

Press Release



Battle Ground Public Schools

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Grant paves way for multiple lessons



Left: Tukes Valley Primary special education teacher Kelly Gorby leads students on shopping trip to help local food bank. **Right:** Gabe Schmitendorf, 7, confers with Gorby about items on shopping list.

Nine special education students from Tukes Valley Primary School Dec. 6 got experience in the better-to-give-than-to-receive spirit of the season.

The Kids in Need Foundation (www.kinf.org) had awarded their teacher, Kelly Gorby, a \$500 grant to provide innovative learning opportunities. The grant did that and much more for the youngsters.

Ultimately, the money went for the purchase of nonperishable groceries for the North County Community Food Bank (NCCFB). But before the kids got to the checkout line at the Battle Ground Fred Meyer store Dec. 6 they:

- Had welcomed a visit to their class by Sherry Lambert, executive director of the NCCFB. She explained the operation and told the students what kind of food items are often needed, such as peanut butter and tuna.
- Created shopping lists.

- Established a budget of \$45 per student and set up a way to track expenditures during the shopping trip itself.
- Found their way around the store and compared prices as they shopped.

Back at school, the same students were instrumental in organizing and managing this year’s school-wide holiday food drive, an activity just about all Battle Ground Public Schools are tackling.

At Tukes Valley Primary, Gorby’s students are maintaining a large wall graph, updated daily, to show how much has been collected throughout the school. At the conclusion of the food drive they will create a human graph on the playground, lining up all TVP students to visually demonstrate how much food was collected each day.

And, when the food has all been collected and quantities recorded, Kelly Gorby’s students will have the satisfaction of knowing they helped put food on the tables of needy north county residents.

“I think this is a very special project,” Principal Sundby said. “It directly connects students in our school with those in need in our community.”



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