

SEPTEMBER 2007:

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

9/27/07

NEWS RELEASE

Alpac Elementary School to Host Valley Regional Fire Authority Physical Fitness Class

On October 4-5, the Valley Regional Fire Authority and City of Pacific volunteers will be promoting the benefits of physical fitness to fourth and fifth grade students from 11:10 a.m. to 12:40 p.m. at Alpac Elementary School in Pacific. The firefighters and other City of Pacific volunteers will share with students how physical fitness impacts their professional and personal lives.

During the lesson students will have the opportunity to try on bunker gear. The students will also play a game called, "FireBall," which is a game where students practice their "stop, drop and roll" skills.

Mr. Main, the physical fitness instructor at Alpac Elementary School, hopes that the students will see how important physical fitness is to other professionals—and not just the PE teacher.

For more information contact Mr. James Main, PE instructor at Alpac Elementary School, at (253) 931-4976.

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

9/27/07

NEWS RELEASE

Three Auburn Riverside High School Teachers Honored By Washington State University's Educator of Excellence Program

Three Auburn Riverside High School teachers were nominated by their former students—now at Washington State University (WSU)—for making a difference in their lives. Doug Aubert, DECA and marketing instructor, Mark Davis, chemistry and debate instructor, and Tim Wright, language arts and AP department head, were honored as outstanding educators by WSU's Educator of Excellence program.

The second annual Educator of Excellence program gives incoming WSU students the opportunity to nominate an educator that they felt made a difference in their life. WSU then honors these educators at two events. The first event was held in Seattle on September 8th and the second event was held in Pullman on September 15th. Each educator received a framed certificate that is personalized with their student's quote.

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

9/27/07

NEWS RELEASE

Terminal Park Elementary School Wins First Book Grant

Terminal Park Elementary School in Auburn was awarded a First Book grant.

The grant will supply 700 books for only 25 cents each to all students of Terminal Park. Students will be able to read and own their first new books. The program helps to encourage home reading, which will help children increase their vocabulary, improve their reading comprehension and communicate what they have read to others.

First Book is a nonprofit organization with a single mission: to give children from low-income families the opportunity to read and own their first new books. First Book provides an ongoing supply of new books to children participating in community-based mentoring, tutoring, and family literacy programs.

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

9/27/07

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn High School Paraeducator Elected as President of Auburn Morning Toastmasters Club

Laurie Kizziah, a paraeducator at Auburn High School, has been elected the 2007-08 President of the Auburn Morning Toastmasters Club. During the past year Laurie completed all 10 projects in the Communication and Leadership Program manual and has received her Competent Toastmaster Award.

Toastmasters is a learn-by-doing or hands-on workshop in which men and women improve their communication and leadership skills in a comfortable, friendly atmosphere.

The mission of every Toastmasters Club is to provide a mutually supportive and positive learning environment in which every member has the opportunity to develop communication and leadership skills. In turn everyone fosters self-confidence and personal growth.

The Toastmasters program is not a trade school, college or other formal course in public speaking. In Toastmasters, members learn by studying the manuals, practicing and helping one another. Learning takes place in the club environment. Club meetings are workshops where one studies and practices communication and leadership skills with others who are there for similar reasons.

The Auburn Morning Toastmasters Club meets every Thursday morning from 6:30-7:30 a.m. at the Rainbow Café, 112 E. Main St., Auburn.

For more information contact Mike Carroll, Auburn Morning Toastmasters Club V.P. of Membership, at (253) 288-0627.

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

9/27/07

NEWS RELEASE

Olympic Middle School Teacher Named Washington Science Teachers Association Middle Level Science Teacher of the Year

Jennifer Miller, an eighth grade science, math and reading teacher at Olympic Middle School, was named the 2007 Washington Science Teachers Association (WSTA) Middle Level Teacher of the Year. Ms. Miller will be honored at the WSTA awards banquet on Friday, October 12 in Tacoma.

Ms. Miller demonstrates leadership as a member of the Auburn School District science executive committee. She is dedicated to science education for all students and strives to improve science in the classroom. In the past four years in Auburn School District, Ms. Miller has worked on alignment of GLEs with current materials adopted for science, facilitated monthly science meetings at the building level, presented district-wide inservice opportunities, and worked collaboratively with other science teachers to investigate options to increase student involvement in science.

Additionally, Ms. Miller was a part of the team of Auburn educators who participated in the 2007 Washington State Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform (LASER) Strategic Planning Institute on June 25-30 in Bellingham, Washington. The six-day event included an assortment of interactive sessions in which leadership teams from participating districts tackled science-related issues. As a result of the weeklong professional development opportunity, the Auburn team:

1. Developed a clear mission and vision for the renewal of a K-12 science program that articulated the necessary supports for the success of the mission.
2. Built a collaborative and cohesive team that developed and refined goals and objectives to support a five-year science renewal effort.
3. Experienced intensive professional development on the elements of an inquiry-centered, research and standards-based science program.
4. Became a part of a much larger group of educators dedicated to the improvement of science education in Washington.

Ms. Miller is known for her creativity in establishing inquiry-based classrooms using the supplies and tools readily available to her. Ms. Miller is dedicated to her students and willing to spend extra hours and her own funds to deliver quality instruction to her 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

9/24/07

NEWS RELEASE

Dick Scobee Elementary School Teacher Named Washington Science Teachers Association Elementary Science Teacher of the Year

Michael Decker, a fifth grade teacher at Dick Scobee Elementary School, was named the 2007 Washington Science Teachers Association (WSTA) Elementary Science Teacher of the Year. Mr. Decker will be honored at the WSTA awards banquet on Friday, October 12 in Tacoma.

Mr. Decker demonstrates leadership as a member of the Auburn School District science executive committee and the building level leader for science at Dick Scobee.

Additionally, Mr. Decker was a part of the team of Auburn educators who participated in the 2007 Washington State Leadership and Assistance for Science Education Reform (LASER) Strategic Planning Institute on June 25-30 in Bellingham, Washington. The six-day event included an assortment of interactive sessions in which leadership teams from participating districts tackled science-related issues. As a result of the weeklong professional development opportunity, the Auburn team:

1. Developed a clear mission and vision for the renewal of a K-12 science program that articulated the necessary supports for the success of the mission.
2. Built a collaborative and cohesive team that developed and refined goals and objectives to support a five-year science renewal effort.
3. Experienced intensive professional development on the elements of an inquiry-centered, research and standards-based science program.
4. Became a part of a much larger group of educators dedicated to the improvement of science education in Washington.

Mr. Decker is known for his knowledge of the scientific process and effective delivery to his students. His goal is to ensure all students reach standard in science.

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***

9/20/07

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District's Board of Directors Honors Manamrit Rai

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

Last year as a fourth grader, Manamrit won top honors as a student of the month in the city of Algona and in Alpac's student of the month recognition program. She also captured first place in the school-wide spelling bee. Manamrit is a strong speller. According to her fifth grade teacher Mrs. Nickel, "Manamrit can spell almost anything." To prepare for the spelling bee, Manamrit read a lot—which she does on a regular basis—practiced an array of words, and memorized them. Manamrit's first language is Punjabi and English is her second language. "Spelling comes naturally to her," says Mrs. Nickel, "which is a real gift."

Manamrit is a hard-working student who maintains a high GPA. She passed all three sections of the third and fourth grade WASL. Manamrit is a strong writer and enjoys activities like writing to her pen pal on Long Island, New York. Recently Manamrit volunteered to read her letter to her pen pal in front of the entire class. "The letter was very well organized," remarks Mrs. Nickel. "She is quiet so when she raised her hand to share it was a great opportunity for the class to hear her terrific work. When given the opportunity to share, Manamrit shines."

Manamrit is on Alpac's crossing guard patrol. She is a morning crossing guard once a week. Students who are interested in participating in the crossing guard patrol are selected by their teachers based on their responsibility, promptness, reliability, assertiveness and confidence—all traits Manamrit exudes in daily life.

In Manamrit's free time she enjoys reading. Her favorite book series is the Magic Tree House chapter book series. She also attends Khalsa Gurmat School on Sundays. Manamrit is known to have a teddy bear or two: "I really like teddy bears!" exclaims Manamrit.

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***

9/20/07

NEWS RELEASE

Ninth Annual Reaching Out Fair Scheduled for Thursday, October 11, 2007

On Thursday, October 11, the public is invited to attend the ninth 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.

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

Auburn School District No. 408
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9/20/07

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Mountainview High School Awarded OSPI Navigation 101 Grant

For the second year in a row, Auburn Mountainview High School has been awarded an Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) Navigation 101 Grant to implement during the 2007-08 school year.

Navigation 101 is a comprehensive guidance and planning program that has helped many students around the state make clear and careful plans for life after high school, which is the culminating portfolio and presentation graduation requirement beginning with the graduating class of 2008.

Students in Auburn School District are preparing for their futures earlier than ever before. The culminating portfolio and presentation graduation requirement is unique because each school determines the guidelines of this requirement based on three statewide goals:

- Encourage students to think analytically, logically and creatively, and to integrate experience and knowledge to solve problems
- Give students a chance to explore a topic in which they have a great interest
- Offer students an opportunity to apply their learning in a “real world” way

This requirement may look different at each high school, yet all students will demonstrate essential skills through reading, writing, speaking, production and/or performance. The Navigation 101 Grant will allow Auburn Mountainview High School to continue its “ROAR” (Requirements of Academic Readiness) small group advisories. Students meet with the same advisor throughout their high school career. The advisory meets one to two times per month and provides students a forum to review their career pathways, ask questions and update their portfolio contents. Additionally, students are responsible for organizing yearly conferences with their parents and advisor. “Student-led conferences open up lines of communication between students and parents,” according to ROAR advisor and German teacher DeAnna Kilga. “I’ve had parents tell me that they didn’t know their child was interested in a particular line of work until the student-led conferences.”

Students’ portfolios are a collection of artifacts that define their interests, personality, community involvement and post-graduation plans. The student-designed portfolio launches learners in an organized, targeted way toward their futures. According to assistant principal Terri Herren, “Portfolios are four-year projects students begin in the ninth grade to help them stay on track with their selected career pathway and their current and future goals.”

Beginning with the class of 2008, Auburn Mountainview seniors will have the opportunity to present their portfolios to a panel of educators and community members. The final presentation will last between 10-15 minutes and highlight the students’ best works, how that work supports their career pathway, and how they plan to achieve their future goals. Currently West Auburn High School satisfies this graduation requirement in a similar fashion. Students create PowerPoint presentations highlighting their career and academic goals beyond high school and present to a panel of educators, community members and parents.

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

9/13/07

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District's Board of Directors to Honor Staff Member Kenlynn Amburgey

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Kenlynn Amburgey, kitchen manager at Auburn Mountainview High School, for her outstanding service on Monday, September 24, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Kenlynn Amburgey, kitchen manager at Auburn Mountainview High School, initially selected her kitchen job because it was a "mom job," she remarks. "It helped me fulfill my dreams of working and being a dedicated stay-at-home mom. As my kids got older I was able to increase my hours."

Now Kenlynn's "mom job" has turned into a full-time career. In 2005 Kenlynn left the Washington Elementary kitchen for the culinary arts program at Auburn Mountainview High School. On any given day Kenlynn is responsible for the kitchen flow for one breakfast and two lunches, which feed over 1,000 students per day. The unique aspect of the district's high school kitchens is that the students are preparing and dishing up the food. "You really get to know the kids working in the kitchen, because they're flowing in and out every day," says Kenlynn, "which is what I like most about my job."

Kenlynn has learned to think on her feet as she supervises the 24-30 students who man the various stations including cold prep, frying and stocking, ovens, baking and so on. "My kids are the manpower so it takes constant adjustment to keep up with the ebb and flow of the kitchen," says Kenlynn. "I call myself the 'traffic master.'" From food quality to correct temperature settings to safety to food presentation, Kenlynn is monitoring it all.

Despite the bustle, Kenlynn enjoys the slower times when she has the opportunity to better relate to the students. "My best quality is my personality," says Kenlynn. "I'm a people person and the kids know they can come and talk to me. I can be a mentor and listen to what's going on in their world."

Kenlynn has learned the most about the food service industry when she's jumped into the mix rather than sat in a daylong conference. Chef, otherwise known as Tony Cunio, Auburn Mountainview's culinary arts instructor, provides Kenlynn hands-on opportunities to learn new cooking techniques and management styles. Because the Auburn Mountainview program will be adding a sit-down restaurant piece to the program, Kenlynn is acquiring a lot of new information. "Chef is showing me the restaurant side of the industry, which is different than my other kitchen experience, but I am really eager to learn more," remarks Kenlynn.

For instance Kenlynn has adopted Chef's bulleted checklist method, which makes the kitchen run more efficiently. Now that Kenlynn has seen its value she is modeling it to the culinary arts students to use in the kitchen. "The communication and respect I get from the kids when they embrace new concepts like the checklist is what keeps me going and what keeps me here. It's the interaction with the kids I enjoy the most," smiles Kenlynn.

Probably Kenlynn's favorite time of the day is when she's working the till during the lunch rush and gets to have brief moments with the students who are getting their lunches. "I like telling students 'have a good day' or 'thank you' and then seeing how that positive interaction may lift their spirits or put a smile on their face," says Kenlynn.

Over the summer Kenlynn had the chance to spend quality time with some of her favorite people: her grandson, Ethan, her three children, and her high school sweetheart, who also happens to be her husband of 25 years.

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

9/13/07

NEWS RELEASE

Dr. James B. Smith to Receive Auburn School Board of Directors' Gold Star Volunteer Award

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will present the Gold Star Volunteer Award to Dr. James B. Smith, in recognition of his volunteer support to Auburn School District, on Monday, September 24, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Dr. Smith brings expertise on multicultural education to Auburn School District. Dr. Smith passionately volunteers on various committee and initiatives to improve the education of all students. "I know how to teach diverse students, and I enjoy bringing that knowledge to the district," says Dr. Smith, who serves on the district's diversity committee. "I feel like Auburn needs the help. There are very few teachers who are male and African American, so Auburn is a place where I can be visible in the classroom with students and help to educate diverse students," remarks Dr. Smith.

Dr. Smith also helps lead a multicultural workshop at the annual teacher orientation and throughout the year during professional development in-service workshops. At the teacher orientation, Dr. Smith works alongside John Sanders and Tim Carstens to assist new teachers in how to teach all children, no matter their socioeconomic status, at-risk status or cultural heritage. "We mostly deal with children at-risk and diversity in general, recognizing that students from diverse cultures have different learning styles and customs, family values, and beliefs. We help the teachers to understand that they have a culture of their own they need to understand before they interact with other cultures," says Dr. Smith.

Dr. Smith's value to Auburn School District is reflected in the positive evaluations and feedback he receives from his various professional development opportunities. He also substitutes in the district on occasion, and during his first two years of substituting, Dr. Smith was recognized as one of the premier guest teachers by the principals and teachers of the school district. "Auburn is such a growing and diverse population. I believe in lending my services to help create a positive learning environment for all students," says Dr. Smith.

After 35 years of serving as a corporate executive for a Fortune 500 company, Dr. Smith felt impelled to give more back to his community. He enrolled in Antioch University, where he earned his teaching credentials and began student teaching at Chinook Elementary School in 2003.

Following the student teaching, Dr. Smith taught in a Native American after-school education program at Chinook Elementary School for three years. "The program targeted Native American students struggling in reading, math and spelling. It was a great opportunity to help students who might not receive help at home," says Dr. Smith. Soon thereafter Dr. Smith accepted a full-time teaching position at City University.

Currently Dr. Smith teaches six core courses for a masters teaching program at City University, as well as graduate level courses for school counselors. He participates on the diversity committee for City University's School of Education. He also serves on the equity committee for the State Board of Education and the bias and fair review team for OSPI.

Dr. Smith is active in his community as a co-chair of the education committee for the Seattle Breakfast Group; on the steering committee for the Coalition for Equal Education Rights; on the Heritage Speakers Bureau for Federal Way School District; on the black strategic roundtable for the Commission on African-American Affairs in Olympia; a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity scholarship foundation board; and a participant in a multiethnic think tank based out of Olympia.

Dr. Smith enjoys his time volunteering with Auburn School District, particularly because it keeps him connected to what to share and discuss with teachers working on their masters degrees and professional certification. "I enjoy using my skills and knowledge as an educator and as a corporate leader in the private sector to help insure all kids are given an equal opportunity for academic success. I am committed to continuing my efforts to try and make a positive impact on the educational landscape in the state of Washington," says Dr. Smith.

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

9/13/07

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District to Partner in City of Auburn's Disaster Fair

Auburn School District will be presenting its emergency preparedness plan at the City of Auburn Emergency Management Office's inaugural Disaster Fair on September 22 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Les Gove Community Campus. September is National Disaster Preparedness month.

Sponsored by the City of Auburn, Auburn School District, Valley Regional Fire Authority and White River Valley Citizen Corps Council, the event is a fun-filled afternoon of adventure for the whole family featuring information, ideas, and supplies as well as vendor booths, disaster demonstrations, hands-on activities for kids and adults, preparedness information, and safety mascots Rex, the national preparedness mascot for kids, Sparky the Fire Dog, and McGruff the Crime Dog.

Vendors will be offering special pricing on disaster supplies for fair attendees and the White River Valley Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) will be demonstrating basic disaster response skills. This is also the first in a series of events for the regional "Earthquake Safe Home" project sponsored by State Farm Insurance.

In conjunction with the fair, a disaster preparedness poster contest is being held for youth. All local youth, from elementary through high school, are eligible to participate. Contest entries will be displayed in the multipurpose building at Les Gove Park during the fair. The winners in each grade level category will have their art featured in upcoming disaster preparedness campaigns for the City of Auburn and Auburn School District. Complete information on the poster contest is available in all local school offices or by calling the Emergency Management Office at 253-876-1925.

For more information or to obtain a vendor application, contact City of Auburn Emergency Management at 253-876-1925 or visit www.auburnwa.gov/emergency_prep.

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

9/13/07

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Riverside High School Marching Band to Play at Groundbreaking Ceremony of Renton Valley Medical Center's New Emergency Services Tower

The Auburn Riverside High School marching band has been invited to play at the groundbreaking ceremony of Valley Medical Center's new emergency services tower in Renton on Tuesday, September 18, from 8:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. Ron Sims and Pete von Reichbauer will be attending.

Valley Medical Center is providing a charter bus for the marching band to travel to and from Renton and is donating \$1,000.00 to the Auburn Riverside High School band program.

For more information contact Meghan Wagner, Auburn Riverside High School band director, at 253-804-5154.

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

9/12/07

NEWS RELEASE

Terminal Park Elementary School to Host Family Fun Run

The Getting School Ready Team of Terminal Park Elementary School in Auburn invites children and families to participate in a free Family Fun Run on Saturday, September 29, 2007, at Auburn's Les Gove Park at 9 a.m. Superintendent Linda Cowan will be the special guest starter.

The Getting School Ready Team of Terminal Park, in conjunction with the Washington Alliance for Better Schools, is hosting the Family Fun Run to raise awareness of the skills children ages 3-5, who have not yet entered school, need to acquire in order to be successful in school.

All parents and child care providers who serve 3-to-5-year-old children are encouraged to attend to learn more about early childhood education opportunities.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. in the multipurpose building at Terminal Park Elementary School, located at 1101 D Street Southeast, Auburn, WA 98002. Activities and snacks will be provided.

For more information contact Tim Carstens, principal at Terminal Park Elementary School, at (253) 931-4978.

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

9/12/07

NEWS RELEASE

Pioneer Elementary School Awarded Washington Health Foundation Grant

Pioneer Elementary School in Auburn was recently awarded a \$5,000 Washington Health Foundation mini-grant to help build walking trails on the campus.

The walking trails project will serve the entire student body population of 445 students and all 50 staff members. The walking trails will also bridge the gap between school and community, providing a safe, alternative place to walk/run for community members during non-school hours.

The walking trails will encourage physical fitness and communicate the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

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***

9/12/07

NEWS RELEASE

Gildo Rey Elementary School Awarded Page Ahead Grant

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

The grant will provide over 4,250 books 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***

9/12/07

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District Students to Sport Stack at Annual Washington State School Directors' Association Conference

Students from Auburn, Renton and Stanwood Schools Districts that comprise the Northwest Demonstration Team of the World Sport Stacking Association will perform at the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) annual conference on Friday, November 16, from 8:00-8:30 a.m.

The students' sport stacking prowess will be showcased on the main stage. John Ansotigue, the PE instructor and music teacher at Evergreen Heights Elementary School in Auburn, will be directing the exhibition.

The WSSDA annual conference will be at the Westin Hotel in downtown Seattle from November 14-17, 2007.

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

OCTOBER 2007:

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

10/29/07

NEWS RELEASE

Lea Hill Elementary School Kicks Off Bully Prevention Program with Poster Contest

Lea Hill Elementary School kicked off its Olweus Bullying Prevention Program with a school-wide assembly and poster contest on October 3.

All students were invited to create a poster about how Lea Hill is a bully-free zone. The five poster contest winners are:

- Brittany Barrett, fourth grade
- Victoria Bolshakova, fourth grade
- Cassandra Chapman, fourth grade
- Ryan Cox, third grade
- Brahm Trujillo, third grade

Area businesses on Lea Hill are showcasing the winning posters. All of the participating students' posters will be showcased on the walls of Lea Hill in order to communicate the no-tolerance bullying policy to Lea Hill students.

Hand-in-hand with the poster contest, students learned a courage pledge and signed the pledge that stated they would band against bullying.

Each week all classroom teachers will lead their students in a classroom meeting meant to teach skills and messages against bullying, and to create a safe community where students can dialogue about their challenges and find solutions.

The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program is a research-based program that reduces current bullying problems and prevents the development of future bullying problems. It also improves the school climate and peer relations. Through school-wide, classroom, individual and community interventions, the program aims to create a warm school environment where adults are interested and involved with the students. The adults consistently use non-hostile and non-physical consequences for unacceptable behaviors.

Research shows that approximately six percent of students bully and nine percent of students are targets of bullying. The remaining 85 percent of students are bystanders. The goal of the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program at Lea Hill Elementary is to shift the power from the small percent of students who are bullying to the majority of children who are not. Bystanders are taught what to do when they see bullying happen and how to create a climate at school that does not tolerate bullying and encourages inclusion.

For more information contact Shari Dixon, Lea Hill school counselor, at 253-931-4982.

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

10/29/07

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Mountainview High School Marching Band Competes in Puget Sound Festival of Bands

On Saturday, October 27, the Auburn Mountainview High School (AMHS) Marching Band competed at the Puget Sound Festival of Bands in Everett, Washington. Performing with 27 other marching bands from around the Northwest, the Roar of the Lions Marching Band received third place (in AA Division with five bands).

Drum majors Michelle Happenny and Jon Urmenita, and color guard captain Mishala Chalmers led the Lions through a fine performance of the field show, "Virtruvian Man."

The AMHS Marching Band has one more competition on its schedule, the Auburn Veterans Day Parade Field Show Competition at Auburn Memorial Field on November 10.

For more information contact Derek Pyle, Auburn Mountainview High School Director of Bands, at 253-804-4539.

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

10/23/07

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn High School Band Brings Home Blue Ribbon

On Saturday, October 20, the Auburn High School (AHS) Marching Band competed in the Columbia Basin Marching Band Competition for Small Bands in Royal, Washington.

The AHS Marching Band captured first place in the AAA division.

For more information contact Scott Fry, Auburn High School band director, at 253-931-4719.

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

10/23/07

NEWS RELEASE

Washington Elementary School to Participate in International Walk to School Day

On Thursday, October 25, Washington Elementary School is participating in the International Walk to School Day event. Adults and children will walk to school together on the morning of October 25 to teach children the importance of safe walking.

An organized walking group will meet at 7:45 a.m. at the Main Street Market parking lot (corner of Main and M Street). The walk to Washington Elementary will start at 7:50 a.m.

The walking group will be escorted by Auburn Police and Principal Pauline Thomas.

The International Walk to School Day event benefits children and the community because:

1. Walking to school encourages regular physical activity, which curbs increasing rates in children's obesity;
2. Reducing traffic around schools is important to children's safety (20-25 percent of rush hour traffic on local streets and roads is now attributable to the school commute);
3. Increasing walking decreases commuting, thus increasing clean air;
4. Looking for safety hazards in school zones and along the walking routes children take to school is a proactive approach to children's safety.

For more information contact Washington Elementary School Principal Pauline Thomas at 253-931-4988.

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

10/18/07

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Mountainview High School Washington Aerospace Scholar to Speak to Junior Class About the Scholarship Program

On Tuesday, October 23, Kayla Fix, one of four Washington Aerospace Scholars from Auburn School District, will be speaking to the Auburn Mountainview High School junior class about her experience with the Washington Aerospace Scholars program that she participated in over the summer. Kayla will speak during third period in the Auburn Mountainview High School career center.

