supports, professional development, and state of the very best curricular materials, technological
We go about doing this by recruiting, hiring, and program that meets the individual needs of students school. We work to provide a rigorous academic for each level of their education, including post high learning experience possible to prepare our students
We dedicate ourselves every day to creating the best responsibility, and it reflects the high value our
SUSTAINING GREAT SCHOOLS
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Why are we needed? Because education funding is chronically inadequate. You may know that Washington ranks 41st in the nation for education support. What many find surprising is that Issaquah ranks 291st of 295 Washington districts in per pupil funding from the state. We believe there are two ways to solve this problem: working with the legislature for change, which takes years; and by empowering community members to impact educational resources today. Our work focuses on the latter.
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RECENT ADDITIONS TO THE KATERI BROW ART COLLECTION
The newest artwork added to the District’s Kateri Brow Memorial School Art Collection was introduced to appreciative crowds at the June 25 and August 27 school board meetings. Thomas Rosario, second grader at Sunset Elementary, presented his piece “The Bird” and shared his artist statement, “The bird is a young bird, a baby — he hasn’t flown yet but he knows he can, he believes he can. He is ready.” Julia Hong, a freshman at Skyline High School, presented “The Soaring Dream” which captures the eternal question “What is life truly about?” Each year the District purchases one or two pieces of artwork selected from the works displayed at the TSAF Reflections Art show. Superintendent Ron Thiele presented Thomas a check for $50.00 and Julia a check. The artwork will be displayed in the ISD Administration Building for many years to come.

EDUCATION IS VITAL TO A WELL-FUNCTIONING SOCIETY
I believe that an educated population is the cornerstone of a participatory and well-functioning, democratic society. To that end, the Issaquah School District has a direct role in shaping the future locally, nationally, and internationally. Our mission is to graduate our students prepared for and eager to accept the academic, occupational, personal, and practical challenges of life in a dynamic global environment. It’s an enormous responsibility, and it reflects the high value our community places on education.
We dedicate ourselves every day to creating the best learning experience possible to prepare our students for each level of their education, including post high school. We work to provide a rigorous academic program that meets the individual needs of students from our most highly capable to our most challenged.
In addition to outstanding teachers, we have high-quality staff at every level who genuinely care about the success of our students, academically and socially. Our principals, educational assistants, secretaries, transportation, maintenance, and food service personnel are all committed to creating a culture throughout the District that promotes kindness and acceptance.
There are as many paths post high school as there are students. Ideally an Issaquah School District student graduates with a strong sense of self-worth and the strength to search out and find their own paths to happiness. As Superintendent, nothing pleases me more than when I hear stories of our graduates succeeding and living happy, productive lives. That is truly what the Issaquah School District—and our community—stands for, and how together we contribute to a better, healthier, and stronger society.

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ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT BOND RATING UPGRADED BY STANDARD AND POOR’S

Last May, the Issaquah School District was informed by Standard and Poor’s Financial Service (S&P) that the District’s bond rating was being increased to AA+ from AA. The upgrade was based on a strong local economy, community support in renewing the District’s levies, and the District’s history of maintaining a solid financial position.

With the new AA+ rating from S&P, our District now has the highest bond rating of any school district in the state, a higher credit rating than the State of Washington and the same credit rating as the United States. The rating upgrade would not have been possible without the guidance of the Board of Directors and continued support of the community.

Additionally, the Issaquah School District’s debt is rated Aaa with Moody’s Investor Services, making our District one of only 65 school districts nationally with that rating.

“Having Standard & Poor’s validate the strength of the Issaquah School District is very important to taxpayers, District management, and bondholders,” said Jacob Kuper, Issaquah School District’s Chief Financial Officer. “Higher bond ratings lead to increased demand for the District’s bonds. Our position in the robust Puget Sound economy and the District’s stable financial position enable the District to efficiently access the capital markets to finance our on-going capital facilities program.”

For more information on the District’s financial operations, please visit the District’s website at: www.isd411.org and Jacob Kuper’s office at 425-837-7024.

TEACHERS CREATE EDUCATIONAL POSTERS WITH A STEAMROLLER!

Next to the Bellevue Arts Museum, a steamroller moved slowly down the street as groups of frenzied educators and artists inked large black prints during the museum’s “Ink, Drop, and Roll” event.

One of these groups, the Lynx Ladies, included Kathy Skalak, Shona Campbell, Shannon Kryzczewski, and Anne Tremonte, four teachers from Pacific Cascade Middle School.

Anne explained, “Our group could not pass up the opportunity to pool our creativity as teachers and experience working with a real steamroller in the process.”

Prior to the event, the Lynx Ladies designed and carved a 3’x3’ piece of linoleum with blank printing tools. Their poster design focused on education with an emphasis on inspirational images rather than words.

On the day of the event, the carved poster was then inked by hand and printed with a steamroller. Throughout the day’s events, the group created six posters, each unique due to the inking and steamrolling process. The posters will be displayed in the school along with new murals made by the art department.

RIBBON CUTTINGS CELEBRATE COMPLETED SCHOOL REMODELS AND ADDITIONS

At Issaquah Valley Elementary School, students took part in a unique eco-mural project. Each grade level painted different sized fish to add diversity to the mural. Stream of Dreams PIT event co-chair Tiffany Aske explained that many students brought designs with them and followed them as a guide for painting their fish, while others free-handed their paintings.

