

Community Connection - Winter 2019

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Voters Approve Capital Projects Levy



process, projects will be prioritized, and work will be completed over time.

The Capital Levy will fund projects in three main categories: safety & security (\$2,030,325), identified capital projects (\$18,951,553), and technology for instruction (\$3,712,500). Renovations to the South Kitsap Community Pool will qualify for an estimated \$3 million in State Construction Assistance Funding (SCAP or State Match).

South Kitsap School District is committed to transparency and the efficient use of taxpayer resources. Extensive information about capital projects is available on the District website under the "Your Tax Dollars at Work" section.

Election results brought mixed emotions for South Kitsap School District on November 6. Voters approved Proposition 2, a Capital Projects Levy that will address some urgent facility issues, improve safety and security, and upgrade technology. Proposition 1, a Bond to construct a second comprehensive high school, failed to gain the 60% super majority needed to pass. The certified election results are shown to the right.

By passing the Capital Levy, voters approved a total collection amount of \$21,694,378 at an approximate rate of \$0.67 per thousand of assessed home value. Funds from the Capital Levy will be collected every six months over four years beginning in 2019. Because of the collection

Election Results

Bond - Proposition 1

Approved.....55.9%
Rejected.....44.1%

Capital Levy - Proposition 2

Approved.....57.0%
Rejected.....43.0%



Superintendent Search

Superintendent Karst Brandsma is retiring at the end of the 2018-2019 school year. The SKSD Board has contracted with Northwest Leadership Associates, an executive leadership search firm, to conduct the search for a new superintendent. The process will start soon and we will keep you informed along the way.

As a member of our community, we value your opinion and invite you to provide feedback on desired characteristics for our next superintendent. To keep informed about the search, please visit our website, www.skschools.org and click on the Superintendent Search banner, or contact the Superintendent's Office at 360-874-7001.



Superintendent Student Roundtable

Student representatives bring their voices to the School Board

For the second year, student representatives from South Kitsap High School, Discovery Alternative High School, and Explorer Academy will bring their voices to District level decision-making by being a member of the Superintendent's Student Roundtable. During their one-year term, students will focus on various topics including school community, curriculum, facilities, school safety, social justice, and opportunities for students. Students will also provide input on goals and strategies for key District initiatives.

"Both the School Board and I feel that the student's opinions, thoughts, and unique perspective are important and add an insightful layer to the input on key District initiatives," said Superintendent Brandsma.

The students meet quarterly during the school year and are invited to attend School Board meetings, so they can brief the Board

on their work and activities. For their part in representing their peers, the student on the Superintendent's Roundtable gain valuable insight to the administrative operations of a school district. In addition, they develop skills in leadership, advocacy, and team building.

Last year's student representatives shared their top concerns via discussions and a survey. The shared priorities included school safety, facility condition, and bullying. The Superintendent and School Board listened to the recommendations of the students and took action. Secure access entrances were added at South Kitsap High School and Crisis Reality Training has been implemented district-wide. Several improvements and repairs are scheduled at all schools thanks to voters approving the Capital Projects Levy.

READY! for Kindergarten®

Winter Class Schedule

From birth to age 5, a child learns faster than at any other time in his or her life. Those early learning experiences influence success in school and beyond. Our READY! parent classes provide age-appropriate targets and training in the areas of language and literacy, math and reasoning, and social-emotional.

Class Dates:

Saturday, Feb 2 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Tuesday, Feb 5.....6:00 - 7:30 PM

Thursday, Feb 7.....6:00 - 7:30 PM

Saturday, Feb 9 10:00 - 11:30 AM

All classes are held at Orchard Heights Elementary School
2288 Fircrest Dr. SE - Port Orchard.

**For more information call
Tracy Schneewind 360-874-7058.**

SKHS Awarded \$1,230,965 Grant

South Kitsap School District was one of only seven school districts in the State of Washington chosen to receive a STEM Capital Grant. This \$1,230,965 grant will provide the funds to modernize and renovate fifteen STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) classrooms to meet safety, graduation, and ADA requirements at South Kitsap High School. Nine science STEM classrooms labs and six CTE/STEM classrooms will be renovated to ensure instructional STEM content at an equitable level.

"This is huge for us," said Sara Hatfield, Director of CTE, "These funds are going to allow us to build state of the art lab facilities with modern layouts and vastly improve the technology that many of our courses depend on. All of this will enrich our students learning experience and help them with their careers and post-secondary education."

"Through the STEM Capital Grants Program, we can update classrooms in schools serving students in some of our most historically underserved communities across Washington State, including rural areas and schools in low-income neighborhoods," said Caroline King, CEO of Washington STEM.



Manchester Elementary Designated School of Distinction

Manchester Elementary was recently designated as a Center for Educational Effectiveness 2018 School of Distinction. The annual program recognizes schools that have made the biggest improvement in reading and mathematics during a five-year period.