Kayla's formal presentation of the program and Q & A session will help to motivate other students who may be interested in pursuing the opportunity.

The Washington Aerospace Scholars Summer Residency program provides opportunities for Washington State high school students interested in science, technology, engineering and math to explore the subjects through hands-on challenges such as designing a human mission to Mars and a model rocket design, construction and launch.

Applications for the 2008 summer residency program will be accepted through November 7, 2007.

For more information contact Carollynn Hanson, Auburn Mountainview High School counselor, at 253-804-5195.

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

10/18/07

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Mountainview High School Marching Band and Color Guard Earn Top Honors at Tumwater March Band Festival

On Saturday, October 13, the Auburn Mountainview High School (AMHS) marching band and color guard captured top honors at the Tumwater Marching Band Festival.

Drum Majors Michelle Happenny and Jon Urmenita accepted the award for Best Percussion. The Drumline and Pit Percussion led by Jericho Urmenita and Rachel Adams also earned top recognition for the second year in a row.

The AMHS color guard (led by captain Mishala Chalmers) garnered their highest score yet in competition, which shows that their growth and tenacity is paying off.

The Lions Marching Band will compete at the upcoming Puget Sound Festival of Bands in Everett on October 27.

For more information contact Derek Pyle, Director of Bands at Auburn Mountainview High School, at 253-804-4539.

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

10/18/07

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Mountainview High School Flutist Selected to Perform in Honor Band

Erin Happenny, a junior at Auburn Mountainview High School (AMHS), was selected to perform in the Western International Band Clinic Honor Bands, November 16-19, in Seattle.

Several hundred students throughout the State of Washington and Oregon auditioned for this select group of performers, with only a handful making the final cut. The November performances are mastered by world renowned wind symphony conductors. The students also work with master clinicians and guest artists.

Erin is an outstanding flutist in the AMHS Wind Ensemble. She also plays the trombone in the AMHS Jazz Ensemble and Marching Band.

For more information contact Derek Pyle, Director of Bands at Auburn Mountainview High School, at 253-804-4539.

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

10/2/07

NEWS RELEASE

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

Five students from the class of 2008 at Auburn Mountainview High School—Jarrod Call, Kathleen Farrell, Kayla Fix, Michelle Happenny and Ryan Scott—and two students from Auburn Riverside High School—Kyle Franz and Jeremy Thomas—have been recognized as Commended Students in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship Program. All seven students placed among the top 5 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.

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.

More than two-thirds or about 34,000 of the approximately 50,000 high scorers on the PSAT/NMSQT receive Letters of Commendation in recognition of their outstanding academic promise. Commended Students are named on the basis of a nationally applied Selection Index score that is below the level required for participants to be named Semifinalists in their respective states. 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.

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

NOVEMBER 2007:

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

11/29/07

NEWS RELEASE

Barbara McDonald Memorial Fund to Benefit Gildo Rey Elementary Students

Barbara Ann McDonald was born in Seattle on March 31, 1941. She was raised by William and Cleo Alcorn in Enumclaw. She married Michael McDonald of Seattle on August 14, 1965. After living in Virginia and Connecticut, they returned to the Seattle area. Barbara was widowed in 1997 after 31 years of marriage. Barbara passed away on November 24, 2007.

Barbara spent many days at Gildo Rey Elementary School where she was the school office manager. After nearly 25 years of dedicated service to the Auburn School District, Barbara retired in June 2006. Her retirement party was quite a surprise as her friends and co-workers treated her to a surprise trip to Las Vegas.

Barbara is survived by her son Kelly McDonald of Phoenix, her brother Richard Alcorn of Kent, sister-in-law Alice Alcorn and nieces Laurie and Carolyn Alcorn.

A Memorial Service will be held at United Methodist Church in Auburn on December 6, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.

Remembrances will be accepted for the Barbara McDonald Memorial Fund, which will benefit Gildo Rey Elementary students who need assistance with Camp Auburn tuition. Checks may be made to the Auburn School District, referencing the Barbara McDonald Memorial Fund. Please send remembrances to: Auburn School District, c/o Toni Lally, 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***

11/28/07

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Mountainview High School Japanese Teacher Awarded Two Grants

Auburn Mountainview High School Japanese teacher Jessica Morton was awarded two Kids In Need Foundation Teacher Grants to implement a Japanese cuisine unit and a Japanese calligraphy unit in her classes.

Kids In Need Teacher Grants provide K-12 educators with funding to provide innovative learning opportunities for their students. The Kids In Need Foundation helps to engage students in the learning process by supporting the most creative and important educational resource—the nation's teachers.

For more information contact Jessica Morton, Auburn Mountainview High School Japanese teacher, at 253-804-4539.

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

11/28/07

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn High School Band Members Selected to All-State Band

Congratulations to Auburn High School orchestra members Emily Golan and Julie Chang, and band members Saeward Schillaci and Jordan Dusek for being selected through auditions to represent Auburn High School at the Washington State Music Educator's (WMEA) All-State Conference on February 13-18, 2008 in Yakima.

Outstanding music students from across Washington have received top honors by being selected to participate in the 54th annual WMEA All-State Band, Orchestra, Choir, Jazz Band and/or Jazz Choir. Emily, Julie, Saeward and Jordan will join 950 other outstanding high school student musicians in this gala event.

The finest high school musicians in each of these musical genres will rehearse together under the direction of world-renowned conductors and present their final concert in Yakima's historic Capitol Theatre and grand Sun Dome.

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 Dave Horsey, 2008 National Teacher of the Year Andrea Peterson, former Spokane County Sheriff Mark Sterk and jazz saxophonist Kenny G.

For more information contact Scott Fry, Auburn High School band director, at 253-931-4719.

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

11/28/07

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn High School Band Members Selected to Pacific Lutheran University Honor Band

Five Auburn High School band students have been selected to participate in the

Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) Honor Band on January 11-12, 2008, in PLU's Lagerquist Concert Hall in the Mary Baker Russell Music Center at 5 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Admission is free.

The selected students include:

- Saeward Schillaci, French Horn
- Andrew Patton, percussion (AHS Band President and Drum Line Captain)
- Aaron Fulwilder, saxophone
- Derek Schillaci, trumpet
- Jesse Butterfield, trumpet

The Honor Bands will feature music performed by approximately 200 of the finest high school musicians from Idaho, Oregon and Washington. These outstanding students are recommended by their band directors and the concert is a culmination of two days of intense rehearsals with guest clinicians Dr. John Lynch, University of Georgia, and Dr. Thomas Stone, Centenary University.

For more information contact Scott Fry, Auburn High School band director, at 253-931-4719.

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

11/26/07

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District's Board of Directors Honors Matt Sencenbaugh

The Auburn School District Board of Directors recognized Matt Sencenbaugh, a senior at Auburn High School, for being an outstanding student on Monday, November 26, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Matt is an exceptional student at Auburn High. He has a 4.0 cumulative grade point average and ranks 1 in a class of 425 graduating seniors. Matt challenges himself with honors and AP classes and holds himself to high standards.

Matt's quiet yet competitive spirit serves as a model to his fellow classmates. One day this year in advanced chemistry, Ms. Billings—Matt's chemistry teacher—reminded the students about an upcoming deadline for a particular assignment. Out loud Matt said, "Oh, I forgot about that." Without hesitation his classmates playfully replied, "Matt, you forgot?" quite surprised at Matt's atypical response.

According to Ms. Billings, “Matt understands time management...if it is assigned, it gets done. If he doesn’t understand, he asks questions.”

Matt is also a caring classmate who takes time to help other students grasp concepts in the classroom. Without a doubt, Matt is an exemplary citizen. He was chosen from his class to be the Boys’ State Delegate, which is a Washington State leadership development program. Currently he is serving as a class senator. Outside of school he is involved with his church youth group and volunteers his time with Reality Sports.

Sports are also essential in Matt’s life. Matt excels in soccer and wrestling, collecting numerous awards and honors along the way. In wrestling, Matt was 2nd in state as a freshman, 4th in state as a sophomore, and last year he won the State wrestling championship. Last year he also won the State power lifting championship. Matt is a tenacious and competitive athlete and holds the bar high in his sporting endeavors. He has also served as captain in both soccer and wrestling.

John Aiken, Matt’s wrestling coach, applauds Matt’s character. “His character and polite demeanor are the first things you notice about him—his parents did a good job of raising him,” says Mr. Aiken.

Recently Matt signed his letter of intent to attend Stanford University in the fall and wrestle for the Cardinal. “Matt is a great leader and will continue to lead by example,” remarks Mr. Aiken.

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

11/26/07

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District's Board of Directors Honors Staff Member Art Spencer

It may not surprise you that Art Spencer, a teacher librarian at Arthur Jacobsen (AJ) Elementary School, loves a good novel, but did you know he also delights in children’s picture books? In fact, Art annually supports the Washington Children’s Choice Picture Book Award program by reading all of the selected picture books to the students and then letting the students choose their favorite. “The author with the most student votes wins,” remarks Art. Art reads what the students read. “There is something neat when a kid says to me, ‘I really like this book,’ and I can respond with, ‘Yeah, I did, too, didn’t you like the part when...’”

Art also engages his students—who happen to be all of the students at AJ—by creating a team for the annual Global Reading Challenge. Art took one group during his time at Chinook to the regional competition and looks forward to taking another group from AJ in the near future.

Day-to-day, Art is responsible for a plethora of activities in the school library including: circulating books; teaching students reference and research skills; promoting books; tracking equipment; administering MAPS testing; ensuring all software and hardware are running smoothly; and providing resources to teachers such as books, websites and A/V equipment.

Art is otherwise known as the go-to man for all technology-related issues in the building. He is the building’s technology coordinator. According to Neil Vien, executive director information technology for Auburn School District, “Art’s low-key style and great organization skills lent themselves to the smooth start-up of AJ.” Art worked behind-the-scenes to ensure that on the first day of school the technology was up and running, which included coordinating vendors, purchasing equipment, training teachers and so on. Art also provided school classrooms with video montages—a tool used in classrooms that visually reveals to children the subjects they are studying. Art celebrated his hard work the day he finished shelving all of the new books: “I stacked the empty boxes and laid on top of them all; it was a proud moment.”

Art enjoys working with all students in the building. Each classroom visits the library once a week to check out books and learn valuable reference and research skills. Art is known for his visually-pleasing teaching style. Frequently he uses downloaded videos from the Web to introduce a new story to the students. “It provides great background knowledge to the students,” says Art, “and it gives them a visual to help them understand the story.”

Art’s love of reading is contagious. “I hope it rubs off on the students,” says Art. Art also enjoys a pun; in fact, according to Art, there is no such thing as a bad pun. “I remember one student raising his hand when I was passing something out and he said, ‘Now can we call you Mr. Dispencer?’”

Art started his teaching career 18 years ago as a third grade teacher. Originally he planned to pursue marine biology and volunteered his time at the Seattle Aquarium. He also sorted biological samples for the EPA Commencement Bay Clean-Up Project. In college, Art enrolled in psychology classes and discovered their appeal but wondered if he would make a significant impact in the world as a psych major. He began reflecting on his former experiences and realized it was the guided tours and teaching he had enjoyed the most during his time at the Seattle Aquarium. Soon thereafter Art earned his bachelor's degree in psychology and a teaching certificate from the University of Washington. He then transitioned into teaching and found it be a wonderful fit. Art also holds a master's degree in educational technology from Lesley University.

Art participates in local educational conferences including the Washington Library Media Association conference and the Northwest Council for Computers in Education conference. He has presented at both conferences. Art's latest and greatest in-service offering is a one-day workshop on pod casting in January at the Educational Service District. He has also taught in-services on storytelling, clicker software and Microsoft Office 2007.

"My goal this year is to connect with and impact all of the kids at AJ. I am just starting to get all the names memorized," smiles Art.

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***

11/26/07

NEWS RELEASE

Pioneer Elementary's Debra Gary Wins Washington Health Foundation Award

On November, 17, Debra Gary, principal of Pioneer Elementary School, was awarded the Washington Health Foundation's (WHF) 2007 Hero of Health for Healthy Systems at WHF's Heroes of Health Crystal Gala.

Debra Gary's design and implementation of a Coordinated School Health Program at Pioneer Elementary School has helped children better engage in healthy habits including nutrition and exercise. The program's ultimate goal is to continue to close the achievement gap.

Two other awards were presented at the gala including Governor Christine Gregoire's Lifetime Achievement Award and the City of Dayton's Healthy Living Award.

The WHF Healthiest State in the Nation campaign is dedicated to making Washington the healthiest state in the nation.

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

11/26/07

NEWS RELEASE

Terminal Park Elementary School Awarded First Book Grant

Terminal Park Elementary School was awarded a First Book grant, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Education.

Approximately 416 books from the "Back to School 2007" National Book Bank will be delivered to Terminal Park for use in Terminal Park's Family Reading Program.

This program will provide free books to Terminal Park's free or reduced lunch students and students who are reading at least one grade level below their own grade level. The parents and the student will sign a contract stating that in return for a free children's book each month, they will agree to read the book as a family and create a "retelling" poster to be displayed in the school library. At the end of the school year, all participating families will be invited to attend a "Family Reading Night" program to celebrate reading as a family.

First Book is a national nonprofit organization with a single mission: to give children from low-income families the opportunity to read and own their first new books.

For more information contact Bev Baker, teacher-librarian at Terminal Park Elementary, at (253) 931-4978.

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

11/16/07

NEWS RELEASE

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

The Auburn Mountainview High School (AMHS) girls' varsity soccer team has captured the 2007 Class 3A academic title for girls' soccer with a team GPA of 3.806. The title was based on the combined grade-point averages of the 17 varsity soccer players.

Coach Davidson and the AMHS girls' soccer team will receive the award at halftime of the 3A finals on November 17 at 6 p.m. at Harry Lang Stadium in Lakewood.

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

11/15/07

NEWS RELEASE

Terminal Park Elementary Students Going Green

Reuse. Reduce. Recycle. Rethink. These four words are transforming the way Terminal Park Elementary School students think about waste. After a recent King County Solid Waste Division school-wide assembly, Mike Martin's fourth grade students formed the "Green Team" in response to their desire to cut down on waste.

Kara Swinney, one of the fourth grade Green Team members, understands that waste is harmful to the environment: "We only should take what we can eat at lunch so we're not wasting, but we first have to recognize how much we're wasting—it's not good. Everything doesn't go in the garbage."

The Green Team is kicking off its "Earth Idol" contest by focusing on reuse first. Each month classes will be competing for the Earth Idol title—a title awarded to the class who reuses the most scrap and printer paper. The Green Team has introduced the concept to all students through individual classroom presentations, which educate students about how to reuse both scrap paper and printer paper. "We need to reuse paper more so trees don't get cut down," remarks Kevin Mach, a member of the Green Team. In the presentation, members of the Green Team discuss the detrimental effects of waste and then request every student to commit to reusing scrap and printer paper. "We give each class one box for reusing scrap paper and another for reusing paper that is printed on only one side," says Kara. The printed paper box even instructs students to lay their paper printed side up so it can be easily reinserted into a printer for reuse.

The Green Team's next step is to check in on all the classrooms to ensure students are using the paper reuse bins correctly and frequently. The Green Team members like to call these visits "surprise inspections."

According to Joseph Johnson, another member of the Green Team, "we also recycle plastic and plastic bags, like our breakfast bags and grocery bags from home." Additionally, the Green Team is responsible for the vermicomposting box that sits outside their classroom. "It [vermicomposting] is for when we waste our food; we can feed it to the worms to make good soil," says Kevin. Essentially vermicomposting is the decomposing of organic materials—specifically food waste—by worms to produce a mixture used for fertilizing and conditioning land. "We put wet leaves and torn-up newspaper in eight sections of a bin, then we fill up one section a week for eight weeks with a handful of leftover food from lunch," says Joseph. What happens next is the worms help to decompose the food scraps into organic material that can be used for the fertilization of the school grounds.

"Recycling makes more fresh air for the trees so we don't run out of oxygen," says Kevin. Spencer Steinle, also a Green Team member, knows that "what goes in the garbage like food scraps need to go in the yard waste or composting box." Ultimately, the Green Team wants every student to know and understand these concepts, helping to reshape the way students think about waste and the effects it has on the Earth.

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

11/15/07

NEWS RELEASE

Former Auburn High School Quarterback Honored as National Football Hall of Fame High School Scholar-Athlete of the Year

Kellen Kiilsgaard, former Auburn High School student and standout quarterback, was named as one of five exceptional scholar-athletes of the year by the National Football Foundation & College Hall of Fame (NFF).

Kellen will be honored during the NFF's Annual Awards Luncheon, presented by Sprinturf, on Tuesday, December 4, 2007, at the Waldorf=Astoria in New York City. First bestowed in 1991, the NFF National High School Scholar-Athlete Award has become one of the most competitive and sought after high school honors in the country. Criteria for the award include but are not limited to academic achievement, athletic accolades and community involvement.

Rated by many experts as one of the top quarterback prospects in the nation during his career at Auburn High School, Kellen Kiilsgaard's success extends far beyond the football field.

During his high school graduation commencement, Kellen claimed the Auburn Elite Faculty Achievement Award. This prestigious award requires two-thirds vote of the staff and is only given to a graduating senior who has brought honor to self and school, reaching beyond the bounds of community and the state. He ranked tenth in a class of 354 while compiling a 3.95 grade point average on a 4.0 scale. Kellen also received the Washington State University Regents Scholar Award.

As a two-way star for the Auburn High School football squad, Kiilsgaard was chosen to Prepstar's All-American Team. During his senior campaign, the QB threw for 1,020 yards and 13 touchdowns and rushed 973 yards and another 23 touchdowns, leading his team to the state semifinals and a 12-1 record. At free safety, he notched 57 tackles and four interceptions. He also kicked 56 of 59 extra points while maintaining a 39.7 punt average.

The Associated Press named him All-State First-Team quarterback and All-State First-Team defensive back. The 6-foot-3 and 220 pound Kiilsgaard earned Player of the Year honors from The Seattle Post-Intelligencer and The Tacoma News Tribune. The News Tribune and the Auburn Reporter also choose him as the Male Athlete of the Year. He finished his remarkable career as his school's all-time leader in almost every offensive category.

Kiilsgaard also excelled in baseball, earning All-State First-Team honors and spots on The Seattle Times and The Tacoma News Tribune All-Area baseball squads. Kellen became the first high school athlete to hit a homerun at Mariners Safeco Stadium and was also selected to throw out the Ceremonial First Pitch at a Mariners game.

Excellence in the classroom and in athletics only tells part of Kiilsgaard's story. Recently, he stepped into the realm of hero, swimming to rescue a 250-pound man and his 7 year-old daughter from choppy seas while vacationing in Maui, Hawaii. He received the Hometown Hero Award from the City of Auburn; was recognized by the Red Cross; and has been nominated for a Carnegie Medal for his gallant actions. He also mentors a "Little Brother" as part of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of America.

"The greatest Student-Athlete is the one that can excel in the classroom and set an example of behavior and citizenship for all students to follow," says Auburn High School Principal Paul Harvey. "Kellen is that kind of student and he has not forgotten his responsibilities as a student and that he is part of a community that is much larger than he is, and he has handled all of it with poise and humility."

Kellen is currently attending Stanford University on a full athletics scholarship while a member of the Cardinal football team.

With more than one million student-athletes playing high school football each year, the NFF chapter network, comprised of 120 chapters with 12,000 members, annually reviews the credentials of players from more than 4,800 high schools. Each chapter analyzes countless local candidates for their academic achievement, athletic performance and exemplary leadership, and collectively the chapters annually award 2,500 deserving student-athletes with more than \$800,000 in annual scholarships. From this group of 2,500, a national committee selects five individuals for the recognition as NFF National High School Scholar-Athletes.

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

DECEMBER 2007:

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

12/19/07

NEWS RELEASE

Pioneer Elementary School Awarded \$23,000 Group Health Grant

Pioneer Elementary School was awarded the Group Health Children and Teen grant for \$23,174.36 to enhance its before-school fitness and nutrition program called "Morning Madness."

Morning Madness will promote good physical fitness, where students will learn and experience the importance of regular physical activity and proper nutrition in maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Students will make physical fitness gains in the areas of aerobic endurance, muscular strength and endurance, and flexibility, as measured by the Presidential Physical Fitness Awards. Students will make healthier nutritional choices with the guidance and support of a Registered Dietitian (RD) from Washington State University's Food Sense Program. The RD will also teach students how to grow fruits and vegetables and make healthy recipes.

Students will meet for 30 minutes before school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. A typical session will include a 5-minute group warm-up activity such as running or jump rope and stretching. They will then rotate between 7-12 stations for 20 minutes of circuit training—working in small groups or individually. Students will learn how to measure and calculate their Body Mass Index (BMI).

Health and Fitness Nights for families will be held at Pioneer Elementary School two times during the six-month program. The first family night will kick off the program and the second family night will occur toward the conclusion of the program and highlight the students' progress.

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

12/19/07

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn High School Student-Trainers Provide Aid to Injured Man

On December 14, the Auburn High School boys' basketball team, coaches and student-trainers were returning home from their win against White River High School when their bus came up on an accident involving a moving vehicle and a pedestrian on Highway 410 in Bonney Lake.

The incident between the vehicle and pedestrian occurred just before the bus drove up on the scene. While there were a few people standing around and a couple talking to 911 operators, student trainers Cassie Vargas and Brianna Larson, along with Coach Abe VanDerPuy and Coach Ryan Hansen, immediately went to the aid of the man who had been hit.

Cassie and Brianna honed in on the situation and did an exceptional job of evaluating the scene and providing the appropriate medical attention. They attended to a serious gash in the victim's head and kept the victim on the ground and calm. Cassie and Brianna told Coaches VanDerPuy and Hansen exactly what to do to help with the situation. It was clear that the man had broken his leg in the accident, so when he tried to get up a couple times, Cassie and Brianna continued to reassure him and control the bleeding from the wound on his head until medics arrived and took over.

For more information contact Ryan Hansen, boys' basketball coach, at 253-931-4719, ext. 1999.

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

12/19/07

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District's Child Nutrition Services Department to Create Working Garden

The Auburn School District child nutrition services department is inviting community members with an interest in students, food and the Earth to offer input on a new school garden project near Washington Elementary School.

The project is in its infancy, but has the objectives of: (1) developing a working garden for Auburn School District's food service program; and (2) creating an environment where teachers might bring students to experientially incorporate their classroom lessons around science, math, art, literature, nutrition and health.

For more information on the next meeting or to volunteer, please contact Eric Boutin, director of child nutrition services, at 253-931-4972, or visit the child nutrition services website at <http://www.auburn.wednet.edu/childnutrition/Default3.htm>.

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

12/19/07

NEWS RELEASE

Dick Scobee Elementary School Building "Wall of Respect"

"Let me get the door for you." "Go ahead before me." "May I help you with that?" These are just a few of the comments Dick Scobee Elementary School students are sharing with each other throughout the school day.

At the beginning of the school year, Dick Scobee principal Greg Brown decided to kick off the "Building a Wall of Respect" program after teacher Beth Raines suggested a similar concept to Mr. Brown. "I thought it was a great idea and a great way to encourage kids to start thinking about others," says Mr. Brown.

Essentially the students earn "Caught Being Respectful!" tickets from any staff member who witnesses them being kind, respectful or considerate. Mr. Brown emphasizes that the Building a Wall of Respect program encourages pay-it-forward type behaviors, not necessarily good behaviors. "Holding the door open for others; picking up trash; letting someone else go first in line are all behaviors worthy of a Caught Being Respectful! ticket," says Mr. Brown. Once a student earns two tickets, he or she redeems them for a paper brick that says, "I was caught!" The students take the "bricks" home to share with their parents and to decorate. Then the decorated bricks are added to the "Wall of Respect" in Dick Scobee's kitchen/lunchroom.

Just the other day a student on the way to school crashed on his bike. Two fellow classmates saw the accident and immediately helped the student up and walked him and his bike to school. The students even led him to the health room to receive medical attention. "The students have really bought into the activity; it's really exciting to see them reach out to each other," exclaims Mr. Brown. Now Mr. Brown frequently hears how students are only a ticket away from earning their brick, or that they just earned their brick. Some students already have four bricks on the Wall of Respect.

In no time, one full side of the kitchen/lunchroom will be plastered with bricks, which, according to Mr. Brown, means students will have paid it forward two times the number of bricks. In three short months the program has not only created a colorful mural in the kitchen/lunchroom, but it has also inspired the student body to think about others first. "It is really inspiring to see!" remarks Mr. Brown.

