
- Angie Koger, kindergarten
- Jennifer Riestra, second/third grade
- Tammy Waldo, fourth grade

Each teacher was recognized at a school staff meeting and received a certificate and two tickets to an upcoming Tacoma Rainiers baseball game and lunch during the game.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 4/28/09

Auburn High School and Rainier Middle School Orchestra Teacher Voted WMEA Outstanding Music Educator of the Year

On Friday, April 24, Dale Johnson, Auburn High School and Rainier Middle School orchestra teacher, was honored as the Washington Music Educators Association (WMEA) Outstanding Music Educator of the Year at the WMEA State Solo and Ensemble Contest at Central Washington University in Ellensburg.

Kevin Paustian, WMEA president-elect and Mt. Baker Middle School band teacher, presented the award to Dale Johnson on behalf of the members of the WMEA.

The award is presented annually at the Washington Music Educators Association (WMEA) State Solo and Ensemble Contest.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 4/28/09

Auburn Riverside High School Students Wins Ken Watson TransEd Scholarship

Eric Brenaman, a senior at Auburn Riverside High School, was awarded a 2009 Ken Watson TransEd Scholarship, provided through the South Seattle Community College Foundation. He will accept his scholarship at an awards dinner at South Seattle Community College on May 7, 2009.

Eric will be pursuing an associate's degree at South Seattle Community College next year. He won the scholarship for his expertise in diesel and heavy equipment.

The amount of the scholarship is equivalent to one year (three academic quarters during 2009-2010 school year) of tuition, subject to evidence of academic success for each quarter, based on completion of all attempted courses.

For more information contact Fred Donaldson, Auburn School District automotive technology instructor, at (253) 931-4889.

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 4/28/09

Auburn School District Board of Directors Announces Linda Cowan Schools of Distinction Award

The Auburn School District Board of Directors honored the former superintendent of Auburn schools, Linda Cowan, with the Linda Cowan Schools of Distinction Award at the school board meeting on Monday, April 27.

The award recognizes Linda Cowan for her 30 years of service in the Auburn School District, 40 years total in public education, and for her dedication to improving the quality of education for all children.

The award will annually recognize schools for academic achievement for at-risk populations. Selected schools will receive perpetual and annual awards. Additionally, schools of distinction will receive monetary awards ranging from \$1,000 to \$3,000 to continue their efforts to provide academic achievement for all students.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 4/27/09

Auburn Riverside High School Students Compete in Washington State American Sign Language Competition

On Saturday, April 18, Auburn Riverside High School students Sumner LaValley and Kathryn Forsyth competed in the Washington State American Sign Language (ASL) Sign-Off Competition at Federal Way High School. The Washington State ASL Sign Off-Competition is specifically for high school students to test their ASL skills in a creative manner, which is an important part of Deaf culture.

Sumner LaValley captured the second place medal for her "ASL Number Story" performance. "Number Story" is one of several categories in the competition where students use the ASL numbers 1-10 to create a simple story, using only those number shapes. The students are judged on correct use of each number; if the story is creative, understood, and complete; the use of facial expressions and body language; professionalism in attire and behavior; and communicating with sign language during the entire competition.

For more information contact Cindy Anderson, Auburn Riverside High School ASL teacher, at (253) 804-5154.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 4/27/09

Auburn School District Students Earn Top Honors at the Washington State SkillsUSA Competition

Auburn School District Career and Technical Education (CTE) students competed at the Washington State SkillsUSA Competition on April 9-11 in Yakima, Washington. Over 900 of Washington's top CTE students participated in this event. The following Auburn School District students participated and placed in the competition. Gold medalists qualify to compete at the National SkillsUSA Tournament in Kansas City, Missouri, on June 21-26.

Computer Maintenance Technology

- Chris Jaques, Gold medal, National Qualifier, Auburn Riverside High School (ARHS)

Related Technical Math

- Chris Jaques, Silver medal, ARHS

Electronics Technology

- Lila Payton, Silver medal, ARHS
- Derek Clarke, Bronze, ARHS

Basic Electronics

- Reece Bushman, Gold medal, National Qualifier, ARHS
- Brandon Suhr, Silver medal, ARHS
- Jesse Zeta, Bronze medal, ARHS

American Spirit Notebook

- Lila Payton, Miranda Williams, Kassy McDonough, Silver medal, ARHS

Quiz Bowl

- Brandon Osborne, Chelsea Shur, Lila Payton, Derek Clarke, Bronze medal, ARHS

Jewelry

- Ashley Woods, Gold medal, National Qualifier, Auburn Mountainview High School (AMHS)
- Sebastian Duran Jimenez, 4th place, AMHS

Cabinetry

- Jon Klemkow, Bronze medal, Auburn High School (AHS)
- Robert Vernon, 5th place, AHS
- Mike Craig, 8th place, AHS
- Mitch Susner, 11th place, AHS

SkillsUSA is a national student organization that promotes student professionalism and technical skills in a variety of trades.

For more information, contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 4/23/09

Auburn School District's Camp Auburn Selected for Inclusion in the Magna Best Practices

The Auburn School District Outdoor Education Camp program, "Camp Auburn," has been selected for inclusion in the American School Board Journal's Magna Awards Best Practices Database. The program was 1 of only 85 high-scoring programs selected for this special recognition from the more than 340 nominations Magna received.

Currently the oldest, consecutively run outdoor recreation program in the nation, Camp Auburn serves over 1,000 fifth grade students for five weeks in May and June. The camp curriculum is aligned to the Washington State Science Essential Academic Learning Requirements (EALRs).

Fully searchable, the Magna Best Practices Database provides the education world with a valuable resource for innovative best practices, proven and practical solutions for big and small district problems, and new ideas.

Each year, Magna will select the highest-scoring programs from those submitted and add them to the database, where they will be available for at least five years. The Magna Best Practices Database is available online at www.asbj.com/magna.

For more information contact Amy Spence, publications and grants supervisor, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 4/23/09

Auburn School District's Board of Directors to Honor Lea Hill Fourth Grade Student

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Marty Chandler, a fourth grade student at Lea Hill Elementary School, for being an outstanding student on Monday, April 27, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Marty's love of school is contagious. His positive attitude and acceptance of everyone are great examples for his classmates, and he is always willing to serve his peers. Recently one of Marty's classmates was out for over a week due to illness. Marty knew a Mother's Day art project had to be finished within the week, so he asked his teacher, Mrs. Slatt, if he could help the student finish his project. Marty provided simple, easy-to-follow instructions with lots of encouragement.

