



Battle Ground Public Schools

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Battle Ground P.S. Bits and Bites

An occasional roundup of news you can use -- or cheer

Brick giveaway at grand conflagration yields more'n a grand for schools foundation

The fire wasn't the only hotspot at the burning of the 70-year-old, vacant Central School Jan. 21. The bricks-giveaway operation was plenty busy both Jan. 20, and 21. The bricks, which had been taken from the back (west) wall, were free but donations to the Battle Ground Education Foundation were welcome. Brick recipients responded favorably, many leaving \$5, \$10 or \$20 in the jar. One generous couple from in or around Battle Ground gave \$100! The total collected during the two days was \$1,119.85, with some recipients saying they plan to send a check. To donate or learn more about the foundation, see www.bgef.org or contact Linda Gellings in the district business office, 885-5381.

Here are photos of brick-giveaway workers. In addition to those pictured, School Board member Mavis Nickels worked a shift. Thanks to Mavis and the others.

Captions are separated by a dash, with volunteers named left to right.



Sandy U'Ren ---- Barbara Bloomfield, Linda Gellings, Darla Girard



Shonny Bria, Julie Backous, Judy Ritola ---- Carri Kockritz, Trudy Storey, Kevin Jolma
(The smiling Jolma knocked mortar off bricks all day Friday, saying he needed the exercise.
Pat Elliott of the district's grounds crew had the same duty on Saturday.)



Chris Burt, Diana Gilsinger --- Chris Burt and Dave Cresap



Julie Backous, Jennifer Sawyer --- Julie Dobbins --- RaeDean Belisle, Linda Allen



Monty Anderson--Talon Bigelow and Grandma Lee Bloom, Kathy Davis--Shonny Bria



John Idsinga, Kathy Davis --- In blue: Gail McKenna, Sue Cranke

Teachers, coaches are awards finalists

Three of our teachers and two coaches are finalists in the Battle Ground Chamber of Commerce’s annual “Recognitions of the Year” event. Winners will be announced at a banquet Feb. 3 at the Heathman Lodge.

Teacher of the year finalists are Rene Soohoo of Pleasant Valley Middle School, Ruth Mills of CAM and Marian Beck of CAM. Coach finalists are both from Battle Ground High: Andy Schoonover (boys basketball) and J.J. Klaus (boys and girls soccer). Teachers and coaches from within the Battle Ground and Hockinson school districts, including non-scholastic youth-sports coaches, were eligible. Nominations were solicited from principals, faculties and the general public.

For more about the awards or the banquet, call the chamber at (360) 687-1510 or go to battlegroundchamber.org and click the “Treasures in the City” logo.

Here are brief summaries of the five BGSD finalists, with an excerpt from their responses when asked about their teaching philosophy:

Marian Beck has taught fifth grade language arts and social studies at CAM for six years following four years at HomeLink and 24 years in private schools.

“Teaching means caring about individual students and the cares and concerns they bring with them to the classroom. It means being an example of trust, hard work, organization, and openness to new learning. If students remember me as a teacher who made them work hard but cared about them, then my heart will be content.”

Rene Soohoo, Pleasant Valley Middle, reading intervention specialist and history with 38 years in the profession, 18 of them in the BGSD.

“My teaching philosophy is to make the state standards as interesting as possible so that students will pay attention, engage their minds and learn. A corollary to making lessons compelling is to structure units so several learning styles are used: kinesthetic, verbal, visual, interpersonal, among others. The smile on a student's face that shows comprehension, connection, engagement, and inner satisfaction makes my day.”

J.J. Klaus, BGHS varsity boys and girls soccer coach (and American Sign Language teacher) is in his ninth year at BGHS.

“I can be tough on the athletes, but at the end of the day they know I care more about them than just what they do on the field. We coaches especially want the athletes to remember us for the atmosphere we created -- team building, accountability, and, most important, that we showed they can achieve anything if they work hard enough for it and go about it with the right attitude and integrity.”

Andy Schoonover, boys varsity basketball at BGHS (and social studies teacher), is in his ninth year in the profession, eight at BGHS and one at the former Lewisville Middle.

“I would like my students and players to think of me as a mentor who taught life lessons and challenged them to be the best person they could be.”

Ruth Mills has taught sixth grade language arts and social studies at CAM for the past 10 years after seven years teaching various subjects at CAM and HomeLink.

“Nowhere do I feel more in my element, than in my classroom. Though I have taught other grades, I am inclined to think that sixth graders compose the nicest slice of humanity. They are ready to take ownership of their education. Most days they are enthusiastic and great fun to be with.”

CASEE food-drive nets 900 pounds



School Board President John Idsinga, left, and Battle Ground Education Association President Ellen Joslin, second from left, join the Learning Support Program crew and the food that team collected last week for the North County Community Food Bank. Idsinga and Joslin were judges in the intra-CASEE-campus food-collection contest, which pitted different offices in the two CASEE buildings, including Summit View High School. Cash donations by LSP helped sway the judges, Idsinga conceded. He said second place was a virtual tie between the business office and SVHS but praised all CASEE-campus employees for contributing 900 pounds of food and \$155.

Off he goes, into the wild blue yonder



Debbie Fisher of the Special Education office and her husband, Larry, are the proud parents of Air Force Capt. Michael Fisher. The 1998 Prairie High graduate was selected to join the Thunderbirds, an air demonstration squadron similar to the Navy's Blue Angels. Capt. Fisher, a 2002 Washington State University grad, has been an F-16 instructor pilot and flight commander at Luke Air Force Base, Ariz. He has logged more than 1,400 flight hours as an Air Force pilot. The Thunderbirds' 2012 schedule begins Feb. 26 at the Daytona 500 and includes two Northwest dates: July 21 at Joint Base Lewis-McChord near Tacoma and Aug. 4 at Hillsboro, Ore.

Two students named to all-state music groups

Two Battle Ground district middle school students have been selected to perform with all-state groups at the Washington Music Educators Association conference in Bellevue Feb. 18.

Teacher Allison Pierce at Tukes Valley Middle announced that Alena Davis, an eighth grader there, will be in the all-state band playing the clarinet. Chief Umtuch Middle School teacher Danielle Armstrong said sixth grader Elaine Smith was selected to sing in the all-state youth chorus.

Alena and Elaine will be among 375 young performers from across the state performing at the annual event.

Holiday giving spirit was, again, alive and well



This is old news. . . . But is it ever too late to praise – and encourage – efforts to help those in need? Once again, Battle Ground students and employees were major players in holiday food and gift drives and food-box-packing efforts.

One example was that of Amboy Middle and Yacolt Primary schools, which were responsible for a mountain of gifts (photo), mostly toys and clothing that were distributed to approximately 500 people in 100 northeast Clark County families. In addition, enough food was collected at the two schools for the local Lions Club to distribute a box to each of 115 families.

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