



# Battle Ground Public Schools

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Oct. 31, 2011

## *Battle Ground Bits and Bites*

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

### Glenwood Hts. is math ‘Green House’



#### **Carolyn Choi trains GHP teachers in new ways to teach math.**

In the figurative “green house” of Glenwood Heights Primary School (GHP), a fresh way to teach math is sprouting. GHP teachers this fall are undergoing four days of training on new ways to teach math in what will become a district-wide “best practices” program.

Principal David Kennedy, who has attended the training, says, it goes beyond traditional math instruction and repetitive drills and assignments and “gives students a conceptual understanding of math. Students will be asked to explore different ways to solve a problem, discuss those ways with other students and then justify their answers and explain their thinking. It takes learning to a much deeper level. At the end of the day, it is the students who will benefit the most.”

In January, the “studio” phase of the training begins in the GHP classrooms of Jamie Griffith, first grade, and Terri Hays, fourth grade. They will be assisted by Carolyn Choi of Teachers Development Group in West Linn, Ore., who has been conducting the training at the former Lewisville School.

Susan Watson, the instructional support specialist who has been instrumental in developing and guiding the program, said it is “immediately applicable to the classroom. We are cultivating

these best practices at Glenwood and will grow them out from there to other buildings.”

## New Web page answers history questions

The next time someone asks you, “When was this school built,” the answer will be just a few keystrokes away. Over the summer a new page was added to the district Website that includes a photo of every school, its address, phone number, a link to its website and the year it and major additions were built. That last part was the toughest and would have been impossible without the help of the gracious Vivian Witt in the operations office. She was a real history detective, digging through old blueprints and contracts to find some of the dates. To see the page, go to the “Our Schools” tab on the district Website ([battlegroundps.org](http://battlegroundps.org)). On the drop-down menu click on “Photos, construction dates.” Here are two of the entries on that page:

### Battle Ground High School

300 West Main Street  
Battle Ground, WA 98604  
(360) 885-6500  
School Website, [click here](#)



**1952** - Cafeteria, kitchen, stage, ASB office, D classrooms and south half of the two B wings  
**1957** - Music room (north of main gym), east gym and adjacent rooms on north and east sides of east gym  
**1965** - North halves of the B and D classroom wings  
**1967** - District Stadium  
**1973** - Library, F wing, north half of G wing  
**1981** - J wing  
**1996** - Office, Rotunda, “Main Street” (corridor), counseling offices etc., north portion of J wing, H classrooms and south half of G wing

### Laurin Middle School

13601 NE 97th Avenue  
Vancouver, WA 98662  
(360) 885-5200  
School Website, [click here](#)



**1965** - 300 building, library and part of present office, band and stage, girls’ gym  
**1968** - 400 Building  
**1979** - Addition to office, 500 Building, boys’ gym, 600 Building  
**2008** – Cafeteria

## Kudos and congratulations

**NATIONAL MERIT HONOREES** – Battle Ground High School senior **Ryan Russell** has been named a semifinalist in the annual National Merit Scholarship competition, one of 15,000 nationwide. In late winter or early spring some 8,400 of the semifinalists will be picked as scholarship winners. More than 1.5 million students entered the 2012 competition by taking the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test last fall.

Four Battle Ground Public Schools students fell just short of semi-finalist honors but have been

awarded “Letters of Commendation” for their scores. They are CAM seniors **Vanessa Torjusen and Rochelle “Rokki” Roy** and BGHS seniors **Connor Groat and Jake Blackman**. The four placed in the top five percent.

**STEM WORK** -- Western Washington University has announced that three CAM Jr.-Sr. High School girls were selected last May as STEM Scholars (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Selected based on nominations by their teachers, they are **Ulayna Gershun**, who graduated in June, and two seniors this year: **Vanessa Torjusen and Alyse Homola**.

A letter notifying Principal Colleen O’Neal of the honors acknowledged “the outstanding achievements of female students like yours in science, math and technology.” The STEM awards are a partnership between WWU’s College of Sciences and Technology and the American Association of University Women.

Battle Ground high School Principal **Tim Lexow** attended a STEM Principal Leadership Retreat in Leavenworth, Wash., in late July. The retreat was designed to help principals, in partnership with teachers, recognize quality learning opportunities for students that support research-based science instruction.



**AGRISCIENCE EDUCATION** – Battle Ground High agriculture science teacher and FFA advisor **Annette Weeks**, pictured, attended last summer’s National Agriscience Teacher Ambassador Academy at DuPont’s Chesapeake Farms near Chestertown, Md. She was one of only 20 teachers from across the country selected for the academy from among 140 applicants. The National Association of Agriculture Educators described the academy as “a professional development program . . . where agriculture teachers learn new inquiry-based teaching techniques to improve science learning . . . (and) incorporate more science into existing curriculums, make learning fun and challenging for students and, as a result, improve student performance in standardized science test scores.” Ecology, genetics and biofuels were among subjects investigated this year.

