A Look Inside
HILLSBORO SCHOOLS

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BOND REFUNDING TO SAVE TAXPAYERS $5.3 MILLION

At its October 23 meeting, the Hillsboro School Board adopted a resolution authorizing the refunding (refinancing) of our Series 2006A General Obligation bonds.

These are the bonds that were sold for the capital construction that was approved by voters in November 2006 and paid for the building of Free Orchards, Rosedale, Lincoln Street and Quatama Elementary Schools as well as South Meadows Middle School, along with the expansion of the other three middle schools and a myriad of smaller projects.

Refunding is only allowed if a 3% savings can be realized, and the timing of our sale on Thursday, November 8, couldn't have been better. We actually realized a 4.54% savings, which will mean a savings to our taxpayers of $5.3 million over the next twelve years.

HILLSBORO APPLIES FOR RACE TO THE TOP GRANT

Hillsboro School District has submitted its application for a federal Race to the Top (RTT) grant, which seeks over $23 million to purchase mobile learning devices for students and teachers, hire coaches to assist teachers in building lesson plans around the digital capability, build-out technology infrastructure, and expand our online professional development system.

The grant opportunity was announced by the U.S. Department of Education on August 12. Hillsboro, along with over 900 other districts across the nation, indicated its intent to apply. There is $400 million available in the grant program, and 15-25 awards of $5 million to $40 million (based on the size of the district) will be announced by December 31, 2012. The term of the grant is four years.

Grant funds are to be used to personalize education for all students, focus on the relationship between teachers and students, and affect transformative change by providing staff the tools and support to best meet students' needs.

Applicant districts had to demonstrate their commitment to RTT's four core reform areas in addition to articulating their vision for the implementation of the grant. The core reform areas are:

- Adopting standards and assessments that prepare students to succeed in college and the workplace and to compete in the global economy;
- Building data systems that measure student growth and success, and inform teachers and principals about how they can improve instruction;
- Recruiting, developing, rewarding, and retaining effective teachers and principals, especially where they are needed most; and
- Turning around the lowest-achieving schools.

Collaboration was a key element of the application process, and one that has apparently brought other districts' efforts to a halt. Teacher's union leadership is required sign off on the application, and the whole structure of how teacher effectiveness is determined (core reform area 3) was cause for concern. Oregon's passage of Senate Bill 290, which requires districts to adopt evaluation systems that take student achievement data into account, helped in some districts, but not all. At issue is the extent to which standardized test information will be weighted in such an evaluation; the desire is that any such system is fair, balanced, based on multiple measures, and developed collaboratively with District and licensed staff. Our district is committed to working in tandem with teachers to develop its new evaluation instrument, and involved union representatives in the grant writing/review process. We are appreciative of the collaboration and support our teachers showed for the grant.

The application was also endorsed by our School Board, Hillsboro's Mayor, and the Oregon Department of Education; and letters of support were received by sixteen local businesses, organizations, parent groups, staff, and even students. The complete grant application can be viewed on our website.

Nick Cannon—known for his TV show "Wild N' Out," movie "Drumline," current gig as host of "America's Got Talent, and also for being married to Mariah Carey(!)—surprised students at Liberty High School by dressing up as the school's falcon mascot and "crashing" the filming under way by Nickelodeon on Monday, October 1. Nickelodeon was getting footage of recent grad Matt Ferguson leading his former classmates in putting together his comfort bags, which are given to women who are undergoing treatment for breast cancer, as part of a segment on outstanding teens. Little did Matt know that he was also going to be honored with a TeenNick Halo Award, which recognizes teens who are making a difference in their community, and a $10,000 check to his Matt's Chemo Comfort Bags charity. The 2012 TeenNick Halo Awards were broadcast on November 19. For more information, visit www.teennick.com/shows/halo-awards.

OPTION PROGRAMS EXPAND OFFERING RICH EXPERIENCES FOR STUDENTS

We talked a lot last year about the planned expansion of our option programs for students in 2012-13, so it's exciting now to be able to provide an update on the various implementations.

Please see **OPTIONS** on page 12

From the Superintendent

Mike Scott

Welcome to the 2012-13 school year! With our first quarter complete, it's a good time to reflect on the year so far and what lies ahead.

There are great things happening all across our District—teachers are delivering insightful and impactful lessons, students are synthesizing their knowledge and completing projects that showcase what they've learned, fall sports teams and activity groups are thriving, and the level of community support of our schools has perhaps never been higher.

But amid all the positive things, there are definite signs of the strain upon our system. This is the fifth straight year we've had to make budget reductions to account for a gap between revenues and expenditures. The total amount of these reductions to our

Please see **SUPERINTENDENT** on page 12

Century Feeder Group

BUTTERNUT CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Enedelia Schofield

Butternut Creek has had an exciting first two months of school. We welcomed a number of new staff members, including new teachers: School counselor, Elizabeth Nahl; 4th grade teacher, Lindsey Akers; Kinder teacher, Amy Prichard; ESL teacher, Heather Figueroa; and Speech teacher, Jenny Miller. The Leadership Committee and staff have been busy working on their School Improvement Plan (SIP) with each grade level team also constructing their 3-year SIP goals.

In September, Back-to-School was a huge success and included an ice cream social hosted by the PTC. A weekly Chess Club, led by parents and established last year, is getting under way with lots of enthusiasm. Many children come twice a week before school to learn the game and practice their chess strategies. An after-school literacy group of 2nd and 3rd grade students meets twice a week to work on fluency and comprehension.

Retired Butternut teacher Mrs. Powers volunteers her time to lead and coordinate an accelerated reading program that gives students opportunities to use the computer to reach their reading comprehension goals. When students reach their goals, extra recess time and handmade beanbag chickens, made by Mrs. Powers, serve as rewards!

First grade teacher Stephanie Gerig planned and constructed a bulletin board that will better recognize students for their Character Trait Awards. At the monthly Spirit Assembly, select students from each class are awarded a character trait certificate for the trait of the month. Each group of students will have their photo taken and posted on the bulletin board for all the school to celebrate.

It is election season, and the students of Butternut Creek have been putting their right to vote into action! The PTC has plans under way to purchase and install a new playground structure and students were given the opportunity to vote on one of three different structures. The next step is to finish raising the needed funds to make this project a reality.

IMLAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Molly Siebert

The school year at Imlay started off with an ice cream social. Students and their parents came to school on the evening of Thursday, August 30, to enjoy the frozen treats and to learn who their new teacher would be. They brought their school supplies and visited their new classrooms to get settled in so that the first day of school could run smoothly with fewer unknowns. We have 550 students enrolled at Imlay this year, and we are off to an exciting start.

Our school's motto is "Children are the heart of Imlay," and staff here feel strongly that we put that motto into practice daily. We ensure that each child is engaged in learning and feels a part of the community at our school. We also partner with families and have a strong parent organization, which helps align our efforts to benefit the children we serve.

Imlay's parent club recently organized and held our annual fun run, "Imlay Walk and Roll." The funds generated by this event will pay for all students to participate in the painting of a large school mural focused on the theme of "Our Passions and Dreams." We will be working with local artist Rodolfo Serna to collectively bring our thoughts and drawings together to create a whole school representation of this theme through painting. As a Right Brain Initiative school, staff will learn about the importance of art integration with instruction in all subject areas.

Our building focus will continue with the transition to Common Core Standards in Math and Literacy as we build to full implementation in the 2014-2015 school year. Students will be using more complex nonfiction texts in reading to develop higher-level skills. This will carry over to writing in all subject areas, especially math. Students will use writing to explain their thinking and communicate their own ideas.

Staff training will continue in methods that support higher levels of engagement and learning for students who are emerging bilingual and those just learning English. This training will support all students by increasing English language development and providing pathways for students to collaborate, learn together, and express their own thoughts. As our students grow up in a community where many will be completely bilingual by high school, we need to find ways for all students to learn a second language.

After-school activities at Imlay include: Young Rembrandts Art Class, Bricks for Kidz Engineering, After-school Sports, Fitness Mornings, and Choir.

INDIAN HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Bruce Bourget

A new school year—a completely new approach to school improvement? Not really. Although it is a consideration to start fresh each year with a completely new plan, we have found it more effective to revise our school improvement plan and build on our previous work. This year we will adjust some strategies as well as add some new ones to improve our plan.

Our School Improvement Plan (SIP) is designed to help all students improve their knowledge of school subjects, improve their understanding of how to work with and respect others, and improve their confidence in their own abilities to be successful. School improvement is not a matter of incorporating one feature into a plan. A number of things need to be implemented at the same time with efforts from the school staff, parents, and students. The information in this article discusses the first part of our SIP, which addresses improving student knowledge of school subjects.

Some of the components of our SIP at Indian Hills involve teaching to state standards, using effective teaching strategies designed to help all students improve their learning, and selecting and developing assessment strategies that inform our decisions about planning and delivering lessons to students.

Teachers teach to state standards each year, and the new Oregon State Standards, known as the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), have been adopted by Oregon and 47 other states as the benchmark for student achievement. The CCSS are designed to help children both develop a deeper understanding of concepts, and a more precise understanding of analytical practices for use in real life problem-solving situations. Overall, the goal is to have students be more college- and career-ready when they complete high school.

The second component of our SIP, teaching strategies, is in the category of English Language Development (ELD). For many of our students, these strategies help them to improve their knowledge and proper use of grammar.

For our "English as a Second Language" (ESL) students, these strategies help them to learn the basic English language rules in speaking, writing, and reading. This instruction in the formal rules of English is referred to as "Academic Language" as opposed to "Social Language," or informal language, that students use with each other in social situations, and with which they are more familiar.

