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MAY 23 2019

Public Disclosure Commission

John J. White
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May 22, 2019

Via electronic and regular mail: pdc@pdc.wa.gov

Public Disclosure Commission
711 Capitol Way S. #206
PO BOX 40908
Olympia, WA 98504-0908

Re: PDC Complaint No. 50704

Dear PDC Representative:

Lake Washington School District ("LWSD") responds to the complaint referenced above.¹ Our office will be representing the school district, and all communications regarding this matter should be through our office. The complaint should be dismissed. The School District's communications regarding the needs faced by the district and its students and its single mailer regarding the Capital Projects Levy are authorized by law and contained no false statement.

Factual background

On April 23, 2019 a measure was put to the voters of the school district for a Capital Projects Levy. The levy passed with over 56% of the vote. The day the election was held the above-referenced complaint was filed. The levy election was authorized by Resolution No. 2259, adopted by the school board at its December 3, 2018 meeting. A copy of the Resolution is attached as **Exhibit A**. The resolution reflects the rate "per thousand" of value imposed under the levy. The rate "per thousand" for the six-year levy was estimated to decline from \$0.29 to \$0.25 per thousand dollars of value. The resolution reflects that no levy rate increase was expected to result if the levy is passed. Resolution No. 2259, §3.

LWSD prepared and mailed one informational flyer to residents of the school district regarding the Capital Projects Levy that would be placed before the voters at the April 2019 special election. A copy of the mailer is attached as **Exhibit B**. The mailer is an objective presentation of facts regarding enrollment growth, the need for additional classrooms, the purposes to which the levy funds would be put and the total amount of levy proceeds. The uses of funds identified in the mailer are drawn from Resolution No. 2259, §2. The mailer includes no *advocacy* for passage.

¹ The complainant filed a similar complaint against the School District related to the 2014 bond election. PDC Complaint No. T14-079.

Information regarding the School District's needs and information regarding the amount, purpose and uses of the levy funds were included in the School District's electronic newsletter, *Connections*. The electronic newsletter is distributed to school employees and school families. Interested community members may request to be placed on the newsletter distribution email list. The newsletter is not distributed to the general public, nor is it mailed. The newsletter comes out approximately every two weeks when school is in session, during the academic year. The newsletter provides information to staff, parents and interested community members regarding the instruction program, news items about schools, operational items and other information. The newsletter also contains information regarding the School District's needs and uses of levy proceeds and links to videos, including videos about the levy hosted at the School District's YouTube page. The District's YouTube page includes a wide range of videos regarding the School District's operations and programs. <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYSQsLQx-R7DvYCUVL9GMxA>. Copies of the newsletters for the 2018-2019 school year (through the date of the levy election) are attached as **Exhibit C**. The School District has customarily distributed information on operations, needs and purposes and uses of levy funds through its newsletter. The School District's newsletter has also customarily included a reminder to vote in elections (whether the School District has any matter on the ballot or not). *See e.g. Exhibit C (Connections, October 26, 2018, p.3).*

LWSD's communications contained no false statement regarding the levy rate.

The communications regarding the levy rate are both clear and true. The complaint acknowledges that the "tax rate values in the charter based on actual bonds and levies that were passed by voters as well as on current assessments. The data is available from external sources including King County and the Municipal Services Rulemaking Board." Complaint, p.3. The complaint asserts that the statement regarding the levy rate is false because if a property increases in value it will pay more in property taxes. Nothing in the materials prepared by the School District in connection with the levy makes any representation whether a particular property would be subject to more tax if its value increased or less tax if its value decreased during the period during which the levy is imposed.

The complaint also asserts the current statement regarding the levy rate is false because "we don't know how much the district will collect in 2023 and beyond..." Complaint, p.5.

The complainant has a different view from the School District and would have emphasized different assumptions and would have speculated that future implementation of the *McCleary* decision would result in increased taxes. However, it is indisputable that the estimated effect of the levy was to maintain the current "per thousand" rate of taxation on property in the school district's jurisdiction.

LWSD expended no funds and used no public facilities to promote or oppose the levy measure.

Neither the preparation of a single, objective mail piece to District residents nor the inclusion of information regarding the levy's purposes or uses of funds constitutes use of public facilities to promote or oppose the ballot proposition. The PDC's long-standing guidance to school districts and the explicit authority of school districts to communicate with their communities regarding needs of the district support dismissal of the complaint.

RCW 42.17A.555 prohibits the use of public facilities to promote or oppose ballot propositions, with certain exceptions such as "[a]ctivities which are part of the normal and regular conduct of the office or agency." RCW 42.17A.555(3). School districts are specifically charged with and authorized to keep their communities informed and "have authority to authorize the expenditure of funds for the purpose of preparing and distributing information to the general public to explain the instructional program, operation and maintenance of the schools of the district," but not for the purpose of influencing an election. RCW 28A.320.090.

This exemption is clarified by WAC 390-05-271(2) which allows public agencies, such as Lake Washington School District, to make "an objective and fair presentation of facts relevant to a ballot proposition, if such action is part of the normal and regular conduct of the office or agency." Communicating with the school district community is part of the district's normal and regular conduct of its operations, as envisioned by both the statute and the PDC's guidance.

The PDC's long-standing guidance includes PDC Interpretation 01-03. The PDC's guidance recognizes that the school district's regular operation includes "informing the community of the needs the district faces and needs students have that the community may not realize." *Id.* In addition to the single objective mailer authorized as part of the School District's normal and regular conduct of its operations, inclusion of information (again factual) regarding the levy and the district's needs is authorized under PDC interpretation No. 01-03.

The state Supreme Court decision in *WSRP v. PDC* also confirms that factual statements without an accompanying exhortation do not constitute advocacy for or against a ballot measure. 141 Wn.2d 245, 271 (1999) (factual statements regarding a political candidate's record did not constitute advocacy for or against the candidate's election).

Conclusion

LWSD complied with both the spirit and letter of the law governing raising of school funds through the levy process. As in prior levy elections, it communicated its needs to district residents, the amount of levy funds to be raised, and the uses to which the funds would be put. Its communications contained no advocacy for passage of the levy. The complaint should be promptly dismissed.

Very truly yours,

LIVENGOOD ALSKOG


John J. White

Exhibit A

LAKE WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 414
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

CAPITAL PROJECTS LEVY
(CRITICAL CAPACITY NEEDS)

RESOLUTION NO. 2259

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of Lake Washington School District No. 414, King County, Washington, providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the district at a special election to be held therein on April 23, 2019, of a proposition to authorize the district to levy an additional tax of \$20,000,000 in 2019 for collection in 2020, \$20,000,000 in 2020 for collection in 2021, \$20,000,000 in 2021 for collection in 2022, \$20,000,000 in 2022 for collection in 2023, \$20,000,000 in 2023 for collection in 2024, and \$20,000,000 in 2024 for collection in 2025 for the District's Capital Projects Fund for constructing and equipping additions to four elementary schools, constructing and equipping additions to Lake Washington High School classrooms, auxiliary gym and commons, and district-wide building safety and security modifications to meet the current and future educational programs for its students.

ADOPTED DECEMBER 3, 2018

PREPARED BY:

K&L GATES LLP
Seattle, Washington

RESOLUTION NO. 2259

A RESOLUTION of the Board of Directors of Lake Washington School District No. 414, King County, Washington, providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the district at a special election to be held therein on April 23, 2019, of a proposition to authorize the district to levy an additional tax of \$20,000,000 in 2019 for collection in 2020, \$20,000,000 in 2020 for collection in 2021, \$20,000,000 in 2021 for collection in 2022, \$20,000,000 in 2022 for collection in 2023, \$20,000,000 in 2023 for collection in 2024, and \$20,000,000 in 2024 for collection in 2025 for the District's Capital Projects Fund for constructing and equipping additions to four elementary schools, constructing and equipping additions to Lake Washington High School classrooms, auxiliary gym and commons, and making district-wide building safety and security modifications to meet the current and future educational programs for its students.

WHEREAS, the educational facilities of Lake Washington School District No. 414, King County, Washington (the "District"), are in need of renovation, construction, improvements and expansion to meet the current and future educational programs for its students; and

WHEREAS, funds available to the District will be insufficient to enable the District to implement such projects; and

WHEREAS, in order to support the cost of these projects as found necessary by the Board of Directors, it is deemed advisable that the District levy a tax upon all the taxable property within the District in excess of the annual tax the District is permitted by law to levy without a vote of the people, such levy to be made for six years commencing in 2019 for collection in the school years from 2019-2020 through 2025-2026, inclusive, as authorized by Article VII, Section 2 of the State Constitution and RCW 84.52.053; and

WHEREAS, the question of whether or not such excess tax may be levied must be submitted to the qualified electors of the District for their ratification or rejection; and

WHEREAS, the conditions here and above set forth which requires the holding of a special election in the District;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF LAKE WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 414, KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON as follows:

Section 1. Finding. It is hereby found and declared that the welfare of the students and other residents of the District requires the District to carry out the improvements hereinafter provided.

Section 2. Authorization of Improvements. The District shall expand its school facilities through the construction, renovation, improvement and expansion of new and existing facilities, including, but not limited to, constructing and equipping additions to Lake Washington High School classrooms, auxiliary gyms and commons, constructing and equipping additions to Carson Elementary, Franklin Elementary, Rose Hill Elementary and Twain Elementary schools, providing for District-wide upgrades to building safety and security measures, and shall make other capital project expenditures as found necessary by the Board of Directors.

The District may repay any obligations hereafter incurred for the foregoing purposes.

If available funds are sufficient upon completion of the above improvements, the District may undertake additional construction, modernization, and remodeling and make other capital improvements to the facilities of the District, all as approved by the Board of Directors; provided that such funds may be used only to support the construction, modernization, replacement, and remodeling of school facilities or implementation of the District's technology facilities plan.

If the District shall determine that it has become impracticable to accomplish any of such improvements or portions thereof by reason of changed conditions or needs, incompatible

development, costs substantially in excess of those estimated, or acquisition by a superior governmental authority, the District shall not be required to accomplish such improvement and may apply levy proceeds as set forth in this section. If any or all of the improvements have been completed, or their completion duly provided for, or their completion found to be impractical, the District may apply the levy proceeds or any portion thereof to other portions of the improvements or to other capital purposes of the District, as the District in its discretion shall determine. Notwithstanding any provision of this resolution to the contrary, levy proceeds may only be used to support the construction and remodeling of school facilities.

Section 3. Authorization of Levies. It is hereby found and declared that best interests of the District require the submission to the qualified electors of the District of the proposition whether the District shall make the Capital Projects Fund levies for their ratification or rejection at a special election to be held on April 23, 2019. For the purpose of providing funds necessary for the needs described in Section 2 above, King County Elections, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections in King County, is hereby requested to call and conduct such special election to be held within the District on such day and to submit to the qualified electors of the District for their approval or rejection, a proposition providing for tax levies for the Capital Projects Fund for six years, commencing in 2019, producing dollar amounts at estimated tax rates per thousand dollars of assessed value to produce such amounts, in excess of the maximum amount tax levy permitted by law to be levied within the District without a vote of the electors, all as follows:

- A. \$20,000,000, said levy to be made in 2019 for collection in 2020;
- B. \$20,000,000, said levy to be made in 2020 for collection in 2021;
- C. \$20,000,000, said levy to be made in 2021 for collection in 2022;
- D. \$20,000,000, said levy to be made in 2022 for collection in 2023;

- E. \$20,000,000 said levy to be made in 2023 for collection in 2024; and
- F. \$20,000,000 said levy to be made in 2024 for collection in 2025.

The estimated levy rate depends upon the final dollar amount of assessed value of the property within the District. At this time, based upon information provided by the County Assessor's office, the estimated levy rate for the 2019 levy is \$0.29 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, the estimated levy rate for the 2020 levy is \$0.28 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, the estimated levy rate for the 2021 levy is \$0.27 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, the estimated levy rate for the 2022 levy is \$0.26 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, the estimated levy rate for the 2023 levy is \$0.25 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation, and the estimated levy rate for the 2024 levy is \$0.25 per thousand dollars of assessed valuation. The exact levy rate shall be adjusted based upon the actual assessed value of the property within the District at the time of the levy.

Section 4. Voters' Pamphlet. Pursuant to authority granted by RCW 29A.32.220, the Board of Directors hereby authorizes the District's participation in the local voters' pamphlet for the April 23, 2019 election and requests that King County Elections prepare and publish a voters' pamphlet for this proposition. The District understands and agrees that it will be required to pay its proportionate share of the expenses of the voters' pamphlet.

Section 5. Approval of Form of Ballot. The Secretary of the Board of Directors is hereby authorized and directed to certify said proposition to King County Elections, as *ex officio* supervisor of elections in King County, substantially in the following form:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

LAKE WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 414

CAPITAL PROJECTS LEVY
(Critical Capacity Needs)

The Board of Directors approved Resolution No. 2259 for educational facilities and critical capacity needs. This proposition authorizes the improvement and upgrade of District facilities; additions to five schools; district wide safety and security improvements; and authorizes the following excess levies for such purposes on all taxable property within the District:

| Collection Years | Approximate Levy Rate/\$1,000 Assessed Value | Levy Amount |
|---------------------|--|----------------|
| 2020 | \$0.29 | \$ 20,000,000 |
| 2021 | \$0.28 | \$ 20,000,000 |
| 2022 | \$0.27 | \$ 20,000,000 |
| 2023 | \$0.26 | \$ 20,000,000 |
| 2024 | \$0.25 | \$ 20,000,000 |
| 2025 | \$0.25 | \$ 20,000,000 |

all as provided in the Resolution. Should this proposition be approved?

YES

NO

The Secretary of the Board of Directors of the District is hereby authorized and directed to deliver certified copies of this resolution to King County Elections.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Lake Washington School District No. 414, King County, Washington, at a regular meeting thereof, held this 3rd day of December, 2018.

LAKE WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT
NO. 414, KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



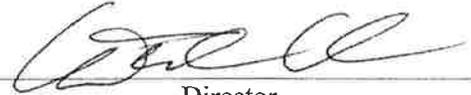
President and Director



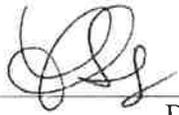
Director



Director



Director



Director

ATTEST:



Secretary, Board of Directors

CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned, Secretary of the Board of Directors of Lake Washington School District No. 414, King County, Washington (the "District"), and keeper of the records of the Board of Directors (the "Board"), DO HEREBY CERTIFY:

1. That the attached resolution is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 2259 of the Board (the "Resolution"), duly adopted at a regular meeting thereof held on the 3rd day of December, 2018.

2. That said meeting was duly convened and held in all respects in accordance with law, and to the extent required by law, due and proper notice of such meeting was given; that a legal quorum was present throughout the meeting and a legally sufficient number of members of the Board voted in the proper manner for the adoption of the Resolution; that all other requirements and proceedings incident to the proper adoption of the Resolution have been duly fulfilled, carried out and otherwise observed; and that I am authorized to execute this certificate.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 3rd day of December, 2018.


Secretary, Board of Directors

OFFICIAL BALLOT
 LAKE WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 414
 KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON
 April 23, 2019

INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTERS: To vote in favor of the following proposition, place a cross (x) in the square opposite the words "YES"; to vote against the following proposition, place a cross (X) in the square opposite the words "NO."

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| 2022 | \$0.27 | \$ 20,000,000 |
| 2023 | \$0.26 | \$ 20,000,000 |
| 2024 | \$0.25 | \$ 20,000,000 |
| 2025 | \$0.25 | \$ 20,000,000 |

all as provided in the Resolution. Should this proposition be approved?

YES

NO

NOTICE
LAKE WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 414
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

April 23, 2019

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on April 23, 2019, a special election will be held in the above-named school district for the submission to the qualified electors of said school district of the following proposition:

PROPOSITION NO. 1

LAKE WASHINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 414

CAPITAL PROJECTS LEVY
(Critical Capacity Needs)

The Board of Directors approved Resolution No. 2259 for educational facilities and critical capacity needs. This proposition authorizes the improvement and upgrade of District facilities; additions to five schools; district wide safety and security improvements; and authorizes the following excess levies for such purposes on all taxable property within the District:

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| 2023 | \$0.26 | \$ 20,000,000 |
| 2024 | \$0.25 | \$ 20,000,000 |
| 2025 | \$0.25 | \$ 20,000,000 |

all as provided in the Resolution. Should this proposition be approved?

