

LONGVIEW SCHOOLS Review

On-site admission turns 'Jacks into Cougars

The traditional path of college-bound seniors involves visiting schools, struggling through applications and submitting them, and waiting, fingers crossed, hoping everything is in order.

This winter, the tables turned as one university came to R.A. Long High School.

In December, Washington State University Pullman and Vancouver admissions counselors set up in the school's computer lab and helped students fill out their college applications. Then in January, they returned with offers of admission for 23 students. A financial aid adviser was on hand to counsel individuals, as were a College Bound Scholarship representative and a person who



supports foster youth.

It's a service WSU offered at only seven schools in southwest Washington, with the goal of reaching students who might not otherwise have considered college.

"It was exciting and helpful," says

R.A. Long senior Selena Carbajal, who wants to become an eye doctor. "It felt really cool, because it was personal."

That personal piece is key, says assistant principal Lacey Griffiths, explaining that most of those R.A.

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Shine the light on Longview's luminaries

Longview's schools and community have nurtured a significant number of graduates who have achieved national recognition or made extraordinary contributions to our city, state and nation.

Do you know someone who should be recognized as part of our publicity campaign this spring? Submission forms are available at www.longviewschools.com or by emailing info@longview.k12.wa.us.

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Message from the Superintendent

Dear Community Members,

Our students have hit their second semester stride and are working hard in the classrooms, on the courts, on the stage and in the music rooms.

Along with many of you, I am watching with great interest to see what types of futures our juniors and seniors will choose as they turn their focus toward college and career. Our goal at Longview Public Schools is to ensure that all of our students are exposed to many possibilities and offered the tools to achieve their dreams.

As the Class of 2016 prepares to move on, the district is working to determine how best to serve our current and future students. Our citizen-staff Facilities Advisory Committee recently delivered important data and priorities for the School Board to consider, kicking off a long-term community discussion.

In the broader world of education, Congress recently approved the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). ESSA replaces No Child Left Behind (NCLB), which has been in place since 2002. This new legislation will lessen the federal government's role

in our public schools and return greater control to states and locally elected school boards. We are working with local legislators to take advantage of this newfound flexibility to address the needs of our students.

Thank you all for your support of our students, and our teachers and administrators, who are preparing the next generation of well-informed, engaged citizens!

Sincerely,
Dan Zorn, Superintendent

Monticello teaches listening skills

When Monticello Middle School teachers and administrators saw the results of last spring's standardized tests, they realized their students had struggled with its speaking and listening section. The school began implementing new teaching strategies—and now is

seeing unexpected results.

"It wasn't overall a horrible area for us, but a lot of students tested at or near grade level," says instructional coach Ryan Chinchen. "We thought, 'Let's attack that and see if we can push some of those kids to advanced or proficient.'"

Language arts teacher Misty Velke embraced the challenge by creating strategies for students to use when listening to a presentation and answering questions.

Sitting in groups of four, Velke's seventh grade students predict what they will learn from an article about the collapse of the Tacoma Narrows Bridge before beginning to read it aloud to each other. They look up difficult words and phrases as they go, and summarize what

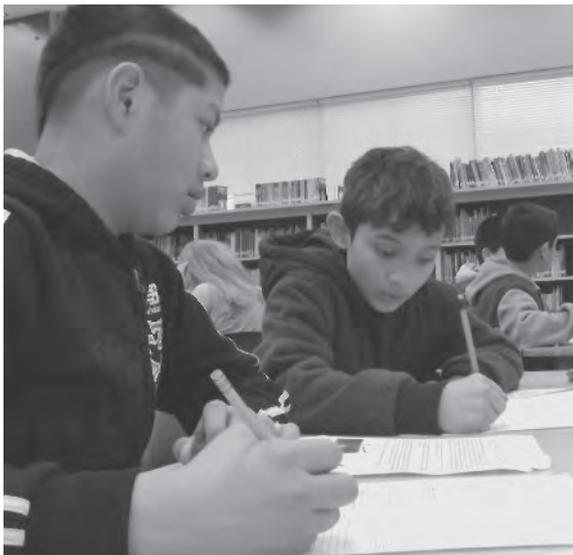
they learn on a worksheet.

"It's teaching them study skills and how to think and take their time and process what they're hearing and reading," Velke says. "We're also doing this in their daily questions with the novels we're reading."

When everyone in the group is finished with the worksheet, they click on a video showing the story of the bridge's collapse. Then they watch it again, pausing to discuss what they are learning.

An interim assessment has already shown some signs of improvement. But where Velke sees the biggest change is in her classroom.

