

SEPTEMBER 2012:

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn School Board to honor Gildo Rey Elementary School fifth grader as student of the month

September 19, 2012

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Kylie Niles, a fifth grade student at Gildo Rey 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.

Kylie Niles is an outstanding fifth grade student at Gildo Rey Elementary. She applies her best work in everything she does and excels in all academic classes. Kylie has passed the MSP assessments the past two years in all subject areas. She understands that hard work pays off.

Kylie is actively involved in the school community. She is a leader who was nominated by her class to be the ASB representative last year and she is running for ASB school secretary this year. Kylie is a dedicated peer model for the kindergarten students as a kindergarten tutor. Kylie also participates in the annual all-school play. Kylie's teachers say, "Kylie is an outstanding student who always gets her work done and always follows the school's code of conduct. She is always very polite and is a great friend to others."

Kylie enjoys roller-skating and playing tennis with her dad at Game Farm Park. She just came back from a trip to Disneyland with her grandparents. It was her first time in an airplane and her first trip to Disneyland!

Kylie plans on joining choir and orchestra in middle school and wants to learn how to play the viola.

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

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn School Board to honor Rainier Middle School Principal

September 19, 2012

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Ben Talbert, Rainier Middle School Principal, for his outstanding service on Monday, September 24, at 7 P.M. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Ben Talbert's road to success has been filled with defining moments. Moments like dropping out of school at 15; running his family business; earning a GED; proselytizing in Rome; writing for the Seattle Times; completing a masters in teaching; changing careers; and now leading students and staff as Rainier Middle School's principal.

One of Ben's more recent defining moments occurred four years ago after experiencing a health scare. "I had to make changes to stay alive," remarks Ben. "I'm living a healthier lifestyle today." Down 110 pounds, Ben fuels his body with whole foods and cuts calories through routine exercise. Whether going to school or church, Ben pedals. "When the district reduced transportation routes, I decided to start riding to and from school instead of driving as a way of setting an example for our students. Cycling is now my primary mode of transportation," says Ben. And that's not all. Ben wakes at 5 a.m. to run, lift or swim. Combined with a diet of fruits, vegetables and lean protein, Ben is no longer diabetic and is off the majority of his medications. He recently completed the Seattle to Portland bike ride, his first half-marathon and sprint triathlon, and has his eyes set on more endurance events—even an Ironman triathlon.

Ben hopes to model healthy choices to his family, students and staff. "Healthier living directly impacts student learning," says Ben. "My primary focus is to increase student achievement and provide opportunities for all students to achieve more tomorrow than they are today."

Rainier Middle School commits to offer a world-class education. Currently Rainier offers algebra and geometry courses at the highest levels; 6 levels of tiered instruction, 3 types of interventions; a new biology course; award-winning music programs; and innovative after-school programming like robotics, Minecraft, service learning and more. "Our staff is focused on this work," says Ben, "and commits to meeting the needs of each individual learner."

One of Ben's proudest accomplishments is witnessing the daily learning of Rainier students. "We have a great staff," says Ben, "who is committed to helping define the learning moments of all students. Sometimes it's really hard, but it's also very rewarding."

Ben is often spotted cycling throughout town with his family including his wife and four children.

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

**Auburn School District #408
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For immediate release

Dan Kempf to be awarded Auburn School Board Gold Star Volunteer Award

September 19, 2012

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will present the Gold Star Volunteer Award to Dan Kempf 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.

Dan Kempf retired as head custodian from Evergreen Heights Elementary two years ago, but accepted a new role of 'volunteer extraordinaire' during the entire 2011-12 school year. From encouraging healthy eating to tutoring students, Mr. Kempf volunteered at Evergreen Heights every school day for four hours.

According to Principal Anne Gayman, "Dan is an important member of our school community. After he retired I asked him if he was interested in continuing to help out with various activities and he graciously accepted."

Over the course of the school year, Dan spearheaded the following activities:

- Managed the Green Schools program, a recycling and composting initiative he launched as an employee. The program has saved thousands of dollars a month in waste removal fees.
- Encouraged students to eat healthy meals during breakfast and lunch.
- Read to students who required reading intervention services.
- Facilitated outdoor activities to increase students' fitness levels.

Dan feels fortunate to have had the time and ability to continue interacting with staff and students in retirement. "Retiring is a withdrawal from people I've been with for many years, so returning was a much more subtle and easier transition into retirement," says Dan.

The Evergreen Heights community will always remember Mr. Kempf as 'Coach K,' a nickname he earned as a Timberwolves' assistant basketball coach. No one will forget his yodeling skills either. Last year Mr. Kempf wrote and yodeled a song titled, "We love our school," at the annual Evergreen Heights PTA fundraiser. "It was a blast," smiles Dan.

Currently, Mr. Kempf is a substitute custodian at Washington Elementary School and plans to become an Arizona snowbird. He also hopes to compose another yodel or two.

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

Auburn School District #408
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Auburn, WA 98002

For immediate release

Auburn School District Invites Public to a Community Meeting for the Auburn High School Modernization and Reconstruction Project

September 17, 2012

On Monday, October 1, the public is invited to attend a Community Meeting for the Auburn High School Modernization and Reconstruction Project at the Auburn High School Library.

Guided building tours will run from 5:00-6:00 p.m. The community meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. and will provide an opportunity for the community to hear details about the project and have questions answered.

Please visit the Auburn High School Modernization and Reconstruction website for more information about the project at <http://ahsproject.auburn.wednet.edu/>.

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

Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002

For immediate release

Auburn School District 2012 State Test Scores Are Highest in District History and Above State Average

September 12, 2012

Auburn School District's 2012 MSP, HSPE and EOC state test scores reveal some of the highest scores in district history. Additionally, Auburn School District continues to score above the state average and made significant improvement over last year in reading, writing and mathematics.

This breakthrough academic achievement is happening across grade levels. Here are some examples of the continuous improvement.

Elementary School:

- 3rd grade reading and math scores are 5% above the state average
- 4th grade reading, math and writing scores are the highest in district history
- 5th grade reading scores are 6% above the state average
- 5th grade math and science scores are the highest in district history

Middle School:

- 6th grade reading scores are the highest in district history
- 6th grade math scores increased 10% over last year
- 7th grade reading scores increased 15% over last year
- 7th grade EOC math scores are the highest in district history
- 8th grade science scores are the highest in district history
- 8th grade EOC math 1 and 2 scores are .4% and 1.3% above the state average

High School:

- 9th grade EOC math 1 and 2 are the highest scores in district history
- 9th grade EOC biology scores are 12.3% above the state average
- 10th grade reading, science and EOC math 2 scores are the highest in district history
- 11th grade EOC math 1 and 2 scores are the highest in district history
- 11th grade biology scores are 3.4% above the state average

The Auburn School District is well on its way to the goal of being a world-class district. These results affirm that the 2009-2012 district strategic improvement plan is making continuous improvement in student achievement.

State assessment scores for all Auburn schools are now available on the OSPI report card at <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/>.

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

Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002

For immediate release

Six Auburn Schools Named 2012-13 Reward Schools for Top Performance and Progress

August 27, 2012

As a part of Washington's Elementary and Secondary Act waiver granted by the Department of Education, State Superintendent Randy Dorn has designated 58 top-performing and most improving Title I schools as "Reward Schools."

Auburn School District has earned 8 of the 58 rewards presented to Washington schools. Additionally, Evergreen Heights Elementary and Gildo Rey Elementary are 2 of only 4 schools statewide to be named Reward Schools in both the Highest-Performing and High Progress categories.

Auburn's top-performing, most improving Title I schools are:

Evergreen Heights Elementary for Highest Performing-Reward A & High Progress-Reward B

Gildo Rey Elementary for Highest Performing-Reward A & High Progress-Reward B

Alpac Elementary for High Progress-Reward B

Dick Scobee Elementary for High Progress-Reward B

Pioneer Elementary for High Progress-Reward B

Washington Elementary for High Progress-Reward B

Reward Schools are classified either as "highest performing" or "high-progress":

- A highest-performing Reward School is a Title I school that has met Adequate Yearly Progress in both Reading and Math for its "all students" group and all subgroups for three years.
- A high-progress Reward School is a Title I school that scored in the top 10 percent of Title I schools in Reading and Math (combined) on state assessments for its "all students" group. This designation acknowledges a school's performance and improvement in Reading and Math during a three-year period (2008/09–2010/11). If the school is a high school, it also must be among the Title I schools with the most progress in increasing graduation rates. Schools designated as Reward Schools cannot have significant achievement/opportunity gaps among subgroups.

"Schools identified as Reward Schools have been doing the work that it takes to make a difference for students. School staff, students, parents and communities should be proud to join this distinguished group," Dorn said.

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

OCTOBER 2012:

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn School District Recognized for 26 Years of Excellence in Financial Reporting

October 19, 2012

Auburn School District has received the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for the fiscal year end August 31, 2011. This is Auburn School District's 24th year in a row receiving this award.

Auburn School District has participated in the ASBO Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting program for 26 consecutive years, and is 1 of just 59 districts nationwide that have participated in the program for more than 25 years.

The Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting Award is the highest recognition for school district financial operations offered by ASBO and is only conferred to school systems that have met or exceeded the standards of the program.

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

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

**Auburn School District #408
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For immediate release

Auburn Students Partner with American Legion Auburn Post 78 to Paint New Veterans Mural

October 16, 2012

Twelve Auburn high school students, 1 professional artist, the City of Auburn Parks Department, and the American Legion Auburn Post 78 are creating a 175-by-8 foot mural to honor Veterans. Come November, the mural will permanently adorn the back wall of Auburn High School Memorial Stadium, which looks onto Veterans Memorial Park at 411 E Street NE in Auburn.

The large mural is a timeline depiction of Veterans in action from WWI through Afghanistan. Local artist Rachael Dotson developed the sketch and chose to focus on the human element of war including the roles women have held in combat; changes in uniforms throughout the years; and military equipment. According to Rachael, "While I've drawn the background of all the scenes, the fun part is collaborating with student artists to paint the depictions."

The 12 volunteer students from Auburn High School, Auburn Mountainview High School and Auburn Riverside High School are receiving one-on-one instruction from Rachael about color blending, depth and details. "It will take one month for the students to paint the mural," says Rachael. The finished mural will proudly display the artistry of all involved. Rachael and the student artists are painting the mural inside the former Public Health building on Auburn Avenue every Monday, Thursday and Saturday for the next four weeks.

Ty Ferguson, a 9th grade student at Auburn High School, just recently picked up a paintbrush. "I like painting and being a part of something that will be in Auburn for a long time," says Ty. Other students like Auburn High senior Kevin Garcia has been an artist for as long as he can remember. Kevin recently moved to Auburn from California's San Fernando Valley where he sprayed, not painted. "I'm a graffiti artist but always wanted to paint and try other art forms. My teacher asked me if I was interested and I'm so glad it worked out," says Kevin.

American Legion Auburn Post 78 conceived the project as a way to honor Veterans' sacrifices and to create a visual reminder in Auburn's Veterans Memorial Park. The project was made possible thanks to individual and business donations totaling \$12,200.

The Veterans mural will be dedicated on November 10, 2012, at 9:45 a.m. during the Annual Auburn Veterans Day Celebration.

In conjunction with the Veterans mural, American Legion Auburn Post 78 has already started fundraising for phase two of the project. The vision for phase two is to paint the seven pillars of Auburn Memorial Stadium to complement the 175-foot mural. The estimated project cost is \$10,000 with an anticipated dedication date on Memorial Day 2013.

For more information contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713 or go to <http://www.americanlegionauburnpost78.com/veterans-mural.html>.

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**For immediate release
14th Annual Reaching Out Fair Scheduled for Thursday, October 11
October 5, 2012**

On Thursday, October 11, the public is invited to attend the 14th Annual Reaching Out Fair at the Auburn Performing Arts Center from 5:30-8:45 p.m. Hosted by the Cities & Schools Forum, the event is designed for Auburn middle school students and their families.

This year's Reaching Out Fair features a resource information fair; a free pizza dinner and dessert; informative breakout sessions; a chance to win \$1,400 in scholarships and prizes; and a live finale.

Students and their families will have the opportunity to learn how to plan and prepare for high school, college and career. Representatives from nearly 60 community agencies and organizations; colleges and universities; career and technical programs; apprenticeship programs; advanced placement; and business and industry will be available to provide information and answer questions.

Additionally, there will be breakout sessions for parents and students to learn how to pay for college; access colleges, universities, technical programs and apprenticeships; enter innovative and interesting careers; and access youth resources in the community.

