



Battle Ground Public Schools

Director of Communications: Gregg Herrington, (360) 885-5337

PO Box 200 • Battle Ground, WA 98604-0200 • Office Location: 11104 NE 149th Street • Brush Prairie, WA
District Switchboard: (360) 885-5300

Dec. 9, 2011

Battle Ground Bits and Bites

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

Caring, sharing time in BG schools



Glenwood Heights Primary fourth graders make room-by-room collections of food brought by students for donation to North County Community Food Bank. The effort is coordinated by teacher Jay Vroman. Through Thursday, Kara Wooley's kindergarten class was leading all GHP rooms in donations.

Throughout the year, students and employees of Battle Ground Public Schools show their concern and generosity for those struggling financially. That concern is especially manifest during the Christmas season with school food drives and gifts for the school's needy (but unnamed) families.

Kelly Gorby, special education teacher at Tukes Valley Primary, received a \$500 "Teacher Grant" from the Kids in Need Foundation (www.kinf.org). She then led

several of her students on a shopping trip to the Battle Ground Fred Meyer store where they spent the money on nonperishable food for the North County Community Food Bank.



Kelly Gorby's shopping team before hitting the aisles at Fred Meyer.

Life lessons were involved in the project as the students first did homework on what items the food bank most needs. They also drafted shopping lists for different teams of two and three shoppers each, and then looked for bargains as they shopped while keeping track of their individual spending limits.

Principal Laurie Sundby reports that Gorby's students "are in the process of organizing and managing the food drive. They maintain a large wall graph updated daily to show how much has been collected. At the conclusion of the food drive, they plan to create a "human" graph on the playground, lining up all TVP students to visually demonstrate how much food was collected each day."

Eleven Summit View High School students and three staffers on Dec. 2 delivered 33 pillows to Doerenbecher Children's Hospital in Portland. The pillows were purchased with donations from the staff. Jeri Stith of the SVHS faculty reported that the names of schools that have donated to Doernbecher are engraved on a granite wall next to the eternal flame in front of the hospital and "Summit View's name will be engraved on that wall within the year."

In still more signs of the season . . .

Sixty-five ROTC cadets from Battle Ground High worked an average of about six hours each at the Dec. 3 county-wide Walk & Knock food drive, collecting, boxing and loading food aboard trucks.



Boxes bound for food bank are packed at Pleasant Valley Middle School in photo at left. **Right:** The collection of gifts under the Giving Tree at Pleasant Valley Primary grows by the day.



Left: Students in Deanna Stanfill's Center-Based Classroom at Daybreak Middle gather at display for the School's food drive. Sitting, from left, are Nicholas Le, Kolby Adams and Calvin Bowen. Standing is Chants Hoff. The CBC students collect, sort and count donations daily and chart the progress on graphs. **Right:** Chief Umtuch Middle School students in Beth Doughty's class sort and box Walk & Knock food donations bound for the North County Community Food Bank.

Go, tell it on the mountain

and other field trips of note



Prairie High teacher Tom Wolverton, in shorts, and Ray Yurkewycz of the Mount St. Helens Institute, discuss the day's research plan with Wolverton's advanced placement biology students during a field trip to the volcano's northeast slope. **Right:** Students Chris Hogan, gray shirt, and Brendon McGill measure the area of a toppled tree as they study the effect on subgroups such as mosses and ferns.

Data gathered by Tom Wolverton's Prairie High students during their September field trip to the slopes of Mount St. Helens will help paint a picture of the return of life to the mountain's surroundings following the 1980 eruption.

"Overall," Wolverton said, "the students experienced a snapshot of the life of an ecological researcher," including overnight camping and meeting scientists and students from other parts of the world and collecting data for scientific studies. Eighteen PHS science students and one student journalist attended.

Karl Johnson, teacher at Maple Grove Middle, reported that his class visited the Portland Trail Blazers' training facility in Tualatin, Ore., Nov. 29 and "heard some truly great messages regarding setting of goals and overcoming adversity." The speakers included the strength-and-conditioning coach, director of player personnel and Brian Wheeler, the Blazers' broadcaster.

