



Connections



December 16, 2016

Have a great Winter Break! See you on Tuesday, January 3

A message from Dr. Traci Pierce, superintendent

Growing Together, Serving our Community

@LakeWashSchools Communities Connecting #proud2bLWSD

As the winter holidays approach, it is so encouraging to see the power of community connection manifest itself in so many positive ways. Our district resource center and many of our schools participate in food, toy, or warm clothing drives to help benefit children and families in need. Our students share their gifts of music, drama and art through school and community performances. The Lake Washington PTSA Council holds its annual basket auction to fund scholarships for deserving students. The spirit of community and generosity is on full display in this season of giving and sharing. [Read more.](#)

Calling all teen entrepreneurs

Lake Washington School District high school students who own and operate a business could win a cash prize in this year's Teen CEO Competition. LWSD will hold its fourth annual Teen CEO Business Competition on March 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Lake Washington School District Resource Center (16250 NE 74th Street, Redmond WA 98052). To qualify, LWSD students must currently own and operate a small business. [Learn more.](#)

Choice School applications open; Middle school and high school options booklets available

Choice school applications are now available online for the 2017-18 school year. The deadline to apply is 4 p.m. January 20, 2017, for any school that relies on a lottery to determine enrollment.

Parents of students in grades five or eight should have received the [Middle School Options booklet](#) or [High School Options booklet](#). They outline the opportunities in these respective levels, including information about neighborhood schools and choice schools. The booklets are also available on the [district website](#). New videos about each choice school are posted on the [district website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

Fifteen Lake Washington teachers achieve, renew National Board Certification

Two Lake Washington School District teachers achieved National Board Certification®, as announced by the [National Board for Professional Teaching Standards \(NBPTS\)](#). In addition to the two newly certified teachers, 13 teachers renewed their certification this year. That makes a total of 15 teachers completing the process. (Certifications must be renewed every ten years.) Teachers from around the district completed the process. [Read more](#).

Student Growth Percentile (SGP) Reports

The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has provided a new report that describes student academic growth on state tests over time. This report is called a Student Growth Percentile Report (SGP Report). Any student who has taken a state test for two consecutive years in grades 4 – 8 will receive a SGP report. The SGP reports are designed to help parents answer the following questions:

- How high is my child's score?
- What achievement level did he or she reach?
- How much progress did my child make in the past year?
- Is my child making enough progress towards reaching proficiency?

Students currently in grades 5-9 and with two years of test history will be receiving these reports in the next few weeks.

For more information on these reports, you can watch a short video here:

<https://mix.office.com/watch/ho707w68tdko>. OSPI provides additional documents and videos at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/Assessment/StudentGrowth.aspx>.

Final Reminder: We value your feedback

Each year, the district invites parents and community members to provide feedback on general school and district questions. The survey is anonymous. This year's survey is now open: tell us what you think! Please [click on this link](#) to take the survey. The survey will be open through December 16.

Reminder: High School students can earn World Language credit through proficiency test

Students are required to graduate with two credits in a World Language. Students who have achieved some proficiency in a world language at home or in the community may seek to earn up to four World Language credits by taking an assessment that measures their proficiency. To use this option, students sign up to participate in "Washington World Language Assessment Days."

LWSD is offering two more testing opportunities for ninth-12th grade students in 2016-17. The cost of a first attempt during a student's high school career is free. Remaining testing opportunities for 2016-17 include:

- January 11, 2017 at Redmond High School ([Register here](#))
- March 1, 2017 at Juanita High School (Registration available mid-January)

[Learn more.](#)

School News

Teamwork pairs special needs and general education students in STEM opportunity

Three meetings over three weeks. That is all of the time the Lake Washington High School (LWHS) Unified Robotics team had to prepare for the Unified Robotics Championships. This first of its kind event was held at the Pacific Science Center on December 3. Their short timeline didn't stop them. Multiple teams, comprised of both special needs students and members of the general student body, worked together to build and program robots to compete at the area-wide event. This teamwork proved to be beneficial to all students who participated.

[Watch the video.](#)



Making chickens moo: Students become programmers for an Hour of Code

Fifth-graders at **Alcott Elementary School** giggled as they made Minecraft chickens moo in response to their programming during last week's Hour of Code. "Computers don't know what you want them to do unless you tell them," a student mentor from Tesla STEM High School related. Students from kindergarten to high school participated in the global event last week as part of Computer Science Education Week. [Read more.](#)



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



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