



# THE BELLRINGER

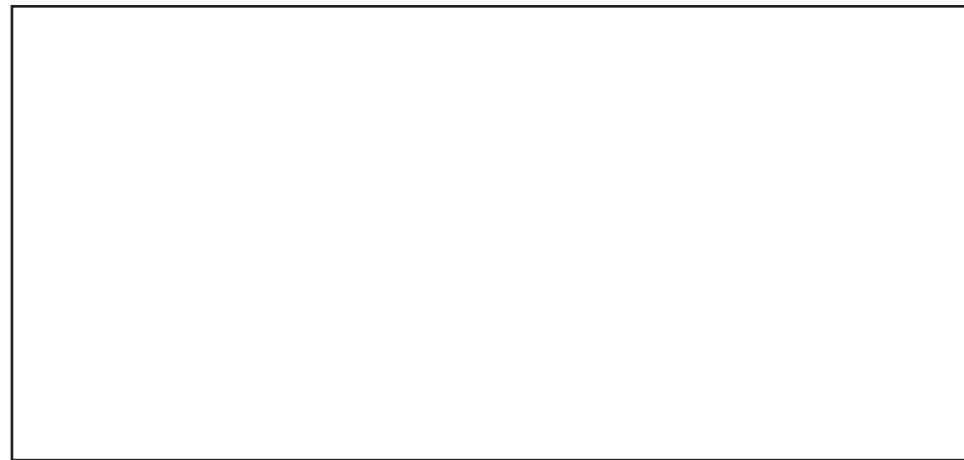
Granite Falls School District News

Volume 26, Number 2

School • Community Newsletter

December 2008/January 2009

## State establishes new high school graduation requirements



### High School math teacher Mark Neuman works through a math problem with calculus students.

In 2007, the Washington State Legislature made changes to the high school graduation requirements that includes several changes to the required math credits.

Students must pass the high

### Strategic plan moves forward

The strategic planning process officially began November 7. The group will meet once a month through May with the intent of having the plan completed in June 2009 to implement for the 2009/2010 school year. The first meeting outlined the process to be used and began work on the mission statement for the District.

Committee members include: Northwest ESD 189 Superintendent Jerry Jenkins, Granite Falls Superintendent Karen Koschak, School Board members Bob Quarterman and Siobhan Sullivan, community members/parents Paul Winters, Irene Hinze, Lynette Howard, Tanya Romack, Sharon Sheppard, Drew Mow, Arun Sethi, Deron Pugh, Tija Schmiesing, teachers Kirk Parker, Linda Johnson and Karen Ross, High School Principal Eric Cahan, Monte Cristo Principal Kari Henderson-Burke, and Special Services Director Carol Panagos.

school Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) test or earn two math credits after 10th grade and take an annual math assessment. For the students in the classes of 2009-2012, there are three options students can use to fulfill the math requirement. Students can only access options two and three after they've taken the WASL once:

Option one: pass the high school math WASL/WAAS (Washington Alternate Assessment System);

Option two: meet standard on a

math collection of evidence or meet standard on the math ACT, math SAT or calculus or statistics advanced placement course exams.

Option three: earn two math credits after 10th grade and take an annual math assessment (collection of evidence, ACT, SAT or AP exam).

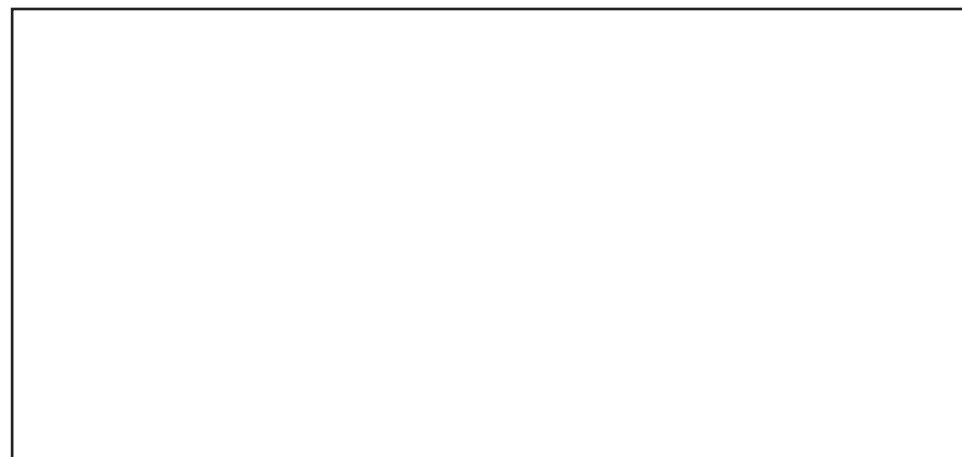
Students in the class of 2013 and beyond must earn three math credits to graduate.