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

12/12/07

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District's Board of Directors Honors Jackie Bruya

The Auburn School District Board of Directors recognized Jackie Bruya, a fifth grader at Washington Elementary School, for being an outstanding student on Monday, December 10, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Jackie Bruya, a fifth grade student at Washington Elementary School, has excelled both academically and socially this year in Ms. Merklin's class. "Jackie has really blossomed this year," says Ms. Merklin. "She is smiling and happy and making friends, and she is academically strong."

Academically Jackie is reading above grade level and is achieving high marks in her other subjects. Jackie also sets a positive tone in class and at recess for her classmates. She is a positive role model by keeping her group on task in group learning settings, and by turning in her assignments on time and complete.

Jackie is a member of Washington's school patrol. She is responsible for arriving to school early when she has crossing duty. According to Mr. Markwell, Jackie's patrol captain, "Jackie is always prepared and ready to go; she will fill in for others who are not here, and if she is sick or not at school, she always remembers to call in for a substitute," remarks Mr. Markwell. "She is very responsible."

Jackie's younger brother, Alex, is a fourth grader at Washington, and he and Jackie have a close relationship—as well as a natural sense of humor between each other. Jackie and Alex's classrooms have adjoining doors, so on occasion during free time, Jackie and Alex pop in to say hi to each other. "I think that Jackie's proximity to her brother in school has helped her this year. She and her brother really complement each other," remarks Ms. Merklin. Jackie also has an older sister, Meghan, who is a sophomore at Auburn Mountainview High School.

In addition to Jackie's commitment to school, she also is committed to serving the less fortunate in the Auburn community. Every third Monday of the month, Jackie serves food to needy families at an area church. She also delivers food once a month to families who cannot leave their homes. Over Thanksgiving she helped set up Thanksgiving food baskets at the Auburn Food Bank, and every year she participates in the City of Auburn's giving tree program.

"Jackie is one of those individuals who does things because they are the right thing to do, not because of the recognition," says Mr. Markwell. "She would stick up for the underdog any day."

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

12/12/07

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District's Board of Directors Honors Staff Member Lisa Mason

The Auburn School District Board of Directors recognized Lisa Mason, physical education specialist at Chinook Elementary School, for her outstanding service on Monday, December 10, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

In life and on the job, Lisa Mason, Chinook's physical education specialist, is not known for laying low or staying still. "I like to participate in a lot of sports; I can't be stagnant. I like to be learning all the time." Having spent junior high and high school playing basketball, volleyball, softball and racquetball, Lisa recognizes that physical fitness plays a huge role in her life—then and now.

Lisa's goal is to pass down her love of sport to youngsters. Her teaching philosophy is to expose students to a wide variety of physical fitness skills and to inform them about health and wellness. Lisa is a firm believer in keeping up with new trends and styles of teaching in physical education. For instance, Lisa attends Bud Turner's annual "West's Best K-12 PE Workshop" known for introducing educators and coaches to innovative fitness instruction. Through such opportunities, Lisa has learned more about non-

traditional activities like Chinese yo-yos, sport stacking, juggling and rock climbing. "These activities really expose kids to things they might otherwise not be able to do. Our school climbing wall is a perfect example," says Lisa. "It was not easy to acquire a climbing wall, but it has proven a great activity for kids." In April 2006, Lisa created the Chinook Striders, an after-school running club open to Chinook students and their families, after she noticed that only a small percentage of her students were meeting Presidential Physical Fitness goals. Lisa knew many children did not have opportunities to engage in directed physical activity and wanted to offer them an option for exercise, so Lisa created the running program to increase students' physical activity. Lisa recently wrote a \$10,000 Saucony Run for Good grant to secure funding for the program.

Lisa introduces activities to her students one unit at a time. Currently her first through fifth graders are tumbling, balancing and climbing on gymnastics equipment. Among other things, students also get to bowl, dance and run. "Because I have been an athlete all my life," says Lisa, "I've picked up a lot of activities along the way, like golf and bowling during college." Lisa has also taken courses in track and field, dance and basic movement to further her understanding of instruction of physical fitness activities.

Lisa has taught physical education at Chinook for 13 years and began her teaching career 20 years ago. Lisa holds a Masters in educational technology from Gonzaga University, and she earned her dual certification in physical education and health from Oregon State University. Lisa began teaching physical education and health at a K-8 school in Astoria, Oregon. After four rewarding years, Lisa left for Washington State and landed a position at Terminal Park Elementary School. Three years later, Lisa moved to Chinook. "Initially, I didn't intend to teach elementary students," remarks Lisa. "Once I started, I found that I really liked the younger kids. They are enthusiastic at this level, and I like that. When a student tells me they love PE and I'm their favorite PE teacher, it's hard not to love my job."

Last year Lisa won the 2006 King County Physical Activity Coalition Excellence in Teaching Award for being an outstanding physical education specialist in King County. She attributes her success as a physical fitness educator to her love of sports and her father's example as an educator of excellence.

Lisa continues to pursue an active lifestyle outside of her classroom. Lisa has been professionally trained in Taekwondo. She also rock climbs, cross country skis, snow shoes, and, most recently, trains for and races in triathlons. "When I learn something new," says Lisa, "I can bring that knowledge into my teaching. For example, I've been able to teach my students different grips to try in rock climbing, and triathlons have given me the opportunity to speak with kids about goal setting and how to prepare for a race that requires endurance and pacing." Because Lisa is still willing to learn, she ensures that her students continue to learn.

Lisa's experience has allowed her to give salient input to several district committees including two curriculum adoption committees and the 2004-05 Childhood Fitness and Nutrition Citizens' Ad-Hoc Committee. Lisa makes it her goal to get involved at the district level with anything related to health and fitness. "I want to know what is going on and keep current," says Lisa, "but I also want to influence the outcome, serving my students both in and out of the classroom."

Ultimately, Lisa wants to provide children with the opportunity to find something active—something they can continue to enjoy for years to come. "Not everyone has to be playing a sport," says Lisa, "but everyone can find something active that they're good at and enjoy in their everyday life." It's Lisa's goal to help children find it.

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

12/12/07

NEWS RELEASE

Ryan and DeDe Van Quill Receive Auburn School Board of Directors' Gold Star Volunteer Award

The Auburn School District Board of Directors presented the Gold Star Volunteer Award to Ryan and DeDe Van Quill, in recognition of their volunteer support to Auburn School District, on Monday, December 10, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Ryan and DeDe Van Quill have actively supported the Auburn School District since moving to Auburn 10 years ago. "DeDe has always volunteered at the school," remarks Ryan, "ever since our first child entered kindergarten at Lake View." DeDe is in her seventh year of service with the Lake View Elementary PTA and in her first year with Rainier Middle School's PTA. "I am Rainier's legislative rep for the state PTA," says DeDe. At Lake View she has been the PTA chair a number of years. She also serves on the district math steering committee as one of two parent representatives.

Outside of DeDe's active role in the PTAs and district committee, both DeDe and Ryan are well-known among the staff at Lake View. "Teachers know we will always help out...there's always a need for help at an assembly or after-school program," says Ryan. Whether volunteering at the school walk-a-thon or in a teacher's classroom, Ryan and DeDe volunteer with purpose. "I really love helping in the classrooms and having all the kids know me and come to me if they need something," smiles DeDe.

When Ryan first started volunteering at Lake View, he was not just the minority but probably the only dad volunteering his time. "Now more dads are volunteering after having seen Ryan helping out all these years," says DeDe. Ryan believes children need good role models to succeed. "Kids talk like crazy and share everything they experience at home and at school, so I always remind parents about the importance of being a good role model at home," says Ryan, "because kids follow what we do." Ryan believes one of his most important roles as a volunteer is to provide support and a different perspective for kids. According to Ryan, "Kids need to know they are not alone and that a lot of kids go through a lot of the same things."

Over the years Ryan and DeDe have witnessed incredible feats in the lives of children. One of DeDe's favorite memories—what she coins a "Wow" moment—is listening to a little boy who was nonverbal when he began the ECE program at Lake View now speak aloud as a second grader. "You feel like you are a part of the successes because you've helped," says DeDe.

Aside from busy volunteer schedules, Ryan and DeDe both work full-time. Ryan works for a paper distribution company, while DeDe just recently began a real estate career. Their three children—one sixth grader and two second graders—keep them busy with activities and school work. In addition, DeDe is the director of The Foundation for Nager and Miller Syndromes (FNMS). FNMS is an international support group dedicated to helping those affected by Nager and Miller syndromes. DeDe primarily provides support and information for families and medical personnel who are affected and/or treating Nager and Miller syndromes. Currently FNMS supports two genetic research studies at University of Washington and Johns Hopkins University. Ryan serves on the board of the Children's Therapy Center—one of the largest non-profits in King County—which provides families with early intervention services for infants and young children who are experiencing difficulties in developing skills that seem to come so automatically to other children. He can also be found on many afternoons coaching AYSA soccer.

Ryan and DeDe's consistent interaction and support over the years have brightened the lives of many children throughout the district.

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

12/6/07

NEWS RELEASE

Five Auburn Elementary Schools to Receive 1,300 Pounds of Books

On December 18, Washington Elementary School students will receive their very own take-home books at a school-wide, sing-along assembly at 2:00 p.m.

Five Auburn elementary schools—Dick Scobee, Gildo Rey, Pioneer, Terminal Park and Washington—will be receiving a special delivery of books before winter break. The books, totaling over 1,300 pounds, will be distributed to the five focus elementary schools of Communities in Schools (CIS) Auburn. Every student at these five elementary schools will select a book that is theirs to keep.

The books are being donated by a Lakewood organization called Reading Tree. Reading Tree collects and recycles gently used books at drop boxes throughout the Puget Sound area.

Subsequent distributions of books will occur later in the school year and will target the students in the CIS Auburn after-school programs at the same five elementary schools. CIS Lakewood-Tacoma and CIS Puyallup have also started partnerships with this organization and have been pleased with the quality of the 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

12/6/07

NEWS RELEASE

Alpac Elementary School to Celebrate Holidays and Traditions Around the World

During the month of December, Alpac Elementary School students will research and highlight holidays and traditions around the world.

First, students will use the Internet to research different holidays and traditions around the world. They will select one country and create a PowerPoint presentation based on their findings.

Next, the students will use the information from their research to create a poster to share the traditions and customs from their country of choice. The posters will be displayed throughout the schoolhouse.

Then on December 18, the school will host a day of sharing, where parents, students and staff will be able to walk through the building and learn more about the various holidays and traditions around the world.

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

12/6/07

NEWS RELEASE

Pioneer Elementary School Teacher Wins National Horseman Titles

Rod Powell, a resource room teacher at Pioneer Elementary School for the past 11 years, recently competed in the U.S. National Arabian and Half-Arabian Championship Horse Show in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and captured two national titles.

"I show Arabian horses and qualified to compete in nationals in Albuquerque," says Mr. Powell. Competitors must qualify for nationals via their regional championships. There are 18 regions in the U.S. and Canada.

Mr. Powell traveled to Albuquerque to show two horses: one in the purebred category and one in the half-bred category. Both his horses won best in class in the Western pleasure category, which means the best in the U.S. and Canada. Both horses competed against over 60 other horses to win the national titles.

The horses are judged on a variety of categories including movement, appearance and training level.

Mr. Powell has shown horses since he was five years old. He and his family train year-round, and just recently Mr. Powell's son won the youth national championships. He won in Western pleasure and horsemanship.

Mr. Powell and his family own a horse training facility between Auburn and Enumclaw.

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

12/5/07

NEWS RELEASE

Gildo Rey Elementary School Students to Visit Local Senior Center

On Friday, December 14, Gildo Rey Elementary School second graders in Sue Hovde's class will be meeting their "senior" pals for the first time at the Canterbury House in Auburn.

The class will sing Christmas carols, recite poetry and give their senior pals handmade tissue wreaths.

Earlier this school year, Ms. Hovde decided to create a community outreach program for her students. She arranged for her students to pair up with seniors at the Canterbury nursing home. Throughout the school year the students have created artwork and written letters for their senior pals. Ms. Hovde has delivered the final projects to the seniors in an attempt to create connections between the seniors and her second graders. "It is wonderful to be able to teach children the importance of care and compassion," remarks Ms. Hovde. "It is exciting for them to be able to meet face-to-face for the first 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

12/5/07

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Mountainview High School Bands' Winter Concert Slated for December 13

The Auburn Mountainview High School (AMHS) bands' winter concert will be held on Thursday, December 13, at 7:00 p.m. in the AMHS commons.

The winter concert is a community gathering, where people can come together to enjoy songs of the season, talk to neighbors and feast on coffee, hot cider and treats. Admission is free.

This is the second year the bands have used this type of format. The bands encourage the audience to enjoy community time, and to think of the music as background, which allows guests to mingle and get to know each other. The holiday table centerpieces will be provided by the AMHS horticulture students.

The music selections include:

- Nutcracker
- Sleigh Ride
- Satiric Dances
- The Christmas Song
- Joy Revisited
- April in Paris
- Deco Drive
- High Maintenance
- Connecticut Groove
- Jazz Combo music
- Holiday piano music

For more information contact Derek Pyle, Auburn Mountainview High School director of bands, at (253) 804-4539.

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

12/4/07

NEWS RELEASE

Terminal Park Elementary School in Auburn Gearing Up for Holiday Production

At Terminal Park Elementary School, students are preparing for the production of “The Music Man, Jr.” The production is scheduled for December 6 at 7:00 p.m. in the Terminal Park gymnasium. Admission is free.

For more information contact Tim Carstens, Terminal Park Elementary School principal, at 253-931-4978.

JANUARY 2008:

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

1/28/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District's Board of Directors Honors Sixth Grader Dallyn Hunt

The Auburn School District Board of Directors recognized Dallyn Hunt, a sixth grader at Rainier Middle School, for being an outstanding student on Monday, January 28, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

“Students don’t usually ask me what books I read over my holiday break or how my day is going,” remarks Mr. Dorschel, “but Dallyn does.” Dallyn Hunt is a sixth grader at Rainier Middle School and possesses a mature knowledge according to his three teachers, Mr. Dorschel, who teaches math, Mrs. McCord, who teaches science and language arts, and Mrs. Washburn, who teaches social studies and language arts. “In science Dallyn asks questions outside the text; he asks hard questions that I don’t always know the answer to and go to my colleagues to find the answer,” says Mrs. McCord.

Dallyn’s insight and knowledge are significantly above grade level; yet, according to his teachers, he is not one to put on airs or act better than his classmates. Dallyn is a role model among his peers, who respect his intelligence because his demeanor is sincere and humble. According to Mrs. Washburn, “Dallyn’s topic sentences are always beyond an average sixth grader, so the kids like to hear what he comes up with, and typically respond with ‘Wow!’” Dallyn is an excellent student and always achieves above and beyond the academic requirements set by his teachers. Discovery itself seems to be a motivation for him, and every assignment and point made in class are important to this insightfully determined young man.

Dallyn’s love for books is also known throughout the schoolhouse. He is the only student who has an annual pass to use the library during his lunch. Usually students request a daily pass to visit the library during lunch, but since Dallyn goes every day and had to keep asking Mrs. McCord for a pass, Mrs. McCord decided to provide Dallyn with a weekly pass, which eventually turned into an annual pass.

Recently, Dallyn was asked to participate in the Veterans Day Assembly. Dallyn readily accepted and did a great job asking questions of the veterans. He also was selected as a Pawsitive Panther for the month of January by his homeroom teacher. One student from each core class is selected for the special recognition based on his or her performance, attitude, work ethic, etc.

Dallyn’s wit keeps his teachers and peers on their toes, and always adds a good laugh to the day. For example, Mrs. Washburn taught a unit on the *Nutcracker*, where the students read and summarized the book. During discussion, Dallyn remarked that he would give half of the royalties to Mrs. Washburn when he rewrites the *Nutcracker*.

“When I think about Dallyn’s unique qualities, especially for a 12-year-old, I imagine where he will go in life—it’s going to be something really special,” remarks Mr. Dorschel.

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

1/28/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District's Board of Directors Honors Staff Member Michael Martin

The Auburn School District Board of Directors recognized Michael Martin, fourth grade teacher at Terminal Park Elementary School, for his outstanding service on Monday, January 28, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Terminal Park's fourth grade teacher Michael Martin has blended two sides of education with one goal in mind: to provide his young students the best academic and social environment possible. Initially, Mr. Martin pursued environmental education in college because of his love for the outdoors and the more hands-on education approach. He thought he would eventually end up a forest ranger or perhaps a teacher at an outdoor school, until he began volunteering in elementary school classrooms as a part of his class assignments. "It helped me realize the classroom is where I really wanted to be," says Mr. Martin, "even though transitioning from a more liberal environment to a more structured one was an adjustment."

Mr. Martin is in his third year of teaching and finding it more fulfilling each year. Over the three years, Mr. Martin has found a happy medium in providing his fourth graders excellent academic skills within the classroom structure, and the opportunity to participate in environmentally conscious programs like Terminal Park's student-based recycling team, called the Green Team, which created a school-wide paper recycling competition to increase students' consciousness about the benefits of recycling.

Day-to-day, Mr. Martin's students focus on the core academics of reading, writing and math. Mr. Martin uses many math games for students to practice basic operation drills and a variety of group assignments where students not only learn the material, but also how to interact with each other. "It's important that kids learn how to get along with other kids and adults, and how to be good role models and citizens," remarks Mr. Martin.

Mr. Martin's new favorite curriculum is "Writing Workshop," a curriculum that teaches students how to become writers via pre-writing lessons. "Writing is more than teaching students how to write to a format," says Mr. Martin.

One of Mr. Martin's proudest moments on the job occurred in his first year of teaching. "I had a student who came in at the beginning of the school year reading almost two grade levels below normal but ended the school year reading almost two grades above normal!" exclaims Mr. Martin.

Beyond academics, Mr. Martin believes it his part of his teaching responsibility to be a good role model for his students. His class motto is: think before you act. "As my students transition from just being in school to becoming responsible young people, they have to start thinking about things others have done for them for most of their life," says Mr. Martin. "They have to begin making choices about whether or not to finish their homework or what to eat or how to dispose of their paper after it's used, which is why I like to set a good example of being a good citizen. These things they may not acquire from a class assignment."

This year Mr. Martin took over the after-school Snack 'n Study program. The voluntary program is available to students who need some quiet time to do their homework after school and a place to seek additional assistance.

Mr. Martin actively takes advantage of district and out-of-district in-services and workshops. Last year he completed the district's two-year teacher induction support program and came away with a lot of great teaching ideas to improve instruction and better target instruction to fit the needs of all students. "Trainings get me excited and the kids get excited to do something new," says Mr. Martin.

Mr. Martin is no stranger to Auburn or the Auburn School District. He attended Pioneer Elementary, Olympic Junior High and Auburn Riverside High School, followed by two years at Green River Community College and two more years at Western Washington, where he completed his bachelor's degree in environmental and elementary education. He will begin pursuing his masters and ProCert through City University next fall. Currently, Mr. Martin and his wife reside on Capitol Hill in Seattle.

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

1/28/08

NEWS RELEASE

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

Auburn School District will be hosting its twelfth annual "Beyond High School Night" on Wednesday, February 13, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Auburn High School. Formerly called, "Post-Secondary Night," the event is free and open to the public. Students and parents from all district middle schools and high schools, and homeschool and private school students and parents, are encouraged to attend.

Students and parents will have an opportunity to explore the various post-secondary options available for high school graduates, such as community and technical colleges, four year public and private colleges and universities, career training programs, apprenticeship programs and military services.

The event will offer breakout sessions on numerous topics including presentations by the Director of Admissions at the University of Washington on four-year college admissions and more.

In addition, over 70 colleges, universities, career schools, military services and apprenticeship programs will be ready to answer questions and share information in an information fair format.

For more information, contact Jon Morrow, Auburn High School college/career counselor, at (253) 931-4719 ext. 1017.

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

1/28/08

NEWS RELEASE

Seven Auburn School District Students Selected as 2007-08 Washington Aerospace Scholars

Ashley Allman—Auburn High School; Travis Dietz—Auburn Mountainview High School; Sarah Frederick—Auburn High School ; Bret Renschler—Auburn High School; Corey Smith—Auburn Mountainview High School; Justis Tena—Auburn Mountainview High School, and Anna Vinnikova—Auburn High School.

The students named above are among 225 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

1/28/08

NEWS RELEASE

Lea Hill Elementary School to Host Popular "Reading with Rover" Event

On Monday, March 3, to celebrate Read Across America Day, primary students in Regina Butler's LAP program will be reading aloud to a furry canine, named Ms. Brenda.

From 8:40 a.m. to 11:15 a.m., Ms. Brenda and her guide, Mary Rutherford, will be hosting a "Reading with Rover" event at Lea Hill.

Students in each period will have the opportunity to circle around Ms. Brenda and read to her in unison from their selected book. Ms. Brenda, a Labrador Retriever, will sit in the middle of the circle and attentively listens to all the boys and girls.

Reading with Rover is a community-based literacy program volunteering in the schools, bookstores and libraries of the Puget Sound area of Washington State. In the "Rover" program, children with reading difficulties actually read stories to a dog and the dog loves to listen! A child that may be hesitant to read aloud to his peers is typically less stressed when reading to a dog, and the dog never judges the child's reading ability. According to Ms. Butler, "This event will be one more dimension of reading kids can get excited about. I want to find things that will get kids excited about coming to school."

Kids already have Labrador Retriever bookmarks to use in their books, which serve as a reminder to practice their reading for their upcoming reading to Ms. Brenda.

Ms. Butler thanks Lea Hill's custodian, Angi Jefferies, for telling her about Reading with Rover. "When I found out about the program last summer, I immediately began making calls and e-mailing people to get Rover lined up in our school," remarks Ms. Butler, "and now it is finally happening!"

For more information, contact Regina Butler, Lea Hill Elementary School LAP teacher, at (253) 931-4982.

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

1/28/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Mountainview High School Awarded Emergency Drill Mini-Grant

Auburn Mountainview High School was awarded a \$5,000 state mini-grant to implement two new emergency preparedness drills: an active shooter lockdown drill in the spring 2008 in conjunction with King County Sheriff and Auburn Police Department; and an earthquake drill in the fall 2008 in conjunction with search and rescue.

The grant will also be used to pay for staff training by the City of Auburn Emergency Preparedness Office, compensate staff for the training, and to purchase radios to be used in emergency planning.

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

1/28/08

NEWS RELEASE

Olympic Middle School Awarded Muckleshoot Fund Grant

Jana Fullerton, librarian at Olympic Middle School, will be able to enhance Olympic's Native American book collection, thanks to a \$3,000 grant from the Muckleshoot Charity Fund.

Ms. Fullerton has already seen an increase in the number of Hispanic students visiting the library and checking out books since the school expanded its Spanish section two years ago. She hopes for a similar trend to occur with the Native American student population once there are more culturally relevant books.

For more information contact Jana Fullerton, Olympic Middle School librarian, at 253-931-4966.

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

1/23/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District Places Four-Year Educational Program and Operations Levy on the Tuesday, March 11 Ballot

On January 14, the Auburn School District Board of Directors unanimously approved Resolution 1092 to place a four-year replacement educational program and operations levy on the Tuesday, March 11, 2008 ballot for local voters' approval.

The replacement educational program and operations levy will provide funding for approximately 18 percent of the programs and services offered in the Auburn School District.

A replacement educational program and operations levy requires local voter approval

to continue the current education programs and services provided to local students. The levy will collect \$25,300,000 in 2009; \$27,600,000 in 2010; \$29,400,000 in 2011; and \$31,400,000 in 2012. The proposed four-year levy will replace the expiring 2007 and 2008 levies. (Levies are not cumulative and must be renewed to maintain current educational programs, as each year replaces the previous year's levy.)

The levy funds will be used to provide for portions of the educational programs not supported by the state's basic education allocations. Underfunded programs include: basic instructional programs; education of students with disabilities; gifted education; maintenance and custodial services; and transportation operations.

Many programs are not funded at all by the state and are completely dependent on levy dollars. They include all athletics and activities such as soccer, football, track, debate, band and orchestra.

The actual 2007 levy tax rate is \$2.63 per \$1,000 of assessed property value. It had been projected to be \$2.78. The projected 2008 levy tax rate is \$2.78. If the four-year replacement levies are approved, the projected tax rates for 2009 and 2010 will drop to \$2.54, and for 2011 and 2012 will drop to \$2.53.

If approved, the four-year replacement educational program and operations levy will provide stable funding for schools. The total tax rate, which includes previously approved construction bonds and a technology levy, is projected to be \$4.49 per \$1,000 of assessed property value in 2009 and then decrease in future years.

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

1/16/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Elementary Schools to Participate in King County Department of Public Health's "Mission Delicious" Program

Elementary schools in the Auburn School District will be participating in King County Department of Public Health's "Mission Delicious" program, an elementary school-based program designed to encourage young children to learn basic nutrition concepts, try new foods and enjoy healthy foods that taste great.

