A Look Inside HILLSBORO SCHOOLS

Spring 2013

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HILLSBORO'S PLAN TO ENHANCE TEACHING AND LEARNING WITH CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY

Teachers in Hillsboro are among the finest in the country. Long work weeks, detailed lesson planning, and an unwavering commitment to every child's growth describe a promise that is made every day to do right by our children. This constant reminder of our potential as a school district to ensure that each and every child graduates career- and/or college-ready moves us to address some very important issues.

Teachers monitor student data and conduct daily assessments to inform instruction in a very real way. They are also developing strategies to personalize learning environments to ensure every child both accelerates when possible and catches up where necessary. Teachers are eager to begin integrating technology into their day-to-day instruction, however many of the current structures of our network, our decision-making processes, as well as financial limitations put us at a veritable standstill that we must address.

Our teachers and students are waiting for the tools necessary to accomplish the goals at hand. Nearly 85% of the computers in our schools are at or approaching their functional "end of life." The average desktop computer takes more than eight minutes of instructional time to boot up. More and more of our students are opting to bring their own devices to school, simply to avoid the frustration they feel using ours.



Maisie Davis, first grader at Ladd Acres Elementary, is Oregon's 2013 Doodle 4 Google winner. Members of Google's Doodle 4 Google team made the public announcement at an assembly at Ladd Acres on May 1. Over 130,000 students submitted designs for this year's contest. Maisie will travel to the awards ceremony on May 22 in New York City, where the Doodle 4 Google winner will be revealed and will receive a $30,000 college scholarship along with a $50,000 technology grant for their school.

Enter our technology plan. While resources may always challenge our thinking on how to move forward quickly, Hillsboro has placed a priority on addressing our current reality. Of course, our work around implementing Common Core State Standards (CCSS), better assessment systems, our Bilingual Program Model, and Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) remain at the forefront. However, we believe our outcomes will more closely align with our goals if we can implement a sustainable plan to make our instructional context more digital. This will undoubtedly take time, and must be done with the utmost care and respect for those of us for whom technology can be a little scary. While we always have a choice to adapt and change, the needs of our 'digital natives' suggest a call to action that we simply cannot ignore.

The vision is this: what if, over the next five years, we built a culture where technology is viewed as a tool for learning? What if we equipped our students and teachers with devices that could unlock the world? What if curriculum could be designed to meet every child where they are? What if that curriculum created opportunities for children to interact on a global landscape, bringing the real world into the classroom, or even extending the opportunity to learn far beyond the six hours they are in our schools each day? What if students could access the Internet, their files, and their teachers from anywhere? What if we used technology to reduce the time teachers must spend calculating grades, lesson planning, and on paperwork, and simultaneously increased the time they could spend face-to-face with our children?

All of this is possible. But in order to reach the vision, we have to start now. Our Board is currently considering a year one investment of $1.5 million to begin placing tools in students' and teachers' hands. Indeed, a great start. However, doing this right means we need to have a plan that includes all stakeholders. Over the next few months, we will be reaching out to you to get this project moving. Here is how we intend to start:

Teacher training. We must provide teachers with the supplies they need to begin using technology in new, innovative ways.

Engage our students and parents. Our work is constantly strengthened when we get more voices in the room. This couldn't be more true than in the area of technology.

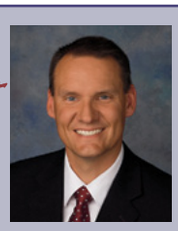
Build strong alliances. "Going digital" means learning new ways to do business. We are in a great location to directly benefit from our business partnerships.

Start with success in mind. We'll develop metrics for monitoring progress, and create a continuous improvement structure to ensure we are focusing on the areas leading to the biggest gains in student achievement.

Build a sustainability plan. We want to ensure our investments will continue well

Please see **CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY** on page 12

From the Superintendent



Mike Scott

Perspective is a very interesting thing. It often changes dramatically over time, given different circumstances, and as a result of new information. I think about this now as some parents and students in our community are preparing to enter our schools for the first time, others are making the transition from elementary to middle, or middle to high school, and still others are preparing to graduate and take the next step in life's journey. At each phase along the way, how they view themselves, their responsibilities, and their hopes and aspirations changes. A first grader may strive to read a book out loud without stumbling over any words, whereas a high school senior may be anxiously awaiting news about college acceptance.

When I started this job in the summer of 2009, I could never have predicted that one of my biggest hopes would be experiencing a year where I didn't have to deliver the news that our District would once again be forced to reduce its budget. Unfortunately, my hope will not be realized this year. 2013-14 is shaping up to be our sixth year in a row of consecutive budget reductions at a cumulative total of nearly $70 million.

Please see **SUPERINTENDENT** on page 12

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Century Jaguars

Feeder Group

BUTTERNUT CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Principal: Enedelia Schofield

Students at Butternut Creek Elementary School continue to focus on academics, student health and fitness, and positive behavior.

Fifth graders have been doing a science fair for over 10 years. Each year they decide on a scientific question that is then answered through designing an experiment, collecting data, and analyzing the results.

Every year Synopsys sponsors the science fair by providing boards, ribbons, certificates, signs, a balloon arch, and Kudos bars to celebrate when they are done. Fifth graders work very hard and every year the science fair is a success!

Many of our sixth grade students have joined an after-school homework club led by Mr. Callon. Students have enjoyed a safe and focused atmosphere to work on their studies and to access additional instruction as needed.

Another highlight for sixth graders is Out-Door school where they get a hands-on experience to explore and conduct various science lessons. For many students, this is a memory-making highlight to their elementary school experience.

Staff development has played a large role this spring. The staff has been collaborating on curriculum mapping focused on themes, and targeting grade level Common Core State Standards (CCSS). Grade level teams have been collaborating to provide scaffolded instruction within the classroom to assure learning and growth for all students.

In April, a Family Fitness Night, spearheaded by PE teacher Stacey Bartels brought over 200 students, siblings, and their parents to an activity-filled night of exercise and fun! Fitness stations were placed throughout the school including yoga, Zumba, gymnastics from Oregon Gymnastics Association, martial arts from Ernie Reyes Martial Arts, and Wii dance.

There were health screenings and visitors from local businesses, such as 24-Hour Fitness. Representatives from the Hillsboro Hops baseball team attended and prizes were raffled off. The Portland Trailblazers' mascot, Blaze, brought lots of excitement and great photo opportunities!

This is Butternut's second year hosting a Girls on the Run group. Twenty three girls participated in this after-school group that not only focuses on fitness but self-empowerment as well. Lindsey Akers, Denise Olsen, Ely Teragli and Sharon Creek are the coaches. This group has appreciated receiving support from the Hillsboro Optimist Club. They recently completed their three-mile practice run at Gabriel Park in Portland. The group's crowning activity will be participating in Portland's Starlight Run.

A new group established this fall is sponsored by Oregon Gymnastics Academy. Fifteen boys and girls meet on Thursdays to stay active and healthy, all while having fun.

IMLAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Principal: Molly Siebert

Imlay's annual art festival will take place the evening of June 7. The theme is "What Does Art Mean to Me?"

The overarching goal of the festival is to celebrate students' artistic expression utilizing a variety of media, including the fine arts, performance, decorative arts and writing.

Some categories that are being explored are architectural design using LEGOs, Tinker-Toys, and paper; cartooning/comics; textile art; fashion design; electronic generated art; and photography.

Through exhibitions, hands-on activities and demonstrations, the children of Imlay and the larger Imlay community will have the opportunity to experience these different art forms and gain a greater understanding of the myriad ways in which art can be a part of their lives. The fesitval will also include a silent auction.

Imlay has become the thirteenth school in the district to earn ENERGY STAR certification from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for its outstanding efforts to reduce usage of natural resources and be as energy-efficient as possible.

The ENERGY STAR certificate was presented to custodian Shelley Grimsrud during an all-school assembly on Monday, April 29. Shelley has worked tirelessly to promote sustainable practices at the school, and has successfully enlisted students to help.

This year has been full of rich educational experiences and scholarship. Students have experienced excellent teaching, learning, and academic growth. They know how important their education is to the adult they are becoming through hard work, perseverance, and fortitude.

As we say goodbye for the summer we want students and families to remember that here, "Children are the Heart of Imlay!"

INDIAN HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Principal: Bruce Bourget

Many schools have after-school programs in the form of clubs or activities. Indian Hills' after-school programs could be classified as extended-day activities. These clubs help students with homework, English language development, math, and creative expression.

There are two homework clubs: One is sponsored by the Hillsboro Parks and Recreation Department and supervised by Ms. Bice and Ms. Wyss for students in grades four to six; the other is supervised by sixth grade teachers Mrs. Wedel and Mrs. Thomas and is specifically for sixth graders. These clubs are designed to allow students a quiet place to complete classwork where teachers are available to answer questions. Students can also work with peers to complete quality homework and projects in a timely manner.

The English Language Development (ELD) Club, taught by Mrs. Greco, is designed to help English language learners gain a better understanding of the English language. Students from this club have already begun to experience success as a number of them have met the standards on the state reading test, and several other students have nearly met.

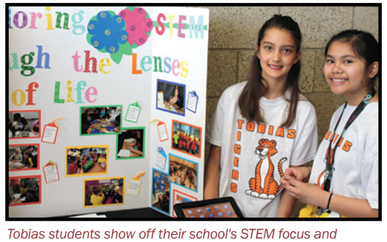
The Math Club students, taught by Mrs. Norman, have been working to upgrade their math skills. Mrs. Norman started this club after noticing that students could benefit from additional skills practice and concept building in an after-school program.

The Drama Club is taught by Ms. Leonard, and is made up of a small number of students who are dedicated to learning about acting and preparing for performances in June.