Marty makes the grade academically, typically earning 100 percent on all of his assignments. According to Mrs. Slatt, Marty's work could be her key when grading assignments. "Everything Marty does is top of the line," says Mrs. Slatt. Currently, Marty's favorite school project is the Oregon Trail activity. The students are building wagons and pretending to be pioneers on the trail. According to Marty, "I like thinking about the people who were trying to find a better life and pretending that I am one of the people of the trail."

Marty's list of accomplishments continues. He is a member of the Missoula Children's Theater and Lea Hill's Music Club and speed stacking team. He enjoys art and entered the PTA Reflections art contest this year. He has won awards at the science fair the last two years and recently participated in the inaugural district-wide math competition. He loves to read and participated on Lea Hill's Global Reading Challenge team, and he is always up for a game of pickleball.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 4/20/09

Auburn School District's Board of Directors to Honor Staff Member Amy Kaleta

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Amy Kaleta, resource room teacher at Hazelwood Elementary School, for her outstanding service on Monday, April 27, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Amy Kaleta, resource room teacher at Hazelwood Elementary School, has invested the last 14 years of her teaching career to the children of Hazelwood. Amy provides individualized instruction for children who qualify for special education services, including instruction in reading, writing and math.

Amy's passion for curriculum makes this an ideal teaching job, as it allows her the freedom to use whatever curriculum best fits the needs of her students. She has even developed her own curriculum and has been asked for copies of materials. Ultimately, she aims to build a solid foundation for each student and close the achievement gap so her students can return to the regular classroom. According to Amy, "I am always proud when I help a student move into the regular classroom, even though it's hard to let them go."

Over the years, Amy's students have walked away with more than a solid foundation for lifelong learning. They've also acquired a better self-image. "It is my job to help students feel good about learning," remarks Amy, "and when they do, they try harder and learn better."

Other job perks for Amy include working with small groups of children. Between Amy and her two paraeducators, Lorraine Comery and Sheryl Anderson, there are never more than five to six children per group, which affords them the opportunity to dig in and prescribe the best possible learning structure for each child.

Amy's dedication in the classroom extends into the schoolhouse and the community. She is a member of Hazelwood's case study team and Response To Intervention (RTI) committee; a participant on the district's Autism Resource Team (ARTeam); a mentor to new teachers in the district; and a member of various district curriculum-adoption committees.

Amy believes in connecting with the community and recently moved into a home two blocks from Hazelwood with her husband and two daughters. Her oldest daughter starts kindergarten at Hazelwood next fall. She is grateful for the wonderful support she receives at home and at school and looks forward to what the future has in store.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 4/20/09

Ilalko Elementary School Students Raise Over \$1,000 for Camp Auburn Scholarships

Ilalko Elementary School students fundraised \$1,100 for Camp Auburn scholarships in honor of Joe Binetti, the late Camp Auburn program director, during a school-wide "Jump Rope for Joe" event. The Joe Binetti Memorial Scholarship Fund provides camperships for students who cannot afford to pay for Camp Auburn, Auburn School District's annual fifth grade camp.

Rose Binetti will be accepting the check for the Joe Binetti Memorial Scholarship Fund on Friday, April 24, at 10:30 a.m. during an Ilalko Elementary School assembly.

For more information contact Amy Spence, publications and grants supervisor, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 4/20/09

Auburn School District Jewelry Students Win Top Honors at Annual Competition

Seven Auburn School District jewelry students captured top finishes at the 2009 Passing the Torch: Washington Statewide High School Jewelry and Metals Exhibition at the North Seattle Community College Art Gallery. The exhibit is on display through May 8.

Six awards were presented in the jewelry category and six in the sculpture category. The following Auburn Mountainview High School (AMHS) and Auburn Riverside High School (ARHS) students were recognized:

- Michelle Brant, ARHS, first place, sculpture
- Sarah Jensen, ARHS, first place, jewelry
- Stephanie Bluhm, AMHS, second place, sculpture
- Rachel Morgan, ARHS, second place, jewelry
- Mindy Stang, ARHS, third place, sculpture
- Tia Monaghan, ARHS, honorable mention, jewelry
- Sebastian Duran, AMHS, honorable mention, jewelry

For more information contact Wendy Woldenberg, Auburn Riverside High School jewelry instructor, at (253) 804-5154, or Dorin Meinhart, Auburn Mountainview High School jewelry instructor, at (253) 804-4539.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 4/2/09

Auburn Riverside High School Paraeducator Named Washington Association for Skilled and Technical Science Support Staff of the Year

Connie Hipol, vocational arts paraeducator at Auburn Riverside High School (ARHS), has been named the Washington Association for Skilled and Technical Sciences (WASTS) Outstanding Support Staff of the Year.

Mrs. Hipol has been working as a paraeducator at ARHS since the building opened 14 years ago. She splits her time in four different content areas: drafting/PET; woodworking/construction manufacturing; jewelry; and visual communications.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 4/2/09

Rainier Middle School Student Wins KCTS 9 Storymakers Creative Challenge for Young Writers

Anastasia Finney, a seventh grader at Rainier Middle School in the Auburn School District, is a winner of the KCTS 9 Storymakers Creative Challenge for Young Writers.

Anastasia is 1 of 278 middle school students from Washington State and British Columbia who submitted an entry. Entries ranged from non-fiction to poeries to short stories.

Thirty middle school students—10 each from sixth, seventh and eighth grades—were recognized as winners of the KCTS 9 writing challenge.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 4/1/09

Auburn High School Teacher Awarded Target/DECA Teacher Scholarship

Lori Jacobs, Auburn High School marketing and DECA instructor, has been awarded a \$1,000 Target/DECA Teacher Scholarship to pursue professional development training in the field of marketing or management.

Target awarded a total of three scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 to high school advisors/marketing education teachers for professional development on the basis of the applicant's: partnerships with Target; DECA participation; leadership ability; and community involvement.

Lori Jacobs will be awarded her scholarship during the annual DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC) competition in Anaheim, California, on May 2.