The six participating elementary schools—Alpac, Chinook, Gildo Rey, Pioneer, Terminal Park and Washington—will host nutrition educators from Mission Delicious for mini-nutrition lessons and food preparation. Students will learn a nutrition message and prepare a wholesome snack.

The nutrition lessons are presented in entertaining ways by educators from a variety of community programs and are backed up with activities by teachers in classroom settings and with take-home materials, like recipe cards, to reinforce nutrition messages.

The Mission Delicious schedule at the six elementary schools is:

- January 29, Chinook, 10:00-11:00, 11:30-12:30, 2:00-3:00
- February 5, Gildo Rey, 9:00-10:00, 10:30-11:30, 1:45-2:45
- February 6, Pioneer, 8:45-9:45, 10:00-11:00, 1:40-2:40
- February 11, Washington, 9:00-10:00, 10:30-11:30, 1:30-2:30
- February 12, Washington, 9:00-10:00, 10:30-11:30
- March 12, Terminal Park, 1:30-2:30
- March 20, Terminal Park, 8:55-9:55, 10:15-11:15, 1:00-2:00
- March 26, Alpac, 9:15-10:15, 10:30-11:30, 2:30-3:30

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

1/16/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District to Host Second Annual Early Learning Fair

On Thursday, February 28, from 6:00-8:00 p.m., the Auburn School District is hosting its second annual Early Learning Fair for birth through preschool-age children and their families at the Auburn Senior High School cafeteria, located next to the Performing Arts Center. Pre-registration is required by February 15. Registration includes a free kindergarten/developmental screening for children and free hot dog dinner for all registrants.

The fair will offer families the opportunity to talk to community child care and early learning specialists, and discover other community resources. Fun activities will be provided for the children by local child care providers and teaching professionals. Auburn School District, in collaboration with kindergarten teachers and early learning specialists, will provide information pertinent to preschool development and kindergarten readiness. Free kindergarten/developmental screenings will be available in English, Spanish, Ukraine and Russian. Resources for early literacy and strategies for parents to prepare their children for kindergarten will also be available.

Contact Debra White to pre-register for dinner and screenings by calling (253) 931-4927 or e-mailing dwhite@auburn.wednet.edu.

Please provide the following information for pre-registration: name, phone number, number for dinner, and number of children screenings. Tickets for dinner and screenings will be issued the night of the event at the fair check-in table.

For more information contact Christy Moore, Early Learning Committee Chair, at (253) 931-4927.

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

1/16/08

NEWS RELEASE

Lakeland Hills Elementary School Music Teacher Sings National Anthem at Governor Gregoire's State of the State Address

On January 15, Lakeland Hills Elementary School music teacher Sarah Samuelson traveled to Olympia after teaching morning classes to sing the National Anthem for Governor Christine Gregoire's State of the State Address to the Joint Session.

Sarah is no stranger to singing at public events or being invited to perform on a big stage. Recently Sarah played the White Witch in Auburn Regional Theatre's musical, *Narnia*. Last year she wrapped up a recording in Ireland as part of a professional chorus member in the Portland Opera Chorus. She was the soprano section leader for the filming of the international debut of the musical cantata, *The Birth of Christ*. The American and Irish chorus wonderfully blended for the recording, which took place inside a cathedral across the street from where Handel's *Messiah* debuted. The narrator for the show on the DVD is Liam Neeson

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

1/16/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Mountainview High School to Host Puget Sound Regional Skills Cabinetry Contest

On Saturday, January 19, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Auburn Mountainview High School will be hosting the Puget Sound Regional Skills cabinetry contest.

Twenty students from five local high schools—Auburn High School, Auburn Mountainview High School, Auburn Riverside High School, Steilacoom High School and Lincoln High School—will be building cabinetry and vying for spots at the state competition.

For more information contact Lew Keliher, Auburn High School construction and manufacturing instructor, at (253) 931-4719, ext. 1713.

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

1/15/08

NEWS RELEASE

Superintendent Linda Cowan to Retire at the Conclusion of the 2007-08 School Year

On January 14, Superintendent Linda Cowan notified the Board of Directors that she will be resigning as superintendent of the Auburn School District effective June 30, 2008.

Serving in the Auburn School District for 30 years, and as an educational professional for 40 years, Linda Cowan has decided to retire, as this is a good time for transition in the school district.

Linda Cowan has dedicated her time, talents and energy to the betterment of education for Auburn youth. Superintendent Cowan has led 1,800 staff members and 14,500 students through many changes in state education. WASL scores in the fourth grade, seventh grade and tenth grade have improved an average of 79% since testing started. During her 11-year tenure as superintendent, she has helped to successfully pass five operational levies and three bond propositions, which have led to the construction of one comprehensive high school and two elementary schools, as well as the renovation and updating of all district facilities.

Superintendent Cowan is grateful for the opportunity to work with the students, staff, parents, community, and board of the Auburn School District. She remarks, "I have been deeply moved by the commitment and pervasive caring of all who have contributed to the education of Auburn youth. The success of the Auburn School District, over the 30 years that I have been here, is a strong reflection of the hard work of our students, the mission level service and dedication of staff, the support of the communities we serve, and the direction that the board has set."

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***

1/4/08

NEWS RELEASE

Alpac Elementary School Wins National Education Association Student Achievement Grant

James Main, PE instructor at Alpac Elementary School, was awarded a National Education Association (NEA) Student Achievement Grant to improve health and wellness among Alpac elementary students.

Mr. Main will introduce heart rate monitors into the physical education curriculum in order to provide students visual and accurate data to grasp the correlation between exercise and health and well-being. Using heart rate monitors, students will be able to gauge their levels of exertion and strive to increase their fitness levels. They will be increasingly focused on the activity and the betterment of their personal level of fitness.

The wall-mounted heart rate monitors will be used during physical education activities to collect heart rate data. The heart rate monitors will be used especially at the beginning and end of every activity in order to show students how exercise affects body function.

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***

1/4/08

NEWS RELEASE

Gildo Rey Elementary School Wins Target Field Trip Grant

Gildo Rey Elementary School is the recipient of a \$1,000 Target field trip grant. Gildo Rey fourth graders will take a field trip to explore the Fort Nisqually Living History Museum.

Located in Point Defiance Park, Fort Nisqually is a living history museum where volunteers and staff, in period clothing, demonstrate the crafts of the 19th century and engage visitors in historic dialogue during the Living History Days and other events throughout the year.

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

FEBRUARY 2008:

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

2/29/08

NEWS RELEASE

Lakeland Hills Elementary School and Auburn Mountainview High School Win Best Buy Teach Grants

Lakeland Hill Elementary School music teacher Sarah Samuelson was awarded a \$2,000 Best Buy Teach grant. The grant will provide funding for a "Developing Creative Composers" project, a program that develops skills in improvising, arranging, songwriting, composing, performing, film scoring, listening, analyzing, and evaluating through the use of computers, Internet, LCD projectors, and software. Mrs. Samuelson will add a set of 16 Roland keyboards, a Roland music lab conferencing system, recording software, MP3 recorders and players, and a classroom set of Turning Point interactive Response card keypads to her classroom.

Stephanie Keagle, language arts teacher and newspaper adviser at Auburn Mountainview High School, also won a \$2,000 Best Buy Teach grant. The award money will enable the school's *In View* newspaper staff to purchase cameras to use while reporting. Until now, *In View* has not had the funds to buy its own cameras, because the money they raise through advertising is applied to the printing costs of each issue.

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

2/29/08

NEWS RELEASE

Cascade Middle School Awarded Qwest Technology Grant

Cascade Middle School sixth grade math and science teacher Scott Weide was awarded a \$10,000 Qwest technology grant. The grant will enable students to determine Olson Creek's viability for salmon habitat by studying different aspects of the creek including temperature, stream flow, dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity and nitrates. Using digital instruments and digital multimedia technology, all students will be able to take instantaneous accurate measurements that would require significant skill, time, and concentration using conventional techniques.

The Qwest Foundation and the Washington State Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction awarded nine grants through the 2008 Qwest Foundation Teachers and Technology grants program.

The awards, announced at the Northwest Council for Computer Education Conference in Seattle on February 28, recognize K-12 public school teachers who create 21st century learning environments to engage students with real-world tools and real-life situations. Each winning individual or team received \$10,000.

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

2/29/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District All-Schools Food Drive Brings in Over 65,000 Pounds of Food

From January 14-25, Auburn schools participated in the Fourth Annual All-Schools Food Drive. For 11 days, Auburn schools collected canned foods and monetary donations for families and people in need in the Auburn community. This year 65,429 pounds of food was collected, which equals 29.34 pounds of food per student, and \$7,661.84 dollars were donated. One hundred percent of the food and proceeds were donated to the Auburn Food Bank.

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

- Hazelwood Elementary School
- Olympic Middle School
- Auburn Mountainview High School

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 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

2/29/08

NEWS RELEASE

Lea Hill Elementary School to Host Popular "Reading with Rover" Event

On Monday, March 3, to celebrate Read Across America Day, students in Regina Butler's LAP program will be reading aloud to a furry canine, named Ms. Brenda.

Ms. Brenda and her guide, Mary Rutherford, will be hosting a "Reading with Rover" event at Lea Hill. Readings will be from: 8:40 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.; 12:40 p.m. to 1:25 p.m.; 1:25 p.m. to 2:10 p.m.; and 2:10 p.m. to 2:55 p.m.

Students in each period will have the opportunity to circle around Ms. Brenda and read to her in unison from their selected book. Ms. Brenda, a Labrador Retriever, will sit in the middle of the circle and attentively listens to all the boys and girls.

Reading with Rover is a community-based literacy program volunteering in the schools, bookstores and libraries of the Puget Sound area of Washington State. In the "Rover" program, children with reading difficulties actually read stories to a dog and the dog loves to listen! A child that may be hesitant to read aloud to his peers is typically less stressed when reading to a dog, and the dog never judges the child's reading ability. According to Ms. Butler, "This event will be one more dimension of reading kids can get excited about. I want to find things that will get kids excited about coming to school."

Kids already have Labrador Retriever bookmarks to use in their books, which serve as a reminder to practice their reading for their upcoming reading to Ms. Brenda.

Ms. Butler thanks Lea Hill's custodian, Angi Jefferies, for telling her about Reading with Rover. "When I found out about the program last summer, I immediately began making calls and e-mailing people to get Rover lined up in our school," remarks Ms. Butler, "and now it is finally happening!"

For more information, contact Regina Butler, Lea Hill Elementary School LAP teacher, at (253) 931-4982.

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

2/27/08

NEWS RELEASE

Hazelwood Elementary School to Host Fundraiser for Fifth Grade Camp

On Saturday, March 1, Hazelwood Elementary School is hosting a Fifth Grade Garage Sale from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. to fundraise for the annual fifth grade camp. All proceeds from the garage sale will help to cover the \$165.00 cost per child to attend fifth grade camp this spring at Lake Retreat.

Pre-priced donations are gladly accepted; however, furniture and electronic devices will not be accepted.

For more information, contact Holly Donnelly, fifth grade teacher at Hazelwood Elementary School, at (253) 931-4740.

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

2/26/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District's Board of Directors Honors Fifth Grader Taylor Lehman

The Auburn School District Board of Directors recognized Taylor Lehman, a fifth grader at Hazelwood Elementary School, for being an outstanding student on Monday, February 25, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Taylor Lehman is a spunky 10 year old going on 18. According to her fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Kearney, Taylor is “a miniature adult. She is balanced, organized and knows how to prioritize her busy schedule.” Busy is right. Taylor is an honor roll student, participant in the after-school science club and the Global Reading Challenge, and the ASB treasurer. She plays volleyball and dances competitively for a private studio, not to mention she plays the piano and is an active citizen.

First things first, Taylor is a hard worker who excels in all subjects—science just so happens to be her favorite. “I am very organized and get things in on time,” says Taylor. “I’m not a procrastinator.” Taylor is also a very positive and helpful student in class. Mrs. Kearney says, “Taylor is such a good kid; she’s kind and looking for ways to help. I think she truly loves school so she is happiest when she’s helping.” Taylor’s energy and sense of humor make her that much more likable, and her creative capacity is unlimited.

Taylor always strives to do her best in the classroom and in all of her pursuits. For instance, Taylor recently participated in the Global Reading Challenge and set a goal to not only complete all 10 required global reading books, but to also continue reading her personal book selections. During the after-school science club, Taylor participates in experiments to enhance her classroom experience, and she takes every opportunity to improve her dance and piano skills with daily practice and competitions. Taylor recognizes she is always on the go, but she likes it that way. “I don’t have to do it; I like to do it,” remarks Taylor.

Recently Taylor and her good friend Gabby Wills came up with the idea to raise money for a local camp for children with serious life-altering conditions such as Muscular Dystrophy and cancer. Korey was the nephew of a friend of Taylor’s family who passed away from cancer. Camp Korey was founded soon thereafter and will open to its first campers in July of this year. Because the camp will need ongoing support to provide this special opportunity for children in need, Taylor and Gabby took it upon themselves to create a fundraiser called Carnival Korey at Hazelwood on May 10. According to Taylor, “We thought a carnival would be a good fundraiser; there will be a silent auction, carnival games, performances and food.” One hundred percent of the proceeds will be donated to Camp Korey.

Taylor’s go-getter spirit is contagious. Even if there’s nothing to do, Taylor does something—like doing cartwheels all over the house.

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

2/26/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District's Board of Directors Honors Staff Member Francy Sullivan

The Auburn School District Board of Directors recognized Francy Sullivan, school counselor at West Auburn High School, for her outstanding service on Monday, February 25, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

It seems as if everyone in Francy Sullivan’s family is an educator: her father, brother, son, niece and stepsiblings. Currently providing counseling services at West Auburn High School, Francy sometimes chuckles at her “inevitable” fate as an educator since she used to tell herself growing up, “I’m never going to do that.” As a teacher, principal and then district administrator, Francy’s dad used to drive all the neighborhood kids to school when they lived in a small Minnesota town of 2,500. “We’d all pile in dad’s car,” recalls Francy, “and go to the same campus for school.”

Francy graduated from high school in Iowa and pursued her undergraduate studies at the University of Iowa. “It took me 16 years to get my BA because I married and started my family, which sidetracked me,” smiles Francy. Francy also earned a masters in substance

abuse from the University of Iowa and shortly thereafter moved to Auburn, as her parents and siblings had moved to the Pacific Northwest when she was in college.

Francy's professional background in drug and alcohol counseling and mental health counseling secured her a job at Auburn Youth Resources upon her arrival. She discovered that she enjoyed working with adolescents and their families, so she went back to school and earned her school counseling certification. In 1991 West Auburn moved into its brand-new building, and Francy was hired as the school counselor.

Over her 17 years of service at West Auburn, Francy can faithfully say she's never been bored on the job. "I really do have a new job every year when I come back," says Francy, "because whenever there is a change in building programs or there is something new we must focus on, it changes what I do. I really like finding a way to make it work." Francy comes to work every day prepared to tackle whatever comes her way. She considers herself an informational resource and problem-solver for students and their families, whether it is to help a student schedule the right courses or provide a reference for a therapist.

Francy appreciates the team-based community at West Auburn and attributes the students' success to this environment. "Students come here because the traditional setting has not worked for them in some way. West Auburn staff helps them get as far as possible with their education and makes school a positive experience." Francy and her colleagues create a personalized setting for every student, which encourages communication between students and staff. "We offer our students hope and show them there is a way. That makes this building very special," remarks Francy.

Francy does not have one defining moment in her time at West Auburn, but graduation day is one of her favorite times. It is a milestone for all students, but especially for those who may be the first member of their family to earn a high school diploma. Francy also enjoys visiting with former students who return to campus, "shining and happy," as she puts it.

In Francy's spare time, she works part-time for Auburn Youth Resources in the drug and alcohol intervention program. She believes the professional connection keeps her abreast of changes and trends in the field. She also keeps current on her mental health and chemical dependency licenses—not because she is required to have them, but because she believes they help her practice with a more holistic approach. "I want to be the best counselor I can be," says Francy.

The core of Francy's personal life is her family, eight grandchildren and friends, who, according to Francy, "are awesome and simply the best. They are my roots and wings."

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

2/25/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Mountainview High School Boys' Basketball Team Awarded Muckleshoot Charity Fund Grant

On February 21, Jon Price, Auburn Mountainview High School head boys' basketball coach, was presented with a \$1,500 grant from the Muckleshoot Charity Fund at the Muckleshoot Tribal Grant Luncheon.

The grant will provide funds to assist low-income student-athletes to attend summer basketball camps and purchase team gear.

For more information, contact Jon Price, Auburn Mountainview High School head boys' basketball coach, at (253) 804-4539.

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

2/22/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District Board of Directors Selects Superintendent Search Firm

The Auburn School District Board of Directors selected Northwest Leadership Associates, a superintendent search firm headquartered in Liberty Lake, Washington, to assist the district in recruitment, selection and employment of Auburn School District's next superintendent.

Current superintendent Linda Cowan will retire at the end of the 2007-08 school year, on June 30, 2008. The new superintendent will report on July 1, 2008.

Northwest Leadership Associates was founded in 1999 by Dennis Ray, who remains its owner and president. Mr. Ray recently retired as the director of Washington State University's *Leaders for Tomorrow's Schools* program, which he developed and led for 12 years. This program is the largest superintendent preparation program in the nation, producing over 250 superintendent candidates under his leadership. He also served as superintendent of Northshore School District for four years and Walla Walla School District for 10 years. Mr. Ray's team will assist in the recruiting and screening process, and includes experienced and dedicated educational professionals.

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

2/11/08

NEWS RELEASE

Cascade Middle School to Host Thirteenth Annual Middle Eastern Mesopotamia Marketplace

On Friday, February 15, Cascade Middle School sixth graders will bring their social studies curriculum to life when they dress up like ancient Mesopotamians and experience a market—trading goods and services, paying taxes, and meeting their basic needs of food, clothing and shelter.

The Cascade Middle School sixth grade hall will be the site of the Mesopotamia Marketplace, which will be open during the school day.

For more information contact Sandra Luetgen, Cascade Middle School sixth grade language arts and social studies teacher, at (253) 931-4995.

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

2/5/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Mountainview High School Barbershop Quartet Competes at National Competition

On Saturday, January 26, Auburn Mountainview High School's barbershop quartet, Beginner's Luck, traveled to San Antonio, Texas, to compete in the inaugural Barbershop Harmony Youth Chorus Competition and capture the championship trophy in the AAA division.

Quartet members Daniel Frerichs, Corey LiaBraaten, Jake Lombardo and Dmitriy Spatarel not only participated in the first-ever youth barbershop competition, but they were also the first chorus to perform in the competition.

The audience, primarily experienced “barbershoppers,” were thrilled to see the art continue into the next generation and stay alive, according to Auburn Mountainview High School’s choir teacher Karen Frerichs.

The barbershop quartet wrapped up an eventful trip and experience by making it home from San Antonio just in time to perform at Uniquely Auburn on Sunday, January 27.

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

2/5/08

NEWS RELEASE

Mt. Baker Middle School Orchestra Teacher Voted Outstanding Music Educator of the Year

Melinda Wharton, Mt. Baker Middle School orchestra teacher, was selected as the Outstanding Music Educator of the Year for the Green River music region. This region includes: Auburn, Kent, Tahoma, White River and Enumclaw School Districts.

The honor is bestowed upon the music educator with the most votes in a certain district. Mrs. Wharton received the most votes from her fellow music educators for the Green River music region.

The award is presented annually at the 2008 Washington Music Educators Association (WMEA) State Conference. This year the conference is February 15-18 in Yakima, 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

2/5/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn High School Band Members Qualify for State Competition at Green River Music Region Solo and Ensemble Contest

On January 26, the Auburn High School band participated in the Green River Music Region Solo and Ensemble Contest. The following band members received outstanding marks and earned a “T” State Qualifier rating, which indicates they will be participating in the Washington State Music Educator’s (WMEA) STATE Solo and Ensemble Contest on April 25-26 at Central Washington University in Ellensburg:

Saeward Schillaci, French horn solo; Jordan Dusek, oboe solo; Trumpet Duet: Derek Schillaci and Jesse Butterfield; Saxophone Quartet: Aaron Fulwider, Erin Williams, Ben Kerr and Cameron Sowards; Patch Lewis, snare drum solo; Derek Schillaci, trumpet solo; Brass Trio: Derek Schillaci, trumpet; Jesse Butterfield, trumpet; and Saeward Schillaci, French horn; Brass Duet: Derek Schillaci, trumpet; and Saeward Schillaci, French horn

Excellent “II” ratings were awarded to:

Susan Kramer, marimba solo; Drew Rossman, trumpet solo; Jesse Butterfield, trumpet solo; Chris Weber, trumpet solo; Kelsey Anderson, saxophone solo; Ben Kerr, saxophone solo; Aaron Fulwider, saxophone solo; Cameron Sowards, saxophone solo; Erin Williams, saxophone solo; Clarinet Duet: Janice Knott and Allie Ware Percussion Ensemble #2
Percussion Ensemble #3: Percussion Ensemble members include: Susan Kramer, Andy Patton, Caleb Valdovinos, Jessica Humphries, Patch Lewis, Alyssa Davis, Shayne Brandt, Vance Olsen, Chris Rodriguez, Madisen Dixon and Kyle Hutchinson.

For more information contact Scott Fry, Auburn Senior High School Band Director, at 253-931-4719 x1517.

MARCH 2008:

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

3/25/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Riverside High School to Host Congressman Adam Smith for Q&A

Congressman Adam Smith from Washington's 9th Congressional District will be visiting Auburn Riverside High School on Wednesday, March 26, to speak to AP Government classes from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. in the Auburn Riverside Theatre.

Congressman Smith will entertain questions from students on different aspects of politics and life in congress.

For more information contact Nola Wilson, Auburn Riverside High School assistant principal, at 253-804-5154.

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

3/25/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn High School Orchestra Students Compete in Green River Music Region Orchestra Solo and Ensemble Contest

On, Saturday, March 15, Auburn High School Orchestra students competed in the Green River Music Region Orchestra Solo and Ensemble Contest at Thunder Mountain Middle School in Enumclaw.

Several Auburn High School orchestra students were selected as 1st and 2nd alternates to compete in the Washington Music Educator's Association (WMEA) STATE Solo and Ensemble Contest to be held on April 25-26 at Central Washington University in Ellensburg:

Solo - Superior (I) ratings:

Emily Golan, Violin – 1st alternate

Ensembles - Superior (I) ratings:

- Dohnanyi Trio: Julie Chang, Violin; Kristin Olson, Viola; Ian Crawley, Cello – 2nd alternate, small ensemble
- Sinding Serenade: Emily Golan, Violin and Julie Chang, Violin – 1st alternate, small ensemble

For more information contact Dale Johnson, Auburn High School orchestra director, at 253-931-4880.

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

3/25/08

NEWS RELEASE

Taylor Vincent Selected as Auburn Rotary Student of the Month

On March 19, Taylor Vincent, a senior at West Auburn High School, was honored as Auburn Rotary's student of the month for March.

Taylor has been a student in the West Auburn Learning Center for the past four years. He is an exceptional student, frequently exceeding his goals. His teacher, Linda Myers, attributes Taylor's success to his hard-working attitude and willingness to go the extra mile. Taylor is organized, systematic and has a keen sense of responsibility.

To date, Taylor has a 100 percent attendance rate this year. In the past four years, Ms. Myers only recalls Taylor being absent three times. He is a reliable student and always finishes what he starts.

Taylor is enrolled in the Running Start program at Green River Community College and will continue next fall after he graduates in June. Taylor hopes to pursue a career in software engineering. As an active member of Voc Ed Club, he volunteers countless hours to such civic and community organizations as the Auburn Parks and Recreation department, the Auburn Food Bank and the Auburn Chamber of Commerce/Auburn School District Career Fair.

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

3/25/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Riverside High School Forensic Team Places in the Top Five at State Competition

On March 22-23, the Auburn Riverside High School Forensic Team continued its tradition of excellence at the State Individual Events Speech Tournament. For the twelfth consecutive year, the forensics team placed in the top five schools in the state, capturing fourth overall in the 3A competition.

Individual honors included sophomore Shannon Keith's first place in 3A Expository Speaking and second place in 3A Oratory Speaking, and Telisha Amero and Tara Nix's fourth place in Duo Interpretation. Shannon Keith also qualified in Oratory for the National Speech Tournament that will be held in Las Vegas in June.

For additional information, contact Mark Davis, Auburn Riverside High School debate and speech advisor, at (253) 804-5154.

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

3/25/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Riverside High School Athletic Coaches Receive Top Honors

Four Auburn Riverside High School coaches, from three different sports, have been named coaches of the year.

