



**ISSAQUAH SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
565 NW Holly St. Issaquah, WA 98027  
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## 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



### Two schools, two continents, knit together

Tiger Mountain Community High School's knitting club sent some warmth across the world when Educational Assistant Linda Johnson traveled to Africa over spring break with a large collection of hats made

specially for Zambian students in the Mukuni Village. The knitting club members worked on the hats since the beginning of the school year, and they also made donations to Seattle Children's Hospital and Generation Joy.

### Robot dominance!

The Issaquah High Robotics Society proved their engineering and team-problem-solving dominance at the Seattle Cascade

FIRST Robotics tournament in March at CenturyLink Event Center. Not only did the team place fifth overall in the tournament, it also won the Quality Award, which honors "machine robustness in concept and design fabrication."

### Fantastic in any language!

Congratulations to the Issaquah School District students who took home top awards at the 2012 Annual Washington State High School Japanese Skit and Speech Contest in March (the biggest high-school Japanese contest on the west coast). In addition to the competition awards, the third-year skit group from Skyline won most spirited. Thanks to the support of several businesses and organizations, the winners in all four levels in the speech categories won free trips to Japan!

Complete stories at [www.issaquah.wednet.edu](http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu)



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# Focus on alumni!

When Issaquah School District's nearly 1,100 graduates receive their diplomas in June, it may be the ending of their high-school experience, but it's just the beginning of a bigger journey.

"Our ultimate goal is that graduates will have every opportunity open to them," Superintendent Steve Rasmussen said. "That means they have the skills, knowledge, self-insight, and confidence to make a difference in the world in whatever way they choose and to lead a generally satisfying life."

In essence, this summarizes the district's mission statement: "Our students will be prepared for and eager to accept the academic, occupational, personal, and

practical challenges of life in a dynamic global environment."

So how well does the district do in achieving its mission? Are graduates succeeding? Learning? Working? Prepared? Happy?

These are questions that require post-high-school perspective, which means the Issaquah School District does its best to outreach to alumni. It does so in two ways: Formal surveying and narratively collecting stories.

Please look inside this issue for a snapshot from both angles—a summary of the biannual graduate survey and highlights from recent grads.

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The Issaquah School District biannually conducts a survey of the previous year's graduates to gauge their preparedness for life after high school.

The large majority—80 percent—have continued their education either full- or part-time, most (80 percent) within Washington state. Most continuing-education graduates (67 percent) are attending four-year institutions and an additional 28 percent are enrolled in community colleges, most of whom (67 percent) intend to transfer to a four-year school. Of the continuing-education graduates, 60 percent have decided on a major: 13 percent in business administration, 11 percent in biological sciences, and 9 percent in engineering/computer.

In the Class of 2011, 27 percent are employed either full- or part-time. Eighty percent of this group are part-time employees and most (70 percent) are also continuing their education. They are predominately working in retail/wholesale (20 percent), a restaurant (19 percent), the service industry (15 percent), and for a college (9 percent). The majority of working graduates (72 percent) are generally satisfied with their jobs.

Graduates reported varying degrees of preparedness in everyday skill and knowledge areas:

- 85 percent felt prepared in reading
- 83 percent felt prepared in writing
- 68 percent felt prepared in numeric computational skills
- 93 percent felt prepared in using proper spoken English
- 85 percent felt prepared in using research and study skills
- 53 percent felt prepared in job-seeking skills
- 64 percent felt prepared in evaluating national and world issues
- 82 percent felt prepared to avoid drug and alcohol abuse
- 86 percent felt prepared in human relation skills
- 72 percent felt prepared as informed consumers
- 90 percent were knowledgeable about sex and health issues
- 71 percent felt prepared to speak before groups

Furthermore, 80 percent of graduates said their high-school teachers taught effectively, 75 percent said their

high-school teachers were interested and helpful, 79 percent said learning was encouraged, and 71 percent said their school experience was, overall, pleasant and rewarding.