"The trip was really about finding ways to overcome obstacles and setting goals," Johnson wrote. "The message was coupled with the idea of using hard work, perseverance and a 'no excuses' attitude to accomplish anything." Afterward, Wheeler took the students to Buffalo Wild Wings for lunch. Johnson said the trip was financed with donations "at no charge to the students or district."

Six Summit View High School students with an interest in science or medical careers traveled to Seattle Nov. 10 with two staff members, Renee Andrews and Kris Neal, to visit the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. The trip was financed by a grant from the Hutchinson center.



Summit View students do hands-on lab work during their day-long field trip to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center. **Left photo** shows, from left, Jean Withers, Eliya Mironov and Liliya Vechirko. **Center photo:** Kylee Hamburg. **Right:** Smantha Tandberg.

Kudos and congratulations

Wells Fargo donated \$1,000 each to 10 elementary or primary schools in Southwest Washington, including Maple Grove. The no-strings-attached grants went to schools with high numbers of students qualifying for free and reduced-price lunch. The money is for various purposes, such as instructional materials, musical instruments, supplies for students and evening events with parents. Maple Grove Principal Barbara Baird said, “We have used it for incentives for our Pioneer Reading Program, good behavior, supplies for students when needed and instructional materials.”

Teacher-Librarian Angela Krant at Laurin Middle has won a \$500 Wal-Mart Community grant with which she plans to purchase nonfiction books, including biographies and a series on ancient Islam keyed to students in grades 5-8. “The list of potential biographies is endless,” she said. “Scientists, explorers. . . I’m trying to support curricular topics.”

Pleasant Valley Primary’s Glee Club appeared live on the Drew Carney part of “News Channel 8 at Sunrise” Dec. 1 from the Festival of the Trees in Portland.

WatchDOGS, the male-mentoring program at Glenwood Heights Primary, is catching on at adjacent Laurin Middle School this year. Jim Fairchild, the gung-ho father who is co-chairman of the program, reports 54 fathers have signed up at Glenwood and 39 at Laurin. WatchDOGS is “Dads of Great Students.” They pledge to spend at least one day in the school, helping in the classroom and on the playground as tutors and mentors. “Assisting kids in areas they need help is one of the best things WatchDOGS do,” Fairchild says. He can be reached at jimfairchild@me.com.

John Grisso, the district’s mail-delivery man who works out of the warehouse, was plenty proud when The Columbian on Nov. 29 ran a story by Ruth Zschomler, with photos, headlined “Hiker is a trail champ.” It reported that Kevin DeGraw, a 1998 Prairie High graduate and Grisso’s stepson, has completed the “Triple Crown” of long distance hiking in America. He recently finished a four-month hike of the Continental Divide Trail, from Canada to Mexico. He had earlier hiked the Appalachian Trail and the Mexico-to-Canada Pacific Crest Trail, which passes through Skamania County and crosses the Columbia over the Bridge of the Gods.



Kevin DeGraw, 1998 Prairie grad, has completed the Triple Crown of long-distance hiking. Columbian story: columbian.com/news/2011/dec/01/hiker-a-trail-champ/

*Happy
Holidays, one and all!*

The Battle Ground School District provides equal opportunity in programs and employment and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin/language, creed/religion, sex, sexual orientation-including gender identity, disability, or the use of a service animal by a person with a disability, age, marital status, honorably discharged veteran or military status, HIV/Hepatitis C status and provides equal access to designated youth groups. Marcia Christian, Diana Gilsinger and Jane Mercier have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination. They can be reached as follows: Marcia Christian, Title IX Sexual Harassment Coordinator, 360.885.5415, christian.marcia@bgzd.k12.wa.us; Diana Gilsinger, Deputy Superintendent 360.885.5338, gilsinger.diana@bgzd.k12.wa.us; Jane Mercier, Section 504/ADA Coordinator 360.885.5318, mercier.jane@bgzd.k12.wa.us; or a letter may be submitted to the designated coordinator at the Battle Ground School District, PO Box 200, Battle Ground, WA 98604