

SCHOOL VIEWS

FALL 2016



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Message from the *Superintendent*

Dear families and friends -

Welcome to the 2016–2017 school year! I want to thank you for the honor and privilege of being selected Superintendent of the Snohomish School District. It is a responsibility that I do not take lightly. I look forward to working with you as we continue our dedication to student learning and reaching every child.



As you may know, my wife, Lyla, and I relocated here from Montana this summer. And although we have been here a relatively short amount of time, we feel very fortunate to live and work in Snohomish. It's evident that every day our students, staff, schools and community are partnering to accomplish great things together.

I am seeing first-hand so many wonderful things happening for our students and their families. Read about our district's Golden Kla Ha Ya Club and 2nd grade swim programs in this newsletter. Some other recent examples of the amazing things happening in our district include:

- This summer 26,564 meals were served through the Kids' Café to young people from our community. More than 200 volunteers joined us in our effort. Our district's dream of owning and operating the Kids' Café mobile food truck also became a reality. This truck enabled us to expand our reach and serve those who may have otherwise gone without.
- Pottery, renewable energy, astronomy, robotics, aeronautical engineering and painting were just some of the many

exciting topics students investigated through the district's Science and Arts Academy. Approximately 400 1st through 8th graders participated in this summer enrichment program and studied topics they were passionate about.

- The Snohomish Education Foundation held its annual auction on October 1. The Snohomish community showed how much it values and supports education by raising about \$204,000 at the event. Monies raised through the auction are used to help fund classroom grants, scholarships, district-wide grants and the Hansen Shoe Fund.

Our schools are full of a fantastic group of students and a staff who are bringing tremendous dedication and energy to the year ahead. This year, we have about 9,950 K-12 students enrolled in our schools. We are also fortunate to have about 1,200 employees in our Snohomish School District family.

Thank you for your dedication and commitment to the Snohomish School District. It's going to be a terrific year!

Dr. Kent Kultgen
Superintendent

Technology initiatives *advance student learning*



Thank you Snohomish! The following were made possible due to the 2014 Levy for Instructional Technology Improvements:

- More than 3900 new laptops (nearly 100 mobile computing carts) have been deployed across all of our elementary, middle and high schools since September 2015. This has dramatically increased student access to computers in classrooms.
- The cloud-based tools Canvas and Office 365 were implemented across the district. These tools help students and staff collaborate online and more easily access their school files and instructional materials from home or on the go.

- In order to help our students during the school year and beyond, we're providing Microsoft Office free of charge to all district students and all staff members. With Office 365, you and your child will now have access to the latest version of Word, for writing; Excel, for spreadsheets; PowerPoint, for presentations; OneNote, for organization and note taking; and much more from your home-based devices.
- To learn more about the district's technology initiatives, visit www.sno.wednet.edu/technology



Election day is almost here. In late September, hundreds of students, staff, community members, candidates and campaign representatives gathered at the annual Snohomish High School Campaign Breakfast. The breakfast, which was started a number of years ago by the late Snohomish High School teacher Tuck Gionet, provides an avenue for attendees to register to vote and learn more about the campaigns, candidates and democratic process.

Conservation, sustainability programs reap benefits



Snohomish School District is working hard to grow a better future.

The school district, in part due to its partnerships with our community and organizations such as Snohomish County PUD, Puget Sound Energy (PSE) and Washington Green Schools, continues to be recognized for its resource conservation management (RCM) and sustainability efforts.

“Energy efficiency opportunities help our district make wise investments in our future that will save the district operation costs and keep general fund dollars in our classrooms,” said Ralph Rohwer, Snohomish School District Executive Director of Operations. “Decisions we make are thoughtful, purposeful and consider the impact to student learning and the environment.”

Since the inception of the district’s RCM program more than three years ago, checks and incentives to the school district for PUD and PSE projects have totaled more than \$275,000 and avoided utility costs have been an additional \$250,000. In terms of the three-year savings, the total amounts to:

- **PUD:** Could power 224 average Snohomish County homes for an entire year.
- **PSE:** 22% total reduction from the original baseline (electricity).

- **PSE:** Could heat all 10 of the Snohomish School District elementary schools and the Parkway Campus for an entire year.
- **PSE:** 29% total reduction from the original baseline (heat).