In addition, all students must pass the reading and writing WASL, earn 22.5 credits (including four English), complete a high school and beyond education plan and a culminating project, and complete 40 hours of community service.

Parents and students are strongly encouraged to begin tracking high school graduation requirements as freshmen. The High School counseling office has a checklist system that can assist in the tracking process.

The State also offers several websites for more detailed information, which are linked on our website at [www.gfalls.wednet.edu](http://www.gfalls.wednet.edu).

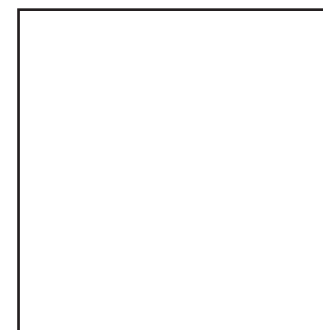
## Students build molecules



Monte Cristo Elementary fifth grade student Spencer Phelps works on his greenhouse gas chart to build molecules out of gum drops. Kim Wiersma led the students through a lesson on how greenhouse gases are caused, what effect they have on the planet, why students should care, and what everyone can do to help diminish the gases. Each different colored gum drop represented a different gas - oxygen, hydrogen, carbon, and nitrogen.

## Scott Jones named new board member

Jones sworn into office October 15



At a Board meeting held October 8, 2008, Scott Jones was ap-

pointed to the Granite Falls School Board of Directors to fill Director District #2, which was vacated by Becky Brown in September. Scott was sworn into office at the regular School Board meeting October 15, 2008.

Scott has been a resident of Granite Falls for 15 years. He has two children, a daughter that graduated from Granite Falls High School, and a son who is currently a junior in High School. Scott is a long time volunteer coach for youth baseball, softball, football, soccer, and basketball, and a past volunteer firefighter.

Scott stated his interest in serving on the Board was, "A natural extension of my community service work. The District has done an outstanding job to improve academics and I look forward to continuing that work."

Scott is a general foreman for GLY Construction based in Bellevue.

**Our school is open all the time online. Information includes:**

- the school calendar
- breaking news
- job opportunities
- emergency school closures/late start
- school board minutes
- parent newsletters
- upcoming events
- graduation information
- lunch menus

...and much more  
[www.gfalls.wednet.edu](http://www.gfalls.wednet.edu)

### What's Inside:

• Report to the Community

• Success in Education Awards

• High School Manufacturing

BOXHOLDER  
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Siobhan Sullivan..... 360.691.5828  
Scott Jones ..... 360.691.4457

# The life cycle of the salmon

Andrea Smith's fourth grade students at Mountain Way Elementary studied the life cycle of the salmon as part of a science unit that incorporated reading the book *Come Back Salmon*, by Molly Cone. Students then developed a project on what they learned. Samples of the projects included a model of a fish ladder, a poem, and an original rap song about Coho salmon. Below is an acrostic poem where the first letter of each line is aligned vertically to form the title of the poem.

"Good-bye Little Fry" by Luc Violette

Good-bye little fry

Out of the tank

Over the rivers and lakes

Dive over waterfalls

By the bears that are hungry for salmon

You better watch out

Eat plankton and insects at the estuary

Leap into the ocean

Inside the water you will grow

Try to look out for fishing nets

Take care of your body

Live in the ocean for two years

Enjoy yourself

Find your way back to your home stream

Retrace your route to your birthplace

You are now home

## Students prepare for concerts

**Mountain Way Elementary fifth grade student Sean Powers practices for an upcoming winter concert during band class.**

**The community is invited to all concerts: December 9 Monte Cristo vocal concert; December 11 Middle and High School vocal concert; December 16 High School band concert; December 18 Middle School band concert; January 15 Monte Cristo band concert; and January 22 Mountain Way band concert.**