YES

NO

King County Elections

Exhibit B



CAPITAL PROJECTS LEVY

Lake Washington School District will have a Capital Projects Levy on the April 23, 2019 ballot.

- Lake Washington needs more classrooms for students to support our rapid enrollment growth.
- Our highest priorities are creating safe schools and maintaining quality classrooms.

This measure authorizes a six-year levy totaling \$120 million or \$20 million per year for six years.

Maintains 2019 LWSO tax rate for construction with NO TAX RATE INCREASE.



PLEASE VOTE **ELECTION**
April 23, 2019

For more information, including answers to frequently asked questions, visit: www.lwsd.org
425-936-1342 | communications@lwsd.org

THE LEVY WILL PROVIDE:

Critical Projects for Growth

Permanent classroom additions at:

- Lake Washington High School (20 classrooms)
- Rachel Carson Elementary (4 classrooms)
- Benjamin Franklin Elementary (8 classrooms)
- Rose Hill Elementary (8 classrooms)
- Mark Twain Elementary (4 classrooms)



Adds classroom space for **1,052 students.**

Core Facilities/Common Spaces

- Additional auxiliary gymnasium and commons space at Lake Washington High School
- Additional core facilities at:
 - Rachel Carson Elementary
 - Benjamin Franklin Elementary
 - Rose Hill Elementary
 - Mark Twain Elementary



Critical Projects for Safety

- Exterior security cameras at elementary schools.
- Modifications to entrances of:
 - Eastlake High School
 - Lake Washington High School
 - Redmond High School



Exhibit C

[Skip to Main Content](#)

Connections - August 30, 2018

Welcome back!

This newsletter is just one way to stay in touch with what is happening in the district. Connect with us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) for up-to-date news and information.

Learning Focused

A Message from Dr. Jane Stavem, Superintendent

Welcome to 2018-19

As the new superintendent of Lake Washington School District (LWSD), I want to extend a warm welcome as we anticipate a great start on September 4. We are excited about the new school year and look forward to helping every student learn, achieve, and succeed! Whether you are just starting your first year or returning to the district, we are honored and proud to serve you.

As the new school year begins the district focuses on the best ways to serve students in order to accomplish our "Every Student Future Ready" vision. We are committed to providing a high-quality education that supports students on their journey to success. As the district continues to grow, we are building new schools, expanding opportunities, and improving our existing programs. We value our partnership with parents, families, and the community as we collectively support all our students. This is an exciting time to be part of LWSD!



[Read Dr. Jane Stavem's Back to School message here.](#)

District Announcements

Changes to school start and end times

In March 2018, LWSD announced that school start and end times would change in the 2018-19 school year, as a seven-period day is implemented for high school students. You can find your school's exact start and end times here: www.lwsd.org/schools/school-hours.

Verify your child's information online now

Families of registered students can visit Skyward Family Access to verify their child's information. You can even use the Skylert tab inside of Skyward Family Access to verify what phone number we should call during an emergency. Visit <https://www.lwsd.org/help/skyward-family-access> for more information. Check out our [Students and Families webpage](#) for links to important tools for families, including Skyward Family Access.

Keep your student healthy – Reminders from Health Services

Before school starts on September 4, don't forget:

- Families must show **proof of immunization** or certification of exemption for each child to attend school. **Students cannot start school without the required documentation.** [Read more about immunization requirements.](#)

- If your child has a **life-threatening health condition**, you must supply the required emergency medication, health care provider orders, an individual health plan, and any necessary supplies **on or before the first day of school**. Until those items are in place, your child will not be able to attend school. [Read more about life-threatening health conditions and how to report them to schools.](#)

Getting to/from school:

Riding the bus: LWSD's transportation department mailed out postcards to all families whose student(s) qualify to ride the school bus to/from school. Questions about buses? Contact the Transportation Department at 425-936-1120 or visit the [district website](#).

Walking or Bicycling: Walking and bicycling are healthy ways for students to get to school. [Suggested Walk Route Maps](#) for elementary schools are available on the district website. A subcommittee of the district's Safety Advisory Committee, along with traffic and pedestrian safety experts, worked with a consultant to develop these safe walking/biking routes.

Kindergarten Family Connections help students, families have a successful year

Lake Washington School District provides full-day kindergarten for all students. The first day of school and classes for kindergarten students will be September 7. (Grades 1-12 begin school on September 4.) Kindergarten families will meet with their student's teacher in a Family Connection meeting between September 4-6. Schools will connect with families directly to schedule these meetings.

Peachjar to deliver community electronic flyers

LWSD will continue using the Peachjar eflyer service this school year. Peachjar distributes eflyers from nonprofit organizations as well as from schools and school-related organizations directly to parent email inboxes. If you are new to LWSD, you will receive a welcome email from Peachjar that gives instructions on how to manage flyer delivery preferences. [Learn more about Peachjar on the district website.](#)

LWSD partnership with King County Library System (KCLS) to provide students with online access

To increase student access to KCLS's online resources, LWSD participates in the KCLS Partnership Program. This partnership creates special library accounts for all students in our district. These special online accounts allow students to seamlessly log in from school, home or from any computer or device to access KCLS resources. The special student accounts:

- Are easy for students to remember. The account number will utilize each student's school ID number preceded by the School District number (414).
- Give each student seamless access. Students will be able to use the array of databases, downloadable materials (through Overdrive) and online homework help services offered by KCLS without needing a physical card.
- Do not accrue fines or fees. Since students will only be able to access electronic materials it won't be necessary for students to track due dates.

Secondary students in the LWSD have participated in the program since February 2017. This year, the program will be made available for both secondary and elementary students. If your student already has a traditional KCLS library card, they will continue to be able to use it to checkout materials from the public library and use in-library computers. The arrangement between LWSD and KCLS supplements the traditional library card and improves each student's ability to access KCLS online research tools as part of their school work. In October, KCLS will automatically launch the system to all students in LWSD. Secondary students will be provided continued access each school year.

Families who do not wish for their children to be included in the program may opt out through Skyward Family Access Online Forms. [Read more about this KCLS opt-out form here.](#) This form will be open from August 15 through September 17, 2018. If you have any trouble completing the online process, please call or visit your school's office for assistance.

Lake Washington School District implements new volunteer system in 2018-19

This summer, Lake Washington School District's volunteer application system was transferred to a volunteer system developed by Raptor Technologies,

Inc. Raptor is used across the nation in many school districts and is considered the industry leader.

Information for all current volunteers has been transferred into the new volunteer system. Instead of logging in to Parent Access, parents will log in to the Raptor system to complete and update their volunteer applications.

[Read more about the new volunteer system.](#)

Want a full LWSD Calendar for the 2018-2019 school year?

Printable versions of the district calendar are available on the district website. You can also access the LWSD Online Calendar for school-specific events. You can sign up for alerts and/or create a filter when using the calendar to see events specific to your school(s).

- [LWSD Online Calendar](#)
- [One-page sheet calendar](#)
- [Page-per-month calendar](#)

MySchoolBucks convenience fee change

MySchoolBucks, the system that families use to add or check lunch account balances is increasing its online convenience fee from \$1.95 per transaction to \$2.49 per transaction. This includes any AutoPay automatic payments you may have set up. This change is now in place. This is the first time in 16 years MySchoolBucks increased the convenience fee and is due to the rising costs of processing transactions. As a reminder, you can also add money to your lunch account by sending a check to LWSD Nutrition Services. Visit the [Breakfast and Lunch Menu page](#) of the LWSD website for more information.

Safety Corner

New visitor entry control system increases security for our schools

The safety and security of students is a top priority of our school and district. One of the new safety enhancements for the 2018-19 school year is the implementation of entry control systems at all schools in the district. These controls will allow schools to keep all exterior doors locked and will require all visitors to use a video call system to request access. These types of systems are similar to how visitors gain access at many apartments or condominiums that keep all entry doors locked. The district now has Entry Control System hardware installed in all schools. The goal of the system is to:

1. Maintain control of access to the building interior, and
2. Maintain knowledge of persons entering the building interior.

All elementary and middle schools will begin using the new entry control system in September. High Schools will begin using these systems later this fall. Here's what to expect:

- All exterior doors will be locked.
- Visitors will need to use the entry control system video unit to request permission to enter the building.
- Visitors will be asked their name and the purpose of their visit.
- Visitors must then proceed to the office to show picture identification and sign in.

This will be a change for everyone in our community, yet we believe this is a crucial step towards enhancing the safety and security of our school campus. Please allow for extra time if you need to pick your child up early due to a medical appointment, or if you plan to volunteer in the classroom. Thank you in advance for your patience as we implement this new system.

For more information about safety in LWSD, visit the safety webpage: www.lwsd.org/safety.

Building on Success

Building on Success is Lake Washington School District's long-term plan to reduce overcrowding, accommodate growing enrollment, and continue to provide quality learning environments and experiences for our students.

**Two new Lake Washington schools designed to enhance learning, conserve natural resources
Adds space for 1,380 elementary students in rapidly growing district**

Students in Lake Washington School District (LWSD) will have a little more space to learn this fall. Two new elementary schools will open in September: Ella Baker Elementary, located in the Redmond Ridge East Community (9595 Eastridge Drive NE, Redmond); and Clara Barton Elementary, located in North Redmond (12101 172nd Avenue NE, Redmond).



These schools were approved by voters in 2016 and each school will provide additional space for 690 students. The first day of school for students in the Lake Washington School District is September 4. Kindergarten students begin September 7.

"We are excited to open these two new elementary schools," said Dr. Jane Stavem, Superintendent. "As the district continues to grow, we are building new schools, expanding opportunities, and improving our existing programs. We value our partnership with parents, families, and the community, as we collectively support all our students."

The new schools are named after Ella Baker, a civil-rights leader and mentor, and Clara Barton, a teacher and founder of the American Red Cross. These two women made a difference by dedicating their lives to service – a cornerstone of learning stressed by the principals of each school, Kim Bilanko and Karen Barker. [Read more about the two new elementary schools here.](#)

Work with us

We're hiring!

LWSD needs bus drivers, custodians, para educators and instructional assistants. Job descriptions are available on the [district website](#), under "Employment" then "Classified Employees." Bus drivers earn \$24.80 per hour. [Learn more about why driving a bus for LWSD is a great job.](#) Please share this information with your friends and neighbors.

Custodians needed

LWSD is looking to fill multiple custodial positions throughout our district. Custodians need to have a high school diploma or equivalent, complete a physical and pass a criminal background check. Job descriptions are available on the [district website](#), under "Employment" then "Classified Employees." Pass along to anyone looking for an important and fulfilling position with LWSD.

Sodexo/Nutrition Services is hiring

Are you looking for a way to get involved in LWSD? Would you like a part-time job that gives you the flexibility to be with your kids before and after school? Shifts that range from two hours to eight hours are available, helping serve students breakfast and lunch. Starting pay depends on experience. If interested, contact Nutrition Services at 425-936-1385.

Student & Staff Success

Rockwell Elementary receives prestigious national PTA award

Norman Rockwell Elementary School (Rockwell) was named a 2018-2020 National PTA "School of Excellence." Rockwell received the recognition for their commitment to building an inclusive and welcoming school community. A school where all families contribute to enriching the educational experience and overall well-being for all students. [Read more about the national PTA award.](#)

Proud to be a
National PTA®
**School of
Excellence**



2018-2020

Tooting our own horns - Transportation Department awarded grant for new school buses



Tom Spellman, a Transportation Shop Supervisor for Lake Washington School District's (LWSD) Transportation Department, applied for, and was awarded, a \$560,000 grant from the Washington State Department of Ecology. This grant provides \$35,000 per bus toward the purchase of 16 new school buses (approximately 31% of the total cost). The grant's objective is to reduce emissions by replacing older buses with newer buses, thereby reducing toxic emissions up to 99%. [Read more about the Transportation department's grant.](#)

[Skip to Main Content](#)

Connections - September 14, 2018

Thirty-two LWSD students named National Merit Semifinalists

Students now compete for scholarships worth more than \$31 million

Thirty-two Lake Washington School District (LWSD) high school seniors have been named semifinalists in the 64th annual National Merit Scholarship Program. The [National Merit Scholarship Corporation](#) announced the semifinalists on September 12.

Sixteen thousand high school seniors nationwide qualified. More than 90% of the semifinalists are expected to advance to the finalist level. More than half will win a National Merit Scholarship. These students will be able to continue in the competition for 7,500 National Merit Scholarships, worth more than \$31 million. [See the full list of semifinalists here.](#)

District Announcements

Upcoming Parent Information Nights for Highly Capable Programs/Quest

Applications for Highly Capable Programs/Quest will be available on the district website on Monday, October 1. All applications are due on Friday, October 26 at 4 p.m. Information sessions are available for parents on the following dates/times:

- **Grades 1-4 Highly Capable Information Night:**
Thursday, October 4, Lake Washington High School Performing Arts Center
6:00-7:30 p.m.
- **Middle School (Grades 5-7) Highly Capable Information Night:**
Monday, October 8, Lake Washington High School Performing Arts Center
6:00-7:30 p.m.
- **Kindergarten Highly Capable Information Night:**
Tuesday, October 2, Lake Washington High School Performing Arts Center
6:00 p.m.

Attendance at information sessions is optional and not required to apply to Highly Capable Programs.

If a family is unable to access the internet-based application or needs an application in a language other than English, please contact the Accelerated Programs Office at 425-936-1238.

More information on these programs can be found on the [Accelerated Programs section of the district website.](#)

Student enrollment growth requires Lake Washington to develop short-term space plan to accommodate students

Enrollment in LWSD has grown 25 percent in the last decade. The district has a long-term strategy to build facilities and increase capacity. Until the long-term plan is completed, the district develops short-term plans to address immediate needs for classroom space. For fall 2018, the district installed 10 energy efficient portable classrooms at Lakeview Elementary (2), Benjamin Rush Elementary (1), Mark Twain Elementary (3), Rose Hill Elementary (2) and John Muir Elementary (2).



The district adopted a portable standard in 2014 of SAGE (Smart Academic Green Environment) portable classrooms. SAGE portable classrooms are energy-efficient, have more natural light than traditional portables and are constructed with low-emitting building materials. The LED lights turn off automatically when no one is in the room. The HVAC systems in SAGE portables also improve ventilation and reduce noise.

Enrollment is projected to reach 32,000 students in the next five years. For information about LWSD's plan to increase permanent capacity, visit our [Building on Success](#) page.

Building on Success

Building on Success is Lake Washington School District's long-term plan to reduce overcrowding, accommodate growing enrollment, and continue to provide quality learning environments and experiences for our students.

Get a glimpse of what our two new Lake Washington schools look like

The new Ella Baker Elementary S...



New Clara Barton Elementary Sc...



The first day of school at the new Clara Barton and Ella Baker Elementary Schools was on September 4. The schools incorporate features that conserve natural resources and reduce energy costs. Watch the videos by clicking the following links or on the images above. [Ella Baker Video](#) | [Clara Barton Video](#)

The schools are two of eight projects funded by the 2016 bond program, [Building on Success](#).

Important Reminders and Updates

Washington State 2018 Healthy Youth Survey

Our district is participating in the Washington State 2018 Healthy Youth Survey during fall 2018.

The Healthy Youth survey includes questions related to physical activity and diet, unintentional and intentional injury, substance use, risk and protective factors, access to school-based services, and sexual behaviors, abuse and orientation. Survey results are used by schools, communities and state agencies to plan programs to support our youth and reduce their risks.

Participation in the survey is voluntary and the students' answers are anonymous.

Please read the [Parent and Student Notification Letter](#) for more information about the Healthy Youth Survey:

- [Amharic](#)
- [Arabic](#)
- [Cambodian/Khmer](#)
- [Chinese](#)
- [Chuukeese](#)
- [English](#)

- [Korean](#)
- [Marshallese](#)
- [Punjabi](#)
- [Russian](#)
- [Samoan](#)
- [Spanish](#)

- [Somali](#)
- [Tagalog](#)
- [Tongan](#)
- [Ukrainian](#)
- [Vietnamese](#)

[Read more about the Healthy Youth Survey on the district website.](#)

Is your child's backpack too heavy?

According to the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA), backpacks should weigh less than 10 percent of a student's body weight. Backpack Awareness Day is September 26. Purchasing a backpack this year? Visit the [AOTA website](#) for tips on purchasing the right backpack for your child.