For more information contact Lori Jacobs, Auburn High School marketing and DECA instructor, at (253) 931-4880.

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 4/1/09

Auburn High School Graduates Compete at National Parliamentary Debate Tournament

Christopher Pierini and Jackie Lawrence, Auburn High School graduates and now partners on the University of Washington Debate Team, recently competed and placed 29th at the National Parliamentary Debate Tournament in Berkeley, California, on March 21-23.

Christopher and Jackie currently debate for the UW team in Parliamentary events. Parliamentary debaters argue policy topics given to them such as the Israeli/Palestinian conflict and health care regulation. They placed first at the Whitman Classic Tournament and are currently ranked 17th in the nation out of 1,084 collegiate teams.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 4/1/09

Auburn Riverside High School Cheer Team Captures Grand Prize at International Competition

Auburn Riverside High School's (ARHS) competition cheer team brought home first place in the senior varsity category and the grand prize trophy in the school team category at the Sea-to-Sky International Cheerleading Championship in Vancouver, B.C., on March 28-29.

Over 50 teams from Canada, Washington and Oregon competed in the two-day event. Representing Auburn Riverside at the competition were team captains Kristi Suznevich and Angela Welker; and teammates Kodie Trinidad, Aly Pavel, Morgan Poe, Taryn Jones, Tani Sata, Brooke Krinsky, Brenna Gale, Colleen Brewer, Mackenzie Kneer, Ashley Smith and Tahlia Terhune.

The team is coached by Jibreel Rayam and Kelly Brown. Auburn Riverside's cheer squad will host tryouts for the 2009-10 team in early May. Persons interested in trying out (must be incoming ARHS freshmen to seniors) can find more information on the Auburn Riverside High School website, under "Athletics."

For more information contact Kelly Brown, Auburn Riverside High School cheer coach, at (253) 804-5154.

MAY 2009:

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 5/26/09

Pioneer Elementary School Kindergarten Class to Explore Moon Craters with Boeing Astronomical Society

On Thursday, May 28, Pioneer Elementary School students in Mrs. Chock's kindergarten class will learn about moon craters with Dave Armstrong from the Boeing Astronomical Society from 1:50-2:50 p.m.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 5/19/09

Dick Scobee Elementary School to Celebrate the Life of Astronaut Dick Scobee During Weeklong Event

On May 19-22, Dick Scobee Elementary School will celebrate the life of astronaut Dick Scobee during its annual tradition of Scobee Week. Dick Scobee was born on May 19, so the entire week is dedicated to space and space flight related curriculum in the classroom.

Additionally, the children will participate in a variety of space-related activities including:

- Rocket launch on May 19
- Bring Your Parent to School Day and school-wide barbecue on May 20
- Model airplane club demonstration on May 20
- Seattle Seahawks Blue Thunder Drum Line on May 21
- Paper airplane contest on May 22

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

*Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002*

Newsrelease: 5/19/09

Auburn School District's Board of Directors to Honor Staff Member Jim Robinson

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Jim Robinson, trades technician, for his outstanding service on Tuesday, May 26, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Jim Robinson, trades technician in the carpenter shop, has dedicated 21 years of service to the Auburn School District. From recarpeting floors to repairing walls, Jim works on all carpentry-related projects in the district. He is also skilled in equipment installation and other jobs such as repairing lockers, cutting keys and cleaning gutters and downspouts. "It's a little bit of everything," smiles Jim. "I enjoy the variety of what I do."

Jim is a committed professional who works with other trades technicians on how to accomplish their work quickly and safely. He routinely comes into contact with students and teachers as he works on classroom improvements. His main goal is to accomplish the work with the least interruption to student learning. Jim is stationed in the South Auburn schools.

Jim leads by example on the job and in attitude. He enjoys his work and hopes to pass on a positive attitude to his colleagues. He always accomplishes the things he is asked to do quickly and with a smile. One of Jim's fondest

memories is during a project he had in a Gildo Rey Elementary first grade classroom. The students were learning Spanish and the teacher asked Jim if he could count to 10 in Spanish, which he passed with flying colors.

Jim lives in Auburn with his wife who went through the Auburn School District. He spent four years in the Navy and was trained in aviation electronics prior to beginning his career as a journeyman carpenter. Jim enjoys hands-on work at home, too. His wife usually finds him in their garden or on the way to the golf course.

Jim will be retiring from the Auburn School District in September. The district is grateful for his many years of dedication and service.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 5/19/09

Auburn School District's Board of Directors to Honor Cascade Middle School Eighth Grade Student

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Hanagrace Santander, an eighth grade student at Cascade Middle School, for being an outstanding student on Tuesday, May 26, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Hanagrace Santander is a model of success and goodwill in Mr. Lee's structured learning classroom at Cascade Middle School. Mr. Lee has taught Hanagrace for the last three years, which he considers a privilege. Hanagrace is a highly capable student. She receives top marks in her academic pursuits. She is also a member of the Honors Society and recently won the Kiwanis student of the month award.

According to Mr. Lee, "Hanagrace is in a good mood every single day." Hanagrace is always smiling and possesses a wonderful can-do attitude. If something doesn't work out or she needs to fix an assignment, her response is always, "Not a problem." Hanagrace not only helps herself, she also helps others, whether it is helping Mr. Lee tidy up the classroom or assisting a fellow student with an assignment.

Hanagrace's caring attitude and respect for others permeate the Cascade hallways. She attends two general electives—choir and PE—so she has the opportunity to impact the students in her structured learning classroom and the general classroom. This year she earned a solo in the choir. Hanagrace also participates in Young Life in her free time.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 5/12/09

Auburn School District Middle School Students to Participate in Weeklong Math Event

From May 26-29, Auburn School District middle school students will participate in the district's first annual Algebraic Thinking Olympics at their respective middle schools throughout the school day.

The Olympics is the culminating component of the Algebraic Thinking program teachers began using in algebra-level math courses this year. The program offers a unique methodology to teaching algebra using manipulatives, foldables and other tools.

Sixth, seventh and eighth grade students will showcase their acquired math skills in the Olympics through a series of outdoor, physical events and activities that emulate what they have been doing in their Algebraic Thinking class during the year. Choral drills, integer work, mystery squares and scavenger hunts are just a few of the highlighted Olympic events.