**WATCH D.O.G.S. program expands** – As of last week, there were commitments by fathers to be in Laurin Middle or Glenwood Heights Primary as mentors and tutors on about 50 percent of the school days this year. It’s the Watch D.O.G.S. program (Dads of Great Students), started in February 2009 at Glenwood by dad-volunteers Jim Fairchild and Nate Berberian. This year, as their oldest children moved on to adjacent Laurin Middle School, they expanded Watch D.O.G.S. Participants (all adult males are welcome) agree to spend at least one day during the school year helping in classrooms and on the playground. Principals David Kennedy, Glenwood, and JoDee McMillen, Laurin, praise the positive effect WatchD.O.G.S. have at their schools.

## Calendar items welcome (including bazaars)

We made some revisions to the district Website last week. The most apparent change is the conversion from a two-column format to three columns. Now, the “Coming Events” list is visible at the top of the page without having to scroll down. And that makes this a good time to remind all schools that if they have events that would likely attract people beyond just that school’s families, they are encouraged to submit them for adding to this “Coming Events” list.

These may include holiday bazaars, high school concerts and plays, public lectures and information nights and even primary school carnivals.

## *‘Twoallbeefpattiespecialsaucelettuce cheesepicklesonionsonasesameseedbun’*



More about that run-together headline in a moment, but first . . .

Last spring, when “Bits and Bites” asked Maple Grove Middle School teacher Jeff Hereford about his collection of aluminum beverage-can tabs, he had 169,000 strung up. Here’s a picture of Jeff and 70,000 of them.

That was then and this is now. Last week, Hereford said the count was up to 223,000. The goal is – gulp! -- 1 million, which student volunteers put on strings during advisory or other breaks in their class work.

The project has two purposes. One is to show students what one million of anything looks like. The other is to raise money for the Ronald McDonald House, a program of McDonald’s restaurant chain that provides care and comfort to families of hospitalized children. One pound is 1,267 tabs and worth 57 cents.

**Jeff invites all of us to send tabs to him at Maple Grove Middle School.** As for that headline, the words are run together because that’s what it seemed like when it was voiced, rapid fire, in the old McDonald’s TV jingles.

## **Donations for classrooms**

**By Jennifer Hamilton  
Substitute Teacher**

There are at least two websites available through which teachers can obtain supplies for their classrooms and/or projects. They are similar, appear to be easy to use, and appear to be successful. The major difference I see is that one of them requires participation from a district administrator and one does not.

The first website is **[www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org)**. To use this site, a teacher first must register, which includes sending a picture of your classroom and verifying that you can receive their email. Once donorschoose has accepted you into its system, you shop the website. It has 26

vendors who sell such educational items as books, math materials, basic school supplies, electronics, furniture, science equipment, rugs, etc.

You choose what you need then submit a request. Your request contains a description of what you need, why you need it, and how this product will benefit your students. This request is what a potential donor will read.

Donorschoose.org will then figure the cost of your items and post your request. Should your request be funded, donorschoose will package and ship your new materials to your school.

There are some teacher responsibilities, such as responding to any emails from the organization within six days and requiring your students write thank-you notes, which are forwarded to your donors.

What I really liked about the donorschoose website is that it was easy to find any school or district that I wanted. Plus, when I found a request that interested me, I could easily see where the school was.

The second website for teacher donations is **[www.iloveschools.com](http://www.iloveschools.com)**, which works almost the same way. The big difference is that it requires an administrator to be the contact person with their organization. Teachers may update and change their own requests, however, and teachers are allowed to have 10 wish lists at a time.

There are a few other details, such as limits on who may ask for donations. (Teachers, school nurses, and counselors may. Classroom aides, volunteers and substitutes may not.)

I also noticed that donorschoose seems to have a bit more publicity. For example, Starbucks recently ran a promotion where, if you bought a pound of its coffee and entered the code off the bag onto its website Starbucks would donate \$5 to the school of your choice. How cool is that? People could donate without it costing them anything more than the product they already were buying.

**More information:**

**[www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org)**

**[www.iloveshools.com](http://www.iloveshools.com)**

## **PHS teacher grateful for program**

**By ANNIE LAMBERTO  
Special education teacher, Prairie High School**

This is my second year as a Donor's Choose teacher. After close to fifteen years of teaching, I have learned to be creative in providing my classroom and students with materials. I posted my first project on the Donor's Choose website on Dec. 9, 2010. The project was for a collection of support materials (workbooks, consumables) to teach students social skills, living skills, and vocational skills in order to be more successful in the community. The materials cost \$576.

My teacher profile is linked to my Facebook account so parents of former students, friends, and family were able to see my project. By March 11, 2011, the project was fully funded. We've already used the materials in the classroom and I am sharing those with other teachers, so more students are benefiting.

This year, on Sept. 25, I posted a \$491 project to address physical activity, nutrition, and recreation with materials like pedometers, resistance bands, and food logs. I soon received an offer to "match" all donations to the project and just recently learned that the project has been fully funded. My classroom will be receiving the project materials soon! (A project must be fully funded in order to be fulfilled, and Donor's Choose sends the supplies listed in the project. It does not send cash.)

*Happy Halloween!*



**Give yourself a laugh-filled treat tonight** and watch comedian Jerry Seinfeld's take on trick or treating. It's on You Tube. Here's the link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MarBVyZVe9s>

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