Reminder: Verify your child's information online until September 17

Families of registered students can visit Skyward Family Access to verify their child's information. You can even use the Skylert tab inside of Skyward Family Access to verify what phone number we should call during an emergency. Visit <https://www.lwsd.org/help/skyward-family-access> for more information. Check out our [Students and Families webpage](#) for links to important tools for families, including Skyward Family Access.

Reminder: LWSO partnership with King County Library System (KCLS) to provide students with online access

To increase student access to KCLS's online resources, LWSO participates in the KCLS Partnership Program. This partnership creates special library accounts for all students in our district. These special online accounts allow students to seamlessly log in from school, home or from any computer or device to access KCLS resources. The special student accounts:

- Are easy for students to remember. The account number will utilize each student's school ID number preceded by the School District number (414).
- Give each student seamless access. Students will be able to use the array of databases, downloadable materials (through Overdrive) and online homework help services offered by KCLS without needing a physical card.
- Do not accrue fines or fees. Since students will only be able to access electronic materials it won't be necessary for students to track due dates.

Secondary students in LWSD have participated in the program since February 2017. This year, the program will be made available for both secondary and elementary students. If your student already has a traditional KCLS library card, they will continue to be able to use it to checkout materials from the public library and use in-library computers. The arrangement between LWSD and KCLS supplements the traditional library card and improves each student's ability to access KCLS online research tools as part of their school work. In October, KCLS will automatically launch the system to all students in LWSD. Secondary students will be provided continued access each school year.

Families who do not wish for their children to be included in the program may opt out through Skyward Family Access Online Forms. [Read more about this KCLS opt-out form here](#). **This form will be open from August 15 through September 17, 2018.** If you have any trouble completing the online process, please call or visit your school's office for assistance.

Lake Washington School District implements new volunteer system in 2018-19

This summer, Lake Washington School District's volunteer application system was transferred to a volunteer system developed by Raptor Technologies, Inc. Raptor is used across the nation in many school districts and is considered the industry leader.

Information for all current volunteers has been transferred into the new volunteer system. If you are still within your two-year approval window, you do not need to reapply. The renewal window opens 30 days before your expiration date. Volunteers can now renew through the district website instead of logging into Parent Access.

[Read more about the new volunteer system.](#)

Want a full LWSD Calendar for the 2018-2019 school year?

Printable versions of the district calendar are available on the district website. You can also access the LWSD Online Calendar for school-specific events. You can sign up for alerts and/or create a filter when using the calendar to see events specific to your school(s).

- [LWSD Online Calendar](#)
- [One-page sheet calendar](#)
- [Page-per-month calendar](#)

Work with us

We're hiring!

LWSD needs bus drivers, custodians, para educators and instructional assistants. Job descriptions are available on the [district website](#), under "Employment" then "Classified Employees." Bus drivers earn \$24.80 per hour. [Learn more about why driving a bus for LWSD is a great job](#). Please share this information with your friends and neighbors.

Custodians needed

LWSD is looking to fill multiple custodial positions throughout our district. Custodians need to have a high school diploma or equivalent, complete a physical and pass a criminal background check. Job descriptions are available on the [district website](#), under "Employment" then "Classified Employees." Pass along to anyone looking for an important and fulfilling position with LWSD.

Sodexo/Nutrition Services is hiring

Are you looking for a way to get involved in LWSD? Would you like a part-time job that gives you the flexibility to be with your kids before and after school? Shifts that range from two hours to eight hours are available, helping serve students breakfast and lunch. Starting pay depends on experience. If interested, contact Nutrition Services at 425-936-1385.

Student & Staff Success

Happy First Day!

First Day Rose Hi...



The first day of school was on September 4. Our videographer created a [video showing families and staff at Rose Hill Elementary School](#) showing up and preparing for the 2018-19 school year.

LWSD bus driver puts students first during smoke scare



Wade Minor, Lake Washington School District (LWSD) bus driver, had to act quickly when smoke appeared in the back of the bus. Minor was transporting approximately 20 students when a mechanical issue forced him to pull over the afternoon of September 6. His first action was to evacuate the kids from the bus to a safe distance. It was [his quick thinking](#) that kept the situation from getting

out of control.

[Read more student and staff success stories here.](#)

[Skip to Main Content](#)

Connections - September 28, 2018

District Announcements

Attend to achieve

A recent Associated Press report showed that the state of Washington has one of the highest rates of chronic absenteeism in the country. While the Lake Washington School District has one of the lowest rates in the state, 10 percent of our students are considered chronically absent (missing 10 percent or more of school).

To continue to reduce the number of students that are chronically absent, we've updated our attendance policies to focus on chronic absenteeism at all levels. During the month of September, as part of Attendance Awareness Month, we have been communicating with students about the importance of regular school attendance. [Learn more about attendance matters in LWSD.](#)

Safety Corner

Earthquake Preparedness in LWSD

Lake Washington School District works with all its schools to ensure that earthquake response plans are in place. Our buildings are built to seismic codes, and older buildings have been retrofitted. All natural gas lines have seismic shut-off valves. The district has a Safety Advisory Committee that meets monthly to discuss emergency and safety. As part of those plans, the district follows guidance from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and currently recommends "drop, cover and hold" as the state-approved response to earthquakes. Students practice this method during earthquake drills. LWSD will also participate in the [Great Washington ShakeOut](#) on October 18 at 10:18 a.m. This is a state-wide earthquake drill.

Building on Success

Building on Success is Lake Washington School District's long-term plan to reduce overcrowding, accommodate growing enrollment and continue to provide quality learning environments and experiences for our students.

Thank you, voters!

Come tour the new LWSD schools

Ella Baker and Clara Barton Elementary Schools opened to students this fall. Both schools are giving the community an opportunity to see the new buildings in October with an open house. Tours will be available at each school on the following dates:

- **Ella Baker Elementary School**
Saturday, October 6, 2018
10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- **Clara Barton Elementary School**
Thursday, October 11, 2018
4:15 - 7:00 p.m.

The two new elementary schools are funded by the 2016 voter-approved bond measure. The schools are energy efficient and designed to enhance learning. Each has space for 690 students.

Important Reminders and Updates

Reminder: Upcoming Parent Information Nights for Highly Capable Programs/Quest

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Participation in the survey is voluntary and the students' answers are anonymous.

Please read the [Parent and Student Notification Letter](#) for more information about the Healthy Youth Survey:

- [Amharic](#)
- [Arabic](#)
- [Cambodian/Khmer](#)
- [Chinese](#)
- [Chuukeese](#)
- [English](#)

- [Korean](#)
- [Marshallese](#)
- [Punjabi](#)
- [Russian](#)
- [Samoan](#)
- [Spanish](#)

- [Somali](#)
- [Tagalog](#)
- [Tongan](#)
- [Ukrainian](#)

- [Vietnamese](#)

[Read more about the Healthy Youth Survey on the district website.](#)

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This summer, Lake Washington School District's volunteer application system was transferred to a volunteer system developed by Raptor Technologies, Inc. Raptor is used across the nation in many school districts and is considered the industry leader.

Information for all current volunteers has been transferred into the new volunteer system. If you are still within your two-year approval window, you do not need to reapply. The renewal window opens 30 days before your expiration date. Volunteers can now renew through the [district website](#) instead of logging into Parent Access.

If you are an approved volunteer, you have access to a [volunteer portal with Raptor](#). If you are wondering when your volunteer application expires, you can find this information on your profile. Use your email address for the username and if you don't already have a password, click "Forgot my Password." This will help you reset the account password. Your "renewal window" opens thirty days before your application is due to expire and you should receive an email from Raptor reminding you to renew with instructions on how to do so.

Remember, this time of year we receive a large volume of volunteer applications. It can take up to two weeks to process an application.

[Read more about the new volunteer system.](#)

Work with us

We're hiring!

LWSD needs bus drivers, custodians, para educators and instructional assistants. Job descriptions are available on the [district website](#), under "Employment" then "Classified Employees." Bus drivers earn \$25.57 per hour. [Learn more about why driving a bus for LWSD is a great job.](#) Please share this information with your friends and neighbors.

Custodians needed

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Student & Staff Success

Lake Washington students continue to score well above state average on state assessments

Lake Washington School District (LWSD) students continue to score well-above the state average in all areas tested by the Smarter Balanced Assessments



(SBA). [Read more about LWSD students' state assessment scores.](#)

Back to school Blitz – Seahawks mascot and grant money presentation highlight back to school event



The John Muir Elementary PTSA held their annual Welcome Back Social just a few days after school started. Families, staff and community members greeted one another and met Blitz, the Seattle Seahawks mascot. [Read more about John Muir Elementary School's Back to school Blitz.](#)

[Read more student and staff success stories here.](#)

[Skip to Main Content](#)

Connections - October 12, 2018

Learning Focused

A Message from Dr. Jane Stavem, Superintendent

Four Learning Communities – One School District – For all Kids

The leaves are turning and signs of fall are in the air. As someone who is new to Washington, I have been grateful to have such beautiful weather while exploring the great Pacific Northwest. I have also been exploring our district and LWSD communities, meeting many people along the way who support the work we do to educate our students and prepare them for their future opportunities.

We have many amazing things to celebrate in our district – high achievement, beautiful schools, specialized programs, and rich diversity. We also have areas that require ongoing attention and a strong focus to ensure continuous improvement. There are students who are not yet proficient in their ability to read. We have students who may not complete high school, and we have ongoing space needs due to inadequate facility capacity for a growing population.



How do we tackle those challenges and commit to a strong future for all students? We do it together – **four learning communities – one school district – for all kids** – #414. Lake Washington School District #414 is committed to making sure our students have the best opportunities to excel and succeed now and in the future.

[Read more of Dr. Stavem's October Message here.](#)

District Announcements

Welcome Event for New and International Families – All Families Welcome!

LWSD and the LWPTSA Council are hosting two Welcome Events for New and International Families. These events will be held at the LWSD Resource Center on Thursday, October 25 from 6:30-9 p.m. and Saturday, October 27 from 9:30 a.m.—Noon (sessions are identical).

These events will feature guidance for new and international families, including:

- Navigating the school system.
- Special sessions for parents of elementary and secondary students.
- Pacific Northwest activities and culture.
- Relocation challenges and America 101 for international families.
- Meet and learn from PTSA and parents.

[Families can register here.](#)

Elementary conferences on October 15, 16 and 18

The first set of [elementary conferences](#) is scheduled for October 15, 16 and 18 in the afternoon. (These dates will be [half-days for elementary students](#).) The conferences will give parents/guardians, students and teachers an opportunity to talk about the goals students have set for themselves.

LEAP Day – October 19 (No School)

October 19 is a Learning Enhancement and Academic Planning (LEAP) Day. That means no school for students so that teachers and staff members can focus on professional development.

Building on Success

Building on Success is Lake Washington School District's long-term plan to reduce overcrowding, accommodate growing enrollment and continue to provide quality learning environments and experiences for our students.

Ella Baker and Clara Barton Elementary Schools Grand Openings & Community Open Houses

Hundreds of students, staff, parents and dignitaries gathered to celebrate the grand opening for two of LWSD's new schools. Ella Baker Elementary School (Baker) held its grand opening on Friday, October 5. One week later on Thursday, October 11, Clara Barton Elementary (Barton) hosted its own celebration and open house. Lake Washington School District Board Members were on hand for both grand openings along with Superintendent Dr. Jane Stavem and many other district leaders.

Both schools welcomed the public for an open house (Baker the next day on Saturday, October 6 and Barton shortly after their grand opening on the 11th). Dozens of community members had the chance to see what make the schools an ideal learning environment for students.

[View a video of some highlights from the Baker grand opening and open house.](#) A video for Barton will be made available in the next edition of Connections.

The two new elementary schools are funded by the 2016 voter-approved bond measure. The schools are energy efficient and designed to enhance learning. Each has space for 690 students.

Important Reminders and Updates

12th Annual Eastside Native American Education Program (ENAEP) Veterans' Pow Wow – October 20

The 12th annual Eastside Native American Education Program's Veterans' Honor Pow Wow will be held on Saturday, October 20. The Veterans dinner begins at 3 p.m. Grand Entry will start at 6 p.m. The event will be held at Juanita High School (10601 NE 132nd Street, Kirkland, WA 98034). For additional information, contact [Mary Wilber](#) at 425-936-1402. Admission is free.

Highly Capable Programs/Quest Applications Due Friday, October 26

Applications for Highly Capable Programs/Quest are now [available on the district website](#). All applications are due on Friday, October 26 at 4 p.m. If a family is unable to access the internet-based application or needs an application in a language other than English, please contact the Accelerated Programs Office at 425-936-1238. More information on these programs can be found on the [Accelerated Programs section of the district website](#).

National School Bus Safety Week – October 22-26

National School Bus Safety Week is a public education program to address the importance of school bus safety. School districts throughout the country observe School Bus Safety Week the third week in October each year. This year's theme is #StopOnRed! Remember to stop for buses when the red lights blink and the Stop sign is out.

October is National Cyber Security Awareness Month

October is National Cyber Security Awareness month co-founded and co-led by the [Department of Homeland Security](#) and the [National Cyber Security Alliance](#).

Program materials from the Stop.Think.Connect.Toolkit provide information and activities to help students, staff, and parents learn more about and practice safe computing. Cyber criminals target vulnerable computer systems or users of technology in large and small businesses, schools, and at home. Cybersecurity is a shared responsibility in which we all have a role. Click on the links to access tools for [Students](#) and [Parents and Educators](#).

Meet the Central Leadership Team

The district's Central Leadership Team (CLT) is committed to providing high quality programs and services to students, staff, schools and families. To learn more about our district leaders, [see the full CLT organizational chart](#).

Wear orange on October 24 to show we're together against bullying

Unity Day is Wednesday, October 24

Make it ORANGE and make it end! What are your true colors when it comes to bullying? If you care about safe and supportive schools and communities make your color ORANGE on Unity Day. That's the day everyone can come together - in schools, communities, and online - and send one large ORANGE message of support, hope and unity. Show that we are together against bullying and united for kindness, acceptance and inclusion. [Read more about Unity Day](#).

High School PE Credit Options

High school students can meet the Physical Education graduation requirement through taking PE classes, taking the Fitness Knowledge Assessment or submitting a Fitness Plan. The Fitness Knowledge Assessment is offered three times a year. The first session will be October 24. Students must fill out specific forms and register for this test at their high school. Students opting for the Fitness Plan will have three opportunities to submit their plan this year. The first deadline is October 24. See the [district website](#) for more information.

Reminder: Earthquake Preparedness in LWSD

Lake Washington School District works with all its schools to ensure that earthquake response plans are in place. Our buildings are built to seismic codes, and older buildings have been retrofitted. All natural gas lines have seismic shut-off valves. The district has a Safety Advisory Committee that meets monthly to discuss emergency and safety. As part of those plans, the district follows guidance from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and currently recommends "drop, cover and hold" as the state-approved response to earthquakes. Students practice this method during earthquake drills. LWSD will also participate in the [Great Washington ShakeOut](#) on October 18 at 10:18 a.m. This is a state-wide earthquake drill.

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Custodians needed

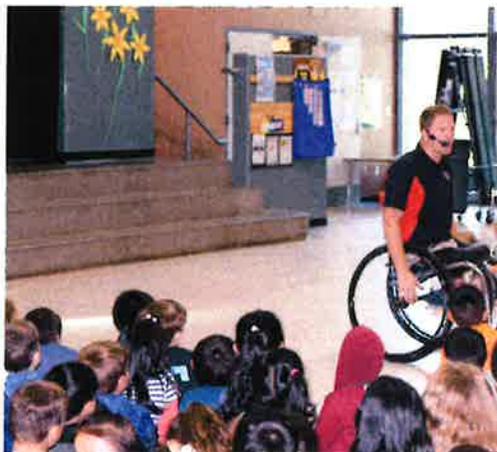
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Student & Staff Success

October is Disability Awareness Month - Don't Dis My Ability



Kacey McCallister lost both legs when he was six years old. Instead of treating him as though he had a disability, doctors told his parents not to do daily tasks for him. This piece of advice forced Kacey to learn to be self-sufficient, even when a task seemed hard or nearly impossible.