For more information contact Cindi Blansfield, director of secondary student learning, at 253-931-4902.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: REVISED 5/20/09

Auburn School District and Olympic Middle School to Celebrate Diversity at Annual "Celebrate Us Week and Powwow" Event

On May 22-23, Auburn School District will host the "Celebrate Us Week and Powwow" event at the Olympic Middle School gymnasium, 1825 K Street SE, Auburn. Powwow grand entry times are: Friday, May 22, at 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 23, at 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The powwow features Native American drumming and dancing. The event also includes Native American foods and arts and crafts booths. The event is sponsored by the Olympic Native American Student Association through a Muckleshoot Charity Fund grant.

In conjunction with the community event, Olympic Middle School will host its annual cultural fair, "Celebrate Us," on May 21, beginning at 6 p.m. Dinner will be followed by entertainment from student dancers, singers and musicians. Additionally, student work reflecting their cultures will be on display.

Then on May 22, prior to the evening powwow festivities, Olympic Middle School students will celebrate Native American heritage. Local Native American tribal leaders and athletes will speak to the students. Azteca dancers and the Muckleshoot Tribe canoe family will provide entertainment, and students and staff will enjoy a salmon barbecue. Students will also create Native American art projects with professional Native American artists.

For more information contact Deb Landis, counselor at Olympic Middle School, at 253-931-4966.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 5/12/09

Auburn School District Launches New Web Site

On May 4, the newly redesigned Auburn School District website went live. The district web address will remain the same: www.auburn.wednet.edu.

The new website uses a fly-out navigation menu system and embeds features such as "Quick Links" and a staff directory. The Home page features a calendar of upcoming District events, recent news and important information for the community. The Schools button links to all 22 school websites. The Families link provides access to school calendars, school schedules, educational resources and Family/Student Access.

The underlying philosophy of the district's new website is for the community and parents to be able to easily access information about the district. The Intranet will house staff-only information and resources that were previously housed on the district website. The Intranet will provide staff easier access to these resources.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: Rev. 5/6/09

Auburn School District Seniors Named 2009 Washington Scholars

Auburn Mountainview High School senior Dhavan Vengadasalam and Auburn High School senior Bret Renschler have been named 2009 Washington Scholars. Auburn High School senior Erin Williams has been named alternate for Auburn High School.

Dhavan Vengadasalam is planning to attend Whitman College in the fall and focus on international relations and law. He holds a 3.82 GPA and is an AP scholar. Dhavan is senior captain of the varsity soccer and tennis teams, and he is a section leader for Auburn Mountainview's jazz and wind ensemble. Dhavan also won the 2009 Washington Masonic Lodge Scholarship and Governor Gregoire's 2009 Volunteer Service Award for his work the past three years as a Spanish interpreter and greeter for the United Way of King County Free Tax Preparation services at the Auburn Valley YMCA.

Bret Renschler will be attending the University of Washington in the fall and will major in aeronautical engineering. Bret is a 4.0 student at Auburn High and hopes to be the 2009 valedictorian. He is the Associated Student Body (ASB) senior class treasurer, National Honors Society and Troy Crew member, volunteer at Valley Cities, baseball player, and Camp Auburn counselor and rover. Bret was also selected as a 2008 Washington Aerospace Scholar.

Erin Williams is planning to attend the University of San Diego next fall and major in biology, chemistry or both. She would like to find a career in genetic research. Erin is a 4.0 student. She is president of Honors Society, co-president of the Random Acts of Kindness Etc. (RAKE) club, vice president of the senior class, AP scholar, captain of the cross country and track team, and a basketball player. Erin was selected to participate in the 2008 American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program and was a Masonic nominee for outstanding junior. This year Erin won \$2,700 as fifth runner-up in the Miss Auburn pageant.

The Washington Scholars program recognizes the accomplishments of three high school students from each of the state's 49 legislative districts. Students can use the scholarships at any public or independent college or university in Washington, and the scholarships are equal up to four years of full-time resident undergraduate tuition and fees.

High school principals nominate the top one percent of their graduating class on the basis of academic achievement, leadership and community service. A committee, composed of high school principals and college admissions staff, makes the final selection.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 5/4/09

Cascade Middle School Receives American Library Association National Gaming and Literacy Grant

Cascade Middle School was awarded a \$5,000 grant as part of the American Library Association's (ALA) Libraries, Literacy and Gaming national initiative, funded by the Verizon Foundation. Cascade Middle School was 1 of only 10 libraries from a pool of 390 applicants to receive the grant. Additionally, Cascade was 1 of 2 school libraries to receive the grant.

Cascade Middle School will use the funds to develop and implement a gaming and literacy program developed by Sue Monroe, Cascade Middle School librarian.

The "Cascade Middle School Gaming Zone" will focus on board and video game creation workshops, and tournaments and hint book/cheat sheet development. It is an after-school program that will occur twice a week.

The program will also:

- Offer games that tie into the curriculum
- Host daily/monthly tournaments to challenge skill and themed gaming days designated for special groups (i.e., sixth grade day, girls day, All-Madden day)
- Provide homework help available from peer tutors, supervisors and volunteers
- Create a high-interest book collection
- Develop a gaming council

The Libraries, Literacy and Gaming initiative is generously funded by the Verizon Foundation and managed by ALA's Office for Literacy and Outreach Services. Dr. Scott Nicholson, an associate professor in the School of Information Studies, Syracuse University, is the evaluation specialist.

For more information contact Sue Monroe, Cascade Middle School librarian, at (253) 931-4995.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 5/4/09

Auburn School District Peer Model Preschool Registration Now Open

The Auburn School District Early Childhood Education (ECE) Peer Model Preschool program is now accepting applications for children ages three and four years old for the 2009-10 school year.

The Peer Model Preschool program is part of the Auburn School District Special Education Early Childhood program serving preschool children with developmental delays. Peer models play a very important role in the program as eager learners and good role models for language and social skills (play) development. They will have the opportunity to take a leadership role in helping their peers with developmental delays by communicating verbally and assisting peers in appropriate play.