All Auburn middle school students will have the opportunity to win over \$1,400 in scholarships and prizes by visiting resource information displays and attending breakout sessions. Students will be entered into a drawing to win 1 of 2 \$500 scholarships for post-secondary education and a \$100 or 1 of 6 \$50 gift certificates to The Outlet Collection | Seattle. Only middle school students are eligible for prizes. Scholarships are redeemable upon graduation from one of the Auburn School District high schools.

The live finale begins at 8:15 p.m. Guest speakers Pete Parsons, Bungie COO & Meteor Solutions Co-Founder, and Michael Greenwood, The Boeing Company Senior Manager, will share exciting news about the Video Game and Aviation & Aerospace Industries.

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

NOVEMBER 2012:

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

**For immediate release
Auburn Is 2012 School Board of Distinction**
November 29, 2012

The Auburn School Board has been named a 2012 Board of Distinction by the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA). Only 23 other school boards across the state earned the honor.

For three consecutive years, the Auburn School Board has been named a Board of Distinction (2010 and 2012) or School Board of the Year (2011).

Members of the Auburn School Board are: Lisa Connors, Janice Nelson, Ray Vefik, Carol Seng and Anne Baunach. The superintendent is Dr. Kip Herren.

"These boards have excelled as school governance teams," said Dr. Jonelle Adams, the association's executive director. "They provided extensive documentation and our evaluation was rigorous. They are exceptional school boards."

WSSDA's Boards of Distinction awards honor school boards that demonstrate effective use of the Washington School Board Standards. The standards, developed and adopted by WSSDA in 2009, promote research-based governance practices that lead to high levels of student and district achievement. This was the first year that the association separately honored a board in large, medium and small district size categories.

Award applicants submit an essay and supporting evidence to demonstrate how they are putting the standards into practice. This year applicants addressed the following:

- Respecting and advocating mutual understanding of the roles and responsibilities of board members and the superintendent.
- Adopting a collaboratively developed district plan focused on learning and achievement outcomes for all students.
- Providing for learning essentials, including rigorous curriculum, technology and high quality facilities.
- Measuring student academic progress and needs based on valid and reliable assessments.
- Ensuring district information and decisions are communicated community-wide.

Applications are evaluated by an independent review panel, and awards are given to those who receive at least an 80 percent score.

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

**Auburn School District #408
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**For immediate release
Community Supports Auburn High School Modernization and Reconstruction Bond**
November 21, 2012

Residents of the Auburn School District approved the Auburn High School Modernization and Reconstruction Bond on the November 6 General Election ballot. As of November 20, the measure is passing with a 62% combined yes vote between King and Pierce Counties.

Only 1,800 ballots remain to be counted, but post-election trends historically favor Auburn school measures. Results are official when the election is certified on November 27.

The community's support to begin the critical reconstruction of Auburn High School is a testament to Auburn's commitment to provide 21st century teaching and learning environments for all students.

Some of the project design features include:

- A new and prominent front entry on East Main Street.
- Direct access to and easily visibility of the PAC and Main Gym from 4th Street NE.
- Expansion of on-site parking stalls from 315 to over 600.
- Large parking lot adjacent to the Main Gym, PAC and Auburn Pool directly across the street from Auburn Memorial Stadium.
- Off-street bus loading area.
- New synthetic turf baseball and softball fields.
- All buildings under one roof.
- Improved energy efficiency.
- New classroom and building technology.
- A large student commons.
- Modernized PAC with a new front entry plaza and drop-off area, new lobby and delivery area, new theater seats, upgraded lighting and sound systems, improved access for the disabled, seismic upgrades, and more restrooms.

Auburn School district encourages local contractors to register on the district's small works roster. Please contact the business services department to obtain a small works roster application at (253) 931-4970 or access the application online at <http://bit.ly/X9dCu5>.

Project updates will be available beginning in 2013 on the district website at www.auburn.wednet.edu.

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

Auburn School District #408
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Auburn, WA 98002

For immediate release

Eleven Auburn Riverside High School student-musicians earn prestigious All-State and All-Northwest Honors
November 20, 2012

Eight Auburn Riverside High School (ARHS) student-musicians have been selected into the All-State Honor Groups sponsored by the Washington Music Educators Association (WMEA) and the National Association for Music Education.

The students are:

- Sumner Brock, bari sax
- Kristina Brockett, clarinet
- Marissa Brookhart, bass clarinet
- Doug Berry, euphonium
- Kyle Johnson, trumpet
- Ariana Kupai, trombone
- Jacob Hillard, tuba
- Aaron Howard, percussion

Additionally, three ARHS student-musicians have been selected to participate in the 2013 NAfME All-Northwest performing groups. This is the first year ARHS has had students selected for All-Northwest honors.

The students are:

- Austin Bastrom, oboe
- Adam Benabid, trombone
- Steven Summers, trombone

Students will join over 1,000 other outstanding high school student-musicians during the 59th annual WMEA State and NAFME Northwest Division Conference in Portland on February 14-17, 2013. Student-musicians in each of these musical genres will rehearse together under the direction of world-renowned conductors and present a Gala Concert at the end of the weekend.

Well-known Washingtonians who have participated in All-State and All-Northwest conferences include trumpeters Doc Severinson and Allen Vizzutti, the *Seattle Post-Intelligencer's* Pulitzer Prize-winning editorial cartoonist and columnist David Horsey, 2008 National Teacher of the Year Andrea Peterson, and jazz saxophonist Kenny G.

For more information contact Meghan Wagner, ARHS Director of Bands, at (253) 804-5154.

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For immediate release

Auburn School Board to honor West Auburn High School Senior as Student of the Month

November 19, 2012

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Anita Chavira, a senior at West 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.

"Math is my favorite subject," smiles Anita Chavira. Anita has much to smile about including a 3.8 GPA and successful scores on the reading, writing and math state assessments. "I've always liked school and tried my best," says Anita.

This is Anita's second year at West Auburn. She appreciates the fact that all of her teachers show an interest in her studies and future pursuits. Anita has had the opportunity to take career inventories at school and is interested in pursuing occupational therapy after graduation. She hopes to help others in need.

In addition to attending West Auburn's Day School and Learning Center, Anita works part-time as an Allstate insurance agent since passing the state insurance test.

According to Anita's teacher, Ms. Begalka, "Anita earned her insurance license in one month's time, a remarkable achievement as the training and studying usually takes two months."

In her free time, Anita plays pick-up volleyball games and spends time with her parents, brother and sister. "My parents are very supportive of me and have been a good influence in my life," says Anita.

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

**Auburn School District #408
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For immediate release

Auburn School Board to Honor Award-Winning Orchestra Teacher

November 19, 2012

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Dale Johnson, orchestra teacher at Auburn High School and Rainier Middle School, for his outstanding service on Monday, November 26, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

In a small four-room schoolhouse in Southern Idaho, Dale Johnson played his first notes on the violin. While academics and sports also filled his school days, Dale believes music helped develop much of his character including working for the good of the whole, respecting authority, and leading by example.

Dale's orchestra students at Rainier Middle School and Auburn High School exhibit similar characteristics. "While my goal is to increase students' music skills and enthusiasm, I also am responsible for raising good citizens and responsible people," says Dale. One year as some of Dale's students prepared for a local Kiwanis Club presentation, they compiled

two pages chockfull of reasons why music has benefited them. Dale's even kept the handwritten list to reference from time to time.

On any given day, Dale prepares his delivery and instruction to 23 individuals in a class. He evaluates all students and ensures the music they play is appropriate to their needs and levels. According to Dale, "I select pieces that challenge all students to learn and grow. Our orchestra programs nurture students to work with others to make the entire group better."

Dale's most satisfying moments in education have not been the numerous GRAMMY awards or Washington State Orchestra Teacher of the Year awards. Dale finds solace in the simplicity—like witnessing a student close the gap or discover a newfound music appreciation.

Dale received music degrees from Brigham Young University and the University of Washington, where he studied conducting with Stanley Chapple and violin and viola with Donald McInnis. He has dedicated 19 years to the Auburn School District and has taught in the Seattle, Federal Way and Tacoma School Districts. He served as Music Director of the Tacoma Community College Chamber Orchestra for 13 years and teaches music theory and runs a chamber music program.

Currently, Dale is the conductor for two Tacoma Youth Symphony Orchestras and will be traveling this spring to conduct student-musicians in Boston's Symphony Hall. "It's intimidating and overwhelming to stand on the same stage and conduct as the greats like Tchaikovsky." While the sound at Symphony Hall may be better, Dale finds it just as exciting to be a part of a child's first performance. "The energy and brightness in their eyes is priceless," smiles Dale.

Dale and his wife have eight children.

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

**Auburn School District #408
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Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn School District Earns Spot on the College Board's 3rd Annual AP District Honor Roll

November 13, 2012

Auburn School District is 1 of 539 school districts across the U.S. and Canada to be recognized by the College Board with placement on the 3rd Annual AP District Honor Roll for simultaneously increasing access to Advanced Placement course work while increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams.

Auburn School District's AP program is achieving both of these goals, indicating that the district is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students of all backgrounds who are likely to benefit most from rigorous AP course work. More than 90 percent of colleges and universities across the U.S. offer college credit, advanced placement or both for a score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam—which can potentially save students and their families thousands of dollars in college tuition.

Helping more students learn at a higher level and earn higher AP scores is an objective of all members of the AP community, from AP teachers to district and school administrators to college professors. Many districts are experimenting with a variety of initiatives and strategies to determine how to expand access and improve student performance simultaneously.

Auburn School District made the 3rd Annual AP District Honor Roll by meeting a rigorous examination of three years of AP data (2010-2012) for the following criteria:

1. Increase participation/access to AP by at least 4 percent in large districts, at least 6 percent in medium districts and at least 11 percent in small districts;
2. Ensure that the percentage of African American, Hispanic/Latino, and American Indian/Alaska Native students taking AP Exams did not decrease by more than 5 percent for large and medium districts or by more than 10 percent for small districts;
3. Improve performance levels when comparing the percentage of students in 2012 scoring a 3 or higher to those in 2010, unless the district has already attained a performance level in which more than 70 percent of the AP students are scoring a 3 or higher.

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

**Auburn School District #408
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For immediate release

Auburn Veterans Day Marching Band Competition on Saturday, November 10

November 1, 2012

On Saturday, November 10, Auburn Senior High School will host the 26th annual Auburn Veterans Day Marching Band Competition from 1:00-9:00 p.m. at Auburn Memorial Stadium, sponsored by the Auburn High School Band and Choir Parents.

Over 30 high school marching bands from Washington and Oregon will compete in this year's Parade and Field Show Competition. According to event directors Sue Hoffman and Teena Bailie, the Auburn Veterans Day Marching Band Competition is the largest, most prestigious and longest running marching band competition in Washington. Many of the area's marching band directors refer to Auburn's Competition as "Championships". Auburn is where the "Best of the Best" compete for top honors and cap off their marching band season in style.

Twenty-five high school marching bands will appear in the 47th annual Veterans Day Parade beginning at 11:00 a.m. along Main Street, which constitutes preliminary marching competition. Among those are bands from as far away as Clarkston, Spokane, Kennewick, Yakima, Bellingham, White Salmon, Montesano, the Kitsap Peninsula, Portland and Hermiston, Oregon.

Auburn's Mayor Pete Lewis and his wife Kathy, Dr. Kip Herren, Superintendent of the Auburn School District, and Richard Zimmerman, Auburn Senior High School Principal, will present the awards following a full Band Retreat at 9:00 p.m. on Troy Field.

Ticket prices for all day admission are: adults \$15; students (ages 6-18) \$10; senior citizens (62+) \$10; and children under 5 are free. Proceeds from the marching band competition will benefit all band and choir programs at Auburn Senior High School.

Gates open at 1:00 p.m. with the first performance starting at 1:30 p.m. on Troy Field. Two full-service concession stands will be open during the competition. Handicap parking and seating is available in Auburn Memorial Stadium's fully covered grandstand bleachers.

For more information, contact Sue Hoffman, Veterans Day Director, at hoffmansueann@hotmail.com; visit the Auburn High School Veterans Day website at <http://auburnveteransday.webs.com>; or go to the City of Auburn website at www.auburnwa.gov.

DECEMBER 2012:

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn High School Students and Staff Honor the Lives Lost in the Sandy Hook Elementary School Tragedy
December 19, 2012

Just days before winter vacation, Auburn High School students and staff took time out of each school day to honor and remember the precious lives lost at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut.

"It is important for our students to be able to express their feelings of sadness and grief," says Principal Richard Zimmerman. With the help of Auburn High's leadership classes, Principal Zimmerman organized three ways in three days for students and staff to show their support and honor the lives lost on December 14.

