



Connections



May 11, 2018

Equity, Opportunity and Every Student Future Ready

A message from Dr. Traci Pierce, Superintendent

Each spring as the end of the school year approaches, my mind turns to graduation. Attending high school commencement ceremonies each June and watching our students cross the stage is one of the great joys of being superintendent. It is incredibly rewarding and emotional to hear students speak of their educational experiences in Lake Washington, thank the many teachers and staff members who helped them succeed, and share their future plans. Graduating students Future Ready is our district mission and vision, and commencement ceremonies reflect our accomplishment of that mission and vision.

At a recent LWPTSA Council meeting I shared that our district's graduation rate has reached 93.3% - the highest of the largest 49 districts in the state. While certainly a point of pride for the district, I also know that this overall graduation rate for "All students" looks different when examining the graduation rate for different groups of students. [Read more of Dr. Pierce's May Superintendent Message here.](#)

Learning-Focused

LWSD schools are open May 25

The 2017-18 calendar correctly shows that school is in session on Friday, May 25, 2018. This calendar was created last summer. However, calendars created before last summer had shown that this was a scheduled LEAP day. We apologize for any confusion. For the most accurate and up-to-date calendars, please refer to the district website at lwsd.org/about-us/district-calendar.

New Spanish-English Dual Language Choice Program

Lake Washington School District is developing a new dual language Spanish-English choice program to open at Einstein Elementary School starting in the 2018-19 school year. The dual language program will have instruction in two languages, with half of the day taught entirely in Spanish, and the other half in English. Each dual language class is composed of approximately 50% native Spanish speakers and 50% English speakers. Next year, the program will include one kindergarten class and one first grade class, depending on enrollment. An additional grade level will be added each following year. The goals of the program are for students to:

- Be bilingual
- Be biliterate
- Demonstrate high academic achievement
- Develop multicultural skills

Students who reside within the Einstein attendance area will have preference for enrollment in the program. We anticipate that a limited number of spaces will be available for kindergarten and first grade native Spanish-speaking students (3-8 spaces/class) and English-speaking students (3-5 spaces/class) who reside outside the Einstein attendance area. If more students apply than there are spaces, students will be selected for these spaces using the choice school lottery process.

There will be a family information night about the new dual language program on Wednesday, May 16 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at the Lake Washington School District Resource Center, 16250 NE 74th Street, Redmond, WA 98052. Additional information about the program will be posted on our choice school information web page. The online application for the program will open on May 17.

Reminder: Core Academic Summer Program registration is now open!

Core Academic Summer Program registration is now open! LWSD is pleased to announce the expansion of summer programs to include both core academic and enrichment/acceleration options. There are a number of new courses offered at all grade levels for summer 2018. Core Academic Summer School will run from July 6-August 2, 2018. Elementary programs will be located at Ben Rush Elementary School and middle and high school programs will be located at Lake Washington High School. Transportation and need-based scholarships are available. Visit the [summer programs web page](#) to view the catalog and register for classes.

Schools will also have paper copies of catalogs and registration materials available. Register early as courses will fill quickly!

Three Lake Washington School District students receive National Merit \$2500 Scholarships

The [National Merit Scholarship Corporation \(NMSC\)](#) announced today that three Lake Washington School District (LWSD) students will receive National Merit \$2500 Scholarships. Fifty-one students were selected statewide for these awards.

The students receiving National Merit \$2500 Scholarships are:

- **Keenan J. Ganz** (Redmond), **Redmond High School**
- **Vaishnavi Phadnis** (Redmond), **Nikola Tesla STEM High School**
- **Anne L. Lee** (Sammamish), **Nikola Tesla STEM High School**

These students are three of the 2,500 distinguished high school seniors nationwide to win this scholarship. They were selected from a talent pool of more than 15,000 outstanding Finalists in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program. [Read more about the National Merit \\$2500 Scholarships.](#)

Help OSPI plan budget requests to the Governor and the Legislature

Your feedback will help the OSPI as they develop a budget that moves public schools from “basic” funding toward a system better designed to meet the needs of all learners. Please take five minutes to complete the entire survey – your feedback will be invaluable. The survey will remain open until Friday, June 8. Thank you!

[Take the Survey](#)

Also available in: [Khmer](#) | [Korean](#) | [Punjabi](#) | [Russian](#) | [Somali](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Tagalog](#) | [Traditional](#)

[Chinese](#) | [Vietnamese](#)

[Watch the Video](#)

Available in: English, Spanish, Russian, Vietnamese, Somali, Traditional Chinese, Khmer, Korean, Punjabi, Tagalog

Celebrate the arts

May is Arts in Education Month

May is Washington State's Art Education Month – a time to celebrate the wonderful arts education in our school and the terrific art our students create as a result. What does art mean to you? For LWSD students, art provides a way to express themselves. It is fun, magical, creative, beautiful and awesome.

[Read the proclamation for Arts in Education Month.](#)

[Watch this video for more on Arts in Education Month.](#)

Thank you to all of the LWSD school nurses

School Nurse Day is on May 9

We honor the school nurses in our schools who make a difference in the lives of children every day! School nurses lead the way to advance health and support education by ensuring that students are healthy, safe and ready to learn. Let's celebrate our school nurses today and always.

