



# Battle Ground Public Schools

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## *Battle Ground Bits and Bites*

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

### They're not just clowning around at GHP



*These zany Glenwood 'clowns' are part of the Cubby Choir.*

The voices and the costumes were big hits when the Glenwood Heights Primary (GHP) Cubby Choir entertained students and parents. But it wasn't all just clowning around. The message was important, too.

The 90-voice choir of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders under the direction of music teacher Cory Pierce performed "The Clowns," an hour-long production that had some similarities to a three-ring circus. Besides singing and dialogue, there was dancing, rope climbing, juggling, Hula Hooping, pogo stick jumping, etc.

The Glenwood Cubby Choir did two shows during the day June 10 for students and a show the previous evening for adults. Jeri Stith, a teacher at Summit View High school, insists she'd have loved the show even if Cory Pierce weren't her sister.

"It was fabulous," Stith said. "It brought out the unique talents of the kids. The theme of 'friendship' was the most important aspect."

Participation in the choir is voluntary. The young singers – about 70 girls and 20 boys -- get to school at 7:30 a.m. two days a week for practice.

# Summer time is construction time

The Tukes Valley and Prairie High campuses will be the sites of major capital construction and improvement projects this summer.

**Tukes Valley Primary** – A sixplex modular classroom building, with restrooms, will be moved onto the campus, 20601 N.E. 167<sup>th</sup> Ave., about mid-July, reports Josh Joner, facilities manager. It is being built by Blazer Industries in Aumsville, Ore., southeast of Salem. The structure will be hauled to the Tukes Valley campus on flatbed trucks in seven parts, Joner says.

**Prairie High** – Also in July work will begin on the grounds at Prairie High School, reports Kevin Jolma, director of facilities and operations. A new soccer field will be established on top of the former septic system drain field. PHS had been on septic since it opened in 1979. It was connected to the Clark Regional Wastewater District sewer west of the school grounds early this school year.

Soil from the existing athletic field (inside the track) will go on the new soccer field and artificial turf will be installed on the athletic field. The tennis courts will be resurfaced. See [battlegroundps.org](http://battlegroundps.org) for details and aerial photo.

## Wanted: Harvest Days Parade participants

Join the fun and help represent Battle Ground Public Schools to residents of Battle Ground at the Saturday, July 16, Harvest Days Parade. Walk the mile and half route through town, smiling, waving, greeting people and tossing candy to kids. It's important that we are represented in this important but fun way. The parade kicks off at 10 a.m. and we'll be finished by noon, give or take. If you'd like to join us, please send a note to [herrington.gregg@bgpsd.k12.wa.us](mailto:herrington.gregg@bgpsd.k12.wa.us).

## Kudos and congratulations

**All-district art show** -- Dozens of students representing all grade levels from across the school district participated again this year in the all-district art show, mounted at Captain Strong Primary in May. Here are this year's top winners:

- Best in show, K-4: Ella Meier, Daybreak Primary, grade 2, water color.
- Best in show 5-8, Keeley Prestwich, grade 8, Laurin Middle School, pencil drawing.
- Best in show, 9-12, Kaylynn Hokanson, grade 12, BGHS, ceramic.

- Superintendent's Award, Kristina Owsinski, grade 12, Prairie High. Ceramic plate.

**“Bye Bye Birdie” honored** -- The combined Prairie and Battle Ground high schools' November production of “Bye Bye Birdie” won accolades in the annual 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue Theater high school musical awards in Seattle on June 6. The production won Honorable Mention for direction by Claire Verity, assisted by Darcy Schmitt and Monika Tabor. Also receiving Honorable Mention was the costuming, under the student chairmanship of Prairie's Robin Becar and with the help of several parents. Garrett Olmstead of Prairie was nominated in the Best Supporting Actor category for his portrayal of the exasperated father.

**Watershed of Words** -- Sponsored by the Clark County Environmental Services Department, this contest began in 2008 and has grown from 40 student participants that first year to several hundred. The Battle Ground School District, where the North Fork and East Fork of the Lewis River, Salmon Creek and other streams are major features, was again well represented.

The contest is billed as “an opportunity for students to creatively express their interests, knowledge, and experiences related to water.” Many of the entries – poems, essays and art work – are posted on this Website:

<http://www.clark.wa.gov/water-resources/documents/WOW/WebBookletWOW2011.pdf>

Battle Ground district winners were: Emily Poston, grade 1, Daybreak Primary; Paige Barrett and Trista Wambold, grade 1, Daybreak Primary; Nathan Runkle, grade 6, Pleasant Valley Middle; Richard Boneski, grade 8, River HomeLink; McKenzie Holroyd, grade 10, Battle Ground High; Stephanie Gray, grade 5, HomeLink Battle Ground; Elizabeth Wallis, grade 10, HomeLink Battle Ground.

**Math whiz** – Everett Buck, grade 5 at CAM, placed sixth in the state Math is Cool Competition on May 21 in Moses Lake.