- Shawn Martinson was named both South Puget Sound League (SPSL) and Region II Assistant Wrestling Coach of the Year.
- Cathy Robinson was named SPSL Gymnastics Co-Coach of the Year.
- Kathy Crawford was named 3A Assistant Gymnastics Coach of the Year by the Washington State Gymnastics Coaches Association.
- Adam Barrett was named 3A Girls Basketball Coach of the Year by the Associated Press.

For more information contact Doug Aubert, Auburn Riverside High School athletic director, at 253-804-5154.

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

3/25/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District's Board of Directors Honors Fifth Grader Noah Freelund

The Auburn School District Board of Directors recognized Noah Freelund, a fifth grader at Gildo Rey Elementary School, for being an outstanding student on Monday, March 24, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Mrs. Linville, Noah's teacher, describes Noah as, "a well-rounded, flexible individual who leads with kindness and confidence. Noah is an ambitious self-starter who can be counted on to work independently and meet the high expectations of fifth grade Challenge Group. He is one of those rare individuals who knows how to lead and how to follow. He is very approachable and I have never seen him have a negative interaction with his peers. He is someone I can count on to be doing the right thing at the right time. Anyone that has ever met Noah asks if he ever stops smiling!" This is Noah's second year in Challenge Group, which means Noah receives enrichment opportunities beyond the day-to-day curriculum. Mrs. Linville says, "Noah is always up for trying the next thing."

Noah is not only dedicated in the classroom, but in the school community as well. He is the ASB co-president and the captain of the safety patrol for the past two years. Noah also plays fifth grade basketball for the Gildo Rey Hawks.

Outside of school, Noah loves to play baseball and was on the Auburn Little League 10-year-old All-Star team last year. Noah currently plays on two teams—one is the Cardinals, an Auburn Little League Majors team, and the other is a tournament team called The Tides. In his spare time, Noah enjoys camping, fishing, riding motorcycles and quads, and playing with his dogs.

Noah has future plans of being an Auburn Police Explorer when he turns 13, which is a program designed for young people who have an interest in a law enforcement career. Noah wants to continue to play baseball in college, preferably for University of Southern California, University of Texas or University of Arizona, and hopefully in the major league some day.

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

3/25/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District's Board of Directors Honors Staff Member Deonna Steffy

The Auburn School District Board of Directors recognized Deonna Steffy, registrar at Mt. Baker Middle School, for her outstanding service on Monday, March 24, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Deonna Steffy, in her sixth year as registrar at Mt. Baker Middle School, finds it easy to come to work every day with a positive attitude. According to Deonna, she and her co-worker in attendance, Paula Fox, make it a priority to stay positive with the students by finding students' strengths and communicating them to every child. "When we tell students positive things, especially our truant students, it is great to see them beam and recognize their positive nature," says Deonna.

In fact, Deonna, Paula and Vice Principal Isaiah Johnson started an awards program for truant students. "My passion is to see kids succeed and to discover what motivates them to come to school," says Deonna. "If Paula and I see a struggling kid, we provide incentives to them if they come to class all week, or are not sent to the office all week." Deonna wants students to know she cares about them and their current and future successes, which is one reason why she has attended truancy workshops. These workshops provide valuable information on how to communicate the benefits of staying in school to children.

Deonna can't say enough about her co-workers. After she found out she was the recipient of the directors' recognition award, she received a myriad of congratulatory e-mails complimenting her on her accomplishment. "When your co-workers say things like, 'Great job, girl,' and, 'You deserve it,' it really makes Mt. Baker a rewarding place to work," smiles Deonna. The Mt. Baker staff is tight and always looks out for one another, whether it's providing meals or donating sick leave to staff members in need. Deonna also remarks that staff goes bowling and golfing together, celebrates holidays together, and even annually attends a wreath-making class.

Coupled with Deonna's great attitude is her strong work ethic. Since Mt. Baker houses more than 900 students, Deonna is one busy registrar. She is responsible for enrolling new students, withdrawing students who leave the school, running overloads for staff with more than 30 students in their class, tracking waiver students, tracking attendance, collecting student grades and running report cards, and more. Her professional development primarily consists of on-the-job training. "I am fairly self-sufficient and learn things like 'mail-merge' and how to 'data-mine' reports during district inservice trainings."

Outside of the registrar's office, Deonna has coached gymnastics and fast pitch for Mt. Baker Middle School. She also coached gymnastics one year at Auburn Riverside High School, getting the chance to coach her daughter during her senior year. "Gymnastics was my sport from seventh grade to my first year in college," remarks Deonna. Her enjoyment of the sport is contagious and rewarding. One year a parent told Deonna that her positive attitude made her daughter's experience on the team one of her best ever.

Deonna's time in the Auburn School District began nine-and-a-half years ago as an office paraeducator at Alpac Elementary School. She then transferred to Mt. Baker Middle School when the attendance secretary position opened. She worked in attendance for one-and-a-half years before she became registrar. Deonna lives with her wonderful husband in Lakeland Hills and has two adult children, who both attended Auburn schools, three stepdaughters and five grandbabies. In her spare time, Deonna enjoys gardening, bird-watching and interior decorating. She and her husband are actively involved at Lakeland Foursquare Church, where she leads the decorating and events committee, and is a regular participant in the church's worship and music ministry on Sunday mornings—which is one reason why she always seems to find the bright side.

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

3/25/08

NEWS RELEASE

Terminal Park Elementary School Teacher Named Recipient of King County Executive Ron Sims' 2008 Earth Hero at School Award

Michael Martin, a fourth grade teacher at Terminal Park Elementary School in Auburn, was recently named a 2008 Earth Hero at School by the Office of King County Executive Ron Sims. Mr. Martin was nominated by his principal, Tim Carstens, for involving the school and empowering the students to take an active role in protecting the environment.

Mr. Martin's fourth grade students formed the "Green Team" in response to their desire to cut down on waste after learning about the four words, "reuse, reduce, recycle and rethink," at a King County Solid Waste Division school-wide assembly.

The Green Team, Terminal Park's student-based recycling team, has created a school-wide paper recycling competition to increase students' consciousness about the benefits of recycling. Recently each classroom was challenged to recycle all of its empty milk cartons. Over a short period of just one week, students were recycling over 2,000 milk cartons.

Mr. Martin helps to facilitate the program, from logistics to student presentations. The Green Team has introduced the concept of waste reduction to all students through individual classroom presentations. The Green Team is also responsible for checking in on all the classrooms to ensure students are using the paper reuse bins correctly and frequently. The Green Team members like to call these visits "surprise inspections."

The Green Team also accepts and recycles plastic, like the student's breakfast bags and grocery bags from home. Additionally, the Green Team started to compost food scraps using a worm bin, otherwise known as a vermicomposting box, which sits outside their classroom.

Ultimately, the Green Team wants every student to know and understand these concepts, helping to reshape the way students think about waste and the effects it has on the Earth.

Mr. Martin will be honored at the 2008 Earth Heroes at School award ceremony in April.

The Earth Heroes at School Program celebrates students, teachers, staff and volunteers who implement projects at their school or beyond to protect the environment. Each year outstanding individuals, groups and programs in the county are recognized.

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

3/18/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District 2008-09 Kindergarten Registration and Round-Up Schedule

Kindergarten registration for Auburn School District's 2008-09 school year will begin on Monday, April 14, 2008. 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 <http://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

All elementary schools will host kindergarten round-up orientation activities as follows:

SCHOOL	DAY	DATE	TIME
Alpac	Thurs	May 22	6:30 p.m.
Arthur Jacobsen	Wed	May 28	6:30 p.m.
Chinook	Thurs	May 29	7:00 p.m.
Dick Scobee	Thurs	May 15	6:30 p.m.
Evergreen Heights	Thurs	May 22	12:30 p.m.
Gildo Rey	Wed	May 7	11:00 a.m.
Hazelwood	Wed	May 14	3:30 p.m.
Ilalko	Wed	Apr 30	5:00 p.m.
Lake View	Tues	May 13	6:30 p.m.
Lakeland Hills	Tues	May 6	3:30 p.m.
Lea Hill	Thurs	May 15	4:00 p.m.
Pioneer	Thurs	April 24	11:30 a.m. 3:30 p.m.
Terminal Park	Tues	May 13	5:00 p.m.
Washington	Thurs	May 8	3:15 p.m.

For additional information, contact your neighborhood elementary school or Deputy Superintendent Dr. Kip Herren at (253) 931-4920.

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

3/17/08

NEWS RELEASE

Hazelwood Elementary School Teacher Named Semifinalist in the American School Counselor Association School Counselor of the Year Program

Andrea Krantz, Hazelwood Elementary School counselor, was named a semifinalist out of 320 applicants in the 2008 American School Counselor Association (ASCA) School Counselor of the Year Program. Mrs. Krantz was the only Washington State finalist.

Mrs. Krantz was required to apply for the award by providing a comprehensive application including responses to five essay questions, a sample of a classroom guidance lesson, a resume and letters of reference.

Mrs. Krantz has been the school counselor at Hazelwood Elementary School for six years. Initially she was a school psychologist but decided to return to school to pursue school counseling certification in 2002.

Since arriving at Hazelwood Elementary School, Mrs. Krantz has implemented a comprehensive counseling program that makes a difference for all students. As she says, "My primary purpose as a school counselor is to help remove barriers to student learning. I strive to make myself visible within my school building so students know who I am, what my role is, and so they are comfortable talking and interacting with me." Every morning Mrs. Krantz greets the children as they arrive at school. She believes that if she connects with students before they begin their day, she may be able to address problems that occur before the school day begins.

Mrs. Krantz has implemented school-wide character education and anti-bullying curriculum. She also serves as Hazelwood's coordinator of both the guidance team and 504 plans within the building, which provide modifications and accommodations that help students with special needs gain better access to academic rigor.

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***

3/17/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Students Win Washington State PTA Reflections Awards

Three Auburn School District students won overall awards in the Washington State PTA Reflections program by submitting entries in the following categories:

Film/Video Primary Division

Award of Excellence: Dakota Young, Terminal Park Elementary School PTA

Film/Video Intermediate Division

Outstanding Interpretation: Marina Young, Terminal Park Elementary School PTA

Dance/Choreography Middle/Junior Division

Award of Excellence: Katie Hayward, Rainier Middle School PTSA

The complete list of winners can be found online at: http://www.wastatepta.org/programs/Reflections/reflections_winners2008.htm.

The Reflections program is a National PTA and Washington State PTA cultural arts competition. The purpose of the program is to provide an opportunity for students to use their creative talents by expressing themselves through their own original works. Each year Reflections challenges students to create art that supports a specific theme. Themes are selected from thousands of ideas submitted by students to the National PTA.

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

3/17/08

NEWS RELEASE

College Bound Scholarship for Seventh and Eighth Grade Students Covers Tuition and Books

Seventh and eighth grade students throughout Washington State may qualify for the College Bound Scholarship, a scholarship aimed to help seventh and eighth grade students in low-income families plan for and afford a college education.

The scholarship covers the amount of tuition (at public college rates) not covered by other state financial aid, plus \$500 for books. It can be used at two- or four-year public and private colleges and universities. It is guaranteed for all students who apply during their seventh or eighth grade year and continue to meet all eligibility criteria until they graduate from high school.

This year's eighth grade students must apply by June 1, 2008. This year's seventh graders have until June 1, 2009 to apply. Apply online at: www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound.

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

3/17/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn High School Freshman Participates in Senate Page Program

Auburn High School freshman Fred Strojan spent his mid-winter break crafting mock bills and observing the Legislature and other branches of state government in action. Fred was selected through a competitive application process to participate in Washington State's weeklong Senate Page Program, one of the finest page programs in the country. According to Fred, "I wanted to see how our government operates and how our bills are passed."

Senator Kastama from the 25th District selected Fred as his page and quickly brought Fred up to speed on the rules of being a page—like not to fall asleep on the floor, which was one of the more amusing rules, according to Fred.

Every day Fred and his fellow pages had two hours of government class. Sometimes they went into session. Fred got to sit near the main speaker, Brad Owen, one day. "The security guard would hand us a letter or information to deliver to the democratic or republican side," says Fred. "And when the senate was reviewing a new law we would hand out information to the senators about the new law."

The Senate Page Program also taught the pages how to draft and introduce bills. Fred and two other "senators" introduced Senate Bill 5867, which proposed to give teachers the ability to punish students in any way that they see fit. Fred acted as vice chairman during the session and was in charge of reading all bills. "I understand the three branches of government better, which will help me in high school civics class," says Fred.

Fred also enjoyed mealtimes, as the food was prepared by a professional chef, who also cooks for Governor Gregoire. One afternoon Fred had lunch with Senator Kastama and discovered that a lot of Senator Kastama's values and principles stem back to his childhood days growing up on a farm in Puyallup.

Another big bonus of the program was Fred got paid for his work. "I was expecting \$210.00 but learned about taxes very quickly when my paycheck came in the mail," smiles Fred.

Is politics in Fred's future? Not at the moment. "I want to be a mechanical or civil engineer," remarks Fred.

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

3/15/08

NEWS RELEASE

Dick Scobee Principal Named Auburn Elks Citizen of the Year

Reva Bryant, custodian at Dick Scobee Elementary School, nominated Mr. Brown for his commitment to education and dedication to the Auburn community and beyond.

Mr. Brown frequently partners with local companies and organizations to improve his students' education. Dick Scobee Elementary School received a Boeing Employees Credit Union grant to add aesthetically pleasing elements to the school's front entrance due to his efforts. He also provided leadership for a partnership with Sterling Savings Bank to send the Dick Scobee third graders to Junior Achievement classes in Auburn.

Mr. Brown is on the Communities in Schools Auburn advisory board. He also is a member of his neighborhood's homeowner's association.

Mr. Brown is always interested in promoting the best interests of students, not just in Auburn but throughout the area. Recently he heard a local news station covering an unsubstantiated bomb threat. He quickly contacted the station to remind them of their promise six years ago that stated they would not cover bomb threats unless they were substantiated. Mr. Brown immediately received responses from the director of the newsroom and the director of the affiliated radio station informing Mr. Brown that his correspondence prompted the company to reinstate their policy of only covering substantiated bomb threats.

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

3/14/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District Superintendent Search Timeline Revised

The Auburn School District Board of Directors and Northwest Leadership Associates, the superintendent search firm, have revised the timeline for applicants interested in applying for Auburn School District's superintendent opening.

Superintendent Search Timeline

- | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| • March 3, 2008 | Vacancy Announced |
| • April 21, 2008 | Application Deadline |
| • May 5-16, 2008 | Interviews |
| • TBA | Site Visits |
| • TBA | Superintendent Selection |
| • July 1, 2008 | New Superintendent Reports |

How to Apply

Contact: Dr. Dennis Ray
Northwest Leadership Associates

724 North Lancashire
Liberty Lake, WA 99019
509-255-6170
dennisray@superintendentsearch.com
www.superintendentsearch.com

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

3/14/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District Students Qualify for Washington State Solo and Ensemble Contest

On Saturday, March 8, Auburn choir students from Auburn High School (AHS), Auburn Mountainview High School (AMHS) and Auburn Riverside High School (ARHS) participated in the West Central District III Solo and Ensemble Contest at Auburn High School. Ten area high schools participated in this year's competition.

The following Auburn School District students qualified as winners and first and second alternates for the 2008 Washington State Solo and Ensemble Contest in Ellensburg at Central Washington University on April 25-26, 2008.

Mezzo Soprano

- Winner: Rachel Pack, AMHS
- 2nd Alternate: Kalie Krueger, AHS

Baritone

- Winner: Daniel McCafferty, AMHS

Mixed Large Ensemble

- Winner: A Cappella Ensemble of Jessica Schmit, Rachel Pack, Jamie Ritson, Maddie Slettedahl, Katie Farrell, Kylie LiaBraaten, Svetlana Spatarel, Cathy Cederwall, Daniel McCafferty, Dmitriy Spatarel, Corey LiaBraaten, Jake Lombardo and Daniel Frerichs, AMHS

Men's Small Ensemble

- Winner: Barbershop Quartet of Jake Lombardo, Dmitriy Spatarel, Corey LiaBraaten and Daniel Frerichs, AMHS
- 2nd Alternate: Men's Duet of Travis Anderson and Tyler Anderson, AHS

Tenor

- Winner: Daniel Schreiner, ARHS
- 1st Alternate: Thaddeus Wilson, AHS
- 2nd Alternate: Dmitriy Spatarel, AMHS

Bass

- 2nd Alternate: Zac Berry, AMHS

Men's Large Ensemble

- Tyler Goforth, Jake Lombardo, Soa Sophanara, Dmitriy Spatarel, Daniel McCafferty, Corey LiaBraaten, Bryson Stafford, Chris Williams, Brandon Pelfrey, Matt Seketa and Daniel Frerichs, AMHS

Mixed Small Ensemble

- 1st Alternate: Kalie Krueger, Kahlani Badeaux, Naveed Badri and Bryce Davis, AHS
- 2nd Alternate: Maddie Slettedahl, Jamie Ritson, Dmitriy Spatarel and Daniel Frerichs, AMHS

Women's Small Ensemble

- 2nd Alternate: Michelle Schuller, Kaylie Rowe and Joy Hiibel, AHS

Women's Large Ensemble

- 2nd Alternate: McKenna Swanson, Leah Noel, Mary Dusek, Kahlani Badeaux, Alyssa Ulrich, Lindsay Tosch, Anna Tokar, Marissa Flannery, Michelle Schuller, Nikka Badri, Kalie Krueger, Kim Williams, Joy Hiibel, Joplyn Williams, Liz Glavish and Anne Partridge, AHS

For more information, contact Kandy Gilbert, Auburn High School choir instructor, at 253-931-4880; Karen Frerichs, Auburn Mountainview High School choir instructor, at 253-804-4539; or Linda Fahlgren, Auburn Riverside High School choir instructor, at 253-804-5154.

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

3/12/08

NEWS RELEASE

Evergreen Heights Elementary School to Compete at the King County Global Reading Challenge Championship

On Friday, March 28, the Evergreen Heights Elementary School Global Reading Challenge team, the "Livewires," will represent South King County at the 2008 King County Global Reading Challenge Championship, to be held at the King County Library System Service Center in Issaquah. The competition kicks off at 10 a.m. Linda Johns, a local author who penned 1 of the 10 Global Reading Challenge books, *Hannah West and the Belltown Towers*, will open the ceremonies.

The Evergreen Heights Livewires—Jocelyn Mc Wayne, Brooke Saxen, Emily Clark, Mason McInerny, Baron Baura and Angelina Pishchenko—competed against 10 other schools in Auburn School District's Global Reading Challenge, capturing first place, which qualified them to move on to the South King County Regional Championship. The Livewires beat teams from Federal Way and Enumclaw to secure their position in the King County Championship.

Each team at the King County Championship will have advanced through school, school district and regional challenges. All teams, at all levels of competition, must demonstrate knowledge of 10 books chosen by King County Library System librarians. A typical format consists of three rounds of eight questions. Questions are open-ended, fill-in-the-blank, true or false, or multiple choice. Teams are given time to confer and must come up with one answer for each question.

According to Arnie Grab, Evergreen Heights Elementary School's librarian and Global Reading Challenge supervisor, "These kids read on their own time and meet to study and discuss the readings. This year the group of kids has worked really well together. They listen to each other and take their time in responding to questions," says Mr. Grab. "It's great that Global Reading is an available opportunity to students that promotes reading."

The Global Reading Challenge is modeled after the popular Battle of the Books and has been well received by students in nine school districts around King County. In 2001, the first Global Challenge in King County was initiated in Auburn with two schools and 42 students. This year the program highlights 43 schools and over 1,300 students and generates enormous enthusiasm among participants, as well as their parents, peers and teachers. This collaborative effort was born primarily to promote the love of reading and to have fun while doing it. It has also provided a recreational outlet for readers, promoted teamwork and introduced children to a wide variety of multicultural reading materials.

For more information contact Arnie Grab, librarian at Evergreen Heights Elementary School, at 253-931-4903.

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

3/11/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn to Host a Community Forum on Gang Awareness and Graffiti Prevention

On Thursday, March 20, in an effort to engage parents, teens and community members in a discussion about juvenile issues, the City of Auburn and Auburn School District are teaming up to host "SPEAK UP and GET INVOLVED: A Community Forum on Juvenile Issues." This free forum is scheduled from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Auburn Senior High School, located at 700 East Main Street (enter at the Performing Arts Center). A free dinner will be provided courtesy of the Auburn Youth Council from 5:30-6 p.m.

The keynote speakers Dora Trevino and Christina Pelayo of "Stop the Violence"

Program and Auburn Police Officer Jason Blake will discuss juvenile issues including gang and youth violence, and criminal justice and closure.

"Auburn has a history of successfully handling the needs of children and youth in the community. The well-established and supportive partnerships between the School District, the City and various community organizations make it possible to proactively address these needs, creating a safer environment for young people and providing quality resources," states Linda Cowan, superintendent of Auburn Schools.

For more details about the forum, please call Paul Douglas, Olympic Middle School principal, at (253) 931-4966, or Auburn Parks and Recreation youth coordinator Jim Westhusing at (253) 931-3043.

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

3/11/08

NEWS RELEASE

Terminal Park Elementary School Recycles 2,000 Milk Cartons in One Week

On Thursday, March 13, at 2 p.m., Terminal Park Elementary School students will discover just how many milk cartons they recycle on average in a week. At this month's Superstar Assembly, Terminal Park's "Green Team," a team of students committed to cutting down waste at Terminal Park, will show off all 2,000 milk cartons they and their fellow classmates have recycled in a week's time. Additionally, the class with the best effort will be awarded the "Earth Idol" award at the assembly.

Mr. Martin, Terminal Park's fourth grade teacher who created the Green Team, reports that the Auburn Education Association awarded the Green Team a grant to purchase rubber gloves and dish drying pans, which will encourage classes to continue rinsing and drying their milk cartons prior to being placed in the recycling bins.

For more information, contact Michael Martin, fourth grade teacher at Terminal Park Elementary School, at 253-931-4978.

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

3/11/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn High School to Host 2008 Regional Washington State Sport Stacking Championship

On Saturday, March 15, the second annual WSSA (World Sport Stacking Association) Northwest Regional/Washington State Sport Stacking Championship will be held at the Auburn High School gym from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students from Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana have been invited to compete for WSSA trophies and medals. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$2.00 for seniors and kids (ages 5 to 17), and free for children under 5.

Sport stacking (formerly called cup stacking) is an individual and team sport where stackers stack and unstack 12 specially designed cups (Speed Stacks) in predetermined sequences with lightning quickness. The sport is described as a “track meet for your hands at warp speed.”

The unique sport promotes hand-eye coordination, ambidexterity, focus, concentration, team skills and sportsmanship. Sport stacking competitions take place locally, nationally and internationally throughout the year, attracting more than one million kids worldwide. Stackers range in age from 6 to 17 and individually compete against the clock for record times or on relay teams in head-to-head competition. A division for stackers with special needs is also included.

For more information, contact John Ansotigue, tournament director, at (253) 931-4974, or explore www.worldsportstackingassociation.org and www.speedstacks.com.

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

3/11/08

NEWS RELEASE

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

On Tuesday, March 25, 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. KeyBank, BECU, Boeing, Kiwanis of Auburn and Soroptimist Club 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, Enumclaw 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

3/11/08

NEWS RELEASE

Northwest Leadership Associates and Auburn School Board to Host Staff and Community Focus Groups

On March 18-19, Northwest Leadership Associates, the superintendent search firm appointed by the Auburn School Board, will be hosting staff and community focus groups. The focus groups will provide staff and community the opportunity to give input as to what they would like to see in the next superintendent of the Auburn School District.

Students, parents and community members are invited to attend the community sessions, to be held in the evenings.

The schedule is:

Tuesday, March 18

- 11:00 a.m. Principals
- 1:00 p.m. Central Office staff
- 3:00 p.m. Secondary teachers and specialists
- 4:00 p.m. Elementary teachers and specialists
- 5:00 p.m. Classified staff
- 7:00 p.m. Community

Wednesday, March 19

- 7:00 a.m. Classified administrators
- 9:00 a.m. Assistant principals
- 12:00 p.m. Classified staff
- 3:00 p.m. Secondary teachers and specialists
- 4:00 p.m. Elementary teachers and specialists
- 6:00 p.m. Community

All meetings will be held in the board room of the James P. Fugate Administration Building, 915 4th Street NE, Auburn.

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

3/7/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District to Host "Whole Local Foods Day"

On Wednesday, March 19, the Auburn School District Child Nutrition Services department will be offering a "Whole Local Foods Day" in the school kitchens.

In conjunction with the March 19 statewide "Taste Washington Day" event, Auburn's "Whole Local Foods Day" will serve lunch to students featuring whole, natural foods from local farmers.