[Read the proclamation for School Nurse Day.](#)

School lunch employees are true heroes

School Nutrition Employee Week is May 7-11

Students and staff across the district created banners, put up posters and wrote cards for these lunchtime superheroes to kick off School Nutrition Employee Week. The celebration began with School Lunch Hero Day on Friday, May 4. Between preparing healthy meals for students and staff, adhering to nutrition standards and offering service with a smile; school nutrition professionals are true heroes.

[Read the proclamation for School Nutrition Employee Week.](#)

Thank your students' teachers for all they do

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 7-11

"A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning." – Brad Henry. LWSD is celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week May 7-11. Students receive a great education because teachers deliver inspiration, knowledge and dedication. LWSD students and administration shared some words of appreciation.

[Watch this video dedicated to our outstanding teachers.](#)

[Read the proclamation for Teacher Appreciation Week.](#)



Building on Success

Ella Baker Elementary staff get the first glimpse inside their new school

Teachers and staff were all smiles when they arrived at Ella Baker Elementary School. The new school, under construction at Redmond Ridge East, will help ease overcrowding by providing space for 690 elementary students. Teachers will welcome the school's first students in less than four months.

It didn't take long for the music teacher to find her classroom. The elevated room can be converted to a stage overlooking the gym/cafeteria. With tears of joy, she happily exclaimed to planning principal Kim Bilanko, "I don't have a tissue, Kim!"

The school's future librarian visited the site in February to provide feedback on utilizing the bright, welcoming space that will hold books for grades K-5.

Ella Baker Elementary is one of eight projects funded by the 2016 bond to reduce overcrowding. The bond was the first to pass since 2006. Funds from the bond are building additional space for 3,000 students.

The district has grown by about 5,000 students in the last seven years. The LWSD School Board continues to look at next steps to accommodate our growing student population.

As students returned from spring break, construction on their new Juanita High School was moving forward. The first concrete pour on April 10 set the footings for the school's foundation. With parking reduced due to construction, more students have been carpooling and riding the bus. JHS staff and Kirkland Police also helped families navigate revised drop-off and parking routines. Construction workers and staff expressed appreciation for the positive attitudes of parents, students and the community.



Ella Baker Elementary School is one of eight projects approved by voters as part of the 2016 bond measure. [Learn more.](#)



Important Reminders & Updates

Romaine lettuce retdhool lunches

Lake Washington School District and Sodexo partner to provide only the safest products to you and your children. We do everything we can to ensure the safety of the food we serve, often exceeding

health department standards. When something happens, like the recent industry-wide issues affecting romaine lettuce harvested in Yuma, Arizona, we act quickly to remove the risk from our schools and service points.

From the moment the advisory was issued by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on April 13, 2018, we pulled all romaine and placed it on hold. Once we determined what was affected we discarded all romaine on hand and sourced product from an unaffected region.

You can rest assured that we are only sourcing our romaine from the California area. That means that the lettuce now found in the salads and sandwiches on our menu is unaffected by the recall and not included in the CDC advisory. We hope this helps to ease your mind, and invite you and your children the opportunity to continue to enjoy our safe and healthy options including Caesar Salads and lettuce blends on our salad bars.

Attention fifth-grade parents: New Tdap vaccination requirement

A letter was sent out recently to the parents of fifth grader students, reminding them that to enter the sixth grade, they must show proof of one dose of the Tdap vaccine (to help prevent pertussis/whooping cough) for all children 11 years and older. The deadline to turn in this form is June 1, 2018. The form is also available on the [district website](#). If you have any questions, [please contact your school nurse](#).

Reminder: Tell your neighbors and friends: Kindergarten Registration for 2018-19

If you live in Lake Washington School District (LWSD) and your child will be 5 years old on or before August 31, 2018, it is time to register him or her for kindergarten. Registration takes place at your neighborhood school during regular school hours through the beginning of the 2018-19 school year.

While registration will continue throughout the school year and summer, parents are highly encouraged to register students as soon as possible. Doing so helps ensure class sizes are balanced and adequate staff are hired in time for the new school year.

[Visit the Kindergarten Registration webpage for more information.](#)



Work With Us

We're hiring!

LWSD needs bus drivers, para educators and instructional assistants. Job descriptions are available on the [district website](#), under "Employment" then "Classified Employees." Bus drivers earn \$24.80 per hour. [Learn more about why driving a bus for LWSD is a great job](#). Please share this information with your friends and neighbors.

Sodexo/Nutrition Services is hiring

Are you looking for a way to get involved in LWSD? Would you like a part-time job that gives you the flexibility to be with your kids before and after school? Shifts that range from two hours to eight hours are available, helping serve students breakfast and lunch. Starting pay depends on experience. If interested, contact Nutrition Services at 425-936-1385.



Student & Staff Success

EHS students spend spring break donating school supplies to kids in Panama

A handful of students from different Spanish classes at EHS packed up loads of school supplies and delivered them to impoverished areas of Panama during Spring Break. [Read more.](#)



Embracing diversity at Rose Hill Elementary

Rose Hill Elementary students, families and staff celebrated their diversity at the school's Art and Cultural Festival on April 19. Families hosted booths with information and pictures about their heritage. Each booth displayed flags, books, artwork and small artifacts. Many families also dressed in traditional clothing and provided food for others to try. [Read more.](#)



[Read more student and staff success stories here.](#)

Quick Links: [LWSD Website](#) | [Upcoming Events](#) | [Peachjar Community eFlyers](#)

