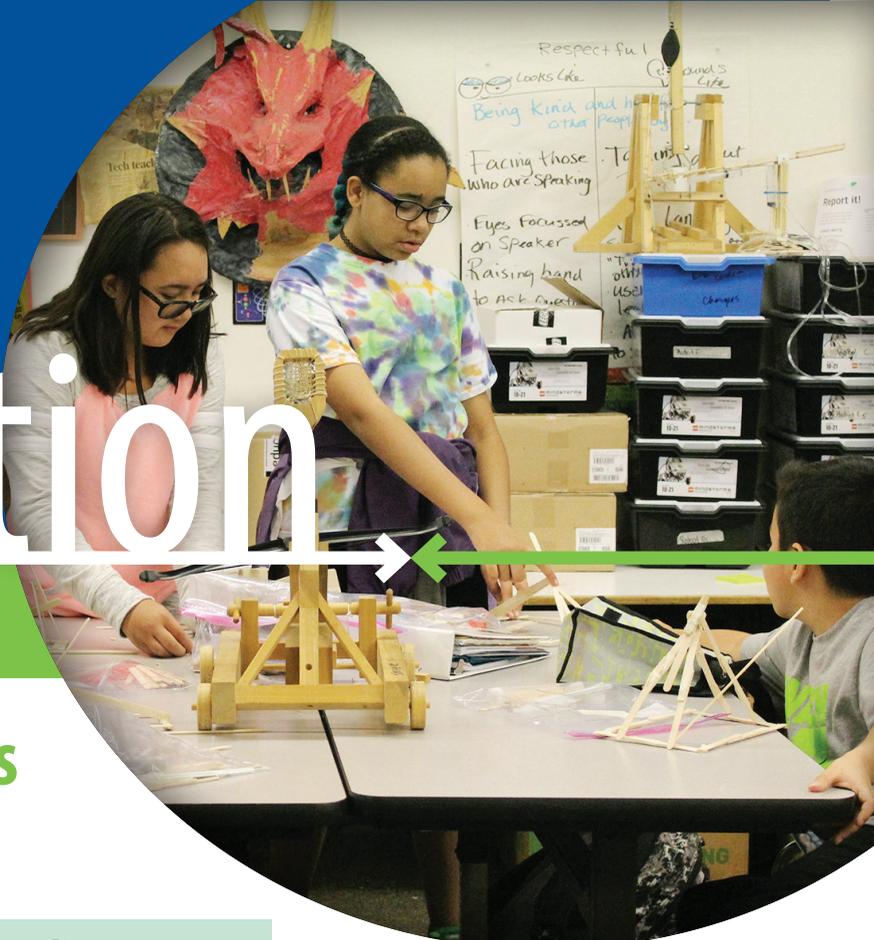




Marysville
School District

Connection

DISTRICT NEWSLETTER 
Winter, 2018



Renewing support for kids

By Emily Wicks, Communications Coordinator

On Feb. 13, the Marysville and Tulalip community will have an opportunity to vote on two replacement levies that will maintain support for the educational programs and services students currently receive as well as provide for the improvement and maintenance of the facilities where they learn and grow. The four-year Educational Programs and Operations Levy and the Technology and Capital Projects Levy were approved by voters in 2014 and will expire at the end of 2018. February's ballot will include a request to renew these levies and ensure local students continue to receive basic educational resources.

The Educational Programs and Operations Levy will provide funding to ensure students have enough classroom teachers and instructional aides to

Important Dates

Ballots mailed — Jan. 25
Election Day — Feb. 13

reduce and maintain smaller class sizes. It also provides resources to employ nurses, counselors, librarians and support staff to reinforce the health and safety of students and positive school culture. The Educational Programs and Operations Levy will also provide programs for students with special needs, and will support the arts, music, athletics, and extra-curricular programs across the district. The total request per \$1,000 is \$2.97 which is 70 cents less than current levels.

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Marysville
School District

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The Technology and Capital Projects Levy will ensure students receive the same level of service in improved learning environments. Access to technology is a basic right in the Marysville School District. Approval of the levy will continue to provide students in grades 6 through 12 with Chromebooks for use inside and outside of the classroom, and all students from kindergarten through grade 5 will continue to have ample access to technology in the classroom. This levy also provides funding to ensure school staff receives training on best practices for incorporating technology into curriculum so all students are getting the most out of 21st Century resources. Additionally, the levy will continue to provide students, families and the community with 24/7 Wi-Fi access across all buildings, as well as routers, power sources, and wiring to maintain capacity and improve access and speeds.