Ms. Leonard tells us that the students in this club are independent learners, team oriented, and focused on their work. This creative activity provides a unique opportunity for student expression. It builds students' confidence and pride in their abilities.

Other teachers at Indian Hills provide additional support for their students through tutoring during breaks, before and after school, or through homework support via e-mail and phone conversations in the evenings.

We are grateful to all of our teachers who provide these extended-day activities in the interest of helping students to improve their learning.



Tobias students show off their school's STEM focus and appeal for community support at the Portland Metro STEM Parnership's STEMposium on April 26 at Quatama.

LADD ACRES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Interim Co-Principals: Crystal Schmidt-Dipaola and Tony Cox

The school days are flying by at Ladd Acres during this exciting time of the school year.

Ladd Acres benefits from a strong, dedicated PTA. PTA paid for recent Mad Science and Oregon Zoo assemblies. On May 9, PTA brought the Japanese drums of Portland Taiko to school for a much-anticipated performance from Young Audiences of Oregon and SW Washington.

The PTA has also been making extensive preparations for the annual school carnival on May 17, from 6-8:30 pm. Always well-attended, the carnival is a family favorite with games, raffles, a cake walk, concessions, face painting, inflatable slide, and more.

Fourth graders in Mark Salzwedel's and Sheila McCollum's classrooms are spearheading what's become an annual eyeglasses and hearing aid recycling drive. Donations to date indicate the goal of 200 items will be met.

Our youngest students have their Kindergarten Moving Up Celebration on June 11 at 6 pm, and are ready for full days in first grade next year. Our oldest students have their Sixth Grade Graduation Breakfast on June 13, and are more than ready for middle school.

The recent science fair was a success with over 250 participants. Eight fifth graders were selected to participate in the District Science Fair. The evening program included demonstrations by Mad Science and an inflatable planetarium.

In April, music specialist Lana Christensen directed primary grade students in two adorable programs. First graders performed "A Year of Music" and second graders performed "Jungle Party Tonight."

Two Ladd Acres students have recently received individual recognition for their artistic abilities. At a special assembly May 1, Google made the announcement that first grader Maisie Davis had submitted the winning entry from Oregon in its Doodle 4 Google contest. As Oregon's winner, she will be attending the awards ceremony in New York City on May 22.

Then, in a school presentation May 7, the Hillsboro Elks Lodge presented fourth grader Lisa Truong with a trophy and prize money for her entry in the Elks Eye Injury Poster Contest.

Her poster earned First Place in the Hillsboro Lodge's contest and Third Place in state competition. Her artwork will be on display for a year at the Casey Eye Institute at OHSU.

REEDVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Principal: Robin Romero

Sasquatch was last sighted at Reedville Elementary School six years ago. Having left the comfort of his home in Idaho, this self-proclaimed mountain man once again stepped foot inside the halls of Reedville, much to the delight of students and staff. Geoff McLachlan (a.k.a. Sasquatch) arrived to fill the day of April 8 with laughter, self-reflection, motivation and the message that everyone deserves to be treated like a diamond. He arrived to present Connecting the Dots.

Since 2006, many HSD elementary schools have hosted The Ovation Company's Connecting the Dots anti-bullying workshop, which sends powerful messages to students that how they treat others and how they talk about others says a lot about who they are themselves. Even the smallest things they do – a look, a gesture, a comment – can speak volumes to another person. These are the subtle aspects of bullying, sometimes referred to as low-level bullying.

Connecting the Dots puts the power and effect of these behaviors front and center in hopes of building increased awareness and promoting more positive and empathetic interactions among students.

Brown Middle School and Century High School shared some of their student leaders with Reedville for the workshop day. Having 17 older, accomplished, and enthusiastic role models in the gym to act as group facilitators was essential and appreciated.

Reedville students learned from them how not to play their "Cool Card, " that no matter what age you are, being "too cool for school" (or for anything) is really not that cool at all, but that participating fully helps you grow as a person. You might even have some fun!

As students are led to collaborate with each other, the school is working to develop partnerships with universities and other business and agencies. Next year the Dual Language program will be supported by professors from the University of Colorado in the move toward biliteracy.

Western Oregon University will support the extended day program for students and teacher professional development. Some staff will receive training called No Excuses University to involve students and families in the messages for student excellence. These efforts and the continued partnerships with Intel for volunteer projects and for STEM will lead Reedville students to success.

TOBIAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Principal: Steve Callaway

This has been the planning year, as Tobias moves to become a fully integrated STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) school.

But with all the planning has come some amazing results already! Thanks to partners at Intel, the school was able to update the computer lab and replace old desktops with newer laptops. A mobile computer lab was created so that teachers can bring laptops into their classrooms to assist students with research, projects, observations, etc.

With the help of the Hillsboro Schools Foundation, and a generous grant from Genentech, Tobias purchased temperature probes, Proscopes, jeweler's loupes and other optics, and science tools from Vernier Software and Technology.

New units based on the new national science standards were planned and taught. The school's Science-O-Rama, sponsored by Synopsys, had 100 percent participation by all students.

Kinder, first and second grade classes did whole class projects. Third and fourth graders did small group projects and experiments, and fifth and sixth graders planned and conducted individual projects. By bringing in engineers, trainers, and other outside experts, our students were able to experience firsthand some of the tasks and challenges that engineers work to solve on a daily basis.

But not all of our STEM learning occurred within the school walls. Classes took fieldtrips to the Tillamook Forest to learn about ecosystems and habitat, and third graders spent a day exploring Portland bridges.

Tobias hasn't been exclusively STEM however. Music and the arts continue to be an integral part of the school's culture and students' lives. Art Literacy exposed students to the artwork of Monet.

The 55 Tobias students who make up our band performed on stage at the Venetian Theatre and Bistro in downtown Hillsboro. It was an experience that the students and the 200 members of the audience will long remember.

In June, our band will join the band from Orenco Elementary School to participate in the Junior Rose Parade.

Clearly, all of Tobias is on the march to excellence!

BROWN MIDDLE SCHOOL
Principal: Don Brown

Constructive school/community relationships help foster healthy schools. Synopsys, a company that provides products and services that accelerate innovation in the global electronics market, and Brown Middle School have established a long term partnership that has helped both organizations in positive ways.

In the fall, for example, Brown Middle School students volunteered at Synopsys during their staff and family Halloween party. Students acted as hosts and facilitated games for the smaller children.

Now, Synopsys is giving back by volunteering a day of service to Brown Middle School on Saturday, May 11. A nonprofit organization called Hands On Greater Portland is facilitating the project and Synopsys is supplying the person power to do the work.

The Synopsys volunteers, along with Brown Middle School students, will improve the overall appearance of Brown Middle School by painting part of the main gym, painting the main office, beautifying the enclosed courtyards, and weeding and mulching the front of the school. The incurred expenses for this project will be paid for by Synopsys.

This work wouldn't be possible without the support of Synopsys. This is a partnership that we hope to foster and grow for many years.

CENTURY HIGH SCHOOL
Principal: Ted Zehr

Talk to the members and advisers of the CHS Software Entrepreneur's Club, and there is a sense of excitement and a vision of the future that permeates the room.

Student Kamran Hetke stated, "We took the roots and challenges to set the seeds of where we go." The origins of their work are in a 2011 Intel grant for $20,000 to create apps for mobile devices. That morphed into the club, with 25 dedicated students and two advisers meeting to create what outside software developers have praised as "…a real world experience in the classroom." The club is designed to give the students the experience of running a software startup. It has filed as a non-profit, so they own the apps they create.


The youngest volunteers made cards for staff during the Synopsys Day of Service at Brown Middle School.

This year, with the remaining funds from the Intel grant, and an additional $10,000 from Microsoft, the club members have completed their first Windows 8 application, titled, "Our Finest Hour." The interactive app allows community members to browse for volunteering and donating opportunities at the school.

The club has entered the Microsoft Apps for Social Good contest this year. Christopher Hoskins notes, "It's going very well. It was a BIG opportunity for the club to go to the NCCE conference, and talk to people from Lenovo, Dell and others, to see what is happening in the Northwest and get feedback. We are at the fine details and logistics phase of this app, and seeing the horizons for the next app."

Brock Smedley added, "We learned some leadership experience for the real world, and a lot of the things we learn here are life lessons."

Zach Pfister-Shanders chimed in, "We learned how you can improve what you worked on to get the result you are working for."

Students have excelled in spite of the challenges of having to bring their own computers because the current network and computers aren't set up to handle the level of work they are doing, and lack of a real-world environment, in part due to some key donations.

Microsoft donated some laptops, NCCE donated a charging rack, and the club just got a donation of three Mac laptops from Nike.

Rick Dedrick, a Hillsboro School District programmer who helps advise the club, said with a big smile, "This is fun. I love working with these guys. We have serious, intense conversations about being here, working hard. One of the best things was when we pitched to the club taking on a second app, and they (the students) knew it would defocus them, and they pushed back. They showed confidence, vision. It was impressive."

Dedrick, who brings 27 years of experience in the business world, co-advises the club with Chris Winikka, a classroom teacher.

Winikka wrote the original Intel grant after waiting years for the right opportunity to arrive. The programming teacher's proposal got support from Dedrick, and they have been working together since.

Next year, the collective vision includes working on refining their Windows 8 app, looking at a phone and web app, and, at some future point, a Droid and Mac version.

The most exciting news for the club is that through connections and networks they have built in the business world and at conferences, they have clients for next year. The whole group got a light in their eyes and big grins as Chris Winikka noted, "Seed money!" There is no doubt this group is planning for the future, as any good business entrepreneurs should.

Glencoe

Feeder Group

FREE ORCHARDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Becky Brauer

Free Orchards' TAG program has showcased several interesting learning opportunities this spring. First, in late February, we were honored to have a visit from Lisa Ard, a local award-winning author. The students learned much about her love of writing and literature as she shared some tips about plot development and how she creates her own novels.