## Community News

**Christmas House is available to families in the Granite Falls School District in need of Christmas gifts for children ages newborn to 16. Sponsored by the Granite Falls Firefighters, Christmas House will be open December 13, 8:30 am - 4:00 pm at the Fire Hall located at 116 S. Granite Ave. Anyone interested in making a donation can call Don Hogan at 691.5553.**

**United Way of Snohomish County offers several resources** for families in need of rent/utility assistance, unemployment information, credit counseling, medical assistance, Veteran's assistance, worker retraining, and much more. Go to [www.uwsc.org/get\\_help.php](http://www.uwsc.org/get_help.php) for a full list of resources or call 425.258.4227.

**The High School FFA Club is selling holiday wreaths until December 12.** Call John Adams at 360.691.7713, ext. 3202, to order.

**The Administration Office will be closed December 24-January 2 for winter break.** The office, and all schools, will re-open January 5.

**The Granite Falls Public Library** hosts preschool events, teen programs, guest authors, master gardeners, musical presentations, and book discussion groups. Call 360.691.6087 or visit the website [sno-isle.org](http://sno-isle.org) then click on Granite Falls on the map for a full list of dates.

# Manufacturing classes: design it, build it, sell it

**High School sophomore Sean Brister works on the CNC Plasma Cutter in the manufacturing lab.**

Shop is not what is used to be. Just ask High School junior Dustin Hubbard.

"Manufacturing is more than just a bunch of people randomly grabbing materials and attempting to build something. It is much more complicated. It is research and planning. It's preliminary sketches with little detail then annotated sketches showing basic dimensions then developmental sketches, which are very detailed drawings of the product to scale. We also do a design brief, explain what materials will be used, and how much we need."

Today's manufacturing classes are designed to prepare students for entry-level jobs after graduation or for related post high school education or training in the fields of manufacturing, engineering, industrial design and architecture.

Courses such as manufacturing,

machining, welding and fabrication, computer aided drafting and design (CADD) are where students take ideas from concept to creation. Courses are hands-on and practical in applying knowledge in math, science, reading, and writing. Students also have the option to earn college credit for completing courses with a "B" average or higher.

The new High School manufacturing lab is state of the art equipment including an Laser engraver/cutter and CNC router, plasma cutter and mill. "We can create something that is relevant to our interests and hobbies and we are able to mass produce our work and sell it to other people," senior Kyle Loth said.

Manufacturing isn't just a class sophomore Tylar Ibsen added, "Manufacturing is an experience. Your creativity is unlimited."

## Website, media carry news on emergencies or weather closures

Communicating with our parents is critical in an emergency situation and it is just as important that our parents know what to do and where to go should an emergency happen at school. Schools print emergency information in parent newsletters to help parents know what to do if an emergency happens during the school day. Basic information is also posted on our website: go to [www.gfalls.wednet.edu](http://www.gfalls.wednet.edu) and click on the "emergency info" link on the top bar or on "school closure info" then to emergency info in the white box on the left side of the page.

Any time of the day or night, you can access emergency communications on our website by clicking on the link, [schoolreport.org](http://schoolreport.org) which is next to the picture of the cloud. Communication may include anything from a weather related school closure to specific directions for parents to follow in a lockdown situation. This information is also broadcast on radio and TV stations.

For weather related situations, we try to have the information posted on the website and available for radio and TV stations by 5:30 am. Issues such as temperature, power

outages, downed trees, ice and the forecast are considered during inclement weather that helps decide if schools are closed, open late or on limited transportation.

Decisions are generally made in the early morning hours so that physical inspections of roadways can be made. Occasionally, conditions may change so quickly that a decision is not made until 6:00 or even 7:00 am although that very rarely happens. It's also important to know that conditions can change so rapidly and vary from one area to another throughout the district, some roads may be closed to school buses without notice.

The rule of thumb for school bus transportation: if in doubt that the bus can make it up or down your road, assume it will not and send your child(ren) to the main road.

Parents always know the conditions in your own neighborhood best and are urged to use their judgment in sending children to school in severe weather conditions. And always make sure schools have up-to-date phone numbers (home, work and cell) for parents and emergency contacts.