**Wonder welders** – BGHS welding teacher Jim Drake reports three of his students placed in state Skills USA competition in Yakima on April 22. Nikita Svistunov was 4<sup>th</sup>, Colt Wisti 6<sup>th</sup> and Dan Wagner, 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Studying Washington – Not the state or city, but the man** -- Aspire-program teacher Beth Doughty at Chief Umtuch Middle School will be in Virginia, in late July doing an in-depth study of George Washington. She will join 27 other history teachers from around the country to study under the guidance of historian Gordon S. Wood. Beth won a grant that covers most of her expenses.

**A winning entrepreneur** – Teacher Annette Weeks at BGHS reports that student

Amberlea Hansen won the state FFA Proficiency in Sheep Production competition, giving her the best overall entrepreneurial project of all entrants in the state among students raising sheep.

**Off to Berklee** – BGHS vocal music teacher Darcy Schmitt is busting-her-buttons proud of Remi Skalisky, who will be attending the Berklee College of Music in Boston this fall. Schmitt says that only 30 percent of the people who tried out for admission were accepted and only 2 percent were freshmen. Skalisky, an alto, starred in musicals and earned numerous awards during her years at BGHS.

## New master's-degree recipients listed

These employees received master's degrees in the past year, though early April:

|                              | <b>Date Received</b> | <b>Degree Description</b> |      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|------|
| Anderson, Jennifer W         | 03/31/2010           | Masters in Science        | LMS  |
| Andrews, Renee Yvonne        | 07/30/2010           | Masters of Education      | SVHS |
| Becker, Andrew D             | 08/27/2010           | Masters of Education      | CMS  |
| Becker, Ashley Tai           | 05/22/2010           | MASTER LEVEL              | MGP  |
| Benjamin, Jackalynn J        | 04/25/2010           | Masters in Science        | MGP  |
| Blahnik, Nicole Ann          | 08/14/2010           | Masters in Science        | AMS  |
| Blanchard, Sarah Rae         | 08/31/2010           | Masters in Science        | TVP  |
| Cornish Verity, Claire Rene  | 09/20/2010           | Masters                   | PHS  |
| Derbin, Rachael Dawn         | 05/01/2010           | Masters of Education      | DBM  |
| Drake, Jessica M             | 08/20/2010           | Masters in Science        | BGHS |
| Drimmel, Julie K             | 05/08/2010           | Masters of Education      | DBP  |
| Etulain, Stephanie L         | 01/05/2010           | Masters of Education      | PVM  |
| Gorby, Kelly Ann             | 01/12/2010           | Masters in Science        | TVP  |
| Hackett, Kristine Michele    | 07/31/2010           | Masters of Education      | DBM  |
| Housley, Jodie Lynn          | 07/31/2010           | Masters of Education      | TVM  |
| Krant, Angela R              | 08/14/2010           | Masters in Science        | LMS  |
| Martin, Virginia B           | 07/01/2010           | Masters                   | CMS  |
| Miler, Jennifer L            | 11/01/2009           | Masters of Education      | CSP  |
| Rogalette, Casey J           | 06/27/2010           | Masters in Science        | LMS  |
| Schoonover, Andrew E         | 05/01/2010           | Masters of Education      | BGHS |
| Schwartz, Marina E           | 08/19/2010           | Masters of Education      | AMS  |
| Sprenkel, Patricia Nina      | 05/12/2010           | Masters                   | LMS  |
| Tarbet-Mendoza, Ruth Kaye    | 06/10/2010           | Masters of Education      | DBM  |
| Vander Meer, Nycole Michelle | 06/13/2010           | Masters in Science        | GHP  |
| Wilhelm, Sara Jean           | 05/15/2010           | Masters in Science        | MGP  |

# Clamor for grammar

Before we all scatter to the winds for the summer, here's a quick review of some of this year's "Clamor for grammar" items:

**"Fewer"** describes people and objects that can be counted individually. ("The BGHS band was judged best among out-of-state bands with 99 or fewer members.") But "less" is for uncountable items. ("There is less sand on the beach than in this tent.")

**Apostrophes** -- Those vacation cabins you'll see this summer often have cutesy signs with misplaced apostrophes, such as "The Johnson's Home Away from Home" when they mean "The Johnsons' Home Away from Home."

**I or me?** – I, she, he and we are subjects of a sentence. Me, him, her and us are objects. ("She and I are going to a Mariners' game next Friday" and "Her mother and I give this woman in marriage." But "He is going to the Mariners' game with me" and "Mom and Dad are proud of her.")

**Continual-continuous** -- Continual is intermittent, as in "a faucet that continually drips." Continuous is nonstop, as in "The Lewis River's continuous flow was music to my ears."

**Contractions vs. possessives** – "You're" (with the apostrophe) is a contraction of two words and is short for "you are." Likewise, "it's" is short for "it is." Wrong: "What's you're nine iron doing in my golf bag?" Also wrong: "Your a wild and crazy guy!"

*Happy summer, all.*

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