"It's really bringing about great discussions and conversations," she says, describing how students are taking topics to a deeper level than before. "It's been amazing to watch this process of their thinking."



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Cascade science students save plant

If you're still working at the Longview PEEPS Plant, you have the Cascade Middle School seventh graders to thank!

What? You didn't know Longview has a plant turning out those ooey-goey marshmallows in the shape of chicks and ghosts, pumpkins and hearts? Well, let's just pretend.

That's what Cascade science teacher Lynn Nelson did, convincing her seventh graders that she'd received a secret communication from PEEPS Central. It said that unless her engineers could design a single-serving box for PEEPS Marshmallow Ghosts, lots of locals would lose their jobs.

Her students set to work. In pairs, they began by measuring the sugary ghosts, allegedly sent by the PEEPS plant. Soon they were envisioning

ways to turn one piece of paper into an attractive, airtight box.

"We went through material science, biological science, engineering, math," Nelson says, explaining the project hit on many areas emphasized in the Common Core State Standards. Like real engineers, the students consulted a price sheet and evaluated the costs and benefits of using various materials.

"The glue drop was very expensive," recalls seventh grader Amaya Busby-Frey, who with project partner Kyla Warren received a perfect score.

Once the students finished their prototypes and marketing plans, each was evaluated for attractiveness of



Kyla Warren and Amaya Busby-Frey are Cascade Middle School students and award-winning PEEP packaging designers.

design, ability to keep a PEEP fresh and cost-effectiveness. The winning teams received PEEP bracelets and candy from Just Born, the real candy company that manufactures PEEPs.

"The project made the science more fun for me," Amaya says.

> WSU, continued from page 1

Long students admitted to WSU are first-generation college students. "It's a difficult process to navigate," she says.

But R.A. Long begins priming its students early to consider college. At the end of sophomore year, they begin prepping for the SAT and ACT college entrance tests using question-of-the-day apps downloaded to their phones. Junior year, they work on personal statements and admissions essays in English class; in social studies, they fill out a mock financial aid form, common college application and at least one scholarship application.

"Going into senior year they're ready

to compete," Griffiths says. "We're seeing the outcome of those kids being so prepared."

Not everyone who applied to WSU through on-site admission got in, but each met with an admissions counselor who advised them on what they needed to do to gain admission, whether by taking the SAT or adding a certain class to their transcripts.

"We have kiddos who weren't even thinking about college, but we can see in them what they don't see in themselves," Griffiths says. "'Get in there, go through the process,' we tell them. Some of those kiddos that had the forced opportunity at the beginning have decided, 'Wow, I can do this!'"

Nominate an educator

The Kelso-Longview Chamber of Commerce has opened nominations for this year's Teacher, Support and Administrator of the Year Awards. Nominations are due by March 23. For more information, see <http://kelsolongviewchamber.org/>.

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Get ready to March into Kindergarten



It's time to March into Kindergarten, Thursday, March 17, at your neighborhood school.

Registering in March gives students and their families the opportunity to meet teachers, principals and classmates, receive kindergarten prep materials and secure a spot at their neighborhood school. (Each has approximately 60 spots that are offered on a first-come first-served basis.)

Simply bring your child's birth certificate and immunization records plus a document (utility bill, rental agreement or mortgage statement) showing your current address.

Kindergartners must be 5 years old on or before Aug. 31, 2016, to register for the 2016-17 school year.

Not sure of your school? Boundary maps are available at www.longview.k12.wa.us/Boundaries%20page.htm.

For more information and registration times, check out our March into Kindergarten event on our Facebook page or the district calendar at longviewschools.com.

District considers facilities recommendations

The Facilities Advisory Committee presented the School Board with a study Feb. 8, kicking off a seven-month conversation about how to address the district's facilities needs.

After spending several months studying district enrollment projections, school capacities, and the physical and educational conditions of the district's schools, the group of staff and citizens identified elementary schools as the area of greatest need.

In a presentation to the Board, the facilities committee explained that several of the elementary schools have been used beyond their life expectancies and need replacement or modernizing. Additionally, although enrollment is expected to

be relatively stable through the 2020-21 school year, a state mandate for smaller class sizes will push these schools to 26 percent above full capacity by 2021.

Committee members are currently visiting with school staff about the recommendations and will seek community feedback in April. They anticipate the Board adopting a facility master plan in August.

"There will be many opportunities for input," says Gary Walker, a community member on the facilities committee. "None of this is happening tomorrow. Nothing's in stone."