



ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT
565 NW Holly St. Issaquah, WA 98027
www.issaquah.wednet.edu/news/FOCUS.aspx

Non-profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 42
Issaquah, 98027

Why am I getting this newsletter?

As a resident of the Issaquah School District, you are an important stakeholder in the education of local children. This newsletter is designed to update you on the work and accomplishments of the district and its students—which contribute to the quality of our community and our future.

Points of Pride A few of the reasons you have to be proud of your schools

Three new pieces inducted into the Kateri Brow Memorial Art Collection

Accompanied by appreciative gasps and paparazzi-like camera flashes, three student artists unveiled their masterpieces for induction into the Kateri Brow Memorial Student Art Collection during a ceremony on June 5, 2013. To view the Collection, visit the Administration Building, 565 NW Holly Street, during business hours (7:30 a.m.-4 p.m.).



"Black Magic of a Moment" by Kassidy Clover Goude, seventh grade, Maywood Middle School.



"Friends and Fun Are Always Together" by Manal Sherani, third grade, Apollo Elementary.



"Make Believe" by Kyle Patterson, 12th grade, Skyline High School.

Complete stories at www.issaquah.wednet.edu



Issaquah School District community newsletter | July 2013 | Vol. 18 No. 3 | Learning locally, competing globally | www.issaquah.wednet.edu



Focus on graduates

And a farewell “thank you” from Dr. Steve Rasmussen

Dear Issaquah School District residents,

This newsletter highlights our amazing 2013 graduates, and I cannot think of a more fitting gift that I will take with me into retirement. Each graduate—well prepared and enthusiastic for the future—is a testament to our learning community, which includes parents who instill a strong value for education, teachers and staff who are both incredibly rigorous and supportive, and a community that steps up in droves to provide the local resources students need, from extra hands to critical dollars. I have said it before, and I mean it: There is no better place for learning than Issaquah—it’s special.

It has truly been my privilege to serve you as superintendent for the past six years. Through the commitment and skill of every

colleague and partner, I believe the district is in a strong position with trust, collaboration, and deep analytical learning at an all-time high. Our students are world-class, and the future of our educational system—under the helm of new superintendent Ron Thiele—is bright.

There are so many people to thank, and YOU are top among them. Every resident in this district contributes to the success of our children. As the cap to more than four decades working in public education, it makes my heart glad to retire from Issaquah, a district where learning can—and does—open every door imaginable for its students. Thank you!

Sincerely, Dr. Steve Rasmussen



Great grads!

We can't tell you the stories of all 1,200 of our graduates, but here is a sample from each school that illustrates the diverse interests, successes, and challenges of the Class of 2013—and, of course, how bright each student's future is!



Spencer Douglas

Skyline High



But don't think that Spencer doesn't nurture his creative and outdoor-side, too. He has rowed competitively, lettered in band, placed first in a state Japanese ski contest, and worked as a ski instructor—and that's on top of his hobbies of hiking, camping, reading military history, and “geeking out” over science and technology. At graduation, he also won a medallion for academic excellence in health and human services.



So what's the perfect career choice with such diverse interests and experiences? Next school year, Spencer will attend Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University to major in Aerospace Engineering. He has received an Air Force scholarship as a cadet in the school's Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program.



Spencer Douglas may already have more experience running companies than some CEOs—well, simulated experiences, that is. For the past three summers, he has been participating in Washington Business Week, a program that gives teenagers hands-on training and challenges in business settings. Spencer not only won many awards (including best overall company and tradeshow), but he also participated in an exchange that sent him to Poland for community service and to work with entrepreneurial students there.

“I have always been fascinated with the military and space,” Spencer said. “Aerospace engineering was an obvious choice because I get to build space ships. I have some flight experience (it is the most amazing thing in the world) and the opportunity to become a commissioned officer in the world's leader in aerospace and cyber-space defense—the United States Air Force—is an opportunity I am extremely excited about!”



“I learned all the primary aspects of business including marketing, finance, production and project management, leadership skills, and the ability to work in teams,” Spencer said.

Jae Kim

Issaquah High



Jae Kim is like most teenagers when she says she can't imagine life without technology—except she literally could not say that without the help of some special electronic equipment. Jae has cerebral palsy, and often the outward manifestations—her erratic muscle control and inability to walk or talk—mask her active, vibrant mind. So while she has many great school memories—making friends, attending a University of Washington summer course...—the best is when she got her communication device as a freshman.