Each of the Peer Model Preschool sites has openings in both morning and afternoon sessions including:

- Alpac Elementary School, 253-931-4976
- Chinook Elementary School, 253-931-4980
- Dick Scobee Elementary School, 253-931-4984
- Evergreen Heights Elementary School, 253-931-4974
- Gildo Rey Elementary School, 253-931-4952
- Lake View Elementary School, 253- 931-4830
- Lea Hill Elementary School, 253-931-4982
- Arthur Jacobson Elementary School, 253-931-4927

Tuition rates are based on a 10-month school year, September through June. The cost is \$135.00 per month without parent volunteering or \$110.00 with parent volunteering 10 hours per month in the program. The first and last month's tuition is payable before entering school. Parents must provide transportation to and from school.

Placement is on a first come, first serve basis at the Peer Model Preschool program closest to a child's primary residence.

For more information, contact the Peer Model Preschool teacher at one of the participating schools listed above.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 5/4/09

Auburn Mountainview High School Horticulture Program Announces 4th Annual Plant Sale

The Auburn Mountainview High School (AMHS) horticulture program will host its 4th annual plant sale on Thursday and Friday, May 7-8, from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., and on Saturday, May 9, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at Auburn Mountainview High School, 28900 124th Avenue SE, Auburn. Parking and admission is free.

The plants are hand grown in the AMHS greenhouse with many new varieties for 2009 including annuals, perennials, baskets, mixed containers, herbs, vegetables, fuchsias, geraniums and petunias. Prices range from \$1.00-\$16.00. Door prizes will be drawn every half hour, need not be present to win.

This sale is the culmination of a lot of hard work by the FFA members and the students in the horticulture classes. "We started with an empty greenhouse in January and it's wonderful to walk out to see it bursting with color," says FFA advisor Regina Grubb.

All of the money raised from the plant sale goes toward the leadership activities of the FFA and enables the members to hold their annual banquet, give awards, and travel to other contests and leadership functions throughout the year. The horticulture students will be working the sale as part of their final for the greenhouse production and marketing unit.

For more information, contact Regina Grubb, Auburn Mountainview High School instructor and FFA advisor, at 253-804-4539 ext. 6200.

JUNE 2008:

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 6/29/09

Terminal Park Elementary School Awarded Washington Reading Corps Grant

Terminal Park Elementary School was awarded the Washington Reading Corps Grant for the 2009-2011 school years.

The mission of the Washington Reading Corps is to improve reading abilities of young students across Washington through research-based tutoring of struggling readers and effective collaboration among schools, families, community members, national service, business and state partners.

Terminal Park will receive the support of four AmeriCorps members and one VISTA member to implement the program.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 6/29/09

Pioneer Elementary School Awarded USDA Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Grant

For the fourth year in a row, Pioneer Elementary School has secured a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide an afternoon snack of fresh fruits and vegetables to all students during the upcoming 2009-10 school year. The nutritious snack will also be available in the school office for staff, parents, siblings and visitors.

The USDA believes this program will: (1) improve the nutritional status of students by providing extra fresh fruits and vegetables daily; (2) build "healthy snack habits"; (3) compliment the nutrition education occurring in the classroom; and (4) provide more nutrition education opportunities for students and parents at the school via partnerships with nutrition education providers.

For more information contact Eric Boutin, director of Child Nutrition Services, at (253) 931-4972.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 6/29/09

Terminal Park Elementary School and Pioneer Elementary School Awarded Title I, Par A Improvement Award

Terminal Park Elementary School and Pioneer Elementary School received the state's 2009 Title I, Part A Improvement Award.

Both schools will receive an award of \$2,335.00 to be used to support the school's continuing efforts to increase student academic success. The funds are provided through No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

Terminal Park and Pioneer were selected based on students' performance data on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). To be eligible to receive this award, the schools:

- Met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the past three years (2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08)
- Have been Title I funded for the past three years

- Showed improvement overall and made significant gains in closing the achievement gap

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 6/29/09

Auburn Riverside High School Student Captures First Place at National SkillsUSA Tournament

Chris Jaques, Auburn Riverside High School graduating senior, captured first place in the Computer Maintenance Technology (CMT) competition at the National SkillsUSA Tournament in Kansas City, Missouri, on June 21-26.

Chris earned his way to nationals after placing first at the Washington State SkillsUSA Competition on April 9-11 in Yakima, Washington.

The CMT contest requires contestants to identify and repair computer hardware malfunctions, solve configuration problems and install common components. Additionally, the contestants take the A+ Certification exam. Their score on this exam is used as the basis for the written portion of the contest, and contestants who pass the exam receive their A+ Certification.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 6/29/09

Mt. Baker Middle School and Rainier Middle School Change School Start and End Times

Mt. Baker Middle School and Rainier Middle School will have new start and end times for the school day beginning in the 2009-10 school year.

Students will attend school from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

All other schools in the Auburn School District will have the same start and end times as occurred in the 2008-09 school year.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 6/16/09

Auburn Riverside High School Students Participate in Three-Day Science Sea Expedition

On June 8-10, nine students from Mr. Myka's biology and marine biology classes at Auburn Riverside High School set sail from Foss Waterway Seaport for a scientific research expedition.

Aboard the 61-foot Carlyn, students investigated the relationship between nutrient levels in the Puget Sound and population densities of phytoplankton. Students tested for nitrate and phosphate levels in the water; collected different types of plankton; and studied the plankton under microscopes in the onboard laboratory.

Students also learned how to sail the boat. By the third day, students sailed the boat from Quartermaster Harbor on Vashon Island into Tacoma's Commencement Bay.

Auburn Riverside High School students and biology instructor Mr. Myka were accompanied by the Carlyn crew and students and teachers from three other area high schools. Students rotated between sailing the boat and investigating their scientific hypotheses. They also were responsible for cooking meals, cleaning and setting up camp.

The three-day expedition was sponsored by Foss Waterway Seaport.

For more information contact Phil Myka, Auburn Riverside High School biology teacher, at (253) 804-5154.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: Revised 6/29/09

Auburn Mountainview High School, Rainier Middle School and Gildo Rey Elementary Win Linda Cowan Schools of Distinction Award

Auburn Mountainview High School, Rainier Middle School and Gildo Rey Elementary School are the 2009 Linda Cowan Schools of Distinction Award Winners. The Auburn School Board, Superintendent Kip Herren and former Superintendent Linda Cowan presented the awards to the students and staff of the three schools during school-wide assemblies in June.