Throughout the month of April, students enjoyed weekly Wednesday visits from local poetry authors. With readings, stories, and discussion, students have gained insights into different poetic structures and poetic elements.

May features an assembly with Oregon's Poet Laureate, Paulann Petersen, and an invention workshop by the Evergreen Museum of Science and Aviation.

In May and June, a series of career presentations will be featured. Students will hear presentations from a nurse, a veterinarian, a marketing consultant, an engineer, and a financial consultant and have an opportunity to think about the many possibilities available in their own lives.

Grade level "lunch bunch" groups have begun. TAG students at each grade level meet twice per month. While eating lunch together, they can visit and get to know each other and enjoy time playing high-level strategy board games and card games. It has been wonderful for students to have this social time together while also practicing some fun critical thinking.

Many exciting things are happening for our TAG students!

JACKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: David Lee

At Jackson, we recognize making time for teachers to collaborate and grow professionally is a key component to a successful school. To accomplish this, we started a practice called "Instructional Rounds." Similar to the medical rounds model used by physicians, each month two grade levels and our principal target other Hillsboro schools and teachers to observe. Through this process, we see what works in schools, gather an understanding of high-quality instruction and document areas for improvement at Jackson.

This year, we have seen best practices in Kindergarten language acquisition, technology in the classroom (including interactive whiteboard lessons), special education instruction, engagement techniques, interactive writing and math, computerized instruction ideas, and much more. Our 6th grade team took a trip to Evergreen to see what ideas they could bring back to Jackson to help prepare them for middle school math. Our instructional rounds have been highly successful with great ideas from the exemplar classrooms now becoming realities at Jackson as well. Having an instructional rounds focus has provided us with learning tools for next year and beyond!

LINCOLN STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Sonta Thompson

Hillsboro School District Mariachi Band Una Voz (One Voice)



Lincoln Street Elementary is proud to host and boast about Una Voz, the District's mariachi band, which is open to all District students at no charge. Band members rehearse two times each week after school at Lincoln Street.

Mariachi is traditional Mexican folk music, which includes singing with instrumental accompaniment provided by trumpet, violin, guitarrón, guitar and vihuela.

The band was formed in 2011 as part of the District's outreach efforts, and seeks to promote cultural understanding, community unity, and music education.

When Dan Bosshardt, Lincoln Street music teacher and band director at both Lincoln Street and McKinney Elementary Schools, was approached to lead the band, he jumped at the opportunity, believing that music is often key to preserving cultures and connecting children to their family roots.

This year the band was featured on a "pulso h" segment on Univison TV at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2vCh1jOOt84 and has participated in numerous performances throughout the community. Michael and Andrea Guzman give of their time and talents as volunteers demonstrating the vihuela instrument, singing, and providing creative direction and support. The band will perform at some upcoming events including: Hillhi Spartquake, May 23, the Hillsboro School Board Meeting, May 28, and Hillsboro's main library grand opening, June 2.

W. VERNE MCKINNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Ricardo LeBlanc-Esparza



Students at McKinney Elementary have changed their reading goal to a higher target. They have adjusted their goal to "read to the moon!"

This goal is based on the desire to have all students read at or above their grade level prior to exiting McKinney Elementary.

The formula to track their progress is based on the students reading over 110,000,000 words. The math formula to measure this goal would be as follows: 110,000,000 words x 3.5 meters = landing on the moon! Students currently are at 63,478,195 words read according to the Reading Counts program, which tracks student reading progress.

This lofty goal probably won't be reached this year based on the number of days left in school. But tracking student progress will continue throughout the summer months and next school year. Once the goal has been reached, students will celebrate their success with some type of a "moon" celebration.

NORTH PLAINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Craig Harlow

Preparing for new standards

This spring, our staff is collaborating on a plan to implement the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for standards-based instruction with students next year. Even though the standards will not go into effect until the 2014-15 school year, we want our students ready. These standards are fundamental to each and every student's success and here's why:

- **The standards are the same wherever you go.** Common standards mean that students in Oregon are learning the same thing as students across the country. Students moving in or out of Oregon will have a smoother educational transition because learning goals will now be the same across states.
- **They're modeled on success.** The CCSS are aligned to international standards from the highest achieving countries. This means our students will be well-prepared to compete both nationally and internationally.
- **College and career-ready is the name of the game.** All students graduating college and career-ready is the goal of the CCSS. These standards are designed to prepare students for success in whatever they choose to do after graduation.

Appreciating our staff

Teachers have been an integral part of my life since I was five years old. Now, several years later, teachers continue to be an important part of my everyday life. I like to think of every staff member in our school as a teacher of children. The most important aspect of teaching for me is that personal connection they make with each child to encourage, guide, inspire, nurture and support. If you have a teacher or other school staff member who made you believe in yourself and the opportunity presents itself, please take a moment to let that person know you appreciate them. As I prepare to embark on my next journey as principal of Ash Creek Elementary School in Monmouth, I would like to thank all staff members at North Plains and West Union for the amazing work they do with students each and every day. It has been my honor and pleasure to work alongside you.

PATTERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Jonathan Pahukula

Patterson staff set a goal this year to INSPIRE students by providing learning opportunities that extended beyond the limits of the classroom walls. They hit a homerun in the form of guest speakers, service learning activities, field trips, and a new after-school program. A sincere thank you to our dedicated staff, parent volunteers, and community members who helped realize this goal and make a positive difference in the lives of children.

The new after school program, ACES, was developed around educational research that showed student achievement increased when students were involved in two to three co- or extra-curricular activities. The goal was to provide a diverse line-up of after-school clubs and activities, which would inspire students to participate.

The new club offerings: Yearbook, Oregon Battle of the Books, Math Olympiad, LEGO Robotics, and different arts and crafts, joined the traditional line up of choir, drama, chess, band, and homework clubs.

Student Voices was started with the goal of providing students with leadership opportunities by focusing on a project and working together to see it through to completion. This committee, charged with promoting reading across Patterson, outlined and promoted a school-wide poster contest. The ten winning posters were enlarged, framed, and, after a short reception, now hang proudly in our library, inspiring students to read.

Through ACES and Student Voices, the school was able to engage over seventy percent of the students in grades four through six, in at least one of those activities. Results would significantly increase if all sixth graders who perform a school service job each month and those who had fun with their families at the first ever Engineering Night were added.

The ability to move learning outside of the classroom was made easier with eight newly installed raised garden beds. Thank you to former Patterson student, Ryan Hall, who completed the garden as a part of his Eagle Scout program, and sixth grade teacher, Chris Sherwood, whose vision initiated the project. Sixth graders will be planting vegetable starts here in the next few weeks, and look forward to the garden providing families in the neighborhood with fresh produce over the summer.

EVERGREEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal: Rian Petrick

We have 807 special and unique students at Evergreen Middle School. Students have a wide range of talents, many of which aren't measured by test scores.

This was evident at the annual student/staff talent show where over 20 students performed to a full house of entertained guests. Singers, piano players, dancers, orators, rappers, violinists, unicyclists and others performed on stage for two hours.

Thank you to Mrs. Bywater and the Leadership students for assembling an engaging and fun evening!

Speaking of special talents, the Life Skills students, under the guidance of teacher Matt Nova, have been hard at work with two new learning endeavors. First is a project around conservation. Students are working in conjunction with the shop program to build a school garden.

Shop students will build several planter boxes for a vegetable garden. Students will plant and care for the vegetables while studying soil and plant life. All the products and tools for the garden program have been donated by local area businesses. Thank you to those that have contributed.

Second is a button production program where they have utilized an app to create popular buttons that students purchase at lunches. Some of the sayings are: "Hope," "Soar at me bro," "Altruism," and other positive messages. Students have been responsible for production, sales and accounting for their button program.

A favorite button made by the Life Skills students was a picture of our retiring Office Manager, Barbara Lane. Mrs. Lane has been the office manager at Evergreen for 18 years, and has worked with seven different principals during her tenure.

As we begin fourth quarter, we are excited to report that 53% of the eighth graders and 58% of the seventh graders qualified for the "3.0 Club" by achieving a 3.0 GPA or higher during the third quarter! This is a 6% increase overall from the previous quarter, equating into another 48 students who improved their grades over the past nine weeks. Way to go!

The eighth graders' middle school chapter is coming to a close and we look forward to recognizing them at our Eighth Grade Completion Assemblies. The assemblies will be held at 2 pm, in the Evergreen Gym, on Monday, June 10 (Pathfinder Team), and Tuesday, June 11 (Explorer Team). Parents and grandparents are encouraged to attend.

GLENCOE HIGH SCHOOL

Principal: Robert Macauley

Glencoe Shines in State and National Competitions

Glencoe High School's robotics team Shockwave won the Rookie All-Star Award at the FIRST Robotics Competition World Championship in St. Louis, Missouri on April 27. Competing with 400 of the best teams from around the world, Shockwave was judged as the best new team in its division and among the four best of over 300 rookie teams in the world.

Team Shockwave won the Autodesk Oregon Rookie All-Star Award in March, which included an invitation to compete at the World Championship.

The Rookie All-Star Award is the most prestigious recognition given to first-year teams. The award recognizes teams that fulfill FIRST Robotics standards for engineering excellence and community outreach.

Glencoe senior Maria Janczak was honored with the 2012-13 Siemens Award for Advanced Placement based on her excellence in AP exams in math and science. Only one female is chosen from each state and given a $2,000 scholarship with the award.

Maria was also named a commended student along with Christina Goodney in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Dante Johnson was awarded Outstanding Participant in the National Achievement Scholarship Program, scoring in the top 3% of Black Americans.

The Drama Program, under the leadership of Lori Dalipson, had a great showing at the 2013 State Theatre Conference, and will be sending 12 students to Lincoln, Nebraska, for the International Thespian Festival in June.