On Monday, Principal Zimmerman dedicated morning announcements to the victims and their families. The entire school observed a moment of silence. Then during all three lunches, students and staff expressed personal words of sympathy on a giant handmade banner with the words, "You are in our hearts," extending from end to end.

Tuesday was declared "Green and White Day." Students and staff showed their support for the Newtown, Connecticut, community by wearing the school colors of Sandy Hook Elementary School.

On Wednesday, students and staff had one more opportunity to sign the giant sympathy banner. Principal Zimmerman will send the banner along with a letter to the superintendent of Spring Lake Park District 16 on behalf of all Auburn High students and staff.

"It may not be a large amount of money or gifts we are sending," says Principal Zimmerman, "but what we are sending is truly from our hearts."

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

**Auburn School District #408
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For immediate release

Four Auburn Schools Named "2012 Schools of Distinction" by the Center for Educational Effectiveness
December 13, 2012

Alpac, Gildo Rey, Lake View and Pioneer Elementary Schools in the Auburn School District have all been named 2012 School of Distinction Award Winners from The Center for Educational Effectiveness (CEE), the Association of Educational Service Districts (AESD), the Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP), Phi Delta Kappa-Washington Chapter (PDK-WA), Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA), Washington State ASCD and Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA).

The award recognizes the top 5% highest improving schools in the state of Washington for increased reading and mathematics achievement over the past five years. This represents the 6th annual School of Distinction award recognition in Washington State.

Alpac, Gildo Rey, Lake View and Pioneer will be recognized at the 2012 Schools of Distinction Awards Ceremony on Thursday, January 24, 2013, at Puget Sound ESD in Renton.

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

Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002

For immediate release

Auburn School District joins six King County school districts to win \$40 million Race to the Top grant

December 11, 2012

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded Auburn School District and six other King County school districts—Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Renton, Seattle and Tukwila—a \$40 million federal Race to the Top grant.

Auburn, Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Renton, Seattle and Tukwila school districts collaborated together this fall as “The Road Map District Consortium” to dramatically improve education in South Seattle and South King County and jointly write a Race to the Top grant application.

The Road Map District Consortium application was 1 of 16 winners selected out of 372 applications nation-wide. Awards ranged from \$5 million to \$40 million, depending on the number of students served by the plan. The King County school districts’ application was 1 of only 2 applicants to win the maximum award of \$40 million.

“This is a major victory for students and families in South King County,” said Senator Patty Murray. “When we level the playing field by providing increased access and opportunity for our students, everyone wins. I congratulate the Road Map District Consortium for their outstanding leadership and collaboration in this endeavor. This victory will have a long-lasting impact on our community, and our state, as we all work together to build a brighter future for our students.”

The Puget Sound Educational Service District will serve as the lead agency responsible for overall project management and function as the fiscal agent.

“This amazing accomplishment proves that great things can happen when we work together. Thank you to all our partner organizations, districts, unions, community agencies, cities and housing authorities. The effort and commitment behind this plan is unprecedented—it’s a level of collaboration that should be celebrated and replicated,” said John Welch, Superintendent of the Puget Sound Educational Service District. “The region’s plan is designed to have big impact where it’s needed most. We are excited to roll out strategies that will help all students experience success.”

The winning plan covers 261 schools and 150,000 students, including 36,000 high-need children. The districts will use the four-year Race to the Top grant to implement the following plans to help students “Start Strong,” be “STEM Strong” and “Stay Strong”:

Start Strong – We know that early learning is critical

- Provide funds to help districts work with preschools and early learning programs to help kids be ready to be successful in kindergarten
- Improve math, science and English Language Learner (ELL) teaching and leadership approaches so all students receive high-quality instruction

STEM Strong – We live in a science, technology, engineering and math (STEM)-intensive region

- Provide a computer-based math instructional program for all high-need K-8th grade students that they can use in school and at home
- Help students explore STEM careers via online tools, speakers, mentors and internships
- Be a leader in implementing Next Generation Science Standards

Stay Strong – These strategies will help more students be successful in postsecondary education

- Offer all students the opportunity to take the SAT and PSAT in school for free
- Offer training for middle and high school guidance counselors and provide counselor assistants to better serve more students
- Offer districts the opportunity to the Advanced Placement (AP) course selections for students and help more teachers to get AP course training. Also, provide the opportunity to include more STEM, International Baccalaureate (IB) programs, world language and career certificate options

The grant also meets minimum federal requirements:

- Strong focus on personalizing education
- Stronger teacher, principal and superintendent evaluations by 2014
- Implementation of Common Core State Standards complete by the 2014-15 school year
- Transparent reporting of data and school-level expenditures

Additionally, the consortium's commitments go beyond the minimum federal requirements:

- Provide all high-need elementary students with a summer reading plan
- Double the number of students taking algebra or higher by the end of eighth grade
- Help all eighth-grade students complete a personalized plan to be college- and career-ready

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

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn School Board to Honor Lea Hill Elementary Office Assistant

December 6, 2012

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Bernadette Weimer, office assistant at Lea Hill 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.

During the school year, one outstanding staff member is recognized each month by the Auburn School Board. To receive such an honor staff are nominated by their peers and then selected by the district's Staff Links committee. Yet never in the history of the program has an individual been nominated by an entire school community—until now.

Bernadette Weimer was nominated by all of the Lea Hill staff. The six-page nomination was submitted by Principal Ed Herda and included decorated quotes from each staff member about Bernadette's exemplary spirit and service.

According to Principal Herda, "Mrs. Weimer, or 'Bernee' as we often refer to her, is indispensable to Lea Hill. She can do anything...she is the epitome of a team player who is flexible and willing to take on any task."

Having worked for seven years as a Lea Hill kindergarten paraeducator before accepting the office assistant position, Bernee understand the importance of attendance and student learning. She communicates constantly with Lea Hill families and attempts to impress upon them the responsibility of having their child to school consistently. Additionally, Bernee collaborated with Principal Herda and the school counselor to improve Lea Hill's attendance system by improving attendance interventions. "I believe that attendance plays a crucial role in the success of all students. It is laying the foundation for their education. I express to students daily the importance of being at school and ready to learn," says Bernee.

Additionally, Bernee is responsible for BECCA filings, student registration/withdrawal, recess duty, leadership projects, fundraising, giving tree program and photography. She attends all elementary user group meetings and classified in-services.

Bernee is the first face families and staff see when they walk through the front door. She knows all the students by name and has an infectious sense of humor that keep things light even on pressure-packed days. "I hope that my friendly, caring and outgoing personality rubs off on students. I try to make kids feel special and hope this will encourage them to feel excited about coming to school in a safe environment," remarks Bernee.

Bernee's background in accounting has helped her succeed as an office professional, which requires superior organizational and multitasking skills. She enjoys spending her free time with her husband, grown boys and new golden retriever puppy.

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

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Kelly McDonald to be Awarded Auburn School Board Gold Star Volunteer Award

December 6, 2012

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will present the Gold Star Volunteer Award to Kelly McDonald, in recognition of his 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.

In the fall of 2011, a simple e-mail message reconnected Arizona State University Communications Professor Kelly McDonald to his high school alma mater.

"I noticed the increased academic achievement in Auburn on the Washington State Report Card and sent Dr. Herren an e-mail letting him know I was back in town and asking if there was anything I could do to help," says Kelly.

Within a few weeks, Kelly joined Auburn Citizens for Schools and attended his first elections seminar. "I jumped right in," remarks Kelly. And he's never turned back.

In less than two years, Kelly has spearheaded strategic messaging and finance for three school district measures. As treasurer on the Citizens for Schools executive committee, Kelly helped revitalize fundraising efforts including a direct mail fundraising campaign to raise new revenue streams. He also developed key campaign messages and bond and levy literature for both the February 14, 2012 and November 7, 2012 Elections.

Kelly engaged with Auburn students, staff and community at various campaign stops including Good Ol' Days, Kids Day, Fourth of July, PTA and booster club events, and Meet and Eats. According to Kelly, "There are strong expressions of goodwill throughout our community...it was very satisfying to see students, staff and parents support the Auburn High bond."

Additionally, Kelly reached more supporters online using social media, wrote op-eds and was featured as a guest columnist in the Auburn Reporter, created print and online ads, organized literature drops, and mentored volunteer graphic design college students.

According to Deputy Superintendent Mike Newman, "Kelly brought clarity, focus and connection to the Auburn High bond message. He helped increase understanding of a critical measure."

Kelly also serves as a founding trustee on the Auburn Public Schools Foundation and is a member of the Auburn Rotary Club. He brings fresh insight to Auburn regarding education, fundraising and development, communications and marketing.

"Volunteering for me is a small way of repaying the selflessness and dedication of my teachers who introduced me to the tools and abilities to do what I can now," says Kelly.

Kelly provides invaluable support to Auburn schools and students through his leadership, commitment, time and resources. Kelly is a 1989 Auburn High School graduate.

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

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn School Board to honor Dick Scobee Elementary fifth grader as student of the month

December 5, 2012

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Anzhelika Kryshchuk, a fifth grade student at Dick Scobee 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.

Anzhelika Kryshchuk is an outstanding fifth grade student at Dick Scobee Elementary. She excels in all academic classes and consistently produces high quality assignments. Anzhelika finds math easier to grasp after practicing classroom math games, and she enjoys reading. According to Anzhelika's teacher, "Anzhelika is dedicated and focused. She is extremely thoughtful and respectful to both students and staff. Her courage and honesty is an example for her peers."

Anzhelika exudes kindness and consideration toward her classmates. She leads by example and is a friend to all. Anzhelika is not afraid to stand alone and do the right thing. Anzhelika's PE teacher says, "I have really enjoyed having her in my class for the past five years!"

Anzhelika is actively involved in the school community. She attends church and Sunday school every Sunday with her parents and three siblings. She also jump ropes and plans games with her friends on the weekend.

Anzhelika aspires to become a fashion designer. "I love to create patterns and design clothes on my laptop," says Anzhelika.

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

JANUARY 2013:

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn High School Groundbreaking Ceremony Is February 24, 2013

January 25, 2013

Groundbreaking on the new Auburn High School facility will be held on Sunday, February 24.

The event will begin at 1:30 p.m. at 700 East Main Street in Auburn. The public is invited. Parking is available in the Auburn Performing Arts Center parking lot.

The ceremony will celebrate the community's support and commitment to provide 21st century teaching and learning environments for *all* students.

Auburn School District voters approved the Auburn High School Modernization and Reconstruction Bond with a 62% supermajority on the November 6, 2012 General Election ballot.

Site construction begins on February 25, 2013.

Some of the project design features include:

- A new and prominent front entry on East Main Street.
- Direct access to and easily visibility of the PAC and Main Gym from 4th Street NE.
- Expansion of on-site parking stalls from 315 to over 600.
- Large parking lot adjacent to the Main Gym, PAC and Auburn Pool directly across the street from Auburn Memorial Stadium.
- Off-street bus loading area.
- New synthetic turf baseball and softball fields.
- All buildings under one roof.
- Improved energy efficiency.
- New classroom and building technology.
- A large student commons.
- Modernized PAC with a new front entry plaza and drop-off area, new lobby and delivery area, new theater seats, upgraded lighting and sound systems, improved access for the disabled, seismic upgrades, and more restrooms.

Project updates will be available at www.auburn.wednet.edu/AHSPProject.

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

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn School District Announces the 2012-2013 Classified School Employees of the Year

January 22, 2013

Auburn School District has selected the 2012-13 Classified School Employees of the Year:

- Jim DeJong, Transportation Shop Supervisor
- Janet Oke, Auburn Riverside High School Administrative Assistant to Assistant Principals

The Auburn School Board will recognize DeJong and Oke on Monday, February 25, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building. Additionally, the duo will be entered into the ESD regional competition. Each region will select a winner to move on to the state-level competition. The state winner will be declared the 2013 Washington State Classified School Employee of the Year.

Jim DeJong, Transportation Shop Supervisor

Jim DeJong was nominated by Transportation executive director Dennis Grad and is in his seventh year as the district's shop supervisor since dedicating over 21 years as a mechanic and shop foreman.

Each year 132 school buses travel over 1.3 million miles to get kids safely to and from school, events and activities. Under Jim's leadership, the shop has earned an exemplary safety record in Washington State Patrol inspections for 28 consecutive years. This record is unsurpassed in the state.

Jim is a Master Journeyman Mechanic and a true renaissance man in the area of mechanical and technical aptitude. According to Dennis Grad, "In one of my initial conversations with Jim, he matter-of-factly told me that he and his crew can fix anything." Dennis has witnessed the crew time and again fix district vehicles and even grounds and custodial equipment.



