

# Press Release



## Battle Ground Public Schools

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### Christmas-season boxes bound for troops in Afghanistan and needy local families



**Left:** Ashton Daniels, left, and Erin Brady, fourth graders at Maple Grove Primary, pack boxes destined for troops in Afghanistan. **Right:** BGHS students, from left, Jacob Wedin, Nicole Boes and Liz Moore pack boxes with food collected at BG schools for distribution to local families.

Maple Grove Primary School students the week of Dec. 12 packed boxes filled with gifts and letters of thanks for U.S. troops in Afghanistan while, across town, Battle Ground High School students packed Christmas food boxes for local families.

**For the troops --** The Maple Grove boxes contain candy, snack items such as pepperoni, toiletries, toys for the troops to give Afghan children, and, perhaps most important, hand-written letters of thanks and encouragement from Maple Grove students of all grade levels.

Becky Blick, the school's media technician, said the items were purchased and donated by faculty, staff and parents. The boxes are destined for 50 – 60 troops total in four different units serving in Afghanistan, she said.

**For local families** -- Meanwhile at the Battle Ground Community Center, adult volunteers and students from Battle Ground High packed 210 food boxes for local families. John Idsinga, who coordinated the program, said each box contained 70 pounds of canned goods, 11 pounds of dried goods such as pasta and cereal, brown sugar, a gallon of milk, a 14-16 pound turkey, butter and cheese.

The nonperishables were collected during food drives at the district’s 20 schools. Perishables were purchased with local donations, Idsinga said. The food boxes were to be distributed to families on Saturday, Dec. 17, at the Community Center.

“We don’t want anyone going hungry,” said Idsinga, who is also president of the School Board and the North County Community Food Bank. The food bank is to get any food that remains after the distribution on Dec. 17.



**Left:** Maple Grove Primary students write letters to troops in Afghanistan. **Right:** Vitaliy Gula, on left, agriculture teacher and FFA advisor Annette Weeks, and Roman Paliy, all of Battle Ground High, pack food boxes at Community Center for Dec. 17 distribution.

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