# Report to the community

Federal and State law mandates a "report to the community" on student achievement and specific voter approved funding. The Federal law adopted in January of 2002 called the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA), is also known as *No Child Left Behind Legislation*. The law focuses on public school's responsibility to provide all children with a fair, equal opportunity for high quality education.

A requirement of the ESEA law is that every public school annually report progress outlining very specific information that includes Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) test results broken down by achievement levels, ethnic, gender, disability, English Proficiency, Migrant and economically disadvantaged; WASL trends and state comparisons; graduation rates; school goals and schools

identified for improvement.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction has compiled all the data required by the ESEA law. Information on the Granite Falls School District can be found at <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/>. You can also access the report from the Granite Falls School District website at [www.gfalls.wednet.edu](http://www.gfalls.wednet.edu). If you cannot access the online report, a hard copy can be obtained by calling Kathy Grant, 360.691.7717.

Washington voters approved Initiative 728 (I728) in November 2000 to provide additional funding to public schools to improve student achievement. I728 funding was dedicated to improve student learning in one of six ways: (1) smaller class size grades K-4; (2) smaller class size grades 5-12; (3) extended learning opportunities grades K-12; (4) professional

development for staff; (5) early childhood programs birth to five years; (6) improvements to school buildings to reduce class size.

I728 allowed local school districts to determine the best use of the funds, rather than the state dictating where the funding should be spent. In Granite Falls, each school's Learning Improvement Team (LIT) along with district administrators and the School Board, submitted recommendations on the best use of the I728 funds. The Board held public hearings before finalizing the Granite Falls School District's I728 plan for school improvement. Also included in the I728 requirement was a report to the community on how the funds were used.

Below is a breakdown of how the funding was spent during the 2007/2008 school year:

<b>Amount.....</b>	<b>Use of Funds</b>
\$ 198,335.....	Reduce K-4 class size
554,261....	Reduce 5-12 class size
111,504.....	Staff training
6,215.....	Extended learning
I728 funds for the 2008/2009 school year will be utilized for:	
<b>Amount.....</b>	<b>Use of Funds</b>
\$217,509.....	Reduce K-4 class size
560,266....	Reduce 5-12 class size
131,984.....	Staff training

## Students earn music honors

Several students have been selected to perform in prestigious choirs throughout the state:

• High School junior Chelsea Zybach has been named to the Music Educator's National Northwest Honor Choir that will be held in Spokane this February. Chelsea is among approximately 150 students from Washington, Oregon, Wyoming, Idaho, and Alaska selected to perform.

• Eighth grade student Madeline Aguilar has been selected to per-

form in the All-State Junior Honor Choir in March at the Highline Performing Arts Center.

• Sixth grade students Katelyn Gresli and Breanna McClimans and fifth grade students Ethan Perigoue, Jeffrey Lozensky, Chloe Downs, Abigail Todd, Emmy Romack, Sabrina Best, Jadon Hickbottom, and Victoria Oaks were named to the Washington Music Educators Association All-State Youth Honor Chorus and will perform in Spokane this February.

## Middle School students can qualify for free college

The Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board is sponsoring four-year scholarships that covers the cost of college tuition, fees, and books for low-income students who sign a pledge in 7th or 8th grade promising to graduate from high school and to demonstrate good citizenship. The purpose of the program is to motivate and prepare students to pursue a college education. For more information, and qualification requirements, visit [www.hecb.wa.gov](http://www.hecb.wa.gov).

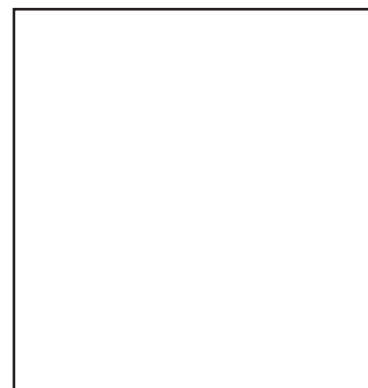
## Congratulations

- Senior Kari Bray was named a Commended Student in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program. Kari is in the top five percent of more than 1.5 million students in the entire country based on scores from the Preliminary SAT test.
- Sixth grade student Katrina Jensen has been selected to play in the Everett Youth Symphony. Katrina plays the violin for the orchestra.
- Eighth grade student Rhiannon Alexander won the Middle School District Cross Country meet.
- High School students Shawn Rood and Kari Bray received the prestigious Washington State University Regents Scholars award.