Beyond the wonders performed in the shop, Jim is an expert in parts and vehicle purchase ensuring the absolute lowest prices, which results in thousands of dollars in savings each and every year. He also tracks fuel consumption and price and purchase cycles to obtain the most competitive pricing at the most opportune time.

Jim is a leader in and outside of the department. He is always in close contact with maintenance and grounds employees who look to him for advice and answers. He is a critical member of the district's Emergency Planning Team and recently prepared for the FTC narrow banding of radio frequencies.

A graduate of Auburn High School, Jim was inspired by his auto shop teacher, Warren Halladay, to expand his interest and talent in auto technology, resulting in his mechanics specialist degree at Renton Voc-Tech. Jim is a positive leader who builds an esprit décor with his colleagues. On snow days, Jim is out on the road at 3 a.m. to assess road conditions. He is known to have helped many a driver who was stuck in the snow on early morning drives.

Janet Oke, Auburn Riverside High School Administrative Assistant to Assistant Principals

Janet Oke was nominated by Auburn Riverside High School assistant principal Nola Wilson. Janet has dedicated 20 years to the Auburn School District.

Janet started her career in the district as an office administrator at Cascade Junior High. As the first line of defense when dealing with students and parents, Janet had a knack for engaging students with humor and parental wisdom. According to Nola Wilson, a former Cascade administrator and now assistant principal at Auburn Riverside, "Students often came into my office with a new attitude after speaking with Mrs. Oke...Janet was quick to fill in gaps and pick up the pieces a rookie administrator would leave behind. Truly, she was a large part of my success during my first year."

Janet left Cascade in 1994 to open up the district's new high school, Auburn Riverside. Opening a new building is like flying a plane that is still being built. It's chaotic, filled with surprises and kinks to work out, and requires great patience and initiative. Janet was the right co-pilot for the job. From inventory loading and office design, to letterhead creation and ground zero procedures planning, Janet had her hands in it all. Through it all she kept a sense of humor and unflappable positive attitude, helping shape the enjoyable atmosphere ARHS enjoys to this day.



Janet Oke is a hard-working team player who strives to do her best to make ARHS be the best it can be. Her can-do attitude makes her an instant favorite and go-to person within the building and among administrators. Janet builds strong rapport with students, staff, parents and community members.

Janet's decision-making skills are indispensable to other office staff and the administrators who rely on her. She handles new dilemmas and situations with ease and stays attune to changing rules at the state and district levels. This year Janet was asked to sit on the Board Policy review of discipline codes and procedures. Janet combines her problem-solving and communication skills when working on a committee to help create an efficient and supportive environment.

Janet is an invaluable member of Auburn Riverside's front office staff, as well as a key resource to other building staff and district administration.

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

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn School Board to honor Ilalko Elementary fifth grader as student of the month

January 23, 2013

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Maliyah Kim, a fifth grade student at Ilalko Elementary 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.

Maliyah, a fifth grade student in Mrs. Mikel's class, is a positive role model both in and out of the classroom. Maliyah is a student that receives attention not through seeking it out, but because of the way she treats others and the way she approaches every day.

Maliyah's homeroom teacher, Mrs. Mikel says, "There are not enough good things I can say about her. Maliyah is always helpful to staff members and other students. She often works closely with her peers as a 'buddy' to keep them on track and tutor them on various subjects. Maliyah is extremely responsible and maintains many classroom jobs. She is punctual and timely with her school work and always works to the best of her ability. Maliyah will go out of her way to do things, just because it is the right thing to do. For instance, if she sees food on the floor in the lunch area, she will pick it up just because, regardless if it was caused by her or not. Maliyah is a wonderful young lady who has a very promising future!"

Maliyah credits her success to the support of her family. She has learned lessons of patience from working with her younger siblings and respect from her older sister and parents. Maliyah recognizes the importance of family and of her Cambodian culture as they have made her into the person she is.

Maliyah is an active student who enjoys all subjects but especially math. In addition to the core subjects she studies every day, Maliyah enjoys learning the cello from Mrs. Wharton in the Mt. Baker fifth grade orchestra.

Maliyah enjoys playing basketball at recess with her friends and staying active. She knows that a healthy student can think more clearly and achieve higher.

Maliyah has set her sights on a career in medicine as a pediatrician. Her penchant for math will help her in her studies, for sure. Maliyah has already identified the University of Washington as a school she would like to attend in pursuit of her goal. With her positive attitude, outstanding work ethic, and kind nature, Maliyah has a bright future ahead of her.

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

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn School Board to Honor Terminal Park Elementary Fifth Grade Teacher

January 23, 2013

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Andrew DeFrancesco, a fifth 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.

Students in Andrew DeFrancesco's Terminal Park fifth grade class can easily recite the fifth grade reading standards or tell you the definition of "hydrologic cycle" thanks to large, colorful posters that adorn the classroom walls.

“Visual learning helps all of my students, especially struggling readers, grasp academic language through visual pictures and accompanying words,” says Andrew.

All 13 reading standards broken into 21 easy-to-understand definitions are posted at the front of the class to remind students what they are learning and will be learning throughout the school year. Currently, Andrew’s students are focusing on prediction/inference. In fact, it is a school-wide focus as Terminal Park adopts common teaching and learning goals across grade levels. According to Andrew, “It’s exciting that our staff works toward common goals yet has the autonomy to teach standards and create engaging lesson plans for our students.”

In Andrew’s 14 years at Terminal Park, he has helped many students improve academically and socially. His goal is to ensure students leave for middle school ready to continue their studies and relationships on a positive note.

Andrew encourages a positive classroom environment through high expectations, consistency, hard work and laughter. “Our class is 33 kids strong. We have fun but the students also know when it’s time to work hard.” Sometimes students are one to two years behind standard, yet Andrew helps students through their challenges to find success.

In addition to teaching, Andrew leads the school’s student safety patrol, serves as the IT coordinator and recess monitor, and volunteers on the district standards-based and emergency preparedness committees.

Andrew is a proud graduate of the Auburn School District who attended Chinook, Olympic and Auburn High. He earned a bachelor’s in education at Central Washington University and a master’s in education at Grand Canyon University. Andrew also served in the United States Navy.

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

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn choir students sing at Governor Gregoire’s State of the State address and opening of the 2013 legislative session

January 16, 2013

An Auburn Mountainview High School High School (AMHS) a cappella trio opened the 2013 legislative in song on Monday, January 14, while an Auburn High School (AHS) a cappella quartet sang the National Anthem prior to Governor Christine Gregoire’s final State of the State address on Tuesday, January 15.

The AMHS trio—Nicole Costa, Brandon Henderson and Taylor Liabraaten—were guests of Senator Joe Fain, and performed “The Star-Spangled Banner” in the Senate chamber as lawmakers convened for their annual meeting. Senator Fain first heard the student-singers perform at a community scholarship event last year and extended the invitation to open up the 2013 legislative session this past summer.

Governor Gregoire invited the AHS quartet—Marcoantonio Garcia, Ethan Hinze, Linda Karout and Morgan Warren—to lead off her final State of the State address at the Capital. According to AHS choir instructor Kandy Gilbert, “Over 40 students auditioned for the quartet. It was an honor that students from Auburn were selected to sing at back-to-back events in Olympia.” Last year AHS choir students performed at the 2012 Western Governors’ Association Annual Meeting.

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

Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002

For immediate release

Auburn School District Sells Bonds in Favorable Market Conditions to Launch Phase One of Auburn High School Project

January 14, 2013

Auburn School District recently took advantage of favorable municipal bond market conditions and sold approximately \$59 million of bonds to launch phase one of the Auburn High School Modernization and Reconstruction Project. The bonds were sold on January 8 during all-time low 2.7% interest rates.

Due to low interest rates and favorable market conditions, ASD also refinanced approximately \$19 million of outstanding bond debt. The actual savings totaled 13.29%, which equates to over \$3 million. This exceeded the savings target of 7.5% set by the Auburn School Board. These savings go directly to taxpayers through reduced tax levies and are not available for district expenses.

Phase one of the Auburn High School Modernization and Reconstruction Project officially kicks off with a groundbreaking ceremony on Sunday, February 24, at 1:30 p.m. in the Auburn Performing Arts Center parking lot at 700 East Main Street, Auburn.

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

CONTACT: Kip Herren

(253) 931-4914

info@auburnschoolsfoundation.org

For immediate release

New Auburn Public Schools Foundation Becomes Independent, Non-Profit 501(c)3 Organization

January 9, 2013

Auburn, Washington – The Auburn Public Schools Foundation (APSF) is a new independent, community-based, non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization.

The Auburn School Board entered into a partnership with the Auburn Public Schools Foundation on September 10, 2012.

Founded in 2011 by a group of community volunteers, APSF recognizes the fact public funds alone cannot adequately support the essential efforts to advance student achievement in the school district.

The Auburn Public Schools Foundation will build financial partnerships with individuals, corporations and foundations so that all students have the resources they need to achieve their highest potential.

The Auburn Public Schools Foundation will enable the Auburn School District to expand innovative and excellent educational opportunities and access to all students.

APSF will support programs and initiatives serving students through a range of fund raising activities, special events, and engagement with district stakeholders, including staff, alumni and corporations.

Individuals, groups and organizations are encouraged to get involved. There are a variety of ways to make a difference in student's lives:

- Make an APSF contribution directly, through payroll deduction, check or online donation.
- Contact APSF with your creative ideas.
- Volunteer to help the Foundation and the students.
- Tell others about APSF.

For more information, contact Kip Herren at (253) 931-4914 or go to www.auburn.wednet.edu/APSF.

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

**Auburn School District, Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce and Communities in Schools of Auburn to host 4th Annual Middle School Career Conference
January 8, 2013**

The 4th Annual Auburn Area Middle School Career Conference begins on Thursday, January 10 for eighth grade Auburn area middle school students. The conference schedule is as follows:

- Cascade Middle School, January 10, 7:55 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- Rainier Middle School, January 15, 12 p.m. to 1:55 p.m.
- Mt. Baker Middle School, January 16, 11:50 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.
- Olympic Middle School, January 17, 12:15 p.m. to 2:10 p.m.

Eighth grade middle school students from Valley Christian School will be participating in the event with students from Mt. Baker Middle School on January 16.

Auburn School District, Auburn Area Chamber of Commerce and Communities in Schools of Auburn are partnering together to encourage eighth grade middle school students to stay engaged in school, plan appropriate high school courses of study, graduate from high school on time, and set goals for successes beyond high school.

Earlier this month, students participated in career interest surveys to determine which career informational sessions they will attend during the conference. The career conference begins with an assembly followed by five sessions with representatives from local businesses, high school programs, community and technical colleges, and four-year universities.

For more information contact your neighborhood middle school directly or Amy Spence, public information officer, at (253) 931-4713.

FEBRUARY 2013:

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

1st Annual Girls Health Fair Is Saturday, March 9, in Auburn

February 28, 2013

On Saturday, March 9, all girls ages 10-18 are invited to the 1st Annual Girls Health Fair from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Olympic Middle School, 1825 K Street SE in Auburn. Registration opens at 9:30 a.m. The event is free. Parking is available in the school lot.

Sponsored by the Auburn School District Nurses, the Girls Health Fair offers free self-defense, yoga and zumba classes. The event also features expert advice on nutritional foods, gardening and natural beauty products.

The first 250 participants will receive free "SHE" (Self Health Empowerment) T-shirts and be entered into a drawing to win door prizes.

For more information visit www.auburn.wednet.edu or contact Amy Spence, public information officer, at 253-931-4713.

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn Student-Musicians Dominate Regional Competition; Qualify for State

February 28, 2013

Over 100 Auburn student-musicians participated in the Green River Music Educators Association Solo and Ensemble Contest. Fifty-two students qualified as finalists and alternates for the 2013 WMEA/WIAA State Solo and Ensemble Contest in April.

Auburn Riverside High School captured 27 superior ratings, 18 excellent ratings, and 3 good ratings. The Ravens qualified more band students—a total of 39—than any other school in the region for the 2013 WMEA/WIAA State Solo and Ensemble Contest.

Thirty-two Auburn Mountainview High School students participated and earned 10 superior ratings and 6 excellent ratings. Six students qualified as alternates to the 2013 state contest.

Auburn High School won 4 superior ratings and 10 excellent ratings. The advanced percussion ensemble won the division and will compete at the state competition as a finalist. Two students qualified as alternates.

Student-musicians performed independently, without conductor or teacher involvement, at the Green River Music Educators Association Solo and Ensemble Contest. This year's contest judges represented the Seattle Symphony, Seattle Opera, Pacific Northwest Ballet Orchestra, and more.