Teachers will talk with students about whole foods and encourage them to recognize and understand some of the benefits of eating whole foods—like extra vitamins and minerals to help them grow—as well as the impacts of eating whole foods such as boosting the local economy, conserving energy and sustainability!

Whole Foods are foods that are eaten in a state similar to how they exist in nature—they undergo little processing. They might be chopped up and combined (like in a salad). Typically, they are foods that you can see grow (have you ever seen a "chip" grow?).

The student lunch menu on March 19 includes:

Roast Chicken Quarters

Draper Valley Farms, Mount Vernon, WA
with Kosher Salt and Black Pepper

Organic Yukon Gold Potatoes

Full Circle Farms, Carnation, WA

Fresh D'Anjou Pear

Congdon Orchards, Yakima, WA

Certified Organic Fresh Baked Foccacia

Essential Bakery, Seattle, WA

1% White or Non-Fat Chocolate Milk

Dairy Fresh Farms, Seattle, WA

Homemade Washington Cherry Crisp

Royal Ridge Fruit Company, Royal, WA

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

3/7/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Riverside High School Cheer Squad Wins WIAA Academic State Championship

The Auburn Riverside High School girls' cheer squad captured the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) 2007-08 Winter Academic State Championship for 3A cheer.

Twenty students on the cheer squad studied diligently throughout the winter to maintain an average 3.52 GPA, the highest average GPA of any other 3A cheer squad.

The cheer squad will be recognized at the state basketball tournament the weekend of March 8-9.

For more information contact Doug Aubert, Auburn Riverside High School athletic director, at 253-804-5154.

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

3/3/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District Superintendent Search Begins

On Monday, March 3, the Auburn School District Board of Directors and Northwest Leadership Associates, the superintendent search firm, officially begin the search process for Auburn School District's next superintendent.

Staff, students, parents and citizens are invited to participate in a survey that will assist the Board and search firm in developing the position description and leadership profile that will guide the selection of the next superintendent. No attempt will be made to link specific responses with the individual completing the survey. The survey can be accessed through the Auburn School District website: www.auburn.wednet.edu.

Superintendent Search Timeline

- Search begins/online survey launched: March 3, 2008
- Application deadline: April 7, 2008
- Interviews: April 21-May 1, 2008
- Selection: May 12, 2008
- New superintendent reports: July 1, 2008

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

APRIL 2008:

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

4/30/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School Board of Directors Selects Six Semifinalists for Superintendent Search Preliminary Interviews

On Monday, April 28, the Auburn School District Board of Directors selected six semifinalists to interview for the superintendent vacancy in the Auburn School District. The preliminary interviews will be held during special board meetings on May 6-7.

- Patricia Adams, Superintendent, St. Helens School District
- Elaine Beraza, Director of Department of Defense Domestic Elementary and Secondary Schools, Department of Defense Education Activity
- Dennis Carlson, Superintendent, Lynden School District
- Mark Davidson, Deputy Superintendent, Federal Way Public Schools
- Dennis Herren, Deputy Superintendent, Auburn School District
- Michael Newman, Associate Superintendent, Auburn School District

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***

4/30/08

NEWS RELEASE

Washington Elementary School Fifth Grader Selected for the 2008 AAA School Safety Patrol Hall of Fame

Kaelin Cooley, a fifth grade student at Washington Elementary School, was selected by AAA Washington as 1 of 10 outstanding school safety patrol members from schools throughout the state.

Kaelin will be inducted into the AAA School Safety Patrol Hall of Fame. Her name will appear on a plaque at AAA Washington's corporate office in Bellevue and she will be mentioned in AAA's *Journey* magazine. Kaelin was also a guest of honor at a dinner and awards ceremony at the Seattle Mariners baseball game on Friday, April 25.

AAA and the Washington Traffic Safety Commission honored Kaelin during a pre-game ceremony before being escorted down to the field where she was recognized for her accomplishment. The remainder of the evening Kaelin enjoyed dinner and the ballgame from a luxury suite. Kaelin's family accompanied her to the event.

The AAA School Safety Patrol Hall of Fame is an opportunity for traffic safety leaders and school patrol advisors to recognize outstanding patrollers for their dedication to the safety of their 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***

4/30/08

NEWS RELEASE

Terminal Park Elementary School to Host Annual English Language Learners Open House

On Thursday, May 15, Terminal Park Elementary School's English Language Learner (ELL) club will host its annual Open House from 6:00-7:30 P.M. at the Terminal Park Elementary School gymnasium.

The event is designed to celebrate the wonderful diversity in Auburn School District and to provide vital information and education to community members who do not speak English at home. Families will enjoy games, refreshments, bingo, demonstrations and more.

Participants include the City of Auburn Diversity program and Parks, Arts and Recreation program, Washington Dental Association, Valley Regional Fire Authority, Green River Community College, YMCA, Auburn Police Department, ACAP, Washington Oral Health Department and Dr. Robert Pavalunas.

Terminal Park's ELL club has 74 students that speak 14 different languages. Students share the richness of their first cultures with staff and students alike, which enriches the entire Terminal Park community. Terminal Park's ELL club motto is: How many languages can you speak?

For more information contact Tracy Hoevet, Terminal Park Elementary School ELL instructor, at (253) 653-4611.

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

4/29/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District's Board of Directors Honors Eighth Grader Cecilia Soltero

The Auburn School District Board of Directors recognized Cecilia Soltero, an eighth grader at Mt. Baker Middle School, for being an outstanding student on Monday, April 28, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Cecilia Soltero epitomizes the definition of "overachiever"—defined as "one who achieves success over and above the standard or expected level especially at an early age." Moving from California to Auburn in sixth grade, Cecilia transitioned at a critical age and made the most out of a new situation. According to her social studies and language arts teacher Mr. Warring, "Cecilia has made Mt. Baker her own and really capitalized on her leadership strengths. She gets along with everyone."

As ASB student body president, Cecilia's ability to reach out to all students is a very welcoming quality. Cecilia is a natural-born leader. "If there's a group of 20 student-leaders who are all intelligent and motivated, Cecilia will be the one to step up and organize the group," remarks Mr. Warring. As student body president, she also reads morning announcements, setting the pace for the entire day with her enthusiasm; plans major pep assemblies; recruits teachers and students for participation in school activities; and more.

Cecilia is passionate about people in general and thinks about what she can do for others. For example, Cecilia's social studies class recently discussed the pros and cons of the Declaration of Independence. According to Mr. Warring, Cecilia was frustrated because non-white males weren't included, so she decided to write a five-page essay about the things that were wrong with it and how they could be corrected. "She did this on her own initiative because she felt so passionate about it," says Mr. Warring.

Cecilia's passion most likely bubbles over from her passion for her family. She is very family-oriented and helps her younger siblings whenever possible, including helping her younger sister sell her troop's share of Girl Scout cookies. Cecilia is also the proud sister of newborn twins.

Academically Cecilia is a 3.9 GPA standout. According to her teachers, she consciously seeks out opportunities to go above and beyond the average. Currently she is taking an Algebra class with a group of very high achieving students. Ms. Scott, Cecilia's math and science teacher, applauds Cecilia for her tenacity and willingness to ask questions if she doesn't understand. One of her favorite subjects is science, and she wants to be a medical doctor. "Cecilia is very excited to enroll in high school biology," says Ms. Scott. In fact, Cecilia came up with a laundry list of what she wants to do in high school, including six academic classes, with her elective being biology. Mr. Warring asked Cecilia, "When are you going to sleep?"

Cecilia also plays the violin in Mt. Baker's orchestra and recently tried out for the volleyball squad. "The wheels are always turning with Cecilia; you can always tell she is engaged and into whatever learning is taking place," smiles Ms. Scott.

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

4/29/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District's Board of Directors Honors Staff Member Beth Raines

The Auburn School District Board of Directors recognized Beth Raines, third grade teacher at Dick Scobee Elementary School, for her outstanding service on Monday, April 28, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Beth Raines, third grade teacher at Dick Scobee Elementary School, is approaching her twentieth year of teaching at Dick Scobee. "The reason I've been here for so long is because of the staff and administrators. Everyone has a great sense of humor, and we value and respect each other so much. I guess we're not just coworkers but friends, too. Almost every day there is something funny or unique that happens and that's why I love this job; it's never boring," smiles Beth.

Beth not only has strong ties to her school, but to the Auburn community as well. Her great grandparents settled in the Auburn area and her great grandfather was on the very first Auburn School Board. Beth's parents were educators—her mother a teacher and her father an administrator. Beth grew up in Burien, but attended Auburn High School when her father became the assistant principal at Olympic Middle School and then principal at West Auburn High School. Beth knew early in life that she wanted to pursue teaching. "My mom was my fifth grade teacher, which I didn't like very much, but my sixth grade teacher inspired me to pursue teaching," says Beth. "It was great when I had the opportunity to go back and thank her."

Beth approaches her teaching with an attitude of more is better. "We provide so much more than educating kids; sometimes we're called mom or dad by accident because the students see us every day, and school is a place where many children find stability," remarks Beth. "I've always said, 'Once you've been my student, you're always my student.'" In fact, during Beth's first year at Dick Scobee, one of her former first grade students returned to student teach in Beth's classroom. "She told me I made the most difference in her life and it was my class where she decided she wanted to become a teacher," says Beth. Another former student invited Beth to his wedding. "When students come back and say I really was important to them, it reaffirms what I'm doing professionally," says Beth.

As a third grade teacher, Beth teaches all subjects. "From reviewing WASL stem questions to teaching students how to eat healthy, there is never a dull moment," smiles Beth. Recently Dick Scobee kicked off a healthy eating program in conjunction with the Washington State University Food Sense Program. The program teaches students how to cook and eat healthy. Beth's students made spring rolls from scratch one week. "The kids are so proud of themselves after they've done all the prep and cooking. A lot of students will try vegetables and other foods they may not otherwise try because they've created the meals themselves," says Beth.

Beth is a firm believer in parent involvement and believes she can better understand a child's learning needs and personality if she knows where the child is coming from at home. Beth meets one-on-one with parents to gather input; requires parents to sign weekly student assignment sheets; organizes a third grade family parent night during the first week of school; issues regular progress reports; corresponds with parents via phone and e-mail; hosts ice cream socials; and sends home class newsletters. According to Beth, "Parents need to be involved in their child's education. Sometimes educating the parents on how to work with their kids at home is just as important as educating the students in the classroom."

Over the years, Beth has committed herself to lifelong learning. She has participated on multiple district committees, including a Substitute Committee, which she is currently serving on. Beth knows that continuing her education will only better her students' education. Recently Beth shared new math skills with her class that she learned at a local math conference. "When I share with the kids that I try something new, I think it makes it easier for them to try new things," says Beth. "It's important that they know I am still learning."

Beth's students probably also like the fact that their teacher is a huge sports fan. Beth has coached fifth and sixth grade boys' basketball and girls' volleyball. It's hard to miss the life-size poster of Philadelphia Eagle's standout Donovan McNabb in her room—a gift from one of her student's parents. Beth is a football fanatic. When she was little her dad took her to games and she would run around in a football helmet despite the fact that her parents dressed her up as a cheerleader. Her love of the game continued and she played flag football in college for a year. She even tried out for a local professional women's football team, the Tacoma Majestics. "It was the greatest thing ever—full pads, full tackle. I trained hard and signed up but got injured before the first game, so I had to give it up," says Beth.

Beth holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Seattle Pacific University and a master's degree in multidisciplinary education from Lesley College. She is a devoted mom to two boys, an eighth grader and third grader, and her husband is a US Army

Airborne Ranger. In her spare time, Beth and her family are most likely on Whidbey Island spending time with her parents and sister. If she could teach on a beach, she probably would—"I love to do anything on or near the saltwater," smiles Beth.

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

4/28/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District Announces Two Administrative Appointments

Auburn School District has announced two administrative appointments for the 2008-09 school year.

Dennis Grad, currently principal at Cascade Middle School, has been appointed to the position of director of transportation. Mr. Grad has been an elementary principal and middle school principal. He will bring this experience as well as his leadership skills to the transportation position.

Isaiah Johnson, currently the assistant principal at Mt. Baker Middle School, has been appointed to the position of principal at Cascade Middle School. Mr. Johnson is an experienced mid-level educator with excellent skills in both discipline and instructional leadership, and will provide outstanding support and leadership to the Cascade community. Mr. Johnson was recognized as the South King County Region Assistant Principal of the Year during the 2006-07 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

4/28/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Riverside High School Band Program Presents 2008 Jazz Café and Silent Auction

On Friday, May 2, the Auburn Riverside High School band program will host the 2008 Jazz Café and Silent Auction benefit from 7:00-9:00 P.M. at the Auburn Riverside High School commons. Tickets are \$5.00 at the door. Free dessert and refreshments will be served throughout the evening.

Live jazz performances will feature Mt. Baker Middle School, Auburn High School, Auburn Mountainview High School, Auburn Riverside High School and Auburn School District Faculty.

Monies raised will benefit the Auburn Riverside High School band program, specifically new music, uniforms and transportation for the 2008-09 school year.

For more information contact Meghan Wagner, director of bands at Auburn Riverside High School, at (253) 804-5154.

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

4/28/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Middle Schools Awarded King County Community Organizing Grant

Cascade Middle School and Mt. Baker Middle School each received \$1,000 grants from the King County Community Organizing Committee.

Mt. Baker Middle School used the grant funds to pay for Junior Achievement Finance education. Cascade Middle School used the grant funds to pay for staff and supplies provided during the school's WASL Camp, which was held the week of April 7-11.

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

4/28/08

NEWS RELEASE

Dick Scobee Elementary School Awarded \$7,582.20 Fred Meyer Foundation Grant

Dick Scobee Elementary School was recently awarded a \$7,582.20 Fred Meyer Foundation grant to purchase a computerized visitor management program designed to account for and screen all visitors, contractors, volunteers and faculty passing through the school.

Principal Greg Brown determined to create a more streamlined, efficient process in visitor management at Dick Scobee. The new system will be in operation beginning 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

4/28/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn High School Horticulture Teacher Wins King County Mini-Grant

Bruce Morris, Auburn High School horticulture instructor, was awarded a \$500 Hazards on the Homefront Mini-Grant, sponsored by the King County Solid Waste Division.

Mr. Morris will create an educational unit focused on environmentally friendly cleaning products as substitutes for household hazardous products.

For more information contact Bruce Morris, Auburn High School horticulture instructor, at (253) 931-4880.

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

4/28/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District Child Nutrition Services Department Wins School Garden Grant

The Auburn School District Child Nutrition Services Department has been awarded a \$1,000 Terry Husseman Sustainable Public School Award. The awards will be presented at a ceremony in Olympia on May 22.

The grant application, titled, "Our School Garden: Center for the Study of Lunch," requested funding for an experiential garden at Washington Elementary School that incorporates and teaches students sustainable practices from vermicomposting cafeteria fruit and vegetable scraps, to growing organic fruits and vegetables for the school lunchrooms.

On May 1, from 1:30-2:30 P.M., Auburn High School students in Mr. Morris's horticulture class will begin to prepare the garden by mulching and staking out raised beds. Washington Elementary School students will have the opportunity to participate in the after-school garden club beginning on May 6, and then every Tuesday and Thursday, from 3:15-4:00 P.M.

For more information contact Eric Boutin, supervisor of child nutrition services, at (253) 931-4972.

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

4/25/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District Staff Member Wins Washington State Classified Employee Excellence Award

Arlista Holman, Auburn Senior High School registrar, was awarded the 2008 Washington State Classified Employee Excellence Award on April 4 at the State Capitol Building Senate Chambers. Ms. Holman was honored with a certificate and a \$1,000 check.

Nominated by her peers, Ms. Holman was recognized for her outstanding contribution and commitment to education. Thirty-six recipients from across the state were selected for the award.

The Washington State Classified Employee Award program was enacted by the 2007 Legislature to commend outstanding classified employees.

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

4/17/08

NEWS RELEASE

Two Auburn School District Seniors Named Washington Scholars

Auburn Mountainview High School senior Matt Burrows and Auburn Riverside High School senior Michael Broch have been named 2008 Washington Scholars.

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

4/15/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District Transportation Department Declared a Top 50 Program of Harvard Kennedy School's 2008 Innovations in American Government Awards Competition

The Auburn School District Transportation Department's "Partnership Approach to Safe Routes to School" program has been 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 "Partnership Approach to Safe Routes to School" program represents the best in government innovation.

The "Partnership Approach to Safe Routes to School" innovation 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, which are hardly a traditional element in school transportation plans. The purpose of the partnerships is to

increase the practice of walking and cycling to school by creating safer school walking/cycling routes for the Auburn School District's 14,500 students. The program has proven itself—providing 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.

Being in the Top 50 means that the “Partnership Approach to Safe Routes to School” program will be competing for a \$100,000 award. Finalists will be announced on June 3, 2008. On June 12, 2008, finalist programs will make presentations on their initiatives before the National Selection Committee. The winners of the 2008 Innovations in American Government Awards will be announced and honored at an awards gala and reception in September of 2008.

Established in 1985 at Harvard Kennedy School by the Ford Foundation, the Innovations in American Government Awards Program is designed to improve government practice by honoring effective government initiatives and encouraging the dissemination of such best practices across the country. Over its 20 year history, the Innovations in American Government Program has honored 181 federal, state, and local government agencies.

Many award-winning programs have now been replicated across policy areas and jurisdictions, serving as forerunners for today's reform strategies and new legislation. Such programs also inform research and academic study at Harvard Kennedy School and other academic institutions around the world.

Each of the Top 50 programs underwent several rounds of rigorous evaluation from a committee of practitioners and policy experts from Harvard Kennedy School as well as renowned institutions nationwide. Selected programs address a number of important policy areas including health and social services; management and governance; community and economic development; education and training; criminal justice; transportation and infrastructure; and the environment.

Representing a range of jurisdictions from across the country, the Top 50 Programs include seventeen cities/towns, four counties, six federal agencies, three school districts, nineteen states, and one tribal government.

“The 50 best innovations for the 2008 Innovations in American Government Awards demonstrate effective solutions to some of our nation's most pressing issues,” said Stephen Goldsmith, director of the Innovations in American Government Awards Program, Harvard Kennedy School. “From child welfare reform and improvements in homicide case review to promotion of our nation's parks, these programs are improving the way we live our daily lives.”

“We commend the innovative initiatives of these Top 50 programs,” said Gowher Rizvi, director of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation. “In their path to finding new ways for doing the public's business better, these programs are paving the way for nationwide—and even global—reform strategies.”

About the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation

The Roy and Lila Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation advances excellence in governance and strengthens democratic institutions worldwide. Through its research, publications, leadership training, global network, and awards program—developed in collaboration with a diverse, engaged community of scholars and practitioners—the Ash Institute fosters creative and effective government problem-solving and serves as a catalyst for addressing many of the most pressing needs of the world's citizens. The Ford Foundation is a founding donor of the Institute. Additional information about the Ash Institute is available at www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu. Applicants for the 2009 Innovations in American Government Awards are encouraged to apply at www.innovationsaward.harvard.edu.

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

4/11/08

NEWS RELEASE

Jeani Rottle 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 Jeani Rottle, in recognition of her volunteer support to Auburn School District, on Monday, April 14, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Jeani recalls the prelude to the Auburn School District All-Schools Food Drive back in 2003. She was serving on the board of the Auburn Food Bank and was in her last year of teaching at Ilalko. She remarks, "We had a food drive in our school that went so-so, but then the father of one of our students who worked at the White River McDonald's said he'd cook a free lunch for the class who brought in the most food. The incentive lit a fire underneath the kids. The kids were pumped and brought in a lot of food."

Feeding off her school's enthusiasm and success, Jeani proposed to start a competition between all Auburn schools at all three levels. Like most start-up ventures, Jeani's was all-consuming. "I lived in my car for the first two months just soliciting restaurants to donate free lunches to the winning classrooms at each school," says Jeani. "We are so grateful to the wonderful restaurant support we have been given each year." She was also responsible for securing key contact persons from each school who would be in charge of coordinating the drive within their own schools and who would communicate directly with her. Thanks to Superintendent Linda Cowan, the details were arranged for tote deliveries and pick-ups from each school. More challenges arose when looking for extra storage space and the sorting of the food after the drive. The Auburn Food Bank has it all under control now thanks to Director Debbie Christian and Kayla Sargent of the Auburn Food Bank. Jeani also praises the volunteerism of Steve Christiansen, music teacher at Arthur Jacobsen Elementary School, who is the liaison between the school district and Auburn Food Bank Director Debbie Christian and Jeani. Members of the Auburn Food Bank board are now participating in many aspects of the drive as well, and this year the local grocery stores have stepped up to participate in a variety of ways. Jeani is thrilled to see how the drive has evolved into a full community effort.

Now in its fourth year, the Auburn All-Schools Food Drive recently brought in a whopping 65,000 pounds of food and \$7,000 in cash. "What is so great about this, especially the cash donations, is that the cash buying power of food for a non-profit is six times more than the retail value. So our \$7,000 really totals \$42,000 worth of product," explains Jeani.

According to Jeani, the Auburn Food Bank, with the support of the district, is hoping to move next year's All-Schools Food Drive to March instead of January. Typically January is a good month to secure a large amount of donations due to the fact that most people who've donated during the holidays forget about the continued need once the New Year begins. However, the Auburn Food Bank discovered an East Coast philanthropist who will match the amount of money raised at food drives that occur in March. "This is a great opportunity and just one more way the Food Bank can expand its resources," says Jeani.

What sticks with Jeani more than the thousands of pounds of food and money donated has to be what the food drive teaches children. "As a teacher, what got me started with the food drive was using it as a vehicle to demonstrate to children how important it is to give back. It's important to get kids thinking how they can think beyond themselves and help others, which is exactly what the food drive gets kids to do," remarks Jeani.

Jeani also volunteers at the local food bank in Othello, Washington, when it's open on Fridays. She and husband George's business is in Othello, so it's important to her and her husband that they give back to that community. One year their hunting club published a game bird recipe cookbook and donated 100 percent of the proceeds to the Othello Food Bank.

When not volunteering, Jeani is most likely traveling around the nation teaching other educators the ins and outs of differentiated instruction as a consultant for the Bureau of Education and Research. "I enjoy teaching best practices and helping other educators institute them at their schools," says Jeani.

Jeani is looking forward to next year's fifth annual Auburn School District All-Schools Food Drive and can't wait to see those overflowing totes.

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***

4/4/08

NEWS RELEASE

Lea Hill Elementary School Teacher Named STAR 101.5 "Teacher of the Week"

Lea Hill Elementary School teacher Joanne Spear will be named STAR 101.5's "Teacher of the Week" in a Western Washington contest. Ms. Spear was nominated by her second grade student, Natalie Williams.

On Friday, April 4, at 10 A.M., STAR 101.5 will make a surprise visit and deliver prizes to Ms. Spear's Lea Hill Elementary classroom. At the surprise party, Ms. Spear will receive a \$100 check, a plaque and a party for the classroom—including goody bags. Natalie Williams will also be recognized in front of her classmates for nominating Ms. Spear.

STAR 101.5's "Teacher of the Week" is a 12-week program that allows students and parents to recognize deserving educators for their commitment to the quality education of local 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***

4/1/08

NEWS RELEASE

Mt. Baker Middle School Teacher and Coach Named SPSL 3A Middle School Coach of the Year

On Thursday, April 3, during Mt. Baker Middle School's 1:15 P.M. pep assembly, PE instructor and wrestling coach Matt King will be recognized as the South Puget Sound League 3A Middle School Wrestling Coach of the Year.

Mr. King was recently recognized at an end-of-the-year high school wrestling tournament at Auburn Riverside 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***

4/1/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Mountainview High School Science Teacher Wins \$10,000 Amgen Award

On April 1, Auburn Mountainview High School science teacher Deborah Rumbaugh was awarded the Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence (AASTE) in a surprise presentation.

Ms. Rumbaugh is one of four educators in Washington State being recognized for teaching excellence through creative and effective contributions in the science classroom. Auburn Mountainview High School Principal Bob Odman, Auburn School District Superintendent Linda Cowan, and Jessica and Tess, two of Ms. Rumbaugh's daughters, attended the surprise presentation in Ms. Rumbaugh's 8 a.m. Advanced Placement Biology class. Two of Ms. Rumbaugh's students congratulated her in front of their classmates and shared just how much knowledge and passion for science Ms. Rumbaugh has passed on to them.

Ms. Rumbaugh will receive an unrestricted cash grant of \$5,000, and Auburn Mountainview High School will receive a restricted grant of \$5,000 to be used to expand or enhance the school's science program, purchase new science resources, or further the professional development of its science teachers.

