

Press Release



Battle Ground Public Schools

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Columbine victim's message coming to Battle Ground – high school and town

The principal and staff of Battle Ground High School are seeking support and participation from students, parents, civic officials, church leaders and the general public in embracing the legacy of Rachel Scott, the first victim of the Columbine High School shootings in 1999.

The public is encouraged by Principal Tim Lexow to attend a presentation by speakers from the national “Rachel’s Challenge” organization at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 26, in the main gym at BGHS.

Earlier Thursday, all BGHS students and 750 visiting eighth graders from middle schools that feed into BGHS will attend one of two “Rachel’s Challenge” assemblies. Those presentations will include video/audio footage of Rachel's life.

According to the Website www.rachelschallenge.org, “Rachel’s acts of kindness and compassion, coupled with the contents of her six diaries, have become the foundation for one of the most life-changing school programs in America.”

Lexow said, “Like every school, we’ve had our share of harassment and bullying. This is another way for us to reduce that and make a positive impact, not only in the school, but around town and the whole Battle Ground area.

“Rachel Scott stood for doing acts of kindness and compassion. If each person does that, it can start a chain reaction to improve the culture. This is taking that message to the next level.”

Part of the effort at BGHS will be creation of a “Friends of Rachel” club, much like “Rachel’s Challenge” clubs at other schools, including Prairie High and Maple

Grove Middle.

Rachel Scott was the first person killed at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., April 20, 1999. The slaughter claimed the lives of 12 students and one teacher and the wounding of 23 people. The two young murderers took their own lives.

In addition to the morning assemblies, a separate meeting is planned for students and staffers who have expressed interest in creating a “Friends of Rachel” club at BGHS. One activity at “Rachel’s” clubs is older students taking an incoming student under her/his wing as a mentor, guide and friend.

Portland TV station KGW (Channel 8) is partnering with BGHS to bring the Rachel’s organization program to Battle Ground. The station plans to film some of Thursday’s events.

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