"This is such valuable information," said Patrick Murphy, Executive Director of High Schools. "Given time to experience college or the working world, feedback from our graduates is a key component of evaluating our overall K-12 academic program to determine strengths and weaknesses to keep improving."

The biannual graduate survey is an important data piece in the continuing work to provide all students with an optimal high school experience. For the past four years, principals have been meeting to determine what experiences are necessary for every student to thrive in high school, including access to classes and teachers as well as opportunities for connectivity, citizenship, resiliency, and self-expression for students. The survey is one gauge of where high schools should focus attention.

For graduate survey results, visit [www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/surveys.aspx](http://www.issaquah.wednet.edu/district/surveys.aspx)



We are always happy to receive alumni news

Email us at [alumni@issaquah.wednet.edu](mailto:alumni@issaquah.wednet.edu)

Go to <http://bit.ly/Jmg7vQ> to read alumni stories

## Hey grads, where are you and what are you doing?

The Issaquah School District randomly reached out to recent graduates to hear about their adventures, successes, and challenges

### Cate Gerrity

Issaquah Class of 2008

Cate has been attending Stanford University and will graduate with a major in Psychology and a minor in Religious Studies this June. She hopes to work in the nonprofit sector with youth in under-served populations. She is considering a master's degree in Social Work. Regardless, she knows she will ultimately end up serving others because she believes her education at Stanford is a gift and responsibility to do good in the world.

"Winter quarter of my sophomore year, my world was rocked when I took a class on Spirituality and Social Transformations," she said. I asked myself, "What am I doing for this world? What am I doing sitting in a classroom? How am I serving as a student?"

### Angela Nelson (Charles)

Liberty Class of 2002

Angela's primary school experience has come full circle! After graduating from Liberty, she earned her Elementary Teaching Degree from Corban University and Master's in Curriculum and Instruction in Reading from Grand Canyon University Online. She taught in Las Vegas for a year before returning to the Issaquah School District. She has been at Endeavour Elementary for five years.

### Drew Christie

Skyline Class of 2002



After graduation from Skyline, Drew studied animation at The Evergreen State College in Olympia, and he has since become an animator and illustrator extraordinaire! His work has been featured in "The Atlantic," "The Daily Beast," "Drawn," and more. His short films have successfully debuted at local and international film festivals such as Sundance, the Atlanta Film Festival, the Seattle International Film Festival, the Madeira Film Festival, and many more. In May, his animated opinion piece about aquatic rodents appeared in the "New York Times" and is currently playing at the IFC Center in New York City. He will soon be participating in a panel in New York about his pioneering work in opinion documentaries, and he will also be returning to his alma mater in June to speak alongside another famous Evergreen alum, Matt Groening of "Simpsons" fame.

### Sydney Iverson

Liberty Class of 2008



Sydney graduated from the University of Washington and just received a full-ride scholarship to Washington State University to get a PhD in Clinical Psychology beginning this fall. She ultimately wants to work in a children's research hospital.

Her roots in her career path stretch back to when she was 14 and began volunteering at Seattle Children's Hospital. Then she joined a research lab called Project 1, 2, 3, GO!—a developmental study of 3-year-olds and their parents—during her sophomore year at University of Washington, and she became hooked on research. She decided that the mix of working with children and participating in psychological research was a perfect fit.



## Mark Horozowski Issaquah Class of 2002

After earning his Masters in Accounting from the University of Washington, Mark co-founded an interactive marketing agency in Seattle focused on empowering healthcare companies to best utilize digital technologies. In 2010, he decided he wanted to make a bigger impact, so he set off on a “Global Volunteering Adventure,” donating his business and marketing expertise to schools and non-profit organizations around the world. Upon his return, he has launched a new enterprise—MovingWorlds.org—a “Global Experteering Network.” He wants to create positive social impact worldwide by inspiring and enabling professionals to donate their expertise to responsible organizations that need support with specific challenges to grow and make the world a better place.

