



# EDUCATION MATTERS

SPRING  
2019

## In Battle of the Books, everybody wins

The gymnasium erupted in cheers again and again March 1 as three teams—the Chinchillas, the Picky Readers and the Kabakes—vied for the opportunity to face off against a team of staff members.

Their goal? To win the Battle of the Books.

Beginning in November, Hockinson Middle School students created 21 four- to six-person teams and started reading two dozen books. At least two members per team were expected to read every title—“so everyone can talk about all of the books,” said organizer and library media specialist Sandra Stroup.

Throughout February, mini-battles began in the cafeteria: Teams faced off to answer questions such as, “In what book did the family go to Birmingham for summer vacation?” Or “In what book do the two main characters and Grandma go to the county fair?”

They won points by being first to answer with the title and author.

“We’re trying to get kids to think of reading as an alternative form of pleasure,” Stroup said. “Research shows good reading skills make a big difference in career and college readiness, and this inculcates attitudes in young people—creates a little circle of friends who read books, so kids think, ‘I can go and chat with my friends about it.’”

The plan seemed to work. By the end of the program, the middle school gymnasium was filled with students excited about who knew the most about the stories.

“It caused me to read more,” said seventh grader Ashley. “It’s really fun. I like how it’s



The HMS student body cheers for their classmates the Picky Readers competing against the Stupendous Staff in the final book battle on March 1.

really competitive, and you can work with your team members to study together.”

Next year Stroup hopes students will create video trailers introducing each book.

“I love these kids and am so excited to see them get passionate about reading,” Stroup said.

The program was funded in part with a \$1,000 grant from iQ Credit Union. (And for those of you keeping score, the Stupendous Staff beat the Picky Readers in the final competition.)

### *Looking for a good read?* Here are a few HMS favorites!

“Mockingbird” by Kathryn Erskine

“Protecting Marie” by Kevin Henkes

“Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind”  
by Suzanne Fisher Staples

“The Watsons go to Birmingham”  
by Christopher Curtis

“When Zachary Beaver Came to Town”  
by Kimberly Willis Holt

# SCHOOL BOARD'S MESSAGE

Greetings from the School Board.

On Feb. 19 our Board held a special meeting to approve two levy resolutions for the April 23 election ballot. One is a partial replacement levy, and the other is a new capital levy. The amounts we requested are the same as the levies that failed to achieve the 50 percent margin needed to pass in the Feb. 12 election.

Our district's needs have not changed since February. The partial replacement levy is needed because the state does not fully cover basic educational costs, which include a portion of employee salaries and benefits, as well as most of our extra-curricular programs, which have always been funded by local levy dollars.

Further, the capital projects levy is critical for upgrading old technology devices. These include some second- and third-generation iPads, which are no longer supported and have become technologically obsolete. Our students need usable equipment to help prepare them for the jobs of the future.

As Board members, we understand the shock the community experienced with the big one-time state property tax increase last year. Fortunately, tax rates are going down in 2019, now that state-mandated local levy decreases are kicking in. The rates reflected in this levy resolution reflect that lower level.

Of Washington's 295 school districts, 289—98 percent—have operations levies, and 104—35 percent—have capital levies. Enhancement levies remain a vital and necessary part of school funding, and 40 other districts large and small also ran and passed levies in February. Sixteen other districts ran technology levies, 15 of which passed.

Hockinson has been historically very strong financially, and the district has benefited from the consistent community support. In order to continue our current programs without cuts, we do need the funding provided by these levies.

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES



Our very popular 5th–6th Grade Girls' Volleyball program is back this year. Fliers have been sent out to students through the schools, and the program will start April 15. If you did not receive a flier and your daughter is interested in participating, please contact Community Education or look for information at [www.hocksd.org/administration/community-education](http://www.hocksd.org/administration/community-education).

### Upcoming Spring Classes:

- Brick Builders—Minecraft
- Success through Chess
- Taekwondo/Taekwondo Kids
- Art Club—May
- After School Basketball
- Men's Basketball
- Jazzercise

Our summer camp lineup is rolling out and current information will be posted on our website as it becomes available.

### Upcoming Summer Camps:

- UK Soccer Camps
- Brick Builders—Lego Class
- Safe Sitter Classes
- Kids for Kids
- Soccer Camp
- Hawks Football Camp
- Girls Volleyball Camp
- High School Girls Volleyball Camp
- Basketball Camp
- Tennis Camps
- Dance workshops

We are always looking for new instructors who would like to share their talents.

★ REGISTER TO VOTE ★

Are you registered to vote? Did you recently move? Or turn 18? Visit [tinyurl.com/ccwavoting](http://tinyurl.com/ccwavoting) for voter registration info.

*Your vote counts on April 23, 2019!*



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## KEEPING COSTS DOWN

Thanks to modern printing equipment, we are able to print and mail this newsletter in full-color for less than it used to cost in spot color. We hope you enjoy this issue of the Hockinson School District newsletter.

**Notice of Nondiscrimination:** Hockinson School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal, and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Coordinator & Title IX Officer: Sandra Yager, Superintendent, [sandra.yager@hocksd.org](mailto:sandra.yager@hocksd.org); 504 Coordinator: Keila Dean, Director of Special Education, [keila.dean@hocksd.org](mailto:keila.dean@hocksd.org)





HHS computer students use a computer and circuit board to tell a catapult how far to toss a chocolate bar. (Photo credit: Delta Computer Systems)

# HHS students explore wide range of computing careers

Here's something you might not know about your favorite French fries: They're computer-generated.