Team Shockwave shows off awards in the pit area at the FIRST Robotics Competition World Championships in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 27.

First Place in the Oregon Chapter Select One-Act Play competition were Brenden Utting, Bailey LuBean, Ashley Gaston, Jesse Donnelly, Reyna Cox, and Kaleb Bacchetti.

The state-winning technical team includes Amanda Kishlock, Melissa Hampton, Riley Gibson, Jesse Donnelly, Kassy Holub, and Sammy Sagar.

Congratulations to the Glencoe Speech and Debate team for their successes in the State Tournament, with awards and recognition earned by Olivia Hering, Jacob Pavlik, Brett Morgan, Hampus Hammarlund, Lorena Colcer, Anisha Datta, Jessica Flores, Tasha Lane, Ali Giza and Blanca Vasquez.

Glencoe now has five speech and debate students attending the National Tournament in Birmingham, Alabama—the most Glencoe has ever sent in one year! Only a few schools in the state have had this honor. Jacob Pavlik, Brett Morgan, Anisha Datta, Lorena Colcer, and Hampus Hammarlund will leave June 15. They have an opportunity to network with students from all over the nation and compete for over $200,000 in scholarship money.

Trebriel Larry has been selected to represent Glencoe in the 2013 Les Schwab Bowl. Congratulations to the Color Guard team who competed successfully in the National competition earlier this month in Ohio. Our Softball team is currently ranked first in state and getting stronger!

Hillsboro

Online Academy

Principal: Linda Harrington

Plans are well under way for the very first graduating class of Hillsboro Online Academy! Hillsboro Online Academy, a blended or hybrid online school, is the newest school in the Hillsboro School District and currently serves students in grades 7 through 12.

Graduation is set for June 4 at 7 pm in the Peter Boscow gymnasium on the corner of Third and Grant! Seventeen students are successfully graduating from the Academy. Way to go!

Plans are also in the works for the addition of grades four through six for the 2013-2014 school year. Parent input sessions are taking place and will continue throughout May and June, at which we hope to gather suggestions for the design of the elementary program and selection of online curriculum.

This spring, students are enjoying "Think Feed" every Wednesday - a program put on by teachers Tyler Phelps (English) and Sarah Coyle (Social Studies). Think Feed is an opportunity for students to come together and participate in fun enrichment activities, including videos, games, and discussions, in support of their regular course curriculum.

Full-time online curriculum for the school is provided by Florida Virtual Schools, through the State of Oregon Virtual School District. Hillsboro School District online teachers are onsite and available Monday through Thursday to help students as they progress through coursework.

Students may also participate in activities such as band and choir in their neighborhood school, as well as after-school sports and activities.

This new school is in response to a need demonstrated by our community in a survey in 2008. Enrollment for fall is currently taking place.

Drop by for a visit at 452 NE Third, contact us at 503-844-1050 or email harringl@hsd.k12.or.us. We look forward to sharing our new school with you.



District Updates

6-8 MATH ADOPTION UPDATE

After three years of professional development, research, planning, and processing, the District's Math Study Team is proud to move forward its recommendation to adopt the Core Connections materials published by College Preparatory Mathematics to support our vision of mathematics teaching and learning in grades 6-8 in the Hillsboro School District.

Supporting the Math Study Team in this process were elementary, middle and high school curriculum leaders, math coaches, and District directors. Feedback from the community was also used in making the final recommendation.

The Study Team has been committed to selecting a balanced program that supports students in learning math concepts and computational skills, and in applying them to solve mathematical problems. The team's diligence and commitment were evident throughout this process and they deserve high praise for the thoughtfulness and the quality of their work on behalf of the District.

In selecting the Core Connections materials the team cited the following strengths:

- Alignment to Common Core State Standards and mathematical practices.
- Support for the development of mathematical thinking for all students of all learning styles.
- The strong organization of both student and teacher materials.
- The quality of their professional development models and systems available.
- The quality of service and support.
- The technology component for students, parents and teachers.
- The quality of parent and family support materials.

Core Connections is a full grade 6 – Algebra 2 curriculum that offers a unique balance and blend of the tools, strategies, and materials to help students meet the Common Core State Standards. College Preparatory Mathematics began as a grant-funded mathematics project in 1989 to write textbooks to help students understand mathematics and support teachers who use these materials. CPM is now a non-profit educational consortium managed and staffed by middle school and high school teachers that offers a complete mathematics program for grades six through 12 (Calculus).

A Core Connections classroom features a combination of whole-group, small-group, and independent activities. By encouraging students to explore, test, and justify their reasoning, the curriculum facilitates the development of mathematical thinking for students of all learning styles. Written by teachers, Core Connections reflects an intimate understanding of the classroom environment. Designed for use in diverse settings, the curriculum provides multiple access points allowing teachers to adapt to the needs, strengths, and interests of individual students.

REEDVILLE CULTIVATING PARTNERSHIPS FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

In the 2013-14 school year, Reedville Elementary School will embark on an ambitious endeavor to become a Leadership and Learning Academy for Dual Language and integrated language and content instruction. They will accomplish this by establishing partnerships with universities, industry leaders, and the community.

With a projected 110 students in grades K-2 participating in the Dual Language program this fall, there will be plenty of opportunities for demonstrating effective bilingual teaching strategies through classroom 'learning labs.' Classroom teachers will have access to professors from the University of Colorado to help them develop and deliver effective lessons, as well as to collaborate with them in professional learning communities. Fellow teachers from other District schools, along with those still in teaching programs at Western Oregon University, will collaborate, team teach and provide feedback to learn in a similar fashion.

Western Oregon will also support the school's extended day program for students and assist in providing additional professional development for Reedville and other District teachers.

Some staff will be receiving training called "No Excuses University," which focuses on creating a culture of universal achievement where teachers and administrators believe that every child can be academically proficient and deserves to be prepared to attend college, and where educators work every day to make that belief a reality. Visit http://turnaroundschools.com for more information.

A partnership with Intel will provide students with access to STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) activities, as well as volunteers to support teachers and students and to complete needed projects at the school.

Parent involvement will be key to the effort. Reedville will provide multiple opportunities for parents and other community members to participate in this exciting collaboration through evening events where students demonstrate their learning, or work with adults to experience new things together.

Additional information will be provided throughout the summer and fall. If you have questions or want to know how you can get involved, please contact Principal Robin Farup-Romero at 503-844-1570 or farupror@hsd.k12.or.us.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2013!

Our seniors are in the midst of prom season, AP and IB testing, and wrapping up the final projects of their high school careers. They are preparing for life beyond high school—for two- and four-year colleges, trade schools, the military, and the workforce. All the effort and learning of the past thirteen years has brought them to this place. They are hopeful, excited, and surely a bit nervous. All of them deserve our sincerest congratulations for reaching perhaps the most significant milestone of their young lives.

As a school system and community, we wrap our arms around you, Class of 2013, to let you know how proud we are of all you've accomplished and pledge our moral support through the next phases of your journey. You are our future and we wish you every success and happiness!

To our highest achievers—our valedictorians and salutatorians—we offer special accolades. The dedication, commitment, and long hours of studying it takes to maintain a perfect or near-perfect grade point average is no small feat!

Century High School
- **Valedictorians:** Jade Bawcom, Nicholas Carleson, Breanna Durfee, Kimberlee Larsen, Calais Loftus, Kayla Marsh
- **Salutatorians:** Jasmine Maddox, Austin Thimjon, Emily Ellis

Glencoe High School
- **Valedictorians:** Crosby Armstrong, Rachel Carbine, Ziming Dong, Taylor Frank, Noelani Gonzales, Maria Janczak, Jacob Nissinen, Ryan Peacock, Collin Ruark, Skyler Van Orman
- **Salutatorians:** Michelle Benedict, Christina Goodey, Steven Hoaglin, Jacob Pavlik, Samantha Roof, Joshua Vandehey

Hillsboro High School
- **Valedictorians:** Jeb English, Ariel Miller, Abraham Rickett, Haley Shelton, Brittany Smith, Justin Tran
- **Salutatorian:** Khiem Lam

Liberty High School
- **Valedictorians:** Jordyn Clarke, Cassandra Clift, Erica Gaona-Lopez, Sandra (Ely) Guerrero Vazquez, Minji Ha, Dorian Kershaw, Hannah Langbehn, Molly McGuckin, Savannah Tran
- **Salutatorians:** Jason Sandwisch, Elise Thompson, Kristofer Bolinger, Ashley Chon, Anamaria Schier

Hillsboro Online
- **Valedictorian:** Caroline Bingner











DISTRICT PARTICPATES IN LATINO CULTURAL FESTIVAL

The Hillsboro Latino Cultural Festival highlights the rich multicultural, multilingual assets of the Hillsboro community. Eight schools in Hillsboro offer Spanish/English Dual Language Programs. Students, families, and staff marched in the parade on April 21 and shared information in a booth during the festival. Thanks to the Hillsboro community for your interest and support.

Hillsboro 2020

HILLSBORO GROWING TOGETHER: HILLSBORO 2020 VISION TOWN HALL JUNE 11

Fruits and vegetables aren't the only thing growing at this year's opening of the Tuesday Marketplace. Join us on June 11, from 5 – 8:30 pm, for the annual Hillsboro 2020 Vision Town Hall: Hillsboro Growing Together.

The Civic Center Plaza will be filled with interactive displays, kids' activities, live music, fun giveaways, lots of information about our great community, and surprise entertainment.

Stop by the Hillsboro 2020 booth to pick up a "passport" then visit the community partners' booths to learn how they work toward fulfilling the community vision and get your passport stamped.

The first 150 people to complete their passport and answer a survey question will receive a free insulated, reusable bag.

