

CK School Connection



a publication of the Central Kitsap School District www.cksd.wednet.edu

Spring 2011

Thank you for supporting the CKSD Capital Projects Levy



JP staff and community members celebrate the recent levy passage.

Central Kitsap School District is pleased to thank our community for its recent support of the CKSD Capital Projects Levy. The levy will generate \$58 million locally, coupled with up to \$31 million in state and federal funds to provide \$89 million for projects. In addition, local job opportunities resulting from these projects will provide increased economic support for our community.

The Capital Projects Levy will fund critical repairs at all schools based on our 36-year, long-range facilities plan. More than 70 committee members worked a total of 3,835 hours over the last three years to develop this plan. It addresses our backlog of critical repairs and safety upgrades while minimizing the cost to local taxpayers. To learn more, visit our website at www.cksd.wednet.edu and click on the "Capital Projects Levy" icon to the left.

Jackson Park Elementary is the first major project on the long-range plan. The new school will be built on

the current site. During construction, students will continue to attend school in the existing facility. Once the new school opens in September 2014, the old school will be demolished. Planning on this project is underway, and we will update you on our progress through community presentations and on our website.

Starting next school year, the district will begin critical repairs to existing schools and support facilities according to a prioritized list (available on our website under "Capital Projects Levy"). Technology infrastructure and computer replacements will also be addressed.

Levy volunteers recognized

Community volunteers who worked on the Capital Projects Levy were honored during a school board meeting last month. "CK Kids Matter" is a local



Board President Chris Stokke (right) thanks Kids Matter Co-Chair (left) Bob Ramsay

volunteer organization of educators, administrators, business professionals, and area residents who are concerned and committed to the quality of education

in the Central Kitsap School District. We are grateful for their support.

CKSD embraces math advances, new technology



FVJH teacher Gary Kovacs works with an Algebra I student.

More than ever before, Fairview Junior High student Alex Campana finds math help at his fingertips. A new math curriculum adopted by the CKSD Board of Directors offers an excellent textbook with

plentiful examples. "It shows many different methods to do things," said the ninth-grader. But beyond the book, Campana goes online to access resources, such as videos and quizzes. The resources will prepare Campana, who wants to be an engineer, for challenging high school math.

FVJH eighth-grader Rebecca Polsin finds the new curriculum "more challenging and more upfront" in its explanations. Polsin can also see how math will apply to her life in the future. "I want to be a detective," she said. Math, for example, will help her determine the trajectory and speed of a bullet fired from a gun.

FVJH teachers appreciate the new curriculum too. "We have phenomenal resources with this curriculum," said Gary Kovacs, a CKSD teacher for 14 years. Over the past several years, the CK School Board has adopted new math curricula for students in kindergarten through 12th

grade. State performance expectations, known as PEs, for students' academic progress have evolved and are now focused more on cognitive learning and the application of practical math skills. A CKSD committee of teachers and administrators responded to the state changes with deliberative study, research and review to choose appropriate, connected curricula for all grades.

"We now have a continuous system of math instruction," said Kovacs. "And now our curriculum aligns with state requirements," added Bette Dickson, chair of the FVJH math department. The new curriculum means money saved in the long run, too. In the past, teachers created packets of materials to ensure students were getting all the math information required by the state. Now all that is contained within the new curricula.

Elementary students began working with the new materials, from Glencoe/McGraw Hill, in the 2009-10 school year. Before the implementation, CKSD offered teachers several trainings for the curriculum. Parents and students were given online access to the book, personal tutors and songs to encourage learning. At secondary levels, students and teachers began working with the new curriculum from Holt McDougal this school year. Training was held for teachers. Parents and students were given access to online tools.

Kovacs said he appreciates the online diagnostic tests. The test results really "drill down" to specific skills so that Kovacs can see what his students understand and what they need to practice. Videos, tutorials and worksheets are all available too. And Kovacs can see one more advantage to the new curriculum and its online components: Even on snow days, learning can continue.

CKSD is home to record number of National Board Certified Teachers



Fourteen Central Kitsap School District educators were honored by the School Board in January for attaining National Board Certification--the highest number yet for our district!

Attaining National Board Certification is a rigorous, year-long process involving study, evaluation, self-assessment and peer review. Teachers create a portfolio documenting the impact of teaching practices on student achievement and take a series of tests designed to measure content knowledge. CKSD supports teachers

who are pursuing National Board Certification with resources, release days, support groups and two facilitators.

