

Editors,

The Northshore School District is excited to recognize our nurses on School Nurse Day.

A photo of Kokanee Elementary School Nurse, Michelle Song is attached for your use.

Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

NEWS RELEASE:

CONTACT: Lisa Youngblood Hall

(O) 425.408.7671

(M) 425.375.3221

lyoungbloodhall@nsd.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrating Northshore's School Nurses

Bothell, Wash. – Today, May 6 is School Nurse Day. School nurses are critical to the health and well-being of Northshore students and the community. During the current pandemic, they continue to meet the needs in new creative ways.

While school buildings are closed, nurses are supporting students and families by email, phone calls, Zoom meetings, as well as connecting families in need with social services such as food and housing.

“Some of the nurses are contributing to the community through mask making and volunteering with public health at call centers and at COVID-19 testing sites,” said Health and Nursing Services Supervisor, Rebecca Cavanaugh. “Nurses with school aged children are juggling their nursing responsibilities and assisting their children with school work.”

Michelle Song, school nurse at Kokanee Elementary, is one of the nurses who has been busy making masks. Song has made more than 1,000 masks for surrounding clinics, hospitals, nursing homes, friends, family, neighbors and community members.

“Our work as school nurses fall into community health nursing, but of course, we can't be in our health rooms at this time,” said Song. “I view making masks as an extension of the care I give to my students by bringing health and safety to the families of the community. It will also hopefully

help my nursing colleagues at the clinics, hospitals, and other health care settings by keeping our community healthier as a whole.”

Additionally, while school nurses are not able to provide direct student care due to the circumstances, they are continuing to engage in activities that support Northshore students and families. Many are volunteering their time to support Northshore School District’s Food Services, community food banks, shelters, and the county Department of Health. Some are continuing to support our more vulnerable students with check ins, offering lunchtime with the nurse via Zoom, or reaching out to families to check on them as a whole.

“I am so grateful for the nurses who have volunteered their time to support our families through a variety of ways during this health crisis,” said Partnerships and Volunteer Coordinator Natalie Campbell. “They have been so helpful, from supporting our food services staff at meal sites and transportation staff who deliver meals throughout the Northshore community to making home deliveries for technology devices and weekend food totes for families in need.”

Nurses are also continuing to do the work that they would engage in if they were in school buildings, such as coordinating new registrations for the 2020-21 school year, immunization compliance, working with special education evaluation teams and planning for the next school year.

The Northshore School District is thankful for each of the District’s school nurses for supporting Northshore students, staff and community.

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