"The device opened a new window for me," Jae said. "Before, I needed to point at each letter on my tray board. Now, I can express myself with a voice and it's a lot quicker!"

After Jae types on the screen, the device speaks the words, and it also connects to the Internet to put information at her fingertips. Jae's world was changed so fundamentally because of her new

"voice" that she decided to become an advocate for others with speech and physical barriers: Her career goal is to be an Assistive Technology Specialist, helping organizations make products, services, and employment accessible to people with disabilities.

Jae initially thought she would not be able to attend college, but her teachers at Pine Lake, Pacific Cascade, and Issaquah High taught her to aim high and face challenges. Jae won Rotary and Korean Women's Society scholarships and will attend Bellevue College next year to receive her Associate's Degree. Then she hopes to transfer to the University of Washington to major in a related field such as Speech Pathology or Occupational Therapy.

Jae has been tutoring high-school students with similar speech disabilities to use communication devices, and will continue to do so through college. She gets a thrill when she sees how their lives become "easier and more fun."

"I have learned that, in my heart, I have a love for helping others," Jae said.

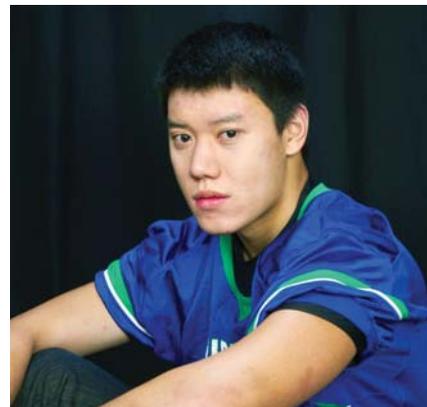
Di Wang

Liberty High

In hindsight, Di Wang says if he hadn't moved here at the age of 12 from Beijing, he would be half the person he is now.

"The Eastern culture emphasizes humbleness and scholasticism, while Western culture taught me to be confident and passionate," Wang explained. "Experiencing both developed my individuality and expanded my perspectives."

This balancing act took hard work initially. Di had to learn English from scratch in a special program at Maywood Middle School. He began writing monthly goals for himself (a practice he continues), and he was so devoted that he passed his English proficiency assessment after only one year.



And Di never looked back, jumping head-first with the same commitment into school life: He became an award-winning basketball and football player and an active member of the Liberty Key Club, Honor Society, and Invisible Children Club. One of his coaches called Wang "the most selfless student athlete in my 20 years of experience, dedicated to helping his community and team." When he ran the gamut of business courses at Liberty, he self-studied micro- and macroeconomics and received top scores on the Advanced Placement exams.

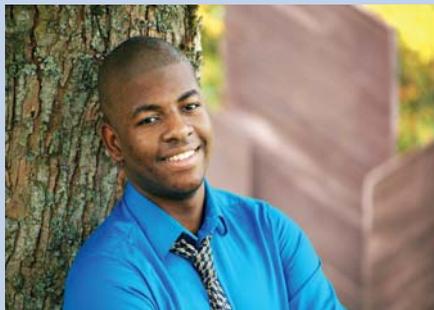
Eventually, he put these passions together into a career plan: He will major in Industrial and Systems Engineering and get his MBA from the University of Washington to hopefully become an executive of an industrial

company. He wants to prove that ethical leadership is the best business model for shareholders.

Along the way, he will continue to use his dual-cultural background to the utmost, such as when he interned with a business in China his sophomore summer; he not only learned about product planning and management, he expanded the business by opening an English program that attracted successful people from across the region.

Jude Tunyi

Issaquah High



When he was 10 years old, Jude Tunyi had a life-changing—and almost life-ending—experience in his home country of Cameroon: He became gravely ill, and when his parents took him to the local clinic, he and hundreds of others waited many excruciating hours just to be admitted. The scant equipment there was rusted or barely functioning. After a harried exam, Jude received a few pills—wrapped in half a sheet of paper—from one of the stock bottles on hand. Luckily, he survived; many others at the clinic did not.

Several years later, Jude and his family moved to the United States. “On my

first day in an American classroom, I was immediately awestruck,” Jude said. “I had never seen boards that use markers. I had grown accustomed to Cameroonian chalk boards. I was shocked at how common place using computers was in schools. In Cameroon, most schools cannot even afford desks and hundreds sit crammed together on overcrowded dirt floors.”

