



# Battle Ground Public Schools

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## *Battle Ground Bits and Bites*

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

### Future Chefs create healthful snacks



**Yacolt 4th grader Christian Wilcox** was Grand Champion in Sodexo's "Future Chefs Challenge" for making healthful snacks, Feb. 2 at BGHS. His creation was "Stuffed Bells of the Sea" (red bell peppers stuffed with crab, prawns, Monterey jack cheese, mushrooms, etc.) He advances to national competition. **Top left:** Chefs at work, with help of Sodexo employees. **Above:** Emma Massie (Yacolt, 3rd grade) makes cinnamon-raisin rollup and Toby Schnabel (Pleasant Valley 3rd) with Sodexo Chef Dave Williams, displays "Corny Face" snack. **Left:** Lynae Merriman (Tukes Valley 4th), Alissa Feeney (Pleasant Valley 3rd), Riley Sweeny-Katkansky (Capt. Strong 3rd), Julie Koskiniem (Yacolt 4th). Power Point, with names of contestants and other information is at [battlegroundps.org](http://battlegroundps.org).

**Did you know?** *School Improvement plans are now posted on the district Website -- [battlegroundps.org](http://battlegroundps.org)*

# Professional development days: All about teachers getting better and better



In addition to Ground Hog Day, Feb. 2 was the 2010-11 school year's second professional development day. Teachers and building administrators throughout Battle Ground Public Schools were on the job, reading, listening, studying, brainstorming and sharing ideas to continually improve techniques for assessing students' progress, developing lesson plans and engaging students in learning. At Yacolt Primary, **above left**, Principal Ken Evans and faculty members ponder the comments of teacher Shawn Connell, gesturing. **Right:** Teacher Kendra Long, blue coat, and others listen as Becky Long shares a thought.

## Kudos and congratulations

**Career preparation:** Battle Ground High school agriculture teacher and FFA club advisor Annette Weeks reports that student Amberlea Hansen placed second out of 28 student competitors at a Job Interview-Career Development event in Vancouver Jan. 25. The event drew students from seven schools in Clark and Cowlitz counties. Participants submitted a cover letter and resume', faced a panel of judges in an interview and wrote a follow-up letter. Amberlea advances to state competition in May. Weeks explained that FFA no longer stands for Future Farmers of America, even though the formal name is The National FFA Organization. Students must be enrolled in an agriculture course to be members of FFA, which is focused on various agriculture-related careers.

**Cheerleading:** The Battle Ground High cheer team was second in its division and event at the 2011 State Cheerleading Championships in Everett. The Tigers competed in the "Small Varsity" (12 participants) event, reports Jill Harris, BGHS cheer coach. Prairie High finished third in its event in a different division. Details at [www.wiaa.com](http://www.wiaa.com)

**New citizen:** Julia Anderson, an English Language Learner specialist at Glenwood Heights Primary, is a new U.S. citizen. She is from Novosibirsk, Siberia

**Aerospace scholars:** Prairie’s Anthony Taylor-Pena and John Russell are among 287 High school juniors across the state selected for the Washington Aerospace Scholars distance learning program, which runs through May. Based on their work and test scores, as many as 160 of them will be chosen for an expense-paid residency at the museum of flight in Seattle this summer.

**English Language Learners:** Teachers and administrators involved in the district’s English Language Learners program are proud of recently released test results from the 2009-2010 school year. ESL Coordinator Glenna Ainley reported that, “Battle Ground not only passed all three sections of this Annual Measurement of Academic Objectives (AMAO), but we outscored area districts, except Camas in one of three AMAOs, by noteworthy amounts! This is the seventh consecutive year Battle Ground’s ELLs met the AMAO targets, even as our bilingual student population continues to increase each year.”

**Teacher of the Year:** Katie Reed, third grade teacher at Pleasant Valley Primary, was announced last week as the Battle Ground Chamber of Commerce’s “Teacher of the year” for 2010. Other finalists for that award were Jeremy Gallagher, band and music teacher at Laurin Middle School, and Jonas Fridriksson, social studies teacher at BGHS. (Hockinson schools are also eligible for this award.) Battle Ground Public Schools had finalists in two other categories of Chamber awards: Julia Scott, school nurse at Prairie and Summit View high schools for Service Person of the Year, and Chris Higgins, a BGHS football coach, who also coaches non-school youth football, in the Coach of the Year category.