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

Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002

For immediate release

Five Auburn Schools Named Washington HealthierUS School Challenge Winners

February 28, 2013

Five Auburn schools recently won national awards for creating healthier school environments through promotion of nutrition and physical activity:

- Gildo Rey Elementary School
- Ilalko Elementary School
- Pioneer Elementary School
- Terminal Park Elementary School
- Washington Elementary School

The awards were administered by the HealthierUS School Challenge, a voluntary certification initiative for schools participating in the National School Lunch Program. It supports First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! Campaign by helping schools raise healthy children.

A total of 74 Washington schools won the award. The awards are based on how the schools:

1. Improve the nutritional quality of the foods served,
2. provide students with nutrition education, and
3. provide students with physical education and opportunities for physical activity.

Auburn schools adopt a variety of practices to ensure students eat healthy and play regularly including:

- Before and after school fitness activities such as open gym and run clubs
- Fresh fruit and vegetable afternoon snacks
- Safe walking and cycling routes to school
- Walk-to-read programs
- Heart rate monitor and pedometer incentives

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

Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002

For immediate release

Auburn High School Groundbreaking Ceremony Is Sunday, February 24

February 21, 2013

Groundbreaking on the new Auburn High School facility is Sunday, February 24, at 1:30 p.m. The public is invited. Parking is available in the Auburn Performing Arts Center parking lot at 700 East Main Street in Auburn.

The ceremony will celebrate the community's support and commitment to provide 21st century teaching and learning environments for all students.

The Auburn High School Choir will perform "The Star-Spangled Banner". Featured speakers include Auburn School Board President Janice Nelson, Superintendent Kip Herren, Auburn High School Principal Richard Zimmerman, and Auburn High School ASB President Adam Luk.

Auburn School District voters approved the Auburn High School Modernization and Reconstruction Bond with a 62% supermajority on the November 6, 2012 General Election ballot.

Site construction begins on February 25, 2013.

Project updates will be available at www.auburn.wednet.edu/AHSProject.

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

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn School Board to honor Arthur Jacobsen Elementary fifth grade student

February 20, 2013

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Kenzie Hilderbrand, a fifth grade student at Arthur Jacobsen 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.

Kenzie, a fifth grade student in Mr. Howell's class, is a positive role model both in and out of the classroom. Kenzie's academic success has led to multiple opportunities including an invitation to join AJ's National Honor Society and become a peer mediator.

Her active participation in student life ignites acts of compassion and kindness throughout the Thunderbirds community. Currently Kenzie is president of AJ's National Honor Society. Partnering with the school's ASB president, Kenzie leads the annual food drive, which kicks off today. From baby food to bags of potatoes, students donate food and monetary donations to benefit the Auburn Food Bank. As president, Kenzie also administered the Honor Society Pledge to this year's inductees. Additionally, the National Honor Society organized holiday caroling during primary lunches in December and Valentines card making for soldiers in January.

Kenzie is an instrumental member of AJ's Green Team, which increases composting and recycling while decreasing garbage waste. 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.

According to AJ principal Eric Daniel, "Kenzie is a team player and talented student who has a very promising future!"

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

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn School Board to Honor Olympic Middle School Paraeducator

February 20, 2013

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Tammy Miller, a LAP paraeducator at Olympic Middle School, for her outstanding service on Monday, February 25, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Tammy Miller helps meet the needs of students who need additional assistance in mathematics and reading.

LAP, also known as the Learning Assistance Program, does not replace a student's general education class. It actually complements what a student is already learning and builds on skills they may be lacking. "We work in small groups and focus our energy on those areas where a student may be struggling," says Tammy.

Each year Tammy witnesses students make significant academic improvement. Her ultimate goal is to help all students reach their academic goals.

Beyond the LAP classroom, Tammy's infectious smile and do-good energy attract students from all walks of life to Olympic's Friends of Rachel Club. The focus of the club is to practice random acts of kindness and, to put it simply, be nice to everyone.

"These programs give kids the power to have a voice, stand up for themselves and others, and teach them about being responsible," says Tammy. In February, the Friends of Rachel Club sponsored a random acts of kindness week. Students were encouraged to act compassionately and recognize the kindness modeled by others. Colorful posters showered with positive messages about friendship, compassion and kindness filled the hallways.

Tammy also organized a Chain Reaction of Kindness challenge in October 2011 for the Cities & Schools Forum 13th Annual Reaching Out Fair. Olympic's Friends of Rachel Club invited students from all four middle schools to practice random acts of kindness. Every kind act was represented by one paper loop, and the loops were linked together to create a paper chain. During the Reaching Out Fair evening finale, all four middle schools brought their paper chains on stage. The chains were so long that it took over 20 students and 4 adults to hold up all of the recorded acts of kindness. According to Tammy, "The chains were a tangible way for kids to see how often nice things are done for them and for others."

Tammy's career in the Auburn School District began in 1999 as a paraeducator in the Auburn High School culinary arts program. She also has served as an adaptive behavior and computer lab paraeducator. Tammy holds a highly qualified apprenticeship card through the paraeducator apprenticeship program. She is a lifelong learner and hopes to return to college to complete an undergraduate degree.

Tammy is active in the Auburn community. She volunteers with Uniquely Auburn, has volunteered at the Auburn Food Bank and would like to begin volunteering for the Auburn Valley Humane Society. She plans to honor her late son by raising money for two of his passions: the Auburn Food Bank and animals. "I need to give back and be a part of my world to make it a more positive place," says Tammy.

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

MARCH 2013:

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn High School Senior Tyler May Represents Special Olympics Washington Athletes on Capitol Hill

March 29, 2013

On March 6, Auburn High School senior Tyler May converged on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. to support the Eunice Kennedy Shriver Act. Invited by Special Olympics Washington CEO Beth Wojick, Tyler represented over 10,000 Special Olympic athletes from Washington State. The bill would reauthorize the Special Olympics Sport and Empowerment Act of 2004 and provide assistance to Best Buddies to support the expansion and development of mentoring programs.

Tyler and other Special Olympics representatives from across the nation had the opportunity to share the importance of Special Olympics with elected leaders, including U.S. Senator Patty Murray and U.S. Representative Dave Reichert. Tyler also visited the Pentagon, Washington Monument, White House and Congress.



Tyler believes individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities should have the opportunity to compete at the highest level of sport and be recognized for their efforts. As a young man with autism, Tyler embraces his disability and is unabashed to share his golfer's handicap. In fact, Tyler has won back-to-back gold medals at the Special Olympics Washington State Golf Championships and is the current record holder. Additionally, he was invited to play in the 2012 Jim Mora Celebrity Golf Classic alongside Mack Strong. "The first hole was a par 3, 110 yards. I got out my gap wedge and put the ball within 20 feet of the pin. No one hit the green except me," smiles Tyler. "We mean business as Special Olympians."

Tyler is not only a standout Special Olympian, he also is the MVP of the Auburn High School boys' varsity golf team. Earning a spot on the varsity squad as a sophomore, Tyler has led the team in skill and attitude.

Off the course, Tyler excels in math and science. He enjoys bowling and catching up on the latest 49ers and SF Giants headlines. Tyler hopes to pursue a career at Tacoma Rail as a locomotive engineer. Tyler has volunteered with Tacoma Rail and even operated two steam locomotives on his tenth birthday.

Tyler is a winner. And he attributes his success to the Special Olympics athlete's oath: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."

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

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn School District Awarded Energy Conservation Grants Totaling \$785,000

March 28, 2013

Auburn School District has been awarded a \$35,000 Puget Sound Energy (PSE) Performance Incentive Grant and a \$750,000 2012 Jobs Now Act Energy Operational Cost Saving Grant to improve energy efficiency across the district.

The \$35,000 PSE Performance Incentive Grant recognizes Auburn School District's energy conservation efforts. In one school year, Auburn School District saved nearly 1 million kWh of electricity and 60,000 therms of natural gas. The corresponding utility cost savings is approximately \$200,000.

The various conservation measures are back-of-the-house processes that often go unnoticed, such as turning off lights in unoccupied rooms; using incandescent lighting; recycling and composting; and incorporating green design features in new construction.

Student-led "Green Teams" are also conserving resources through classroom paper recycling; lunchroom recycling and food composting; and even vermicomposting. The latest example is from Olympic Middle School where students created step-by-step posters to show how to sort garbage correctly. Concerned about food waste, the Olympic Green Team is considering developing a "share table" for leftover packaged food.

The 2012 Jobs Now Act Energy Operational Cost Saving Grant provides \$750,000 to assist Auburn School District in funding projects that improve energy efficiency, reduce operating costs and improve the indoor learning environment.

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

Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002

For immediate release

Pioneer Elementary Named State Reward School for High Progress in Reading and Math

March 25, 2013

Pioneer Elementary School in the Auburn School District has been named a "Reward School" by State Schools Superintendent Randy Dorn for the second year in a row.

Pioneer Elementary is a "high-progress school," which indicates they are in the top 10 percent of Title I schools based on their performance and improvement on state assessments over three years in reading and mathematics. Additionally, they have no significant gaps in performance among subgroups of students. Subgroups include ethnicity, socio-economic status, Special Education and English Language Learners.

A total of 75 Washington schools achieved Reward status. Schools were identified using three-year averages (2009-10 through 2011-12) of reading and math scores from the statewide tests and/or graduation rates.

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

Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002

For immediate release

Auburn High School students and alumni grab top honors

March 21, 2013

Six Auburn High School yearbook and newspaper students competed at the 2013 Washington Journalism Education Association (WJEA) State Conference on March 9 at Inglemoor High School. All six students won honors:

Feature Photography, Alan Munoz, Superior Ranking
Newspaper Feature Writing, Lili Ocegueda, Excellent Ranking
Feature Photography, Isaac Howard, Honorable Mention
Photo Editing/Caption Writing, Makayla Larson, Honorable Mention
Sports Photography, Trevor Rupright, Honorable Mention
Sports Writing, Langston Thomas, Honorable Mention

Marshall Klontz, a 2010 graduate of Auburn High School, was named the NAIA Heart of America Athletic Conference (HAAC) Pitcher of the Week for the week of March 18. Klontz, a pitcher for Peru State in Nebraska, pitched the first no-hitter in over nine years. Klontz gave up just one walk against Graceland University, defeating the YellowJackets 2-0, on March 16.

The video, *Food I Don't Like*, produced by Auburn High School student **Curtis Kavog** won third place in the Hunt 4 Health High School Video Challenge. Auburn High School will receive \$3,000 from LifeWise Health Plan of Washington to benefit its nutrition and physical activity programs. Curtis and members of the video production team will receive Visa gift cards.

Auburn High School choir students competed at the 2013 League Vocal Solo-Ensemble Contest. The following students won honors:

Alto Division, Morgan Warren, State Qualifier
Women's Small Ensemble Division, Linda Karout and Morgan Warren, State Qualifiers
Alto Division, Reshma Sivakumar, 1st Alternate
Mixed Voices Small Ensemble Division, Ethan Hinze and Jessica Alley, 1st Alternate
Bass Division, Ethan Hinze, 1st Alternate
Men's Large Ensemble Division, Chamber Choir Men's Ensemble, 1st Alternate
Mezzo Soprano Division, Linda Karout, 1st Alternate
Women's Large Ensemble Division, Chamber Choir Women's #1, 2nd Alternate
Baritone Division, Reymart Balmes, Superior Rating
Mixed Voices Large Ensemble Division, Chamber Choir Mixed #1, Superior Rating
Men's Small Ensemble Division, Marco Garcia and Reymart Balmes, Superior Rating
Soprano Division, Jessica Alley, Superior Rating
Soprano Division, Alyson Siemions, Superior Rating
Women's Large Ensemble Division, Chamber Choir Women's #2, Excellent Rating
Soprano Division, Jazz Jones, Excellent Rating
Alto Division, Amanda Lehman, Excellent Rating
Women's Large Ensemble Division, Bel Canto Choir, Excellent Rating
Mixed Voices Large Ensemble Division, Chamber Choir Mixed #2, Excellent Rating
Tenor Division, Marco Garcia, Excellent Rating
Tenor Division, Cole Pruden, Excellent Rating

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

Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002

For immediate release

Niki Thompson to be awarded Auburn School Board Gold Star Volunteer Award

March 20, 2013

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will present the Gold Star Volunteer Award to Niki Thompson, in recognition of her volunteer support to Auburn School District, on Monday, March 25, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

It is safe to say there is no other district volunteer, except Niki Thompson, who has catered Greek souvlaki during half-time concessions. Niki is a talented event planner who has dedicated 17 years of volunteer service to Auburn schools. Her primary goal as a school volunteer is to make opportunities available to all children no matter their life situations.