A completed passport also enters you into the raffle drawing where you can win Hillsboro Hops tickets, gift certificates for the Walters Cultural Arts Center, SHARC (Shute Park Aquatic & Recreation Center), Washington County Museum, and more!

We are growing great things in Hillsboro!

STAY BUSY THIS SUMMER WITH HILLSBORO PARKS & RECREATION

Rest while you can because Hillsboro Parks and Recreation is going to keep you busy all summer long! Favorite programs like The Outpost and Sizzling Summer Day Camp are back,but so too are some exciting new opportunities, like a 4-on-4 men's outdoor basketball league, and 3-on-3 boys and girls youth basketball tournaments.

Maybe sports aren't your thing – how about listening to some relaxing music on a clear summer evening? In Hillsboro there's something for everyone. After more than 30 amazing years, Hillsboro Cultural Arts passed their signature event, Showtime at Shute, to Hillsboro Parks and Recreation. This outdoor summer concert series will continue to provide free, family-friendly entertainment at historic Shute Park, bringing neighbors together and contributing to the quality of life and pride in Hillsboro. And, of course, at 13 acres, the park has plenty of space for concert-goers to spread a blanket and enjoy the music.

If cooling off on a hot day is on your list of things to do this summer, you don't need to head to the beach. Shute Park Aquatic & Recreation Center offers swim lessons for all ages and abilities along with recreational swim times.

You'll also find splash pads for kid and adult fun at our Fifty-Third Avenue and Magnolia Parks, and, most recently, at Walnut Street Park.

Whatever your pleasure, you're sure to find a program, event or activity suited to you with Hillsboro Parks and Recreation. All these things and more can be found in the Activities Guide, which is posted online (www.hillsboro-oregon.gov/ParksRec). Look for a paper copy to come home with your Hillsboro elementary school children in early May or pick one up at any of our facilities. See you this summer!

HILLSBORO FARMERS' MARKETS COMING TO A NEIGHBORHOOD NEAR YOU



Several Farmers' Markets are up and running in Hillsboro, featuring approximately 50 farms, nurseries, bakeries, artisans, and hot food vendors. Information booths are available to provide a calendar of different activities and children's events.

A tradition in Hillsboro for 31 years, the Downtown Hillsboro Saturday Farmers' Market, hosting over 100 vendors, is a seasonal open-air market featuring fresh local agricultural crops, food and garden products, culinary arts and crafts, live music and educational information.

At the Orenco Station Market you won't have any trouble finding delicious spring produce, but if you're not sure what to do with it, stop by the Market Kitchen tent sponsored by Kitchen Kaboodle, where the market chef will demonstrate a delicious recipe.

It's not too late to start your summer garden, and the Farmers' Markets have great selections of plant starts from local nurseries.

Downtown Hillsboro Market (Saturdays, 9 am-1:30 pm, May, September, October, and 8 am-1:30 pm, June-August)
Orenco Station Market (Sundays, 10 am-2 pm, May 5 – October 27)
Tuality Hospital Market (Thursdays, 11 am-1:30 pm, July 11 – August 22)
Tanasbourne Market (Wednesdays, 4 pm-7:30 pm, June 5 – August 28)

For more information, visit www.hillsboromarkets.org or contact Erin Greene at erin@hillsboromarkets.org.

Hillsboro Schools FOUNDATION

HILLSBORO SCHOOLS FOUNDATION HOLDS FINAL TONY'S TOURY GOLF EVENT

Spring is a time for cleaning out and revitalization! In that spirit, the Hillsboro Schools Foundation has been taking on strategic planning, goal setting, and looking to the future.

HSF was created in 2000 to fund innovative grants—allowing teachers with great ideas but no budget to carry out great programs for students. Our mission at the time was "Growing the future by raising private funds to enhance public education for our children." Indeed, over the past 12 years, with your help, we have been able to give back over $2.7 million to the District in the form of grants, direct donations to student clubs, and both in- and after-school programs. Later this month, we will be handing out grants for the 2013-14 school year totaling more than $70,000.

But as we tackled strategic planning, we realized that our mission statement could use an update. It is now "Cultivate community engagement and funding to inspire excellence in Hillsboro Schools." This is more closely aligned with the District's mission statement and focuses on engagement, which is so important to broadening awareness of HSF and increasing our collective ability to positively impact students.

Our springtime community event has, for several years, been the Tony's Tourney Golf Event. Our Board has decided that we may reach more people with a big family-oriented event, so that is on the horizon for fall 2014. In the meantime, we will be holding our final Tony's Tournament on Tuesday, June 25—so please plan to join us! The event will take place at The Reserve Vineyards & Golf Club with a golf scramble beginning at 1:30pm and a barbecue dinner following. If you aren't a golfer yourself, please consider joining us for dinner or walking along the course following some of our area high school players who will duke it out for the top trophy!

We appreciate your support and help in inspiring excellence in Hillsboro Schools!



HILLSBORO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE DISTINGUISHED YOUTH

The Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that Noelani "Nui" Gonzales, senior at Glencoe High School, is the recipient of this year's Distinguished Youth Award for 2013. This award recognizes outstanding achievements by a student in academics, activities and leadership in the community.

Gonzales is currently ASB President at Glencoe, and is on track to graduate with a 4.0. In addition, she is president of her school's Key Club, actively donates countless hours to the community, and has raised thousands of dollars for various charities.

She was one out of four students selected from the state as a finalist for the 2012 Prudential Spirit of Community Award, and was chosen to be a member of the Hillsboro Youth Advisory Council.

"Noelani is a Renaissance woman," school counselor Brooke Nova said. "She has accomplishments ranging from her independent photography business, varsity athlete in several sports, and awards for her vocal abilities." Gonzales plans to attend the University of Oregon in the fall, with a double major in Nutrition and Communications.

The Annual Awards Celebration is Thursday, May 23, from 5:30-9 pm, at the Tuality Health Education Center. The event features a cocktail reception, gourmet dinner, talented local high school entertainment, and the much anticipated awards ceremony, featuring KGW reporter Cathy Marshall as the emcee. Tickets are $65 per person. Call 503-648-1102 to make your reservation and to get more information. Visit www.hillchamber.org/annualawards for more details.

Our Community Partners

Hilhi Feeder Group

BROOKWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Principal: Ken McCoy

Spring, and the end of another school year, can be an exciting, anxious time for students and adults alike. With culminating projects, the change in weather, field day, music concerts, field trips, special events and the first steps toward transitioning to a new grade, spring is also a very busy time of year.

Brookwood is fortunate to have a dedicated staff that puts forth constant effort and long hours to make the school a great place for kids. They are working harder than ever, yet remain committed to making our mission this year – that "Every Student Matters Every Day" – ring true for students.

As we work to finish the 2012-2013 year strong, teaching staff is also beginning the move to a significant change in education, the Common Core State Standards, and the shifts in teaching that come with those standards. We are also continuing our efforts, started this year, toward a clear plan for continuous school improvement as an Oregon Focus School.

With all of the change happening at Brookwood, our staff is to be commended.

Students are also working hard to exceed new expectations, and to take on new academic demands. We believe that students are exceptional and capable of doing great things when they give their best.

As Brookwood continues to work toward creating and maintaining high levels of Passionate Purpose, Energizing Engagement and Real-Life Rigor, we expect to find, as a result, each adult and student invested in our efforts, knowing that doing our absolute best really does matter – and that's exciting.

FARMINGTON VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Principal: Roger Will

Farmington View Elementary School students, in partnership with Jackson Bottom Wetlands, are working to restore the habitat for the northern red-legged frog.

The restoration process started with the removal of invasive reed canary grass, which poses a threat to many wetland ecosystems. This grass has little value, few animals eat it, and it provides no shelter to waterfowl or small animals.

After removing the canary grass, Farmington View students planted native trees and shrubs that provide the natural habitat for the northern red-legged frog.

The restoration work is paying off. The number of egg masses grew from a low of 7 in 2007 to 200 this year.

"These kids are a joy for me to work with," said Sarah Pinnock, education specialist at Jackson Bottom Wetlands. "The cool thing about these kids is they are experiencing the natural world and applying it to their lives."

"I learned that Farmington View really helped. It meant a lot to me that we are so young and made a real impact on the environment," said Rebecca Hoover, fifth grader.

Student Harold Fetscher noted, "I just can't believe that we've gone down there since kindergarten. The frogs were getting close to endangered. We really helped the population count."

Jackson Bottom recognized the students of Farmington View by renaming the restored area Bobcat Marsh, after the school's mascot.



Farmington View students have made great progress restoring habitat for the northern red-legged frog.

GRONER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Principal: Scott Schinderle

It's been a busy year at Groner Elementary! Collaboration has been a common theme this year. The staff continues to engage in meaningful dialogue every Wednesday after school (during principal- or teacher-directed Academic Seminar time).

Specifically, work has started on Common Core State Standards (CCSS). During the month of April, teachers at Groner and Farmington View elementary schools joined forces to collaborate about the CCSS in grade level teams.

The CCSS are reforming K-12 curriculum across the nation; the standards are already affecting what is published, mandated, and tested in schools.

The CCSS are clear that the responsibility for interpreting and implementing these expectations rests on the shoulders of teachers and principals.

The standards leave room for teachers, curriculum developers, and states to determine how those goals should be reached and what additional topics should be addressed.

During the 2013-14 school year, work will continue toward the implementation of the CCSS to prepare for the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC), which will replace the current statewide assessment system (Oregon Assessment of Knowledge and Skills/OAKS) during the 2014-15 school year.

It is imperative that both District staff and neighboring schools continue their collaborative efforts.

W. L. HENRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Principal: Alison Paulus

W.L. Henry had another successful family event! Performance Night on Thursday, April 4, was an opportunity for students to show off their talents. We enjoyed performances by the band, choir, Ballet Folklórico group, a first grade classroom, a sixth grade dance group, and a flash mob by the WHOLE SCHOOL.