The third component of our SIP involves our assessment practices. These assessments are either selected or designed by teachers. They help us to determine what students know and what they need to learn. These assessments are what drive our instructional decisions and are administered continually throughout the year.

Although there are other factors that affect our school improvement work, the basic structure for our SIP is designed to help all students be successful in school. We will continue to review our SIP and continue to implement strategies, policies, and practices that will help all of our children improve their achievement.

LADD ACRES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: David Cox

"Make Their Day" is a daily occurrence at Ladd Acres

Since September, Ladd Acres students and staff have been finding more time for learning, achievement, friends and fun by living the FISH! philosophy.

Strategies used at Seattle's famous Pike Place Fish Market have been adapted for educational settings, and students are learning the fishmongers' secrets for having fun while working hard.

The FISH! program has four principles: Be There, Play, Make Their Day, and Choose Your Attitude. These behaviors support a school culture where students are fully present for their academic work and for their classmates' emotional needs.

In weekly announcements, students and

Ladd Acres students study and practice the FISH philosophy.

staff recognize and thank others who have "made their day."

"Everyone has a full plate," explains Principal David Cox, "including students. The FISH! mindset encourages students to pay attention to each other and to bring their presence and enthusiasm to learning."

Mr. Mooyman and his third graders continue being good stewards of the land by nurturing three aspen trees that he and his students planted last year. Instead of a bare spot where a tall evergreen was cut down, the trees are now 15 feet tall with beautiful leaves fluttering in the fall wind.

Under the trees, students have just finished planting bulbs for spring flowers, and they take turns tending the garden on a daily basis.

Under direction of music specialist Lana Christensen, fifth and sixth graders were busy rehearsing their program entitled "Positive," a musical celebration of good thoughts, throughout the fall. Their performances were held November 15, and they did a fabulous job.

As part of Character Education, students are learning about the traits of Civic Participation and Compassion during our annual food drive for the Hillsboro Elks. Ladd Acres families always make generous donations during the drive, which is being held Nov. 26 –Dec. 14 this year.

REEDVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Robin Romero

At Reedville, we are dedicated to furthering our work through parent and community involvement. Our school year has been full of activities with our parents and community partners so far.

We started the year with a great turn-out for open house and a wonderful donation of backpacks filled with school supplies from Reedville Presbyterian church.

This year, over 80 volunteers from Westport church, Reedville PTC, Boy Scouts, and 4-H Youth Development volunteered time and resources for our Reedville Carnival. It was a success and a great opportunity for our students, their families and community members to interact and have fun. Reedville teachers, principal Romero, and Westport Pastor Shane Pookes all took their turn in the Dunk Tank.

Our partners at Intel cheered and provided water for our students as they ran fast laps around the track at our Fun Run. Intel is also supporting our LEGO Robotics program, preparing students for a competition in December. Our PTC has held movie nights and is supporting our students with an Anti-Bullying poster contest.

This year, Reedville begins our first year with a Dual Language program. Our Dual Language parents meet once a month, together with our principal and teachers, to continue learning about the program and engaging with each other as they learn Spanish and English reading activities to do with their children at home.

Parent and Community involvement is a key to school success, and at Reedville we are energized by all the support and contact with our parents and community partners.

TOBIAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Steve Callaway

"Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall. Humpty Dumpty had a great fall. All the king's horse and all the king's men couldn't put Humpty together again."

But, that didn't keep Tobias Elementary students from dropping their special eggs from a lift, high in the air, off a Portland General Electric troubleman's service truck. Third graders and kindergartners teamed together to engineer gadgets which would enable the egg to withstand the force of the drop. This collaboration was coordinated by Tobias's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) teacher on special assignment, Leslie Mayfield

In order to expand educational options for our students, the Hillsboro School District Board of Directors voted to begin transforming certain elementary schools into STEM focus schools. Tobias is one of four schools in the district piloting the STEM program this year.

The egg drop activity was the perfect opportunity to put the STEM focus into action, as 3rd grade students are studying forces and how they can be absorbed, and kindergartners are studying engineering. "Humpty Dumpty," the nursery rhyme, is also part of the current literacy lesson for Tobias kindergartners.

The students formed groups, with kindergartners having 3rd grade partners to guide them through the process. This was a joint project, with the 3rd graders submitting designs to the kindergartners and the kindergartners deciding which design would protect the egg best during the drop.

A repairman with Portland General Electric, Dale Hansen, came to assist the students with their project. He spoke to the students about how science, technology, engineering, and mathematics are significant studies that PGE relies on for providing electricity to the community.

Students' contraptions were quite unique with a variety of materials used in the design, including plastic, cardboard, cotton balls, Styrofoam, string, tape, and paper. One group used a plastic jar of peanut butter, placing the egg in the center of the jar – peanut butter and all. Many created parachutes from different materials. Mr. Hansen took the student's gadgets up the lift and dropped them to see how they would fare.

At the end of the drop, the students were able to see what worked for protecting the eggs and what didn't. Principal Steve Callaway said he loves seeing the ingenuity and creativity these students demonstrate. "This project has also allowed students to build new friendships and get firsthand experience with trial and error," he said. "In one class, half of the eggs survived the drop!"

Students from Tobias celebrate the success of their egg drop.

BROWN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal: Don Brown

A memorial re-visited by Brown Middle School leadership students

In 1972, Brown Middle School, then called East Jr. High, endured a tragic year with two students dying unexpectedly. Randy Manly was struck by a car in a pedestrian/motor vehicle accident. He was taken to the hospital where he later died, unable to recover from his injuries. Rajena Geise suffered from a brain tumor and died of complications from the surgery to try and have it removed.

In response to these tragedies, the students, parents and teachers pulled together to create a memorial in honor of Randy and Rajena. They created a concrete pad with a bench and drinking fountain. A bronze plaque was made that included the students' names and the year they died.

Over time, the memories of these students and what happened to them slowly faded away as the staff and students who remembered them moved on. As memories faded, so did the condition of the memorial. The drinking fountain stopped working and turned into a trash receptacle while the concrete became covered in moss.

This year, the leadership classes at Brown Middle School decided to take on the memorial as their service project. In order to do this, we started requesting donations from the community during the summer. In response, two companies, River Valley Landscaping and Home Depot, both stepped up to help out. River Valley Landscaping donated sand, gravel, bark dust, soil, and hauled the debris and concrete away free of charge. Home Depot sent a volunteer work crew to take out the concrete bench and the non-working drinking fountain (saving the original plaque). A new planter box was built in which the leadership students could plant native, drought resistant plants to form a new memorial.

When finished, the memorial will be rededicated to Randy and Rajena as well as all staff and students who have passed away while employed at or attending Brown Middle School. This includes the recent and tragic loss of Sara Lasky, who taught science at Brown Middle School until losing her fight with an aggressive brain tumor that took her life much too soon.

CENTURY HIGH SCHOOL

Principal: Ted Zehr

All sophomores at Century High School will have the opportunity to take the PLAN test, a precursor to the ACT test, one of the key college entrance exams, on December 5, 2012. PLAN serves as the midpoint measure of academic progress in ACT's College and Career Readiness System.

PLAN helps 10th grade students build a solid foundation for future academic and career success and provides information needed to address school districts' high-priority issues. It is a comprehensive guidance resource that helps students measure their current academic development, explore career/training options, and make plans for the remaining years of high school and beyond.

The results of the PLAN test give students an early indication of how their current educational progress relates to their post-high school plans. The test is composed of four curriculum-based assessments in the content areas of English, mathematics, science and reading.

Whether students are college-bound or plan to enter the workforce directly after high school, PLAN can help all students, and will fit in to the Century guidance model to support students in achieving their post-high school goals. Counselors can use the data in sophomore guidance to match student goals to their current high school choices, and develop a more detailed plan for their junior year.

This is an ideal time for students to increase the academic rigor of their course selections in order to attain their goals. As juniors, students will be able to draw on the information from the PLAN test to inform their focused program choices, and work in their junior guidance groups to create a strong senior experience.

As a part of students' plan and profile, the three components of the ACT system, the Explore test in Grade 8, the PLAN test in Grade 10, and the ACT in Grade 11 will help Century staff and Century students create a more personalized plan for each student to reach his or her fullest potential.

Glencoe Feeder Group

FREE ORCHARDS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Becky Brauer

Earlier this school year, Free Orchards' 5th and 6th graders developed a deeper sense of self and learned about photography with artist Julie Keefe. Through the Right Brain Initiative, Julie worked with Free Orchards teachers and developed a plan to enhance their studies. Each class met with the artist for five sessions. They wrote about how they saw themselves and how others saw them.

After a session about the workings of the camera and examples of model photographs, they moved outside to begin taking their own portraits. The teachers hope to display student art and poetry in the hallways of the school for future students to learn about these classes of 2019 and 2020.

All Free Orchards students are working toward more sophisticated use of language in speaking and writing. Grade level teams are collaborating with our Bilingual Coach to develop lessons to stretch students' facility with words. Downstairs, you might overhear 2nd graders summarizing the sequence of a story using adverbs of time. Upstairs, you might hear 4th graders using adverbs to enhance their writing of "How to be a Model Student."

In other news, families enjoyed connecting with each other at our 2nd annual PTO Carnival. Around our classrooms, 4th graders are in the middle of their Northwest Native American unit, constructing Indian villages and preparing writing and art for their "potlatch" performance at the end of November. First graders are studying the states of matter, greatly enjoying Mrs. Giard's demonstration of when vinegar meets baking soda and forms a gas. And 2nd and 3rd graders enjoyed a performance by Stages actors of "The Elephant 's Child."