## Host a neighborhood meeting

Neighborhood meetings are the perfect way for family, friends and neighbors to meet the superintendent, ask questions, and discuss educational issues. If you are interested in hosting a neighborhood meeting with Superintendent Karen Koschak, call Kathy Grant at 360.691.7717 to schedule a date and time.

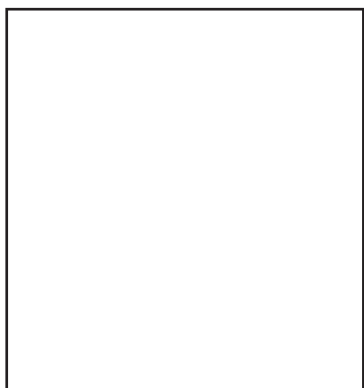
## Success in Education Award winners



Kyle Christensen

Granite Falls School District Success in Education Awards are presented to students who show an understanding of the importance of education and provide service to other students, staff or the community. First quarter recipients include:

**Senior Kyle Christensen** maintains a 3.7 GPA taking advanced classes such as AP Literature and Physics. Kyle is the ASB Historian and a member of the Spanish Club. Kyle is an active member of the Boy Scouts and just completed his Eagle Scout landscaping project at the Father's House Church.

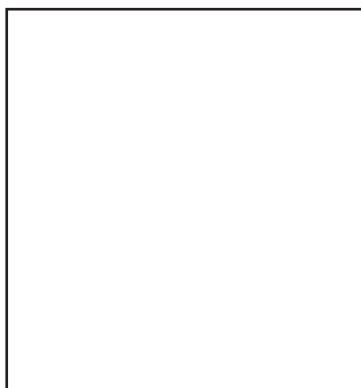


Kari Bray

He plans to attend college to earn a degree in Business or Criminal Justice.

**Senior Kari Bray** maintains a 4.0 GPA taking advanced classes such as AP Literature, Chemistry, and Calculus. Kari is Editor-in-Chief of the High School student newspaper, a member of the Drama and Spanish Clubs, LINK crew, Honor Society, HI-Q and a homeroom representative for the student council. Kari plans to attend college to pursue a career in communications.

**Eighth grade student Luis Torres'** friendliness is contagious. He



Luis Torres

is recognized for his curious spirit and fun-loving personality. Luis is passionate about learning. He shows great concern for other students and helps keep the group on task. He has a great sense of humor and is a wonderful role model. Luis is an exceptionally well-organized, respectful student. Luis is a team manager for multiple sports and takes pictures for the yearbook

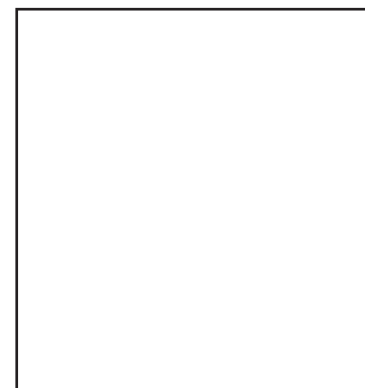
**Tiana Hodges** is a seventh grade student who always has a smile on her face and is friendly to everyone. Tiana participates in volleyball and is enrolled in Advanced Reading. Outside of school, Tiana has a love



Tiana Hodges

for photography and digital editing. Tiana builds trust with others by modeling positive behavior, respect, engaging in active listening, and service to others.

**Sixth grade student Mikaela Edwards** produces quality assignments in all classes. She is respectful of her classmates, conscious to the needs of others and always willing to help others. Mikaela is an exceptional artist and enjoys using various types of media to create colorful art pieces. Mikaela is involved with her church and enjoys working in the nursery helping smaller children.