Kacey relayed this story to students at Rose Hill Elementary School on October 2. He told the students that, at some point in life, everyone is told they can't do something. His motto? "You'll never know if something is too hard until you try." [Read more about McCallister's presentation at Rose Hill Elementary and other LWSD schools here.](#)

Author of popular Ivy + Bean book series stops by Mann Elementary



Students at Horace Mann Elementary (Mann) School took advantage of a question and answer session with one of their favorite authors on Friday, September 28. [Read more about Annie Barrows' visit to Mann.](#)

[Read more student and staff success stories here.](#)

[Skip to Main Content](#)

Connections - October 26, 2018

Learning Focused

Lake Washington School District continues to have unprecedented growth

2018-19 brings a 10th year of significant growth to the District

Lake Washington School District's (LWSD) official October 1 student enrollment was 29,987 students. This represents 417 more students than last year's October 1 count.

For the last 10 years, from 2008 to 2018, the district's enrollment grew by approximately 620 students each year. That is the size of a large elementary school. A total of 6,218 more students are in LWSD schools today than 10 years ago, representing 26 percent growth.

"Our enrollment growth is reflective of our thriving communities," said Dr. Jane Stavem, Superintendent. "We are grateful for the support of our community as we strive to find solutions to support our rapidly growing student population."

Enrollment growth is forecasted to continue. The district anticipates growing an additional 2,000 students in the next four years. These forecasts take into account the number of births in our area, current enrollment patterns and planned development within district borders.

[Read more about LWSD's continued growth.](#)

Students and staff wear orange on October 24 to show we're united against bullying Unity Day celebration

Make it ORANGE and make it end! What are your true colors when it comes to bullying? LWSD staff and students showed they cared about safe and supportive schools by making their color ORANGE for Unity Day on October 24. That's the day everyone came together – in schools, communities, and online – to send one large ORANGE message of support, hope and unity. Check out more photos from Unity Day on our [Facebook page](#).



[Read more about how you can stand against bullying and come together for kindness, acceptance and inclusion.](#)

October is National Energy Awareness Month

Earth Day is every day in Lake Washington School District. We are a recognized leader in sustainability practices and education in the region. This recognition has come from various organizations:

- McKinstry's 2015 Champions of Sustainability award.
- Eight-time winner of the King County Best Workplace for Waste Prevention and Recycling. Nearly 75 percent of schools in the district collect organic food waste for composting. The district is committed to proactively right-sizing service, including smaller garbage containers and less frequent pickups.

- LWSD is one of 12 districts in the nation to receive Excellence in Integrated Pest Management star certification. This certification ensures the use of alternate, non-chemical pest control methods. The district passed a rigorous 37-point evaluation conducted by the independent nonprofit IPM Institute of North America.
- 2017 Green Cleaning Award from American School and University Magazine. Cleaning to protect the health of students and staff without harm to the environment.
- Grants approved thus far from Puget Sound Energy for high-efficiency features for new schools: \$144,100.

District sustainability efforts rely on the participation of every person in the district, in addition to community partners and volunteers.

[Visit the district website to learn more about LWSD's commitment to resource conservation.](#)

Safety Spotlight

A.L.I.C.E. Training

LWSD uses the A.L.I.C.E. program to prepare staff and students to react to a life-threatening emergency. A.L.I.C.E. stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. These five actions are not to be done in order, rather, they should be considered like tools in a toolbox. Staff members and students should utilize whichever tool would work best given the current situation. Each year, all LWSD staff are trained in A.L.I.C.E. as it is the response protocol for all schools in the district. Additionally, as part of the annual emergency drill schedule, all schools are required to perform five age-appropriate drills throughout the year with a focus on A.L.I.C.E. to ensure staff and students have the opportunity to put into practice the skills learned in the training. If you have questions about the specific emergency drills in your school, please talk to your principal or school office staff.

[Learn more about safety in LWSD schools here.](#)

Building on Success

Building on Success is Lake Washington School District's long-term plan to reduce overcrowding, accommodate growing enrollment and continue to provide quality learning environments and experiences for our students.

Clara Barton Elementary holds Grand Opening Celebration and Community Open House

The community gets a glimpse of the brand new building as Clara Barton Elementary opens its doors to the public

Hundreds of students, staff, parents and dignitaries gathered to celebrate the grand opening of Clara Barton Elementary School on Thursday, October 11. Lake Washington School District Board Members were on hand along with Superintendent Dr. Jane Stavem and many other district leaders.

Clara Barton principal Karen Barker started the event by having the staff and students sing the school song. That was followed by speeches from Dr. Stavem, School Board President Siri Bliesner, state senator Manka Dhingra, U.S. Congresswoman Suzan DelBene and principal Barker. Speeches were followed by the ceremonial ribbon cutting.



Later that day, dozens of community members arrived at the school for an open house. The public was invited to tour the new school and hear about what makes it an ideal learning environment for its students. Watch this highlight video from the grand opening and open house:

Clara Barton Elementary School Grand Opening



[Read more about our Building on Success program.](#)

Important Reminders and Updates

Remember to Vote: November 6

November 6 is election day! Remember to vote. [Ballot drop box locations](#) can be found on the King County Elections website. You can also find more information about the November 2018 General and Special Election here: <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/elections/how-to-vote/ballots/whats-on-the-ballot/candidates-and-measures.aspx>.

Are you ready for inclement weather?

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Reminder: Welcome Event for New and International Families – All Families Welcome!

LWSD and the LWPTSA Council are hosting two Welcome Events for New and International Families. These events will be held at the LWSD Resource Center on Thursday, October 25 from 6:30-9 p.m. and Saturday, October 27 from 9:30 a.m. - noon (sessions are identical).

These events will feature guidance for new and international families, including:

- Navigating the school system.
- Special sessions for parents of elementary and secondary students.
- Pacific Northwest activities and culture.
- Relocation challenges and America 101 for international families.
- Meet and learn from PTSA and parents.

[Families can register here.](#)

Reminder: Highly Capable Programs/Quest Applications Due Friday, October 26

Applications for Highly Capable Programs/Quest are now [available on the district website](#). All applications are due on Friday, October 26 at 4 p.m. If a family is unable to access the internet-based application or needs an application in a language other than English, please contact the Accelerated Programs Office at 425-936-1238. More information on these programs can be found on the [Accelerated Programs section of the district website](#).

Reminder: National School Bus Safety Week – October 22-26

National School Bus Safety Week is a public education program to address the importance of school bus safety. School districts throughout the country observe School Bus Safety Week the third week in October each year. This year's theme is #StopOnRed! Remember to stop for buses when the red lights blink and the Stop sign is out.

Student & Staff Success

Corn picking for good - Rosa Parks Elementary students harvest corn for people in need

A group of Rosa Parks Elementary students and their parents worked with two other community groups to harvest 11,000 pounds of sweet corn, which will be donated to a food bank. [Read more about this project.](#)



Never too young – State senator reads to students; encourages civic participation and voting

State Senator Manka Dhingra stopped by Ella Baker Elementary on October 12 to promote the need for everyone to participate in a democracy and to tell students what motivated her to run for office. [Read more about Dhingra's visit.](#)



[Read more student and staff success stories here.](#)

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Lake Washington School District is currently hiring paraeducators

Paraeducators make an important difference in the lives of our students. Paraeducators are responsible for individual and small-group instructional support for students who have physical, behavioral or medical needs; encourage and help students working on assignments; support students' health care needs; and much more. [Additional job descriptions, qualifications, openings and more are available on the district website.](#)

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LWSD is looking to fill multiple custodial positions throughout our district. Custodians need to have a high school diploma or equivalent, complete a physical and pass a criminal background check. Job descriptions are available on the [district website](#), under "Employment" then "Classified Employees." Pass along to anyone looking for an important and fulfilling position with LWSD.

Sodexo/Nutrition Services is hiring

Are you looking for a way to get involved in LWSD? Would you like a part-time job that gives you the flexibility to be with your kids before and after school? Shifts that range from two hours to eight hours are available, helping serve students breakfast and lunch. Starting pay depends on experience. If interested, contact Nutrition Services at 425-936-1385.

[Skip to Main Content](#)

Connections - November 9, 2018

Learning Focused

School Start Time Advisory Process and Survey

School start and end times changed for the 2018-19 school year as a seven-period schedule was implemented for high school students.

A School Start Time Advisory Committee comprised of staff and parents from elementary, middle, and high school levels is continuing work in 2018-19. Due to Advisory Committee membership attrition and changes, we added members for this year's work, including two middle school principals, two Lake Washington Schools Foundation trustees/parents, and two elementary school office managers, and two Preschool teachers.

The district recognizes that many families have had to make changes in child care arrangements to adjust to the new schedule. This Advisory Committee will use their time this year to learn about the impacts of these changes, both intended and unintended, and make recommendations for the district to consider.

At this time, LWSD is not planning to make changes to the current start/dismissal times for the 2019-20 school year.

In 2018-19, the focus of the Advisory Committee will be to:

- Administer two online surveys, one per semester to gather staff and parent feedback on start/dismissal time impacts
- Analyze survey feedback to understand the impact of start/dismissal time changes
- Use the feedback to determine how far and how fast we make any further changes to start/dismissal times in the future

The first survey will be open between November 7 and 26.

Middle school and high school options postcards on their way

Parents of students in grades five or eight should watch their mailboxes for this year's middle school and high school options postcard. These postcards will be mailed out this week. They will direct you to specific pages on the district website which outline the opportunities in these respective levels, including information about neighborhood schools and choice schools. Dates and times for each school's Information Night will also be listed on the postcard. Parents of students in grades five will receive a middle school options postcard. Parents of students in grade eight will receive a high school options postcard in the mail. You can visit the pages now by clicking on the links below:

- [Middle School Options webpage](#)
- [High School Options webpage](#)

Is your child too sick for school?

While school attendance is important, so is the health of all students and staff. If your child experiences any of the following symptoms, please keep him/her at home or make appropriate child care arrangements: fever, vomiting, lice/scabies, diarrhea, chronic cough and/or runny nose, sore throat, rash, ear infection (with fever), or eye infection. If he/she experiences any of these symptoms at school, the school nurse or office staff may ask you to pick your student up as soon as possible. [Read more about when to keep your child home from school.](#)

Building on Success

Building on Success is Lake Washington School District's long-term plan to reduce overcrowding, accommodate growing enrollment and continue to

provide quality learning environments and experiences for our students.

Concrete and steel almost complete at Peter Kirk Elementary



At Peter Kirk Elementary School, construction crews placed the last concrete floor on Oct. 24. [A Facebook Live broadcast recorded the milestone event.](#) Brian Buck, associate director of Support Services, and Kathryn Ertman, project executive from Lease Crutcher Lewis, hosted the video.

Throughout the day, 28 trucks brought in 270 cubic yards of concrete. It took 23 people from Brundage-Bone Concrete Pumping to drive, flag, pump, place, spread, consolidate, level and survey the concrete.

Hidden inside concrete is a material that building users never see. Rebar is used to strengthen and reinforce concrete. Today's rebar is made almost entirely from recycled items, such as old cars and appliances.

Steel installation is also nearing completion. Work to enclose the building for winter will begin later this month with exterior metal stud framing. The two-story building will have 400 tons of steel.

[Read more about our Building on Success program.](#)

Important Reminders and Updates

Thanksgiving break coming up!

We hope that you enjoy your Thanksgiving Break, November 22-23. Please remember that Wednesday, November 21 is a half day of school. For more information, visit the [Half-Day Dismissal Times page](#) of our district website.

Are you ready for inclement weather?

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Student & Staff Success

Twice the benefit: students read to raise money for school activities

Rush Elementary School students raised \$28,800 in the school's first annual read-a-thon fundraiser. Over 55 percent of Rush students participated. They collected pledges for the number of hours they spent reading. Each student kept a reading log at home to document their hours. The read-a-thon ended with families attending a pajama read-in night at the school on October 11. [Read more about the Rush Elementary fundraiser.](#)



Small steps make large impact during Energy Awareness Month

We can do more together than we can apart. This is especially true in the quest for sustainable schools and communities. [Learn how Lake Washington School District \(LWSD\) students, staff, parents and community members worked together in October for Energy Awareness Month.](#)



[Read more student and staff success stories here.](#)

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We're hiring!

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Are you looking for a way to get involved in LWSD? Would you like a part-time job that gives you the flexibility to be with your kids before and after school? Shifts that range from two hours to eight hours are available, helping serve students breakfast and lunch. Starting pay depends on experience. If interested, contact Nutrition Services at 425-936-1385.

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Connections - November 21, 2018

Learning Focused

American Education Week/Community Leaders Breakfast

LWSD recognized the many community partners, business leaders, elected officials and parent leaders who support the district at its Community Leaders Breakfast on November 14. This annual event is part of American Education Week and seeks to raise awareness of the importance of public education while informing the nation of the accomplishments and needs of public schools. "We all have to do this together. It's one community in terms of supporting kids," said Dr. Jane Stavem, Superintendent.

[Read more about the Community Leaders Breakfast.](#)

World Language Competency Credit Opportunity

Students may develop world language skills in many ways. They may use another language at home, attend language programs in the community, learn language skills online or spend time living abroad. Students who have achieved some proficiency in a world language may seek to earn credit by taking an assessment that measures their proficiency.

Students who wish to pursue this option must sign up to participate in "Washington World Language Assessment Days." Through this program, students complete an assessment. If they demonstrate at least a novice mid-proficiency level, they receive a certificate of recognition and a letter indicating proficiency levels and number of high school credits earned.

Lake Washington School District will offer three more testing opportunities for 9th-12th grade students in 2018-19. The cost of a first attempt during a student's high school career is free. Read more information about the [LWSD World Language Credit Option](#) and sign up by December 2 at 11:59 p.m. Priority will be given to 11th and 12th graders if space becomes limited. Testing will be held on December 12 at Redmond High School. Students must register by December 2 at 11:59 p.m. on the [website](#).

A Message from Dr. Jane Stavem, Superintendent

As the new Lake Washington School District (LWSD) superintendent, one of the first questions I am asked when talking with people throughout our district is, "How do you like it here?" That's an easy answer! What's not to love about a school district that is shared between communities that are thriving, supported by people who care about children, in some of the most beautiful places on the planet? I love it when I am traveling around to schools and catch a glimpse of the mountains or get to drive by a lake to get where I'm going. Riding the ferry is a novelty and I am still hoping to see my first bear sighting! The great thing is I'll never run out of things to do and places to see!

[Read more of Dr. Stavem's November Message here.](#)

Safety Spotlight

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Building on Success

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Students and staff thank construction workers while placing last steel beam at Margaret Mead Elementary

Margaret Mead Topping Out Ceremony



Students and staff signed the last steel beam at Margaret Mead Elementary before a crane lifted it to the top of its three-floor steel frame on Nov. 13.

Director of Support Services Forrest Miller, who is retiring this month, explained the tradition of placing an American flag and evergreen tree on the beam. "We're celebrating the fact that there's been safety on this project, but also honoring the workers," he said. Superintendent Dr. Jane Stavem also attended the topping out ceremony. She thanked workers and the community for making the project possible.

The new building will have a capacity of 690 students.

[Learn more about the Margaret Mead Elementary construction project, one of eight Building on Success projects.](#)

[Read more about our Building on Success program.](#)

Important Reminders and Updates

Reminder: School Start Time Survey closes November 26

School start and end times changed for the 2018-19 school year as a seven-period schedule was implemented for high school students. The School Start Time Advisory committee will administer two online surveys, one per semester to gather staff and parent feedback on start/dismissal time impacts. The first survey will be open until November 26.

[TAKE THE SURVEY HERE](#)

Student & Staff Success

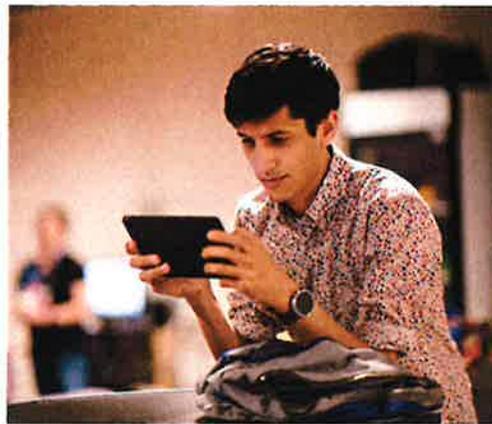
Students explore STEM careers at Google and network through the Kirkland Chamber

Students from Lake Washington High School, Juanita High School, International Community School and Emerson High School toured Google's Kirkland campus on November 8. They learned about Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) careers from a panel of Google employees. The students then attended a luncheon at the Kirkland Chamber of Commerce. [Read more about the students' experience.](#)



Coming up in the world – Former LWSD student named to Forbes' 30 Under 30 Education list

A former Redmond High School student is making a name for himself in the education world. Tyler Menezes, class of 2010, has been named to the Forbes 30 Under 30 Education 2019 list. According to the Forbes website, the list connects a group of America's most gifted thinkers in the learning world. [Read more about Tyler Menezes.](#)



[Read more student and staff success stories here.](#)

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Are you looking for a way to get involved in LWSD? Would you like a part-time job that gives you the flexibility to be with your kids before and after school? Shifts that range from two hours to eight hours are available, helping serve students breakfast and lunch. Starting pay depends on experience. If interested, contact Nutrition Services at 425-936-1385.

