

# ARLINGTON

## Public Schools

*Educating all students, preparing & inspiring  
them to achieve their full potential*

A publication for our community

Fall 2015

## Your Arlington Public

## Schools Report

### Thank You for a Great Start to the Year!

*From the Superintendent and  
Board of Directors*



On behalf of our Board of Directors and myself, we want to thank you for a great start to the school year.

On September 9 we greeted 5,389 students who entered our school doors to begin class. It was a very smooth opening and students were excited to see each other and to be back in school.

We are particularly enthusiastic about several new programs we are able to offer our students this year. Presidents Elementary began their "Leader and Me" program; Weston High School is focusing on providing project-based learning opportunities; Post Middle School kicked off

their new Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S.T.E.M.) program; and we have a newly developed Manufacturing Program for middle and high school students. We have also begun the groundwork for implementing Naviance, our electronic platform for college and career readiness. Please learn more about some of these programs on the following pages.

Best wishes,

Dr. Kristine McDuffy  
Superintendent

## Renewal of Expiring Programs & Operation Levy

On November 9, the school board will be voting on a resolution to bring forth a levy proposal to our community which supports many of the programs offered to our students, including technology, instructional materials, S.T.E.M., performing arts, and athletics. Levy taxes provide approximately 21 to 28% of our total revenue.

This renewal of our previous levy will be on the February 9, 2016 ballot. Watch for upcoming information on the district website as well as a mailing of informational facts.

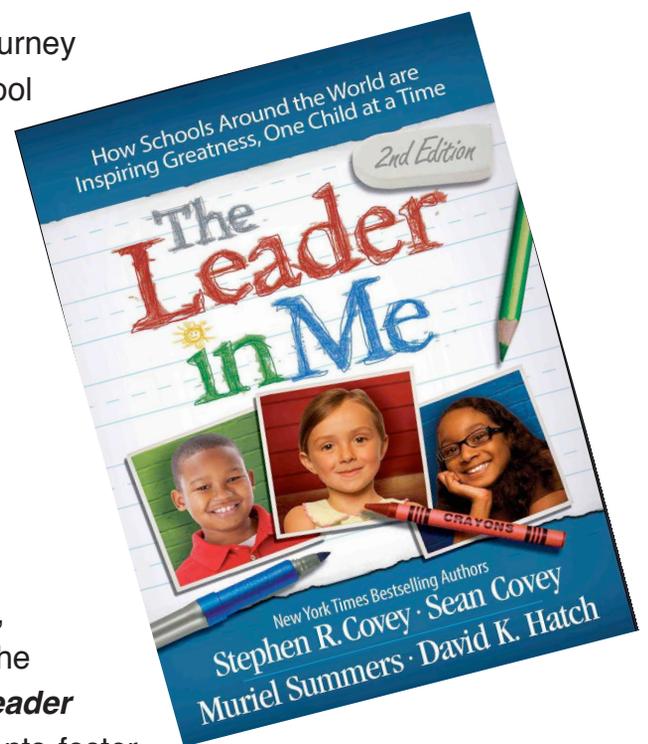
If you want to learn more about school finance, you can read the Citizens Guide to the Budget on our website at [www.asd.wednet.edu](http://www.asd.wednet.edu). We also have videos to help provide information about tax rates under Administration > Finance.

## The Leader in Me

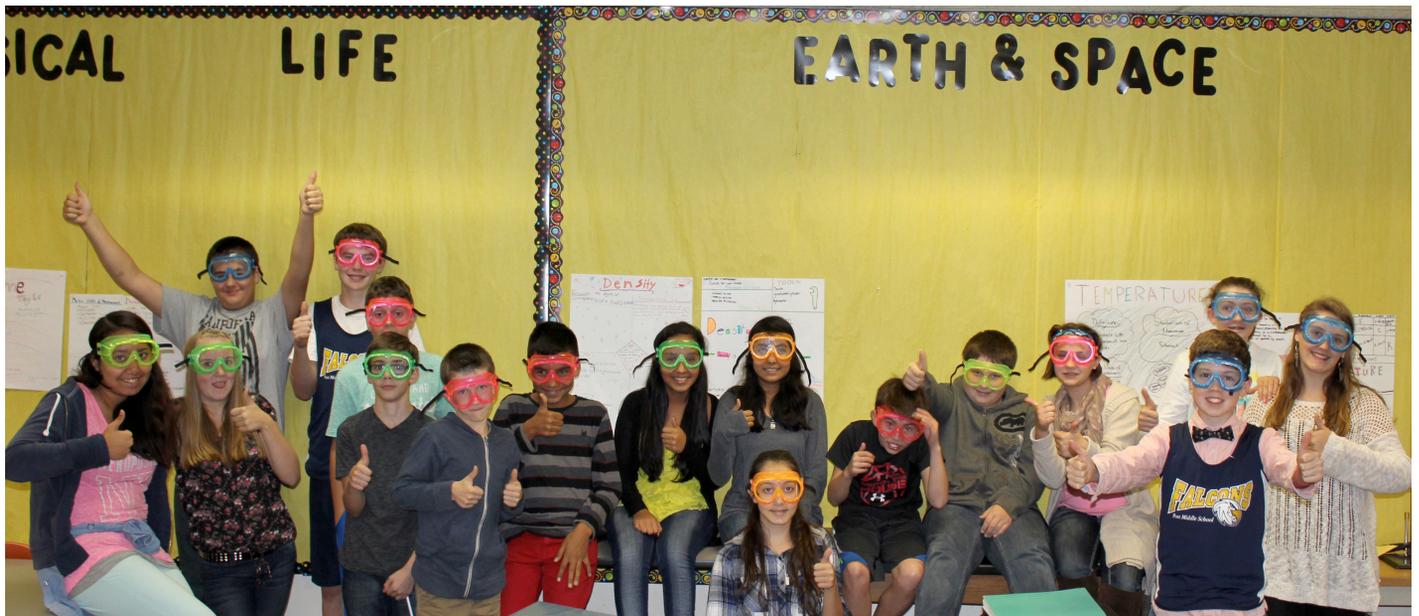
Presidents Elementary School has embarked on a journey of learning about leadership capacity within their school community. The staff at Presidents Elementary has joined with the FranklinCovey organization. FranklinCovey has a distinguished reputation worldwide for providing leadership training to organizations and schools, based in part on the highly impactful principles found in the timeless and bestselling works of Steven Covey and the *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*.

