



April 29, 2016



School News

Bond measure is passing

Initial returns from King County Elections indicate Lake Washington School District's Proposition 1, Bonds to Reduce Overcrowding and Enhance Student Learning Environments, is passing. Early returns showed 65.40% voting to approve the measure. These initial returns surpass the required supermajority needed (60 percent) by enough ballots that the measure is likely to remain passing through the final vote tally.

"We are sincerely grateful for the support for education from our communities," said Dr. Traci Pierce, superintendent. "It has been a true community effort. I want to recognize the efforts of the Lake Washington Citizens Levy Committee, a group of parents, staff and community members who have worked tirelessly on behalf of students and this measure. They are amazing advocates for students, families and our community." [Read more...](#)

A new way to pay for meals - MySchoolBucks

The district's new online payment system for student meal accounts, "MySchoolBucks" is now available. MySchoolBucks will improve the information parents have about their student's accounts and allow you to:

- Monitor your student's meal history
- Set up recurring/automatic monthly payments
- Set low balance alerts
- Download an app for your mobile phone, allowing you to access your student's account

You can access the new system as you do now via [Parent Access](#). You can also go directly to [MySchoolBucks.com](#). The first time you go to this site you will be asked to sign up and create a username and password. Detailed sign up instructions are located on the [district website](#).

Smaller class sizes ahead for grades K-3

By 2018, the state of Washington is expected to reduce class size to 17 students to one teacher in public schools in grades K-3 as a result of the [McCleary v. Washington lawsuit](#). The state legislature has not yet fully funded that class size. It did provide some funding to reduce class size for next school year. Additional revenue will allow the district to add 24 more elementary teachers.

Next year, the 2016-17 school year, elementary schools will be assigned teachers based on these ratios:

- 20 students to 1 teacher (20:1) for kindergarten and first grade



[Redmond MS eighth grader wins state "You Be the Chemist" Challenge](#)

After multiple intense rounds of competition, **Mukil Shanmugam**, an eighth grade student at **Redmond Middle School (RMS)**, has been named the state champion of the "You Be The Chemist" challenge. It was held on March 26 at Chief Kanim Middle School in Fall City, Wash. Shanmugam will face the winners from other states at the National Championship in Philadelphia, Penn., on June 20. [Read more.](#)



[Kids helping kids - Students donate time to help raise money for their "Sparrow"](#)

For the past three years, **Franklin Elementary** has helped one of their students, fifth grader

- 23:1 for second grade and third grade
- 26.75:1 for fourth grade and fifth grade

The staffing model changes also will reduce or eliminate the need for split-grade classes. Remember that specific classes could be smaller or larger than that ratio since the number of students registered in a grade may not match those exact numbers.

District strategic work survey coming soon

As part of the district's annual strategic planning process, expect an email next week inviting you to take a survey concerning the district's educational programs and other strategic work. Families will have an opportunity to provide feedback on how some of this year's efforts are going as well as on future work for the district. Please take a few minutes to take the survey. Thank you.

District website refresh coming this fall

In an effort to enhance communications and improve access to information, we are beginning a process to refresh the district website (www.lwsd.org). This effort will include targeted focus groups and other opportunities for parents and staff to give feedback and input into the new design. To provide feedback at the start of this process, please send your comments to webmaster@lwsd.org.

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 2-6 & National Teacher Day is May 3

The School Board has proclaimed May 2-6 as Teacher Appreciation Week in LWSd, and National Teacher Day is May 3. Teachers deserve recognition for their hard work to help students achieve the district vision of "Every Student Future Ready." Please take the time to thank a teacher next week.

School Nutrition Employee Week is May 2-6

LWSD has partnered with Sodexo to provide students with nutritious meal options for the past 31 years. These men and women prepare and serve school meals each day and are committed to providing healthful, nutritious meals to the district's children. Please remind your children to thank their school nutrition employees next week.

National School Nurse Day is May 11

May 11 is National School Nurse Day. LWSD is fortunate to have 18 school nurses who are dedicated to caring for the health needs of students in our schools. School nurses understand the link between health and learning and are in a position to make a positive difference for children every day. Thank your school nurse on May 11.

Safety Spotlight: What to do to make it through: Are you prepared for an emergency?

April 30 is America's PrepareAthon Day, part of a grassroots campaign organized by FEMA and designed to increase individual and community preparedness and resilience. The goal of the campaign is to increase the number of individuals in our community who:

Mason Gordon and his family, through a program called "Sparrow Club." Mason was diagnosed with juvenile pilocytic astrocytoma (brain cancer) in June 2012. [Read more.](#)



Earth Day activities emphasize composting, recycling, grounds cleanup

Schools and PTSAs around the district organized activities to help reduce waste and protect the environment in celebration of Earth Day April 22, including **McAuliffe Elementary** students and families. They brought gardening gloves and trash bags to the school on the afternoon of April 22 to help clean up the grounds around the school. [Read more.](#)



Finn Hill Middle School eighth graders prepare for their futures with a college visit

On April 14, **Finn Hill Middle School (FHMS) eighth graders** glimpsed their possible futures by visiting the University of Washington (UW) campus. Groups of approximately 15-25 students toured with a teacher-

- Understand which disasters could happen in their community
- Know what to do to be safe and mitigate damage
- Take action to increase their preparedness
- Participate in family and community resilience planning

Check out the following resources to help you and your family be prepared should an emergency occur:

- **Get Redmond Ready:** May 21, 2016 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Includes two hour class in personal preparedness and certification in First Aid and CPR. Includes tables covering various aspects of preparedness and volunteer opportunities. [Read more.](#)
- **What to Do to Make It Through:** Resources to help you make a plan, build a kit and help each other. [Read more.](#)
- **City of Kirkland-Personal & Family Preparedness:** [Read more.](#)
- **City of Sammamish-Emergency Management:** [Read more.](#)

chaperone who attended UW or who knows what it takes to enter a four-year university. Students visited the Suzallo Library, the Husky Union Building (HUB), Drumheller Fountain, the Quad, Husky Stadium, Denny Hall, and Red Square. [Read more.](#)

[Quick Links](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Peachjar e-flyers](#)

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