Three first graders contemplate light, transparency, and materials of different shapes and colors in Jackson's new Creativity Studio.

JACKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: David Lee

For several years, Jackson has been interested in an educational philosophy known as the Reggio approach, developed in Reggio Emilia, Italy. In 2009, inspired by workshops held at the Opal School and The Center For Children's Learning at the Portland Children's Museum, a collaboration of Jackson teachers, administrators, and staff created a mini-studio for first graders and scheduled time for children to develop their ideas and "learn through play" in center time we call "Explore."

In 2011, the PTA was looking for a project to fund through auction donations during the paddle bid portion of the evening. Amy O'Brien wrote a proposal and presented it at the auction. With former Principal Jon Pede's help, and the help of the PTA Board and interested parents, $10,000 was raised to build what came to be called "The Creativity Studio."

The Creativity Studio is more than an Art Studio. It is not just a place where art is created. It functions as an environment that supports creativity, collaboration, communication and expression. In the Reggio Emilia approach, the studio or "atelier" is the heart of the school. It is a "workshop for children's ideas that manifest through the use of many materials."

All students, K-6, have access to the studio. It houses art supplies as well as thinking materials like blocks, natural materials, and scrap materials that can be reused in projects. It is a space for students to develop their creativity and imagination, work on arts-integrated lessons, and is a way for teachers to enhance their curriculum and take thinking deeper.

Many people are saying that what our students need to be successful in the 21st century are skills like creativity, collaboration, and empathy. The studio supports these skills. In a time when everything is fast-paced, this offers students a chance to slow down and experience hands-on learning and creation.

LINCOLN STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Sonta Thompson

This year, Lincoln Street Elementary has implemented a Dual Language Program. Students in kindergarten are the first cohort of students who are working to become bilingual, biliterate, and develop multicultural awareness.

There was enough community interest to support two classrooms of kindergartners who will learn English and Spanish. In this partnership model, one teacher provides English instruction and the other teacher provides the Spanish instruction. The two classes contain both native English- and native Spanish-speaking students who learn together. Subjects are designated to be taught in either English or Spanish.

The program will follow the students as they travel through each grade level. Students will develop their two languages at high academic levels, engage in complex cognitive tasks, and experience cross-cultural awareness.

The advantages of a Dual Language Program are far-reaching. Students work collaboratively to help each other navigate the two languages. The result is that students become language "experts" for each other as they make meaning of the subjects they are taught in the two languages.

When asked about the benefits of the program, a parent of a kindergartner commented, "My daughter comes home excited every day wanting to teach me what she's learned in Spanish. We put her in the program because speaking a second language will be so beneficial to her throughout her whole life: high school, future jobs, and traveling. We are so happy that she is able to have this enriching experience. We as parents are excited to be learning through our daughter."

Families at Lincoln Street will be provided opportunities throughout the year to learn more about the Dual Language program. Questions can be directed to the school office at 503-844-1160.

W. VERNE MCKINNEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Ricardo LeBlanc-Esparza

McKinney started off the school year with a new principal and new partnerships.

Ricardo LeBlanc-Esparza came to the District from Brighton, Colorado, where he was principal of Florence Crittenton High School and prior to that was principal of Fort Logan Elementary School. A published author, sought-after public speaker, and three-time Principal of the Year award winner (during his time in Granger, Washington), Mr. Leblanc-Esparza arrived in Hillsboro with an impressive track record and enthusiasm for a new challenge.

One of the first things he learned upon coming here was that a new partnership had just been formed between his school and local semiconductor firm TriQuint! To kick off the relationship, TriQuint provided 55 backpacks stuffed with supplies to McKinney just in time for the new school year.

Then on Thursday, October 25, Principal Leblanc-Esparza and Office Manager Rose Roman attended an Educator Breakfast at the Memorial Coliseum in Portland. The event was put on by Wells Fargo Bank as part of their ongoing effort to support education.

In attendance were representatives from 92 Oregon and Southwest Washington elementary schools, each of whom received a check for $1,000 in unrestricted funds to be spent where it is most needed in the school.

In McKinney's case, the money will be used to buy t-shirts for every student who excels in math. "Math is the foundation of everything we do," notes Leblanc-Esparza. "We're thankful to have the money to be able to do it." His hope is that the t-shirts will be seen as both a reward for students who are already achieving and an incentive to others to work hard on their math skills.

NORTH PLAINS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Craig Harlow

The World's Greatest Athlete, Ashton Eaton, spoke to students at North Plains and West Union Elementary Schools at assemblies on October 22. Eaton won the Gold Medal and set a world record in the Decathlon at the 2012 London Olympics.

He spoke to students about the importance of school, finding a passion for something you love, and persevering to find a way to pursue it, whether it is art, science, sports, or music.

Eaton also spoke about character, listening to teachers and mentors, and even participated with students in three different mock events. Once the competition was over, Eaton awarded the students with gold medallions.

The students asked Easton some great questions, including: What is your favorite food to eat before you compete? "Macaroni

& cheese;" How many coaches do you have? "One, who specializes in all ten events;" Will you compete in the next Olympics? "I will be 28 in 2016 when the Olympics are held in Brazil and, yes, I'm working daily to prepare to go."

Eaton's visit to our schools emphasized the strong school culture that we believe is so important:

- Caring and Collegiality - People working together for the benefit of our students,
- Communication - with high Expectations, Teachers and Parents believe our students will excel,
- Character - With trust, honesty and integrity, our school community works together.

PATTERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Jonathan Pahukula

Patterson Elementary is looking beyond test scores to define success for our students. Through new and enhanced co- and extra-curricular programs, Patterson students will be inspired to engage in learning beyond the classroom walls. Research shows that students who participate in these activities build a stronger connection to their school and achieve at a higher level.

3…2…1…Blast Off! Our new ACES program is launching students into after-school enrichment clubs. Designed to provide access to more students, ACES clubs offer diverse activities at an affordable price. Patterson is a busy place after school, making the fall term an absolute success!

- Our chess club and choir each boast over 70 student participants.
- Thirty-five students will be helping to take pictures and put together our school yearbook.
- Our inaugural Math Olympiad and Oregon Battle of the Books teams are comprised of 19 and 13 students, respectively.
- We are thankful for our band program, which meets twice a week after school.
- Additionally, our partnership with the Hillsboro Parks and Recreation Blast program has tripled the number of students in after school care at Patterson.

Student Voices will give students an opportunity to have ownership in their school. Different students throughout the year will be called upon to team with the principal to discuss and make decisions to positively affect Patterson Elementary. The first *Student Voices* group served as our Naming the Panther Mascot Committee. They developed the guidelines that encouraged participation from all students, made announcements to the school, and tallied votes to determine the winner. We are looking forward to the leadership from our *Student Voices* groups throughout the school year.

Our Talented and Gifted program is growing. Patterson students enjoyed familiar classrooms when we hosted the district's first ever TAG You're It Elementary Program in October. Later that month, our first pull-out program of the year paired our TAG students with a representative from the Evergreen Air and Space Museum. These activities engage and challenge students to deeper learning.

EVERGREEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal: Rian Petrick

Ghouls, Goblins and Ghosts were frequent guests at Evergreen's 2nd Annual Literary Fall Harvest Night. Over thirty Evergreen students proudly recited their poetic pieces on stage in front of a crowd of 150 guests. Evergreen's language arts department hosted the evening, which included the artistic talents of Evergreen art students, who created the stage décor. Home living students also participated by baking cookies and treats for the guests to complete the multi-department effort. While the Literary Fall Harvest is symbolic of Evergreen's mission to "Engage students to SOAR to new heights," it is hardly alone this fall in providing students with engagement opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.

Evergreen is fortunate to enlist the talents of several community members and parent volunteers who are providing a myriad of engagement activities: Rob Archibald is leading a Gamemaker Computer Programming Club, Chitra Datta is facilitating a LEGO Robotics Club, Julie Crays is directing our Yearbook Club and Cecilia Giron is faciliting the Adelante Chicas support club for girls.

We are also proud of our 2-year partnership with the City of Hillsboro Water Department to provide a STEM club that provides our students with the ability to visit the new Crandall Water Reservoir and get access to the project's engineers and planners. Eighth grade students in Jesse Bader's science class are also benefitting from a partnership with PSU to receive additional resources and instruction from PSU graduate science student Steve, as part of the G12 grant. Literacy teacher Katherine Nelson is partnering with the Portland Art Museum to provide a hands-on approach to literacy development to below benchmark-level students, via the Object Story program.

Evergreen has also been working to promote personal and planet health. In October,we had a school-wide assembly to address bullying behaviors where we invited mentalist Russ Peak to discuss his anti-bullying tips (WITS and HERO) with our students. Our leadership students will continue to work with Russ to sustain our anti-bullying campaign.

During October, our leadership students also recognized a healthy drug and alcohol free lifestyle through Red Ribbon week.

We currently have over 125 students making the great choice to participate in our soccer and volleyball teams! We also have upcoming classes in aerobic fitness and weightlifting, and our P.E. students are working each Friday to accumulate fitness points in order to earn tiered fitness shirts throughout the school year.

Mrs. Grant's Intro to H.S. class has continued a successful mentoring program with Glencoe H.S. students – who meet with 8th grade students to support them with high school readiness. Evergreen has also helped the health of our planet by expanding its recycling program and reducing garbage. Under the guidance of Head Custodian Ray Lira, and with the help of leadership students, Evergreen has gone from producing 40 bags of garbage a day to just 8!

