



SCHOOL BEAT

An e-news update for school district staff

October 13, 2006

District News

Final hearings scheduled on second phase of school closures

Hundreds of families, students and staff members spoke out at four public hearings this month on the second phase of the School Consolidation and Closure process. Several more hearings are scheduled this month before the school board votes on a final recommendation November 1.

Superintendent Raj Manhas has recommended consolidating or closing three schools in the second phase. The superintendent recommended to:

- close AS #1 K-8 (Pinehurst) and co-locate the educational program with Summit K-12;
- close Roxhill Elementary and reassign students to Arbor Heights and Gatewood elementary schools;
- close Pathfinder K-8 (Genesee Hill) and relocate Pathfinder to Cooper Elementary. Incorporate current Cooper students who wish to stay into Pathfinder program.

Detailed information about the recommendation is available at

<http://www.seattleschools.org/area/06consolidation/consolidationandclosurephaseii.xml>.

The following dates are school board meetings scheduled this month where the public can comment:

- October 18, 6 p.m. – school board meeting, John Stanford Center
- October 24, 6 p.m. – public hearing on final recommendation, John Stanford Center
- November 1, 6 p.m. – school board to vote on final recommendation, John Stanford Center

Speakers may sign up by calling the school board office at (206) 252-0040. Public testimony will be limited to three minutes per speaker.

Safety administrator to speak on national TV on pandemic flu

Pegi McEvoy, the district's administrator for Safety and Security will participate in a live nationwide broadcast October 17 in Virginia on what Seattle Public Schools is doing to prepare for the pandemic flu. Federal officials have recognized the district for its exemplary flu and emergency preparedness program.

McEvoy's segment will appear on the monthly U.S. Department of Education program "Education News Parents Can Use," which will air in Seattle 5-6 p.m., Tuesday, October 17 on SPS-TV Cable Channel 26. SPS-TV will rebroadcast the program at 9 a.m. Tuesdays, 1 p.m. Wednesdays and 6 p.m. Thursdays.

U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings invited McEvoy to speak on the segment titled "Keeping Our Children Safe and Secure: Pandemic Flu and Emergency Preparedness."

The segment will answer questions about the different strains of flu and how they spread; update viewers on an emerging body of resources for families and schools; and provide user-friendly tips for parents on ensuring the safety, health and security of children.

New Web site link features history of each school building

Seattle Public Schools has added a new feature on its Web site in which visitors can read about the history of each school building. The link is <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/historybook/index.dxml>

The information is taken from the book, Building for Learning – Seattle Public Schools Histories, 1862-2000, by Nile Thompson and Carolyn Marr.

The "School Histories" link can also be found by navigating to:

- the "Schools" menu on the home page;
- the "About Us" menu on the home page, under "Inside SPS"; and
- each individual school information page from the "Schools" menu.

Around the Community

School Board Directors welcome feedback

School Board directors welcome and encourage feedback from all constituents. There are a number of ways to provide comments, all of which are listed on the school board's Web page at <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/board/index.xml>. These include public testimony at board meetings, regular community meetings hosted by board directors, and weekly "office hours" hosted by Board President Dr. Brita Butler-Wall.

■ Dr. Brita Butler-Wall, Board President, hosts weekly "office hours" during weeks school is in session. Please call the board office at 206-252-0040 to schedule an appointment. Best times for meetings are Mondays, 8:30-10:30 a.m. at the community location. Dr. Butler-Wall also hosts monthly District 3 community meetings every third Tuesday of the month from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Eckstein Middle School library, 3003

N.E. 75th St. She can be contacted at 206-729-3202 or at brita.butler-wall@seattleschools.org.

■ Board member Sally Soriano holds District 1 community meetings every second Friday of the month from 6-9 p.m. at the Meadowbrook Community Center, 10517 35th Ave. N.E. She can be contacted at 206-252-0052 or at sally.soriano@seattleschools.org.

■ Board member Mary Bass holds District 5 community meetings from 6-9 p.m. at the Garfield Community Center on 23rd and East Cherry Street. To schedule a date, please contact her at mary.bass@seattleschools.org or 206-720-3303.

John Muir joins efforts in promoting after-school programs

John Muir Elementary School joined other groups October 12 in sponsoring Lights On Afterschool Day, an event emphasizing the importance of keeping the lights on and the doors open at after-school programs.

