



**Battle Ground Public Schools**  
Since 1909 - Preparing our children to  
succeed in the next step of their lives

# Your Battle Ground PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Report to Residents of the Battle Ground School District, March 2011



## 'Teacher of the Year' 'Sad but redemptive' path leads to Battle Ground

At the end of every work day, when she goes home after teaching third graders at Pleasant Valley Primary School, Katie Reed asks herself, "What can I do better tomorrow?"

Judges of the Battle Ground Chamber of Commerce's annual community awards figured Reed is already doing



**Teacher of the Year Katie Reed of Pleasant Valley Primary School, with Bailey Anderson**

plenty of excellent work and selected her as "Teacher of the Year" for 2010. Teachers in Battle Ground and Hockinson were eligible for the award. Reed and all finalists for various awards were honored at a Chamber banquet on Jan. 28.

Reed's students obviously think at least as much of her as do the Chamber's judges. The students virtually bubble with enthusiasm and positive anticipation as they enter Room 11 to start the day. There are plenty of cheerful greetings, friendly exchanges and hugs.

All those good feelings in the room "build their

confidence to take academic risks," Reed says. "And that makes them more willing to challenge themselves."

As warm and fuzzy as the atmosphere is in Reed's room, there's no doubting it is a place for serious learning. The students know the drill. Within a minute of entering the room in the morning, most take their seats and begin doing math warm-up exercises.

A few minutes later, Reed addresses the class, explaining what they are about to do, and why. She encourages questions from them along the way.

As clear and deliberate as she is in her directions, Reed doesn't talk down to the students. She sprinkles words such as "fluent," "assessment" and "algorithm" into the mix.

"I love teaching and I love my students," says Reed, in her third full year as a teacher. "Although my history is short, my experiences are rich and abundant. The expectations I have for my students are the same I have for myself: work hard, be a reflective thinker, be kind and respectful, and have fun."

### Reed's difficult path

Reed's classroom demeanor offers no hint of the wrenching saga that led her to the Battle Ground School District.

She graduated from high

**"Reed"**

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**Steve Barber facilitates discussion by Battle Ground School District's Interest-Based Negotiations (IBN) team as it wrestles with possible responses to pending cuts in state and federal support. The IBN approach is rare – perhaps unique – among Washington state school districts.**

## Battle Ground students well served by unusual budget-writing method

Despite looming cuts in state financial support, the two-dozen people engaged in the Battle Ground School District's unusual budget-writing process are determined to provide excellent education for 13,000-plus students.

Maintaining the district's 20 schools and other facilities and preserving as many jobs as possible are the other top priorities. Battle Ground Public Schools, with 1,470 full- and part-time workers, is the largest employer in north Clark County.

These two-dozen people are working collaboratively on a budget proposal for the 2011-2012 school year. This school year's operations and maintenance budget is \$124 million. The proposed budget that emerges will undergo public hearings this summer and action by the elected Battle Ground School Board in late August.

But getting to final approval the Battle Ground way is a rare – if not unique – process in Washington. It is called Interest-Based Negotiations (IBN).

The two dozen persons on the IBN team, representing all categories of employees, are facing the third consecutive year of cuts in state financial

support. In each of the past two years, their proposed budget included self-imposed pay cuts for district employees in order to minimize impact on students and save jobs.

The negotiators are grateful to voters for their support in February 2010 of a school levy. Its approval means cuts here will be less Draconian than would have been the case had the measure failed.

### An uncommon procedure

This collaborative IBN process is not the way most school districts produce their budgets. The more familiar model is for a district administration to develop a proposal, perhaps with initial input from employees and the public. Then, the budget is altered – or not – and presented to the school board.

But for the past 13 years Battle Ground has marched to a different drummer. Rather than present an administration-drafted budget and then hear concerns and criticism from various groups, Battle Ground engages all employee groups from the outset. The district has enjoyed good labor relations along the way.