Glencoe Machining students pose in front of their new CNC machine.

GLENCOE HIGH SCHOOL

Principal: Robert Macauley

Glencoe's machining, metals, and welding teacher Rob Brauer certainly knows how to make a lasting impression. He's a master at creating and sustaining connections that serve his program and his students well for many years.

Recently, local manufacturing company Valley Machine in North Plains donated a computer numerical control (CNC) milling machine to the school worth well over $30,000 to support their machining program. They also paid for the shop floor to be epoxy painted, coordinated with other companies to donate the manpower and equipment to move and install the machine and outfit it with a vise, and agreed to host interns from the program in their shop. Where does that relationship piece fit in? Rob taught company owner Tony Spiering's son Andy, currently the Operations Manager, and Shop Manager Roger Williams back in the '80s and '90s. Now all that great teaching is paying off in more ways than one!

The students have the chance to learn machining on an industry-standard piece of equipment, earn high school and college credit at the same time, and have an opportunity to hone their skills in a commercial shop. Kudos to Rob and sincerest thanks to Valley Machine and everyone else who helped make this project a reality.

Miller EDUCATION CENTER (MEC)

MEC MIDDLE SCHOOL (6-8)
MEC HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)
MEC OPTIONS

Principal: Stan Esselstrom

Miller Education Center has long cultivated its culture of community involvement. This year has started off no differently, with students participating in a multitude of projects. So far, they have assisted with the remodel of the Hillsboro Public Library, spruced up community gardens with Hillsboro Parks & Recreation, and put together food boxes for the Food Bank.

Gearing up for its winter opening is the high school's ever-popular FEAST program. Students in the program have spent the first quarter learning about and practicing food preparation, menu planning, and related activities, in addition to earning their food handler cards. When the program opens for its series of community lunches (held on Thursdays beginning in December), groups of students will be in charge of planning, shopping for, preparing, hosting, setting up, and serving guests. Sign up early because these events sell out fast!

District Updates

OPPORTUNITIES TO GET DISTRICT AND STATE EDUCATION INFORMATION

There are several ways to get information about the statewide educational landscape and what's going on in the Hillsboro School District specifically.

On October 10, the District co-sponsored a visit by Chief Education Officer Dr. Rudy Crew with Oregon PTA. If you missed the event, check out the video in the news archives section of our website.

Superintendent Scott held his first Listening Session of the year on Tuesday, October 16, at Evergreen Middle School. A full write-up of the session is available on our website under District/Superintendent.

Upcoming Listening Sessions are as follows:

- Thursday, November 29, noon to 1:00 p.m. – Webinar
- Wednesday, February 20, 7:00-8:30 p.m. – South Meadows Middle School
- Thursday, April 4, 7:00-8:30 p.m. – Brown Middle School
- Wednesday, May 15, noon to 1:00 p.m. – Webinar

Hillsboro community members have also been invited to attend an upcoming forum on educational funding being held at Aloha High School on Tuesday, November 27, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. with Senator Mark Haas and Representative Tobias Read.

And of course you can always visit our website, read our Oregonlive blog, follow us on Facebook and Twitter (links on our homepage), and subscribe to our weekly *Hot News* (e-mail Beth Graser at graserbe@hsd.k12.or.us to get signed up). If all else fails, please e-mail us to get your questions answered!

Weekly Hot News

STUDENT INFORMATION SYSTEM CONVERSION

Our student information system is the biggest system we have. It is what we use to store all student demographic data, manage enrollments, track grades, attendance, and so on.

For the past several years, we have used a product called eSIS to manage this information, but we, along with districts across the state and nation, learned last year that the company providing this product had been acquired by another company that decided to discontinue it.

So Hillsboro joined a consortium of other districts and ESD's called OSIS (Oregon Student Information System) to work together on selecting a new provider. Making a common decision would help lower costs, enable the sharing of information between districts and the state, and allow additional opportunities for working with the provider to ensure an effective implementation.

After much research, provider interviews, and testing of various products, EduPoint was selected in February of this year. Their Synergy student information system is a suite of six products: TeacherVue (grade book); ParentVue (parent portal); StudentVue (student portal); LessonVue (curriculum mapping/standards-based instructional tool); SynergySE (for special education); and Synergy Technologies (for system customization). Hillsboro will be implementing the first four.

Once the selection had been made, districts then had to determine their implementation timeline. Given that the eSIS conversion took place over a period of three years and wanting to ensure the most seamless transition possible, Hillsboro decided to take the 2012-13 school year to prepare for and convert the system, with a complete switchover scheduled for August 2013. Throughout this year, the District is working to implement Edupoint in collaboration with OSIS agencies.

Professional development on Synergy will begin for school-based staff in the spring of 2013 and continue through the summer. Access to the parent and student portals will be available beginning in October 2013 for secondary parents and October 2014 for elementary parents. Information on how to connect to and navigate the system will be shared at back-to-school nights and conferences.

Hillsboro OREGON

CITY OF HILLSBORO, SCHOOL DISTRICT ENJOY A STRONG PARTNERSHIP

Resources are precious and should be managed wisely. This is true of our natural resources like trees and water, our human resources, our time, and certainly our taxpayer dollars.

Citizens can and should expect that their various public agencies would work together and form partnerships to maximize resources and achieve economies of scale; that is certainly the case with the Hillsboro School District and the City of Hillsboro.

Since 2007, the District and Hillsboro Parks & Recreation have had an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) in place that allows for the shared use and joint development of facilities. That partnership was very evident with the building of Lincoln Street Elementary School and South Meadows Middle School. Money contributed by Parks & Rec. helped with the lacrosse and soccer field construction at Lincoln Street, and the expansion of the gym and installation of a turf field at South Meadows. In addition, Parks & Rec. grounds crews have been maintaining our competition sports fields at a reduced rate for the past two years.

Another significant area of partnership is with the Hillsboro Police and Fire Departments. On the Police side, the City provides five School Resource Officers (SROs) as well as a Sergeant to oversee them and be the main point of contact for the District. These officers are an onsite presence at our schools, providing an extra measure of safety should there be any threats or incidents, and making positive connections with students. The Fire Department routinely assists schools with safety and evacuation trainings, and provides safety education materials free of charge to schools that request it. They also bring engines and firefighters to schools to do show-and-tell events.

Last fall, the District teamed up with Police, Fire, and other emergency service providers to conduct a full-scale emergency scenario training event at South Meadows Middle School. The scenario was repeated on three different days to allow all shifts of emergency service providers to participate, a video was created for ongoing training purposes, and the effort has been lauded across the state as unique, special, and a model for how schools and city agencies should work together.

Of course the above examples are by no means an exhaustive list of all the ways the District and the City partner with one another. We also partner with the Water and Public Works Departments as well as the Library. All told, the value of our partnership approaches $1.5 million per year!

We are sincerely grateful to the City and its many departments for helping us provide the best possible service and value to our students and community!

GET INVOLVED IN HILLSBORO SCHOOLS!

One of the key elements to a thriving community is a strong and vibrant school system. As we all know, schools have been hit hard by a sluggish economy and rising expenses over the past five years. Schools have fewer staff members, more students in each class, and lower budgets for purchasing supplies and completing projects.

But there is something you can do to help right here, right now—volunteer your time!

This year, local church Sonrise has partnered with the Hillsboro School District to provide two "volunteer" Volunteer Coordinators: Coleen Garrett and Katie Russell-Willis. These women share a 20-hour per week position in which they try to match community volunteers with school projects. They solicit ideas from the schools and then reach out to local churches, businesses, colleges, and individuals to find people who would like to help out. They also create partnership arrangements with organizations or groups of individuals who would like to "adopt" a particular school.

So whether you'd like to participate in a one-time project; engage in a regular volunteer opportunity like reading to students once a week, providing graphic design services, helping manage an after-school running club, advising students on an architecture project, and much more; or set up a partnership arrangement where your organization is a go-to for a particular school's needs; please contact Coleen and Katie to let them know your interest! They are also happy to come to your organization and do a presentation on the variety of opportunities that exist—just call or e-mail to set up a time: 503-844-1770; garrettc@hsd.k12.or.us; russellk@hsd.k12.or.us.

The positive difference you will make for schools and students is amazing!

Our Community Partners

HOPS BRING PROFESSIONAL BASEBALL TO HILLSBORO

On Friday, September 21, a large crowd gathered in the rain at the Gordon Faber Recreation Complex to celebrate the groundbreaking of the stadium to house Hillsboro's new professional baseball team, the Hillsboro Hops (formerly the Yakima Bears).

The Hops are a short season Single A team, which is a level of baseball comprised of young draft picks—mostly players coming right out of college, and are affiliated with the Arizona Diamondbacks. This is the athletes' first introduction to professional play, and according to the team's general manager K.L. Wombacher, the level they will always remember for that very reason. The players are hungry and energetic, ready to prove themselves and that will surely lead to some very exciting games.

The Hops' 2013 season runs mid-June through Labor Day and will feature 38 home contests.

One of the great benefits to the District of having the new stadium in place is that our high school sports teams (primarily baseball and soccer) will be able to use the turf field in the Hops' off season.

For more information on the Hillsboro Hops, visit their website at http://www.milb.com/index.jsp?sid=t419.

