



# SCHOOL BEAT

An e-news update for school district staff

**January 5, 2006**

## **District News**

### **School board seeks public input on superintendent search**

*Community meetings scheduled for Jan. 16, 17, 18*

The Seattle School Board will hold a series of meetings on Jan. 16, 17, and 18 to gather public input on the superintendent search process. Specifically, community members will be asked to discuss the characteristics and qualities they want in Seattle Public Schools' next superintendent. These meetings will provide the board, and the consulting firm assisting in the search, with information they will use in recruiting candidates for the next leader for Seattle Public Schools.

A series of eight open community meetings are planned Jan. 16-18. In addition, the consultants will meet with representatives of community associations and organizations; school employees; school leaders; and the district's senior leadership team. The meeting scheduled only for employees is at 4:15 p.m., Jan. 16 at the Mercer Middle School lunchroom. Employees may also attend any general meeting. For the news release and complete meeting schedule, visit the district Web site at <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/news/releases.xml>.

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### **Kindergarten and Middle School Fair set for Jan. 6**

Seattle Public Schools is hosting a citywide Kindergarten and Middle School Fair 9 a.m.-noon Saturday, Jan. 6 at the John Stanford Center. There will be exhibits and enrollment information at the fair. Visitors can also talk with principals, staff, and parents representing every elementary, K-8 and middle school in the district. Bilingual staff will be available to serve as interpreters and answer questions.

Individual school tours and open houses are also planned during the month. Families are encouraged to take advantage of the tours and open houses as they consider school choices. A list of school tours for 2007-08 can be found at <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/eso/schooltours.htm>.

For information about West Seattle schools, the annual Kindergarten fair will be held 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Jan. 20 at the South Seattle Community College's Jerry Brockey Center.

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## Bond and levy propositions scheduled for Feb. 6 special election

King County Elections has scheduled two Seattle School District ballot measures for the Feb. 6, 2007, special election – Proposition 1, a \$490 million Capital Program Bond, and Proposition 2, a \$397 million Educational Programs and Operations Levy.

The Capital Program Bond replaces an expiring capital levy and provides funds for the design, construction, and renovation of school facilities, infrastructure and technology improvements throughout the district. The measure includes a program to renovate or replace four high schools, two middle schools, and one K-8 school.

The Educational Programs and Operations Levy, which replaces the expiring 2004 levy, represents 24 percent of the district's annual general fund budget and supports basic educational services not fully funded by the state. The levy will help pay for instructional programs, technology support, student activities, staff salaries, bilingual and special-education services, continuation of full-day kindergarten, student transportation, and security and maintenance for school buildings and grounds.

For more information on the bond and levy propositions, visit the Seattle Public Schools Web site at <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/main/homepage-levy.xml>

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## Cheryl Chow elected board president; committee chairs announced

The school board on Dec. 6, elected former vice president Cheryl Chow as its new president. The board unanimously elected board members Darlene Flynn as vice president and Irene Stewart as member at large, making Stewart the third member of the board's Executive Committee.

Chow also announced chairs and meeting times for the following board committees:

- **Executive Committee:** Cheryl Chow, chair. The committee will meet on the Wednesdays before board meetings.
- **Operations Committee:** Irene Stewart, chair. The committee will meet 4:30-6 p.m., the first and third Tuesdays.
- **Finance Committee:** Michael DeBell, chair. The committee will meet 4-6 p.m., the second and fourth Thursdays.
- **Student Learning:** Brita Butler-Wall, chair. The first meeting is set for Monday, Jan. 8; when the committee will decide its future meeting times.

All school board and committee meetings are held at the John Stanford Center, unless otherwise noted. The board is interested in sharing student performances with the public for 15 minutes prior to the start of each regular board meeting. If you have students or student work you would be proud to televise to the entire community, please call the board office at 252-0040 for more information.

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## **Dr. Arthur O. Jarvis appointed chief financial officer**

Dr. Arthur O. Jarvis, the current superintendent of Enumclaw School District, has been appointed chief financial officer of Seattle Public Schools effective Jan. 15.