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Connections - December 7, 2018

LWSD to Place Capital Projects Levy on April 23 Ballot

Levy will address immediate capacity needs and district-wide safety measures

At its December 3 meeting, Lake Washington School District's (LWSD) Board of Directors passed Resolution No. 2259 to place a Capital Projects Levy on the April 23, 2019 ballot. This measure, if passed, authorizes a six-year levy totaling \$120 million or an average of \$20 million per year for six years.

Levy funds would pay for critical projects to address rapid enrollment growth and student safety and security. Proposed projects include: classroom additions at Lake Washington High School, including auxiliary gyms and commons; classroom additions at Carson Elementary, Franklin Elementary, Rose Hill Elementary, and Twain Elementary, including expansion of core facilities where feasible; and support student safety by adding exterior security cameras at elementary schools and create entry modifications for security at Eastlake, Redmond and Lake Washington High Schools. (Juanita High School's entry modifications will be added during the current construction project.)

[Read more about the upcoming Capital Projects Levy here.](#)

[Watch Dr. Jane Stavem talk about the upcoming Capital Projects Levy here.](#)

Learning Focused

LWSD United Way Campaign raises more than \$100k

Every year, Lake Washington School District staff participate in a fundraising campaign in coordination with United Way of King County. Staff have the option to donate directly to United Way and their programs and services, or they can decide to donate to a non-profit organization of their choosing. This year, staff donated \$102,642 to this year's campaign, a new record for the district! Our staff is dedicated to the well-being of our students and families in our community and beyond. The money we raised will help those families throughout King County and right here in the Lake Washington School District community.

Two LWSD teachers receive Symetra Heroes in the Classroom awards

Congratulations to Juanita High School teacher Tim Magdziarz, and Franklin Elementary teacher Shawna Sandstrom. Both have been named Symetra Heroes in the Classroom—Seattle. Only 16 teachers in the Seattle-area will win these awards this Seahawks season. Magdziarz was recognized at the December 2 Seahawks game. Byrne will be recognized at the December 10 Seahawks game. Each received \$2,000 for their school, along with a custom Seahawks jersey.

[Watch Magdziarz receive her surprise award at a staff meeting here.](#)

[Watch Sandstrom receive her surprise award at an all-school assembly here.](#)

Safety Spotlight

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Juanita High School students tour campus for geometry class



"What shape is this?" asked Josh Goldman, a project manager from Cornerstone Construction who is part of the construction team on the new Juanita High School (JHS).

Most of the students in the JHS geometry class knew the answer to the trick question. The three sides of metal forming a right angle is called a square (not a triangle). Goldman passed the square around and told students it is one of the oldest tools in carpentry. It is still widely used to make 90-degree cuts and internal angles.

The class was studying parallel and perpendicular lines. They were learning to find the distance from a point to a line. In their classroom, they identified geometric principles on a blueprint of the new theater such as dilation (the rows of seats), translation, rotation, reflection, perimeter, area and volume. After the lesson, the entire class walked to the back of the school, where they had a good view of plenty of parallel and perpendicular lines – the steel beams that had not yet been enclosed.

About 73 percent of the new Juanita High School will open in fall 2019. The rest of the school will open in fall 2020. [See more photos from the Juanita High School construction project.](#)

Learn more about the Juanita High School construction project, one of eight Building on Success projects: <https://www.lwsd.org/programs-and-services/school-construction/major-construction/juanita-high-school>.

[Read more about our Building on Success program.](#)

Important Reminders and Updates

Support our young musicians—attend a performance at Redmond Town Center

Several LWSU school music groups will perform on Center Stage in Redmond Town Center this holiday season. Rachel Carson Elementary performed on November 29, and the performances will continue with Horace Mann Elementary at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 6, Louisa May Alcott Elementary at 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday, December 11 and Lakeview Elementary at 10:45 a.m. on Wednesday, December 12. [More schools will perform throughout December, see the full schedule on the Redmond Town Center website.](#)

Is your child too sick for school?

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Student & Staff Success

Making a splash – Redmond High swim and dive coach named 4A swim coach of the year

Redmond High School (RHS) girls' swim and dive head coach, Julie Barashkoff, has been named the Washington State Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association 4A Swim Coach of the Year. She was presented with the honor at the State Swim and Dive Championships November 9-10. [Read more about the award for Barashkoff.](#)



Green is the way to go – Sandburg and Discovery school community put in extra work on campus

It takes extra work to make a campus look this good. Families from Carl Sandburg Elementary and Discovery Community School spent a weekend in October digging into the ground. The campus, which includes both schools, is part of the King County Green Schools program. The county provides resources needed to help schools become more environmentally efficient. Sandburg/Discovery is a level 4 Green School which means they compost, recycle, reduce energy and are herbicide-free. On this day in October, a group of parents and student volunteers were weeding, mulching and much more. [Read more about the schools' project.](#)

[Read more student and staff success stories here.](#)



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Connections - December 20, 2018

Wishing you all a happy holidays and restful winter break!



Winter break begins Monday, December 24, and extends through January 4. District offices will be open December 26-28 and January 2-4. We will see all students back at school on Monday, January 7, 2019. Until then, enjoy your break and happy holidays!

April 2019 Capital Projects Levy Information

2019 LWSD Capital Projects Levy informational flyer

LWSD has created a one-page flyer that highlights the upcoming April 2019 Capital Projects Levy. Please use this document as a resource to provide information. More information will be available on the LWSD website after Winter Break. [Click to read the flyer.](#)

Learning Focused

Forty-three Lake Washington Teachers achieve National Board Certification

Forty-three Lake Washington Teachers Achieve National Board Certification

Forty-three Lake Washington School District teachers achieved National Board Certification®, as announced by the [National Board for Professional Teaching Standards \(NBPTS\)](#). In addition to the 24 newly certified teachers, 19 teachers renewed their certification this year, for a total of 43 people completing the process. (Certifications must be renewed every ten years.)

The National Board certification takes teachers through a demanding process to help further their instructional skills and typically takes more than a year to complete. It requires these teachers to demonstrate how their work improves student achievement. As part of the process, teachers build a portfolio that includes student work samples, assignments, videos and a thorough analysis of their classroom teaching. Teachers also are assessed on their knowledge of the subjects they teach. National Board certification is considered the highest professional credential a teacher can obtain.

[Read more...](#)

Lake Washington earns place on prestigious Advanced Placement District Honor Roll

For the third year in a row, the [College Board named Lake Washington School District \(LWSD\) to its Annual AP District Honor Roll](#). LWSD is one of only 373 public school districts in the nation and one of four in Washington to be honored.

[The Honor Roll recognizes districts that increase access to Advanced Placement \(AP\) coursework](#) while maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP exams.

HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health curriculum presentation for grades 4-12

Interested in learning more about the HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health curriculum for students in grades 4-12? Attend the HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health curriculum presentation for 4-12 grade parents on February 5th from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the LWSD Resource Center (16250 NE 74th Street, Redmond, WA 98052). Information about the curriculum will be shared and materials will be available for parents to review.

Safety Spotlight

Reminder: Are you ready for inclement weather?



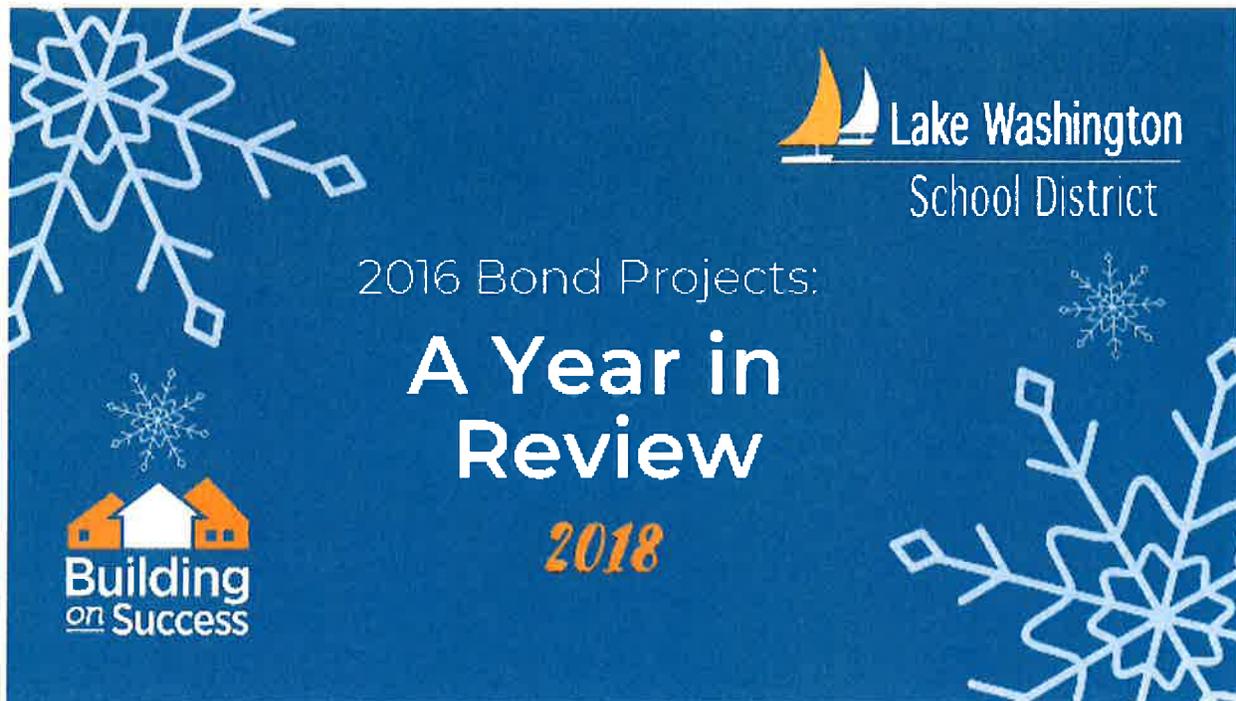
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Building on Success

Building on Success is Lake Washington School District's long-term plan designed to accommodate a rapidly growing student enrollment and provide quality learning environments and experiences for our students. The long-term plan guides the district as we continue building toward future success. The bond measure that passed in April 2016 provides funding for eight capital improvement projects from the long-term plan.

2016 Bond Projects: A Year in Review

It is with gratitude that we share this video of the moments that made 2018 a year to remember: We celebrated the grand openings of two new elementary schools and progress continues on the remaining 2016 bond projects at Juanita High School, Peter Kirk Elementary, Margaret Mead Elementary, Old Redmond Schoolhouse and the new middle school at Redmond Ridge newly named Timberline Middle School.



As we look ahead to 2019, we look forward to providing additional space for more students as we open new schools and rebuild and expand other schools. All of the capital improvement projects add quality learning spaces for students. Even with the addition of these learning spaces, the district has ongoing critical capacity needs because of our rapid growth and will propose a Capital Projects Levy to voters in April of 2019.

Thank you to the communities of Lake Washington School District for your ongoing support for providing great places for students to learn!

Looking back on our Building on Success projects in 2018

Our new middle school at Redmond Ridge has a name - Timberline Middle School! The LWS District School Board approved the school's name during the December 3 meeting.



Timberline is a word that means "the highest location where trees thrive and grow." This definition and name symbolically connects to our students. We believe this name honors the history of the land and natural environment. We also believe this name defines the purpose for our community as we diligently work to create an environment that helps students not just grow, but to thrive in connection, integrity, kindness, empathy, resilience and service to others.

Important Reminders and Updates

Choice School applications open; Middle school and high school options booklets available

Choice school applications are now available online for the 2019-20 school year. The deadline to apply is 4 p.m. January 18, 2019, for any school that relies on a lottery to determine enrollment.

Parents of students in grades five or eight should have received a Middle School Options postcard or High School Options postcard. They outline the opportunities in these respective levels, including information about neighborhood schools and choice schools. Videos about each choice school are posted on the [district website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

Student & Staff Success

Season of Giving

Every year, in November and December, students, staff and parents in our district give back to our families and our community in many ways. Here are just a few examples:

- **Support Services** staff packed 130 Pantry Packs in 7 minutes and 32 seconds during a Packing Party on December 5. Staff donated protein-rich soups, shelf-stable milk and boxed macaroni and cheese. Sodexo/LWSD Nutrition Services donated the remaining eight items for each pack.
- **Rush Elementary** students collected more than 800 items as part of their toy drive! These items will be displayed at their Holiday Shopping Day for families in need.
- **Kirkland Middle School** students are collecting socks and mittens. Two students from the school have sponsored the project and it runs from 12/10-1/7.
- **Eastlake High School's Leadership Team** will put on a Winter Wishes Assembly on 12/21. Students can fill out a slip of paper with a wish for themselves and friends. Leadership deliver the wishes in classrooms leading up to the assembly. They save the most generous and impactful surprises for the assembly.

More stories of generosity will be posted on the [district website](#) and on our [Facebook page](#).

Work with us

We're hiring!

LWSD needs bus drivers, custodians, para educators and instructional assistants. Job descriptions are available on the [district website](#), under "Employment" then "Classified Employees." Bus drivers earn \$25.57 per hour. [Learn more about why driving a bus for LWSD is a great job](#). Please share this information with your friends and neighbors.

Lake Washington School District is currently hiring paraeducators

Paraeducators make an important difference in the lives of our students. Paraeducators are responsible for individual and small-group instructional support for students who have physical, behavioral or medical needs; encourage and help students working on assignments; support students' health care needs; and much more. [Additional job descriptions, qualifications, openings and more are available on the district website](#).

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Sodexo/Nutrition Services is hiring

Are you looking for a way to get involved in LWSD? Would you like a part-time job that gives you the flexibility to be with your kids before and after school? Shifts that range from two hours to eight hours are available, helping serve students breakfast and lunch. Starting pay depends on experience. If interested, contact Nutrition Services at 425-936-1385.

[Skip to Main Content](#)

Connections - January 15, 2019

Welcome Back!

A Message from Dr. Jane Stavem, Superintendent

As we greet the second half of the 2018-19 school year, we have big things happening that serve to position our district for future growth.

Community Engagement & Strategic Plan Update

During the months of January and February, we'll be convening a representative group of community voices to provide feedback as we update the district's current Strategic Plan. The group will provide recommendations for the Board of Directors to consider related to current goal areas:

- Achievement
- Technology and Innovation
- Safety & Security
- Recruit, Hire, & Retain Highly Effective Staff
- Facilities & Finance
- Community Engagement



Capital Projects Levy - April 2019

Lake Washington will bring a levy to the voters in April and we'll be providing information in a variety of ways to help convey the ongoing needs of our district. As our communities continue to grow and thrive at a rapid rate, our district will continue to have space needs for additional students. We must also attend to aging facilities and existing overcrowding. These needs require that we continue to use funding mechanisms designed for those purposes – levies and bonds.

[Read more of Dr. Stavem's January Message here.](#)

LWSD graduation rate rises yet again!

LWSD's mission is, "Each student will graduate prepared to lead a rewarding responsible life as a contributing member of our community and greater society." Our target is to reach a 100% graduation rate by 2019. Our 2018 on-time graduation rate is 93.6%. That is an increase over our 2016 and 2017 rates. This rate places us with one of the highest graduation rates in the state.