The award annually recognizes one high school, one middle school and one elementary school for academic achievement growth within at-risk student populations. All schools receive a plaque and monetary award. The high school level winner receives \$3,000; the middle level \$2,000; and the elementary level \$1,000. The award encourages schools to continue their efforts in closing the achievement gap for all students.

The award honors former Auburn School District Superintendent Linda Cowan for her 30 years of service in the Auburn School District, 40 years total in public education, and for her dedication to improving the quality of education for all children.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 6/5/09

Terminal Park Elementary School Boosts Reading Skills Using New Peer-Based Reading Program

Terminal Park students are partnering together to build their reading skills through "Fluency Friends," a new reading program designed by Terminal Park second/third grade teacher Susie Thompson.

The program is based on recent research that says students increase their learning when they work with peers at slightly higher skill levels. Mrs. Thompson pairs her second grade students who are close to reaching their spring reading assessment goals with their third grade peers who are reading at grade level. The pairs meet Wednesday and Thursday after school every week for 45 minutes and practice reading together.

The program builds fluency, which is more than reading fast. Fluency encompasses reading in phrases instead of one word at a time; intonation; inflection; comprehension; and vocabulary.

The program has been very successful in helping second graders build their fluency. One of Mrs. Thompson's second grade students went from reading 35 words per minute to 60 in one week. By the end of three weeks, the student had increased to 155 words per minute. Reading sessions also incorporate vocabulary lessons using word searches designed by second grade teacher and Fluency Friends volunteer Emily Mischke.

The program has improved the second grade students' reading skills so much that the program is now being used with first grade students during the school day. First graders are now increasing their reading skills by partnering with the same third grade students.

Progress of all students is measured using the state DIBELS reading assessment, fluency graphs and comprehension worksheets.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 6/4/09

Auburn High School Student to be Honored for His Heroism and Leadership

Auburn High School junior Robert English will be honored for his heroism and leadership on Friday, June 5, at 10:30 a.m. during a school-wide assembly at Chinook Elementary School.

While the Chinook Elementary fifth grade was at Camp Auburn during the week of May 5-8, a Chinook fifth grader, Nicolas Savoie, began choking on a piece of hard candy. Robert noticed the choking child and immediately administered the Heimlich maneuver. Robert dislodged the piece of candy and Nicolas was not injured.

Robert will be presented with an award during the school-wide assembly. He will be attending with his mother.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 6/4/09

Auburn Riverside High School Team Wins Design Challenge at Washington State University's Imagine Tomorrow High School Energy Competition

Three seniors from Auburn Riverside High School—Casey Allen, Conner Bauman and Ariell Swan—captured first place in the design challenge category of Washington State University's (WSU) 2nd annual high school energy competition, Imagine Tomorrow, held on May 29-31. They were awarded a \$10,000 cash prize—\$5000 for the school and another \$5000 to be split between the three team members.

The trio entered their "Enviro Energy House" prototype into the design challenge category, which required teams to design living/working spaces that significantly lower CO2 emissions. Their "green" house featured a heating and air conditioning system run on solar panels; energy-efficient walls and windows; filtration system to recycle sink and shower water; and even a 100 percent recyclable roof composed of ground-up rubber that mimics slate tile.

Casey, Conner and Ariell presented their prototype during an all-day poster session in WSU's Bohler Gymnasium. Their visual aids included a 3-D model of the house and the actual air conditioning prototype.

The three seniors decided to form a team after their advanced drafting teacher, Mr. Sumner, provided the class the Imagine Tomorrow entry information and an opportunity to compete. Casey, Conner and Ariell were the only students to compete from Auburn Riverside High School.

Four teams from Auburn High School also competed at Imagine Tomorrow under the guidance of math teacher Erik Gunderson. Morgan Bayer, Brian Stanford, Kyle Flannery, Kirsten Thompson and Abigail Reid entered their crankshaft gym generator into the multidisciplinary category. Cameron Peterson, Tyler Anderson, Jordan Johnson and Patrick Woodard entered their green advertising TV campaign into the behavioral category. Kathrine Cox, Micheal Paulston, Alicia Damis, Emily Trbovich and DJ Urton entered their energy efficient home in the design category. Andrew Seeley, Andrew Rossman, Christian Patterson and Andy Starr presented alternatives to coal-powered energy in the multidisciplinary category.

More than 300 high school students in 89 teams from across the state of Washington competed in four challenge categories—behavioral, technological, design and multidisciplinary—to earn a share of the \$106,000 in prize money put up by event sponsors including Bank of America, The Boeing Company, BP Cherry Point Refinery and Weyerhaeuser.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 6/4/09

Auburn School District's Board of Directors to Honor Auburn Mountainview High School Twin Sisters

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Aline and Lauren Golden, twin sisters and seniors at Auburn Mountainview High School, for being outstanding students on Monday, June 8, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Auburn Mountainview High School seniors Aline and Lauren Golden are often referred to as the "Golden Twins" for their endearing qualities. They are consistently respectful, honest, caring and cooperative. They are positive ambassadors in the schoolhouse who always find ways to support the school community.

Aline and Lauren are outstanding student leaders and demonstrate a tremendous level of commitment to whatever they do. Lauren currently has a 3.68 and Aline a 3.67 GPA. Aline and Lauren are literally involved in every event that happens at Auburn Mountainview High School—from the football games to the Relay for Life to eating lunch with a lonely student. They have outstanding school spirit and are amazing citizens.

In dealing with so many school activities, the twins have successfully found ways to cope with unintended consequences and navigate effectively in stressful situations. Aline and Lauren's strategic planning and efficient and effective work style ensure things get done. According to the Auburn Mountainview staff, "If there was a Best In Show award, these young ladies would win without a doubt."

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 6/3/09

Auburn School District Announces 2009 Teachers of the Year

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize the 2009 Teachers of the Year on Monday, June 22, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

One high school teacher, one middle school teacher and one elementary school teacher were selected at the district level—Susan James, Melinda Wharton and Regina Butler. Two of the teachers, Susan James and Melinda Wharton, have been selected to move on to the regional competition. One teacher from each region will move on to the state competition. Then the state winner will move on to the 2010 national competition.