The Amgen Award for Science Teaching Excellence is an annual awards program that recognizes extraordinary contributions by educators across the United States, Puerto Rico and Canada who are elevating the level of science literacy through creativity in the

classroom and motivation of students. An independent panel of judges selects the winners based on the following criteria: creativity of teaching methods; effectiveness in the classroom; the plan for the use of grant money to improve science education resources in their schools; an innovative science lesson plan showcasing innovative methods in the classroom; and a plan for dissemination/sharing the lesson plan with other teachers.

Amgen, a biotechnology pioneer, discovers, develops, manufactures and markets important human therapeutics for serious illnesses. Amgen is committed to dramatically improving people's lives, not only through the therapeutics it delivers to patients but also through supporting programs that advance science literacy throughout North America.

Since the program's inception in 1992, Amgen has awarded more than \$1.7 million to public and private school science teachers, grades K-12, in communities in which Amgen operates.

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

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

4/1/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Riverside High School Technology Students Grab Top Honors

On March 29-30, Auburn Riverside High School students participated in the 2008 Washington Technology Student Association (WTSA) State Conference and Competition in Downtown Everett.

The following students captured top 5 finishes:

CAD ANIMATION ARCHITECTURE

- 1st Place Chris Jensen
- 5th Place Jenna Cull

CAD ANIMATION ENGINEERING

- 3rd Place Kyle Ridge
- 4th Place Phil Raschkow

CONSTRUCTION SYSTEMS

- 2nd Place Blair Russell and Ramiro Yescas

DRAGSTER DESIGN

- 4th Place Ryan Leslie

RADIO CONTROLLED TRANSPORTATION

- 2nd Place Erin Lane and Blair Russell

TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

- 1st Place Chris Jensen and Phil Raschkow

TECHNOLOGY PROBLEM SOLVING

- 2nd Place Kyle Ridge and Chris Jensen

TRANSPORTATION MODELING

- 1st Place Ryan Leslie
- 2nd Place Casey Allen
- 3rd Place Kyle Ridge

TECHNICAL SKETCHING AND APPLICATION

- 5th Place Kyle Ridge

TECHNOLOGY BOWL

- 5th Place Erin Lane, Megan Kerrigan and Casey Allen

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

MAY 2008:

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

5/28/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School Board of Directors Honors Staff Member Debbi Capponi-Glidewell

The Auburn School District Board of Directors recognized Debbi Capponi-Glidewell, fifth grade teacher at Arthur Jacobsen Elementary School, for her outstanding service on Tuesday, May 27, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Debbi Capponi-Glidewell, a fifth grade teacher at Arthur Jacobsen Elementary School, believes preparing students to become part of a team as well as individual thinkers and decision-makers is one of her most important roles as a fifth grade teacher. "As teachers we try to impress upon the students that they need to make the right decisions for themselves as well as understand how it affects others in society," says Debbi.

Debbi and her fellow fifth grade teammates at AJ encourage student independency and teamwork through various activities during the school year. For instance, fifth graders go through the DARE program to learn about making educated choices and how those choices impact their life and those around them; they attend fifth grade camp, which for some is their first trip away from family, and learn what it means to be part of a cabin team; they learn about the democratic process, leadership and teamwork through student body functions like the annual food drive and spirit days; and they participate in Junior Achievement's Biztown, which teaches them how to be a business team as well as how to manage their own checkbook.

According to Debbi, "You never teach in isolation; you always teach with others whether it be grade level partners, other staff members or parents." For example, in preparing for fifth grade camp, the custodian teaches students proper flag etiquette; the music specialist teaches the camp songs; and the PE specialist teaches compassing. Debbi and Arthur Jacobsen's librarian, Art Spencer, have also teamed up. Recently, Art led the students in the production of a live pod cast, which was aired over the Internet. Even parents were able to log onto the AJ website and listen.

Debbi attributes her team-teaching philosophy to Donna Smith, her first principal at Terminal Park Elementary School. She recalls Donna coming to her that first year and saying she needed to get out of her classroom and socialize more with the staff. She took that literally and went to Hawaii with third grade teaching partner Anna Grant. "Working and socializing with staff members made teaching easier, and my teaching became better quality for my students," says Debbi.

Some of Debbi's fondest teaching memories include her four-five split classes at Pioneer. "I love splits because you can do so much more integrating," remarks Debbi. Debbi's students created a buddy brochure for new students. There were also many PowerPoint presentations such as, "The Dams of Washington." "I'd have a thought and Dave Hoskin [Pioneer's librarian] would just go with it; as a result, the students were able to create some amazing projects," smiles Debbi.

Now Debbi is establishing new memories and traditions at AJ. The AJ staff is very family-oriented and social. Recently the staff lounge was covered in baby photos of the staff to spark conversation. Even the students got involved when they were asked to guess their teacher's identity from their grade school photo in the foyer.

Debbi's team approach translates into her home life as well. She is a busy wife and mother of two, who thanks her mother and appreciates her husband for working together to care for their children while she teaches during the school day. Debbi's husband, David, also works for the district as the head custodian for Terminal Park Elementary School. Debbi and her family live in Enumclaw, not too far from Black Diamond, which is where Debbi grew up. Debbi's family is very important to her, and she considers them her hobby. "If I could clone myself, I would, because then I could be at AJ as much as I want to and also be with my family 100 percent of the time," says Debbi.

Just as Debbi loves teaching, she hopes all her students become happy, productive team players who find careers in life that they enjoy.

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

5/28/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School Board of Directors Honors West Auburn Senior Amber Stanley

The Auburn School District Board of Directors recognized Amber Stanley, a senior at West Auburn High School, for being an outstanding student on Tuesday, May 27, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Amber Stanley represents the perfect example of a success story at West Auburn High School. Beginning her tenure at West Auburn trying to find her true identity, Amber was at times confused and angry. However, her potential to be a great student was evident and any one who met Amber could see her brightness and thoughtfulness. Amber was a great student at West Auburn trying to find her way.

As the years have progressed, Amber's teachers such as Mr. Payne and Mr. Fasso have seen Amber grow in maturity, responsibility, and most definitely leadership. According to Mr. Payne, "I have had the distinguished pleasure to have Amber as an advisee in my homeroom in her senior year. What she has brought to the class is invaluable. She has chosen on her own to be a vocal leader amongst her peers. When younger and newer students get off track, Amber is quick to gently guide them toward the right choice. It is not a forceful or mean-spirited style, but rather one of tough love. Students, and most definitely staff, respect Amber for her ability to lead other students."

Amber has done a great job by stepping up and working with other students; she is a fabulous role model by leading by example. This year she has succeeded in academics beyond the curve. She is prompt to all of her classes, her attendance is to be envied, and her leadership in class discussions benefits all of those involved. "For me it is not an overstatement to say that Amber is the type of student that defines why I am a teacher. She exhibits all of the fine qualities of a good student. She is also a great example of what makes West Auburn a great school. She has taken ownership of her academics and her own life to be a better person. She does this not to please and impress others, but rather because she wants to for her own good. I can't be more proud of Amber," remarks Mr. Payne.

Amber's intelligence and confidence make her a star student in Mr. Fasso's class. She deeply contemplates the works she reads in American Literature and makes perceptive, original responses both in discussion and in her writing. According to Mr. Fasso, "I was most impressed with her willingness to revise a piece of writing again and again until she was satisfied. I'm confident that her abilities and her good habits will take her far."

Amber has grown immensely since her enrollment at West Auburn. To summarize her success, Amber demonstrates youthfulness and a vitality to learn. Her appreciation for life and learning has been instrumental in supporting new students when they enroll at West Auburn High School, and the entire staff of West Auburn looks forward to see the direction she takes her many talents in the future.

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

5/28/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School Board of Directors Selects Next Superintendent for Auburn School District

On Tuesday, May 27, the Auburn School District Board of Directors selected Dr. Dennis "Kip" Herren as the next superintendent for the Auburn School District. Dr. Herren will assume the position effective July 1, 2008.

The Auburn School Board was impressed with the unparalleled trustworthiness, respect and vision of Dr. Herren and believe he is prepared to lead the district.

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

5/27/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Mountainview High School Students Place in Top 25th Percentile of National Financial Literacy Challenge

Six Auburn Mountainview High School students in Ms. Eckelman's accounting class scored in the top 25th percentile of the U.S. Department of Treasury's inaugural National Financial Literacy Challenge, a new initiative recommended by the President's Advisory Council on Financial Literacy:

- Katerina Buchova
- Doug Clair
- Timothy Gilmore
- John Mayhew
- Michael Scharer
- John Tague

From April 28, 2008 to May 16, 2008, the Challenge was taken by more than 46,000 high school students. Participants included students in rural areas, suburbs, and cities in this country, and in Department of Defense schools around the world. Students who scored in the top 25th percentile of the nation's scores will receive certificates of recognition.

For more information contact Patty Eckelman, Auburn Mountainview High School business education instructor, at 253-804-4539.

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

5/27/08

NEWS RELEASE

Pioneer Elementary School Kindergarten Classes to Launch Stomp Rockets

On Friday, May 30, Pioneer Elementary School kindergarten students in Mrs. Chock's A.M. and P.M. classes will make and launch stomp rockets with the Tacoma Astronomical Society at 8:45 A.M. and 12:45 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

5/23/08

NEWS RELEASE

Lea Hill Students Create Top 10 Ads for State of Washington's Bridging the Futures Contest

Lea Hill Elementary School students Hector Castaneda and Madelynn Stulce were announced top 10 winners of the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) and I-90 Wildlife Bridges Coalition's Bridging Futures IV Contest.

The Bridging Futures IV Contest invites elementary school students statewide to submit art renderings and essays depicting what a wildlife crossing might look like and how they function. The idea behind this annual contest is to tap into the creativity of kids statewide to help educate the wider driving public about the issues surrounding transportation and wildlife with a focus on a unique solution close to home. The Bridging Futures Contest is in its fourth year and has received tremendous support from students, educators, and both the transportation and environmental communities.

To view Hector and Madelynn's artwork, go to <http://www.i90wildlifebridges.org/bridgingfutures.htm>.

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

5/23/08

NEWS RELEASE

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

Kevin Powers, a junior from Auburn Riverside High School, took first place in the cabinetry division at the Washington State SkillsUSA Competition on April 18-19 in Vancouver, Washington. He will represent the State of Washington at the National SkillsUSA Tournament in Kansas City, Missouri, on June 22-28.

Robert Vernon, a junior from Auburn High School, placed 5th in state for cabinetry. Jeremy Anderson, a junior from Auburn Riverside High School, placed 6th in state for cabinetry.

Frank Medina, the electronics and computer repair instructor at Auburn Riverside High School, was named the SkillsUSA Advisor of the Year for the Puget Sound Region.

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

5/23/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Mountainview High School Piloting New Recycling Program

Auburn Mountainview High School horticulture instructor Regina Butler is coordinating a new pilot recycling program at the school. Clint Westmoreland from Cedar Grove Composting and Kathleen Edman from the City of Auburn are partnering with the school to launch the program.

Student volunteers will create four recycling stations in the commons to recycle the paper trays from the lunchroom and to recycle a portion of organic waste. Organic waste includes pre-consumer food waste (fruit and vegetable trimmings, old bread, expired grains, and coffee grounds). The student body ran a trial test during "Green Week" and found it to be successful enough to launch a pilot program. The kitchen staff will be trained by Cedar Grove Composting, and the City of Auburn will fund the pick-up fees. The Auburn Mountainview horticulture program and campus landscape maintenance will also be able to recycle yard waste.

For more information, contact Regina Butler, Auburn Mountainview High School horticulture instructor, at (253) 804-4539.

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

5/20/08

NEWS RELEASE

Pioneer Elementary School Students Featured in Northwest Education Loan Association Workbook

Pioneer Elementary School students are featured in the *I'm Going to College Workbook*, published by the Northwest Education Loan Association (NELA).

Students were selected to grace the cover and inside pages of the four-color publication, which provides students from all backgrounds the opportunity to explore their college options.

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

5/20/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District Named Junior Achievement Corporate Success Partner

Auburn School District has been named a 2008 Corporate Success Partner by Junior Achievement (JA) of Washington for enabling JA to reach more local students with vital and inspirational programs that prepare them for successful futures.

Auburn School District donates a percentage of its purchases with certain companies to Junior Achievement to help fund the tuition fees for students in need.

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

5/20/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District Honors City of Auburn Parks, Arts and Recreation Youth Program Leaders

On May 16, Auburn Parks, Arts and Recreation youth program leaders Jim Westhusing and Kjerstin Hardy were honored by Auburn School District at the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) Metro Region 110 Community Recognition Awards Luncheon for their support to the children of Auburn. The award is presented to an individual or group in recognition of contributions to education.

Twelve other school districts in Metro Region 110 nominated contributors who were also honored at the luncheon. Jim and Kjerstin were selected as the most outstanding group and are WASA Metro Region 110's selection to move on to the WASA statewide community recognition awards program.

Jim Westhusing and Kjerstin Hardy selflessly dedicate early mornings, nights and weekends—not to mention the regular workday—to coordinate the City of Auburn's Parks, Arts and Recreation youth programming.

Jim and Kjerstin provide opportunities for hundreds of students of the Auburn School District to participate in a myriad of activities, as well as to learn the values of stewardship and volunteerism by providing opportunities for students to "give back" to their community. The following programs are just a few of the highlights of Jim and Kjerstin's boundless energy, commitment to youth and genuine concern for the well-being of all students.

- The annual "Reaching Out Fair" is an outreach event to middle schoolers in the Auburn School District and surrounding communities. Jim and Kjerstin organize and manage an extensive resource information fair, which precedes a live performance of student musicians and student testimonials.
- The duo coordinates the City of Auburn's Teen Council, which is comprised of 40 Auburn School District students.
- Jim and Kjerstin oversee all Auburn middle school "Tobacco Fairs."
- "Late Nights" at Auburn High School and Auburn Riverside High School are made possible through the hard work and coordination of Jim and Kjerstin.
- Battle of the Bands and Paint the Bowl at the Brannon Skate Park in Auburn are two more popular youth events organized by Jim and Kjerstin.
- Jim and Kjerstin manage the Auburn Pea Patch with the Teen Council. The foods grown in the pea patch are harvested and donated to the Auburn Food Bank.
- The concessions sales at the City's outdoor movies are now used to send teens to leadership camp and other opportunities thanks to Jim and Kjerstin's ingenuity.
- Finally, Jim and Kjerstin supervise three after-school programs that incorporate learning and study time with activities and snacks at Mt. Baker, Olympic and Cascade Middle Schools in Auburn.

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

5/20/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District Superintendent Finalist Withdraws from Candidacy Consideration

The Auburn School District Board of Directors received the withdrawal of Dr. Elaine Beraza's candidacy from consideration for the position of Superintendent of Schools in Auburn. Dr. Beraza withdrew for professional and personal reasons.

For more information contact Board President Craig Schumaker at (253) 931-4900.

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

5/19/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District Jewelry Students Win Top Honors at Annual Competition

Seven Auburn School District jewelry students captured top finishes at the 2008 Passing the Torch: Washington Statewide High School Jewelry and Metals Exhibition at the Seattle Art Museum. The exhibit is on display through June 4.

Each participating school is allowed to submit five pieces total into the contest. Auburn High, Auburn Mountainview and Auburn Riverside submitted five pieces each. Six awards were presented in the jewelry category, and six in the sculpture category. The following Auburn students were recognized:

- Chelsea Wood, ARHS, first place, jewelry
- Sergey Godunok, AMHS, second place, jewelry
- James Carroll, AHS, honorable mention, jewelry
- Steven Singh, AMHS, honorable mention, jewelry
- Brandon Forgie, ARHS, first place, sculpture
- Jeremy Hatfield, AHS, second place, sculpture
- Michelle Brant, ARHS, third place, sculpture

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

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

5/15/08

NEWS RELEASE

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

Auburn School District students competed at the Washington State SkillsUSA Competition on April 18-19 in Vancouver, Washington. Two students qualified to represent the State of Washington at the National SkillsUSA Tournament in Kansas City, Missouri, on June 22-28.

In the Automotive division, Neal Wilkinson, a junior at Auburn High School, captured first place in the Power Engine Technology division, specifically the small gas engine contest. He qualified to compete at Nationals in Kansas City.

In the Electronics division, Chris Jaques, a junior at Auburn Riverside High School, was state champion in the computer maintenance technology contest. Spencer Jones, a senior at Auburn Riverside High School, placed first in advanced electronics. Chris and Spencer both qualified to compete at nationals.

Other winners at Auburn Riverside High School included:

- Dylan Hoffner, senior, 2nd place in advanced electronics
- Derek Clarke, sophomore, 2nd place in basic electronics
- Ian McCuistion, senior, 3rd place in basic electronics

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

5/14/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District Students Compete and Capture Honors at WMEA State Solo and Ensemble Contest

On April 25-26, Auburn School District music students competed at the annual Washington Music Educators Association (WMEA) STATE Solo and Ensemble Contest at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington. All three comprehensive district high schools were represented at the competition. Here are the state winners:

Auburn High School

- Trumpet Duet of Jesse Butterfield and Derek Schillaci, 3rd Place Small Brass Ensemble
- Jesse and Derek are also members of Auburn High School's award-winning Wind Ensemble.

Auburn Riverside High School

- Daniel Schreiner, Tenor Vocal Solo, 2nd Place
- Daniel also participates in the Wind Ensemble Band, Jazz Band, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Men's Choir, Symphonic Choir and multiple musical theater productions.

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

5/14/08

NEWS RELEASE

Dick Scobee Principal Named Washington State Grand Elks Lodge Distinguished Citizen of the Year

Greg Brown, principal of Dick Scobee Elementary School, was recently named the Washington State Grand Elks Lodge Distinguished Citizen of the Year.

Reva Bryant, custodian at Dick Scobee Elementary School, nominated Mr. Brown for the Auburn chapter award for his commitment to education and dedication to the Auburn community and beyond. After winning the Auburn chapter award, Mr. Brown represented Auburn in the state competition.

Mr. Brown frequently partners with local companies and organizations to improve his students' education. Dick Scobee Elementary School received a Boeing Employees Credit Union grant to add aesthetically pleasing elements to the school's front entrance due to his efforts. He also provided leadership for a partnership with Sterling Savings Bank to send the Dick Scobee third graders to Junior Achievement classes in Auburn.

Mr. Brown is on the Communities in Schools Auburn advisory board. He also is a member of his neighborhood's homeowner's association.

Mr. Brown is always interested in promoting the best interests of students, not just in Auburn but throughout the area. Recently he heard a local news station covering an unsubstantiated bomb threat. He quickly contacted the station to remind them of their

promise six years ago that stated they would not cover bomb threats unless they were substantiated. Mr. Brown immediately received responses from the director of the newsroom and the director of the affiliated radio station informing Mr. Brown that his correspondence prompted the company to reinstate their policy of only covering substantiated bomb threats.

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

5/14/08

NEWS RELEASE

Mt. Baker Middle School Assistant Principal Receives Innovator Award from the Juvenile Justice Services Division

Isaiah Johnson, assistant principal at Mt. Baker Middle School, has been named a 2008 Truancy Award Ceremony Winner and will be receiving the Innovator Award from the Juvenile Justice Services Division for his dedicated work in reducing truancy in the Mt. Baker schoolhouse by motivating students to attend school each day.

Mr. Johnson will be recognized at an awards ceremony on May 29 in the King County Courthouse Council Chambers.

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

5/14/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Riverside High School Culinary Arts Program Outdoes Competition

On May 10-11, Auburn Riverside High School's culinary arts program placed first in team competition at Renton Technical College's High School Culinary Competition.

The Ravens competed against seven other high schools and skills centers to capture first prize. The team includes: Kyle Pendley, Zach Root, Chelsea Summers, Austin Fitterer and Jason Welker.

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

5/8/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School Board of Directors Selects Three Finalists for Superintendent Search Final Interviews and Community Forum Meet and Greets

On Wednesday, May 7, the Auburn School District Board of Directors selected three finalists out of six semifinalists for the superintendent vacancy in the Auburn School District:

- Elaine Beraza, Director of Department of Defense Domestic Elementary and Secondary Schools, Department of Defense Education Activity
- Dennis "Kip" Herren, Deputy Superintendent, Auburn School District
- Michael Newman, Associate Superintendent, Auburn School District

The finalist interviews will be held during special board meetings on May 13-15. Additionally, the community is invited to community forums on May 13-15 from 5:00-6:00 P.M. to meet and ask questions of each finalist. All forums will be held in the James P. Fugate Administration Building, 915 4th Street NE, Auburn, WA.

The community forum schedule is as follows:

- May 13: Michael Newman
- May 14: Dennis “Kip” Herren
- May 15: Elaine Beraza

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

5/6/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Mountainview High School Horticulture Program Announces 3rd Annual Plant Sale

The Auburn Mountainview High School (AMHS) horticulture program will host its 3rd annual plant sale on Thursday and Friday, May 8-9, from 9:00 A.M. to 7:00 P.M. at Auburn Mountainview High School, 28900 124th Avenue SE, Auburn. On Saturday, May 10, the plant sale will be held in conjunction with the AMHS Booster Club Craft Fair from 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Parking and admission is free.

The plants are hand grown in the AMHS greenhouse with many new varieties for 2008 including new mixed hanging baskets, annuals, perennials, and organically grown herbs and vegetable starts. Prices range from \$1.00-\$28.00.

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*

6/24/08

NEWS RELEASE

Ronald Belcher Awarded Auburn School Board of Directors' Gold Star Volunteer Award

The Auburn School District Board of Directors presented the Gold Star Volunteer Award to Ronald Belcher, in recognition of his volunteer support to Auburn School District, on Monday, June 23, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Ronald Belcher, also known to the students as Mr. Ron, began volunteering in the Auburn School District in 1990 through the Boeing Company's Homework Club program. At the time, Boeing and the school district partnered together to create a volunteer program for Boeing employees to come into the schoolhouse after school to help students with their homework assignments. "I was interested in volunteering so I called Linda Cowan, who was the district coordinator, and she talked to me for about two hours about the program and the needs of the students," recalls Ron. Ron volunteered in the homework club for four years until Boeing cancelled the program due to budgetary changes.

Ron's passion for helping students did not cease once the program ended. He knew he wanted to continue volunteering in retirement, so in 2001, after Ron retired from Boeing, he contacted the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), which connected him to volunteer opportunities at Pioneer and Dick Scobee Elementary Schools.

Ron has had the good fortune of working with third and fourth grade teacher Dani Rowe at Pioneer Elementary School for seven years. "We have a good team going," smiles Ron. "Whatever students need help with I am available to assist them." Ron volunteers in Ms. Rowe's room two days per week. He primarily helps students who are struggling in a particular subject or falling behind in their homework. He also reviews test material with students at the end of the year. According to Ms. Rowe, "My classes love having him and he is an outstanding role model for my kids." Like many teachers, Ron finds great satisfaction when the children grasp a particular concept. "I feel like I've done something worthwhile," remarks Ron.

Ron has also volunteered at Dick Scobee Elementary School for the past seven years, filling in wherever there was a need, including first, second and fifth grades. Currently Ron volunteers in Dara Lindberg's first grade classroom twice per week. Ron enjoys helping students with math and enjoys attending field trips with the class. Last year the class went to a local senior center and serenaded the residents during their lunch. Ron also enjoys playing the accordion and recalls last holiday season when he brought his accordion into Ms. Lindberg's classroom to accompany the students in their renditions of popular Christmas carols. "My accordion has a habit of breaking keys, so when one of the keys started to loosen and pop off, the kids found it to be very amusing," smiles Ron.

Ron is looking forward to returning next year and for years to come. "The kids are part of my family," says Ron. "Watching the kids learn and being a positive influence in their lives is very enjoyable." Plus, Ron enjoys the challenges that each new day brings. "No day is ever the same," smiles Ron.

In Ron's spare time, he is a car hobbyist and member of the Solid Rock Cruisers Car Club. He owns a '57 Chevy that currently is disassembled in his garage. He is also involved in the children's ministry at Grace Community Church.

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

6/23/08

NEWS RELEASE

Registration Open for Auburn School District's Kids Summer Food Academy

Auburn School District invites all children entering the fourth and fifth grades to register for the Kids Summer Food Academy, a program designed to teach students about the environment, healthy eating, gardening and more. Seven 4-day camps will meet Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

July 7-10
July 14-17
July 21-24
July 28-31
August 4-7
August 11-14
August 18-21

The cost per session is \$35. Each session is centered in the garden and includes a different food and learning focus. The registration fee is waived for any family that qualifies for free or reduced priced meals.

Students will meet at the Washington Elementary School kitchen and prepare from scratch and serve a wholesome breakfast, followed by hands-on learning activities in the outdoor garden adjacent to Washington Elementary School. Each day will end with the students returning to the kitchen to prepare lunch from scratch with fresh foods from the garden.