HILLSBORO TEEN IDOL COMPETITION

Do you have what it takes to be Hillsboro's next singing sensation? If you attend a Hillsboro middle or high school and have an interest in showcasing your vocal abilities, plan to participate in one of the upcoming Hillsboro Teen Idol auditions:

- Saturday, December 1, 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at Liberty High School
- Saturday, January 26, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Cultural Arts Center

Contestants must sing three songs of their choice a cappella in front of three judges for 45 seconds each. They will be judged on voice, stage presence, and appearance.

Finals will take place on Saturday, February 2, 1:00 p.m. at the Cultural Arts Center. Children 5 and under are free, all others are $3 each. Children 6 and over will be allowed to vote for their favorite.

HILLSBORO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOSTS 8TH ANNUAL CRYSTAL APPLE AWARDS

Each year, the Greater Hillsboro Chamber of Commerce presents the Crystal Apple Awards to outstanding educators, administrators and support staff of local schools. Honorees are nominated by their peers, parents and students based on their efforts to:

- Promote and model life-long learning as key to students' future success,
- Develop and promote strategies that actively engage students for higher academic achievement,
- Build positive, trusting and respectful relationships with diverse students, families, fellow staff members and the community, and
- Promote involvement and partnership between school, home and business.

Up to three individuals in each category are then selected to receive the coveted Crystal Apple Award at the awards dinner, being held on Thursday, February 28, 2013, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Tuality Health Education Center. The unveiling of the awards is an exciting affair. Along with lots of laughter, there are always a few tears shed because of the impact these educators have on our community.

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2013 awards. The nomination form and instructions can be found on the Chamber's website at www.hillchamber.org.

WHAT CAN YOU DO AT THE HILLSBORO LIBRARY?

Former Harvard University President Charles W. Eliot once said: "Books are the quietest and most constant of friends: they are the most accessible and wisest of counselors, and the most patient of teachers." The Hillsboro Public Library, with locations at both Shute Park and on Brookwood Parkway, certainly has thousands of books, but do you know about all the other services they provide? From computer classes, to guest lecturers, to family movie events and more, your library is bursting with opportunities. Don't believe it? Visit their website at www.hillsboro.plinkit.org and click on the banner "100 Things You Can do for Free @ the Hillsboro Public Library."

HILLSBORO SCHOOLS FOUNDATION'S ANNUAL GALA & AUCTION

March 2, 5:30 p.m.

Mark your calendar for the Hillsboro Schools Foundation's annual Gala & Auction Event: Saturday, March 2, 2013, 5:30-11:00 p.m. at Nike's Tiger Woods Center. The theme is Bali Ha'i – Paradise Awaits You, and who doesn't want paradise awaiting them in the middle of winter?

The Gala is the Foundation's primary fundraising event of the year, allowing them to support innovative education grant projects conceptualized by our teachers. Each year, the Foundation funds approximately 15-17 grants totaling $70,000 because of your patronage.

If you would like to donate an item for the auction, visit their website at hsfonline.org and complete the form provided. If you would like to help sponsor the event or are interested in purchasing a table, please contact Executive Director Aron Carlson at 503-726-2159. Individual tickets will be on sale soon.

HILLSBORO HOLLYDAYS & MARKETPLACE

Hillsboro Parks and Recreation and Hillsboro Tuesday Marketplace cordially invite you to celebrate Hillsboro Hollydays & Marketplace in downtown Hillsboro on Saturday, December 1.

The schedule of events is as follows:

- 1:00 p.m. – Marketplace opens, art and craft activities begin.
- 2:00 p.m. – Santa arrives by train through downtown; pictures with Santa in the Civic Center lobby; free train rides around the Plaza; Gayle Ritt & Mike Soto perform.
- 3:00 p.m. – Radio Disney activities and entertainment.
- 4:00 p.m. – Tualatin Valley Harmony Masters perform.
- 5:30 p.m. – Tree lighting and sing along.

Don't miss this fun, family-friendly kick-off to the holiday season in Historic Downtown Hillsboro!

HILLSBORO PARKS & RECREATION

Hillsboro Parks & Recreation offers a multitude of opportunities for students to participate in sports, arts & crafts activities, and get help on their homework.

Their BLAST (Bringing Leadership, Arts and Sports Together) after-school youth enrichment programs now serve 18 elementary schools; The Zone and After School Intramural Sports programs are available for middle school students; and Homework Help Clubs are in place at four elementary and two middle schools.

Together, these programs serve more than 4,000 students! But they depend on the support of partner organizations and individual donors and volunteers. If you'd like to help out, please contact Parks & Rec at 503-681-6120.

Hilhi Feeder Group

BROOKWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Ken McCoy

In September, Brookwood eagerly opened its doors to both returning and new families. Brookwood has a great community with wonderful children and we're all looking forward to a wonderful and challenging school year. In preparation for the coming year, the teaching staff formed Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) in August to better examine and inform their own instructional practices and to support one another in their efforts. The staff also adopted the central theme for Brookwood's focus this year: "At Brookwood… Every Student Matters Every Day!"

As a regular part of Brookwood activities, staff and students participate in our school-wide Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS) Program. Students are taught specific expectations for a variety of common areas around the school building, all within the context of Brookwood's three school rules: To be Respectful, Responsible, and Safe in all that we do. Students, and classrooms as a whole, earn 'Bobcat Paws' for positive behaviors. This effort to establish good behavior is designed to support our academic work in a great environment for students and staff.

New to Brookwood this year is our Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) Program, which encourages father figures to connect with the school. This effort is designed to help show students the support and involvement of male role models in their education. With over 70 men in attendance at our kick-off meeting, we're off to a great start. So far, each of the men involved are enjoying it and have gained new insights into the value of their children's education.

At Brookwood, we're dedicated to being a place for students to excel behaviorally, socially, and academically. We are looking forward to the 2012-2013 school year and can't wait to celebrate the great things all of us are doing for students.

FARMINGTON VIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Roger Will

Farmington View Teacher Surprised with $1,000 Donation

Farmington View 2nd grade teacher Heather Severance received a pleasant surprise at the end of a school-wide assembly on Monday, October 1. Unbeknownst to her, she had been nominated for recognition through an event called "A Day Made Better," sponsored by AdoptAClassroom.org and OfficeMax.

Two local OfficeMax representatives were present at the assembly to announce that Heather had won $1,000 worth of classroom resources and supplies, which included a new office chair, laminator, stapler, and much more. To add to the fun, the representatives passed out a box of crayons to each student. One of the boxes contained a special ticket, and that student won a big bag full of goodies.

Staff and students were further surprised when the representatives announced they had brought with them several more boxes of supplies—worth approximately $8,000—that had been donated by OfficeMax patrons and the local store on NE Butler Street for use throughout the school.

GRONER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Scott Schinderle

Growing Green at Groner! We have begun our work to integrate science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) into our instructional practices, with the goal of inspiring our students to become sustainability-focused students who impact the world. We have formed a STEM Leadership Team, which is developing a mission and vision for our STEM work, conducting asset mapping of our school and community resources, and defining our focus in this first year of planning. We have several STEM components to highlight:

- The Groner Garden Club is meeting weekly. Students in grades 1-3 are participating. Initially, students observed the garden and noted things that needed to be done. The list included: pull weeds, clip the roses, add more dirt, and pick up branches and leaves.
- We are identifying and applying for grants that are aligned to our STEM focus. We have identified one to transform our existing garden into a learning garden. Another grant, Looking into Science, focuses on close observation and scientific journaling using jeweler's loupes.
- Our library has new STEM materials.
- We have two LEGO Robotics Teams. Our Groner teams participated in a weekend workshop on preparing for FLL (First LEGO League) competitions.

Come grow with us! We have an upcoming family/community event, Family STEM Night, scheduled for Wednesday, December 5, 2012, from 6-7:30pm. There will be a variety of hands-on activities to engage us all in STEM thinking. Interact with technology, be a close observer, build a 3-D structure, and have a great time!

W. L. HENRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Alison Paulus

Things were buzzing in the W.L. Henry kindergarten classrooms before the official start of school this year. We were fortunate to receive funding from the Hillsboro Schools Foundation for a grant written by our school counselor, Erika Pierce, to run "Kinder Quick Start." The program was designed by Erika Pierce and our Care Coordinator, Kathy Wilson-Fey, with the help of kindergarten teachers, to provide our incoming kindergarten students with a jump start to their academic careers. Students were selected based on whether or not they had attended school prior to registering for kindergarten, to target students who would most benefit from a "sneak peek" at kindergarten.

The Quick Start Program lasted two weeks and gave students and their families an opportunity to meet their teachers for the year, get to know some of their classmates, and familiarize themselves with our building. During class time, instruction focused on letter identification and sounds, math, and language development.

Additionally, students were engaged in lessons to promote positive social skills and respectful interactions with others. Every minute was filled with instruction, even at recess, where students learned where to line up, how to share, and how to play safely on the equipment. Students were also provided with a snack.

Parents were able to attend a parenting group two days a week where they learned about W.L. Henry and refining their parenting skills. They had a chance to discuss issues like separation anxiety, how to help their student with homework, and how to address concerns. The parenting class continues in the evenings now.

Students were tested at the beginning and end of the program to measure successes and student progress. The results were phenomenal. Students grew in every area. The biggest growth was seen in the area of Spanish letters and sounds. On average, students came in knowing one letter and sound and left with the knowledge of twelve letters and sounds.

The group of students also blossomed in the area of school expectations. They became pros at carpet sitting and lining up.

When Quick Start kids began school, they were comfortable and confident. They knew their teacher and some of their classmates. They were leaders and role models in their room. Each student is beginning his/her school career successfully, taking the first few steps towards graduation!