The event was held in the South Meadows Middle School Auditorium so that performers could have a stage and so the audience of over 200 proud parents, families, and staff members could fit and see.

The night opened with the sixth grade band, led by Barbara Edwards. The band is a dedicated performance group that practices at 7 am, twice a week. They played songs as a group and had solos and duets as well.

The Ballet Folklórico dancing group boasts over 50 students in third through sixth grades and is directed by Manuel Ramos. They performed dances showcasing different regions in Mexico.

The choir sang and rapped under the orchestration of Betty Adams. A first grade classroom, the 'Gatos Salvajes,' led by teacher Ms. Anker-Lagos, sang a math rap, and Mrs. Castillo rocked the floor with an all-school Dynamite Flash Dance that she had taught in all her P.E. classes. The show concluded with a sixth grade Dance Group led by Ms. Jennifer Almquist.

"We had another proud moment for our students, families, and staff tonight, we sure do have some impressive, talented, beautiful students that have a lot to offer the world," Principal Alison Paulus said in a message later that evening to her staff.

Go Wildcats!! Vivan los Wildcats!

MINTER BRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Principal: Mary Mendez

Minter Bridge is teaching its students the importance of becoming multicultural members of the community.

"I think my kids not only are more aware that people are different from them, but they are also excited to learn about and explore those differences," explains Jami Parsons, parent of a second and fourth grader.

One of the goals of the program at is to provide a multicultural education for students. This is accomplished through whole school activities, such as Multicultural Night, and also at the individual classroom level, where teachers specifically provide opportunities to compare and contrast different cultures in a meaningful way.

As Marika Hartfeil's second grade Dual Language classroom prepared for Multicultural Night, they spent a month learning about the culture of Germany. They sang songs in German, learned about the history, geography, food, clothing and even how to say the colors in German.

Ms. Hartfeil was used to observing how her students made connections between Spanish and English words, but was surprised when one student made a connection between the cognates, "rojo" and "rot" (red in Spanish and German, respectively).

She explained that an important part of learning about various cultures is to be able to compare and contrast the similarities and differences in several languages.

Minter Bridge teachers also make connections to different cultures throughout the year by exposing students to a variety of books from various countries. This year, we recently added more authentic literature to our library.

In the third grade Dual Language classroom, students compared and contrasted Día de Los Muertos in Mexico and Guatemala to Halloween in the United States, and ended up doing the same with a similar celebration from Tanzania, where one of the students was born. This activity spurred interest in learning more about Tanzania and the languages spoken there, and students soon started learning a song in Swahili. They were intrigued about the similar strategies used to read Swahili and Spanish.

"Early exposure to something different allows for kids to not be afraid of it," explains Michele Barber, parent of a second and fifth grader. "Really it's the makeup of the classroom, and the fact that the many different cultures represented in any one classroom are discussed."



Minter Bridge students, staff, and community members enjoyed Multicultural Night this spring.

Martha Rodriguez´s fifth grade Dual Language students have recently received letters from their pen pals in Costa Rica.

"Not only is it an opportunity to practice their Spanish and English writing skills, it also invites them to compare what kids wrote about and how that is different and similar to their lives here in Oregon," says Rodriguez.

The students also plan to meet their new Costa Rican friends via skype to experience the culture up close.

ROSEDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Principal: Greg Zinn

Life at Rosedale is definitely moving in the right direction! Students are smiling and outstanding learning is taking place as the result of the talented and dedicated teaching staff.

School climate is a major priority at the school and efforts in implementing Positive Behavior and Intervention Systems are definitely paying off. Students continue to love the monthly PBIS assemblies.

We are pleased to announce that Rosedale received its first ENERGY STAR Award for outstanding energy efficiency over the past year. Students and staff have been working hard to earn this award.

Rosedale students have started visiting the Hubble Space Telescope Exhibition currently on display at the Washington County Museum. This opportunity is made possible by funds provided by the Rosedale Parent Group. This is a great experience for students!

The second round of after-school programs for students in grades 2-6 has started. Participating students are really enjoying a variety of activities. This spring we are offering Homework Club, Math Club, Art Club, Garden Club, Running Club, and Yoga Club.

Currently, a team of Rosedale staff is planning a huge cultural event scheduled for later this spring. We are excited about this activity and know students and parents will really enjoy participating. Stay tuned for more information!

WITCH HAZEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Principal: Grant Corliss

This year, Witch Hazel successfully implemented its first Dual Language program in a self-contained kindergarten classroom. It is a 50/50 two-way immersion model where 30 students are taught fifty percent of the time in English and fifty percent in Spanish. The goal is for students to become bilingual, biliterate and bicultural by reaching or surpassing grade level benchmarks throughout their K-6 experience.

Students show a tremendous amount of pride when speaking in either language. They see that speaking in both languages is the norm and equally appreciated.

We have also seen an increase in parental involvement. Both linguistic backgrounds have something to contribute and support. Families learn alongside their students and are able to continue the work at home.

Due to parent demand, the Dual Language program will be expanded next year to two kindergarten classrooms and two first grade classrooms. The Dual Language team is already working hard to plan its implementation. Go team!

Our staff is committed to providing a high quality education to all students. Language is one of the focal points of instruction. Facilitating academic conversations no matter the grade level is built into lesson plans.

A high level of rigor in classroom conversations is imperative. Grade level teams are working on integrated units of study where language, both oral and written along with differentiation, is outlined. We work to ensure that language drives the instruction and is integrated, where the function of the language is used in all subject areas.

SOUTH MEADOWS MIDDLE SCHOOL
Interim Principal: Carlos Perez

Students and staff at South Meadows are busy this spring with many activities, including the recognition of several deserving Optimist award winners, band concerts, college and career day, and a Civil War re-enactment.

Students were treated to College and Career Day on Thursday, April 11. Approximately 30 professionals representing law enforcement, culinary, medical, science, arts, education, business and other professions, along with 30 representatives from Pacific University, joined individual classes to explain their careers and the rewards associated with them.

The presenters discussed what a typical day might look like and the efforts and education it took to achieve their status. Students asked good questions, built knowledge, and learned about careers that just may interest them in the future. A big thank you to Jami Rider for organizing this event and to our business professionals for taking so much time for our students.

Optimist awards are given by the Hillsboro Optimist Club, which is a community organization dedicated to bringing out the best in kids. Four eighth grade students received recognition this year.

Michaela Truesdale earned the award by volunteering for everything she can, both inside and outside of school. She is compassionate and makes positive connections with peers.

Marlene Vera received the award because she makes time for everyone and still focuses on her own academic progress. She has worked with students in the special education Life Skills classroom and plans to create a PowerPoint advisory lesson showing life skills students as "people first." Marlene has a genuine interest in the state of the world and how she can contribute to make it better.

Ramon Mercado has become a leader in the classroom this year and was awarded the Optimist honor for being considerate, for his sportsmanship, and for mentoring other students.

Kennedy Pickens was selected for the award by being respectful and hardworking. He is one student who can be counted on by teachers and students alike. He encourages other students to do the right thing when poor choices might otherwise be made.

A staff member also earned the Optimist award this school year. Steve Hillis, a social studies teacher with Hillsboro School District since 2006, is one of those teachers who is found in the halls talking to students every morning before the bell, and he spends his lunch getting students involved in activities. He is eager and enthusiastic to step up and help with whatever needs to be done and is at every school-related event! He shows all the students that he cares and makes himself available and always with a kind word. Steve truly goes above and beyond for students.

HILLSBORO HIGH SCHOOL
Principal: Arturo Lomeli

Hilhi Celebrates Student Success

This semester at Hillsboro High School there has been a buzz in the air. At the end of January, large posters started showing up on the walls with the message: "It's Coming…"

But what was coming? Students would ask teachers and administrators and receive only a smile or a shrug in return. Then, on February 22, "it" came.

Counselors, teachers, and administrators went room to room around the school collecting students and bringing them to the Hilhi auditorium for the "It's Coming" event. The halls hummed with excitement, confusion, and anticipation.

The event, led by new principal Arturo Lomeli and organized by a committee of counselors and teachers, was a surprise to the students involved. Students with a G.P.A. of 3.5 or higher, as well as those who had shown consistent improvement, were recognized for their accomplishments.

Every student received a goody bag with a T-shirt designed by graphic art teacher Andrea Brock, candy, popcorn, and even fake mustaches. Each honoree also received a raffle ticket entering them into a drawing for prizes, including Hilhi Spartan sports gear and gift cards. The grand prize winner took home a new iPad.

In total, the event recognized nearly 300 students for their dedication to academic success and improvement.

Following the raffle, students were able to spend their morning engaging in a variety of activities, including watching a movie and playing games.

Hilhi plans to host similar events in the future to recognize its amazing student body!

Miller Education Center (MEC)

MEC MIDDLE SCHOOL (6-8)
MEC HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)
MEC OPTIONS
Principal: Stan Esselstrom

Miller Education After-School Healthy Choices Program

Healthy eating, active living, positive emotional health, avoidance of alcohol and drug use are just a few of the topics covered at the 9/12 Miller Education Center Healthy Choices Program. MEC teacher Therese Rice joins the Multicultural Integrated Kidney Education (MIKE) Program staff to teach students how to live healthy lifestyles, prevent chronic disease, make personal commitments and set goals. Field trips to OHSU help students understand the role that kidneys have in a healthy lifestyle. At the end of the 18-week program, students present what they've learned to the MEC student body.

Liberty Feeder Group

EASTWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Kona Williams

Eastwood Elementary School was looking to the future when the decision was made to add a Dual Language program. Research shows that this program has a positive effect on cognitive growth and supports high academic achievement, while providing the most effective way for students to acquire a second language.