As Jude began to realize how blessed he was by new opportunities, he could not put out of his mind all of the people suffering with inadequate medical care throughout the world. He began volunteering at Swedish Hospital in Issaquah and the technology, specialists, and level of care was just incredible to him. He knew immediately that he’d found his calling. Next year, Jude will study chemistry or biology at the University of Washington with the goal of going to medical school.

“I hope to use my education to give back to my community and contribute in some small way by helping people through medicine,” Jude said. “I hope to create an electronic network where doctors can work with one another across the world to provide care for their patients. I want my old clinic, and all those like it, to transform into reassuring, hopeful places.”

Jaimi Estalilla Shimomura

Tiger Mountain Community High

From the day Jaimi set foot on Tiger Mountain Community High School’s campus, she was a leader. She helped to create, organize, and implement fundraisers. She demonstrated an unparalleled work ethic. While she worked on her own projects, she often

helped others with theirs, giving insight and encouragement. She sought out input from those who remained quiet by nature, and she always advocated for those in need.

As an example, Jaimi helped organize a rummage sale to benefit the school’s library. At every phase, she rallied others to ensure its success. She inventoried and priced items, organized merchandise, and managed others who were uncertain what to do. She kept the books and made sure every customer



was treated with a smile. She was always the first to show up, and the last to leave.

As teacher Lane Helgeson put it, “Jaimi is the most generous and kind hearted student I have known in my 16 years of teaching.”

When another student who suffers from anxiety had great difficulty taking on her community service requirement, Jaimi sat next to the student and offered to do the community service with her. Jaimi’s own strength of character continually moves her toward serving others.

Maria Volodkevich

Skyline High



Maria Volodkevich is *fast*—in the water, on land, and, soon, in the sky! Her freshmen year, she shed her underdog status in a stunning come-from-behind victory to win the state title for the 100-yard breaststroke. Four years later, she has captured another seven swimming championships, a top-five state championship in the 4x400 meter relay, and five school records in the pool and on the track.

So what's next for this speed fanatic? Being a fighter pilot, of course! "I am going to attend the United State Air Force Academy," she said. "I chose the Air Force Academy because they value athletics, academics, and leadership. It offers me a challenging career ... and the chance to meet incredible people."

Ultimately, Maria wants to major in management and pursue a career as a military then commercial pilot.

Maria's entire family has a service background; her father was a Marine and both grandfathers fought in World War II. With her incredible athleticism and academic

background (including an A average with a full slate of advanced courses), Maria knew that she wanted to use her skills for a higher calling—to serve her country and honor those who gave their lives for our freedoms.

Towards that end, Maria has been actively training every summer. She participated in the Naval Sea Cadet Corps (Blue Angels Squadron); Navy Seal, West Point, and Air Force young leaders programs; and Coast Guard Academy Introductory Mission. Not surprisingly, she was the top female scorer in the fitness challenges at both the Navy Seal and West Point programs!

Sarah Struyvenberg

Liberty High



Sarah Struyvenberg is a real brainiac. She has taken a full slate of Advanced Placement courses (Physics, Biology, French, Calculus) while maintaining an A average. She is an accomplished cello player and does performance art like aerial acrobatics. She won the Achievement and Leadership Award from her designated

college, Montana State University. The list goes on and on ... but what really makes her a brainiac? Sarah works hands-on with actual brains!

For two years, Sarah has volunteered at Harborview Medical Center's neuropathology lab studying Alzheimer's and other mental disease. As such, she removes and biopsies brains, collects and stains brain slices, and contributes to the tissue archive.

"It's a passion for me because I am able to work in a top research facility with highly trained individuals," Sarah said. "I have learned so much from them that has prepared me for college and my future career choice. There have been so many opportunities such as being able to participate in autopsies where we focus on brain removal and then sampling the brain which would be rare to experience in a classroom environment—even in graduate school."

On her way to medical school as an undergrad, Sarah plans to study abroad for a year in France, which will help with her ultimate goal of being a neurosurgeon in a French-speaking third-world country. This is a perfect combination of her skills and passions, inspired by her science and French teachers in high school (who figuratively and literally taught her new languages and ways of thinking, she said). Sarah has also actively volunteered through high school, including providing meals and counseling for homeless youth at Teen Feed.

"The science training I have received is extraordinary and I would encourage every student in the future to take as many science classes as possible," Sarah said.