Niki dedicates countless hours as chair of the Auburn Mountainview High School Booster Club Annual Auction. She initiated the event three years ago and is responsible for procuring items, coordinating venues, planning menus, organizing the auction, and reconciling transactions. According to Niki, "I love the daily interaction of working with the Auburn Mountainview community." The auction attracts hundreds of participants every year and has raised \$104,000 over the last three years.

Niki also manages the boys' baseball fundraising activities. She coordinates all home game concessions including purchasing and preparing food, and creating the volunteer schedule. Last year she even prepared homemade Greek souvlaki to sell to fans during senior night. Additionally, Niki procures the auction items for the baseball team and organizes a large-scale fundraiser with the Seattle Mariners. The team sells 1,000 Mariners tickets, which raises thousands of dollars for the team and qualifies the team to participate in the High School Baseball Classic at Safeco Field.

Prior to her service at Auburn Mountainview High School, Niki volunteered at Hazelwood Elementary three days a week. "I helped with MAPS testing, corrected papers, and chaperoned numerous field trips," says Niki.

Currently Niki is an event planner and travel coordinator for Eveia Medical Consulting in Issaquah. She is the proud mother of two children, a graduate of Auburn Mountainview and a seventh grader at Rainier. Niki appreciates the strong support of the community. "People want to support kids and schools," says Niki. "All you need to do is get out there and ask."

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

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn School Board to honor Terminal Park Elementary fifth grade student

March 19, 2013

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Morgan Collings, a fifth grade student at Terminal Park Elementary School, for being an outstanding student on Monday, March 25, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Morgan Collings loves a challenge. And a math problem is even better. "I love math, especially because there are no 'maybe' just 'yes' or 'no' answers." Morgan recently tested the scientific method in Mrs. McIntyre's fifth grade class. She discovered that juice from a lemon and metal from a penny conduct electricity.

Morgan consistently delivers high quality assignments. She is a positive role model and serves as the ASB co-vice president. Additionally, she is the co-editor of the ABC Newsletter and a member of the band and math club.

Morgan has always loved learning. In fact, as a primary student she completed academic workbooks cover-to-cover—almost faster than her parents could buy them. According to Morgan's mom, "We purchased every workbook we could find in the stores. When the time came that we couldn't find any new ones, we began making them ourselves."

In the future, Morgan plans to attend Auburn High School, enroll in Advanced Placement courses, and perhaps play softball. She hopes to participate in drama and continue with Girl Scouts.

Morgan enjoys assisting her parents with the family business. Morgan insists on filing and entering data, as well as performing other billing duties. "She is as dedicated and thorough with business tasks as she is with her schoolwork," says Morgan's mom. This year during winter break, Morgan voluntarily catalogued her family's personal book collection. She spent hours entering every book into the computer and devised a circulation system complete with a fine schedule for overdue books.

Additionally, Morgan enjoys acting, singing, playing the piano and clarinet, and riding four-wheelers. Her favorite vacation spots are Montana, California, Hawaii and North Carolina.

According to Terminal Park principal Tom Dudley, "Morgan has demonstrated confidence as a leader along with a high level of humility, empathy and kindness. When you interact with Morgan, you can quickly tell that she cares about doing her best and about treating others with respect. She is an outstanding example to her peers, and we are fortunate to have her at Terminal Park."

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

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn School Board to Honor Child Nutrition Services Department Office Manager

March 19, 2013

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Tammy Gates, Child Nutrition Services office manager, for her outstanding service on Monday, March 25, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Tammy Gates supports the smooth daily operations of the school district's breakfast and lunch programs. She oversees central office operations including payroll, budget, management of sub and floater pools, new staff orientation, technology, meal payments and, last but not least, free and reduced priced meal student eligibility.

During a school year, the Child Nutrition Services Department typically processes over 6,000 free and reduced applications, which ensure eligible students receive meal benefits. She extends compassion to families in need and guides them through the process. According to Tammy, "Children learn better when they are well nourished. Our goal is to ensure all students have access to healthy foods so they are ready to learn."

Tammy has served as office manager for one-and-a-half years and as the CNS administrative assistant for 11 years. She has helped the department through rigid USDA and OSPI student eligibility audits. Additionally, Tammy was the first administrative assistant in the Auburn School District to complete the secretary apprenticeship through the State of Washington and has served as the AAEOOP chair for the apprenticeship program.

According to Tammy, "I work with great people in the district. We work together as a cohesive team and support each other in our various roles."

Prior to working in the district, Tammy completed pre-nursing and business courses, and worked as an accounting assistant.

Tammy lives near Auburn with her husband. Her two children attended Auburn schools. Currently, Tammy's daughter is a NICU nurse at Duke University Medical Center and her son is pursuing a master's degree in social work.

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

Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002

For immediate release

Three Auburn Principals Recognized for Leadership and Student Achievement

March 19, 2013

Three Auburn School District principals representing all three grade levels—elementary, middle and high school—have been recognized as highly effective school administrators:

1. Greg Brown, Principal, Mt. Baker Middle School
2. Ryan Foster, Principal, Lakeland Hills Elementary School
3. Stacy Jordison, Assistant Principal, Auburn Senior High School

Mt. Baker Middle School Principal **Greg Brown** has been selected to represent Central Washington University in the school's new "distinguished alumni" campaign. Principal Brown is being recognized for his commitment to increase student achievement and support collaborative learning environments. Principal Brown and other distinguished CWU alumni will be featured on large banners throughout campus.

Ryan Foster, Lakeland Hills Elementary School Principal, was selected as a finalist for the 2013 Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP) Washington State Principal of the Year Award. Under Principal Foster's leadership, Lakeland Hills Elementary students are outperforming the state average in reading and mathematics. In fact in 2011, Lakeland Hills had the best overall 3rd grade reading scores in the state. In 2012, state test scores were the highest in school history—outperforming the state average by double digits.

Auburn Senior High School Assistant Principal **Stacy Jordison** has been named the 2012-13 SPSL 4A Assistant Principal of the Year. Assistant Principal Jordison exhibits key leadership skills including a willingness to take risks to improve student learning; a passion for creating collaborative working relationships with teachers and other staff members to improve the educational program and student achievement; and a commitment to fostering a positive school climate.

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

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn Mountainview High School Girls' Basketball Team Captures Class 3A Academic State Champions Title
March 4, 2013

The Auburn Mountainview High School (AMHS) girls' basketball team has captured the 2012-2013 WIAA Girls 3A State Basketball Academic Champions Title with a combined team GPA of 3.813. The title was based on the combined grade-point averages of all varsity basketball players.

For more information contact Rob Swaim, Auburn School District athletic director, at 253-931-4999.

APRIL 2013:

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Two Auburn School District staff members named Washington Association of Educational Office Professionals Administrator and Office Professional of the Year

April 24, 2013

Debbie Leighton, executive director of Human Resources, has been named the 2012-13 Washington Association of Educational Office Professionals (WAEOP) Educational Administrator of the Year.

Deyanna King, office manager of Student Support Services, has been named the 2012-13 WAEOP Educational Office Professional of the Year.

Additionally, another member of the Auburn Association of Educational Office Professionals (AAEOP) received a state award. Debra White, administrative assistant of Student Support Services, received the WAEOP Award for Excellence in Communication of an affiliate newsletter.

The trio will be honored at the WAEOP annual awards and installation banquet on April 27 in Richland, Washington.

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

**Local stackers excel at World Sport Stacking Championships
*Auburn Reporter April 19, 2013 Edition***

Several Auburn competitors posted world records at the World Sport Stacking Association Championships April 6-7 in Orlando, Fla.

The event is the pinnacle for international competitors vying for the fastest times stacking and unstacking plastic cups in various patterns. The event features individual, doubles and team competitions.

Competing for Team USA was Dick Scobee Elementary fifth-grader Gabby Rivera. The world record holder in the 9-10 age division, Rivera finished second in the 11-12 female full-cycle competition with a 7.609-second time. She also was fifth in the 3-6-3 stack event with a time of 2.742 and eighth in the 3-3-3 stack, with a 3.458 clocking.

Rivera was fifth in the 12U doubles stack with a time of 12.789.

Jon Ansotigue, a physical education teacher at Evergreen Heights Elementary who organizes local sport stacking events, made the most of his first time competing in the sport. He set a world record in the 3-6-3 team-timed relay.

Ansotigue also was first in the 3-3-3, second in the 3-6-3 and first in the cycle events for his age division.

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn School Board to honor Auburn Riverside senior

April 17, 2013

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Cassidy Brown, a senior at Auburn Riverside High School, for being an outstanding student on Monday, April 22, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

A leader in her own right, Cassidy Brown serves the Raven community with kindness, compassion and joy. According to Raven Crew advisor Meri Benedict, "Cassidy is genuinely kind and thoughtful to everyone she meets. She is always cheerful and smiling...she has a style that is creative, open, non-threatening and embracing of others."

Cassidy's ability to connect to her peers and articulate messages of acceptance and respect has led her to a unique position on campus. "Cassidy leads many Riverside assemblies and activities. She is fluid and articulate when speaking in front of large audiences, and she has the ability to evoke emotion and deliver messages that are openly received and embraced," says Ms. Benedict.

In fact, Cassidy delivered a powerful message at this year's Martin Luther King, Jr. assembly. She commended students' commitment to make Riverside a 'home away from home', and encouraged them to show school spirit by wearing new spirit T-shirts that everyone received for free. She also challenged students to be the change and, in her own words, "Never let yourself believe that you are just somebody insignificant that can bring no change. If that were true, we would have no Mother Theresa, no Gandhi, and no Martin Luther King, Jr. We are the world. So let's go change it."

Cassidy is a leader in the classroom and on the track. She holds a 4.0 GPA with AP and Honors courses. Additionally, she is a talented cross country and track and field athlete.

Cassidy dedicates many hours to student leadership activities. Currently, she is the ASB vice president and a member of the Raven Crew. She also volunteers as a café worker and youth leader at Northwest Family Church.

After graduation Cassidy hopes to become a missionary or teacher.

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

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn School Board to honor Gildo Rey Elementary kindergarten teacher

April 17, 2013

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Kathy Garrido, Gildo Rey Elementary School kindergarten teacher, for her outstanding service on Monday, April 22, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Kathy Garrido's kindergarten classroom at Gildo Rey Elementary School resonates with music and a love of learning. Kindergarteners often recite their ABCs, vocabulary and days of the week in song. According to Kathy, "I hope to teach young children to love learning. I use music to engage the students in their learning, both academically and socially."

For 25 years, Kathy has taught kindergarten at Gildo Rey. And for the past 13 years, Kathy and MJ McDonald, founder of the Puget Sound Musical Theater, have written, produced and directed Gildo Rey's annual spring musical. This year's musical titled, "Love You Forever," is loosely adapted by the book of the same name. The all-school musical features 40-50 students across grade levels. All students who audition are cast into the musical and rehearse for six weeks after school prior to opening night. Students perform for families during an evening performance and for the student body during a school-wide assembly.

Two of Kathy's favorite musicals were "Life's a Musical, Charlie Brown" and "Broadway Melodies." "The spring musical makes an impact in many of the students' lives. The positive experience helps them build confidence," remarks Kathy.

Kathy especially enjoys watching her former students continue their passion for musical theater. Recently she had the opportunity to see two former Gildo Rey students perform in Auburn Riverside High School's musical, "Oliver."

Kathy participates in early learning workshops and summer music courses. She graduated from UC Davis with a degree in sociology and relocated to Washington State to start a family. After raising three children, Kathy attended Central Washington University and earned a bachelor's degree in early childhood education and a teaching credential. "Teaching was my calling," says Kathy. Kathy's father, grandmother and grandfather were all teachers. In fact, her grandfather was a superintendent of schools in Nebraska.

Kathy plans to retire after the 2013-14 school year and focus on yoga, gardening and her four grandchildren. She also plans to continue to sing with the Federal Way Chorale. Kathy lives in Auburn with her husband of 40 years.

According to Kathy, "I'm proud to have spent my entire teaching career at Gildo Rey, helping our students become lifelong learners."

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

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn Students Tackle Robotics Challenge; Auburn Mountainview Wins Prestigious Chairman's Award and Earns Berth to FIRST World Robotics Championship

April 10, 2013



In the past two weeks, Auburn High School Robotics Team #3219, also known as "TREAD" (Technology, Robotics, Engineering and Design), and Auburn Mountainview High School Robotics Team #2907 have competed against robotics teams from across the state at the FIRST Microsoft Seattle Regional Robotics Competition and the FIRST Spokane Regional Robotics Competition.