The IBN team meets every other month during

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**"IBN"**

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## School volunteers are a blessing in BG Schools

**All schools welcome help – especially middle and high schools.**

Even when she's not there, she's there.

Stephanie Lindstrom, a parent and volunteer at the Pleasant Valley schools in the

Battle Ground district, has had an impact on the campus that is seen and appreciated by anyone with a computer and an interest in the PV primary or middle school.

Her service to the Pleasant Valley schools includes having rebuilt the PTA Website ([pleasantvalleypta.com](http://pleasantvalleypta.com)), which Middle School Principal

Ward Holcomb describes as "dynamite."

But in addition to spending at least five hours a week at home updating that Website and sending school-related e-mail announcements, Lindstrom is a frequent presence on the campus on Northeast 50th Avenue near the west edge of the school district.

A former PTA co-president, she has helped for 10 years in classrooms, on field trips and around the schools with projects such as fitness tests and fundraisers.

"As I got into volunteering, I realized I loved it and did it because I enjoyed it," she says. "When we were new to the area it was a great way to make new friends."

While there is always a need for volunteers, especially in the high schools and middle schools, there are countless dedicated and dependable volunteers such as Lindstrom in the school district.

They are generous with their time, talent and enthusiasm for helping children learn and helping teachers do their jobs.

They are spread geographically from the Cascade foothills of Amboy and Yacolt in far east Clark County to Pleasant Valley in the west, not far from the confluence of Interstate 5 and I-205. The volunteers interviewed

for this story were quick to volunteer this sentiment: There is always some other volunteer in Battle Ground who is more deserving of getting his or her name in the paper.

That feeling was also expressed by Teri Presser, secretary at

Captain Strong Primary, when asked to name one or two key volunteers at that school.

"Volunteers provide extraordinary support and help to our schools," she said. "We couldn't do what we do without them. They are amazing! We are

**"Volunteers"**

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**Stephanie Lindstrom volunteers on the Pleasant Valley campus and at home, where she designed and operates the schools' combined PTA Website and sends out calendar notices.**



**Tricia Finklein, who volunteers at Maple Grove Primary and Middle schools, works with kindergartners in Sue Hill's class.**

# PERCS: Picking up the pace for learning

## After-hours resource centers open to all district residents

Because third grader Garrett Anderson likes to read and wants to get even better at it, there's nothing unusual about him showing up back at Glenwood Heights Primary School long after his classmates – and most teachers – have gone home for the day.

Garrett and his mother, Jennifer, are regulars at the Parent Educational Resource Center (PERC) at Glenwood Heights in the Battle Ground School District. The

Glenwood Heights Primary School's PERC, which is in a portable, might best be described as a sort of mini-school library. It and PERCs at five other Battle Ground primary schools have books, educational games, books, computers with interactive educational programs, books, magazines and more books.

Most of the PERCs are open one afternoon and one early evening each week. They are staffed by teacher aides who love to see students and parents walk in the door and start prowling around for books and games or sit down at a computer and power up an interactive game that is both fun and educational.

Jennifer Anderson said, "We like the PERC because they have books organized by reading level. Garrett can easily find something at his level, but also some that are slightly more challenging. In that way, it's more efficient and helpful than a regular library."

### PERCs open to all

But get this: The Parent Resource Educational Centers are open to all residents of the sprawling north county district, even those without children.



Garret Anderson and his mother Jennifer find plenty of reading material at Glenwood's PERC, which is open to all parents in the Battle Ground School District.

"The PERCs are primo for parents whose kids aren't in school yet," says Diane Mason in the Learning Support Services office. (885-6592; mason.diane@bgsd.k12.wa.us). "Parents with emergent readers can easily find books and games that meet their child's level. There are also plenty of middle school reading materials and board games in English plus Russian and Spanish. Some are math-focused.

The PERCs, she said, are "Basically to provide parents with material to help their children continue the learning process, especially if they are struggling in reading or math. If they have homework issues, these sites have good sources to help."