The district is now home to 43 National Board Certified Teachers. In 2010, 1,272 Washington teachers from the state's 295 school districts were certified. This places the state second nationally in new NBCTs. The number of NBCTs in Washington has jumped more than five-fold in last five years, from 910 to 5,232.



Central Kitsap School District is in the midst of its 2011-12 budget development process. We continue to face significant funding challenges

stemming from decreasing state funding, decreasing enrollment, and increased costs. Without substantial changes at the federal or state levels to fully fund education, these challenges will continue.

Based upon initial budget proposals, CKSD could be required to reduce up to \$2.2 million from its \$113 million budget. These reductions are in addition to K-12 funding cuts for the current school year imposed by the state Legislature. The district will not know the full extent of its budget shortfall for 2011-12 until the final state budget is released later this spring.

In the meantime, two community budget meetings

were held in March for parents and community members to learn more about the budget process and provide feedback. An online survey was also conducted, to gather additional feedback addressing next year's budget shortfalls.

"As in years past, our School Board and administration will continue to make difficult fiscal decisions with the intent of minimizing impacts to our educational program," said Superintendent Greg Lynch. "Although we are disappointed that the state Legislature repeatedly falls short of its responsibility to fully fund public schools, we'll keep our focus on our commitment to provide CKSD students a high quality education within existing resources."

Please visit our website at www.cksd.wednet.edu to learn more about the budget development process and to view a budget update presentation.



Mentoring program doubles in numbers, success

Weaving the pink and yellow strings between their fingers, Cindy Ashton and Donna Valentine are weaving more than a Cat's Cradle. They are weaving a relationship.

Ashton, a Brownsville Elementary parent volunteer, and Valentine, a third-grader at the school, are part of the Central Kitsap School District's mentoring program, The Power of Two. In its third school year, The Power of Two strives to develop

positive relationships between schools and students, parents and communities, around the common goal of supporting academic success.

Since its inception, students in the mentoring program have shown significant academic improvements, more self confidence, better peer relationships and better attitudes toward school. The number of mentors in the district has more than doubled in the past three years.

Ashton and Valentine began meeting once a week in November 2010. They talk, eat cookies, do art

projects and play on the playground. "We like to do a lot of stuff," said Valentine. "Cat's Cradle is really fun." Ashton, who also helps with Brownsville's Bear Den reading group, said she enjoys spending time with Valentine, too.

"It's always fun to have some one-on-one time with a kiddo," she said.

Adult mentors are always needed for CKSD schools. For information about The Power of Two go to <http://www.cksd.wednet.edu/Mentor/index.aspx>.

November ballot will include three school board positions

This fall, school boards across the state will ask citizens to vote on school board director positions. CKSD will have three seats up for election.

Declarations of candidacy may be filed with the Kitsap County Elections Office from June 6 through June 10. To be legally eligible, a candidate must be a registered voter and a resident of the director area for which he or she files. Visit www.kitsapgov.com/aud or call (360) 337-7128 for further information.

For more on the responsibilities of school board directors, please visit www.wssda.org. Select "Information for School Board Candidates" available under the "Board Training & Resources" link.

Geographical descriptions of director areas and other information about CKSD is available at www.cksd.wednet.edu or by calling the CKSD Superintendent's Office at (360) 662-1610.

Stay Informed

CKSD e-News enhances communication between the district, parents and community members. Sign up to receive e-mails pertaining to district events and activities, emergency information, and important messages from the superintendent. To subscribe, please visit: <http://enews.cksd.wednet.edu>. All e-mail addresses are kept confidential.



Voter Registration

CKSD encourages citizens to vote in all elections. Voter registration forms are available at all CKSD schools. You may also register to vote online at www.kitsapgov.com/aud/elections/votereg.htm.

Did You Know?

Central Kitsap High School is one of only two high schools in the state to receive a 2011 Washington Achievement Award for Closing Achievement Gaps. The school was selected because its minority students (based on race and ethnicity) have performed as well or better than its majority groups over the last two years.

"Our school's academic success has resulted in state and national attention for a number of years," said Principal Steve Coons. "This announcement signifies another important milestone. The dedication, knowledge, compassion, and cultural competency of our classified and certificated staff members no doubt contributed to this award, and I congratulate them on a job well done."



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