The event at Muir Elementary was one of more than 60 Lights On Afterschool events held statewide and one of more than 7,500 such events around the nation.

Speakers at Muir's showcase and award ceremony highlighted the integral role of after-school programs and the significant contributions that after-school programs make to Washington state: keeping kids safe and healthy, inspiring them to learn, and relieving working parents of worries about their children's activities during out-of-school hours.

School Superintendent Raj Manhas, parents and students also spoke about the positive impact of after-school programs. The event included John Muir students demonstrating their Tae Kwon Do and mime skills. The students also led tours of the school's Camp Fire and Powerful Schools programs.

The Afterschool Alliance organized the event, with help from sponsors: School's Out Washington, Seattle Public Schools' Office for Community Learning, John Muir Elementary, Camp Fire USA, Powerful Schools, and SOAR.

PBS talk-show host speaks to Franklin students on leadership

Tavis Smiley, author and award-winning PBS talk-show host, spoke to about 50 Franklin High School students this week as part of his 10-city tour to enlighten, encourage and empower students to become strong leaders.

The 2006 Talented Tenth Tour, organized by the Tavis Smiley Foundation, was held at Franklin High on October 11. The tour was created to identify and train non-traditional leaders in underserved and underrepresented communities. Its goal is to help students develop the skills needed to become powerful leaders in their school, community and the world.

The students were chosen based on several criteria, including demonstrated leadership potential and a passion for an issue or cause.

As partners of the tour, representatives from the ExxonMobil Foundation were there to encourage careers in science, technology, engineering and math – areas vastly underrepresented by African-American students. The ExxonMobil Foundation awarded Franklin a \$500 grant to enhance work in those areas.

Walk-To-School Month brings families out of cars, into schools

Four Seattle elementaries become Start Strong Schools

Four public schools in southeast Seattle -- Emerson, Maple, Dearborn Park and Wing Luke elementary schools -- used international Walk-To-School Month and National School Lunch Week to organize families to walk to school together and eat healthier meals.

The four schools are the area's first Start Strong sites, funded by the Group Health Community Foundation and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. These schools were selected on the basis of participation in federally subsidized breakfast programs and their neighborhood locations.

The events, held October 5, 6, 10 and 11, began with the principals and staff members leading "walking school buses" from designated meeting points in the neighborhoods. As they arrived at school, adults and children were welcomed to the cafeteria, where they were treated to a cooking demonstration and a nutritious breakfast treat.

The events were organized in collaboration with Feet First and the Injury Free Coalition for Kids of Seattle.

Feet First helps build walkable communities using an effective combination of community engagement, advocacy, research, and education. The vision of the Injury Free Coalition for Kids of Seattle is that children and families live in safe communities supported by coalition centers with hospital-community partnerships working to prevent injury.



Photo by Tania Westby
Miss Washington Kristen Eddings talks to Elsie Miller's fourth-grade class about the Tibetan Children's Village in India.

Special box from Coe Elementary delivered to students in India

Miss Washington Kristen Eddings will be hand-delivering a special box from Coe Elementary School this month to a class at the Tibetan Children's Village in Dharamsala, India, as part of a cross-cultural exchange program.

Earlier this month, Miss Washington visited Elsie Miller's fourth-grade classroom where her students eagerly shared the contents of the special box that introduce themselves "culturally" to the Tibetan students. They sent a classroom novel, a book about the Pacific Northwest, baseball cards, Jolly Ranchers candy, a stuffed animal and a DVD of the students singing their class song. Miss Washington will return from Dharamsala October 19 with a box from the Tibetan Children's Village.

Bridges to Understanding, which sponsored the exchange, is a local organization that engages students worldwide in direct, interactive learning and storytelling to build cross-cultural understanding and leadership skills using innovative technology. Coe Elementary is an official Bridges School.

The box was created with the help of art teacher Anne Baumgartner and Bridges mentor Daphne Guericke. Students learned simple portrait photography, then made collages, taking ideas from their background and cultures. Pizza and soccer seem to be the expressions of culture they most hold in common, but the importance of family was clearly the universal value.

Miss Washington is in Dharamsala to participate in a two-week Bridges to Understanding digital storytelling workshop, as well as to visit partner schools engaging Tibetan refugee children with Seattle students.

