

LONGVIEW SCHOOLS Review

Community supports young readers

Can you guess what dogs, bicycles and boxes have in common?

All three were used by community members to inspire student reading this spring at St. Helens Elementary!

Check out these ways our community supports Longview's efforts to increase student achievement and prepare our young people for lifelong learning.

Dogs: The third grade curriculum includes stories of working animals and cold climates, so St. Helens physical education specialist Darcy Campbell incorporates these themes into an "Iditarod challenge," named for the famous Alaskan sled dog race.

Students visit checkpoints and attempt challenging feats, answer Iditarod-themed questions and tally points.

"I try to tie in as much math and literacy as possible, as well as focusing on the P.E. work," Campbell says.

She also brings in Steve Madsen, a Cougar resident, and his sled dog Phineas, to share experiences of the real Iditarod.

"It teaches them about tenacity, grit and perseverance," Campbell says.

Bicycles: The Bikes for Books program sponsored by the Longview Masonic Lodge keeps students at several Longview elementary schools reading. From January through May, St. Helens students tracked how many pages they read weekly.



Little Free Libraries are another way our community supports reading. Sarah Koss of Longview Noon Rotary recently helped open the district's seventh take-one-leave-one library at Broadway Learning Center.

At the end came a drawing for four bicycles, made possible by the lodge.

"The more they read, the more tickets they had in the drawing," says St. Helens media specialist Katy Olson.

Longview Police provided helmets and bike locks, and Walmart discounted the price of everything.

Boxes: The top 25 readers in the Bikes for Books program then received personalized wooden treasure boxes built by retired Kelso teacher Bob James.

"Most everyone likes to receive something," James observes, "and especially if they have earned it."

Principal Nikki Reese says St. Helens students and staff are grateful.

"Whether it's our volunteers who read weekly with students, Bob James donating handmade boxes or the Masonic Lodge donating bikes, it all makes a positive difference in the lives of our students," she says.

Superintendent's Message

Dear Community Members,

Summer is here, and we congratulate our newest graduates for their work well done! Hats off to supportive families, teachers, counselors and principals for the many ways you helped these students reach this milestone.



Our high schools—Discovery, Mark Morris and R.A. Long—launched 421 young men and women into the world, and now we get to watch the amazing things they will do.

We can also now pause and reflect on how we can continue to better fulfill our mission of preparing the next generation.

We have a sharp focus on how we teach and care for our students. Longview strives to offer students rigorous courses of study while supporting those who struggle. Staff members focus on building strong connections with their students to teach them effectively, and we attempt to address social, emotional, behavioral and physical health needs so that the best learning can happen.

Meanwhile, our school district is working very hard to be a careful steward of taxpayer dollars. Facilities have risen to the top of our list of concerns. Longview is a district of aging buildings, and our staff spends a lot of energy, time and financial resources to maximize their lifespans. However, we recognize that for buildings in poor condition and un conducive to current teaching methods, the most fiscally responsible option is to replace them or conduct a major renovation.

Our School Board has determined it is time to replace three schools and renovate another. You can read about that on the next page, but here is what I want to convey to you: Our buildings support our young people's education, and education is their key to the future.

For our students, education enables them to pursue their dreams; for some, it is also the way out of poverty. For our community, a healthy school system sends a message—to prospective residents and businesses, to our students and even to ourselves—that we value progress and that we support our young people, preparing them for 21st-century work. We want Longview Public Schools to be the district of choice throughout Southwest Washington.

I am excited to continue working with this community to offer current students the education they need to reach their fullest potential—and to begin preparing facilities where our future students will have the opportunity to flourish.

Sincerely,
Dan Zorn, Superintendent

New Leaders



TONY VANDERMAAS
Executive director of Leadership and Learning. Former principal at Ridgefield High School.



JILL DIEHL
Director of Career and College Readiness. Former principal at Discovery High School/CTE.



RON KRAMER
Director of Human Resources. Former human resources manager, Georgia Pacific.



ELIZABETH WEST
Director of Special Education. Former interim director of Special Education, Univ. of Washington.



PATTI BOWEN
Business manager. Former budget analyst, Longview Public Schools.



MIKE KLEINER
Principal/drop-out prevention coordinator, Discovery High. Former Re-engagement Coordinator, Legacy High.



LORI LARSON
Principal, Robert Gray Elementary. Former assistant principal at Mt. Solo Middle School.



