



Referrals open January 8 through February 16, 2024 for Highly Capable Programs

The Auburn School District is now accepting referrals for the 2024-2025 Highly Capable Program, a program that serves exceptionally intelligent, intellectually gifted students whose needs may not be easily met in the general education setting. Once a student is identified as highly capable, he/she is entitled to Highly Capable program services from the date of eligibility through graduation; annual testing is not required. Nominations close February 16, 2024.

Screening considers nominees who are currently enrolled in grades Kindergarten through eleven. Selection for highly capable programs reflects state guidelines for identifying intellectually gifted students. If you feel your child should participate in further testing, but doesn't meet screening criteria, you may nominate your child. Nomination forms are available in school counseling offices and also online by selecting the For Families menu, Highly Capable, and then Highly Capable Forms.

Direct questions to your **child's school counselor** or to:

Adam Ladage, Director of Student Learning
aladage@auburn.wednet.edu
(253) 931-4950



DATES to note

Late Start Mondays:

School starts one hour late
EVERY Monday this year.

January

Tues/Wed Weekly thru 4/3:

Extended Day Math Program (1st & 2nd grade), 3:15-4:15pm, Rms. 203/208

12: Sports Day for \$1 for Auburn Food Bank

12: PTA Lego Night, 5:30-7:00pm, LLH Gym

1/22-1/25 & 1/29-2/1: Musical Bootcamp, 3:15-5:15pm, Gym

25: PTA General Membership Meeting, 6:00-7:00pm, LLH

25: 5th Grade Band Concert, 7:00-8:00pm, Auburn High

26: PTA Popcorn Friday

30: District Bridge Concert, 6:00-7:00pm, Auburn PAC

February

6: Green Club, 3:30-4:15pm, portable 902

9: Superhero Day for \$1

12: LLH Multi-Culture Night, 5:00-6:00pm, LLH Gym

13: Advanced Green Club, 3:30-4:15pm, portable 902

16: Last day to turn in Highly Capable nominations & permission to test forms

16: PTA Happy Hearts Dance, 5:30-7:00pm

NO SCHOOL Dates to note:

- Jan. 15: Martin Luther King Day
- Feb. 19: President's Day
- Feb. 20-23: Mid-Winter Break
- April 8-12: Spring Break
- May 27: Memorial Day
- June 19: Juneteenth

Auburn School District Replacement Levy on February 13 Ballot

The ASD has a four-year Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy on the February 13 ballot.

The proposed levy replaces the 2020 levy that expires this year and makes up 14% of the ASD budget. Funds from the levy are used for: all athletics and activities and transportation to these events; special education programs and transportation; staffing for positions underfunded by the state including nurses, safety officers, school resource officers, psychologists, librarians; and extended learning opportunities.

The levy will collect \$51.8 million in 2025, \$54.4 million in 2026, \$57.1 million in 2027 and \$60 million in 2028. The district will collect no more than \$2.50 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation in each of the levy years. The overall school tax rate will remain stable.

Detailed information about the levy is available on the ASD district website at www.auburn.wednet.edu/2024levy.

The election is all-mail and ballots must be postmarked by February 13. Please remember to vote!

Questions may be directed to Cindi Blansfield, associate superintendent of business and operations, at levy2024@auburn.wednet.edu or by calling 253-931-4930.



NEWS FROM YOUR PTA

Please join us at the PTA General Meeting this month on Thursday, January 25th from 6-7pm. We will discuss what's been happening at the school and what's coming up soon. Mrs. Barlow gives her Principal's report and a representative from each grade level discusses what's going on with student learning. The meeting is a great way to learn more, get involved and make friends! All family and caretakers are welcome, and childcare is provided in the gym. We hope to see you there!

We are looking for volunteers to organize this year's **GOLDEN ACORN** and **OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR** awards. Each year volunteers get word out to staff and families, asking people to nominate a staff member and/or school volunteer who has really made a difference in the lives of students. This is a great program and we would love to find some volunteers to help keep it going. If you're interested, please contact Emily Lowery at LAKELANDHILLSVP@GMAIL.COM.

