FOCUS

IN SCHOOLS

NEWS for the community

RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT

SPRING 2016

Inside:

• Computer Coding
• Hockey Pen Pals
• Emergency Training
• Giving Back
• Increase in State Matching Money

“Hood Bound” by Hunter French, Richland High School
YOUR LEVY DOLLARS AT WORK

Voters’ support of the 2016 operations levy enables the Richland School District to offer a complete education program including access to music, drama, and technology. Local levy dollars make up about 17% of the District’s operating budget.

Over 40 White Bluffs Elementary students play happy music with the Limbo Fish Steel Band.

Enterprise Middle School students perform a scene from Aladdin Jr.

Orchard Elementary students focus on a computer coding activity.
SHARK TANK
One of the imaginative ideas presented at Jason Lee Elementary School’s Shark Tank was the Warmbrella… an umbrella that protects from rain and provides heat at the same time. The fourth grade students studied inventors and inventions, and then brainstormed innovative products which they pitched to a panel of “sharks” (local scientists and engineers).

“The students learned a lot about various inventions and were pretty excited to see if their own unique ideas would be funded,” said teacher Lyn Leyde.

FRIENDLY REMINDER TO STOP FOR CHILDREN
Student safety is the reason why RSD Transportation staff held a Stop Paddle Awareness Effort on George Washington Way in early May. “Our goal was to remind drivers to stop for school buses when the red lights are flashing and stop paddles are out,” explained Tricia Callahan, RSD Driver Safety Supervisor. “We want students safe when getting on and off our buses.”
The Lewis & Clark Elementary School orchestra worked recently with Bruce Walker, assistant professor of music at Columbia Basin College. Walker is a veteran music leader who led the 30 orchestra students through a practice session.

“These fourth and fifth graders impressed me with their playing ability,” said Walker. “It’s always valuable and engaging for elementary students to interact with a guest conductor.”

“What a positive experience for my students to learn from a college level instructor,” stated Carri Rose, Lewis & Clark music teacher.
PEN PAL WRITING ENGAGES STUDENTS

Learning how to write clearly is a vital skill for students to master. Fourth graders in Tasha Scott’s classroom at Sacajawea Elementary School corresponded with the Tri-City Americans to get some extra practice.

“Being pen pals with the hockey players was one more way to engage students in writing and they had fun,” says Scott.

Sacajawea fourth grader Gleysa Hurtado writes to a Tri-City Americans player.

EMERGENCY TRAINING FOR STUDENT SAFETY

All Richland School District principals, assistant principals, and administrative assistants attended emergency protocol training at Benton County Emergency Services. Local police led the sessions focusing on the response tactics needed if an armed intruder came on campus during lunch time.

“These trainings are part of the District’s ongoing efforts to help our school administrators be as prepared as possible for a worst case scenario,” noted Superintendent Rick Schulte.

Lieutenant Curtis Smith, Richland Police, interacts with RSD principals at the emergency training.
Interested children look on as Enterprise Middle School sixth grader Sydney Baze takes the Tumbling Tower Challenge during Family STEM Night.

“STEM education engages students in discovery and innovation,” says science teacher Maren Benedict. “It was wonderful to see so many families learning more about physics, robotics, and engineering.”

A number of River’s Edge High School students have earned Microsoft Office Specialist certifications in Outlook, Word, and PowerPoint this year. Jennifer Tuck teaches the MOS/IT Academy class and says her students are mastering valuable skills. “These are common software applications that the students will find very useful in the working world and in college.”

KEEP UP WITH THE LATEST BOND ISSUE UPDATES AT: WWW.RSD.EDU
Hundreds of RSD students were introduced to computer programming as part of the nationwide Hour of Code event. Sixth graders in Cheri Masters’ classroom at Carmichael Middle School were totally engaged as they programmed “Star Wars: Building a Galaxy”.

“The Hour of Code demystifies computer coding and encourages students to learn the basics,” says Masters. “Students discover that computer science can be fun and creative.”

Carmichael student Jesse Cook shows his Star Wars computer coding work to teacher Cheri Masters.