The Marysville School District also understands the importance of maintaining school buildings and facilities, and will continue to follow through on the Long-Term Master Facilities Plan, which prioritizes the most critical facility retrofits and replacements needed over the next five years. This includes roof and gutter replacements, fire system upgrades, door and hardware replacements, boiler replacements and heating improvements, floor replacements, electrical retrofits such as lighting, outlets, and intercoms, and siding replacements. A complete list of projects across the district can be found on the Long-term Master Facilities Plan at <http://bit.ly/MasterFacilitiesPlan>.

The four-year renewal Technology and

Capital Projects Levy is projected to cost 67 cents per \$1,000 of assessed home value and will be reduced each year.

In total, the two levies amount to \$3.64 per thousand, 41 cents less than current levels. This is due in part to the new funding provided by the state.

The Marysville School District is thankful for the support provided by the community over the past four years and looks forward to continuing these efforts on behalf of students and families through a renewal of the Educational Programs and Operations Levy and the Technology and Capital Projects Levy.

Did you know?
 Access to technology is a basic right in the Marysville School District.

Questions? Contact Marysville School District's Executive Director of Finance and Operations, Mike Sullivan at Mike_Sullivan@msd25.org or (360)965-0094. To schedule an administrator to speak to your group or organization about the renewal levies, contact the District's Communications and Community Relations Coordinator, Emily Wicks at Emily_Wicks@msd25.org or (360) 965-0007.

Message from the Superintendent

It's an exciting time to be a part of the Marysville School District. We are making progress. Last year's graduation rate of 77.1 percent was the highest in years. We have achieved this by engaging our community, inspiring students to find their passion and preparing them to be productive, contributing members of our community.

We want to do even better. It's time to update our strategic direction and address some important questions. These include: How can we best structure our schools and use our resources to meet student needs? Do our facilities adequately support students in preparing to work in the future economy? Are there other uses of school facilities for the larger community that we should consider?

Great schools help students reach their full potential and support the well being of our community. That's why we need your ideas about the future vision and strategic directions for the Marysville School District. This "strategic plan refresh" public engagement effort will include updating our vision for the future and exploring ways to strengthen our operations. This is in addition to the School Board's ongoing work and decision-making and to our traditional ways of gathering community insights about educational and operational decisions. To promote openness and transparency, the District is working with consultants to engage our community and gather insights in the following six-step strategic plan refresh public engagement process.

1. Public Opinion Polling (Fall 2017)

Collect input from a cross section of our community to provide data about priorities for the District, how we are

doing overall, and where we need to improve. This is important since our schools are supported by the entire community through our taxes. View the survey results at <http://bit.ly/2017MSDSurveyResults>

2. Interviews with a Cross-Section of Community Leaders (November 2017 - February 2018)

Hold one-on-one interviews with leaders in Marysville and Tulalip. This process will gather ideas about priorities for our community and our schools, what we do well, and where we can improve.

3. Online Survey of Faculty, Staff and Parents (January 2018 - February 2018)

Gather input from faculty, staff and parents to learn from their experiences and ideas.

4. Natural Meetings (December 2017 - February 2018)

Attend meetings where a variety of stakeholders (students, parents, teachers, school staff and community



Graduation Rate
77.1%

members) naturally gather. Gather ideas from groups with different perspectives and interests about priorities for our community and our schools, what we do well, and where we can improve.

5. Online Community Survey (March 2018)

Conduct an online survey to gather input from our entire community. This will provide a chance for anyone who has not yet shared their thoughts to participate in the public engagement process.

6. Community Meeting (March 2018)

Hold a large community meeting with small group discussions to share ideas about themes that have emerged from the information gathered in the first four stages.

We hope you will share your voice and your vision for our schools during this public engagement process.

For updates visit <http://bit.ly/SecondaryPlanningWork17-18>

Thank you and have a wonderful new year!