Several district schools have active student-led green teams which have implemented cafeteria recycling and composting programs and other sustainability initiatives. Other schools have gardens where fresh produce and flowers are grown and enjoyed. At Machias Elementary, about 80 pounds of food scraps are collected every day from the school lunchroom — that’s 400 pounds per week! In the 2015–2016 school year, Machias Elementary and Snohomish High School were awarded the Washington Green Schools — Bronze Level Awards for their work with waste and recycling.

Snohomish School District has also been a recipient of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction’s (OSPI) Energy Grants Program which has helped fund district energy conservation projects such as lighting, heating, control system and water upgrades/retrofits.

“Our students, staff and community are working hard to create greener, healthier school environments,” said Rohwer. “It’s these types of partnerships that will sustain our schools well into the next generation.”



Students at Dutch Hill Elementary participate in a lunchtime composting and recycling program. There are separate containers for liquids, food items, recyclables and trash.

Free swim lessons offered to district 2nd graders



Swim for Life is offering every 2nd grader enrolled in the Snohomish School District a free session of group swim lessons at the Snohomish Aquatic Center for the 2016–2017 school year. This community program is funded through generous donations raised through Swim for Life. The Snohomish Aquatic Center is a Snohomish School District facility.

Swim for Life is a nonprofit organization that was recently formed by local community members who have a passion for enriching the lives of young people in our community. Its mission is to make young people safer in the water. During the 2015-2016 school year, 207 district 2nd graders took advantage of Swim for Life’s 2nd grade swim program.

- Learn more about the district’s 2nd grade swim program at www.sno.wednet.edu/2ndgradeswim
- Learn more about Swim for Life, its outreach efforts, scholarships, giving

opportunities and more, please visit www.swimforlifesnnohomish.org

- Learn more about the Snohomish Aquatic Center at www.snohomishaquatic.com

Did you know?

- Drowning ranks fifth among the leading causes of unintentional injury death in the United States, and second among children in the state of Washington.
- Participation in formal swimming lessons may reduce the risk of drowning by as much as 88 percent among young children aged 1 to 4 years, who are at highest risk of drowning.
- Regular physical activity in childhood and adolescence improves strength and endurance, helps build healthy bones and muscles, helps control weight, reduces anxiety and stress, increases self-esteem, and may improve blood pressure and cholesterol levels.



Seattle Hill Elementary is one of 94 schools being recognized across the state of Washington.

Elementary schools recognized

A big round of applause goes to Cathcart Elementary and Seattle Hill Elementary as they will be recognized as 2016 Schools of Distinction! This recognition is provided to only 94 schools - the top 5% - in Washington state for outstanding improvement in student achievement.

Outstanding improvement in reading and math sustained over a five-year period is the reason that these schools received the 2016 School of Distinction award. The Center for Educational Effectiveness and their partner organizations have recognized schools in the top 5% of improvement for their levels. Cathcart Elementary and Seattle Elementary will be recognized at the Wednesday, December 7, Snohomish School District School Board meeting.



Cathcart Elementary named School of Distinction for outstanding improvement in student achievement.



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District senior citizens invited to join **Golden Kla Ha Ya Club**



In appreciation of their many years of generously supporting our students and schools, Snohomish senior citizens are invited to attend district home athletic events and drama productions free of charge. Late this summer, the district launched its Golden Kla Ha Ya Club. Snohomish School District residents who are 65-years-old or older are invited to apply.

For athletic events: Present your Golden Kla Ha Ya Club membership card at the gate. Athletic event schedules are available at www.wescoathletics.com.

For drama productions: Call the number below to reserve your seat. Bring your membership

card to pick up your ticket at will-call. Your complimentary ticket will not be available at the box office without this prior arrangement.

- Snohomish High School: 360-563-4008
- Glacier Peak High School: 360-563-7504

To learn more about Golden Kla Ha Ya Club and download a registration form, visit www.sno.wednet.edu/klahaya. Forms can also be picked up and should be returned to the district's Resource and Service Center (1601 Avenue D in Snohomish). Seniors will be contacted when their membership cards are available for pick up.

Did you know the majority of people who live in the Snohomish School District do not have school-aged children? The purpose of School Views is to let our community know about the programs, events and activities happening in their Snohomish School District.

To reduce the cost of postage, we have not mailed to a mailing list, but use a bulk mailing process that delivers to every residential customer on a carrier's route.