Nearly 40 science scholars from Hanford and Richland High Schools served as evaluators at the Wiley Elementary School science fair.

“It’s wonderful to see high school students engaged in scientific discussions with our K-5 students,” said Wiley Principal Marc Nelson.

The Richland School District has compiled a list of athletic and academic camps which will take place this summer. You can access the list by going to the District web site at: www.rsd.edu/camps
ME TO WE CLUB HELPS CHILDREN IN HAITI

The Hanford High School Me to We Club is reaching out to help those in need. The club’s recent “Totes for Goats” fundraiser collected enough money to purchase 25 goats for the rural community of Marialapa, Haiti.

The school in Marialapa currently has 10 goats. Each goat produces 16 cups of milk a day. The milk supplements student meals and is sold to help pay for school improvements.
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) presented Richland High School with The $100,000 Milestone Award. The prestigious honor recognizes the school’s efforts in raising over $115,000 since 2004 to help find a blood cancer cure.

“This is the first $100,000 Milestone Award presented in our Washington/Alaska Chapter,” said Leslie Otto of LLS.

“We’ve had many Tri-Cities students and community members impacted by these diseases so we try to help in any way we can,” noted Activities Director Jim Qualheim.

On behalf of past and present RHS leadership students, activities director Jim Qualheim accepts The Milestone Award from Leslie Otto, Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Richland High School leadership students conducted a book drive which resulted in 600 books being delivered to Orchard Elementary School.

“The books will help build up the home libraries of students attending our summer reading program,” says Principal Robert Broecker. “We thank Richland High for this generous donation. More books for children are always a good thing.”

Orchard Principal Robert Broecker receives books from RHS leadership students Annie Kump and Lauren Hall.
LUCAS EARNWSU CHEER SPOT

Hanford High School senior Kiera Lucas has earned a spot on next year’s Washington State University cheer squad. Kiera has been an integral member of the HHS cheer squad the past four years. She carries a 3.9 GPA while being active with Key Club, National Honor Society, and student leadership.

“Kiera is the epitome of what a student-athlete should be,” noted Kim Mayer, HHS cheer coach.

SCIENCE SCHOOL OF THE YEAR

Congratulations to Enterprise Middle School on being named “School of the Year” at the Washington State Science and Engineering Fair. Five Enterprise students competed and all five earned First Place awards in their respective divisions.

“These students are to be commended for their hard work,” said science teacher Debbie Ellefson.

From l to r: Sankar Harilal, Shreya Mehta, Nikhita Bontha, Nischal Allena, science teacher Debbie Ellefson, and Daniel Li.
STAFF NEWS

NATIONAL CERTIFICATION

Congratulations to two Richland School District teachers who earned certification this year from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, the highest credential in the teaching profession.

These teachers are: Mary Manis, Jefferson Elementary School and Grant Richardson, Three Rivers HomeLink

STATE SCIENCE EXPERT

Becky Mittleider, Marcus Whitman fifth grade teacher, recently served on a Washington State Science Assessment Committee. Mittleider helped develop fifth grade test items written to the Next Generation Science Standards.

GOOGLE APPS TRAINING

Google Apps for Education has been the focus of RSD training workshops. Teachers are learning how to use Google Apps in their daily instruction.

“Google Apps is an excellent entry point for integrating technology into instruction because of what it does for student collaboration and critical thinking,” explains Chris Butler, Classroom Support Teacher.
GOOD NEWS FOR RSD TAXPAYERS

There is positive financial news to report regarding the 2013 bond issue.

“Our voters approved a $98 million bond issue, but we’ll end up with $160 million worth of new facilities by the time all nine projects are done,” states Superintendent Rick Schulte.

- The District expected to receive $32 million in state matching money; instead, the District will receive $62 million.
- The additional state dollars enabled the District to add significant square footage at Lewis & Clark, Marcus Whitman, Orchard, Sacajawea, HomeLink, and the upcoming new middle school in West Richland.
- The District will use some of these additional dollars to build an entirely new Jefferson Elementary instead of just the I952 wing as originally planned.

The Richland School District’s fourth middle school will open in 2017.