MINTER BRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Mary Mendez

Minter Bridge Student Meets the President

4th grader Robbie Robinson and his mom Kassie pose for a picture with First Lady Michelle Obama after meeting President Obama last summer.

Last Spring, 3rd grade Dual Language student Robbie Robinson had a chance to win a trip to Washington D.C. His mom asked him if he wanted to enter a contest to come up with a delicious, healthy recipe. But after hearing that only one entrant from the state of Oregon would be chosen to attend a White House luncheon, he thought it was a long shot. Seeing that there was nothing to lose, he decided to go for it anyway.

He and his mother, Kassie, spent the next few hours brainstorming and creating a healthy, scrumptious pizza that included

vegetables, whole wheat crust, mushrooms and cream cheese. Robbie's grandparents were invited over to taste test.

After several slices of pizza and many compliments, Robbie's confidence in winning began to grow. "I might have a chance", he thought to himself. He and his mother submitted their recipe that night.

After three months of waiting and almost forgetting about their creation, Kassie finally received a call. She was told Robbie's pizza had been chosen to represent the state of Oregon at a White House luncheon. That meant that the two of them would be flown to Washington D.C. and put up in a hotel for three nights, all expenses paid. Robby was elated!

During their formal White House luncheon, First Lady Michelle Obama addressed the winners and lauded their passion for healthy eating and cooking. The President himself even dropped in to congratulate and shake hands with all the contest winners. The dinner concluded with a concert by the band Big Time Rush.

Robbie's trip also included sightseeing in the nation's capital. He visited the Lincoln Memorial, toured the White House garden and explored the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum. When asked what he learned from his experience, he said, "I learned to believe in myself and to take a chance."

Written by Robbie Robinson and Mr. Strande

ROSEDALE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Greg Zinn

This school year has gotten off to a great start! Students are engaged and working hard as a result of quality instruction taking place in the classrooms. With excellent teachers, great students, and supportive parents, Rosedale is poised to continue accomplishing wonderful things.

This year as part of our school improvement plan, we have implemented Systematic Schoolwide English Language Development (ELD). During the time designated for ELD, students receive instruction in vocabulary, word usage, and grammar. This instruction helps students regardless of their English proficiency level become better learners in reading, writing, math, and science. Last year, teachers started a gradual implementation of these techniques resulting in improved test scores for Rosedale students.

Recently, Rosedale submitted an application to the Oregon Department of Education to become a Schoolwide Title I School. This application was accepted. We are now able to better support all of our students through Title I Services.

We are anxiously waiting to hear the results of our application for another Oregon Museum of Science and Industry (OMSI) Grant. The last two years, our partnership with OMSI has resulted in great opportunities for our teachers, students, and families. Our hope is that we will continue to have OMSI staff come to Rosedale to present on various science topics as well as field trips downtown for students to participate in OMSI's learning labs.

Rosedale's first annual carnival was a tremendous success! We want to thank the Carnival Committee, parent group, and all the other volunteers for making such an amazing night for Rosedale families! Please join us for our Holiday Bazaar on Saturday, December 8. We have no doubt that this will be another very successful Rosedale event.

WITCH HAZEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Grant Corliss

Witch Hazel announces the opening of its new Family Resource Center. This center was designed to provide access and tools to enable families to be involved, informed, and engaged in their child's education. The resource center offers the following: volunteer registration opportunities, computer and printer access, childcare tag-team coordination, important updates, Rosetta Stone-English for those who want to learn English, as well as coffee and networking. The entire staff at Witch Hazel pitches in to keep the center running daily from 7:15am-2:15pm and during special occasions.

The school year began with a Positive Behavior Support (PBIS) focus on bullying. Students created posters, songs, and skits centered on teaching classmates about bullying and how to both prevent and help the victims of school-based bullying. New PBIS Posters are now lining the halls and everyone is working hard to earn "paw nickels" and monthly incentives.

There are many new after-school activities at Witch Hazel as well this year, including Chess Club, Young Rembrandts, LEGO Robotics, BLAST, and Bricks for Kidz. There's something for everyone. Active kids are happy kids, and after school activities are a good way to keep kids safe and learning.

SOUTH MEADOWS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Interim Principal: Carlos Perez

South Meadows Middle School is one of many in our District that has truly embraced their recycling program. What's unique about them, though, is the intersection of efforts from both students and adults that got the program started.

Last fall, then 7th graders TJ Kennedy and Catherine Shadden (and a third classmate named Connor who has since moved) talked to custodian Roy Wright about wanting to help out in the cafeteria at lunchtime. They were tired of seeing older students leave their garbage lying around and knew that comprehensive recycling programs existed, having just come from Rosedale Elementary School, which is LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Gold certified and infused with sustainable practices.

It just so happened that Roy had already been in contact with Carol Stroup from Facilities about initiating a cafeteria recycling program. Of course she was happy to provide the receptacles and training—that would be the easy part—what they needed was buy-in from the students to help get the program off the ground.

Dillon and Gabe show off their winning "Dulce" renderings and pose with Ms. Bray.

So TJ, Catherine and Connor planned their approach and went to Assistant Principal Becky Smith to negotiate incentives for recruitment. They came up with one Jolly Rancher per day, one candy bar per week, and a pizza party up on stage at the end of the year for the student helpers! From there, they made posters about the opportunity and talked to their friends about helping out. (Note that for year two, even the recruitment went environmentally-friendly: Catherine simply posted information on her Facebook page!)

The program was a great success and is expanding this year. There are 25 regular helpers, three of whom are life skills students. On days when they are scheduled to help, students are allowed to eat first so they can get to their stations and prepare to help their classmates with sorting. Some students stand near the garbage cans and recycling receptacles to make sure the right items get to the right place. Other students take milk cartons, dump out any remaining contents in a bucket, rinse them with water, and place them in a separate bag. Aside from milk cartons and the standard cans, bottles, and mixed paper, the school also recycles orange juice cups, plastic cereal bowls, juice pouches, and chip bags.

Roy is extremely pleased with the program and notes that it has reduced garbage at the school by more than 50%. Where they were previously filling about 22 garbage cans per day, they are now filling around 10—which saves both garbage hauling costs and burden to the landfill.

Next steps for the school will be joining Washington County's composting program for food waste when the program is ready to launch—hopefully by mid to late spring 2013.

HILLSBORO HIGH SCHOOL

Principal: Arturo Lomeli

Teachers and administrators in the Hilhi feeder team—Hilhi, South Meadows, Brookwood, Farmington View, Groner, Minter Bridge, Rosedale, Witch Hazel and W.L. Henry—gathered in the Hilhi gym the morning of Thursday, August 30, to kick off the final day of in-service week. The meeting was short and sweet, just 45 minutes, but gave staff a chance to get to know each other, share accomplishments at their respective schools, and build unity. T-shirts were handed out to everyone with a tagline on the front of "Ensuring the Success of all Students," and featuring the names of all the feeder schools on the back. What a great way to start the year!

Then on Thursday, October 18, award-winning young adult author Libba Bray visited Hilhi to interact with students and answer questions about her new book "The Diviners" in an event sponsored by Barnes & Noble Tanasbourne. Hilhi was one of just ten stops in the country for Ms. Bray.

Eschewing the standard format of getting up in front of the audience and talking about herself and her writing, Ms. Bray chose to get the students involved right off the bat. She asked for volunteers who came to the front of the auditorium and were given prompts to create their own story. Each had to decide their character's name, where they lived, and what they wanted (their central conflict), then the audience was asked to shout out suggestions for what each character's greatest fear was as well as the 'last line of their story.' It was a hilarious and engaging way to break the ice.

A handful of students who showed particular interest in Ms. Bray and her work, were allowed to stay after the presentation and spend more time talking with her. Two of those students were Dillon and Gabe—graphic art students who drew their own interpretations of "Dulce," the angel character in Ms. Bray's Printz Award-winning novel "Going Bovine."

On the administration front, Hilhi learned on Tuesday, October 2, that Principal Matt Smith had been selected as the new Executive Director of Secondary Schools following Dave Parker's move to Newberg to become the Assistant Superintendent. Just over three weeks later, on Thursday, October 25, the announcement came that South Meadows Middle School Principal Arturo Lomeli would be Hilhi's new principal. Welcome Arturo and best wishes Matt!

Liberty Feeder Group

EASTWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Kona Williams

"Places! Lights! Action!"

A group of students at Eastwood Elementary are learning a new set of skills this fall as they gather after school to put together the theater production, "Yes, Virginia the Musical," developed and sponsored by Macy's. Twice a week for an hour, the 46 students are learning songs, lines, stage directions, and voice projection as they prepare to present their two performances, both on Tuesday, December 18. The first will be at 8:30am for the school and the second that evening will be at 6pm for their families.

Macy's supplied the content of the musical free of charge, and presented a $1000 grant to Eastwood to purchase materials necessary to assist with the production. Eastwood is one of 100 schools across the country to have received this very special opportunity for our students.

Special thanks to Jenny Erickson, our music teacher, who applied for the grant this past summer. This is a unique opportunity for our students to showcase their musical and theatrical talents. If you are interested in helping support the musical, please contact Ms. Erickson at ericksje@hsd.k12.or.us.

LENOX ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: John Matsuo

Lenox Laps 'Shaves' Up Record Numbers

Lenox Booster Club President Kristin Moody told students in September that if they met their fundraising goal during Lenox Laps, they wouldn't have to do another fundraiser all year. She said it wouldn't be easy, because the goal was $15,000. Last year the event only raised a little over $7,000.