Dr. Becky Berg,
Marysville School
District Superintendent

The multifaceted process will inform the following next steps:

- In the spring of 2018 the Superintendent will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors on whether to continue the current system of open choice high schools, or to set boundaries. If a decision is made to change from the status quo, a transition task force will be convened to work through the many details involved in the process. Major change would not be fully implemented until the fall of 2019.
- The Superintendent and District Leadership Team will take the public input generated to craft a new strategic plan. The Superintendent will present the plan to the Board of Directors for their consideration.
- The Board of Directors will take into consideration the input generated when making a decision about when to run a bond issue to improve or replace facilities.

Awesome AVID

AVID is called Advancement Via Individual Determination and while the name is a bit long, the program has had great results across the nation and especially in the Marysville School District.

AVID is a college prep elective class that targets potential first-generation college students who are not enrolled in advanced classes, and who are traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

The AVID elective focuses on helping prepare students for college by teaching them study and organizational skills. The class also helps develop a college-going culture by including college campus visits and college application tips. It also provides assistance for students and families on scholarships and financial support.

AVID is now in all Marysville School District secondary schools, which means more students are getting early exposure to the idea of attending a higher education institution. Students are also learning about the many possibilities available to them if they continue to work hard and are determined to achieve academic success.



AVID Facts:

- The AVID elective is available in all MSD secondary schools
- AVID enrollment at 10 percent of each school's student population
- 60 percent of AVID students are enrolled in an Advanced Placement (AP) class
- Last year, every AVID senior applied to a four-year college or university
- More than \$550,000 in scholarships were awarded to AVID students
- 70 percent of secondary teachers are using AVID strategies in the classroom

Learn more about AVID at www.avid.org.

Upcoming Events

Opportunity Expo

Tuesday, February 27 | 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The 2018 Opportunity Expo provides students with direct access to two-year and four-year colleges and universities, technical and trade schools, and military and civic organizations. Our students also have the opportunity to meet and network with community leaders from business, government, and non-profit groups throughout Washington state!

Do you have a business or organization interested in participating? Email Jodi_Runyon@msd25.org or call (360) 965-0001.



Community Events

Father-Daughter Valentine's Day Dance

Cedarcrest Middle School | 6400 88th St N.E.

- Saturday, Feb. 3 | 5:30 to 7 p.m., 7:30 to 9 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 10 | 5:30 to 7 p.m., 7:30 to 9 p.m.

Preregistration required for this event. If you need more information or have questions visit the Marysville Parks and Recreation website, email akingsford@marysvillewa.gov, or call the Jennings Park office at 360-363-8400.

Easter Egg Hunt hosted by Marysville Parks and Recreation

Jennings Memorial Park Rotary Ranch | 6915 Armar Rd.

Saturday, March 31 | 10 to 11 a.m.

Caspar Babypants Concert

Marysville Opera House | 1225 Third St.

Sunday, February 25 | 2 to 3:30 p.m.

Mother-Son Superhero Dance

Cedarcrest Middle School | 6400 88th St N.E.

Saturday, April 21 | 5 to 6:30 p.m., 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Preregistration required for this event. If you need more information or have questions visit the Marysville Parks and Recreation website, email akingsford@marysvillewa.gov, or call the Jennings Park Office at 360-363-8400.



Amazing Advocates

In September, Leah's Dream Foundation, a local non-profit, helped create a sensory playground at Kellogg Marsh Elementary for children with special needs. Their \$45,000 donation to the Marysville School District helped purchase and install a wonderful inclusive play structure. It is now open and the Marysville School District welcomes you and your child to check it out!

Did you know?

The Marysville School District provides all juniors in the Marysville School District the opportunity to take the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) free of charge! Whether a student plans to attend college or not, the Marysville School District believes that every opportunity should be available to them.

achieve
more®

SAT®



Unforgettable Family Dinner and Awards Night

Thank you to all the students and families who joined us at our first family dinner and awards night! We had a wonderful time celebrating some very hardworking students and expressing the importance of eating together and conversing with one another. Thanks to all the individuals, groups, families, staff and students who participated!



Fantastic First Responders

Throughout the holiday season, our first responders did amazing things for students and families across the Marysville School District. They joined the Marysville Community Food Bank in collecting food and toys for the Holiday Toy Store and meal distributions, collected and distributed warm coats, and organized the "Shop with a Cop" event.