Mikaela Edwards

## Students of the Month

<b>Middle School:</b> Warren Ayers, Brittany Baron, Devin Boyd, Kim Bray, Ciera Briggs, Trevor Cox, Kayla Dangel, Jon Del Mar, Mikayla Engstrom, Trevor Gross, Tyler Hamilton, Riley Hansen, Lauren Harding, Cassie Hart, Tiana Hodges, Chyann Hughes, Michelle Jaggar, Shannon Krull, Sydney Lamoureux, Samuel Mathew,	Sabrina McLaughlin, Rachel Mow, Brooke Nicholson, Thomas O'Brien, Kai Orthmeyer, August Patterson, Zach Sarey, Stephanie Selia, Monroe Shindelar, Kendall Stewart, Josh Stille, Mika Swanson, Alysa Turner, Jayrah Vanaman-Fulsom, Emily Walbon, Delaney Watson, Amber Webb, Jordan Zabel, Anabel Zambrano.
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## How to save now to pay for college later

The Guaranteed Education Tuition (GET) Program is Washington's prepaid college tuition program. Your money is guaranteed by the State of Washington to keep pace with rising college tuition, no matter how much it increases in the future.

You can use your GET account at nearly any public or private college in the country as well as some schools around the world. Because the GET program is a state 529 plan, the after-tax money you put into your account will grow tax-free. You can use the account for tuition, room and board, books, or other qualified higher education expenses. If your child doesn't go to college or receives a scholarship, you can transfer your account to another family member or request a refund.

You can open an account for anyone - your child, grandchild, friend or yourself. For more information and how to open the account go to [www.get.wa.gov](http://www.get.wa.gov) or call 800.955.2318.

## Fall Sports Awards

### Six teams earn academic honors; Howell named Herald Athlete of the Week

The fall sports season had many highlights. The girl's soccer and football teams participated in post season play and six teams were awarded Distinguished Academic Honors (team GPA of 3.0 or above) including the boy's and girl's cross country, girl's JV and varsity soccer, and JV and varsity volleyball teams. In addition, Kaitlan Howell was named Herald Athlete of the Week for girl's soccer.

Individual awards included:

**S**occer - Coaches Award Kaitlan Howell and (JV) Sarah Turner and Aly Londerville; Captains Audrey Brown, KatyAnn Powers, and Rose Livermore and (JV) Ashley Sytsma, Maia Hanson, and Rylie Moore; Most Improved Brittany McGinnis and (JV) Rebecca Gilbertson; Inspirational Audrey Brown and (JV) Jamie Alexander; Teammate of the Year Kelsey Carlson; Cascade League First Team Offense KatyAnn Powers; First Team Defense Audrey Brown; Second Team Offense Kaitlan Howell; Honorable Mention Sarah Niklason-Engstrom, Kelsey Carlson, and Katie Cashman; Four Year Lettermen Rose Livermore and Audrey Brown; Lettermen Sarah Hensley, Cacia Stevens, Katie Cashman, Kaylyn

Johnson, Ashlynn Welcome, Sarah Niklason-Engstrom, Kelsey Carlson, Kaitlan Howell, Kassi Hoerner, Kaelynn Chabot, Sarah Hughes, Tessa Romack, Becky Gilbertson, Aly Londerville, Marissa Ogren, KatyAnn Powers, and Brittany McGinnis; Certificate of Participation Jamie Alexander, Rylie Moore, Tia Cervarich, Ashley Sytsma, Sara Richbourg, Kaitlynde Wahlsmith, Shanna Storm, Heidi Thayer, Maia Hanson, Jessika Montgomery, Bailey Ainley, Sarah Turner, Courtney Maxfield, Paige Barger, Chelsea Wold, Rita Mae Hatch, Erica Jensen, Kelsie Sytsma, Ana Mastro, and Maren Panzer.

**F**ootball - Coaches Award Colby Peterson and Jonathan Chamberlin; Captains Brandon Brown, Brad Beard, Jonathan Chamberlin, Zach Jones, JJ Campbell, and Jacob Howard; Best Tackler Brandon Brown; Best Blocker Zach Jones; Most Improved James Poyner; MVP Jacob Howard; Cascade League First Team Brandon Brown, Zach Jones, and Jacob Howard; Second Team Jacob Brown, Jacob Howard, Zach Jones, and Brett Fetzer; Four Year Letterman Brandon Brown; Lettermen JJ Campbell, Brad Beard, James Poyner, Jeff Shoe-

## School Board Appreciation

The Granite Falls School Board of Directors is a group of five community members elected to represent the community in directing school programs. Members are elected for a four year term.

School boards are responsible for district policy, curriculum objectives, and the school budget. Those responsibilities may include bond and levy elections, building and grounds maintenance, labor negotiations, payroll approval, construction projects, and transportation.