Students in Eastwood's Dual Language program will head to middle school as bilingual, biliterate and bicultural adolescents. When parents were asked "Why Dual Language?", they responded with a variety of reasons. Eastwood kindergarten parent Maria replied, "I feel closer to my relatives in Peru and feel the loss of culture and language since I didn't learn Spanish at home." She explained how she had to learn Spanish later in life and isn't as fluent as she would like to be.

"I want my son to be able to communicate with my family," Maria said. When asked how her son is doing, she described how proud he feels learning two languages, and how it's built his self-esteem and confidence.

Maria feels the program is a "great opportunity to learn from others and their culture."

For Deborah, it was a harder decision to put her granddaughter into the program.

"I admit I was hesitant at first," Deborah said. "We really wanted afternoon kindergarten but didn't know very much about the Dual Language program."

Like many parents, there is always a fear of having their child fall behind. But now, Deborah is very happy with the decision.



Eastwood's first grade Dual Language students celebrate learning at OMSI.

"It turned out to be a good choice for her. It's more challenging but already she's speaking and singing in Spanish at home." Best of all, Deborah adds, "She loves school!"

Natalia decided to put her daughter in the Dual Language program because she didn't want her to lose her first language, since they only speak Spanish at home. She said (translated), "The Dual Language program is beneficial to both native English and Spanish speakers because the children get to keep their native language while adding a second language."

She is very excited that her daughter will have more opportunities since she'll speak both English and Spanish. When asked how she's doing, Natalia said that her daughter has really grown in her verbalization skills in both languages.

Eastwood allows students to enter into the program up until second grade on an individual basis. Christy decided that the program would be a good fit for her first grade son after she learned more about the focus and benefits of Dual Language.

"In the multicultural society we live in, it's such a great benefit to be able to speak another language," she said. I feel that it's an advantage for him to learn a new language at his age. All the research says that it's so much easier to learn now rather than later."

When asked how he's doing, she said, "It was an adjustment in the beginning, but for the most part it's actually been an easy transition to Dual Language. He's learning Spanish and picking things up quickly. Overall, it's been a challenging but positive experience."

If you have questions or are interested in learning more about Eastwood's Dual Language program, please contact the school at 503-844-1725.

LENOX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: John Matsuo

The Lenox Elementary School Science Fair brought smiles to 500 parents and students with something magical and inspiring for scientists of all ages. First up were Emergency Medical Technicians and firemen with their vehicles. Firemen from Washington County District #2 displayed fire science games and a colorful balloon arch sponsored by District science partner Synopsys. Inside the gym were 220 science displays from our junior scientists grades K-6, and community partner displays showing hands only CPR from Metro West Ambulance, and optical illusions, a flight simulator, space suits, and a paper rocket launching system from Evergreen Aviation.

Through the primary hall, students were treated to exhibits from the Rice Museum, Your World Rocks, Willamette Dental, Umpqua Bank, TV River Rangers/Clean Water Services, Metro Recycling, Master Gardeners and Hart's Reptiles. Students took home rock samples, brushed giant teeth with decay problems, and turned compost in the worm bins. Viewing snakes and lizards, petting tortoises and a baby alligator brought smiles to all. In the cafeteria were hands-on games and activities brought to us by OMSI. Parents tried their luck at unlocking the mystery of each challenge. OMSI staff performed multiple scientific experiments throughout the evening.



Mooberry Elementary School students, parents, and community members dig in to beautify their school!

Finally, the music room became the place where science got messy. The Booster Club created a project to explore Flubber, a rubbery slime, and Oobleck, a cornflour and water mixture named after a substance from a Dr. Seuss tale. The support of the Booster Club and outstanding leadership of Chairperson Cara Miller made the evening a huge success. Besides the amazing science, she was able to pull together a volunteer crew of over 50, including Evergreen Middle school and Liberty High School students, Kohls Cares, and our amazing parents and community.

MOOBERRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Brian Haats

Mooberry Elementary School students will Realize Academics In Nature in the new Mooberry R.A.I.N. Garden, built this year with a generous grant from the Hillsboro Schools Foundation and sponsorship by New Seasons Market of Orenco.

The seed was planted in the fall of 2011 when ESL staff members shared their dream of creating a beautiful garden from an unsightly area of dry grass outside their classroom.

Once they decided to write a proposal for grant funds to build the garden, word got out and support came flooding in. This is often the case at Mooberry, where the staff is unified and collaborative and parents are enthusiastic and involved.

The community rallied together to build the garden with local Boy Scouts and church groups participating in work projects. The WatchDOGS (Dads of Great Students) built garden boxes and local businesses donated supplies.

Finally, in the fall of 2012, students planted 770 spring-flowering bulbs in the 5500 sq. ft. garden. Today, the display of colorful flowers is breathtaking.

Soon, vegetables will flourish, planted alongside the still-flowing tulips, and the Mooberry R.A.I.N. Garden will transition into a place for families to meet over the summer—weeding, watering, and harvesting produce they can take home.

In the fall, students can expect to find cherry tomatoes on the salad bar in the cafeteria, started from seed in their own classrooms. And first graders will harvest the pumpkins they planted as kindergarteners.

Teachers are cultivating rich and relevant lessons, taught across subjects in the garden, and students are becoming even more enthusiastic about school. In the unique, hands on laboratory of a garden, learning is literally coming to life for students at Mooberry!

ORENCO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Interim Principal: Mike Strande

Orenco has been busy with many exciting events the past few months.

In February, first graders did an amazing job showcasing their talents during a penguin unit, entertaining staff and parents with an afternoon of song and dance. And the Booster Club held an 80's-themed dance! Parents and students had fun dressing up in 80's attire. It was a great night with music and dance for the whole family.

In celebrating Dr. Seuss' birthday in March, we held the annual "I Love a Book Parade." Each class created a float depicting their favorite book. Over 20 floats were included in the parade. What a great way to celebrate reading!

Second grade entertained us with an assembly on habitats. Each student got to explore different regions and locations with song.

Students redeemed the "Splash Cash" they earned through Accelerated Reader for over $7800 in prizes!

The new yearbook cover winner was announced for the 2013-2014 year. Congratulations to Kelly Xu for her amazing design.

On April 8, Orenco was the beneficiary of a fundraiser at McMenamin's. A portion of their profits for the evening was donated to the school—over $4,000 was raised! Many thanks to McMenamins!

Other spring events included our first Jog-a-Thon on May 3. Fun and exciting prizes were donated from various merchants in the community - thank you very much for your contributions!

The annual limbo contest was held on May 9 at 1:15 pm. Students enjoyed the great music and marveled at how low the pole goes!

On May 13, the staff recognized the many hours our volunteers contribute to the school with special goodies throughout the week.

May 17 was be our fifth grade assembly featuring "Things to do Over the Summer".

May 30 will be Orenco's open house, from 6:00-7:30 pm. This is a time when students can show off their work to parents.

May 31 is our Spirit/Tropical Island Day. This is one of the students' favorite spirit days. Sun glasses, shorts, Hawaiian shirts, etc., are displayed around the school.

June 6 will be Field Day at Orenco.

June 7 is the ever-popular Variety Show. Students, staff and parents get to enjoy the many talents present at Orenco.

June 12 will be the sixth grade BBQ and grade level move-up. Sixth graders get to enjoy a great BBQ and dance to celebrate their transition to middle school.

Finally, on June 13, the sixth grade celebration will occur at 9:30 am, and students will be off to enjoy another summer!

QUATAMA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Janis Hill

The spring happenings at Quatama are all about partnerships and community involvement in the school!

The first annual "STEAM Fair, More than a Science Fair" was held on April 18. The Science-o-Rama was in the gym, complete with a balloon arch and other support from Synopsys.

The Right Brain Initiative manned a button-making station in the library. A donated display screen from Planar showed photos of students working, as well as the agenda for the evening, thanks to technical help and a special media player from EcoDigital Media.

Sharon Angal, our STEM TOSA, coordinated much of the event, adding engineering challenges for the families and supporting teachers with their projects. Music teacher Carissa Martus created a video complete with music clips from all classes. Classrooms hosted an open house and sixth graders planted starts in class pots they created with an artist. There was a lot to see and do for all of the families.

The very next week, the Intel and Portland Metro STEM Partnership "STEMposium" was hosted at Quatama, with business and education partners having the opportunity to connect with all of the STEM schools.

Students and staff had a fairly normal day of school, while 200+ visitors occupied the gym and non-classroom hallways. The highlight of the event was the STEM song (based on "YMCA") presented by fourth and fifth grade students under the direction of John Allen, fourth grade teacher and member of our STEAM design team.

Megan Chase, our AmeriCorps member who is finishing up her second and last year at Quatama, has started the Spring Garden Club which will be planting the starts that classrooms have been growing, with seeds and materials donated by Portland Nursery.

Home Depot volunteers helped prepare the garden for spring planting, and also added butterfly-attracting plants to the butterfly garden.

The worm composting boxes in some of our classrooms will be harvested for addition to the garden soil.

Kindergarten will be the last class to work with an artist as part of a STEAM unit. The art form will be printmaking, with Caitlin Shelman from the Right Brain Initiative, and the science will be life science (frogs), as a culmination of a year-long study of the outdoor spaces and gardens at Quatama.

We thank and appreciate all of our partners.

WEST UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Craig Harlow

This spring, our staff is collaborating on a plan to implement the Common Core State Standards (CCSS) for standards-based instruction with students next year. Even though the standards will not go into effect until the 2014-15 school year, we want our students ready. These standards are fundamental to each and every student's success and here's why:

- **The standards are the same wherever you go.** Common standards mean that students in Oregon are learning the same thing as students across the country. Students moving in or out of Oregon will have a smoother educational transition because learning goals will now be the same across states.
- **They're modeled on success.** The CCSS are aligned to international standards from the highest achieving countries. This means our students will be well-prepared to compete both nationally and internationally.
- **College and career ready is the name of the game.** All students graduating college and career-ready is the goal of the CCSS. These standards are designed to prepare students for success in whatever they choose to do after graduation.