The PERCs are funded largely by federal- and state-government grants. Parents must accompany a student to the centers.

Here are the sites and phone numbers of the Battle Ground district PERCs. They are open between one and three times each week in late afternoon and/or early evening until 7 or 7:30 p.m.:

**Captain Strong**, 1002 N.W. Sixth Ave. PERC, 885-6473 (School office, 885-6400)

**Glenwood Heights**, 9716 N.E. 134th St. PERC, 885-5265 (School office, 885-5250)

**Maple Grove**, 610A S.W. Eaton Blvd. (formerly N.E. 199th Street). PERC, 885-6763 (School office, 885-6750)

**Pleasant Valley**, 14320 N.E. 50th Ave. PERC: 885-5566 (school office, 885-5550)

**Tukes Valley**, 20601 N.E. 167th Ave. PERC, 885-6232 (School office, 885-6200)

**Yacolt Primary**, 406 W. Yacolt Road, Yacolt. PERC, 885-6009 (School office, 885-6000)



Glenwood Heights Primary is home to one of the Battle Ground Public Schools' PERCs, which are open to all residents of the district.

## "IBN"

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the school year and more often at budget-writing time. It represents all of the district's work groups, including teachers, counselors, school nurses, principals, school secretaries, custodians, maintenance workers, crossing guards, classroom aides, administrators and administrative support staff.

(Cafeteria workers and bus drivers are not district employees. Those services are outsourced to private companies.)

### Waiting on Olympia

Until the state Legislature finishes its work, the IBN team won't know how much the state will cut. But significant cuts clearly

are coming for the 2011-12 school year. The IBN team is discussing all manner of contingencies and possibilities for dealing with them.

In fact, at press time for this insert in The Reflector, state funding for the remainder of the present school year was still in question, even after a 6.3 percent cut in some programs enacted by the Legislature in a one-day special session in December.

In any case, the product of the IBN team's work will go to the employee groups and School Board members for comment and suggestions in a process IBN calls "looping out."

"I have total trust in the interest-based negotiations team and its work," says Superintendent Shonny Bria, who initiated the IBN process here shortly after she was hired in 1998. "I am confident the 2011-2012 budget will take into

consideration every facet of our children's education.

"It is wonderful that these negotiators come together and are all working for a common cause, providing for the best possible education of our children and keeping our employees working."

### Sad, but proud

Bria is both sad about and proud of the IBN's budget proposals the past two years. She's sad because no educator wants to see school budgets cut, but proud that the IBN process was intelligent, deliberative and peaceful and resulted in shared sacrifices.

In the spring of 2009, when the IBN team decided it could not, in good conscience, cut any deeper into programs affecting students, maintenance of buildings, etc., it proposed pay cuts averaging

about 4 percent. Some were to be accomplished in off-the-top salary cuts, some in unpaid furlough days and some in reductions in paid, non-teaching days.

Bria said that action by the IBN team "was huge, both in dollars and in what it said about Battle Ground employees' willingness to minimize negative impact on the students and their fellow employees by taking the pay cuts.

"It says a lot about the IBN process and about our employees across the district that it was approved by the worker groups and included in the budget proposal to the School Board."

The Board approved the budget, with those pay cuts.

### Good news, bad news

The good news this year is

that Battle Ground voters in 2010 approved a substantial levy that takes effect this calendar year. The bad news is still in the making in Olympia, Washington, D.C., and across the economy.

IBN members might take solace in the words of Colleen O'Neal, one of the district's principals and the record keeper of IBN meetings.

In a recent message to the IBN team, she said cuts forced by the recession will hurt, but "Our desire is to provide excellent educational opportunities to all our students.

"I want you to know," O'Neal continued, "that I appreciate each and every member of this team who gives heart and soul to the work that we have to do, both at the negotiations table and in our schools and across the district. Please take care of yourselves and remember to breathe and laugh."