"I am so proud to be the principal of Manchester Elementary. Each day I witness our excellent teachers doing whatever it takes to meet the needs of each student," stated Principal Rachelle Byrd. "Manchester strives to be a place where students learn the skills they need to be successful academically, socially and emotionally. It is wonderful to have our hard work recognized with this designation."

This award is given to the top five percent of schools in each level – elementary, middle, and high school – that, as a result of improving their students' skills, have more students achieving at higher levels on the Measures of Student Progress (3rd - 8th grade), the High School Proficiency Exam in Reading and the End of Course Exam in Mathematics (10th grade).

This distinction is sponsored by the Center for Educational Effectiveness, the Association of Educational Service Districts, the Association of Washington School Principals, Phi Delta



Superintendent Brandsma and Deputy Superintendent Jay Villars present Manchester staff with a special banner.

Kappa-Washington Chapter, Washington Association of School Administrators, Washington State Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development, and the Washington State School Directors' Association. A complete list of all Schools of Distinction can be found on the CEE website at www.effectiveness.org.

Celebrating the Arts in South Kitsap

The Arts and Music: An Integral Part of a "Well-Rounded" Education

While many school districts and communities view arts education as a "nice extra", SKSD is committed to providing a superior arts education to all its students. Whether on the stage, in the concert hall, on the football field, or in the drawing and painting studio, students are discovering their own creative language which will help them become contributing members of the world community.

In 2015, congress signed into law the new "Elementary and Secondary Education Act". This deemed the Arts and Music as a "core" subject legitimizing the need for creative and rigorous artistic opportunities for all children. South Kitsap has been on the leading edge of this new paradigm for many years, throughout the state and at the national level.



The District's unwavering commitment to provide a holistic education can be seen in a multitude of programs. Our Visual and Performing Arts Department is one of only three departments out of 295 school districts state-wide. Highline, Federal Way and now Evergreen School District have sent representatives to observe SKSD to learn how they can develop a program like ours.



SKHS's String Consort complete in the WIAA/WMEA Washington State Music Competition.

In 2014, the district committed to implementing a district-wide orchestra program to the already successful band and choir program. Over the past four years the orchestra program has grown from being offered at two elementary schools and one middle school to being available to all students in the school district.

When other districts were cutting visual arts and theatre programs, South Kitsap expanded course offerings. Unlike most high schools, SKHS has two full-time theatre directors and now offers a Shakespeare acting class which is equivalent to a college-level acting course.

Proud to Be South Kitsap

Your Tax Dollars at Work



After years of constant wear, the boys pitcher's mound and lane were rebuilt to help prevent injuries to pitchers.



A new grinding machine has been put to use removing trip hazards in sidewalks around the district.



A much needed renovation of the high school elevator began during winter break.



All the electrical systems have been installed for the new multi-classroom modular at Sunnyslope.



A new excavator with a mowing attachment is helping facilities maintain the grounds around all our schools.



The girl's softball field dugouts had new siding installed and both the boys and girls dugout received a fresh coat of paint.

Gloria's Dream of Generosity

Gloria Bass, a 7-year old second grader told her mother and teacher about a daydream she had. She wanted to raise money so that kids at Tacoma's Mary Bridge Hospital could keep themselves entertained over the Christmas holiday.

With the help of her teacher, Lisa Wickens and her parents, Gloria launched a school-wide arts and crafts donation drive, and fundraiser. A colorful pink collection barrel was placed in Al's Market, and it was quickly filled with art supplies. Gloria then visited many of the K-5 classrooms in her school, presented her dream and asked if students would like to pitch in to buy craft supplies for the children at Mary Bridge.

Over \$1,000 was raised to purchase enough supplies to fill 14 large plastic bins and five boxes full of arts and crafts items.

"Gloria is a smart, inquisitive, and charismatic young girl!", said Ms. Wickens, "It's been a privilege to be her teacher,

because I have a feeling this is the start of many amazing things that Gloria will do in her life".



Gloria sits on top of all the bins of supplies that were collected for kids at Mary Bridge Hospital.

Board of Directors:

Rebecca Diehl, President
Keith Garton, Vice President
Liz Sebren, Greg Wall and Eric Gattenby
Karst Brandsma, Superintendent



SKSD Non-Discrimination Statement

The South Kitsap School District provides equal educational and employment opportunity without regard to race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation – including gender expression or identity, marital status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. Equal access to activities, facilities and program is provided to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. District procedure complies with all applicable state and federal laws.

The Title IX Officer and Section 504 Coordinator with the responsibility for monitoring, auditing and ensuring compliance with this policy are:
Compliance/ADA/Title IX Coordinator: Jerry Holsten, Executive Director of Human Resources 2689 Hoover Avenue SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366 360-874-7006, holsten@skschools.org
Section 504 Coordinator: Kimberly Shipp, Director, Office of Special Services, 2689 Hoover Avenue SE, Port Orchard, WA 98366 360- 874-3648, shipp@skschools.org

This newsletter was paid for by
South Kitsap School District