



Connections



October 21, 2016

A message from Dr. Traci Pierce, superintendent

@LakeWashSchools - United for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion #proud2bLWSD

I love words. As a former English teacher, I studied the importance of words and I have great respect for their power. I strove to teach my students the power words hold, whether for beauty or darkness. Words have meaning and make meaning in our lives. They have the power to break down or build up, to edify or denigrate.

Words like *unity, kindness, acceptance, inclusion, civility, dignity* and *respect* have the power to shape thoughts and actions. These words are used to build community, foster collaboration, and restore hope. These words form the call to action for National Bullying Prevention Month: *Be united for kindness, acceptance, and inclusion.*

October is National Bullying Prevention Month. This year marks the 10th anniversary of National Bullying Prevention Month, which is devoted to uniting communities around the world to educate and raise awareness of bullying prevention.

[Read more.](#)

Enrollment growth continues, to over 29,000 students

Lake Washington School District's enrollment grew by 1,178 students last year, from 27,830 students in 2015 to 29,008 on October 1, 2016. Based on September counts, it appears Lake Washington is now the third largest district in the state, passing the Tacoma School District. Lake Washington now trails only the Seattle and Spokane School Districts in size.

This year's increase follows seven straight years of enrollment increases. This upward trend began in the 2009-10 school year after a decade of little change in enrollment. The average increase has been over 700 students each year, the size of a middle school or large elementary school.

Enrollment growth is forecasted to continue. The district's [Long-Term Facilities Planning Task Force](#) developed recommendations, which the district is implementing, to provide facilities for this growing enrollment.

Volunteer Opportunity: Serve on new Community Truancy Board

Community Truancy Boards are a new approach to reducing student absences. Lake Washington School District is forming new Community Truancy Boards. The district seeks 40 community members to serve on two boards. One board will cover the Eastlake and Redmond areas. The other will cover Juanita and Lake Washington areas.

The mission of Community Truancy Boards is to improve attendance and school engagement. They find positive solutions to the reasons for each student's absences. Community Truancy Boards help families address obstacles that prevent students from attending school.

[Read more.](#)

Community invited to comment on high school course schedules/credits

The [College and Career Readiness Task Force](#) is exploring ways to create more flexibility for students through the high school schedule. The Task Force invites parents, students and community members to a series of meetings to gather feedback on potential high school schedule models.

The remaining community meetings will take place at the following dates/times:

- October 26, Lake Washington High School, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- October 27, Juanita High School, 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- November 3, Redmond High School, 6:30-7:30 p.m.\

For those who cannot make one of the meetings, an online survey is [available through November 4.](#)

HIV/AIDS curriculum presentation for grades 5-12 parents

Interested in learning more about the HIV/AIDS curriculum for students in grades 5-12? Attend the HIV/AIDS curriculum presentation for parents on Monday, November 14, from 7-7:45 p.m. at the LWSD Resource Center (16250 NE 74th Street, Redmond, WA 98052). Information about the curriculum will be shared and materials will be available for parents to review. [Read more.](#)

Safety Spotlight: Are you ready for inclement weather?

With fall storms already causing issues in our area, now is a good time to review the district's bad weather protocols. Learn how to know when school is delayed or cancelled. Families with students who ride the bus should watch their mail in mid-November for a postcard with information about their bad weather bus route. Want to make sure you receive alerts about school closures right away? Sign up on [flashalert.net](#) to be notified about the latest school delay and school closure news from LWSD. [Read more.](#)

Reminder: 10th Annual Eastside Native American Education Program (ENAEPP) Veterans' Pow Wow – October 22

The 10th annual Eastside Native American Education Program's Veterans' Honor Pow Wow will be held on Saturday, October 22. The Veterans dinner begins at 3 p.m. Grand Entry will start at 6 p.m. The event will be held at Juanita High School (10601 NE 132nd Street, Kirkland, WA 98034). For additional information, contact [Mary Wilber](#) at 425-936-1402. Admission is free.

School News

Salvon Ahmed named to US Army All-American Team

Several years ago, **Juanita High School** football coach Lele Te'o met with eighth grade potential-players for a goal-setting meeting. Each player was asked to name several goals that they hope to achieve. **Salvon Ahmed** had three: to receive scholarship offers from every Pac-12 team, to graduate with at least a 3.5 GPA, and to play on the US Army All-American Bowl. Ahmed has committed to play at the University of Washington next year, and received offers from several other schools. He holds a GPA well-above a 3.5. And yesterday, Ahmed was surrounded by his family and teammates as his third goal was reached. Members of the US Army announced that Ahmed has been selected to play in the 2017 Bowl game on January 7, 2017, in San Antonio, Texas. [Read more.](#)



It IS rocket science – in high school

It started with an unfinished college project in an engineer's garage. It became the focus of a group of students at **Tesla STEM High School** and their mentors. What began as an after-school internship program with Aerojet Rocketdyne became an audacious attempt to become the first team ever to launch a liquid fuel propelled rocket at the Intercollegiate Rocket Engineering Competition (IREC). Along the way they became the first high school team ever accepted into this college and graduate level competition – in the advanced category. The *Lawn Dart Saga* follows the team as these high schoolers do learn rocket science and much more.



Quick Links: [LWSD Website](#) | [Upcoming Events](#) | [Peachjar e-flyers](#)