LWSD Budget earns Meritorious Budget Award in back-to-back years

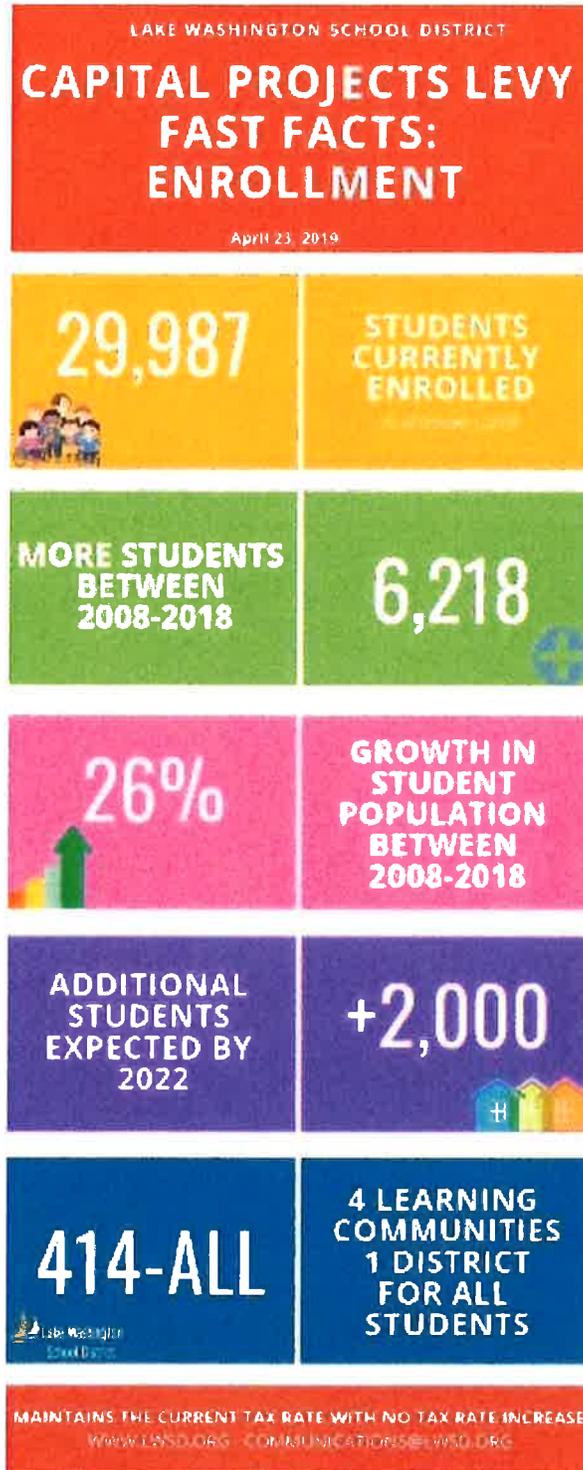
LWSD's 2018-19 Budget has earned the Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) Meritorious Budget Award (MBA) for the second straight year. This award promotes and recognizes excellence in budget presentation in school districts. [Read more about the Meritorious Budget Award here.](#)

April 2019 Capital Projects Levy Information

Capital Projects Levy by the numbers

The LWSD Capital Projects Levy will be on the April 23, 2019 ballot. Between now and the election, the district will be providing opportunities to learn more about what is included in the levy proposal in publications like Connections, the district website and elsewhere. Stay tuned for more information as we get closer to April. The [2019 Levy page](#) is now available on the LWSD website for additional information.

Below are some fast facts related to the district's enrollment numbers.



Learning-Focused

HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health curriculum presentation for grades 4-12

Interested in learning more about the HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health curriculum for students in grades 4-12? Attend the HIV/AIDS and Sexual Health curriculum presentation for 4-12 grade parents on February 5 from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. at the LWSD Resource Center (16250 NE 74th Street, Redmond, WA 98052). Information about the curriculum will be shared and materials will be available for parents to review.

Building on Success

Building on Success is Lake Washington School District's long-term plan designed to accommodate a rapidly growing student enrollment and provide quality learning environments and experiences for our students. The long-term plan guides the district as we continue building toward future success. The bond measure that passed in April 2016 provides funding for eight capital improvement projects from the long-term plan.

Geothermal heat, native plants, LED lights: JHS students learn about their new school

The construction project team for the new Juanita High School (JHS) visited students in the JHS Earth Corps club and AP Physics class on November 6. They shared how to incorporate sustainability into a variety of jobs and industries. The team also emphasized the diverse career paths that led them to their roles on the project team.

The team discussed several features of the new school that will reduce its impact on the environment. Designer Kim Young from Integrus Architecture explained how the design of the building will utilize low impact development and bioretention planters to allow stormwater to slowly filter through the ground. Since Lake Washington School District utilizes native landscaping at its facilities, the district won't need to water the established plants during the summer. The landscaping is also designed to shade the building during warmer months.

Jed Reynolds, LWSD's Resource Conservation Manager, told students to look for LED lights inside and outside of their new school. Occupancy sensors will turn off the lights and HVAC system if the room is empty. If they look closely, students will also be able to spot the photocells that measure daylight and dim artificial light when it is not needed. The design of classrooms and common areas take advantage of natural light to reduce the need for artificial light.



Water savings at JHS will come from high-efficiency toilets and sinks, as well as high-efficiency kitchen appliances.

Melinda Herrin, a mechanical engineer on the project, explained the physics of the geothermal heating system to the students and their teachers. One student wanted to know why the system at JHS requires more than 200 holes drilled to a depth of 300 feet – about the height of the Statue of Liberty. Herrin explained that the optimal surface area is calculated based on average temperatures as well as the area of the school. A geothermal/heat pump system is 400 percent efficient compared to a boiler heating system that is only 80-95 percent efficient.

After the presentation, Earth Corps students went to work on a video to promote correct recycling and composting at their school. Because, as they learned during the presentation, "the most important sustainable feature of all is you!"

Important Reminders and Updates

Tell your neighbors and friends: Kindergarten Registration for 2019-20 starts February 7

If you live in Lake Washington School District (LWSD) and your child will be five years old on or before August 31, 2019, it is time to register them for Kindergarten. Registration takes place at your neighborhood school, beginning **February 7 from 1 p.m. – 7 p.m.** and continuing during regular school hours through the beginning of the 2019-20 school year.

While registration will continue throughout the school year and summer, parents are highly encouraged to register students as soon as possible. Doing so helps ensure class sizes are balanced and adequate staff are hired in time for the new school year.

Visit the [Kindergarten Registration webpage](#) for more information.

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Some schools closed to those outside their area

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Reminder: Choice School applications open; Middle school and high school options booklets available

[Choice school applications are now available online](#) for the 2018-19 school year. The deadline to apply is 4 p.m. January 18, 2019, for any school that relies on a lottery to determine enrollment.

Parents of students in grades five or eight should have received a Middle School Options postcard or High School Options postcard. They outline the opportunities in these respective levels, including information about neighborhood schools and choice schools. Videos about each choice school are posted on the [district website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

Student & Staff Success

High school students demonstrate a robot at Mann Elementary

Teachers at Horace Mann Elementary School have been collaborating this year with students from Redmond High School (RHS) who are members of the Infinity Robotics club. During Computer Science Education Week, three RHS students from the club presented a demonstration of their robot for second-graders and fourth-graders. [Read more about the demonstration](#).



It's all in the music – former LWSD student excelling as owner of music instruction company

Lake Washington High School graduate Nathan Straub has been very busy since graduating in 2010. The Kirkland native graduated with a masters from Washington State University, started teaching music and is now the owner and director of a local music instruction business. This was all before the age of 26!

[Read more about Nathan Straub.](#)

[Read more student and staff success stories here.](#)



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[Skip to Main Content](#)

Connections - January 29, 2019

Learning-Focused

Measles

As you may be aware, on January 25, Governor Inslee declared a public health state of emergency after reports of 31 confirmed cases of measles were identified in the state. Most of the confirmed cases are in Clark County and there is one confirmed case in King County. **We currently do not have any cases of measles in Lake Washington School District.**

This unusual occurrence of measles may generate some concern or questions. To help keep you informed, district processes and state law for vaccinations is [outlined on the LWSD website](#).

Helping Students Find their Post-Graduation Path

Come learn about the supports and services that are available at your student's high school. Meet your high school's college and career specialist and learn "the inside scoop" on college admissions and post-secondary options. The event will be held at the Lake Washington School District (LWSD) Resource Center on February 12 from 12:00-2:00 p.m. Visit the [Lake Washington PTSA Council Facebook event page](#) for more information.

K-5 Science Adoption Committee to pilot two new science curricula

The K-5 Science Adoption Committee has been meeting since the start of the 2017-18 school year. Last year, the focus was on learning the [Next Generation Science Standards](#) (NGSS) and shifts in teaching science. The Adoption Committee learned about [Ambitious Science Teaching](#) and effective practices in teaching science that emphasize student inquiry, discourse, and alignment with NGSS.

This year, the Adoption Committee utilized our district adoption rubrics to assess curriculum on key components of effective instruction: Assessment, Digital Resources, Effective Practice, NGSS Alignment (Standards), and Organization and Design. They reviewed twelve different curricula using the rubrics. Using a consensus model, they eliminated eight curricula that did not meet our needs and standards as a district, as measured by our rubrics. The Adoption Committee considered additional information provided by District Directors on indicators for materials that would ensure access and learning for all students, including those who are need of intervention, special services, and highly-capable extensions. These indicators also included a focus on features that promote equity, access, and opportunity for all students. The committee used this information to guide a deeper evaluation of the top four curricula and reached consensus in choosing two curricula to pilot this spring: [Building Blocks of Science](#) and [Amplify Science](#). Teachers on the Adoption Committee, as well as some on a K-5 NGSS Learning Cohort, will pilot both curricula, gather student data and impact of curriculum, and collect student, teacher, and parent/community feedback.

The two programs will be piloted between January and March. Throughout the pilot period, the committee will consider how the different programs operate in a daily classroom environment for both teachers and students as well as how they effectively shift instruction towards the Next Generation Science Standards. The committee is scheduled to have a recommendation about the adoption of materials for our Instructional Materials Committee meeting on May 2, 2019. This will be followed by a recommendation to the Board on May 20, 2019. As part of their work this year, the K-5 Science Adoption Committee will develop an implementation plan for the new curriculum for the 19/20 school year, dependent on Board approval of the materials.

The materials for both curricula are available for parent/public preview from February 5, 2019 to March 25, 2019. They are located outside the Curriculum Library on the first floor of the LWSD Resource Center. We would appreciate your feedback using the survey forms located alongside the materials. Additionally, there will be a Parent Information Night regarding the adoption process and pilot curriculum on February 28, 2019 in the Board Room of the LWSD Resource Center. If you have further questions, please contact [Hanna Seidler](#) or [Jen Rose](#).

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Below are some fast facts about the projects associated with the levy.



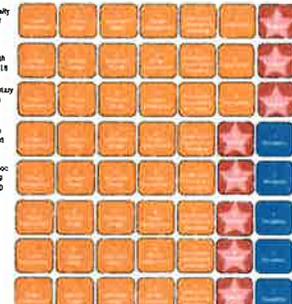
Building on Success

More room for students: 2016 bond projects in construction phase or open to students

Lake Washington School District continues to make progress on the eight projects that were included in the April 2016 bond passed by voters. These projects were proposed by the 63-member Citizens Facilities Advisory Committee in 2015. Click on the thumbnail to see the progress of each project. You can also visit the [individual project pages](#) for updates, or sign up to receive project updates.



2016 Bond Projects

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| <p>Explorer Community School - Fall 2017</p> <p>Clara Barton Elementary - North Redmond - Fall 2018</p> <p>Ella Baker Elementary - Redmond Ridge East - Fall 2018</p> <p>Tierberry Middle School - Redmond Ridge East - Fall 2019</p> <p>Isaiah High School - Phase 1: Fall 2019, Phase 2: Fall 2020</p> <p>Pearl River Elementary - Fall 2019</p> <p>Margaret Mead Elementary - Fall 2019</p> <p>Old Redmond Schoolhouse - Fall 2019</p> |  |  Explorer Community School  Clara Barton Elementary North Redmond  Ella Baker Elementary - Redmond Ridge East  Tierberry Middle School - Redmond Ridge East  Isaiah High School  Pearl River Elementary  Margaret Mead Elementary  Old Redmond Schoolhouse |
|---|--|---|

In Case You Missed It: Building on Success Progress Report

The [Building On Success Progress Report](#) was sent to addresses across the district. It included an overview and progress updates on all eight 2016 bond projects. If you missed it in the mail, be sure to take a look online.



Lake Washington School District is Building on Success

Grand openings: Clara Barton & Ella Baker elementary schools

Thank you, voters!

New elementary schools designed to enhance learning, conserve natural resources

Sustainable Building Features

Explorer Community School
New modular campus replaces aging portable classrooms

Important Reminders and Updates

Thank you, LWSD School Board

January is School Board Recognition Month

The month of January is School Board Recognition Month in Washington state. The goal of this recognition is to honor school board members as outstanding elected officials and champions for public education. "School directors play a crucial role in promoting student learning and achievement by creating a vision, establishing policies and budgets, and setting clear standards of accountability for all involved," says Governor Inslee in his proclamation. Read the [full proclamation](#) here. Interested in learning more about what our Board of Directors does? You can see [videos of every school board meeting](#) on the district website.

Final PE Credit Option Deadline Coming up

To earn a high school diploma, students must earn two health and fitness credits. 1.5 credits represent the fitness portion of the requirement and are met by course work in physical education. The other .5 credit is met by taking a health course. There may be special circumstances where a student may need an alternative option to meet this requirement. Students must fill out the [Appendix E](#) of the [graduation policy](#) and have it approved by a principal or designee to be eligible to use one of the options. These alternative PE options are available beginning in the student's 11th grade school year.

One option, the Fitness Knowledge Assessment, will be given on February 27. For information on this option go to the [district website](#). Check with your school to see when students must register by. Students who want to use a different option, the Fitness Plan, will need to submit their plan by February 27. The Fitness Plan directions are available on the [district website](#). This is the final fitness assessment and plan opportunity for the 2018-19 school year.

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Student & Staff Success

LWSD celebrates the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Throughout the week leading up to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, schools around Lake Washington School District (LWSD) celebrated the life and work of Dr. King. Schools learned about and honored his nonviolent contributions to the Civil Rights Movement. Read the stories on our [Facebook page](#) to learn how various LWSD schools celebrated Dr. King.

A radio contest win turns into learning experience for students at Redmond High

Redmond High School Special Education teacher Samantha Love listens to 106.1 KISS FM every morning on her way to work. The station recently started a Teacher Tuesday contest to recognize the work teachers do. On Tuesday, January 15, Love was the fastest dialer and won the contest. [Read more about the contest win.](#)



[Read more student and staff success stories here.](#)

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[Skip to Main Content](#)

Connections - February 21, 2019

Learning-Focused

A Message from Dr. Jane Stavem, Superintendent

Lessons from the Snow

Another day of watching out the window, then the doorway, then to another window – hoping that at some point the snow will stop. When I came to Washington from Nebraska, I thought I left the white stuff behind. I gloated when my family sent pictures of snow and ice and I was still enjoying 50-degree days. Our district now has had just as many, if not more, snow days as the Midwest!

I think there are always opportunities to learn something when faced with adversity, so here are the top 10 lessons learned from the snow:



1. **Some circumstances are beyond our control.** We want school to be in session. There are major life disruptions that are caused when this kind of weather hits and the goal is to return to normalcy as soon as possible. Unfortunately, the weather is something we can't control, so we do our best to deal with it until it passes.
2. **Be adaptable and flexible.** When life doesn't go the way we want it to, we must adapt. We need to be flexible and work with the situation to do the best we can, given the circumstances. The other option is to be inflexible and angry, and that doesn't serve any purpose.
3. **Enjoy simple things.** When the very first snowflakes began to fall, I saw a little girl across the street dancing because she was so excited. Soon she brought the dog, and then she threw on a red hat. She was experiencing the sheer joy of the moment at the sight of snow.
4. **Be thankful.** I'm going to be very thankful when the snow is gone for good this spring. I'm also thankful for all the ways people have helped our school district and communities to weather the storm. Our maintenance staff has worked tirelessly to clear the grounds of our schools. Our bus drivers have had more than a few white knuckles making sure students arrived at their stops safely. Our communications staff members have worked hard to keep people informed, send clear messaging and think about the needs of families as we weigh decisions. Friends have helped with childcare, snow shovels have been passed around neighborhoods, food has been prepared and shared, and people are calling to check on elderly neighbors. Crews have restored power to our schools and neighborhoods.
5. **Find the beauty in the situation.** While there has been a lot of snow, it has been amazingly beautiful. Hopefully, you captured a picture or two and ventured out just a little to experience it.
6. **Slow down.** Whenever there is bad weather, we are forced to slow down. It can be frustrating, but it is also an opportunity to adjust the pace of life and be ok with going a little slower.
7. **Plan ahead.** I think this lesson was taken to heart by many given the state of the grocery shelves, but it's more than just stocking up on food. It's thinking ahead to what needs to be done for school, for work and for life. If we only live in the moment, we lose the opportunity to plan for the future.
8. **Think of others.** This type of weather event causes all kinds of adversity for people. We need to be mindful that everyone experiences challenges differently and lend a hand where possible.
9. **Have hope for the future.** I know that spring is going to be amazing. There will be green leaves, singing birds and warmer weather to enjoy. When we lose sight of the future, we lose hope. Think about all the beautiful days that really are just around the corner.
10. **Embrace adversity.** Too many times we simply want to avoid any adversity and as a result, we miss out on the benefits of the struggle. It's important for children to see how we as adults deal with adversity and allow them to experience some struggles along the way.