All regular and special Board meetings are open to the public. All actions authorized or required by law are taken at these meetings. The Board may meet in executive (closed) sessions to discuss matters dealing with personnel, property consideration, or employee negotiations. All formal actions are taken in public sessions. The community is welcome and encouraged to attend all School Board meetings.

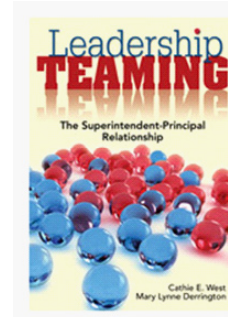
The School Board meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm, with the exceptions of July and August, which will be the third Wednesday of the month only.

January is School Board Appreciation Month. If you see School Board members Rick Short, Ross Londerville, Siobhan Sullivan, student representative Nicole DePrey, Scott Jones, and Bob Quarterman please thank them for the job they do for our students.

## Principal Cathie West is published author

Mountain Way Elementary Principal Cathie West is the co-author of *Leadership Teaming: The Superintendent-Principal Relationship* published by Corwin Press.

Cathie co-authored the book with Dr. Mary Lynne Derrington, former superintendent of Blaine School District and currently a professor at



Western Washington University.

Cathie and Dr. Derrington collaborated on the project for over two years. They utilized personal experiences as well as input gathered from colleagues from around the country.

The book outlines strategies for superintendent and principals to develop successful relationships.

maker, Jonathan Chamberlin, Jacob Brown, Zach Williams, Colby Peterson, Ryan Teter, Stephen Otness, Ryan Wilson, Jonathan Poyner, Dub Clark, Andrew McKibben, Zach Teter, Jacob Howard, Brett Fetzer, Jackson Hjelle, Zach Jones, Dylan Wold, and Shoen Jackson; Manager Chelsea Zybach; Certificate of Participation Austin Dancer, Mark Palmer, Jesse Kee, Mike Otness, Kyle Glover, Mike Hoffman, Reed Kawasaki, Daniel Scheiene, Brian Wietersen, Levi Hunt, Zach Hereth, Corey Moline, Joey Best, Brandon Gilbertson, Joseph Plumb, Nate Peterson, Matt Claxton, Gerin Wilson, Austin Means, Tyler Burnett, Dakota Thomas, Sean Villers, Andrew Jackson, Ben Jackson, David Laplante, Patrick Aguilar, Tyg Biggerstaff, Dean Bolyard, Wayne Elledge, Coty Walker, Brian Lewis, Justin Ohlde, Justin Schreckengost, and Cody Watson.

**C**ross Country - Captains Leah Foster, Sam Irons, Ben Mow, and Ryan Hillery; Most Improved Rosanna Monson and Steven Moseley; Inspirational Leah Foster and Steven Moseley; Rookie of the Year Courtney Conaway and Ben Sheppard; MVP Kayleen Littlefield and Maika Matalomani; Four Year Lettermen

Leah Foster, Ryan Hillery, and Kayleen Littlefield; Lettermen Dennis Bates, Robby Collinge, Mike Fowler, Tyler Hart, Samantha Irons, Chris Jenkins, Daniel Lund, Maika Matalomani, Rosanna Monson, Steven Moseley, Ben Mow, Ben Sheppard, JB Short, and Josh Short; Manager Connor Johnson; Certificate of Participation Ole Sortland, Clinton Jenkins, Koko Bozadzhev, Katie Eggleston, Amer Horani, Romaine Vial, Courtney Conaway, and Josh Weaver.

Volleyball - Coaches Award Kerry Wesala and (JV) Leah Keys, Captains Brennan Johnson, Audrey Murphy, and Ericka Smith; Most Improved Nicole DePrey and (JV) Elizabeth Matalomani; Inspirational Brennan Johnson and (JV) Katie Christensen; Lettermen Shelby Spencer, Kiley Vaughn, Peyton Spencer, Monesa Moore, Nicole DePrey, Brennan Johnson, Kirsten Kramer, Kerry Wesala, Audrey Murphy, Ericka Smith; Certificate of Participation Danielle Fisher, Breanna White, Kacie Hillery, Amanda Peters, Sarah McManus, Hannah Schneiders, Hanna Dudder, Leah Keys, Katie Christensen, Brandi McKenzie, Jessica Mueller, and Elizabeth Matalomani.