CONGRATULATIONS! TO THIS YEAR'S PTA REFLECTIONS AWARD WINNERS



This year's winners are:

Visual Arts

Primary

1st Place- JOSHUA IM
2nd Place- NOAH IM
3rd Place- KENSINGTON DIAMOND

Intermediate

1st Place- ADELINE LOWERY
2nd Place- Lyla SASAKI
3rd Place- SOPHIE MCMANUS

Photography

Primary

1st Place- ANTONIO WYNN
Dance Choreography
1st Place- ADDISYN JONES
2nd Place- ROWAN STUECKLE
3rd Place- GABRIELLE JONES
& SARAH WILSON

Intermediate

1st Place- ISABEL WYNN
Music Composition
1st Place- ELLIE ORR
2nd Place- MALINA FITENY
3rd Place- AUDREY WENDT

JOIN US FOR

FAMILY LEGO NIGHT

SPONSORED BY YOUR LAKELAND HILLS PTA

FRIDAY,
JANUARY 12



5:30-7PM
IN THE GYM

This is a free event for all Lakeland Hills students and their families. We ask that all students are accompanied by an adult.

Join us at the
next meeting!



Our School Vision: To prepare our students for life-long success in a diverse world, Lakeland Hills Elementary provides a safe and academically rigorous learning environment so that all students achieve a year or more of growth each year.

Please join us for an Information Night regarding the upcoming Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy:

Lea Hill Elementary - Library
30908 124th Ave SE, Auburn
January 17 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Election Day is February 13. Please remember to vote!

Low-cost Internet Options

Resources for reduced and potentially free internet are available to ASD families. More information can be found [HERE](#).

Weather Impact Messages

This time of year, weather can be unpredictable and can impact school schedules, bus routes and activities. In the ASD, we communicate school schedule changes via a variety of tools:



- The School Messenger phone calling system will call all staff and families. Please update your phone number with your student's school to receive a call or text if you've opted in for texting.
- The ASD [website](#) will show changes. Limited transportation routes can be found under Quick Links.
- [FlashAlert](#). If you have signed up for FlashAlert, you will receive an email and/or push notification.
- The ASD [Facebook](#) page will be updated.
- Local radio and TV stations also will provide information regarding school schedule changes.

Please contact the [Communications Department](#) with any questions.

Hello Families of Lakeland Hills Elementary,

We are partnering with Big Smiles Mobile Dentist to provide free dental services to all students enrolled at Lakeland Hills Elementary on February 29, 2024.

Big Smiles Washington Mobile Dentist is a comprehensive dental provider. This means your student will be able to receive an exam, dental x-rays, cleaning, fluoride treatment and sealants, if needed, on site at school that day. If the dentists see a small cavity or baby tooth that is about to fall out, they can also provide the filling or remove that baby tooth on site. Dental x-rays obtained during your student's exam will be read by the dentist and they will determine if a filling is needed and provide that minimally invasive restorative care.

If there is a service that cannot be provided in the school setting, Big Smiles will send the student's parent/guardian a referral dentist to follow up with (this will be on the back of the report that goes home with every student detailing what work was completed at school).

A paper packet will be coming home with your student on Thursday, January 4, 2024, to fill out if you wish to opt-in to this free dental service that is coming to our school on February 29th during school hours.

You can also follow this link: <https://www.myschooldentist.com/34138> to register electronically for this free dental service.

Please return paper packets or submit paperwork electronically at the link above before February 8th, 2024, to opt-in to this dental service.

Thank you for your attention to this opportunity for your student.