“This school system is very fortunate to attract an individual with Dr. Jarvis’ outstanding leadership skills; and his breadth and depth of experience in K-12 education,” said Mark Green, chief operating officer of Seattle Public Schools. “Dr. Jarvis has built a reputation for personal and professional integrity and sound financial management. These qualities will help ensure that Seattle Public Schools continues to operate in and strengthen the culture of open, transparent, and conservative financial management that has enabled the district to rebuild its reserves over the past several years.”

“I have devoted my career in K-12 education to the fundamental belief that each school system can – and must – meet the unique needs of each child,” Jarvis said. “I look forward to bringing my energy, experience, and skills to the challenges and opportunities in Seattle.”

Jarvis, who was selected Washington State Superintendent of the Year in 2005 by the Washington Association of School Administrators, has served at the superintendent level for 22 years. The full news release is available at <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/news/releases.xml>

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## **School board adopts conservation policy**

*District’s goal to reduce natural resource consumption by 5 percent*

The school board has realized the district’s significant impact on the environment and adopted a Natural Resource Conservation Policy last month with a district goal to reduce natural resource consumption by 5 percent.

The district requests that everyone help by:

- turning off lights in unoccupied rooms and switching off the row of lights along the windows on sunny days.
- wearing a sweater and some warm socks. Most people are able to be comfortable within a range of temperatures, once their body has had time to acclimate. The district’s standard of heating is 68 degrees and 76 degrees for cooling. By dressing with an extra layer of clothing you should be able to stay warm and help the environment.
- making sure monitors, printers, and other electrical equipment are turned off when not in use.
- shutting curtains or blinds and making sure all outside doors are kept closed during the winter.
- actively recycling and using the double-side feature when printing and copying.

To view more details on Natural Resources Conservation procedures, please visit the Web site at <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/policies/h/H25.01.pdf>.

For suggestions regarding additional opportunities to conserve, contact Resource Conservation Specialists Beth Dolan at 252-0618 or [eadolan@seattleschools.org](mailto:eadolan@seattleschools.org); or e-mail Nicole Riss at [nariss@seattleschools.org](mailto:nariss@seattleschools.org).

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## **Seattle Public Schools issues Annual Asbestos Notification**

In accordance with the federal Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA), Seattle Public Schools is required to notify parents, teachers, and other employees each year of the availability of Asbestos Management Plans and actions the district is taking to maintain asbestos containing materials in its buildings.

The district conducted an initial inspection of all school buildings to identify asbestos containing building material in 1988. A management plan detailing the findings of the inspection was developed for each building. Since then, appropriate actions have been taken to ensure that asbestos containing materials are removed, repaired, encapsulated, or enclosed as necessary.

A periodic surveillance of each school building has occurred every six months since the original inspection and a complete reinspection of each school building is completed every three years. The next reinspection is scheduled for this summer.

The Asbestos Management Plan includes the results of each periodic surveillance and the most recent reinspection, as well as documentation of asbestos-related activities. The Asbestos Management Plan is maintained and available for review in the administrative office of each school or at the John Stanford Center for Educational Excellence at 2445 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave S.

If you would like additional information regarding the District's Asbestos Program, contact Troy White at 206-252-0528.

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## **Around the Community**

### **On-time open enrollment for 2007-08 begins Jan. 16**

On-time open enrollment in Seattle Public Schools for the 2007-2008 school year is scheduled from Jan. 16 to Feb. 28.

This is the time when families register and apply for school for:

- children entering kindergarten in September 2007;
- students advancing from elementary to middle school or middle to high school next year;
- students wishing to change schools; or
- students who will be new to the district in September.

All registration and application information, including enrollment guides, forms, and a list of school tours and open house dates, are available at Enrollment Service Centers, the

Bilingual Family Center, and on the district's Web site at <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/eso/story.dxml>.

Students who apply during the open enrollment period receive priority assignment for September 2007. Assignment letters will be mailed out the first week in April 2007.

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### **Deadline extended to apply for membership in PE review committee**

Seattle Public Schools has extended the deadline to Jan. 15 in its search for members for the Physical Education Curriculum Review and Adoption Committee. The committee will recommend a physical education curriculum for K-12 students.