OK, they're not made by a computer, but your French fries are likely made from potatoes that have been analyzed by computer software. It communicates with a machine to chop out defects as the potatoes speed past at 10 feet per second.

**“The need for software engineers, people who can write code, is growing by leaps and bounds.”**

- Aaron Heinrich, guest speaker at HHS

“Software is used with materials nobody really thinks about,” said HHS computer science and math teacher Kari DeBower. “It’s used with almost everything we use in everyday life.”

Guest speakers from Delta Computer Systems in Battle Ground—which created the

potato-perfecting software, among others—recently described the growing number of computer-related opportunities to DeBower’s classes.

“The need for software engineers, people who can write code, is growing by leaps and bounds,” said Aaron Heinrich, a marketing manager with Delta. “And there is a definite need for people with a technical background who can fill related roles.”

HHS junior Mitchell Georgioff said the presentation gave him a new perspective. “It was really cool seeing the actual physics of how the programming behind the machine can go into the hardware, how that software can be used in real-life,” he said.

DeBower is hopeful that as student interest grows, HHS will be able to add an additional computer science class, so students see computers as part of their career pathway in many fields.

That will depend in part on student interest but also on the outcome of April’s levy election. If the district loses staffing, the school won’t be able to afford smaller classes or those that have higher material fees.

## WELLNESS CORNER



HSD’s Wellness Committee focuses on making our schools a healthy environment for everyone.

Physical activity is an important wellness component. With spring arriving, the Committee encourages families to find fun ways to get out and move! Here are a few ideas to get you started:

### EVENTS

#### Klineline Kids Fishing Derby

April 12-13, 2019 - [klineline-kf.org](http://klineline-kf.org)

### CLASSES

#### HSD Community Education

[hocksd.org/Content2/current-class-offerings](http://hocksd.org/Content2/current-class-offerings)

#### Clark County YMCA

[ymcacw.org/locations/clark-county-family-ymca](http://ymcacw.org/locations/clark-county-family-ymca)

#### Firstenburg Community Center

[cityofvancouver.us/firstenburg](http://cityofvancouver.us/firstenburg)

### PLACES

#### Hockinson Meadows Park

[clark.wa.gov/public-works/hockinson-meadows-community-park](http://clark.wa.gov/public-works/hockinson-meadows-community-park)

#### Clark County Parks

[clark.wa.gov/public-works/clark-county-parks](http://clark.wa.gov/public-works/clark-county-parks)

#### Clark County: find a park or trail

[clark.wa.gov/public-works/find-park-or-trail](http://clark.wa.gov/public-works/find-park-or-trail)

#### City of Vancouver Parks and Recreation 2019 Activity Guide

[www.cityofvancouver.us/parksrec/page/winter-2019-activity-guide](http://www.cityofvancouver.us/parksrec/page/winter-2019-activity-guide)

#### Mountain View Ice Arena

[mtviewice.com](http://mtviewice.com)

#### Source Climbing Center, Vancouver

[sourceclimbing.com](http://sourceclimbing.com)

#### Skamania Lodge Zipline Tour or Aerial Park, Stevenson, WA

[zipnskamania.com](http://zipnskamania.com)

### CLUBS/GROUPS

#### Clark County Running Club

[clarkcountyrunningclub.org](http://clarkcountyrunningclub.org)

#### Vancouver Bicycle Club

[vbc-usa.com](http://vbc-usa.com)





*Connect with us online! To learn more about Hockinson School District, visit [www.hocksd.org](http://www.hocksd.org).*

## HHES starts Safety Patrol

Hockinson Heights Elementary School has recently established a Safety Patrol.

Members of the group of 12 fifth graders are outfitted with vests, flags, ponchos and flashing lights, thanks to a district safety grant. They take turns before and after school helping in three areas of the parking lot.

“It’s something that’s healthy for students—to be in a leadership role, helping other kids and providing a community service,” said Principal Josh Robertson, who leads the program. “It provides self-esteem and a sense of importance and awareness of how what they do affects other people.”

Robertson estimates half of the school’s students do not ride the bus. That means approximately 150 family vehicles move through the parking lot at each pick-up and drop-off time.

Robertson said he has noticed a side benefit to the new Safety Patrols: people are changing their driving habits.

“Adults see those kids with flags ...,” he observed.



HHES’s first class of safety patrols are helping keep fellow students in the school’s parking lot safe.



FBLA students at HHS are learning skills that will benefit them in any future career.

## HHS Future Business Leaders head to state

The future looks bright for HHS’s Future Business Leaders of America! All eight HHS students who competed at the Southwest Washington Regional Competition qualified for state competition in April.

FBLA participants gain experience in many areas of business—there are 70 categories to choose from. Currently HHS’s FBLA members are competing in impromptu speaking, marketing, personal finance, agribusiness, business ethics, journalism and entrepreneurship.

“They’re the kind of skills that can go toward any career,” said club adviser Jennifer Miller. “It’s great for them, because they get the real-world experience of presenting and being professional, and they gain a lot more confidence.”

The students competing at state are Cailyn Broten, Braxton Cornett, Kelton Duncan, Liberty Furth, Brecken Guinn, Lauren Morariu, Jasmine Shigeno and Jaeden Tedson.