

# Press Release



## Battle Ground Public Schools

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### They're Wolvereading up a storm at Chief



**Yvonne Flattum's sixth graders, like all of Chief Umtuch, are absorbed in the same book.**



**Doug Wilhelm -- Public can meet and hear author Oct. 20.**

Students and faculty at Chief Umtuch Middle School are in this together. Some of the parents are, too. And at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 20, the public may participate indirectly in "Wolveread 2011," named for the school's mascot, the wolverine.

Doug Wilhelm, author of the 2003 book, "The Revealers," will speak at Chief following a day with the students. Wilhelm's presentation will be in the cafeteria at Chief Umtuch School, 700 NW Ninth St., a few blocks north of downtown Battle Ground.

All of the 572 students, plus the staff, have a copy of the paperback book. In launching the mass assignment, Principal Dave Cresap told the students, "Reading is the most important thing we do" at school.

In this case, it's not just about getting in the habit of reading for pleasure something besides a computer screen or texting device. It's also about analyzing and discussing various aspects of literature, including character development, setting, point of view and the author's message itself. Then, Oct. 20, the students will hear from and meet the author, as may the public that evening.

Here's an excerpt from Wilhelm's own Website:

“In my books, I'm trying to tell good stories that have meaning — and that connect with young people's real lives today. My writing for young adults is based on listening to them, which I try to do often. I live in Rutland, Vt., have a teenage son, and am a full-time, self-employed writer. The first thing people often notice about me in person is that I'm very tall. I'm six foot ten! When I visit schools, this always causes a stir.

“I was born in 1952 in Portland, Ore., and moved to suburban New Jersey when I was in kindergarten. All through elementary school I was an avid reader. Suddenly, in middle school, I began to write. I was writing stories, poems, even a play. Until then, I hadn't been good at much of anything—I was tall, skinny, awkward, and not very popular—and it made a big difference to feel that this was something I could do. Like the main characters in *The Revealers*, I was bullied a lot in middle school. The idea for the novel grew, in part, out of my own experiences.”



**Reading “The Revealers.” Left:** Jennifer Bolsoy, left, and Abby Lindberg in Larissa McAree’s sixth grade at Chief Umtuch. **Right:** Battle Ground School Board member John Idsinga reads in Yvonne Flattum’s sixth grade class.

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**More information: <http://www.the-revealers.com/meet-doug.html>;**

**<http://us.macmillan.com/author/dougwilhelm>;**

**David Cresap, principal, Chief Umtuch Middle School, (360) 885-6350**

**Susan Kuhl, reading specialist, Chief Umtuch Middle School, (360) 885-6350**

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