Susan James **Auburn Riverside High School Language Arts Teacher**

Susan James is the Auburn School District 2008-09 high school level outstanding teacher of the year. Ms. James's mission is to reach all students that enter her classroom, whether they are advanced, at grade level or struggling. Ms. James believes both teacher and pupil experience the most success once a connection of trust is established. According to Ms. James, "Once there is mutual understanding and respect, it's much easier for learning to happen in the classroom...I set high expectations for students...they understand that my goal is always for their success."

Ms. James's personal goal for all students achieving is evident in her development and implementation of the Collection of Evidence (COE) program at Auburn Riverside. The COE is a state-approved alternative to the WASL. After witnessing many students face a road block with the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL), Ms. James created a curriculum designed to help students with the reading and writing COE. Nearly every one of her students who has completed the assignments and the class have met state standards and earned their high school diploma. Ms. James then trained teachers from other district high schools, sharing her strategies so that other students could meet the state standards.

Ms. James is committed to her profession. She is pursuing national board certification during the 2009-10 school year. She is the Auburn Riverside yearbook advisor, has served as a member of the state reading assessment leadership team, and scored both the reading and writing WASL. At a district level, Ms. James has participated on the reading, equivalency credit, and Career and Technical Education (CTE) subcommittees. Only in her sixth year of teaching, Ms. James attributes her success as an award-winning educator to her colleagues and peers who provide support and advice, as well as to her passion for lifelong learning, her family of educators, and her work experience as a television producer/director for 18 years. Without hesitation Ms. James can say, "Once I decided to teach I've never looked back."

Melinda Wharton
Mt. Baker Middle School Orchestra Teacher

Melinda Wharton is the Auburn School District 2008-09 middle school level outstanding teacher of the year. Teaching music is more than scales and notes for Mrs. Wharton. It's about helping her students make connections to their learning and the real world that otherwise may not happen in the general classroom. "Research says that when children perform on an instrument it makes them smarter...music makes students well-rounded and lifelong learners. It teaches them life skills like hard work ethic and teamwork," says Mrs. Wharton.

Mrs. Wharton feels children learn best in a safe and comfortable environment. She uses humor in her classroom to relax the students and to provide them a non-threatening environment to try new skills. She also believes that gaining trust with her students allows her the opportunity to set the bar high and expect more of her students. Mrs. Wharton teaches orchestra to fifth through eighth graders and music survey to sixth and seventh graders. She has the privilege of teaching the same students for four consecutive years. Mrs. Wharton considers herself a second mother to her students since she is afforded the time to build relationships with her students and their parents.

A violinist herself, Mrs. Wharton turned her passion for playing music into teaching music 12 years ago. Mrs. Wharton has a bachelor's and master's degree in education. She has worked on a state level as an evaluator for OSPI-approved sight-reading exercises and all-state orchestra audition materials. Currently, Mrs. Wharton is taking conducting lessons from the conductor of the Tacoma Youth Symphony and jumps at the chance to play professionally whenever her schedule permits. Additionally, Mrs. Wharton is actively engaged in the community. She teaches Sunday school and directs the church orchestra. She also directs Auburn's summer music camp and is an advocate for the Autism Speaks action group.

Mrs. Wharton strives to be the best teacher she can be and believes there is always room for improvement. "I feel that all teachers need to inspire their students to strive for greatness," says Mrs. Wharton.

Regina Butler
Lea Hill Elementary School Language Arts Specialist

Regina Butler is the Auburn School District 2008-09 elementary school level outstanding teacher of the year. Mrs. Butler teaches students in grades K-5 who read below benchmark and has found her students to be most successful when they are engaged.

Mrs. Butler believes that creating real world connections to what her students learn in the classroom allows her students to connect more easily to the subject matter and become more excited about learning. According to Mrs. Butler, "If I can create fluidity between the classroom and the real world then I make learning come alive for my students, insuring that once they leave my classroom they are still learning and connecting."

Mrs. Butler achieves this real world connection by including the school community and the outside community in her students' learning. For example, in the schoolhouse, Mrs. Butler's students dramatize the Writing Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) at a school-wide assembly; participate in a songwriting contest about the GLEs; and present the perks of the Accelerated Reader (AR) program to their classmates at assemblies. By connecting the LAP program to the rest of the schoolhouse, Mrs. Butler promotes inclusivity at Lea Hill and provides opportunities for students who are not in the LAP program to understand and relate to it.

Mrs. Butler also fosters community connections for her students through activities like, "Reading with Rover," a program designed to help children with reading difficulties read stories to a guide dog. Her students also adopted senior pen pals from Wesley Homes and correspond through letters and ice cream socials, and most recently began writing letters to soldiers in Iraq. Mrs. Butler uses these programs to teach reading and writing skills, and to help children build their self-confidence and see themselves as readers and writers.

Mrs. Butler recognizes that attending school is not easy for every student, so it is up to teachers to make each day meaningful and purposeful. "Children are here to learn and we are here to serve," says Mrs. Butler.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 6/3/09

Crystal Goetz to be Awarded Auburn School Board of Directors' Gold Star Volunteer Award

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will present the Gold Star Volunteer Award to Crystal Goetz, in recognition of her volunteer support to Auburn School District, on Monday, June 8, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Twelve years ago, Crystal Goetz began volunteering in her then three-year-old son's Early Childhood Education (ECE) classroom. What began as a parent volunteering in a classroom has blossomed into a parent advocating for the needs of children in the Auburn School District.

Crystal has spent countless hours in both her children's classrooms. Crystal's children first attended Lake View. One of her proudest moments during her years at Lake View was the opening of a special room she helped design for children with special needs. The room contains swings, trapezes and other equipment that helps soothe and calm children who are overstimulated. Crystal also served on the Lake View PTA.

When Crystal's oldest son began attending Cascade Middle School, Crystal volunteered many hours every week in the school to help her son who is autistic achieve his goals. It was during this process that Crystal discovered that helping her child succeed in school was impacting other students.

Crystal also volunteered in the district's STEP program as a classroom helper, field trip supervisor and an art docent when her youngest daughter was admitted into the STEP program. Crystal coordinated all fifth grade programs at Terminal Park including fundraising for Camp Auburn and the fifth grade party.

With her son now at Auburn Mountainview High School and her daughter at Rainier Middle School, Crystal continues to volunteer in their schools but has shifted her emphasis to student and parent advocacy for students with special needs. Crystal believes the best way to meet children's needs is for parents to be active participants. Through words of encouragement, Crystal mentors other parents in the district whose children are experiencing difficulties in school. Crystal believes all children can succeed and her ultimate goal is to help every child pursue post-secondary learning opportunities.