This year's competition, called "Ultimate Ascent," required teams to build robots that could play a game similar to Ultimate Frisbee. During a six-week "build session," Auburn's robotics teams designed, programmed and built 150-pound robots that could shoot flying disks through goals of varying heights, defend against other robots, and climb a pyramid structure. After the build session, the robots were crated and shipped to a secure location. Teams reunited with their robots one day prior to competition.

During the first day of competition, robots played in constantly evolving teams of three against three during seeding rounds. Highly-ranked teams selected an "alliance" of three robots for the final rounds on the second day of competition.

Auburn Mountainview Robotics Team #2907 earned the highest honor of the FIRST Spokane Regional Robotics Competition, the Chairman's Award, and an invitation to compete at the FIRST World Championship in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 24-27. The Chairman's Award represents the spirit of FIRST and honors the team that best embodies the goals and purpose of FIRST. According to Kevin Ross, founder of Washington FIRST Robotics, "These gracious individuals complement each other's talents...they are endlessly giving their time to outreach to and mentor FLL teams throughout their community...and helping other FRC teams get started."

FIRST Robotics encourages and inspires students to engage in the fields of engineering, science and technology through hands-on, mentor-supported challenges and achievements. The experience inspires innovation and fosters well-rounded life capabilities including self-confidence, communication, and leadership.



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

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Five Auburn Schools Win State's Highest Honor: 2012 Washington Achievement Award

April 3, 2013

Five Auburn schools have been selected to receive a 2012 Washington Achievement Award sponsored by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education:

Alpac Elementary School for Overall Excellence

Gildo Rey Elementary School for Math

Hazelwood Elementary School for Closing Achievement Gaps

Lakeland Hills Elementary School for Overall Excellence and Math

Pioneer Elementary School for Math and High Progress

The annual award celebrates top-performing elementary, middle, high and comprehensive schools for overall excellence and special recognition in: language arts, math, science, extended graduation rate, closing achievement gaps, and high progress.

The Washington Achievement Award is a highly selective award based on schools' performance for the three previous years according to the [Washington Achievement Index](#) and the [Elementary and Secondary Education Act \(ESEA\) Flexibility Waiver](#).

Schools will be honored at an awards ceremony on April 30 at Kentwood High School in Covington.

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

MAY 2013:

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn School Board to honor Chinook Elementary fifth grade student

May 22, 2013

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Dafne Romo-Curiel, a fifth grade student at Chinook Elementary School, for being an outstanding student on Tuesday, May 28, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Dafne Romo-Curiel constantly strives to be better today than before. She exceeds expectations in her school work, extracurricular pursuits and friendships. According to her fifth grade teacher, Toni Minus, "Dafne is a student who has a tremendous amount of integrity. She is a thinker, listener and hard worker. In class, she does her assignments carefully and thoroughly."

Dafne models kindness and compassion. One day during a lesson on emotions, students were asked to think of a time when they were angry and how they handled the emotion. Dafne raised her hand and said, "I'm never angry." Dafne consistently follows positive avenues when problem solving situations. For example, if she thinks something is unfair, she looks up the person she needs to speak with and has a discussion with them about the unfairness.

Additionally, Dafne plays volleyball for the Eagles and volunteers as a safety patrol supervisor. According to PE teacher Lisa Mason, "Regardless the activity or event, Dafne works hard, helps others, and sets a wonderful example for other students to follow. She is a team player, a responsible and competent worker, and a highly organized individual."

Dafne is fluent in two languages and is the oldest of four siblings attending Chinook Elementary.

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

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn School Board to honor Dick Scobee Elementary ELL paraeducator

May 22, 2013

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Dineke Brock, Dick Scobee Elementary School ELL paraeducator, for her outstanding service on Tuesday, May 28, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

Dineke Brock serves the needs of Auburn students who speak English as their second language. As an ELL paraeducator at Dick Scobee Elementary School, Dineke supports classroom teachers with small group instruction outside their regular classroom.

Developing academic language proficiency can take up to 5-7 years of instruction. Therefore, the ELL program must reach out to students where they're at. "Every student is different," remarks Dineke, "and every student is at a different level of learning. I help teach students the language components they need to comfortably succeed in a regular classroom environment." The ELL program also works specifically with students' families to ensure there is support in the home, not just the schoolhouse.

In fact, Dineke helps teachers communicate with families across the district. She speaks five languages—Spanish, German, Dutch, French and English. "Knowing different languages gives me the opportunity to assist teachers with communicating with families and interpreting during parent-teacher conferences."

Dineke easily relates to many of her students who are learning a new language and culture. Dineke grew up in Holland and moved to Venezuela and then to Spain to pursue a career in the travel industry. After meeting her husband in Spain,

she moved to America. "It's not always easy to adapt to a different country, lifestyle and language. I understand some of my students' frustrations as I've experienced them too living in four different countries and having to adapt as quickly as possible. I feel grateful that I can be of help to them," says Dineke.

This year Dineke started a before- and after-school program where students receive additional instruction. She also incorporates cultural lessons focused on manners and social etiquette.

Dineke has dedicated nine years at Dick Scobee Elementary. Every day Dineke strives to help her students understand more than the day before. Dineke lives in Lakeland Hills with her husband and daughter. Her son is in the U.S. Coast Guard, following in his father's footsteps, and her daughter will be attending UW in the fall.

"After being a stay-at-home mom for 10 years and volunteering in my children's classrooms, I knew I wanted to work with kids. ELL is the perfect fit for me," smiles Dineke.

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

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn Mountainview High School, Cascade Middle School and Chinook Elementary School Win Linda Cowan Schools of Distinction Award

May 22, 2013

Auburn Mountainview High School, Cascade Middle School and Chinook Elementary School are the 2012-13 Linda Cowan Schools of Distinction Award Winners.

The Auburn School Board, Superintendent Kip Herren and former Superintendent Linda Cowan will present the awards to the students and staff of the three schools during school-wide assemblies.

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

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

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

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
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For immediate release

Auburn Citizens for Schools Wins Regional WASA Community Recognition Award

May 17, 2013

Auburn Citizens for Schools (ACS) was selected as the regional winner of the 2013 Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) Community Recognition Award during an awards ceremony on May 17 at the Puget Sound Educational Service District.

Auburn School District nominated ACS for the award based on its community leadership and outstanding contributions to education.

For over three decades, ACS has been instrumental in supporting quality education in Auburn schools by passing critical bonds and levies. Last year alone ACS helped successfully pass two school district measures: a \$146.4 million Educational Programs 4-Year Levy and a \$110 million Auburn High School Modernization and Reconstruction Bond. The

levy passed with a 58% simple majority and the bond passed with a 62% supermajority. According to Deputy Superintendent Mike Newman, "The Auburn Citizens for Schools has been phenomenal in their support of our kids in the Auburn School District. A lot of experts believed the district had strayed too far from conventional wisdom in running a \$110 million bond issue at the same time as a presidential election. The Auburn Citizens for Schools was the catalyst for passing the bond and changing the future for students in the Auburn School District."

ACS is comprised of a dedicated group of volunteer citizens, parents and staff members. Guided by an executive committee, ACS members develop and implement multiple campaign strategies including fund raising, message development, and outreach activities.

Over the years ACS has raised thousands of dollars through annual charity auctions and staff donations. In 2012 ACS raised new revenue streams by developing a direct mail fundraising campaign. According to ACS treasurer Kelly McDonald, "There are strong expressions of goodwill throughout our community...it was very satisfying to see students, staff and parents support the measures despite uncertain economic times."

ACS also spearheaded strategic messaging. The communications subcommittee published op-eds, created print and online ads, organized literature drops, and even reached more supporters online using social media.

Additionally, ACS raised public awareness by organizing a variety of outreach activities at Auburn's Good Ol' Days Parade, Kids Day, Fourth of July, PTA meetings, and Meet and Greets. ACS recruited and mobilized more volunteers than ever before—including students, businesses and retirees—to sign wave, pass out literature, and even record voiceovers for the 'remember to vote' phone calls.

"Auburn Citizens for Schools brings clarity, focus and connection to the district's bond and levy initiatives. Our partnership with ACS increases understanding of our critical measures community-wide," says Mike Newman.

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

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

Auburn School District Announces 2012-13 Teachers of the Year

May 16, 2013

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize the 2012-13 Teachers of the Year on Monday, June 10, at 7 p.m. in the board room at the James P. Fugate Administration Building.

One elementary school teacher, one middle school teacher and one high school teacher were selected at the district level—Kim Foss, Dale Johnson and Frank Medina. All three Auburn School District teachers of the year will move on to the regional competition. One teacher from each region will move on to the state competition. The state winner will move on to the 2014 national competition.

**Kim Foss
Lea Hill Elementary School Fifth Grade Teacher**

Kim Foss is the Auburn School District 2012-13 elementary school level outstanding teacher of the year. Mrs. Foss's leadership and innovation produce academic gains for her students and professional growth among her colleagues.

According to Mrs. Foss, "I am always finding new strategies to meet students' different learning styles. I want to be creative and innovative with how I teach." Mrs. Foss's fifth graders cement multiplication facts, walk to read, and even simulate the Revolutionary War.

For the past several years, Mrs. Foss and fifth grade teacher Mike Fettig have developed an innovative, team-based approach to teaching and learning. Capitalizing on their strengths and interests, Mrs. Foss teaches social studies to her and Mr. Fettig's fifth grade students, and Mr. Fettig teaches science to both classes. As a result, Lea Hill's MSP science scores have soared over the last two years.



Mrs. Foss's unusually creative, stimulating, and engaging social studies lessons bring life to the history books. For instance, students map and diagram the original colonies in the Colonies and Constitution unit. They also pose as Patriots, Loyalists or Undecided Citizens as they simulate the events of the Revolutionary War. "Some students are successful and end the war as a citizen in a free nation. Others find themselves imprisoned or even killed by the end of the simulation. They realize that the Patriots faced real challenges as they fought against the most powerful nation of the time," says Mrs. Foss.

Mrs. Foss and Mr. Fettig also co-created a real-time assessment system. Students use response clickers to answer questions during learning activities, which triggers real-time data and feedback for both students and teachers alike.

Outside of the regular school day, Mrs. Foss provides free math tutoring three mornings a week before school. While some students focus on mastering multiplication skills, others receive help with weekly homework. "All students are welcome," says Mrs. Foss. "The program allows our struggling students additional time to meet standard and move beyond it."

Additionally, Mrs. Foss has served as Lea Hill's ASB advisor for 15 years. She leads students in fundraising activities such as Pennies for Patients and district-wide food drives. She also organizes family nights including Lego Night, Puzzles Night and drop-in gym. She is an active member of the Lea Hill PTA, Boy Scouts, and the Messiah Players.

In Mrs. Foss's 23 years at Lea Hill, she has impacted the lives of over 700 students. "I've learned that patience and flexibility are key to student success. Every day is a new adventure," says Mrs. Foss. "I wouldn't have it any other way."

Dale Johnson **Rainier Middle School and Auburn High School Orchestra Teacher**



Dale Johnson is the Auburn School District 2012-13 middle school level outstanding teacher of the year. Mr. Johnson imparts music skills and knowledge to students across the district. His program also encourages students to work for the good of the whole, respect authority and lead by example.

According to Mr. Johnson, "While my goal is to increase students' skills and enthusiasm for music, I also am responsible for raising good citizens and responsible people." Mr. Johnson teaches orchestra to students at Rainier Middle School and Auburn High School. He also works with students from elementary schools in the district and currently conducts two Tacoma Youth Symphony Orchestras.

Dale prepares his delivery and instruction for his student-musicians, and evaluates all students to ensure the music they play is appropriate to their needs and levels. According to Mr. Johnson, "I select pieces that challenge all students to learn and grow. Our orchestra programs nurture students to work with others to make the entire group better."

Dale's most satisfying moments in education are the simple moments, such as witnessing a student close the gap or discover a newfound music appreciation.

Mr. Johnson's music program was 1 of 35 in the nation to be named a GRAMMY Signature School in 2004-05—his fourth GRAMMY award. He is a Public School String Teacher of the Year and Green River Music Region Teacher of the Year. He was recognized by the School Band & Orchestra Magazine as 1 of 50 teachers in the nation who make a difference, and he is a recipient of the John Binns Award from Friends of the Library at TCC. Additionally, Mr. Johnson was named Washington State Music Teacher of the Year in 2009 and was inducted into the Washington Music Educators Association Hall of Fame in 2012.