The week culminated in the installation of over 800 swimming wooden salmon on the fence line along Newport Way. The salmon were painted by current students and former 2013-14 fifth grade students. Leah Gibson, Stream of Dreams PIT co-chair, explained that this event was a true labor of love—from cutting and priming the 800 salmon to securing donations from the community to make this art installation possible.

At Liberty Middle School, the school has additional space including eight new classrooms, an addition small group breakout areas and expanded commons. The administrative areas have been reconfigured to provide better visibility to enhance safety and security. Electronic locks have been installed on the exterior doors to more securely entry points.

The design and construction of both schools incorporated strategies to increase efficiency. Some of these strategies included new HVAC systems, increased levels of building insulation, and replacing exterior single pane windows with insulated glazing. In addition to operable windows, ceiling fans help to enhance personal comfort and reduce the times when air conditioning is needed to maintain comfortable temperatures for instruction. High efficiency light fixtures are used with daylight switching and occupancy sensors to reduce electrical power consumption. The commons, gym, and intermediate corridors have received new rubber flooring that is easy to clean and will reduce long term maintenance costs.

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The postcard shows Issaquah Valley Elementary School ribbon cutting ceremony. Pictures by School District 411.

ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT CLASS OF 2014 EARNS HIGH ACT SCORES

When the American College Testing (ACT) College Readiness exam scores were released last August, Washington State had much to celebrate. According to ACT, Washington’s Class of 2014 12th grade students achieved the seventh-highest composite score in the nation on their annual college admissions test. Here in Issaquah, students showed an even higher level of college preparedness. The Issaquah School District’s composite score of 26.6 is 3.6 points higher than Washington State’s 23.0 and 5.6 points higher than the nation’s 21.0. Additionally, Issaquah School District seniors have consistently scored two to three points higher than the State on the exam for the past five years.

“We are fortunate to live in a community with families who participate and place a high value on their children’s education,” notes Superintendent Ron Thiele. “These results are evidence that students in the Issaquah School District are among the highest performing in the nation and are graduating ready for college. I would also like to acknowledge the work of our teachers and support staff in helping our students perform at these high levels.”

The ACT is an annual exam used for admission into colleges and universities. More information on the ACT, including reports on state and national scores is available at www.act.org/newsroom/dots/2014/index.html.

2013-14 ANNUAL COMMUNITY REPORT IS NOW AVAILABLE

The Issaquah School District’s Annual Community Report reviewing the 2013-2014 school year is now online. In our report, you will find easily accessible charts and information about student achievement, our programs and services, and finances. For those who wish to dig deeper, many links are provided to guide you to the data you need.

The annual report is available at www.isd411.org/district/CommunityReport/.

PATRIOT PRIDE AND A NEW LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL

Hundreds of Liberty High students joined the community, District officials, and the Issaquah School Board in celebrating the completion of their school remodel. Issaquah Chamber of Commerce CEO, Matthew Scott, emceed the event. Wright Noel, who is a member of the Issaquah Chamber and Volunteers for Issaquah Schools, a Liberty Wrestling Coach, and the proud father of a Patriot senior, thanked students for their support of the school bond that made this multi-year, multi-phase remodel possible. Principal Dr. Josh Almy and School Board President Marnie Maraldo added their thanks and called attention to the improved educational spaces Liberty students and staff now enjoy.

“ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT GREEN TEAM

Several innovative ISD programs include: incorporating storm water retention ponds that retain, filter, and return water to local aquifers into the design of new schools; reduction of paper use, recycling system and water usage conservation, including planting of drought-resistant plants and installing turf pallets; the use of ultra-low sulfur diesel buses and no idle zones to reduce emissions from cars during the student pick up, and energy savings through programmable systems that automatically control HVAC and power down computers every night.

We use software, called Utility Manager, to track monthly utility billing and data for energy, domestic water, irrigated water, storm water, solid waste, recycling, and composting of food scraps. Our efforts have resulted in a 49% recycling rate for the District. More than 7,500 cubic yards of recycled materials and 1,800 cubic yards of food scraps are collected each year, reducing the District’s garbage volume by 7,400 cubic yards annually. Since 2001, domestic water usage has been reduced by 40.4% and 2.5 tons of carbon dioxide from energy usage has been prevented from entering the atmosphere. While our building square footage has increased by nearly 30%, our energy consumption has decreased by 7.6%.

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STUDENTS RECEIVE MORE TIME FOR CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION IN 2014-15

Issaquah School District students in grades 6 through 12 will spend more time in the classroom this school year. The additional instructional time, approved by the Issaquah School Board, is happening one year earlier and for more grade levels than mandated by law. The new state law (RCW 28A.150.220) was passed by the legislature in its most recent session requires districts to provide 1,080 instructional hours for students in grades 9 through 12 by the 2015-2016 school year. Middle and high schools in the Issaquah School District are releasing 45 minutes later on Wednesdays this school year.

“This is the right thing to do for our students,” said Superintendent Ron Thiele. “Increasing instructional time is in alignment with our stakeholder values and the District’s mission and goals for students. I would like to thank the School Board and the Issaquah Educators Association, our teacher’s union, for working together with administration to move forward with the implementation now rather than wait. I would also like to extend my appreciation to our transportation department in adjusting our bus schedules.”

2014 GREEN DISTRICT LEADER

The Issaquah School District is one of three districts which has been recognized with a Washington State Green Leader Award in 2014. Our District was recognized for its progress toward reducing environmental impact and costs.