The Kids Summer Food Academy is a partnership between the Auburn School District child nutrition services staff and the Washington State University King County Extension FoodSense educators.

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

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

6/18/08

NEWS RELEASE

Evergreen Heights Elementary School Third Grader Reads Over 800 Percent of Her Accelerated Reader Goal

Callie Rockey-Bartlett, a third grade student at Evergreen Heights Elementary School, completed much more than her required reading goal for Evergreen Heights' school-wide Accelerated Reader program. Callie reached 809 percent of her reading goal, which means Callie read 354 more points than the required 50 points to reach 100 percent.

All the students who reached 100 percent of their reading goal were invited to an Accelerated Reader celebration with pizza and games and jump houses. For the third graders, 11 students also reached 200 percent of their reading goal and were treated to a special lunch. Three more students, including Callie, reached 300 percent and received a special lunch plus dessert. Callie was the only third grader to reach beyond 300 percent and will be recognized at the last school assembly of the year on Thursday, June 19. She will receive a trophy for having the highest Accelerated Reader percentage in the school.

In Accelerated Reader, approximately 100 picture books equate to 50 points, while chapter books and other higher level reading books garner more points. Students are required to take a computerized test to validate that they both read and understand the content of the book before points are awarded.

Accelerated Reader points are tallied throughout the school year. The program not only increases students' reading and comprehension skills, but it also encourages students to read on their own time and set personal goals.

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

6/18/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Riverside High School Seniors Wins WEA Teacher to Remember Essay Contest

Out of the 1,200 student essays submitted to the Washington Education Association (WEA) Teacher to Remember statewide essay contest, Auburn Riverside High School senior Brandon deJong's essay won first place.

Brandon, along with his fellow student competitors, was required to write about a teacher who has made a difference in his life. He decided to write about his science teacher, Judy Shaw, who, according to Brandon, "has been very motivating and helped me through my high school years." In addition to teaching Brandon freshman biology and AP biology, Mrs. Shaw also helped Brandon complete his Eagle Scout project. The final project is comprised of informational kiosks and educational signs about the four ecosystems represented in Auburn's Roegner Park.

For Brandon, the most important thing about winning the essay contest was having the chance to honor his teacher. "I've learned that being humble when you reflect on your success and thinking of all the people who have helped shape your qualities and learning and how you approach your homework and assignments will help you succeed in life. It's important to take the time to remember and thank those who helped me," says Brandon.

WEA representatives presented Mrs. Shaw with the "Teacher to Remember" plaque in front of her first period AP biology class. Brandon was presented with a \$150 gift certificate to Amazon.com and an award certificate. Thanks to Brandon's success, the class was treated to a surprise breakfast and a reading of Brandon's winning essay.

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

6/17/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn High School Student Selected as a Washington State Senator for the 2008 American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation Program

Rebecca Nelson, a junior at Auburn High School, has been selected to represent the State of Washington as a "senator" for the 62nd Annual American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation Program to be held July 19-26 in Washington, D.C.

Rebecca was selected for the Girls Nation Program while attending the American Legion Auxiliary Girls State Program. The Girls State Program has provided high school juniors all across the country the opportunity to participate in a hands-on citizenship training program for over 60 years. These young women learn government by actually creating a mythical state through the election of public officials on local, county and state levels, and then by carrying out the duties of these respective offices.

A continuation of Girls State is Girls Nation where two "senators" from each state are selected to participate in a simulated national government program in Washington, D. C. The Girls Nation "senators" are divided into two political "parties." The parties do not reflect the two major political parties in today's system, but allow participants to gain a special knowledge of how the system works.

The Girls Nation program is funded by the national organization of the Auxiliary, with some support from each participating state. Little or no expense is required of the "senator" or her family.

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

6/17/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District Bus Driver Wins the Washington Association for Pupil Transportation Outstanding Transportation Person Award

Kim Mattox, a school bus driver for the Auburn School District, has been named the Outstanding Transportation Person of the Year from the Washington Association for Pupil Transportation (WAPT) for the ESD 121 Chapter.

Nominated by supervisor driver/trainer April Hurlbert, Ms. Mattox was recognized for responding to an emergency crisis this year while leaving for her morning bus route. As she pulled out of the bus barn and stopped at the first traffic light, Ms. Mattox observed a 68-year-old man in distress. Ms. Mattox immediately jumped into action to help. She ran to his aid and realized he had no pulse. She immediately pulled the man from his vehicle and with no equipment, she began administering CPR. The man was a complete stranger in cardiac arrest. After three sets of breaths and compressions, a fellow employee arrived with an AED. The two of them tried to resuscitate the stranger; however, sadly, the rescue attempts were unsuccessful.

Ms. Mattox was very brave and selfless that day. The responding fire department spokesperson, Captain Tim Day, stated, "It takes a great deal of courage and composure to get involved in situations like this. Ms. Mattox like many others motorists could have simply driven by. Instead Ms. Mattox put herself at risk to help another."

Ms. Mattox will be recognized at the WAPT 2008 Annual Conference on June 28-July 2 in Pasco, 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

6/10/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District's Board of Directors Honors Staff Member Christine Anderson

The Auburn School District Board of Directors recognized Christine Anderson, language arts specialist at Washington Elementary School, for her outstanding service on Monday, June 9, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Christine Anderson has been the language arts specialist at Washington Elementary School for 16 years. Her primary roles include: coordinating the reading and language arts program and Title I program for the building; ensuring district-adopted curriculum is implemented; and providing staff development.

On any given day, an average of 110 students rotate through Christine's language arts classroom who are reading below grade level and need small group intensive instruction to reach standard. Students are selected for the intervention program based on the results of a building-wide reading assessment. Christine and three paraeducators who work alongside Christine also offer after-school extended learning for reading. "We offer as many intervention, enrichment and extended learning programs as we have funding for," says Christine. Christine's paraeducator team currently consists of Karen O'Brien and Lorinda Bittle, whom she has been working with since she arrived at Washington 16 years ago, and Shirley Partridge, who she has been working with for 11 years. According to Christine, "It is a joy to work every day with such positive and knowledgeable people."

Christine and her team witness significant student improvement daily and work hard to make meaningful and targeted instruction at each child's grade level. Christine recalls a specific instance with a second grader who entered the classroom only knowing seven words. During the school year, Christine met with the student in small group instruction five days a week for 45 minutes a day, which provided the student the opportunity to learn how to read. Toward the end of the school year, the student brought his homerun baseball to class and left it on a desk, which Christine was quick to point out to the student. "He came up to me and said, 'Why don't you keep it? You taught me how to read,'" recalls Christine.

Christine is more than a gifted classroom teacher, she also is a leader in her field. After 30 plus years in the classroom, she has a lot of information on hand to share with her colleagues—especially the next generation of teachers—from her years devoted to professional

development. Christine and her colleague from Hazelwood, Erin Scott, have created staff development for the district's new teacher training for seven years and participated on the Washington State Reading Leadership Cadre, which is post-graduate level training to train reading leaders throughout the state. Additionally, Christine has been honored with the 2005 Auburn School District Teacher of the Year award and was selected to attend Washington D.C. with the school principal to accept Washington's Blue Ribbon award, which was presented by Bill Clinton in the White House.

Christine trusts her professional pursuits have had a positive influence on quality reading instruction throughout the district. "I know that students in our building are making growth on a daily basis, which is very rewarding," says Christine. Christine has also served on the WASL Standard Setting Committee and the WASL Assessments Alignment Committee for Reading.

Christine attributes much of her longevity and success at Washington to its strong-knit community. According to Christine, "Being a neighborhood school means we get to know families over time—from brothers and sisters to former students who now have children in the school." One of Christine's favorite family activities is the end-of-the-year ice cream social where parents and students join to celebrate student accomplishments. Christine's commitment to kids and society is evident in her teaching, and she truly believes that if she can teach children to read they can do anything.

Despite a busy workload, Christine enjoys her time off, especially weekends at her family's cabin on the Key Peninsula. She and her husband also enjoy taking road trips with their 1964 356 Porsche, along with other members of the NW Porsche chapter.

Christine's commitment to her family mirrors her commitment to her students. She is grateful for her family's support of her career and even remembers those Sunday afternoons after church when she and her husband, son and daughter picked up lunch and then headed straight for her classroom so she could prepare for the next week of school. "It's a family affair," smiles Christine.

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

6/10/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District's Board of Directors Honors Dick Scobee Fifth Grader Joanna Morales

The Auburn School District Board of Directors recognized Joanna Morales, a fifth grader at Dick Scobee Elementary School, for being an outstanding student on Monday, June 9, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

According to Joanna Morales's fifth grade teacher, Mrs. Harmaning, "Joanna is one of those students who any teacher would love to have in their class. She is an all around very kind person and always gets her work and homework in on time." Joanna's first language is Spanish, so she works diligently to achieve high grades. Her determination to continue to improve her grades and conscious effort to complete her work in a timely and complete fashion make her a wonderful role model. An academic highlight for Joanna this year was when she was selected as Dick Scobee's "Author of the Month" for February. Her writing, which was about her love for her mother, was displayed on the author's board for the month of February.

All three years Joanna has been at Dick Scobee, she has received one of the "Dick Scobee Characteristic Awards," which are presented to students who exhibit solid moral characteristics. Joanna has earned the awards of kindness, diligence and persistence, and positive attitude. This year she also earned a Scobee button for showing respect, responsibility and cooperativeness to all office staff, recess staff and specialists, and other people she interacted with on a regular basis. "Joanna was the very first student in my class to receive the Scobee button this year," remarks Mrs. Harmaning.

Joanna's interaction with her classmates is also award-winning. Recently one of her classmates was not grasping the concept of a poem the class was writing, so after Joanna finished her assignment, she helped the student complete his poem without being asked. "Joanna is very spontaneous and is always looking for opportunities to help her classmates," says Mrs. Harmaning.

Joanna is also one of Mrs. Harmaning's class greeters. There are only two class greeters—one boy and one girl—per classroom, who are nominated by the class. Joanna's role is to acclimate new students to the schoolhouse. According to Mrs. Harmaning, "Any time a new student moves into the classroom during the school year, the class greeters introduce the student to staff and office personnel, show them classroom and school routines, accompany them during the first few days of recess to introduce them to students, and explain murals and traditions." Joanna and her fellow greeters attend a greeter training class to prepare for the responsibility.

Joanna is proud of her heritage and proud of her bilingual abilities. She is also very family-oriented and enjoys going to the park with her family or eating out together. Her younger sister is in third grade at Dick Scobee, and her older brother is a seventh grader at Cascade Middle School. When not reading her Junie B. Jones books or collecting new pencils, Joanna is often found volunteering with the after-school garden club at Dick Scobee. Whether helping others or planting seedlings, Joanna is sure to do an A-plus job.

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

6/9/08

NEWS RELEASE

Gildo Rey Elementary School Fifth Grade Student Announced Semifinalist in Washington State Letters About Literature Competition

Michelle Lee-Sims, a fifth grader at Gildo Rey Elementary School, was a Level I semifinalist in the Washington State Letters About Literature Competition.

Michelle was 1 of 181 semifinalists out of 2,600 entries at all three levels of the competition: Level 1 (grades 4-6); Level 2 (grades 7-8); and Level 3 (grades 9-12). She was invited to an awards ceremony in Olympia to receive her certificate of recognition.

Sponsored by the Washington State Library, the competition's writing prompt was for students to write a letter to their favorite author and describe how their favorite book affected them personally. Michelle wrote to her favorite author, Sharon Creech, about the book *Bloomability*.

For more information contact Karen Thorne, Gildo Rey Elementary School literacy specialist, at 253-931-4952.

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

6/9/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Riverside High School Boys' Soccer Coach Named *The Seattle Times* SPSL 3A Coach of the Year

The Seattle Times named Robyn Saarenas, Auburn Riverside High School boys' soccer coach, SPSL 3A Co-Coach of the Year.

The Ravens this year went undefeated in league and progressed to state only to be knocked out in the round of 16 by Shorecrest in penalties after drawing 2-2 in regulation time.

Ms. Saarenas was honored at a luncheon on May 20 sponsored by *The Seattle Times*.

For more information contact Auburn Riverside High School athletic director Doug Aubert at 253-804-5154.

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

6/9/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn Schools Awarded Picturing America Grant

Five Auburn schools were awarded the Picturing America Grant, an initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), conducted in cooperation with the American Library Association (ALA).

Auburn Mountainview High School, Cascade, Olympic and Mt. Baker Middle Schools, and West Auburn High School will implement the Picturing America program in the fall. This innovative program brings masterpieces of American art into classrooms and libraries

nationwide. Students and citizens will gain a deeper appreciation of America's history and character through the study and understanding of its art.

By bringing high-quality reproductions of notable American art into public and private schools, libraries and communities, Picturing America gives participants the opportunity to learn about the nation's history and culture in a fresh and engaging way. The program uses art as a catalyst for the study of America—the cultural, political and historical threads woven into the nation's fabric over time.

Collectively, the masterpieces in Picturing America, used in conjunction with the Teachers Resource Book and program website, help students experience the humanity of history and enhance the teaching and understanding of America's past.

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

6/9/08

NEWS RELEASE

Lakeland Hills Elementary School Turns Trash Into Cash Through Wal-Mart's Kids Recycling Challenge

Lakeland Hills Elementary School students in Auburn have recycled enough plastic bags to win third place in Wal-Mart's Kids Recycling Challenge for the State of Washington, earning \$2,710 and an additional \$1,000 for being the third-place winner. To recognize their hard work, associates from the local Wal-Mart store that has served as the collection site will present the school with a check symbolizing the \$1,000 Wal-Mart Foundation grant at a school assembly scheduled for 9:15 a.m. on June 19. Students in 12 states have participated in the competition by collecting plastic bags and receiving \$5 for their school for each filled 60-gallon bag.

The Kids Recycling Challenge is a way for elementary school students to learn about recycling and earn money for their school. Since October, students at participating schools have filled 60-gallon collection bags with plastic bags of all kinds and delivered them to a drop-off point behind their local Wal-Mart stores. At the end of the recycling challenge, the schools received \$5 for each filled bag from the Wal-Mart Foundation. This year, 145 Washington schools participated in the competition, recycling more than 190,000 pounds of bags, earning more than \$59,500 for schools statewide. Lakeland Hills students turned in 542 60-gallon bags totaling 8,672 pounds.

"We are so proud of the students at this school and excited to be able to honor them with a cash award," said store manager Lane Groeneveld of the Auburn store. "This is a way to commemorate their hard work and their commitment to helping the environment."

For more information contact Ryan Foster, Lakeland Hills Elementary School principal, at 253-876-7711.

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

6/9/08

NEWS RELEASE

Former Auburn High School Grad Nominated for Daytime Emmy Award

Tanner Vea, a 2003 Auburn High School graduate and number one in his class, is working for flagship PBS TV station channel 13 in New York City as a web producer. Channel 13 produces a children's program for PBS called, "Cyberchase." Tanner produced the accompanying website, www.pbskids.org/cyberchase. The hands-on, interactive site contains a plethora of online games and video. The website and the program have been nominated again (they won in 2007) for an Emmy in the category, "New Approaches—Daytime Children's Entertainment."

Tanner will be attending the Daytime Emmy Awards in New York City on June 13 at Lincoln Center and will perhaps win yet another Emmy for channel 13.

Tanner attended Bard College in the mid-Hudson Valley of New York State on the Excellence and Equal Cost Scholarship. He graduated in May 2007 with a degree in Media and Culture.

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

6/3/08

NEWS RELEASE
Superintendent Linda Cowan's Retirement Open Houses

The Auburn School District cordially invites the public to attend two retirement events for Superintendent Linda Cowan.

The district open house will take place on Thursday, June 5, from 2:00-5:00 p.m. at the James P. Fugate Administration Building board room, 915 4th Street NE.

A performance event at the Auburn Performing Arts Center, 700 East Main Street, is on Thursday, June 12, and will begin promptly at 7 p.m. A new scholarship fund has been established in honor of Linda Cowan's dedicated service to the education of all children. Suggested \$5 donations will be accepted at the doors.

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

6/3/08

NEWS RELEASE
Auburn School District Selects 2008 Teachers of the Year

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize the 2008 Teachers of the Year on Monday, June 23, 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—Tim Wright, Ann Durham and Michelle Hupperten. Two of the teachers, Tim Wright and Michelle Hupperten, 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 2008 national competition.

Tim Wright
Auburn Riverside High School English Teacher

Tim's exuberant teaching style, scholarly pursuits and desire to teach all kids from beginning to advanced make him this year's high school level outstanding Teacher of the Year.

Tim has worked in the English Department at Auburn Riverside since its doors opened in 1995. Prior to his tenure at ARHS, he taught for three years at Olympic Middle School and student taught at Auburn High. In addition to his regular and AP classes, Tim is the school's AP coordinator for all honors classes. He is responsible for coordinating assignments, scheduling exams and signing up with the College Board. Tim also coaches track and cross country.

Tim possesses a strong work ethic in his professional teaching career, which bodes well with the high expectations he sets for his students. "I am most rewarded when kids come back from college or a job to visit and tell me that my class made a difference in their learning and lives. I always tell my students that they may not like the class now, but they will be grateful for it later on," says Tim. Tim firmly believes that if students learn a strong work ethic, they will succeed in anything.

Tim's scholarly pursuits, which include earning a masters in curriculum, instruction and assessment, directly benefit the learning of his students. In fact, Tim's class discussions can become so passionate that he is sometimes the learner when one of his students shares a through he's never considered before.

Not wanting to put all his "professional eggs" in one basket, Tim has become a leader at Auburn Riverside and beyond. He is not only a dynamic teacher who initiated and started Auburn Riverside's AP Language programs, but he also has been selected to score the AP language tests of students across the country. Tim makes is a point to connect to activities beyond the classroom, which

he attributes to his broader and more realistic view of public education. He has become active in Olympia, speaking in front of the legislative body regarding educational issues. He also recently stepped in to take over two different teachers workloads when they took unexpected leaves of absences.

Tim's energy is contagious inside and outside the schoolhouse. He dresses up as *Portable Man* during Halloween—cape, goggles and all—in honor of his portable classroom. He also loves to train for marathons with his dog, Runner, and never passes up a travel opportunity. This summer Tim and his friend will be taking a one-month excursion to Athens, Istanbul, Jerusalem and the Greek Islands. Tim is sure to bring back his experiences to the classroom next fall to share with his students, never missing an opportunity to share his quest for adventure and learning with his students.

Ann Durham

Mt. Baker Middle School Seventh Grade Language Arts/Social Studies Teacher

Ann's creative teaching style, commitment to lifelong learning and dedication to reach all of her students at their learning level make her this year's middle level outstanding Teacher of the Year.

It doesn't take long to notice Ann's passion for her students—whether it is students engaging in Socratic debate or visiting the sites of Washington, D.C. and New York City over Spring Break. Currently Ann teaches honors language arts and social studies to seventh graders at Mt. Baker. It is her professional goal to motivate students to think and ask questions about their world on a daily basis. "It's really about sparking their curiosity for learning," says Ann. "The Socratic debates help to spark their curiosity through dialogue among each other." Socratic seminars are used to promote dialogue among a group of individuals through metacognitive strategies. "The dialogue makes students think about their own thinking," remarks Ann. "It also teaches students etiquette and communication skills."

Ann uses such activities to empower students so that they believe they can do anything they put their mind to—even if that means overcoming difficult obstacles. Speaking from her own experiences, Ann shares with her students personal anecdotes about the hurdles she has faced and overcome in life. In college, Ann had a professor who told her to get out of education. "I knew it's what I wanted to do, so I had to overcome that obstacle of someone telling me I would fail at it," says Ann. Ann's personal anecdotes and care for her students make life in the classroom a reciprocal relationship between teacher and student. "I try to get to know kids on a personal basis in September. Forming a relationship with them before they begin to learn means they are more responsive when it is time to learn," remarks Ann.

After receiving her bachelor's degree in psychology in 1981, Ann taught fifth and sixth grades in the Kent School District for 15 years. In 1993, Ann's stepdaughter was working with students with special needs at Mt. Baker through Americorps and mentioned to Ann how she thought Ann's personality would be a great fit at a school like Mt. Baker. Thanks to good timing, there was a language arts/social studies opening at Mt. Baker and Ann didn't hesitate to apply.

Since entering the Mt. Baker hallways, Ann feels fortunate to work with such amazing staff and students. She also felt led to pursue her masters in literacy nearly 20 years after receiving her B.A. "It was great to learn new ideas and technology and begin sharing with other teachers," says Ann. "Now I can use PowerPoint to teach a lesson to my visual learners, which helps me to teach to the different modalities. The use of technology in my teaching has really changed my style of teaching."

Ann is involved in various building and district reading and literacy committees and attended the national differentiated instruction conference last year. She plans to attend again this year to continue learning how to create an inclusive and individualized learning community. Her husband, also a teacher, now likes to joke about her "TOYA" status; that is, "Teacher of the Year Auburn"!

Michelle Hupperten

Pioneer Elementary School Teacher On Special Assignment (TOSA)

Michelle raises the "teaching" bar through her commitment and passion for her students and colleagues, risk taking and high expectations. She is this year's elementary level outstanding Teacher of the Year.

"I know the kids I'm teaching today are our leaders of tomorrow," says Michelle. "It is part of my job to prepare students to become good citizens and leaders so they can take this country forward." Michelle understands that many of her students do not receive the support they need at home; therefore, she is one more person who can care for and teach her students how to believe in themselves and live life to their potential.

Nine years ago, Michelle was hired as a first grade teacher at Pioneer and then decided to pursue second grade for a few years. In 2002, Pioneer had an opening for a TOSA instructor. Essentially, the position would reduce class sizes throughout the building during small-group reading blocks. Michelle considered the opportunity and decided to take a risk and go for it, as she felt

ready for a change. The chance to teach reading to students at all grade levels and to connect to the reading groups despite not being the students' classroom teacher sounded both different and challenging.

Michelle has fulfilled her role as TOSA with flying colors. She not only reaches students in her own classes, but also students across the district. She has presented the latest "best practices" on reading strategies to Pioneer, Hazelwood and Terminal Park Elementary staff. Additionally, she has served on various OSPI committees and scored portions of the reading WASL. "I am interested in sharing what is taking place at the state level with my fellow teachers," says Michelle, "because it has a direct impact on the instructional practice of teachers in the school and district." Michelle also recently obtained her national board certification, what she deemed to be a challenging yet rewarding process. "I learned a lot about what I do well and what I can work on," says Michelle.

Michelle takes the time to build community at Pioneer, particularly with the parents. She has offered two Love and Logic evening classes to parents and teachers. The strategies learned help one to create a more positive adult/child relationship. It's especially important that Michelle reach the parents whose children are not yet in school. "Helping young children from birth to school age by reading to them, talking with them and holding them helps them enter school better prepared in their minds and hearts," remarks Michelle.

Michelle is excited and proud of her accomplishment, primarily because she knows she represents the great work of all educators. Michelle and her family look forward to celebrate her success.

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

JULY 2008:

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

7/16/08

NEWS RELEASE

Lea Hill Elementary School Awarded Title I Improvement Award

Lea Hill Elementary School has been selected as 1 of 48 schools to receive the State of Washington's Title I Improvement Award.

Lea Hill will receive an award of \$3,500.00 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).

Lea Hill was selected based on its students' performance data on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). To be eligible to receive this award, Lea Hill:

- Met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for the past three years (2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07)
- Has 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***

7/2/08

NEWS RELEASE

Chinook Elementary School Awarded \$257,375 Reading First Grant

Chinook Elementary School has been awarded \$257,375 for the 2008-10 school years to continue the Reading First program, a federal initiative authorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

Reading First uses comprehensive, research-based programs to help all children read at grade level in English by the end of third grade.

Funds will be used by Chinook Elementary to hire reading instructional coaches, provide professional development for staff, and purchase scientifically-research based materials.

Reading First is aligned with the state's K-12 reading model and is a way to identify struggling students and give them the reading skills they need. The program helps students learn to read earlier and with greater comprehension.

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

AUGUST 2008:

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

8/8/08

NEWS RELEASE

Auburn School District to Host Kids Summer Food Academy

From August 11-14, Auburn School District's Child Nutrition Services department will host the Kids Summer Food Academy, a program designed to teach students about the environment, healthy eating, gardening and more. The 4-day camp will meet Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Students will meet at the Washington Elementary School kitchen and prepare from scratch and serve a wholesome breakfast, followed by hands-on learning activities in the outdoor garden adjacent to Washington Elementary School. Each day will end with the students returning to the kitchen to prepare lunch from scratch with fresh foods from the garden.

The Kids Summer Food Academy is a partnership between the Auburn School District child nutrition services staff and the Washington State University King County Extension FoodSense educators.

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