At a district level, Crystal has served on the ECE committee and language arts curriculum review committee. She is always looking for new volunteer opportunities and would like to participate on the Autism Resource Team. According to Crystal, "Volunteering makes me live life with purpose. I want kids to enjoy school and have fun; this is a great time in their life and I want them to discover the joy of learning like I did."

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 6/3/09

Auburn School District's Board of Directors to Honor Staff Member Robyn Alpert

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Robyn Alpert, first grade teacher at Lake View Elementary School, for her outstanding service on Monday, June 8, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Robyn Alpert, first grade teacher at Lake View Elementary School, dedicates every school day preparing her first graders for their years of school to come. Robyn teaches students how to read and write, in addition to good social behavior. Robyn follows district-adopted curriculum and supplements student learning with hands-on activities.

Robyn's love for learning and teaching models the importance of lifelong learning. She hopes to impart a positive attitude toward education so her students continue their academic interests for a lifetime. Robyn applauds her students' achievements regularly through the superstar sticker program, which recognizes students for quality work and good participation and behavior. The class even gives a student a "Bravo" for a job well done. Robyn also writes positive notes to parents when students do something that is good for them or whenever they need a boost. Robyn builds children's self-esteem by congratulating them for reaching goals, taking risks, helping others and more.

Robyn has known she wanted to be a teacher ever since her seventh grade teacher assigned the class an occupations writing assignment. Her dream became a reality years later after leaving a job in corporate America to return to school. Robyn graduated with two bachelor's degrees in child psychology and elementary education from the University of Minnesota. Robyn also earned a master's degree in education from Gonzaga University. Robyn has dedicated her entire teaching career to the Auburn School District, first at Terminal Park, then Pioneer and now Lake View.

Robyn dedicates time to Lake View's Professional Learning Community (PLC) and leadership team. She also pursues new learning opportunities and will be taking a math workshop this summer. Robyn lives in Auburn with her husband and is a proud mother and grandmother.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

JULY 2009:

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 7/20/09

Auburn Riverside High School Viscom Students to Host "Wearable Arts" Booth at Local Arts Festival

On July 25, Auburn Riverside High School visual communications (Viscom) students will host a "Wearable Arts" booth at the City of Auburn's "ArtRageous" arts festival at Les Gove Park from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Kids are invited to make buttons and other jewelry items at the Auburn Riverside High School booth. Viscom students who volunteer will earn community service hours to apply toward their graduation requirements. Additionally, the students will be accepting suggested donations of 25 cents per item. All proceeds will be donated to the Auburn Food Bank.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 7/20/09

Gildo Rey Elementary School Awarded USDA Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Grant

Gildo Rey Elementary School has secured a grant from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to provide an afternoon snack of fresh fruits and vegetables to all students during the upcoming 2009-10 school year. The nutritious snack will also be available in the school office for staff, parents, siblings and visitors.

The program requires that all fruits and vegetables be purchased from Washington State farms only.

The USDA believes this program will: (1) improve the nutritional status of students by providing extra fresh fruits and vegetables daily; (2) build "healthy snack habits"; (3) compliment the nutrition education occurring in the classroom; and (4) provide more nutrition education opportunities for students and parents at the school via partnerships with nutrition education providers.

For more information contact Eric Boutin, director of Child Nutrition Services, at (253) 931-4972.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 7/20/09

Auburn School District Bus Driver Awarded 2009 Sure-Lok Above and Beyond Award

Butch Maples, a school bus driver in the Auburn School District, has been awarded the 2009 Sure-Lok Above and Beyond Award for his extraordinary dedication and devotion to transporting students with special needs.

Mr. Maples will be honored at the Washington Association for Pupil Transportation (WAPT) Annual Conference and Trade Show in Spokane, Washington, on August 2.

Mr. Maples has been transporting students in the Auburn School District for 25 years. He has transported students with special needs for the past 19 years. Mr. Maples has a great rapport with his student passengers and their parents. He values each child and instills confidence and independence in each of his student passengers.

For more information contact April Hurlbert, Auburn School District transportation supervisor/driver trainer, at 253-931-4938.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 7/20/09

Auburn Riverside High School Students Win Second Place Overall at the National Technology Student Association Conference

Phil Raschkow and Colby Vaughn, Auburn Riverside High School students, won second place overall in the Technology Dare category at the 31st Annual National Technology Student Association (TSA) Conference in Denver, Colorado, on June 28-July 2.

Phil and Colby competed against 44 other teams in the Technology Dare category. Participants designed, fabricated, and demonstrated the application and control of mechanical, fluid, and electrical power and energy principles to move balls with a pneumatic flow on a game board. The top 10 teams competed head-to-head to see which team moved the most balls across the game board into the opposing team's goal. Phil and Colby placed second overall.

The duo constructed their device in Mr. Sumner's drafting class during the school year and packed it up to travel to Denver for the competition. Phil and Colby qualified for the national tournament after placing first in the Technology Dare category at the state competition in March.

Phil and Colby also competed in Structural Engineering, Technology Problem Solving and Technical Sketching at the national competition.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

Auburn School District No. 408
915 4th Street Northeast, Auburn, WA 98002

Newsrelease: 7/20/09

Auburn School District Transportation Department Receives National Recognition for Safe Walking Programs

The Auburn School District transportation department was featured in two national education publications, *School Transportation Leader* and *Managing School Business*, for its award-winning approach to safe walking programs.

The district's partnership approach addresses two common large-scale problems: transportation inefficiency and childhood inactivity. The core of the innovation is the partnerships formed between the school district and community residents and professionals. The purpose of the partnerships is to increase the practice of walking and cycling to school by creating safer school walking/cycling routes for Auburn School District's 14,600 students.

The program now provides safe walk routes to 20 percent of the district's student body population. And because more children are walking/cycling to/from school, the transportation department is eliminating unnecessary routes within walk areas—saving the district money on personnel and fuel costs—and helping to increase childhood fitness.

Auburn School District's program was declared a Top 50 Program of the 2008 Innovations in American Government Awards competition, administered by the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation at Harvard Kennedy School. Selected from a pool of nearly 1,000 applicants, the program represents the best in government innovation.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.