The district is looking for physical education teachers, classroom teachers, administrators, school nurses, health professionals, community physical activity professionals, community members and families to serve on this committee.

For more information about the process and to apply for the committee, visit the PE Curricula Adoption Web site at <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/peadoption/index.dxml>.

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### **King County seeks nominations of Earth Heroes in local schools**

Nominations are being accepted for the annual Earth Heroes at School, an event that recognizes exceptional programs, teachers and other staff, volunteers and students who implement projects at school or beyond.

King County Executive Ron Sims honors the winners each year at a reception featuring entertainment, refreshments, and presentation of awards. Last year, King County presented awards to 17 Earth Heroes at School. Projects included developing environmental education curriculum, improving or expanding recycling programs, and creating native plant gardens.

Seattle Public Schools winners last year were: Kevin Barth, a teacher at West Seattle High School; Susan Moon, a teacher at Lowell Elementary School; the Greenhouse and Garden Project at Montlake Elementary; and the Native Plant Garden project at Orca Elementary.

Nomination forms are available online at [www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/education/earth-heroes.asp](http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/education/earth-heroes.asp) or by calling Donna Miscolta at 206-296-4477. Nominations will be accepted until Feb. 16 and winners will be notified in March. The awards reception is scheduled for April 19.

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## **SPS-TV rebroadcasts award-winning safety videos**

Parents, caregivers and the community have further opportunities to watch two videos now airing on Seattle Public Schools Television regarding school safety and sexual abuse. The first video outlines plans and programs the school district has in place to manage emergencies; the second video presents guidelines for parents and caregivers to help them protect children from sexual abuse.

The first video, *Your Child's Safety at School*, is produced by the district's Safety and Security Department. The video provides practical advice on how the district and community can work together to create a safe and secure environment for all students and provide for the best possible outcome in any emergency. It is the recipient of numerous awards, including: The Telly Award, Aegis Award, and Davey Award.

The 30-minute video airs from now to March 15 at 7:30 a.m. Tuesdays, 9:30 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Saturdays, and 8 a.m. Sundays.

The second video, *What Do I Say Now?* produced by the Committee for Children, offers information about sexual abuse, guidelines for providing a safe and caring environment for young children, practical examples showing how and when to talk to children about safety and touching, and guidelines for responding to a child who discloses abuse.

The 30-minute video airs from Feb. 15 to March 15 at 10 p.m., Tuesdays and Thursdays.

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## **Hamilton to expand Advanced Japanese and Spanish programs**

In fall 2007, Hamilton International Middle School will add a mixed-grade Japanese language immersion program and will have additional openings in the 6<sup>th</sup>-grade Spanish language immersion program.

In the immersion programs, students are immersed in the target language for two of their six periods. The programs focus on improving literacy in the target language and are suitable for heritage and other advanced language speakers.

For more information, call 252-5810 or attend the special immersion program 8:30-10 a.m., Jan. 9 at Hamilton. For more information and other tour dates, visit the school Web site at [www.seattleschools.org/schools/hamilton](http://www.seattleschools.org/schools/hamilton).

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## **Celebrations**

### **Symetra Heroes in the Classroom project raises \$48,150**

*24 teachers honored; funds help provide schools with books and supplies*

The Seattle Seahawks, Symetra Financial and Vulcan Inc., sponsors of the *Symetra Heroes in the Classroom* project, presented a \$48,150 check to Seattle Public Schools during an on-field presentation Dec. 24 at Qwest Field. The funds will help classrooms with books, supplies and other necessities. Details of the allocation of funds will be announced soon.

The project also recognized 24 exceptional teachers for their outstanding leadership and instructional skills. They were honored both in the classroom and on the field during Seahawks home games this season.

Program partners and the Alliance for Education, a nonprofit organization helping to ensure the academic success of students in Seattle Public Schools, worked with local businesses, including Alliance Packaging, John L. Scott Real Estate and Whole Foods, to raise money for the 2006 Symetra Heroes project. Vulcan donated an additional \$12,000. Due to the generous contributions of these companies, money given to the district surpassed the project's goal of \$40,000 for the 2006 season.