## Andy Boes Liberty Class of 2009

After graduation, Andy has been studying at University of Notre Dame, majoring in Political Science and Economics with a minor in Public Service. He is interested in working in the field of human development—both domestic and international—which may include public policy issues.

Andy has interned with United Way for about a year. He sat on a panel that allocates grants to local organizations that address emergency needs in the community. “The position opened my eyes to many of the complexities that surround community development and helped me develop a more practical and more in-depth understanding of the non-profit realm,” he said.

## Daniel Church Tiger Mountain Class of 2006

Daniel has had quite a journey since graduating from Tiger! Initially, he began working construction and then became a lifeguard (he actually saved a child!). With his earnings, he decided to visit his sister in Switzerland, and then he continued on to Turkey, Albania, Romania, Hungary, Greece, Jordan, and Egypt. When he came home, he enrolled at Bellevue College and graduated with an interest in Physics. He was recently accepted to the University of Washington. However, the travel bug kept itching. He currently has deferred his classes through December while he is volunteering with Teach and Learn with Georgia, which has him teaching English at three separate schools in that Eurasian country.

### Pictured, left to right:

*Drew Christie's* animated opinion piece “Hi! I’m a Nutria!”

*Sydney Iverson* inside marble caves in Chile while studying abroad

*Mark Horozowski* “Experteering” in Nepal

*Andy Boes* coaching at a school in Hanoi, Vietnam

*Daniel Church* (front) with Georgian host father and friends

*Tristan Chamberlain* in Kuwait before moving north into Iraq, 2007

*Sara Brumley* working on a New Orleans restoration project

*Katelyn McGinnis* in Redmond Police Department uniform

For the complete stories go to <http://bit.ly/Jmg7vQ>



### Tristan Chamberlain Tiger Mountain Class of 2003

Tristan joined the Army as a military intelligence soldier after graduating from Tiger. As part of his training, he attended the Defense Language Institute to learn Arabic. He served on one deployment to Iraq and after six years of service, he went on to work in Afghanistan as a civilian. He then took a job as a background investigator for the government. He is currently attending the University of Texas at Austin, majoring in International Relations. He is simultaneously working at a geopolitical company as a tactical analyst. In his spare time, he travels to Mexico and Guatemala for volunteer work.

In the future, Tristan hopes to continue to travel. His current job has allowed him to publish articles, and he has developed an appreciation for writing. He would like to get more involved in journalism and covering areas afflicted by heavy levels of violence.



### Sara Brumley Issaquah Class of 2010

Sara has been attending the University of Washington and has decided to double major in English and Law, Societies, and Justice. Following her service ethic, she spent last summer as an AmeriCorps member, working at Camp HOPE in Philadelphia and rebuilding homes in New Orleans that were destroyed in Hurricane Katrina. She plans to attend law school after her undergraduate studies, pursuing international law and ultimately working for a non-profit organization that takes her across the globe.

Her passion for travel and service stretch back to her childhood. Her father's job took her to places like Indonesia and Germany, where she learned all about different cultures. She also developed the belief that "although separated into different countries and cultures, we as people are part of a worldwide community and are therefore intimately connected."



### Katelyn McGinnis Skyline Class of 2004

Serving and protecting: After college, Katelyn decided to pursue law enforcement! So she prepared both mentally and physically for entrance into the Police Academy, which she completed in 2009 and immediately began working for the Redmond Police Department. She has been working as a patrol officer ever since. "I was really drawn to the opportunity to influence my community directly," Katelyn said of her broad attraction to the criminal justice system, and police work in particular.

For fans of "Cops," she has a different reality: "Being a police officer is not necessarily as thrilling and glamorous as the movies and television shows demonstrate. I love that I get to work in a field where every day is different and I get the chance to assist others when they are experiencing a highly stressful or difficult time in their lives."