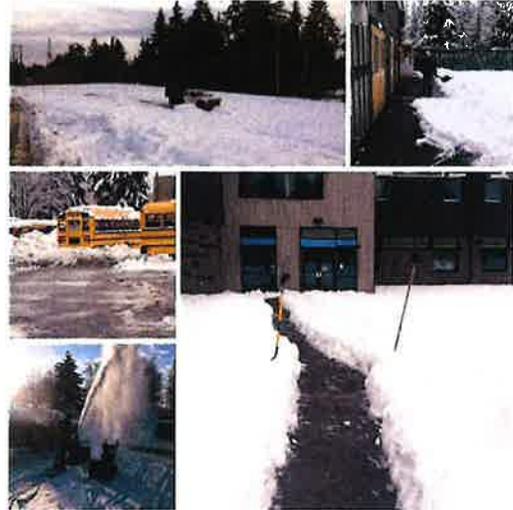
I think we're all more than ready to see the snow disappear. Hopefully, the memories and lessons learned as a result of this crazy weather won't leave quite as quickly. I know my first year as the superintendent of this amazing school district has been made even more memorable and valuable thanks to the snow.

February snowstorms kept all-star maintenance, custodial and grounds crews busy

Kudos again to our district Facilities, transportation and on-site custodial staff for all of the work they provided during the recent string of snowstorms. Crews had to clear 45 different campuses (with multiple schools) and two district office sites. On average, it took snow plow crews four hours to clear an elementary school site, six hours for middle school and about eight hours for high schools.

Here are some stats related to the work these crews did over the last two weeks and weekends:

- More than:
 - 900 miles of area plowed
 - 14,000 tons of snow plowed
 - 400 labor hours on snow plows and tractors
 - 10 tons of ice melt distributed
 - 40 tons of sand distributed
 - 10 sites with downed trees and/or branches
 - 16 sites to coordinate power restoration with Puget Sound Energy



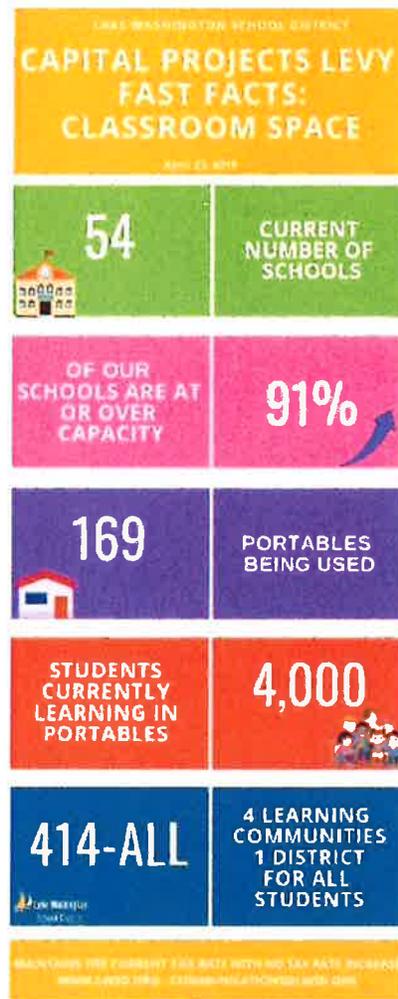
Again, a huge thanks to these crews for the fantastic effort during these unprecedented snow events. Reopening schools on Tuesday, February 19 would not have been possible without them.

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Below are some fast facts about classroom space associated with the levy.



Building on Success

Staying warm underground: Juanita students get the facts on geothermal heat

Do you set your thermostat to 50 degrees? Of course not. But that's the temperature of the water that will heat the new Juanita High School. Students at Juanita High School have been learning about sustainable geothermal heat while their new school is built. Members of the Earth Corps club chatted with Project Manager Tansy Hansen and Resource Conservation Manager Jed Reynolds to learn more. These geothermal wells will provide heat during cooler months. During warmer months, the 50-degree water will help cool the school.

Watch a video about the geothermal project at Juanita High School:

Staying warm underground: Juanita students get the facts...

Important Reminders and Updates

Registration window for Advanced Placement (AP) exams now open

Registration will take place from February 20 through March 6. AP exam dates are May 6 to May 17. Students will receive registration materials in their AP classes. If your student is enrolled in an AP class, please remind him/her to sign up by 1:30 p.m. on March 6 to be able to take the exam. For more information, visit the [College Board AP Central website](#).

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Student & Staff Success

And the winner is...Miss Washington visits LWSD schools to promote literacy and hard work



It took ten years for Evelyn Clark to be crowned Miss Washington. It was in her final year of eligibility where she finally broke through. Clark took this message of determination to a few Lake Washington School District schools. [Read more about Miss Washington's visit.](#)

Juanita High School students achieve top results in Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards

Nearly 60 Juanita High School (JHS) students received awards from a June 2018 Cambridge Assessment. Seven of those students earned top honors. The Outstanding Cambridge Learner Awards program celebrates the success of students taking Cambridge examinations in more than 40 countries around the world. [Read more about the Cambridge Assessment award winners.](#)

[Read more student and staff success stories here.](#)



Work with us

We're hiring!

LWSD needs paraeducators, instructional assistants, bus drivers, custodians, plumbers, and a building equipment mechanics/HVAC specialist. Job descriptions are available on the [district website](#), under "Employment" then "Classified Employees." Bus drivers earn \$25.57 per hour. [Learn more about why driving a bus for LWSD is a great job.](#) Please share this information with your friends and neighbors.

Sodexo/Nutrition Services is hiring

Are you looking for a way to get involved in LWSD? Would you like a part-time job that gives you the flexibility to be with your kids before and after school? Shifts that range from two hours to eight hours are available, helping serve students breakfast and lunch. Starting pay depends on experience. If interested, contact Nutrition Services at 425-936-1385.

[Skip to Main Content](#)

Connections - March 8, 2019

Learning-Focused

LWSD Director, Special Services to be featured in Seattle Times “Ignite Education Lab” event

Dr. Shannon Hitch, LWSD’s Director, Special Services, will participate in the Seattle Times’ Ignite Education Lab storytelling event on March 11. Eleven educators and parents will give five-minute talks with slideshows to showcase their personal stories about education. Dr. Hitch was chosen out of about 50 people who submitted their story to the newspaper. Since 2006, Ignite Seattle has held nearly 30 events that bring people together for speedy talks on a variety of topics. The Times borrowed this format from Ignite to allow educators, parents and students to share their stories about schools and schooling. [Read the full article and see ticket information here.](#)

K-5 Science Adoption Committee

The K-5 Science Adoption Committee has used their knowledge of the [Next Generation Science Standards](#) (NGSS) and effective practices in teaching to guide a deep evaluation of different available K-5 Science curricula. The committee reached consensus in choosing two curricula to pilot this spring: [Building Blocks of Science](#) and [Amplify Science](#). Teachers on the Adoption Committee, along with other interested teachers, are currently piloting both curricula, gathering student data and impact of curriculum, and collecting student, teacher, and parent/community feedback.

The two programs will be piloted until the end of March. Throughout the pilot period, the committee will consider how the different programs operate in a daily classroom environment for both teachers and students as well as how they effectively shift instruction towards the Next Generation Science Standards.

Parent and community feedback is essential in this process. We welcome your input and we have provided a way for parents and community members to preview the materials and give us their thoughts from home. Below you’ll find information about accessing digital versions of both programs, along with survey link that you can use to provide feedback.

PROGRAM

WEBSITE

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Amplify Science | https://www.amplify.com/science/lake-washington |
| Building Blocks of Science 3D | https://www.carolina.com/bbs3dreview |
| Link for feedback survey | https://tinyurl.com/K5ScienceParentFeedback |

Survey responses are anonymous. These responses will help inform the recommendation our K-5 Science Adoption Committee makes about the adoption of materials. The committee is scheduled to make a recommendation to the Lake Washington School Board in early April.

Additionally, information about the adoption process and the science programs being considered will be shared at an information night scheduled for Wednesday, March 20 from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the Lake Washington School District Resource Center. We would love to see you there! If you have any further questions or comments, please contact Dr. Jen Rose at jerose@lwsd.org or Hanna Seidler at hseidler@lwsd.org.

April 2019 Capital Projects Levy Information

Learn more about the April 23 Capital Projects Levy

Lake Washington School District is running a Capital Projects Levy on April 23. Watch this informational presentation about the levy and [visit the levy webpage](#).

Informational Presentation: 2019 Campaign Capital Project...



Building on Success

Video rendering of progress being made at the new Peter Kirk Elementary building

The new building at Peter Kirk Elementary School will open in six short months, but you don't need to wait that long to see what the new school will look like. This 3D video should give you a peek of what's to come:

A 3D virtual tour of the new Peter Kirk Elementary



Important Reminders and Updates

Lake Washington Preschool Program (3 and 4-year-old students) accepting applications in April

Lake Washington Preschool Program will start accepting tuition-based applications for the 2019-20 school year beginning April 1 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Registration takes place at the Resource Center (16250 NE 74th Street, Redmond). If more children are registered for any one location or session (a.m. or p.m.) than we have availability, a lottery for each Preschool building will be held by April 16 to determine the students in those classes. **Parents will be notified of results by May 15.** After April 1, applications will be accepted at the Resource Center on any school day from 9 a.m. to noon and 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. *Only children registered on April 1 during the registration hours of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. are eligible to be in the lottery.* [Read more about LWSD Preschool Programs.](#)

Reminder: Measles

As you may be aware, on January 25, Governor Inslee declared a public health state of emergency after reports of 31 confirmed cases of measles were identified in the state. Most of the confirmed cases are in Clark County and there is one confirmed case in King County. **We currently do not have any cases of measles in Lake Washington School District.** This unusual occurrence of measles may generate some concern or questions. To help keep you informed, district processes and state law for vaccinations is [outlined on the LWSD website](#).

Reminder: Tell your neighbors and friends: Register early for Kindergarten Registration for 2019-20

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While registration will continue throughout the school year and summer, parents are highly encouraged to register students as soon as possible. Doing so helps ensure class sizes are balanced and adequate staff are hired in time for the new school year.

Visit the [Kindergarten Information webpage](#) for more information.

Student & Staff Success

In the giving spirit – Juanita High School student named state honoree as top youth volunteer

Kobey Chew, Juanita High School (JHS), is the Washington state high school honoree for The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. The nationwide program honors young people for their volunteer work and selfless actions. Chew was chosen for his work creating videos and a slideshow for a free online medical library that helps people understand what people with disabilities are capable of. As someone with his own disabilities, Chew wants to demonstrate he is not all that different from everyone else. [Read more about Kobey Chew winning this prestigious award.](#)



No one can stop them – Evergreen Middle School team headed to National Science Bowl

A team from **Evergreen Middle School (EMS)** will represent the Pacific Northwest Region at this year's National Science Bowl Championships. **Kaaviya Uthrapandian, Sri Sai Tejas Var Pakalapati, Medha Venkatapathy, Harish Krishna Kumar and Purab Shah** will compete April 25-29 in Washington, D.C. The team cruised through regionals, going undefeated. Regionals were hosted at the University of Portland in Portland, Ore. on February 2. EMS was one of 64 teams in the competition with schools from all over Washington and Oregon. [Read more about this team heading to the National Science Bowl.](#)



[Read more student and staff success stories here.](#)

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[Skip to Main Content](#)

Connections - March 25, 2019

Learning Focused

A Message from Dr. Jane Stavem, Superintendent

Value of Many Voices

Lake Washington School District recently conducted a series of four Community Engagement Forums. Group members included students, parents, staff, and community members.

The goal of the forums was to have structured conversations focused on six main areas related to the current Strategic Plan:

- Achievement
- Technology and Innovation
- Safety and Security
- Recruit, Hire, and Retain
- Facilities and Finance
- Communication and Engagement

The feedback from the groups was then summarized in the format of Findings and Recommendations and presented to the Board of Directors at the March 4 meeting. [The document is available online.](#)

The next step is for the Board of Directors and District Staff to review the information and begin drafting new goals for the revised Strategic Plan that will continue to move our district forward.

The value of this type of process can't be underestimated and leads us to future conversations about the things that make Lake Washington School District an exceptional place for students to learn and grow. When diverse groups of "voices" join together we have rich conversations that produce new and fresh ideas, provide feedback for where we can improve and help us to understand the different points of view and experiences people bring to our District.

Most importantly, our students had a voice and shared that they loved being part of the conversation and felt like their feedback mattered. That's also an area where we will continue to grow in the future through opportunities for more students to share ideas and perspectives on things that affect them every day in our schools.

We are grateful to our participants and look forward to more opportunities for people to be involved in the conversations that make us the best school district in the world!

Jane Stavem, Superintendent
#414-ALL



Snow make up day announcement

The district has finalized plans to make up for the days and time missed due to the February snow events. The 2018-19 calendar has been modified to reflect the changes. As a reminder, school districts can request a waiver from the state for missed school days during the Governor's declared state of emergency. Districts are not allowed to seek a waiver that would impact the required K-12 average instructional hours of 1,027. After analysis of both requirements, it was determined that a total of 3.5 days must be made up to maintain compliance with both requirements. The 2018-19 calendar has May 28 built-in as a snow day, so a total of 2.5 days must be made up beyond the built-in snow day.

The following modifications will be made to the 2018-19 calendar:

1. Wednesday, May 1: change from an early release to a **full day for students**
2. Wednesday, May 8: change from an early release to a **full day for students**
3. Friday, May 24: change from a non-school day to a **school day for students**
4. Tuesday, May 28: change from a non-school day to a **school day for students**
5. Wednesday, June 19: change from a half day to a **full day for students**
6. Thursday, June 20: added as a **half day for students** (last day of school)

These changes were made in consideration of students, families and staff. It should be noted that high school graduation dates and times will not be affected by these changes. Families with preschool students will receive communication from their program about any changes. We appreciate your flexibility as we fulfill the state required hours.

[View the printable school calendar.](#)

Nikola Tesla STEM High School Earns First College Board Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Female Diversity Award

Tesla STEM is One of Nine Schools in Washington State to Earn Award for Achieving High Female Representation in AP Computer Science Courses

Nikola Tesla STEM High School (Tesla STEM) has earned the first College Board AP[®] Computer Science Female Diversity Award for achieving high female representation in AP Computer Science A (CSA) and/or AP Computer Science Principles (CSP). Schools honored with the AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award have expanded girls' access in AP computer science courses. Out of more than 18,000 secondary schools worldwide that offer AP courses, only 685 have achieved this important result.

"This is a foundational piece of our work at Tesla STEM High School," said Cindy Duenas, Principal. "We have a long-term goal to strategically support gender balance not only in our STEM course enrollment but also in our goal for gender balance in all STEM and STEM-related fields."

[Read more about this achievement on the district website.](#)

April 2019 Capital Projects Levy Information

April 23 Capital Projects Levy: Overview

Lake Washington School District is running a Capital Projects Levy on April 23. Watch this informational presentation about the levy and [visit the levy webpage](#).

Capital Projects Levy Overview



Building on Success

First tour for Mead Elementary teachers and staff

Margaret Mead Elementary kindergarten teachers and specialist staff had their first opportunity to tour their new school on March 6. The Mead PTSA president and vice president also attended. When they reached the kindergarten pod, teachers asked questions of the project team, trying to imagine what the completed school will look like.

The rebuilt and enlarged Mead Elementary School is designed with 30 classrooms – five classrooms for each grade. Mead will be the first three-story elementary school in the district. Future tours are scheduled for the remaining Mead staff in the coming months.