Battle Ground Public Schools Superintendent Shonny Bria, in brown jacket, and members of the school district's IBN team exchange ideas in a small-group breakout session. Clockwise, from Bria: Linda Allen, director of human resources; Bill Penrose, Maple Grove Middle School principal; Ellen Joslin, Battle Ground Education Association (teachers' union) president; Lori Benson, Daybreak Primary School paraeducator, and Glen Erickson, Public School Employees union (support staff) co-president.

## Contact your BG Public Schools

**Administrative offices:** 11104 N.E. 149th St., Brush Prairie  
**District switchboard:** (360) 885-5300  
**Transportation and boundaries:** (360) 885-6577  
**Special Education:** (360) 885-5318  
**Communications:** (360) 885-5337  
**Website:** battlegroundps.org ("Our Schools" tab has links to school Websites.)

### The elected Board of Directors:



**Steve Pagel**  
 Board President  
 pagellandscape@aol.com  
 (360) 573-7758



**Monty Anderson**  
 montya@tapani-underground.com  
 (360) 686-8066



**Karen Lehman**  
 karenjane22@hotmail.com  
 (360) 904-7633



**John Idsinga**  
 Board Vice President  
 jidsinga@pacifier.com  
 (360) 852-4960



**Sam Kim**  
 bgschoolboard@gmail.com  
 (360) 896-7119

### The Superintendent of Battle Ground Public Schools is



**Shonny Bria**  
 bria.shonny@bgsd.k12.wa.us  
 (360)885-5302

**School Board information:** See "School Board" at battlegroundps.org. The next two regular meetings of the Battle Ground School Board are 3:30 p.m. Friday, March 11, at the Tukes Valley schools, 20601 N.E. 167th Ave., and 9 a.m. Saturday, March 26, at the district office, 11104 N.E. 149th St., Brush Prairie.

## "Reed"

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school in Beaverton and from Portland State University. But her initial dreams of a teaching career and family were short-lived.

She was pregnant and in the middle of her first year of teaching kindergarten at a private child care center in West Linn, Ore., when her first husband was stricken with cancer. She soon stopped teaching to care for him and their newborn daughter, Kayla. The child was only five months old when her father died.

After that, "I supported myself with much help from my parents and by running a daycare in my home," Reed says.

In October 1996, a mutual friend introduced her to Scott, a Horizon Airlines pilot whose first wife had died of cancer, leaving him with a daughter, Jordan, 5, and son, Tyler, 7.

In July 1997, they were married and she moved with Kayla to his home in Vancouver. "It was pretty quick," Reed says today. "But we just knew it was meant to be – for all of us."

Katie and Scott have a son, Gabe, a sixth grader at Pleasant Valley Middle School. When Gabe was in the second grade, Reed signed on as a substitute in



Katie Reed holds the attention of her third graders.

the Battle Ground district.

"I loved it and felt that teaching was really what I was meant to be doing," she says. "When a teaching position opened at

Pleasant Valley Primary, I jumped at the opportunity.

"It's quite a story," Reed says. "It's sad, but redemptive."

## Nurse, coach among finalists

Besides Katie Reed, two other finalists for 2010 Teacher of the Year were honored at the Chamber of Commerce's banquet Jan. 28. They are Jeremy Gallagher of Battle Ground's Laurin Middle School (music and band) and Jonas Fridriksson of Battle Ground High (social studies).

In addition, two Battle Ground schools' personnel were among finalists in other categories of the Chamber's awards. Julia Scott, a school nurse who, until recently, served with the Air Force Reserves in Afghanistan, was a finalist for Service Person of the year. Chris Higgins, a freshman football coach at BGHS who also coaches local youth football, was a finalist for Coach of the Year.

# Kudos to 'Heroes', musicians, bowlers and...



Heroes: Daybreak second grader Charlotte Hobson and staff assistant Lynette Wooldridge will be honored by Red Cross.