**Falcon Hall of Fame:** Kudos to Athletic Director Travis Drake at Prairie High for his leadership in establishing an Athletic Hall of Fame at Prairie High School. The first “class” to be inducted, from the school’s first decade, beginning in 1979, are: Tami Stuart, class of 1981, basketball; Chris Gawley, class of 1986, football; Chris Sperry, class of 1984, baseball; Jay Rogers, class of 1987, wrestling and football; Alan Embree, class of 1989, baseball, and the PHS state-champion baseball team of 1986, coached by Don Freeman.

## **Dedicated, talented Yacolt volunteer remembered**

About 80 mourners gathered in the Yacolt Primary School gym on Jan. 22 to honor school volunteer Megan Berglund, who died of a ruptured aneurysm in December. Teacher-librarian Emily Meek, one of the eulogists, said Megan quietly, consistently and frequently did a variety of jobs and projects for teachers throughout the school, including updating bulletin boards, mending books, tracing large maps and illustrations and making hand puppets. “She donated not only her considerable artistic and musical talents, but also her own tools and materials,” Meek said. “Although she preferred to be behind the scenes, Megan’s quiet and constant presence was a model for her own three children,” two of whom are still in Battle Ground schools.

## **Three musketeers: *‘All for one and one for all’***

A cast of 47 students from Prairie and Battle Ground high schools, under the direction of Claire Verity, will present “The Three Musketeers,” a comedy based on the Alexandre Dumas novel. The play runs five nights over two weekends: Thursday and Friday next week, Feb. 10 and 11, then Thursday, Friday and Saturday the following week, Feb. 17-19. Ordering reserved-seat

tickets is a snap via: [www.seatyourself.biz/prairiehighschool](http://www.seatyourself.biz/prairiehighschool). Admission: \$10 adults, \$5 senior citizens and students with ASB cards.

## Coats for kids – not just at Christmas



Generosity and concern for the less fortunate is manifest in Battle Ground Public Schools all the time -- especially in the Thanksgiving-to-Christmas holiday season. But Jodie Rogers at the Futures program in the Dodge House, near Capt. Strong Primary, wants principals, teachers and counselors throughout the district to know there's a good supply of coats (and some other clothing items) available throughout the year for needy students. The items are either gently used or new, most of which are donated by the Kidz Cloz store in Battle Ground. The Futures students sort, clean and hang the items. Rogers invites calls or emails from district employees who know of a specific need. **Top left photo:** Jodie Rogers is flanked by Futures students Richard Heiser and Bryanna Kyllonen. **Right:** Capt. Strong Primary had its own "coat exchange" last month, with 140 garments distributed to students. Teacher Beverly Handlan, who organized the event, fits Abe Blomquist, a third grader, with a hooded parka. The coats that remained after the event were added to the inventory at the Dodge House.

## School Board meeting-site changed

The Feb. 26 meeting of the Battle Ground School Board of Directors was scheduled for the Daybreak campus, in keeping with the Board's desire to conduct some meetings in various schools and some at the district office in Brush Prairie. But a conflict has arisen involving testing to be conducted at Daybreak that day. The Board meeting will be at 9 a.m. Feb. 26 at CASEE, 1104 N.E. 149<sup>th</sup> St.

# Foreign cultures, students' heritage studied

Students in Katie Prill's and Susan Crill's classes for highly capable students at Captain Strong Primary conducted a Culture Fair in January to wrap up a study of students' family history and heritage plus a foreign culture. Parents and grandparents were invited.



**In photo, Capt. Strong 4<sup>th</sup> graders, from left, Kalyn Aichele (representing England), Olivia Clark (Ireland) and Gwen Mistretta (Italy) celebrate their culture.**

Prill said the study “was designed for students to learn about their heritage and share where their families originated.” Prior to the Culture Fair, the 48 students, representing 19 countries, interviewed a family member or someone from the community about the country they had selected. They also used secondary sources. At the Culture fair the students presented their projects, including a dish from their country, which was shared with the guests, including School Board member Steve Pagel. The students' displays, including maps, flags and clothing, were then set up in the cafeteria for family members and third and fourth grade classes. Among countries represented were Romania, Luxembourg, Vietnam, Australia and Germany.

## Clamor for grammar

**Continual-Continuous:** Continual means regularly, but with breaks or interruptions, such as “The faucet drips continually” or “He is continually helping himself to my M&Ms.” But continuously means nonstop, as in “The water in Salmon Creek runs continuously.” Thus: “We stayed in a cheesy motel room where the air conditioning unit ran continuously” and the elevator door just outside our room was continually opening and closing.”

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