Moody also told students that depending on how much they raised, they might earn a Lenox Frisbee and school water bottle. She told the students if they raised $100 they would be one of the first students to get one of the new Lenox tee shirts. Mrs. Moody added that for every five dollars a student raised they would get a raffle ticket for one of many possible additional prizes, collected and donated by parents and our amazing custodian, Mrs. Jayne Baker.

Classes could also win prizes together not only for money raised, but also for participation and laps ran. This ensured that even those students whose families couldn't contribute financially had the opportunity to be part of a personal and class accomplishment, as well as benefit from some of the celebrations and prizes.

Then fifth grade teacher Rick Young, who was serving as the Master of Ceremonies, took over the microphone. He invited Principal Matsuo up in front of the crowd and announced, "I bet if we made our goal, Mr. Matsuo would even shave his head. Isn't that right, Mr. Matsuo?"

Mr. Matsuo said, "of course." Mr. Young then said that he would also, and then whispered to Mr. Matsuo that he thought fifth grade teacher Mr. Montague would as well.

So on October 5, the students began running – and running – and running! Upwards of 50 parent volunteers, as well as Kohl's Cares volunteers, came out to help pull off the event. The new West Union McDonalds donated orange HI-C large drink containers and apples for the runners. The final tally came out to be $15,900.

Special thanks need to be given to all of the volunteers, especially Event Chair Kim Bickford and Booster Club President Kristin Moody. On November 6, Mr. Matsuo, Mr. Young and Mr. Montague kept their end of the deal and had their heads shaved at an all-school assembly.

MOOBERRY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Brian Haats

Earlier this year, Mooberry students were thrilled to see a climbing wall being installed in our gymnasium. This new addition was the result of a generous donation from our PTA.

Brandon Irvine, Mooberry's P.E. teacher, says, "I have found that kids are taking a strong interest in the new rock climbing wall. It's a great tool for a PE teacher because it gives kids a chance to explore something new. Students that don't excel as much in the more traditional sports such as baseball, soccer and basketball are succeeding at climbing and feeling good about themselves." Irvine added, "My goal is to get all kids interested in some type of physical activity and having a climbing wall has been a real bonus for our program! The wall came with a complete guide and even has cross curricular activities such as Wall Scrabble. In this activity, kids are paired together. One is holding a word while the other is climbing to get the letters which are placed in the holds. Games such as Word Scrabble and Fraction Reductions benefit the kids physically and mentally."

Mooberry students love their new climbing wall.

"This wall is very safe for the kids. It is eight feet tall and 20 feet long with a three inch mat that folds down from it. Most of the activities have the kids traverse the wall horizontally and by the time they get 20 feet, it's a great workout. It even came with hula hoop holders, which makes the climbing even more challenging. I like the fact that I can set up my own course by moving the holds in different areas to make the course easier or harder," Irvine said.

Again, Mooberry is very grateful to our PTA for generously donating this wall. It is a great resource and it's nice for Mooberry kids to have something exciting and new!

ORENCO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Tim Bishop

Here are some of the fun things Orenco students have been doing!

In first grade, students learned about apples. Students were able to taste the different types of apples and see how they grow. In science, they studied the life of a spider. They got a first-hand look at how they spin webs and gather food.

In second grade, students just finished up a unit called "Me on the Map." They learned about how to read a key, the cardinal directions, and about where they live and the world around us. Second graders studied bats in the month of October and learned about mega bats and micro bats. They studied their life cycle, habitat and food chain!

Third grade has been very busy studying about the weather. They just had their weather assembly and taught the school about the water cycle, wild weather and different types of clouds. Students were also on Orca Live, teaching about sequencing in reading weather, and the writing process. They had meteorologist Mark Nelsen visit to teach them about his job responsibilities and tools he uses to forecast the weather. At the end of our unit, students will work in small groups to do written and oral presentations about different types of wild weather.

Fourth graders at Orenco have been learning about the regions of the United States. Each student is studying a state and creating a giant postcard displaying all the information they have researched. The project will culminate in a Pageant of the States assembly.

Fourth graders made a representation for a million in math. In reading, *Finding The Titanic* was a huge hit with the students, especially since this was the 100th anniversary of the ship's disaster. These students earned enough class gotchas for a reward celebration before the first month of school ended. Yahoo!

Fifth grade is studying a variety of subjects ranging from early European explorers to exploring the moon. They are planning a field trip to OMSI to learn more about the human body. Everyone is excited!

In late October, the sixth graders went to Outdoor School at Camp Cedar Ridge. They learned about animals, water, plants, and the earth during each day's field study. They also enjoyed the wonderful meals, making new friends, and nightly campfires. Many life-long memories have been made.

QUATAMA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Janis Hill

Always wearing a sunny smile, second year AmeriCorps member Megan Chase has her hands full with lots of exciting learning at Quatama. AmeriCorps is a national service organization for people who are interested in making a difference.

Quatama is fortunate not only to have a service member at our school, but especially to have Megan back for a second year. Her mission is tutoring young students in reading and/or math, after-school programs, community outreach, and volunteer generation! Her impact can be seen both in the school and out.

During the summer, Megan coordinated a volunteer group from Synopsys for garden clean-up, butterfly garden preparation, and much-needed weeding of the plant beds at the school. Her summer garden work resulted in vegetables to eat and share as well as a

learning space outdoors for classrooms.

While most Quatama after-school clubs start after conferences, two clubs started early. A garden club created garden art, tried garden specialties (kale chips, which the students loved!), and cleaned up the garden for fall. A student-inspired Service/Leadership/ Newspaper club visited a local retirement home to visit, play games, and be inspired by the seniors there.

Principal Matsuo and 5th grade teachers Mr. Young and Mr. Montague agreed to shave their heads if students raised $15,000 during the Lenox Laps fundraiser, and students answered the challenge by raising $15,900!

In classrooms, Megan has helped with the kindergarten worm compost project, organized materials for a new tutoring system, and worked with the STEM TOSA, Sharon Angal, to place and use equipment purchased with the Hillsboro Schools Foundation grant. She attends parent meetings, makes calls to volunteers, and gathers friends from her own network to help with clubs and the garden.

During the school day, Megan is working with kindergarten through second grade students in need of an extra boost for a strong start in reading. Megan meets four to five times a week for half an hour with groups of up to four students.

Megan's particular interest in the arts and science are a great asset to the Quatama STEAM initiative (Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics integrated learning.) However, her greatest gift is the care that comes from her heart to the students, parents, and staff. She does make a difference!

WEST UNION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Principal: Craig Harlow

Students from West Union have the opportunity to get fit and find their inner Mark Twain this fall. Our West Union Running Club kids are encouraged to run laps at their lunch recess and after school. These laps are counted and logged by volunteers.

Students have the opportunity to earn prizes and those who complete a full marathon (26.2 miles!) are awarded a t-shirt. The greatest prize is seeing our kids enjoying physical activity and learning about perseverance and commitment.

Students are also participating in the National Novel Writing Month this November. The concept is for our students to write a novel in a month. Students track their own progress, get pep talks and support from each other and from students across the nation.

This fall, over a quarter million students across the nation will participate with our West Union students in writing their own novel! This writing activity has students engaged, focused, and inspired to write "their" story. It creates a genuine enthusiasm and passion for writing. We believe this will inspire a lifelong passion for literacy, and who knows, perhaps the next JK Rowling attends West Union Elementary!

POYNTER MIDDLE SCHOOL

Principal: Greg Timmons

By 8th graderAshley Salinas

Music is important to teens and here is why: each Friday during lunch, students have the opportunity to listen and sing along to their favorite songs. This amazing little club is called "Glee." It's loads of fun! The club now has regulars, who show up every week. During our last Black Ticket event, the Glee Club got to perform on stage; some of the audience even jumped in to sing favorites by The Wanted, Taylor Swift, and Maroon 5.

Music invokes spirit, and speaking of spirit, on Friday, October 26, we had our first spirit assembly of the year. Poynter WEB and Leadership students worked hard planning and rehearsing for the event. Various themes were introduced for the week, such as Super Hero Day, and Twin Day. The students did an outstanding job getting the school excited about being Patriots!

It's been a busy year at Poynter. Many students are taking an interest in fall sports, like volleyball and soccer. Our "Back to School Dance" was awesome! Students wore pink on "Pink Out" Day for breast cancer awareness. The magazine/cookie dough sale was success. It's hard to believe that the first quarter is over! GO PATRIOTS! Keep up the great work!

LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL

Principal: Gregg O'Mara

At Liberty, we are celebrating our 10th year as a comprehensive high school. Our theme is "Celebrating 10 Years of Excellence." We had a wonderful kick-off dinner on the track prior to our varsity football game vs. St. Helens on September 14.

Over 100 former and current Liberty staff, along with Superintendent Mike Scott, School Board Chair Janeen Sollman, and School Board member Wayne Clift attended, and we enjoyed a nice dinner donated by Marty Reser of Reser's Fine Foods.

US News and World Report rated Liberty High as 15th out of 283 high schools in Oregon for 2012. This ranked Liberty in the Silver Medal category and placed the school in the top 5 percent of the high schools in the state. The formula used for calculating the rating included: college readiness, state assessment scores and teacher/student ratio.

Liberty's own Laurie Jenkins earned state-level recognition for her efforts with Liberty Fit; she is a regional winner of the Governor's Volunteer Award, and was recognized on November 5 at a luncheon at the Salem Conference Center. Liberty Fit also picked up another sponsor: Hood-to-Coast. They join our current sponsors Oregon Roadrunner Club and Run with Paula Events. If you are interested in making a donation to Liberty Fit, please contact Laurie Jenkins via email.