## 'Heroes' honored

A Battle Ground student and employee are among the Southwest Washington Red Cross's "Heroes" of 2010. Daybreak second grader Charlotte Hobson and Daybreak staffer Lynette Wooldridge will be honorees at the annual Red Cross fund-raising breakfast March 11 at the Vancouver Hilton.

When a classmate of Charlotte began choking on his hamburger in the cafeteria last April 29, little Charlotte noticed and didn't hesitate to act. She

rushed to alert Wooldridge, a cafeteria monitor who is also an office assistant. Wooldridge promptly administered the Heimlich maneuver. The boy coughed up the food and was fine.

## Board officers

The Battle Ground Public Schools Board of Directors on Jan. 22 re-elected Steve Pagel as president and elected John Idsinga as vice president, each for one-year terms. Both were elected to the Board, along with Monty Anderson, in November 2009.

## Awards to BGHS, CAM

Winners of the state superintendent of public instruction's 2010 Washington Achievement Awards, announced in February, include Battle Ground High and CAM Jr. – Sr. High (Character, Academics, Marketplace).

BGHS was one of 23 high schools honored for its extended graduation Rate (students graduating more than four years after entering ninth grade). CAM repeated as a winner for "Overall Excellence" among comprehensive schools and for language arts. Overall, 186 schools were honored in seven categories.

## Learning the language

Battle Ground's English Language Learners (ELL) did exceedingly well in the 2009-10 Washington Language Proficiency Test. It measures three objectives: progress in learning English; attaining English proficiency; and meeting Adequate Yearly Progress targets in reading and math.

Battle Ground ELLs met all three objectives and outscored all other local districts in all categories, except for Camas, in one category. ELL coordinator Glenna Ainley said, "This is the seventh consecutive year Battle Ground's ELL students met the

state objectives, even as our bilingual student population continues to increase each year."

There are 690 ELLs in all grade levels across the district, and another 1,800 students who have tested out of the program by attaining English proficiency.

## PHS wins bowling title

The Prairie High bowling team, coached by Donn Bash, won the Washington state 3A/2A bowling championship in University place, near Tacoma. Team members were Emily Ruthruff, Chloe Moesch, Theresa Kelly, Katryn Comeau, Cassie Laughlin, Tessa Friason, Brooke Updike and student manager Anthony Young.

## Musicians cited

Battle Ground High senior Remi Skalisky was rated one of three "Outstanding" high school musicians in the AAA division of vocal jazz competition at the Clark College Jazz Festival Jan. 27-29. About 1,200 students from Washington and Oregon participated. Skalisky, an alto, had earlier been named the all-Northwest Treble Choir by the state Music Educators Association.

Judged among the "outstanding Middle School Musicians" were Pleasant Valley's Keiko Inouye, Jason Nguyen and Caleb Smith and Chief Umtuch's Colin Dixon, Savannah Hamann and Steve Montecucco. In the high school vocal jazz competition, the BGHS entry, directed by Darcy Schmitt, finished second.

## Ex-PHS athletes honored

The Prairie High School Athletic Hall of Fame was unveiled at the Jan. 27 boys' basketball game against Camas. The athletes were selected by a committee of Athletic Director Travis Drake and present and former coaches, following nominations from the public. These initial inductees graduated in the school's first 10 years, 1980-89. Athletes from more recent years will be inducted in the future.

### Tami Stuart

Tami Stuart Blackman, class of 1981, set many school basketball rebounding records, several of which still stand. She is also PHS's fifth all-time in scoring.

### Chris Gawley

Gawley, 1986, was an All-League Football player three years and All-State on offense and defense as a senior. He played center field on the 1986 state championship baseball team.

### Chris Sperry

Sperry, 1984, was the baseball shortstop, captain and Most Valuable Player as a senior. He played for the University of Portland 1985-88 and was in the Los Angeles Dodgers' organization before going into coaching. He's the head baseball coach at UP.