Celebrations



Seven teachers who achieved their National Board Certification last year were recognized at the October 4 school board meeting. Those present at the meeting were from left, Toni Bukowski, Judith Camann, Chris Gustafson, Janet Woodward, and Mari Brockhaus.

Teachers attain National Board Certification

Seven teachers were recognized at the October 4 school board meeting for achieving the National Board Certification last year. The certification is the highest symbol of professional teaching excellence and is a nationally accepted sign of quality in the teaching profession.

The teachers recognized were:

- Mari Brockhaus - AE #2 (Decatur)
- Toni Bukowski - Ballard High
- Judith Camann - Orca Elementary
- Gerardine Carroll - Chief Sealth High
- Elizabeth Day - Bryant Elementary
- Chris Gustafson - Whitman Middle
- Janet Woodward - Garfield High

This year, 30 Seattle Public Schools teachers are signed up to start the National Board Certification process, thanks in part to grants from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Targeted High Needs Initiative, a program that gives financial support to teachers in high-needs schools.

Teachers interested in learning more about the National Board Certification can attend a presentation 4:30-6:30 p.m., Tuesday, January 16 in the Professional Learning Center at the John Stanford Center building. The presentation is open to all K-12 certified staff with a minimum of three years successful teaching experience.

For more information, contact Hilary Rosenfield at 252-0136 or e-mail her at hrosenfield@seattleschools.org

Chief Sealth student co-authors South Park history book

Amanda Zahler, a 2006 graduate at Chief Sealth High School, and Gary Thomsen, a Chief Sealth teacher, are the authors of a 128-page illustrated history book on Seattle's South Park neighborhood. The book will go on sale this month in area bookstores.

The book, *Images of America: Seattle's South Park*, is a compilation of a pictorial history of one of the most diverse districts in Seattle. Working with area resident Anna Marti, Zahler led the work in gathering rare vintage photos from historical societies and personal collections of South Park residents.

Zahler started working on the book as a class project last year in Thomsen's Video Production class and interviewed more than 125 current and former South Park residents.



The book is published by Arcadia Publishing and is the first such book in their Images of America series produced by high school students. The book lists the authors as Amanda Zahler, Anna Marti, and Gary Thomsen.

Thurgood Marshall teacher receives \$25,000, prestigious award

Cassandra Baddeley, a fifth-grade teacher at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School, received \$25,000 and was named a recipient of the 2006 Milken National Educator Award during a special assembly at the school October 4.

Baddeley did not know she was even being considered for the award. Students and staff at Thurgood Marshall were told the gathering was a special assembly to honor student achievement.

She received accolades from her principal, Winifred Todd, for setting high expectations and inspiring mutual care and respect in her classroom.

"Students in Ms. Baddeley's class are empowered to ask critical questions and readily respond to prompts. They have been taught to look beyond what is apparent and delve into issues deeply," Todd said. "Students absolutely know that Ms. Baddeley has a high regard for their abilities."

Baddeley serves as the education technology specialist for the school, where she earned high marks for researching best practices and implementing effective strategies for the benefit of her students. She is also a member of the building level team at the school, where she serves as part of the leadership and governance of the school. As a member of this team, her responsibilities included helping write, present and implement the school's transformation plan.

Superintendent Raj Manhas said Baddeley was a perfect example of the exceptional educational talent at Seattle Public Schools. "We are proud to recognize her outstanding quality of teaching, professional leadership, engagement with families and the community, and her potential for even greater contribution to our children," he said.

Ballard documentary premieres at Northwest Film Forum

An award-winning short documentary produced by three Ballard High School students premiered October 10 at the Northwest Film Forum in Seattle.

Ballard Video Production students Clinton Carucci, Ian McKagan and Mixtli Zavaleta produced "Ave Rats," a documentary about homeless youth in Seattle's University District. The Northwest Film Forum selected the film for their annual showcase of outstanding films, Local Sightings.

The documentary won first prize when it was screened at Temple University's School of Communications for the Derek Freese High School Film and Video Festival.

Coming Up

Health Education Office sponsors GLBT Families Dinner

All district families and staff are welcome to attend the 6th annual Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender (GLBT) Families Dinner which will be held from 6-8 p.m. Thursday, October 19 in the lunchroom at Meany Middle School.