Incoming Liberty High School senior Dorian Kershaw spent a week in Washinton, D.C. this summer, living the life of a U.S. Senator through the American Legion Auxiliary's Girls Nation program.

Now in its 65th year, ALA Girls Nation provides two young women per state with the opportunity to visit the nation's capital, create a mock legislature, submit bills and resolutions, and meet with actual elected officials, among many other activities.

Learn more about Dorian's experience in her own words:

"During my stay I was 'Senator Kershaw' as I actively debated in many of the program's mock senate sessions. I now feel as though parliamentary procedure is a kind of game, and the passage (or failure) of a bill is a prize to be won persuasively with the most votes. Senate sessions were invigorating and probably my favorite of all the activities, due to the excitement of heated arguments.

Throughout the week, the other honorary senators and I also practiced flag raising, created our own party platforms, campaigned, and listened to guest speakers. I was fortunate to visit such places as the Arlington National Cemetery, where I saw JFK's site and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier; the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where I socialized with veterans in recovery; the Korean, Vietnam Nurses', and Vietnam Memorials; the Lincoln Memorial, adjacent to the towering Washington Monument; the Jefferson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and new Martin Luther King, Jr. memorials; and, of course, various other attractions on Capitol Hill.

I will carry on a new sense of accomplishment and confidence as I leave Girls Nation. I want to say thank you to all of my amazing teachers and counselors who are the reason I am so interested in furthering my knowledge, because without them I would never have had this amazing, life-changing experience."

Our dual credit senior course Senior Inquiry has over 100 seniors taking a rigorous 90-minute-per-day course articulated through Portland State University; each student who successfully completes the course will earn 15 college credits. Along with Senior Inquiry, we offer dual credit in Culinary, Fire Science, Child Services, Health Services, Physics, and US History.

Liberty's band is off to one of its best starts, which was highlighted by their performance at the 34th Annual University of Oregon Festival of Bands. It is one of the longest running and most prestigious competitions in the Western U.S. and our students always look forward to it. After a strong preliminary performance, the group received awards for outstanding percussion and colorguard in the "A" class. They finished 5th out of 10 in their class and 12th out of 18 overall. That performance also advanced them to the final round at Autzen Stadium for only the second time. They turned in another great performance in the evening round, which earned them 11th out of 15 and a score of 70.4, the highest in school history.

Hillsboro Online Academy

Principal: Linda Harrington

Hillsboro Online Academy is off to a great start in its inaugural year, with approximately 114 full-time students and 23 students who are accessing individual courses from their home school (slightly more than half of those are TAG students at the elementary and middle school levels).

Students are doing more than just plugging away at coursework on their computers. They are also engaging with the community in a variety of ways. On Tuesday, November 20, the Community and Career class took a field trip around Hillsboro to learn more about how our city functions; they ended their day at the City Council meeting where some of the students spoke to the Council about their experience at the new school. Students are also signing up to be peer mentors to students in the Transition program (also housed at Boscow), and help the Tualatin Valley Rose Society maintain the Harold Eastman Rose Garden.

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SUPERINTENDENT

General Fund (operating budget) is over $63 million. Our average staffing (student/teacher) ratio is 30.6:1, but since that is the average, we have some classrooms that are in the mid to high 30's.

With the PERS Board raising employer rates another 7.2% for the 2013-15 biennium and an uncertain level of funding coming from the state, our district is bracing for the possibility of making additional cuts for the 2013-14 school year.

There are those who would say education gets enough money, that there is no need for an increase in funding, and that we just need to be smarter about how we spend what we're given. That sounds reasonable in theory, but when you look at everything we've reduced over the past several years, how lean we're currently running, and the pressure our classrooms are under to just provide enough physical space to our students, much less needed materials, you begin to feel the urgency of the situation we're in.

Take our PERS costs for example. We're not trying to vilify the PERS system or its recipients, but it's difficult to argue against the fact that the public employers' obligation to cover the increases to the system has reached a point that is unsustainable.

When you look at the revenue side of our budget in the 2012-13 school year, you see that our initial General Fund amount was $172,245,973. Our PERS employer costs were approximately 18%—$17,176,210—which left $153,069,763 in our General Fund. This amount is approximately $15.6 million less than what remained after paying PERS costs in 2008-09. With rates rising again on July 1, 2013, our annual PERS costs will be approximately $25 million. This tremendous increase is taking place at a time when districts across the state are already struggling to deal with ongoing decreased funding for students.

We estimate that it would take a statewide allocation of $7.2435 billion to K-12 education for the 2013-15 biennium for our district to add back a full calendar year, meet contractual obligations, and stop using our reserves to backfill lost revenue.* In comparison, the 2011-13 biennial allocation to K-12 education was approximately $5.7 billion. (*Note that these are equivalents and estimates—District budget allocations are the result of negotiations with bargaining units, input from our community, and decisions made by Board members and staff.)

In an attempt to get ahead of the funding issue to the extent possible, and to be even more strategic about how we deliver education in the future, Hillsboro has launched a Budget Process Committee comprised of over 30 staff, Board, and community members. The committee is divided into three sub-groups: one to go through our current budget line-by-line to both better understand it and come up with short-term recommendations for potential reductions we may be facing in 2013-14; one to work on advocacy recommendations and process; and one to focus on education redesign—how can we do business differently so that it will cost less money and still lead to the best outcomes for students?

Our Board is set to adopt legislative priorities at its November 27 meeting. Once approved, these will be posted to the Budget Matters page of our website. Stay tuned to our website and plan to participate in upcoming listening sessions and other informational events to keep abreast of all the budget and related developments in our District.

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OPTIONS

STEM

Though no schools previously had the official title of being a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) Focus School, it was widely held that Farmington View Elementary School had the model down. When they were recognized by Intel last fall as being the top provider of elementary science education in the country through the Intel Schools of Distinction Awards, it set the process in motion for defining what it meant to provide STEM opportunities and expanding the offerings to other schools.

The newly-formed Portland Metro STEM Partnership, a regional collaborative of public and private organizations (including Portland State University, Intel Corporation, Vernier Software, and many others), has been working with the District and is helping fund STEM Coordinators at two of our four STEM schools: Tobias, Quatama, Farmington View, and Groner.

An example of the exciting new projects under way is Tobias Elementary School's recent egg drop competition, in which kindergartners collaborated with third graders in coming up with protective vessels for their eggs. Portland General Electric even sent out a bucket truck to raise the entries up to their launching point!

Third graders at Quatama Elementary learn the art of printmaking as they kick off the first lesson in a four part series that focuses on Oregon landforms and architecture. The curriculum has a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics)emphasis and incorporates art forms to help students make meaningful connections across academic disciplines.

Dual Language

Dual language programs are shown to be the most effective method for getting non-native speakers to English and English speakers to Spanish. Bilingual students will benefit from social, cognitive, and economic advantages that follow them through their life. Therefore, we were very pleased to be able to expand the number of Dual Language programs we are offering in the Hillsboro School District this school year.

Current English-Spanish Dual Language programs and the number of students participating are as follows:

- W.L. Henry Elementary School – all students in Grades K-3, Dual strand in Grades 4-6 – 380 students
- Minter Bridge Elementary School – all students in Grades K-2, Dual strand in Grades 4-6 – 300 students
- Reedville Elementary School – K-1 – 76 students
- Eastwood Elementary School – K-1 – 40 students
- Witch Hazel Elementary School – K – 30 students
- Lincoln Street Elementary School – K – 30 students
- South Meadows Middle School – certain classes for students in Grades 7-8 – 65 students
- Hilhi – certain classes for students in Grade 9 – 30 students.

Plans are to expand offerings in all these schools next year, and explore the expansion to other schools—perhaps with the addition of another language like Mandarin or Vietnamese.

Hillsboro Online Academy

Online learning is an important part of the educational landscape today, and will become increasingly important in the future. Researchers predict that within the next 10 years, 80% of students will receive some portion of their education online.

Hillsboro Online Academy, or HillOnline, is Oregon's first non-charter public online school; and it is its own school, not merely a program within one of our existing high schools. HillOnline offers a hybrid approach to learning for students in Grades 7-12 that has them taking their courses online, but also has them checking in and meeting face-to-face with their instructors on a regular basis to ensure they are staying on track and have the support they need to be successful.

The original goal for the school was to register 60 full-time students for the 2012-13 school year, but at press time there were over 120 students and enrollment was capped. The school will expand in the future to meet demand, and opportunities will be opened for students to take just one or two courses through HillOnline while still spending the majority of their time at their home school.

Right Brain Initiative

While not one of the Hillsboro School District's defined 'options' programs, the Right Brain Initiative has been an important partnership for our District since its inception in 2008.

A program of the Regional Arts & Culture Council (RACC), the Right Brain Initiative brings together schools, private donors, local government, artists, cultural groups, and citizen volunteers to develop arts-rich experiences for students in Grades K-8. Four Hillsboro schools had been participating in the Right Brain Initiative: Free Orchards, Jackson, Lincoln Street, and Quatama; and this year three new schools have been added: Imlay, Minter Bridge, and W.L. Henry.

A great example of some of the work going on in schools to infuse arts into the curriculum is a current project at Quatama Elementary School, where students are learning the art of printmaking from artist-in-residence Caitlin Shelman. They will take their new knowledge and use this art form to explore Oregon landforms and architecture.

For more information on the Right Brain Initiative, visit their website at therightbraininitiative.org.

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