Dale received music degrees from Brigham Young University and the University of Washington, where he studied conducting with Stanley Chapple and violin and viola with Donald McInnis. He has dedicated 19 years to the Auburn School District and has taught in the Seattle, Federal Way and Tacoma School Districts. He also served as Music Director of the Tacoma Community College Chamber Orchestra for 13 years. Mr. Johnson is a member of the district music department including the middle level music Professional Learning Community, the Auburn School District music ad hoc committee, and other regional collaborative of music educators.

Outside the school day, Dale teaches music theory and runs a chamber music program as well as conducts the Tacoma Debut Orchestra and Tacoma Young Artists Orchestra. This spring he conducted student-musicians in Boston's Symphony Hall. "It's intimidating and overwhelming to stand on the same stage and conduct as the greats like Tchaikovsky." While the sound at Symphony Hall with some of the region's best student-musicians will be outstanding,

Dale finds it just as exciting to be a part of a child's first performance. "The energy and brightness in their eyes is priceless," smiles Dale.

Frank Medina
Auburn Riverside High School Electronics Teacher

Frank Medina is the Auburn School District 2012-13 high school level outstanding teacher of the year. Mr. Medina prepares students for competitive industry careers, apprenticeship programs and post-secondary education opportunities.

According to Mr. Medina, "It is a true joy to come to work and prepare students with the technical knowledge, employability skills, industry standards and competencies used in today's workforce." Mr. Medina teaches electronics, computer maintenance and web publishing courses. Students bring theory to practice in the classroom. In electronics, students learn applied mathematics and circuit analysis in addition to soldering techniques. In computer maintenance, students build and repair PC systems, while students in web publishing use HTML code to create new web pages.



Students also prepare for industry-level certifications. This year six students have earned the International Society of Certified Electronics (ISCET) industry certification and seven more are preparing for the exam. Four students have earned CompTIA A+ industry certification, and one student recently earned industry W3Schools certification in HTML. Because the course curriculum covers what is on the exams, earning certification is the next logical step for many students. "Being certified looks great on a resume, whether a student's going straight into industry or college," says Mr. Medina.

Additionally, Mr. Medina advises the SkillsUSA club at Auburn Riverside. This year 28 students demonstrated mastery of technical and leadership skills valued in the workplace—from extemporaneous speaking to electronics technology—at the SkillsUSA Washington State Leadership & Skills Conference in April. To date Auburn Riverside has 22 State Champions and one National Champion. "Students have shared with me that because of SkillsUSA they stayed in school and ultimately graduated. Others shared that they have found their career path and are now either in a college, technical school, in the military or working in a technical field because of the program," says Mr. Medina.

Mr. Medina is a member of the Washington Association for Skilled and Technical Sciences (WASTS) professional organization and is acting president of the Information Technology Cluster. He is a graduate of the Auburn Teacher Leadership Academy Cohort 2 and a member of the district improvement planning committee.

One of Mr. Medina's career highlights has been collaborating with teachers across the district to increase student achievement. According to Mr. Medina, "Together we have made remarkable strides in creating standards and aligning our frameworks, curriculum maps, and assessments. It is an exciting time!"

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

Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002

For immediate release
Terminal Park Elementary School wins silver medal at the King County Library Global Reading Grand Challenge
May 2, 2013

The Terminal Park Elementary School Global Reading Challenge Team represented South King County and captured the silver medal at the 2013 King County Global Reading Grand Challenge, held at the King County Library System Service Center in Issaquah on March 22.

Terminal Park team members Wyatt Pritchard, Isabel Kim, Zachary Botz, Emma Hon and Jordan Widener reached the Grand Challenge by winning its school, school district and regional challenges. In the finals, they faced off against Woodridge Elementary School from the Bellevue School District.

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 3 rounds of 8 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. The Grand Challenge is 3 rounds of 10 questions.

The Terminal Park team was accompanied by its coaches, Amy Anderson, Terminal Park library teacher, and Joni Schwartz, Terminal Park library paraeducator.

As finalists, the students also had the opportunity to meet guest author Trudi Trueit and receive an autographed copy of her book, *No Girls Allowed (Dogs Okay)*.

The Global Reading Challenge is modeled after the popular Battle of the Books. In 2001, the first Global Challenge in King County was initiated in Auburn with 2 schools and 42 students. This year more than 2,000 students on 286 teams representing 56 schools and 18 school districts participated in the challenge. This collaborative effort was born primarily to promote the love of reading and to have fun while doing it. It also has provided a recreational outlet for readers, promoted teamwork and introduced children to a wide variety of multicultural reading materials.

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

JUNE 2013:

CONTACT: Kip Herren
(253) 931-4914

auburnschoolsfoundation@gmail.com



New Auburn Public Schools Foundation Seeks Founding Executive Director

Auburn, Washington – The Auburn Public Schools Foundation (APSF) is a new independent, community-based, non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization.

The APSF Board of Trustees is hiring a part-time founding executive director to establish and implement a comprehensive fund development program; work with the Board of Trustees to develop a five-year strategic plan; prepare and produce all public relations activities and marketing communications; serve as the APSF official spokesperson; manage all APSF records and donor database; represent the Foundation in professional groups, organizations, associations and community service clubs; and manage meetings and annual retreats for the Board of Trustees.

Applications are being accepted through July 5, 2013.

A complete job description and applications are available on the district website under Human Resources, classified positions, or by clicking here: <http://auburnsd.schoolwires.net/Page/433>.

For more information, contact Kip Herren at (253) 931-4914 or go to www.auburnpsf.org.

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

**For immediate release
Auburn High School senior wins state-wide vocal competition**
June 12, 2013

Morgan Warren, a senior at Auburn High School, is one of the top high school vocalists in Washington State.

She won first place in the Alto Solo Division at the annual Washington Music Educators Association (WMEA) State Solo and Ensemble Contest at Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington, on April 27.

The WIAA/WMEA State Solo and Ensemble Contest is presented in Ellensburg the last Friday and Saturday in April each year. This event provides the opportunity for the finest of Washington's high school music students to hear each other in a competitive situation. From 22 regional contests, the winners in each category move on to the state competition where first, second and third places are selected.

The ensemble contest includes "small" and "large" ensembles in seven categories: woodwinds, brass, percussion, strings, women's vocal, men's vocal and mixed vocal.

There are 29 solo categories, including seven woodwind categories, five brass, four percussion, four strings, six vocal, piano, guitar and harp.

For more information contact Kandy Gilbert, Auburn High School choir instructor, at 253-931-4880.

Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002

For immediate release

Auburn School Board to Honor Olympic Middle School Eighth Grade Student

June 10, 2013

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize RJ Sincioco, an eighth grade student at Olympic Middle School, for being an outstanding student.

RJ Sincioco is a super student who challenges herself and exceeds expectations. When students are asked to write an essay, she pushes herself to write the best essay. When she is asked to tap into her creative side, she unleashes her creativity.

In science, RJ created a science fair project independently. She selected a project with a high level of difficulty: what are the most effective methods to purify water? Her experiment and report were so well articulated that others were able to redo the experiment without assistance.

This year she is a student TA for Ms. Clark's language arts program. "RJ is up to complex tasks and she is efficient," says Ms. Clark. RJ finished in the top three of Olympic's school-wide spelling bee and she was honored as Kiwanis student of the month. Additionally, RJ is a gymnastics manager and member of the wrestling team.

RJ's positive life outlook resonates throughout campus. She consistently extends kindness and compassion to students and staff. In fact, RJ greeted a teacher she didn't know one morning at the beginning of the school year and has said hello in the hall nearly every morning since. According to Ms. Englander, "RJ always goes out of her way to check to see how your day is going."

The Olympic community anticipates hearing about RJ and what lies ahead in her future. "She is one of those students that when you see her, you think to yourself, she will do well in the world and is good for the world," says Ms. Clark.

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

Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002

For immediate release

Auburn School Board to Honor Ilalko Elementary School Principal

June 10, 2013

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will recognize Tim Carstens, principal at Ilalko Elementary School, for his outstanding service.

It's been a homecoming in the making for Ilalko Elementary School principal Tim Carstens. "I started my teaching career at Ilalko and am now principal," says Tim. "It's an honor to be back."

Tim served as the principal at Terminal Park Elementary School for nine years before accepting the position at Ilalko. His dedicated staff at Terminal Park and supportive wife, Corrie, provided him with experiences and encouragement to become the leader he is today.

Tim's primary focus as a district leader is to provide a safe learning environment for all students and staff. Additionally, Tim strives to make each teacher's career more fulfilling by providing professional development opportunities, minimizing classroom disruptions, and removing obstacles.

Tim's commitment to ensure all students reach standard and beyond dates back to his seventh grade science class. Ms. Oliver, his science teacher at Olympic Middle School, inspired Tim to explore a career in education. According to Tim, "Ms. Oliver was caring and set very high expectations. Her belief and expectations in me as a student were something I wanted to emulate."

This year at Ilalko, students anticipate the principal's monthly improv act. Tim and the school counselor model the trait of the month by performing a skit during a school-wide assembly. One of Tim's favorite skits was about taking risks. Students also get a daily dose of Tim as he greets them every morning as buses arrive.

Tim is an active member of district initiatives including the standards-based committee, excellence in equity committee, and web advisory committee. Additionally, he served as a board member of CIS Auburn and ACAP.

Tim has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from WSU, master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Lesley University, and a principal certificate from UW Tacoma.

Tim grew up in Pacific and attended Alpac Elementary, Olympic Junior High, and Auburn High School. He and his high school sweetheart, Corrie, have two daughters. According to Tim, "Anytime I get to represent the district I take a lot of pride in it. I had an incredible experience as a student and want to provide a positive experience for today's students."

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

**Auburn School District #408
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For immediate release

Auburn School Board to Honor Bill Weiser with Gold Star Volunteer Award

June 10, 2013

The Auburn School District Board of Directors will present the Gold Star Volunteer Award to Bill Weiser, in recognition of his support to Auburn School District.

This year, there are 36 Fridays in the school year. And every Friday afternoon, students in need at Lea Hill Elementary School receive enough food and snacks to sustain three complete meals over the weekend.

Bill Weiser, an Auburn citizen, retired Boeing engineer, and United States Veteran, has helped collect, bag, and deliver food to Lea Hill students in need for the past five years. During his volunteer service, Bill has been battling cancer yet has never missed a Lea Hill food delivery.

According to Lea Hill counselor Debi Scacco, "Bill is most kindhearted. We love his smile and dedication to helping kids.

Lea Hill's food delivery program is a partnership between CIS Auburn, Auburn Food Bank, and Community in Christ Church. CIS Auburn and the schoolhouse oversee the program and identify students in need. Auburn Food Bank provides the food and members of the Community in Christ Church bag and deliver the food to local schools.

"Our church wanted to give back to the community," says Bill. "That's when we decided to get involved and help support children on Lea Hill."

Additionally, Bill and other church members support Lea Hill's giving tree program. Last December, church members donated gifts to over 40 families in need.

According to Bill, "I feel good about giving back and wish I could do more."

When not volunteering, Bill spends time with his eight great-grandchildren, six grandchildren, and four children.

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

AUGUST 2013:

**Auburn School District #408
915 Fourth Street Northeast
Auburn, WA 98002**

For immediate release

State to Fund Free Full-Day Kindergarten Programs in 10 Auburn Schools

Revised 09/04/13

On July 1, Auburn School District was notified that the Washington State legislature will fund free full-day kindergarten programs during the 2013-14 school year at 10 qualifying Auburn schools:

1. Alpac Elementary
2. Chinook Elementary
3. Dick Scobee Elementary
4. Evergreen Heights Elementary
5. Gildo Rey Elementary
6. Ilalko Elementary
7. Lea Hill Elementary
8. Pioneer Elementary
9. Terminal Park Elementary
10. Washington Elementary

Auburn's full-day kindergarten program provides accelerated learning opportunities and builds a solid foundation for children's future growth in elementary school. The program allows for extended study in kindergarten curriculum units, literacy, language and social skill development.

Children who reside in the boundaries of these 10 schools, and were five years old on or before August 31, 2013, are eligible for Auburn's free full-day kindergarten program. Register at the participating school offices.

In addition, Auburn School District has tuition-based kindergarten programs at:

1. Hazelwood Elementary
2. Lakeland Hills Elementary

Auburn's half-day kindergarten programs are located at:

1. Arthur Jacobsen Elementary
2. Hazelwood Elementary
3. Lakeland Hills Elementary
4. Lake View Elementary

Additional kindergarten registration information for the 2013-14 school year is available on the district website at:
<http://www.auburn.wednet.edu/Page/10288>.

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