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

A quiet moment
Everyone at Maple Hills Elementary enjoyed the beautiful weather on the first day of school by strolling and chatting in the student-planted garden.

A blustery affair
Grand Ridge students sat enrapt while a Puget Sound Energy official talked about the school’s new wind turbine during the dedication ceremony for the device, which will not only provide clean energy to the school but also lessons about sustainability, math, and science for classrooms.

Band Aid
The entire University of Washington (UW) Marching Band entertained the halftime audience at Issaquah High’s Sept. 28 football game, and the school’s own band, cheer, dance, and drill squads joined in the action. The partnership stretches back almost a century to when Issaquah High adopted its purple and gold colors because they were given hand-me-down uniforms from UW! Photo credit: Chris Nodder

National Merit semifinalists
Twenty-two seniors in the Issaquah School District were recognized in September as semifinalists in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Complete stories at www.issaquah.wednet.edu
Focus on the Annual Community Report

The 2012 school year by the numbers

Click on “Annual Community Report” at www.issaquah.wednet.edu and browse through the high-level overview of the District’s academics, finances, and programs and services. Here are a few of the facts and figures you can access in the Community Report:

**Basics**

- Mission: All students will be prepared for and eager to accept the academic, occupational, personal, and practical challenges of life in a dynamic global environment.
- Enrollment: 17,914 headcount
- Free or reduced lunch: 10.3%
- Number of schools: 24, plus an educational program at Echo Glen Children’s Center
- Boundary area: 110 square miles
- Number of certificated staff (teachers): 1,093 headcount
- Teachers with at least a master’s degree: 70.3%
- Number of total staff: 1,928 headcount

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Academics

- Extended graduation rate: 94.5%
- Stanford achievement test—rank of average fifth-grade math scores: 85th percentile
- Stanford achievement test—rank of average fifth-grade reading scores: 77th percentile
- Meeting standard on High School Proficiency Exam: Reading 93.5% (81.1%—state); Writing 95.6% (85.2%—state)
- Meeting standard on Algebra End of Course (EOC) assessment: 89.9% (71.0%—state); on Geometry EOC assessment: 95.5% (79.1%—state); on Biology EOC assessment: 84.0% (64.1%—state)
- Mean composite SAT score: 1718 (1545—state; 1498—nation)
- Mean composite ACT score: 25.7 (22.9—state; 21.1—nation)
- 11th and 12th grade students enrolled in Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and/or College in the High School courses: 57.6%

Programs and Services

- Special-education student demographic: 9.6%
- Transitional-bilingual (ELL) student demographic: 3.8%
- Services for struggling students: summer school, mentoring, extra staff support, remedial reading, student learning plans, before- and after-school tutoring, Night Academy, transition program, and more
- Services for excelling students: MERLIN, SAGE, exceptional placement, Honor Society, College in the High School, Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and more

Finances

- Projected 2012-2013 operations revenue: $164,481,015 (60.8% from the state; 22.0% from local levy; 13.1% from tuition and fees; 3.9% from the federal government)
- Projected 2012-2013 operations expenditures: $167,458,594 (61.5% for the classroom; 13.0% for student support; 9.6% for special education; 7.8% for other grants/programs; 4.2% for transportation; 2.7% for food service and Echo Glen [fully funded by the state])
- Rank of spending on administration among King County school district: Lowest
- State-level revenue reductions in past three years: $16 million
- Cost to run the district per school day: $930,326
- Cost to run the district per minute during the school year: $1,938

Want more?

For individual school reports including progress toward annual goals and staff qualifications, select “Our Schools” from the homepage, choose your school, and access the report card from the right-hand column.
Moroccan art exchange

Strengthening a sister-city relationship with Issaquah, two Moroccan artists—a metal sculptor and traditional pattern painter—visited Issaquah High School in October. They shared an overview of the region of their home city, Chefchaouen, including the culture and common colors and patterns used in art. They sweetened the talk with Moroccan tea and cookies before helping students work on creating templates for traditional Moroccan pattern art. In addition to English, they spoke to students in Spanish, French, and even some Arabic. 

Photo credit: Ashley Hoffman

ZomBEE Hunters!

Cougar Ridge fifth-graders in Sharon Roy’s class played a critical part in identifying the state’s second confirmed case of a serious parasite that’s spreading throughout the nation killing honeybees—the most important pollinator of agricultural crops. Termed “ZomBees,” the infected bees show zombie-like traits of leaving the hive at night and behaving erratically because a tiny fly has burrowed into the bee’s abdomen to lay eggs. After learning of the first case in Washington, a parent beekeeper helped the fifth-graders become citizen scientists by creating zombie-bee traps and informational/awareness guidelines to distribute to 10 local beekeepers. Soon after, one of the beekeepers, located in Tacoma, reported back—he had captured a ZomBee! The beekeeper brought the dead ZomBee, contained in a water bottle with the recently hatched larva, back to the class for inspection. The students also teleconferenced with Dr. John Hafernik, biology professor at UC Berkeley and director of the ZomBee Watch program. They ended the presentation by spooning a treat directly off some honeycomb!