The Lakeland Hills Health Room,

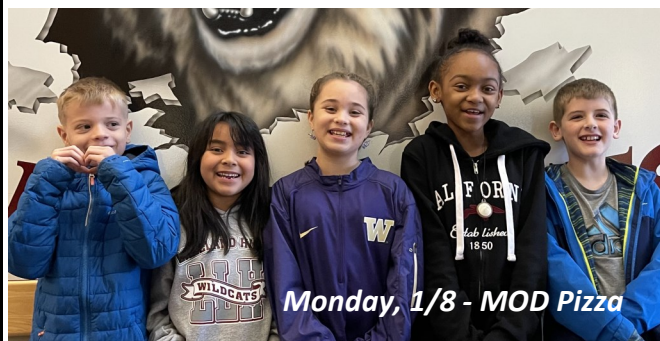
Jamie Allen, BA, MSN, RN

Darcy Suy, Health Technician



Lunch with the Principal

Throughout each school day, our teachers and staff submit students' names for demonstrating Wildcat PRIDE. On Fridays we draw one name in each grade level from all the Wildcat PRIDE tickets submitted that week. The winners get to have lunch with the principal on Monday. Pictured below are our winners for Monday, 1/8 with lunch provided by MOD Pizza. Wildcat PRIDE is demonstrated in the following ways:
Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Dedication and Engagement



Students (Left to Right): Jameson Kerr, Stella Riley, Isabel Wynn, Lilianna Smart and William Case



Attendance Matters!

The combined weeks of December 18th-20th and January 4th-5th we had a 90.20% attendance rate school-wide.

The class with the highest participation rate for December 18th-January 5th is:
Mrs. King's 2nd Grade Class!!

From the Counselor....

Good afternoon Lakeland Hills Elementary families. It is Washington State Law that we conduct Highly Capable testing each year. Testing is open to all students K-12. The window for accepting permission forms opens Monday, January 8th and will close Friday, February 16th. I have received many questions and would like to share some answers to help clarify.

- **A general information letter will go home to ALL families this week or next.**
- All students at Lakeland Hills Elementary were assessed in September on their reading and math skills through the i-Ready test.
- If students' scores were 90th percentile or higher on either of these i-Ready tests, families will be sent a different letter explaining that "based on a data review, their child performed at a level that indicates further testing is warranted."
- This "further testing" is the COGAT (Cognitive Abilities Test).

The testing window is February 26th-March 22nd, but the actual days and times of testing will not be determined until February 26th. At that time an email with the testing days and times will go out to families who have turned in their permission forms by the DEADLINE of February 16th. NO PERMISSION FORMS WILL BE TAKEN AFTER FEBRUARY 16th at 3:30 pm!!

WHAT IS THE QUALIFYING LEVEL FOR HIGHLY CAPABLE?

- It is EXTREMELY DIFFICULT to qualify for HC. Only students with a 98th percentile or higher score on the COGAT in either Verbal, Quantitative, or Nonverbal sections qualify.
- Students who are hardworking and high-achieving academic kids often will not qualify. It's a Reasoning and Problem Solving test, not just a reading or math test. This often tends to cause a great deal of anxiety in students who take the test since it is something they are not familiar with.

WHY YOU SHOULD HAVE YOUR CHILD TESTED:

- If you are interested in the STEP program at Terminal Park Elementary for 4th and 5th grade.

REASONS WHY TESTING YOUR CHILD MIGHT NOT BE THE BEST CHOICE:

- If you want to see "how they are doing" ...this is a REASONING AND PROBLEM SOLVING test and will not show "how your child is doing" in school....i-Ready and other classroom assessments already show this.
- If you want them to be in Honors in Middle School...Honors has around 75 spots for each subject and only a few are taken by Highly Capable kids; the rest of the spots are filled based on SBA and i-Ready scores, and most of our high-scoring Lakeland Hills Elementary kids will occupy these classes regardless.
- If you want your child to be "used to" testing...they already are! We test on reading and math frequently throughout the year; they don't need more practice testing.
- If they have already taken it in years past and didn't qualify...out of a large group of kids I test each year, only a few will qualify. When they don't qualify, no matter how much comfort and support we provide, kids often feel like they "failed," especially if they have taken it more than once already! It's not healthy to subject them to this burden each year.
- If you want to ensure they are "enriched" in their learning at Lakeland Hills Elementary. We provide leveled reading and math groups to students so whether or not they test as Highly Capable, if they are high-achieving students, they will be placed in the higher groups.

PLEASE CONTACT ME IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. THANK YOU.

Mrs. Roberson

Lakeland Counselor

253-876-7711

aroberson@auburn.wednet.edu