MEGAN SHEA
Principal, St. Helens Elementary. Former assistant elementary principal, Highline School District.



TREVOR PERSON
Assistant principal/athletic director, R.A. Long High. Former teacher/coach at Evergreen.



STEPHEN SHEPHERD
Assistant principal, Mt. Solo Middle School. Former orchestra teacher at Mt. Solo.

For more details on our new leaders, see www.longviewschools.org

School Board Selects Facilities Plan

After more than two years of research and priority setting, Longview School District has set a course to replace or revitalize four of its oldest facilities—ones that serve our youngest learners.

Responding to the findings of the facilities advisory committee composed of staff and community members, and comments received through public hearings and surveys, the School Board is asking local voters to approve a \$121.6 million building bond in the Nov. 7, 2017, election.

If approved, the money will:

- Replace Mint Valley, Northlake and Olympic elementary schools on their existing campuses;
- Renovate the Broadway Preschool Center, which houses our special education preschool program and partners with Head Start; and
- Make safety and security improvements (cameras, locks, lighting) across the district.

Each of the four facilities slated for replacement or renovation rated poor on a state scale of structural condition and educational function.

The average age of the three elementary schools is 60 years, and Broadway is 71 years old. The school district strives to keep its buildings in the best possible condition, but over time structures and systems wear out, and they also no longer support current learning technologies and methods.

Longview last sold bonds 16 years ago—for middle schools and to restore the slate roof on R. A. Long High School. For elementary schools, the last bonds sold were 21 years ago—to rebuild St. Helens and Robert Gray.

The current proposal does not address needs at the high schools, but the district plans to convene a future task force on that topic.

The district welcomes community

questions and comments about the plan. This spring, Superintendent Dan Zorn shared the Board's plan at every school and heard staff ideas and questions. The community also recently completed an online comment (Thoughtexchange) process focused on the proposal. Results will be online in the near future. District staff will host Facilities Bond information booths at Go Fourth, the Cowlitz County Fair and Squirrelefest this summer. More information is available online at www.longviewschools.com.

To arrange for a facilities presentation to your organization, social club or neighborhood group, please contact supt@longview.k12.wa.us or call 360-575-7016.

If approved, the bond will:

- Provide up-to-date schools to give our youngest students a strong start.
- Eliminate 15 portable classrooms that currently serve 350 students.
- Focus spending on buildings that will last.
- Protect students and staff across the district with security cameras, lighting, doors and locks.
- Help make Longview Public Schools the district of choice in Southwest Washington.

Bond costs: \$121.6 million total

District-wide safety and security improvements - \$2.75 million



Broadway Preschool Center renovation - \$12.5 million



Northlake replacement \$38.6 million



Mint Valley replacement \$39 million



Olympic replacement \$28.75 million

Costs to taxpayers:

\$0.96 per \$1,000 of assessed value

\$16 per month for a \$200,000 assessed value home

Facilities Planning & Bond Information:

www.longviewschools.com | supt@longview.k12.wa.us | 360-575-7016

**Residential Customer
Longview, WA 98632**



Congratulations, grads!



***Class of 2017
by the numbers****

- Graduating in June: **421**
- Going to college (community and four-year): **265**
- Entering the workforce: **41**
- Going to trade school: **35**
- Entering the military: **18**
- Starting an apprenticeship: **11**
- Entering STEPS (Student Transition Program Services): **6**
- Going on a mission: **4**
- Entering Americorps: **1**
- Hours spent serving the community: **26,010****

** reported by June 19, 2017
** not including service to school*

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The Longview School District is an Equal Opportunity district in education programs, activities, services, and employment. Longview School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran, or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal. We provide equal access to the Boy Scouts of America and other designated youth groups. If you have a physical or mental disability that causes you to need assistance to access school facilities, programs, or services, please notify the school principal. This district endeavors to maintain an atmosphere free from discrimination and harassment. Any person who believes he or she has been discriminated against should contact the school principal. In addition, the following district employees, located at 2715 Lilac Street, Longview, have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:
Title IX Coordinator and Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator Section 504/Student ADA Coordinator
 Ron Kramer, Director of Human Resources Elizabeth West, Director of Special Services
 (360) 575-7004 (360) 575-7008
 rkramer@longview.k12.wa.us ewest@longview.k12.wa.us

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