The citizen-scientist project fit perfectly with the class’ science curriculum. At the same time, students were growing “fast plants” (which go through a life cycle in 40 days). They used actual dried honeybees to pollenate the plants and learn the importance of this step in the agricultural process.

Dave’s Killer Bread inspires Echo Glen students

In October, Dave Dahl of Dave’s Killer Bread told Echo Glen students that they, too, can overcome adversity—and even a criminal past—with education and vocational training, just like he did when incarcerated during his youth. Echo Glen is a juvenile detention center, and the Issaquah School District runs the school program.
**Go “all in” for kids**

The Issaquah Schools Foundation’s (ISF) *All in for Kids* Campaign raised $325,000 last year, and ISF is challenging every family to give in whatever way possible, big or small, to surpass that amount this year.

The funds from *All in for Kids* will support the Foundation’s ongoing programs—including book rooms and art lessons at our elementary schools; open-library programs, robotics clubs, and financial literacy classes at our middle schools; and computer science and web design classes, PSAT scholarships, and science/technology/engineering/math initiatives at our high schools.

Your gift—in any size—makes a difference. Just $60 a year ($5 a month) will provide six months of individual mentoring support to an at-risk student; $1,000 a year will help spark interest in science for 580 elementary students with curriculum-aligned media for their school library. The list goes on and on.

Students will be calling your house November 13 or 15 to ask for support, but you don’t have to wait! Go online to [www.isfdn.org](http://www.isfdn.org) to donate right now, and your name will be removed from the call list and included in The Issaquah Press.

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**Friday farm days**

Students with special needs, including emotional and behavioral disabilities, have been learning hands-on life skills such as responsibility, patience, and empathy from some unusual teachers—horses, donkeys, rabbits, and other furry friends! At the end of each week, they go to Madison Grove Farm to study agriculture, animal behavior, horseback riding, cart driving, and animal husbandry. The students have also linked their gardening activities to the Botany class at Tiger Mountain Community High School, for which they provide compost and worms.

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**Annual legal notice: Discrimination**

The Issaquah School District provides equal opportunity in its programs, activities, and employment and does not discriminate on the basis of race; color; national origin/language; creed/religion; sex; sexual orientation (including gender expression or identity); the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability; the use of a trained guide dog or service animal by a person with a disability; age; marital status; honorably discharged veteran or military status; or HIV/Hepatitis C status. The employees to the right have been designated to handle questions and complaints of any such alleged discrimination.

Parent/Volunteer and Employee/Applicant-Related Issues
Kathy Miyauchi, Executive Director of Personnel Services
565 NW Holly Street
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425-837-7060
miyauchik@issaquah.wednet.edu

Student-Related Issues
Dennis Wright, Director of Career and Counseling Services
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[Annual legal notice: Discrimination]
Around the District

Find out more at www.issaquah.wednet.edu

Construction
The dirt’s flying! This September, several key projects from the 2006 bond wrapped up, including opening a brand new Briarwood Elementary building and remodeled/modernized Maywood Middle and Challenger Elementary campuses. Work on projects from the 2012 bond is now underway, such as the second phase of the Liberty High remodel/modernization and planning for the corridor-school projects (new Issaquah Middle School and Clark Elementary, modernized and relocated Tiger Mountain Community High School). Click “Construction updates” at www.issaquah.wednet.edu for ongoing information.

Teacher Principal Evaluation Project
Washington state has a new law that reforms teacher and principal evaluations. Issaquah has stepped up to help develop and pilot the system before it becomes a mandate in fall 2013. Locally, we have been using the state’s standards to develop our own rubric and train principals and teachers. These standards include centering instruction on high expectations for student learning, demonstrating effective teaching practices, creating strategies for individual student needs, fostering a safe and positive learning environment, using data to improve instruction, communicating effectively with students and family, and establishing student-growth goals.

Community polling
Issaquah School District calling! If you get a phone call to participate in a short survey about your local schools, please participate. The district has operated an ongoing phone survey continuously since 2002, and a random sample of about 150 district residents is polled quarterly. Answers help us better understand how well we are meeting expectations for local education and prioritize decisions and resources. Quarterly survey responses are available by clicking “District” then “Survey results” at www.issaquah.wednet.edu.

Winter weather
Emergency Transportation Bulletins will soon be in every student’s mailbox. Please place this handy resource on your refrigerator and have it ready for when winter weather hits!

Resources for families in need
Do you qualify for free/reduced price lunch or have a financial hardship? Take advantage of these opportunities:

- Free college—Low-income students who sign up for the College Bound Scholarship by the end of their eighth-grade year are eligible for free tuition and fees! Middle-school families should contact their school counselor or call 1-888-535-0747.
- Free surplus computers—Contact your school’s main office to sign up to receive a computer after it no longer meets district technology standards.
- Discounted Internet connection—If you live in the Comcast service area, call 1-855-846-8376 for discounted $9.95-per-month Internet service and training.

Today’s Trivia
Who was the vice president of the United States under Thomas Jefferson?

Yesterday’s Trivia Answer
The person was John Adams.

The All-Time Quiz Leader is... Mr. Stumpf! He’s earned 250 points. Congratulations, Mr. Stumpf!