It is clear their service goes beyond the job titles and the workday. Thank you!

Good Luck Legislators!

Our local legislators are headed back to Olympia in January for the 2018 Legislative Session. They stopped by before they left to chat with the Marysville School District administrative team about educational priorities. It was a great conversation and we appreciate their efforts on behalf of Marysville and school districts across Washington state!





Super Students

The new ramp at Quil Ceda Stadium is due to the great work of Malia Grato and Victor Solis of Marysville-Pilchuck High School. These students noticed there was no wheelchair access for those with disabilities at the stadium. This prevented some students from being able to join their friends in the student section during athletic and school events. Thanks to their advocacy and outreach, there is now a more inclusive stadium for everyone in the community to enjoy!



Space for Makers

Cedarcrest Middle School puts on an after-school club called Makers Space on Mondays and Tuesdays. Makers Space is essentially a place where a kid can be a kid. Whether it is pulling apart a computer to understand how it works, making armor out of recycled materials, or creating art from a 3D pen, these students are getting to explore the world in a healthy, safe school environment. And who knows? The next Steve Jobs may just find their passion at Makers Space.



Homegrown Hero: Gary Carrier



Graduated: 2005
Attended: Liberty Elementary,
Marysville Middle School, Marysville
Junior High and Marysville-Pilchuck
High School
Current Job: Portfolio Analyst at MCE
Social Capital

Where did your path lead after graduation?

After graduation I attended the University of Washington where I majored in political science. I spent my junior year of college studying abroad and visited 15 countries in one year. This changed my perspective on the world significantly. Simultaneously, the economic crisis in the United States hit and 2009 was the worst time for a college grad to be looking for a job. I knew whatever I did was going to involve the Spanish language. I had fallen in love with Latin America so I bought a one-way ticket to Guadalajara, Mexico. This began a three-year journey of both internal and external exploration. I taught English to make ends meet and did social projects to satisfy my hunger for helping others. These experiences inspired me to continue my education at UC Berkeley where I studied social impact investing.

What are you doing now?

Today I work for a San Francisco-based impact-investing firm that channels commercial capital from the United States to organizations that provide small loans to low-income entrepreneurs in developing countries.

What is an achievement you are proud of?

I am proud of having a dream and intuition, and following through on it. I had a vision of how I wanted my life to be and I am living it right now.

What is one memorable moment from your school days?

My favorite memories were the times spent riding the bus, hanging out in the locker room, and being on the field or mat with my teammates.

How did Marysville schools help prepare you for life?

High school for me was in some ways a microcosm of society. While I was able to choose whom to hang out with, we all shared the space and had to learn to coincide with one another. The friendships I developed through contacts with many students of Mexican descent fueled an attraction to Spanish culture. These relationships helped set a trajectory for my life and shaped the work I do today.

What is one thing you would change about your school experience?

I would have become more involved in student government and tried to have more influence over the things I felt could have been improved.

What is one life lesson you have learned that you would like to share with others?

The change you seek, for yourself or the world, is slow and laborious. Growth comes during confrontation with weakness. There is no growth in comfort and no comfort in growth, so if you want to grow, get used to being uncomfortable. Think of it as character under construction.

Are YOU a Homegrown Hero? Do you know one?

Every day, staff and administration hear about Marysville School District alumni doing great things locally and across the world. From serving in the Foreign Service or creating a microfinance program to help developing countries, to working on a county initiative or starting up a local non-profit, former Marysville students are doing some amazing things!

The Homegrown Heroes project seeks to highlight Marysville School District alumni and their achievements - both large and small. Learn more at

<http://bit.ly/HomegrownHeroes>

NOTE: If you know a fantastic Marysville grad that should be recognized, contact Emily_Wicks@msd25.org with contact name, email and phone number and she will get in touch!

Suggestion from the Sup!

There is "magic" in family dinners! Research shows that students with families who eat dinner together regularly have better academic performance, higher self-esteem, and a greater sense of resilience. It also lowers their risk of substance abuse, teen pregnancy, depression, eating disorders and obesity. Learn more at www.thefamilydinnerproject.org.

Get Social with MSD25