Superintendent Raj Manhas thanked Symetra, the Seahawks and Vulcan for the generous donation and for helping recognize public school teachers as the unsung heroes of our community. "Teachers make a positive difference every day for thousands of kids and we are delighted they were honored in such a unique and meaningful way," he said.

The 2006 Heroes in the Classroom are:

- Deanna Barrett – Aki Kurose Middle School
- Katie Barrett – West Woodland Elementary
- Janet Cartwright – Loyal Heights Elementary
- Mary Correa – Van Asselt Elementary
- Sheila Espinosa – Chief Sealth High School
- Maria Fletcher – Broadview-Thompson Elementary
- Gina Gerlitz – Hamilton International Middle School
- Jill Irwin – Northgate Elementary
- Richard Kearns – Coe Elementary
- Doug Kinne – AS #1
- Marjorie LaMarre – John Muir Elementary
- Mark Landreville – Roosevelt High School
- Mary McDaniel – Wedgwood Elementary
- Kimberly Mullen – The Center School
- Kristin Nichols – Summit K-12
- Dr. Richard Piccioni – Garfield High School
- Bryan Pule – Whittier Elementary
- David Posner – Meany Middle School
- Shirley Swarts – Thurgood Marshall Elementary
- Kurt Thompson – Eckstein Middle School
- Scott Thorpe – Montlake Elementary
- Diane Trudnowski – Maple Elementary
- Cathy Van Winkle – Wing Luke Elementary
- Megan Vogel – Ballard High School

More information about Symetra Heroes in the Classroom, including teacher profiles and

photos, is available online at <http://www.symetra.com/heroes>

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## **Hamilton Middle School celebrates 80<sup>th</sup> birthday on Jan. 30**

Alexander Hamilton International Middle School is having a birthday party Jan. 30 – and is looking for former students and staff members to share their stories about life at Seattle’s first intermediate school.

Anyone who wants to participate should send their name, address, phone and e-mail contact – along with the years that they attended or worked at Hamilton – to Sue Ranney, community volunteer, at [s\\_ranney@hotmail.com](mailto:s_ranney@hotmail.com)

Located in Seattle’s Wallingford neighborhood, Hamilton serves Grades 6-8. It first opened its doors to 725 Seattle seventh- and eighth-graders on Jan. 31, 1927. A designated historic landmark, Hamilton is scheduled to undergo an extensive remodel, pending voter approval of the Seattle Public Schools capital bond measure in the February special election.

The Jan. 30 birthday celebration will begin with an open house from 6-7 p.m., which features plans for the remodel, followed by the 7 p.m. program, birthday cake and an opportunity to meet former classmates. In addition, Jack Straw Productions, with funding from Safeco Insurance Co., will be taking oral histories from students and alumni during the event.

For more information, contact Jesely Alvarez, Hamilton assistant principal, at 206-252-5810.

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## **Award-winning Ballard videos to be showcased Jan. 12**

A collection of award-winning Ballard productions will be showcased at the Ballard High School auditorium at 7 p.m., Friday, Jan. 12 at “The 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Showing.” Admission is free, but there’s a suggested donation of \$5.

On Dec. 9 and 25, KOMO TV aired a *For Kids’ Sake* special, called *Sparking Innovation in Education*, which showcased outstanding educational programs, including Ballard’s video production program. Interwoven with interviews from present and former students were clips from their award-winning productions, such as *Eight* (Brendan McCarthy ’04), *Ave Rats* (Mixtli Zavaleta and Clinton Carucci, ’07), *Blindsided* (Kyle Seago ’07) and *Bittersweet* (George Westberg ’06).

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## **Middle school Teen Reading Marathon brings out readers**

On Dec. 2, four middle schools – Aki Kurose, Asa Mercer, Meany and Washington – participated in Seattle Public Library's Teen Reading Marathon, with Meany logging in the most hours.

Students, staff and families visited five libraries – Beacon Hill, Columbia Douglass-Truth, New Holly and Rainier Beach – to read from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Participants were treated to pizza for their efforts. The winning school, Meany, won a dance party at their school scheduled for February to be hosted by radio station KUBE 93. Meany students logged 9,900 minutes of reading time to beat out students from the other three schools. This is the second year that Meany has participated, coming in second last year.