Teachers have been an integral part of my life since I was five years old. Now, several years later, teachers continue to be an important part of my everyday life. I like to think of every staff member in our school as a teacher of children. The most important aspect of teaching for me is that personal connection they make with each child to encourage, guide, inspire, nurture and support. If you have a teacher or other school staff member who made you believe in yourself and the opportunity presents itself, please take a moment to let that person know you appreciate them. As I prepare to embark on my next journey as principal of Ash Creek Elementary School in Monmouth, I would like to thank all staff members at North Plains and West Union for the amazing work they do with students each and every day. It has been my honor and pleasure to work alongside you.

POYNTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal: Greg Timmons

By Eighth Grader Alexandria Fuller

J.W. Poynter Middle School's Green Team is made up of custodian John Sarrazian and many students who help out at every lunch. The school recycles a ton of things like paper, cardboard, batteries, printer cartridges, milk containers, chip bags, Capri Sun juice pouches, fruit containers, glass, aluminum, and leftover food scraps.

Poynter's main goal was to eliminate waste and reduce their trash can sizes to help save money. They reduced their trash can size from a four-yard to a three-yard container.

The District spends a lot of money each year on schools' waste disposal. In an interview with John Sarrazian, he talked about how much money Poynter saves each year by using the new recycling system. Poynter saves the District money that can go toward helping out schools all over the District, or toward other purposes.

Poynter takes pride in how useful the recycling system is, and enjoys watching the students get involved and volunteer for the recycling system. It has helped students learn how to properly recycle, and how to usefully eliminate waste products.

Some students help guide other students, and show them how the system works. Some sort through empty potato chip bags and others help re-arrange these items, so these things will be recycled correctly. Poynter students show great pride and dedication in making our school green.



Liberty's valedictorians and salutatorians prepare for graduation.

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL

Principal: Gregg O'Mara

As we approach the close of another year, I want to personally thank all of the students, staff, parents and community for making our tenth year one of our finest. For the second consecutive year, Liberty was recognized by U.S. News and World Report as one of the best high schools in the state, earning Silver recognition based on college readiness, student-teacher ratio, and state test scores.

I also want to acknowledge valedictorians Jordyn Clarke, Cassandra Clift, Erica Gaona-Lopez, Sandra Guerrero Vazquez, Minji Ha, Dorian Kershaw, Hannah Langbehn, Molly McGuckin, and Savannah Tran. Each one of them took four years of rigorous coursework and maintained a 4.0 GPA.

Salutatorians this year include Kristofer Bolinger, Ashley Chon, Jason Sandwisch, Anamaria Schier, and Elise Thompson. Congratulations vals and sals!

Only three schools in Oregon earned the National Gold Council of Excellence from the National Association of Student Councils and kudos to the two schools that are in the Hillsboro School District: Liberty and Century.

On May 20, the National Honor Society inductions occurred. This year we had over 100 students qualify to be invited to this prestigious event.

On May 21, all of our graduating seniors presented their senior projects to our community and, as always, I am amazed at the quality of work that is produced each year.

On the sports front, our girls Golf team took home, for the fourth year, a league championship, and will represent the NWOC conference in the state match. Our boys Tennis team, for the first time in Liberty history, went undefeated in league play, and they are the dual match champions for the NWOC.

Have a great summer and I look forward to the 2013 – 2014 school year.

Go Falcons!

Continued from **PAGE 1**

SUPERINTENDENT

Details on how next year's $8.5 million anticipated gap between revenues and expenditures will be addressed are available on the Budget Matters page of our website. I am grateful for all the work of our Board, Budget Committee, Principals and other staff members who really delved into the budget starting last fall to analyze every possible way for us to further streamline, advocate for fewer mandates and more resources, and plan for increasing student achievement despite shrinking budgets.

That last point about continuing to focus on increasing student achievement brings me back to my point about perspective. As a District, we like to share our positive stories with you. We want our community to be as proud of our students and staff who are continuing to do great things every day as we are. However, there is a balance to strike with also adequately informing people about our struggles. We are definitely in a space where our schools need more. We have facility maintenance needs to address, inadequate technology, class sizes that are too large and a school year that is too short, to name a few. In all likelihood, you will see a bond or levy proposal on the November 2013 ballot that would aim to make progress in at least some of these areas.

So how is our school district doing? Are we performing well despite continuous budget cuts or are we perishing? The answer is both. People find a will and a way to make things happen when they are passionate, motivated, and when it matters, yet there are certainly breaking points; and the longer we have to continue operating from a deficit, the more breaking points will emerge. We need our community to join together with us to both celebrate our successes and strengthen our foundation—our students deserve it.



Ladd Acres Kindergarten student Renee Carpenter proudly explains the results of her scientific study during the science fair.

Continued from **PAGE 12**

CLASSROOM TECHNOLOGY

beyond the next five years.

So what's next? We start year one. Teachers, students, parents and community members will be called on to help us lead. We will spend what we budget on computers, laptops, tablets and software. We will call on experts to encourage innovation and experimentation. We will count on YOU for feedback. Let's get started!

DISTRICT LAUNCHES NEW STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM IN AUGUST

On August 5, the Hillsboro School District will launch Synergy® SIS, a next-generation student information system, replacing the current eSIS system. As a centralized, web-based application, Synergy will house comprehensive student information, streamline operations, and facilitate communications between staff, administrators and families. The system's intuitive interface is user-friendly and gets users up to speed quickly. Data that were housed in separate systems will be consolidated in Synergy, providing efficiencies in time, cost and operations.

Why Synergy?

In 2011, the provider of eSIS informed districts across the country that eSIS was being discontinued. A consortium of districts, serving the majority of students in Oregon, was formed to select a successor product. Edupoint's Synergy Suite was selected after an exhaustive search, evaluation, and bidding process. Districts across the country have adopted Synergy, many of whom have used it since its first generation version, and many more continue to join the Synergy family. Hillsboro's implementation of Synergy has been ongoing since August 2012. Training has already begun for district staff—and the overall response to the new system has been positive as the accessibility and functionality of the new system are explored.

Accessibility and Functionality for Staff, Administrators and Families

Available on the web as well as mobile devices, Synergy can be accessed anywhere at any time. A wide breadth of capabilities provides something for everyone.

At its most central functionality, Synergy allows office staff, registrars and counselors to: manage registration and enrollment; maintain student, parent and emergency information; schedule classes; assess course history and graduation requirements, and more. Health, program and team information will be maintained by assigned specialist staff.

However, it's the VUEs that really enhance Synergy functionality.

For teachers, the TeacherVUE™ module includes attendance recording, assignment and test development and tracking, and a fully-integrated classroom gradebook. This leads to more efficient classroom and grade management and more time teaching. Teachers also have the capability to develop classroom websites through the gradebook for custom, class-specific postings for student and parent access. The mobile device apps for TeacherVUE also offer flexibility and portability of the SIS functionality and information, whether in the classroom, around the school or off-campus.

For parents and guardians, ParentVUE™, the web portal into Synergy, is a much-needed tool for ready access to student information. It will be made available shortly after the primary launch of Synergy SIS. This web- and mobile device-accessible application enables parents to view data on all children in the family in one central location. Parents will be able to easily update contact information through ParentVUE, as well as view attendance, class schedules, grades[1], calendars, and more for each of their children. Tying into teachers' gradebook[1] functionality, parents may view class websites, assignments and test results. Online payment of fees, when implemented, also will become available through ParentVUE.

For students, StudentVUE™ provides similar functionality to ParentVUE. They will be able gain additional control of their learning as they see their own data, including class assignments and grading, via the web or mobile devices. There's an app for that, too!

Beyond the Data

In addition to its comprehensive database functionality, Synergy offers powerful and efficient communications tools. District and school announcements are easily distributed to Synergy users and through the VUE applications. E-mail communications from schools to families, such as school news or attached newsletters, are easily set up at the click of a button. In ParentVUE and StudentVUE, calendars display important district and school events in one central location. Parents and students can communicate directly with teachers via e-mail or streamed messaging through the VUE applications. ParentVUE auto-notifications via e-mail alert the parents who subscribe to this feature to inform them of their students' lagging attendance, grades and more.

The next several months will be intensively busy ones as we set up and ramp up to Synergy launch. We are excited to bring this new system to our district, schools, students and families, and look forward to its public presentation in August. Please be sure to visit the district website for future updates and watch for continuing updates and frequently-asked questions on our Synergy implementation on the district website.

[1]*Please note that gradebook functionality is being phased in: 2013-14 school year for middle and high schools; 2014-15 for elementary schools.*

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KUIK PRESENTS KID FIT

Get up, Get out, Get moving!

Frustrated by how much your kids sit in front of the TV and play video games? Looking for a fun way to get the whole family outside and active? Then come out to AM 1360 KUIK Radio's Kid Fit event on Saturday, June 1, 10am-2pm at Century High School (2000 SE Century Blvd.).

This free event will feature games, agility, sports and other activities to get kids and their family members moving and having fun. Kids will work with local coaches, PE teachers and high school athletes to learn about fun fitness and activity ideas. Health and nutrition experts will be on site as well.

Bring a bottle of water and wear clothes you can move in—stay as long as you want and have fun! Visit www.kuik.com or call 503-640-1360 for more details.

DO YOU GET HOT NEWS?



Hot News is the District's weekly one-page electronic publication featuring information briefs about what's going on at each of our schools and in the District. To sign up, go to http://lists.hsd.k12.or.us, click on Hotnewsenglish and follow the steps; or send an e-mail to Beth Graser at graserbe@hsd.k12.or.us and she will add you to the list!

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