Superintendent Manhas and members of the school board will be there to welcome families and their friends.

The Health Education Office brings this donation-funded event to you. Dinner and entertainment will be provided through community donations. To reserve space, please RSVP to Lisa Love in the Health Education Office at 252-0982 with the number of people in your party.

GLBT Families Dinner

6-8 p.m., Thursday, October 19

Meany Middle School

301 21st Ave. E

Forum slated on arts education in Seattle Public Schools

Carla Santorno, Chief Academic Officer for Seattle Public Schools, will discuss the next steps in putting the arts back in education in a forum scheduled for October 25 at Nathan Hale High School. Superintendent Raj Manhas will also present his 2005-06 progress report of the school district.

Santorno, who joined the district in April after a 28-year educational career in Denver, participated in an award-winning five-year program in Denver to increase student achievement and make public schools more attractive to families. Arts and music education in every elementary school was a key component of this initiative. Santorno will share her Denver experience and discuss plans for involving the arts in her strategies to increase student achievement and success.

Enrique Cerna, producer for KCTS Public Television, will moderate the audience conversation portion of the forum. Supervised arts activities and pizza will be provided for school-age children. To sign up for this service, call 206-684-7372 by October 20.

The Seattle Arts Commission, Mayor's Office of Arts & Cultural Affairs and Seattle Public Schools are sponsors of the forum.

Third Annual Public Forum: Arts Education in Seattle Public Schools

7-8:30 p.m., Wednesday, October 25

Nathan Hale High School

Performing Arts Center

10750 30th Ave. N.E.

Roadtrip Nation holds free seminars at Nathan High School

Your student or child is on the road to college, but how do they pick the best college? Will they thrive in an urban or rural setting? Lots of kids or a few? Academically competitive or more low-key? Will this school help make their lifelong passion a reality and help them pursue their dreams? Sound like daunting questions? It doesn't have to be.

The nationally recognized Roadtrip Nation is sponsoring free seminars to help students answer those questions and more during its last tour stop in Seattle. The event will be held 6:45-9 p.m., Thursday, November 9, at Nathan Hale High School.

Roadtrip Nation was started by a group of recent college grads who hit the road to find their own paths in life and has evolved into a national movement that empowers students to create this experience for themselves. On the road, students interview leaders from all walks of life to learn how they discovered their passion, and built their life around it.

Students attending the event will:

- discover how to find their personal passion;
- learn how to use this discovery to help select a college;

- meet the founders of Roadtrip Nation;
- meet the Roadtrip Nation college students who are currently on the road trying to discover their passion;
- get a free Roadtrip DVD and soundtrack; and
- tour the RV.

The event has been previously held in New York City, Chicago, Washington D.C., and Denver.

Roadtrip Nation tour

6:45-9 p.m., Thursday, November 9

Nathan Hale High School

10750 30th Ave. N.E.

Roosevelt Jazz Band to present free concerts for 4th-, 5th-graders

The Roosevelt High School Jazz Band on Thursday, November 30 will present two benefit performances of Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn's Jazz Nutcracker to fourth- and fifth-graders in Seattle Public Schools.

The first performance will be at 10 a.m. and the second performance at 11:45 a.m., both at the newly remodeled Roosevelt High School Performance Theater.

Fourth- and fifth-grade teachers may request the free tickets from October 16-20 through Kent Ferris, a Lafayette Elementary School teacher and volunteer at Roosevelt. His e-mail is kwferris@seattleschools.org. There is limited seating available and if oversubscribed, seats will be assigned by lottery based on requests received by October 20.

The jazz band will perform the same concert in Benaroya Hall three times during the following weekend for paying audiences, but this opportunity is provided to students at no cost in order to encourage young people throughout Seattle schools to take up and pursue instrumental music.

A copy of the band's CD plus a curriculum packet will be sent through inter-school mail to all registering teachers. The only cost to an individual classroom would be for transportation to and from Roosevelt High. Buses are recommended, as parking is limited in the neighborhood.

Jazz Nutcracker performances

10 a.m. and 11:45 a.m., Thursday, November 30

Roosevelt High School Performance Theater

1410 N.E. 66th St.

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.

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.

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.