



Connections



November 18, 2016

Enjoy Thanksgiving Break!

We hope that you enjoy your Thanksgiving Break, November 24-25. Please remember that November 23 is a half day of school. For more information, visit the [Half-Day Dismissal Times](#) page of our district website.

Superintendent's Message: Ever-Growing...and Building on Success

It's official! Lake Washington is now the 3rd largest district in the state. We are proud to be #3!

We are proud to now serve 29,008 students. Lake Washington school district is *student centered, learning focused, results oriented, and community connected*, and we are proud of the fact that so many families enroll their students in our schools.

Student enrollment continues to rapidly grow. Our 2016-17 enrollment has increased by 1,178 students from 2015-16, and only Spokane and Seattle School Districts are now larger than Lake Washington. As we grow, we want to ensure that Lake Washington continues to be a high performing and successful school district. [Read more.](#)

American Education Week/Community Leaders Breakfast

On November 15, Lake Washington School District (LWSD) recognized the many community partners, business leaders, elected officials and parent leaders who support the district as part of American Education Week. This commemorative week helps raise awareness of the importance of public education and informs the nation of the accomplishments and needs of public schools.

"Through your support, together we are making students future ready," said Dr. Traci Pierce, Superintendent. [Read more.](#)

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. Schools and the district use this information in planning for the future and in continuous improvement processes.

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.

The district also surveys parents on specific programs and planned strategic work: that survey will be

open in February.

Middle school and high school options booklets available

Parents of students in grades five or eight should watch their mailboxes for the [Middle School Options booklet](#) and [High School Options booklet](#). These booklets will be mailed out next week. They outline the opportunities in these respective levels, including information about neighborhood schools and choice schools. Parents of students in grades five will receive a middle school options booklet. Parents of students in grade eight will receive a high school options booklet in the mail. The booklets are also available on the [district website](#).

Schools honor local veterans at assemblies

Schools all around Lake Washington School District celebrated Veterans Day with assemblies last week. Here are a few examples:

- At **Benjamin Franklin Elementary**, retired Coast Guard Radioman First Class David Dominguez spoke to students about his time serving in the Coast Guard from 1982-2006. Dominguez is a familiar face at Franklin – he now works as an LWSD technical support specialist. The school reserved seats in the front for honored veterans – parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and friends of students and staff.
- **Inglewood Middle School** students heard from Commander Kerry Smith with the U.S. Navy (retired). Smith served in the Navy for 22 years, including two deployments overseas. She attended the U.S. Naval Academy, followed by Navy Flight School where she learned to fly F-14 Tomcats. At the assembly, Smith provided students with insight into the differences between Veterans Day and Memorial Day and gave them suggestions of how to honor our veterans.

[Read and see more](#) on the LWSD Facebook page.

Thank you, School Psychologists

November 14-18 is School Psychology Awareness Week. This year's School Psychology Awareness Week theme is "Small Steps Change Lives." This week reminds both students and adults how their small actions can add up to larger, positive changes. School psychologists play a vital role in supporting students as they work to achieve their goals, both big and small.

School News

Smith Elementary PE teacher shows his heart – receives award from American Heart Association

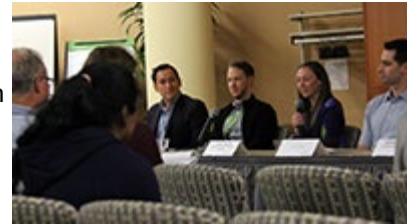
Every year, the American Heart Association accepts nominations for top volunteers from all of their programs across the country. In Washington, 20 teachers were selected to receive this prestigious volunteer awards, including **Russell Bair**, the PE teacher at **Samantha Smith Elementary**. The appreciation award reads, "For outstanding achievement in support of the American Heart

Association's efforts in cardiovascular science, education and community programs." Bair was nominated for the huge success he has had the past three years at Smith. Last year alone, Smith students raised more than \$17,000 for the American Heart Association through the Jump Rope for Heart program. [Read more.](#)



Finding the path to a career in medicine

Have you ever wondered what type of education and training it takes to be a surgeon, physical therapist, nurse practitioner or work in healthcare-related IT and business? The best way to learn about the path to these careers is from healthcare experts themselves. On October 10, the LWSD Career and Technical Education program, in partnership with EvergreenHealth, offered high school students and their parents the chance to do just that.



After a long day at work, a panel of healthcare professionals sat before high schoolers, excited to pass on their knowledge and expertise. The panel included a cardiologist, director of revenue stream, emergency room doctor, physical therapist, administrative intern, nurse practitioner, and nurse-turned-IT specialist. [Read more.](#)

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



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