Staff at the four schools praised the school librarians for encouraging student participation and also thanked Seattle Public Library for sponsoring the successful event.

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## **Coming Up**

### **Public invited to attend Partnering for Student Success conference**

Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend the “Partnering for Student Success” conference from 3-9 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 11, at the Seattle Sheraton hotel. Parents who usually shy away from school involvement are especially encouraged to attend and invited to come with another parent who usually don't come to these events.

Workshops include: *Supporting school mathematics: What parents need to know*, *What it takes to graduate*, *Families achieving math standards*, and *What is parent involvement?*

Registration fee is \$20, which includes dinner. Register online at <http://www.k12.wa.us> or by phone at 360-725-6165.

For more information, call Alyssa Westall at 360-725-6165 or e-mail [Alyssa.westall@k12.wa.us](mailto:Alyssa.westall@k12.wa.us); or call Janet Hayakawa at 360-725-6164 or e-mail [janet.hayakawa@k12.wa.us](mailto:janet.hayakawa@k12.wa.us).

More information is also available at <https://inside.seattleschools.org/area/pcomm/studentsuccess.pdf>.

#### **Partnering for Student Success**

3-9 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 11  
Seattle Sheraton Hotel  
1400 6<sup>th</sup> Ave. S.

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## Teachers invited to attend National Board Certification meeting

Find out how to join the growing numbers of National Board Certified Teachers in Washington state by attending a presentation Jan. 16 open to all K-12 certified staff with a minimum of three years successful teaching experience. If you want to grow in your profession and expand the learning opportunities for your students, please attend the presentation for more information.

Participants will become familiar with the standards for certification, visit with current Board Certified teachers, and reflect on their own teaching practice using processes required in the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) portfolio. You will also learn about current timelines, application processes and funding.

For more information, contact Hilary Rosenfield at 252-0136 or e-mail at [hjrosenfield@seattleschools.org](mailto:hjrosenfield@seattleschools.org).

### Introduction to National Board Certification

4:30-6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 16  
Professional Learning Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor  
John Stanford Center  
2445 Third Ave. S.

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## Literacy expert to speak at Annual K-8/Middle School Conference

Dr. Mary Ehrenworth – a national literacy consultant, as well as a staff developer and researcher for Teachers College, Columbia University, where she is deputy director of the Reading and Writing Project – will be the keynote speaker at the K-8/Middle School Conference scheduled for March 16 at Eckstein Middle School.

She is the author of many articles and books, including: *Testing Realities: Preparing Students for High Stakes Literacy Exams*; *The Power of Grammar: Unconventional Approaches to the Conventions of Language* co-authored with Vicki Vinton; and *Looking to Write: Students Writing Through the Visual Arts*.

The conference will focus on instruction, differentiated for all participants, and be directly related to the district's and building transformation goals. The agenda will reflect the spirit and practice of past middle school conferences while incorporating the work the district is doing around aligning instruction in literacy and math across the school system.

### Annual K-8/Middle School Conference

Friday, March 16  
Eckstein Middle School  
3003 N.E. 75<sup>th</sup> St.

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## School and District Events Calendar

If you would like to know about current special school events, fund-raisers or other district events, go online to the [District Events Calendar](#) where you can see what's going on monthly at Seattle Public Schools or search for specific events by date, school and event type.

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## We Need Your Ideas

The Communications Office is always looking for stories on interesting classroom projects, inspirational people, or events in our schools to share with the greater Seattle community. We often highlight stories submitted by school staff for potential media coverage as well as district and community publications. For examples of stories we have published in the past, please visit this [link](#). We would like to hear from you. If you have a unique story to share, please send your ideas directly to [goodnews@seattleschools.org](mailto:goodnews@seattleschools.org).

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## In the News

For a sampling of this week's local newspaper stories on Seattle Public Schools, please go to <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/news/index.dxml>

*SCHOOL BEAT is an electronic newsletter covering district and school-based news and is published twice a month for the employees of Seattle Public Schools.*