### Jay Rogers

Class of 1987, Rogers is considered the most successful

wrestler in PHS history. In football, he was a two-year all league running back and made All-State as a senior. He lettered in wrestling at Oklahoma State University.

### Alan Embree

A three-sport athlete, class of 1989, Embree was widely considered the best baseball prep pitcher in Southwest Washington as a junior. An arm injury kept him off the mound as a senior but as designated hitter he batted .433. He went on to a 20-year career as a major league relief pitcher that included appearances for Cleveland in all games of the 1995 World Series and membership on the pitching staff of the 2004 World Champion Boston Red Sox.

### 1986 Baseball Team

Coached by Don Freeman, it was PHS's first state championship team, with a season record of 18 and 8, with 15 of the victories coming in one-run games.

**2009 - 2010 BATTLE GROUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS' REPORT CARD:** This report is required by the federal No Child Left Behind law. It covers activities, test scores and staff and student information from the 2009-2010 academic year. It, along with demographic information, is accessible in full detail at the Web site of the Washington State Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Go to [www.k12.wa.us](http://www.k12.wa.us). Then, in the window that says "Washington State," scroll down to "Battle Ground School District." Or, you can go directly to the information for a specific school by typing the school name in the search window at top right, below the "Tools" window.

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 and HIV/Hepatitis C status. Diana Gilsinger, Marcia Christian and Jane Mercier are designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination. They can be reached as follows: Maria Christian, Title IX Sexual Harassment Coordinator, 360-885-5415, [christian.marcia@bgd.k12.wa.us](mailto:christian.marcia@bgd.k12.wa.us); Diana Gilsinger, Deputy Superintendent, 360.885.5338, [gilsinger.diana@bgd.k12.wa.us](mailto:gilsinger.diana@bgd.k12.wa.us); Jane Mercier, Section 504/ADA Coordinator 360.885.5318, [mercier.jane@bgd.k12.wa.us](mailto:mercier.jane@bgd.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.

## “Volunteers”

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truly thankful for them and we do not want to offend any of them by singing the praise of just one.”

### BGHS dinner-auction canceled

As common a sight as volunteers are in the district, they are overwhelmingly in the primary schools, which have kindergarten through fourth grade. But there is plenty of opportunity – and need -- for volunteers in middle and high schools, too.

A sad case in point: The annual Battle Ground High School boosters’ spring dinner and auction was canceled for 2011 because not enough people agreed to help organize it.

Sue Cranke, who has volunteered at all levels of Battle Ground schools for years and was last year’s BGHS auction chairman, couldn’t reprise the role this year for a good reason: She’s chairing the BGHS graduation-night party committee. She couldn’t do both,



Volunteer Lori Ingemanson with appreciative fourth graders at Tukes Valley Primary

days before the event, enough chaperones had been recruited to ensure the trip would occur.

### A two-school volunteer

For some, such as Lindstrom at Pleasant Valley, volunteering at a middle school is part of their regimen and as easy as walking across a parking lot.

Tricia Finklein is a fourth-year volunteer on the Maple Grove campus, where she has three children in the two schools. Every other Friday she’s on campus for several hours, helping out in classrooms of all three of her children, two at Maple Grove Primary and one at Maple Grove Middle School.

Last fall, before she started a three-day-a-week job, she volunteered on campus even more often. Now, she volunteers every other Friday, starting in Sue Hill’s kindergarten class, where daughter Kaleigh is enrolled.

“Tricia and my four other regular volunteers run groups, do one-on-ones and prepare materials for me,” Hill said at the time. “Without my volunteers, we couldn’t do a lot of the things we do in the classroom.”

Finklein’s next place to help is Tania Spaulding’s second grade class, where her son Sam is a student.



Christy Hively volunteers in the office at Tukes Valley Middle School.