[Visit the Mead project page on the district website.](#)



Important Reminders and Updates

Lake Washington Preschool Program accepting applications starting April 1 for 3- and 4-year old students

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Parents will be notified of results by May 15. After April 1, applications will be accepted at the Resource Center on any school day from 9 a.m. to noon and 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Only children registered on April 1 during the registration hours of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. are eligible to be in the lottery. [Read more about Lake Washington Preschool Programs.](#)

Reminder: K-5 Science Adoption Committee

The K-5 Science Adoption Committee has used their knowledge of the [Next Generation Science Standards](#) (NGSS) and effective practices in teaching to guide a deep evaluation of different available K-5 Science curricula. The committee reached consensus in choosing two curricula to pilot this spring: [Building Blocks of Science](#) and [Amplify Science](#). Teachers on the Adoption Committee, along with other interested teachers, are currently piloting both curricula, gathering student data and impact of curriculum, and collecting student, teacher, and parent/community feedback.

The two programs will be piloted until the end of March. Throughout the pilot period, the committee will consider how the different programs operate in a daily classroom environment for both teachers and students as well as how they effectively shift instruction towards the Next Generation Science Standards.

Parent and community feedback is essential in this process. We welcome your input and we have provided a way for parents and community members to preview the materials and give us their thoughts from home. Below you'll find information about accessing digital versions of both programs, along with survey link that you can use to provide feedback.

PROGRAM

WEBSITE

| | |
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| Amplify Science | https://www.amplify.com/science/lake-washington |
| Building Blocks of Science 3D | https://www.carolina.com/bbs3dreview |
| Link for feedback survey | https://tinyurl.com/K5ScienceParentFeedback |

Survey responses are anonymous. These responses will help inform the recommendation our K-5 Science Adoption Committee makes about the adoption of materials. The committee is scheduled to make a recommendation to the Lake Washington School Board in early April.

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While registration will continue throughout the school year and summer, parents are highly encouraged to register students as soon as possible. Doing so helps ensure class sizes are balanced and adequate staff are hired in time for the new school year.

Visit the [Kindergarten Information webpage](#) for more information.

Student & Staff Success

Going places - Three LWSD students receive University of Washington Presidential Scholar awards

There are only 19 University of Washington (UW) Presidential Scholar awards to go around in Washington state. This year, three of those awards went to students in Lake Washington School District (LWSD). Two of the students are from Redmond High School: Pranav Vaid and Sarah Raza. The other LWSD student attends Nikola Tesla STEM High School: Sonika Tayade. [Read more about the award and the LWSD winners.](#)



One of the best in the west – Cambridge program at Juanita impresses visiting academic advisory board

A group of college admissions faculty from across the western states was in town recently to observe the Cambridge program at Juanita High School (JHS). The advisory board is from the Western Regional Higher Education Advisory Council USA. [Read more about the visit.](#)

[Read more student and staff success stories here.](#)



Work with us

We're hiring!

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[Skip to Main Content](#)

Connections - April 4, 2019

Learning Focused

Seven LWSD students nominated for US Presidential Scholar Program

Students from three LWSD high schools are nominees for this year's U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. This is one of the nation's highest honors for high school students. Each year, up to 161 students are named as Presidential Scholars.

Here are the LWSD nominees:

- **Detlef Knauss - International Community School**
- **Alexia Friedman - Nikola Tesla STEM High School**
- **Pranav Sukumar - Nikola Tesla STEM High School**
- **Martin Shi - Redmond High School**
- **Pranav Vald - Redmond High School**
- **Shuhua Xie - Redmond High School**
- **Jasmine Zhang - Redmond High School**

The selected scholars are honored during the National Recognition Program, held in June in Washington, D.C. LWSD has increased the number of nominated students from four students last year to seven students this year.

[Read more about the program on the district website.](#)

How to Talk to Your Child About Sexual Health

Lake Washington School District is excited to partner with the King County Public Health Department in hosting an informational parent event: How to Talk to Your Child About Sexual Health. Our presenter is Becky Reitzes, Health Educator and Family Planning for King County Public Health. This event will be held at the Resource Center Board Room on Tuesday, April 23 from 7:00-8:00 p.m. This informative evening will provide strategies and tips, primarily aimed at parents of fourth through eighth graders, to help parents engage in age-appropriate conversations with their children about a topic that is often considered difficult to discuss.

April 2019 Capital Projects Levy Information

April 23 Capital Projects Levy: Critical Capacity Needs

Lake Washington School District is running a Capital Projects Levy on April 23. Watch this animated presentation about how the 2019 Levy will add space for over 1,000 students in our schools:

LWSD Critical Capacity Needs



You can also watch this animated presentation about the levy, and visit the [levy webpage](#).

Capital Projects Levy Overview



Remember to vote by April 23. ([Find ballot drop box locations here](#)).

Building on Success

Functional to its core: Architects explain design process to JHS students

Cut a geode in half and you will see the rock has several distinct layers. Architects explained to students at Juanita High School (JHS) that they used the geode as a metaphor while designing their new school. Two architects from Integrus Architecture visited the JHS interior design class on March 21.

Architect Shelly Engels Yancy defined a geode's layers – a prismatic core, a gradient transition, and a protective outer shell. The protective exterior of the school includes durable brick and metal panel siding along with fiber cement that resembles wood. The fiber cement adds the softness of wood but is more durable. The architects passed around samples of some materials used in the new school, including carpet, wood ceiling panels, laminate and self-healing tackable panels.

Students had a chance to ask questions after the presentation. They have been learning about color, lighting, fabrics and floor coverings, and were curious what their new classrooms will look like after their teachers move in. Architect Kim Young compared their classrooms to an empty house where no one lives yet. The classrooms will take on more of their character after teachers settle in. "It's made to be flexible, so it will still work for students in 75 years," she said.

[Visit the Juanita High School project page on the district website.](#)

Important Reminders and Updates

Students spread the word: "Idling is Fuelish"

As part of their service learning, fourth-graders at **Ella Baker Elementary** created "No Idle" signs for the pick-up lane at school. The signs reminded parents that "Idling is Fuelish."

The [Washington Department of Ecology](#) states that exhaust from idling vehicles "can cause long-term respiratory and cardiovascular problems. They are also a major contributor to climate change." In addition to temporary signage, the students created presentations for their classmates. The presentations emphasized healthy ecosystems and the environmental implications of idling.

LWSD plans to install no-idle signs at all schools over the summer. Ella Baker and Clara Barton elementary schools will pilot the signs after spring break.

Planning for 2019-20

Matt Gillingham named Associate Superintendent of Student & Community Services

Matt Gillingham has been named the new Associate Superintendent of Student & Community Services. He will begin this role on July 1, 2019. As Director of Student Services, Gillingham has been an advocate for equitable and safe learning environments for students. Gillingham has worked closely with counselors and school administrators as well as community partners and universities to increase behavioral health supports for students and has been leading efforts to expand and deepen efforts to provide all students with social emotional instruction. As district athletic director, he advocated for the creation of athletic equity committees, found resources to enhance student safety, and has helped to introduce two new sports. Additionally, he has helped to support the introduction of AVID into nine secondary schools.

John Appelgate named Director, Athletics & Activities

John Appelgate has been named Director, Athletics & Activities. Appelgate will begin this role on July 1, 2019. Appelgate has served as the Athletics and Title IX Specialist for LWSD for the past three years. As part of this position, he instructed administrators, athletic directors and coaches throughout the state in Leadership Training Institute courses. He also oversaw Athletic Equity Committees at each comprehensive high school concerning Title IX. Before serving in his current position, Appelgate was an Athletic Director for both Juanita High School and Redmond High School and was a classroom teacher at both schools.

Jill VanderVeer named Redmond High School Principal

Jill VanderVeer has been named the new principal of Redmond High School, starting July 1, 2019. VanderVeer replaces Jane Todd who will retire at the end of the 2018-19 school year. VanderVeer has been a valued member of RHS for many years, serving as an Associate Principal for the past four years. VanderVeer started her career as a high school English teacher, and in that time taught grades 9-12 and all levels from Special Education to Honors and Advanced Placement.

Brian Story named Principal of Alexander Graham Bell Elementary

Brian Story, the current Interim Principal at Alexander Graham Bell Elementary has been named the Principal of the school starting July 1, 2019. Story replaces Heidi Paul who will be the principal of the new Timberline Middle School. Story has been serving as the Interim Principal since January 2019. Story has been dedicated to the field of education for more than 17 years, during which time he served as a teacher, Dean of Students, Associate Principal and Interim Principal.

Reminder: Lake Washington Preschool Program now accepting applications starting for 3- and 4-year old students

Lake Washington School District's Preschool Program is now accepting tuition-based applications for the 2019-20 school year. The initial registration took place at the Resource Center on April 1. If more children are registered for any one location or session (a.m. or p.m.) than there is availability, a lottery for each preschool site will be held by April 16 to determine the students in those classes.

Parents will be notified of results by May 15. Applications continue to be accepted at the Resource Center on any school day from 9 a.m. to noon and 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Only children registered on April 1 during the registration hours of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. are eligible to be in the lottery. All students whose applications are received after April 1 will be placed on a waiting list. Acceptance to preschool programs after the lottery is based on remaining space at each school. [Read more about Lake Washington School District Preschool Programs.](#)

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Visit the [Kindergarten Information webpage](#) for more information.

Student & Staff Success

Student & Staff Success LWSD students plant trees to celebrate progress toward 1 million goal

The goal is in sight for King County's 1 Million Trees initiative. The initiative recently reached 700,000 trees planted. Five students from **Environmental and Adventure School (EAS)** celebrated the progress during an event on Feb. 26. The students (**Hannah Beaver, Nihira Cherukuri, Erik Holmquist, Tavis Lie and Jana Wick**) helped plant trees at Big Finn Hill Park with County Executive Dow Constantine and other local officials, as well as the Mariner Moose. [Read more about the initiative on the district website.](#)



A space odyssey – astronaut holds question and answer session with LWSD students while in space

Anne McClain always dreamed of being an astronaut when she was in elementary school. It was only fitting that she got to answer questions from young dreamers at Henry David Thoreau Elementary School (Thoreau) while floating in space. McClain chatted via video 250 miles above Earth aboard the International Space Station (ISS). A few students from each classroom won a competition to be a part of the event and most got to ask a question. [Read more about this unique experience.](#)

[Read more student and staff success stories here.](#)

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[Skip to Main Content](#)

Connections - April 18, 2019

Remember to vote by April 23!

April 2019 Capital Projects Levy Information

April 23 Capital Projects Levy Includes Funding for Critical Safety Projects

Lake Washington School District is running a Capital Projects Levy on April 23. Safety and security are top priorities for LWSD. Check out the latest video on the safety and security projects included in the 2019 Capital Projects Levy:

Capital Projects Levy: Critical Safety Projects



The April 23 Capital Projects Levy, if approved, will fund an average of \$20 million dollars per year over six years (for a total of \$120 million) to fund critical projects for student growth and continue to improve safety in LWSD schools.

Visit the [Capital Projects FAQ](#) page for more answers to additional questions about the levy.

Remember to vote by April 23. ([Find ballot drop box locations here](#)).

Learning Focused

Summer School registration now open

Lake Washington School District offers a variety of Summer Programs to enable families to engage in rigorous and meaningful summer learning opportunities. Core Academic Summer School opportunities are available at the elementary, middle and high school levels. A variety of enrichment and core academic courses are offered. Core Academic Summer Programs will run from July 8 - August 2, 2019 in 10- or 20-day sessions. Elementary programs will be held at Rockwell Elementary School and middle and high school programs will be held at Redmond High School. Limited transportation and scholarships are available.

Ready to learn more? Visit: <https://www.lwsd.org/students-families/summer-school>. Summer registration opens April 22, 2019. Classes will fill up fast, so register right away!

Building on Success

Timberline Middle School hold first meeting at new school



Staff of the new Timberline Middle School met for the first time in March at the TMS staff kick-off meeting. The 35 certificated and classified staff members spent the evening of March 28 involved in team-building activities and discussions about their future school. As a reminder, TMS will open in fall 2019. Check out more information about this project here: <https://www.lwsd.org/programs-and-services/facilities/major-construction/timberline-middle-school>.

Important Reminders and Updates

An easier way to purchase ORCA cards

It's now easier than ever to purchase youth, senior and Regional Reduced Fair Permit (RRFP) ORCA cards. ORCA To Go will be at Redmond City Hall on the second and fourth Thursday every month from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. At these times, customers will have access to full-service ORCA card sales and assistance for purchasing or loading bus fare on to a card.

Here are the available options to you while ORCA To Go is at Redmond City Hall and some other details about the ORCA card:

- Adult, youth cards, senior, and Regional Reduced Fare Permit (RRFP) cards are available for purchase. ID is needed at the time of purchase for youth and senior cards.
- Cash, checks, tranben vouchers, and major credit cards accepted for payment.
- Add e-purse monetary value to any existing ORCA card.
- Report a lost card, change your personal data associated with your card, correct an address, register your card and more.
- ORCA stands for "One Regional Card for All" and can be used across Community Transit, Everett Transit, King County Metro Transit, Kitsap Transit, Pierce Transit, Sound Transit and Washington State Ferries.
- See [ORCA options](#)

Previously the nearest location to purchase senior, youth, and disabled RRFP ORCA cards was in downtown Seattle or by mail. This new option makes the cards more accessible to our entire community.

Reminder: How to Talk to Your Child About Sexual Health

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orca
one regional card for all
TO-GO!

Get Your ORCA Card Here
Adult, Youth, Senior and Disabled RRFPs
Add E-purse Value or a Monthly Pass

Location: Redmond City Hall
Date: 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month
Time: 9:30 AM - 11:30 AM

King County
METRO
We'll See You There

Lake Washington School District's Preschool Program is now accepting tuition-based applications for the 2019-20 school year. The initial registration took place at the Resource Center on April 1. A lottery for each preschool site has already taken place to determine the students in those classes, but parents are still encouraged to apply so students can be placed on their preschool site's waiting list.

Parents will be notified of results by May 15. After April 1, applications will be accepted at the Resource Center on any school day from 9 a.m. to noon and 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Only children registered on April 1 during the registration hours of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. were eligible to be in the lottery. All students whose applications are received after April 1 will be placed on a waiting list. Acceptance to preschool programs after the lottery is based on remaining space at each school. [Read more about Lake Washington Preschool Programs.](#)

Reminder: Tell your neighbors and friends: Register early for Kindergarten for 2019-20

If you live in Lake Washington School District (LWSD) and your child will be five years old on or before August 31, 2019, now is the time to register them for Kindergarten! Registration takes place at your neighborhood school during regular school hours through the beginning of the 2019-20 school year.

While registration will continue throughout the school year and summer, parents are highly encouraged to register students as soon as possible. Doing so helps ensure class sizes are balanced and adequate staff are hired in time for the new school year.

Visit the [Kindergarten Information webpage](#) for more information.

Student & Staff Success

Round and round - LWSD transportation dispatcher comes in third at bus "Roadeo" competition

Each year, some of the best school bus drivers around the country gather for a unique competition. It's called the Transporting Students with Disabilities (TSD) Roadeo. An event focused on driving skills and the handling of emergency situations involving students with special needs. Lake Washington School District (LWSD) transportation dispatcher **Shana Wickline** finished in third place at this year's event. Wickline qualified for nationals after winning at regional and state levels. [Read more about the Wickline and this unique competition.](#)



Two LWSD students win national medals for excellence in writing

Nearly



**Scholastic
Art & Writing
Awards**

340,000 works were submitted for the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards this year. Only 2,700 students nationwide received national medals and two of those students are from Lake Washington School District (LWSD). **Redmond High School** junior **Marina Chen** won medals for two of her works. She earned a gold medal for her poetry entry entitled Final Sermon and a silver for her poem Backwards Stages. **Kaaviya Uthirapandian**, eighth grader at **Evergreen Middle School**, received a silver medal for The Golden Locket in the Dramatic Script category. [Read more about the national medalists and others who won regional awards.](#)

[Read more student and staff success stories here.](#)

Work with us

We're hiring!

LWSD needs paraeducators, instructional assistants, bus drivers, custodians, plumbers, and a building equipment mechanics/HVAC specialist. Job descriptions are available on the [district website](#), under "Employment" then "Classified Employees." Bus drivers earn \$25.57 per hour. [Learn more about why driving a bus for LWSD is a great job.](#) Please share this information with your friends and neighbors.

Sodexo/Nutrition Services is hiring

Are you looking for a way to get involved in LWSD? Would you like a part-time job that gives you the flexibility to be with your kids before and after school? Shifts that range from two hours to eight hours are available, helping serve students breakfast and lunch. Starting pay depends on experience. If interested, contact Nutrition Services at 425-936-1385.