Spaulding says that besides helping out in her class, Finklein is “active in our Parent Outreach Group (POG). She attends committee meetings and helps with evening events such as: Open Library Nights and Game & Pizza Night. She works diligently with our team to recruit parent volunteers. Our goal is to have a ‘Classroom Parent’ in charge of organizing parent volunteers for each classroom.”

Then, in early afternoon, Finklein crosses the parking lot to Maple Grove Middle School where son Jack, a fifth grader, is in Eileen O’Connor’s room.

Other volunteers, such as Jane Yarbrough at Maple Grove Primary and Christy Hively at Tukes Valley Middle, work mostly in the offices where they perform such tasks as running copies or, in Hively’s case, signing in tardy students, distributing bus passes and answering the phones.

Sherry Jaspersen, assistant secretary at Tukes Valley Middle, calls Hively “My go-to person” who helps out in numerous ways.

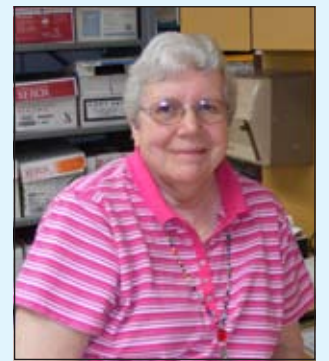
Hively says, “I love doing it. It’s rewarding to help the students.”

### Event planners play key roles

Some volunteers are project-oriented. These are people such as Traci Sanchez at Prairie High and Sue Cranke at BGHS, each of whom has been a major force behind dinner-auctions and other fund-raising activities. But, they note, they aren’t exactly flooded with volunteer helpers.

Another volunteer who is an almost legendary event planner is Lori Homola at Yacolt Primary. She established and updates the display case just inside the school’s front door. She and her husband Sam created the exhibit for the district’s public Centennial celebration in January 2010.

Principal Ken Evans is effusive in his praise of Homola



Jane Yarbrough, an office volunteer at Maple Grove Primary School

### Volunteer honored by BG Chamber

You don’t have to have children or grandchildren in Battle Ground Public Schools to volunteer in a school. Just ask Jane Yarbrough.

Yarbrough said she got started volunteering because she “just wanted to get out of the house.” Her daughter, an occasional substitute teacher, suggested she help out at a school.

Yarbrough drives 20 miles round trip at her own expense to help out at Maple Grove Primary School, where she is in her eighth year as a volunteer in the school office.

School staffers aren’t the only ones who recognize the value Yarbrough brings to Maple Grove. She was honored by the Battle Ground Chamber of Commerce in January 2010 as its Citizen of the year for 2009.

and the school’s many other volunteers, some of whom worked with Homola as she organized a celebration of the 30th anniversary of the eruption of Mount St. Helens last May.

The variety of volunteer opportunities at Battle Ground Public Schools allows virtually any prospective volunteer to find an activity fit for his or her strengths or interests.



Traci Sanchez chaired the Prairie High School Booster Club’s annual dinner auction last fall.

and no one stepped forward to take over the job, so it won’t be held this year.

As for the grad night party, Cranke says that “on a good night” about 15 parents attend committee meetings. She says she’d like to have about 30.

In another example of the need for volunteers, a February field trip by Maple Grove Middle School sixth graders to the Steigerwald Lake National Wildlife Refuge near Washougal was almost canceled due to lack of adult chaperones. Finally, three



Andrea Johnson volunteers her time and talent to paint “Tigers’ Lair” murals at Battle Ground High last summer.



Lori Homola prepares root beer floats at Yacolt Primary on 30th anniversary of Mount St. Helens’ eruption.



Rebekah Ruffalo, volunteer and co-PTO president at Chief Umtuch Middle School

### How to volunteer in Battle Ground

Anyone wishing to volunteer in a Battle Ground district school is encouraged to call that school, or check the school district website (battlegroundps.org) under the “Parents and Community” tab and click on “Volunteering Opportunities.” State law requires that before anyone may volunteer in public schools he or she must undergo a Washington State Patrol background check.