In recent years, FranklinCovey has developed a leadership process that has inspired thousands of teachers and students to learn how to live authentic lives of leadership. This schoolwide transformative journey, we are thrilled to be taking our staff and students on in the years ahead, is called *The Leader in Me* (TLIM). *The Leader in Me* shows educators what is possible in helping students foster the critical character traits needed to reach their potential and to accomplish any goal they set for themselves in their lives. It provides faculty and students with an empowering mindset, toolset and skillset of leadership that can be used today and every day thereafter in navigating unpredictable futures.

As students are immersed in a culture that promotes this vision, that believes in each student, and is the very “walk and talk” of every faculty member they see, they will be inspired. They will see in themselves that they are leaders, not just today, but for the rest of their lives.



## Post Middle School Kicks Off S.T.E.M. Program



*Sixth period S.T.E.M. students donned their protective eye wear. Seventh grade S.T.E.M. students will study earthquakes and how to mitigate a natural disaster while eighth graders will be researching water for a water/splash park, including engineering, water conservation and other related topics.*

The S.T.E.M. (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) pilot program at Post Middle School was created out of a desire to support all students in science and math. We realized the importance of doing things a bit differently with the increase in rigor of the Washington State Learning Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards.

The S.T.E.M. pilot is using an interdisciplinary approach to learning where rigorous academic concepts are coupled with real-world lessons as students apply science, technology, engineering and mathematics in contexts that make connections between school, community, work and global enterprise. (Tsupros, 2009)

The Problem-Based Learning Model, foundational to our S.T.E.M. pilot, fosters collaboration among students, stresses the development of problem-solving skills within the context of professional practice, promotes effective reasoning and self-directed learning, and is aimed at increasing motivation for life-long learning. Students will be presented with three to four real-world problems that will take an interdisciplinary approach to solve. Each problem will span over several units of study.

Post Middle School staff members are currently serving 57 seventh and 55 eighth grade students in three period blocks. About 20 to 25 of the students in each block were hand selected to join the class because they are currently being served for a learning disability in math or were identified by our staff as students who are struggling and might benefit from hands-on learning.

## Developing Character Qualities Through Athletics



*George Spady is working with ASB Leadership classmate, Montserrat Frausto, to review the steps they took to put together a successful Homecoming event.*

Resiliency in our next generation of citizens is the by-product of educating them in a caring and supportive environment. George Spady, a senior at Arlington High School, should have “resilient” as his middle name. This young man, had a rough start to his education when he left Marysville School District to move to Arkansas and then to Florida just in time for hurricane season. He experienced a hurricane that closed the schools in his town and he ended up missing so much school that when he returned to Arlington, he had to retake his first grade. Luckily, he was able to stay in the Arlington district for the remainder of his public school days.

George is getting ready to graduate and feels prepared for the next phase of life. He has enjoyed his World History and Government classes where he is learning about the election process, especially the presidential elections coming up. He is also gaining leadership skills in Mr. Ballew’s Leadership class.

He attributes his positive attitude to the influence of his coaches. Simply stated, George said, “Sports has made me a better person through the way the coaches model

good character, self-discipline and teamwork.” He has learned it is important to work with others...it is not always about himself. Coaches Judd Hunter and Greg Dailer have been instrumental in building his character and helping him remain positive even when school and life have been challenging. George hopes he can be a good role model for his younger siblings. His big grin when he mentions them, tells me he is a caring brother.

Future plans include attending college on an athletic scholarship in a different state, preferably Arizona or Idaho, before returning to Washington. He is looking at a fire Service/EMS or a nursing degree.

## Career & Tech Ed Meets the Demands for High-Wage Jobs

The purpose of Career and Technical Education is to build programs that support local high demand, high wage jobs. Manufacturing is one of the identified high demand, high wage fields in our County, as outlined in the economic blueprint for Snohomish County.

There were multiple discussions with our CTE General Advisory Committee in regards to whether new programming should be around the Ag Mechanics or Trade and Industry Manufacturing strand. We decided to convene a Manufacturing Task Force that was made up of local industry representatives from the manufacturing industry. This task force gave input in regards to the skills employers wanted potential new hires to have. From this discussion we developed the local manufacturing certificate and made the determination we would post our teaching position for either Agriculture or Manufacturing.

Once posted, representatives from the Agriculture along with Trade and Industry were invited to be on the interview team. An excellent candidate was found who had the experience and skills that directly aligned with the skills outlined by the Manufacturing Task Force. In addition, information from the Manufacturing Task Force process was used to create the frameworks for

our Manufacturing Foundations class and ToolingU, which was adopted as a pilot curriculum for the 2015-16 school year.

We are so excited to partner with our local businesses and trades through this task force. Their input and partnership with us has been invaluable as we design our programs to help students be ready for their future, whether their goal is to attend a technical, two- or four-year college, or enter a career requiring certification right out of high school.



## There is Something for Everyone

Molly Rasmussen loves Arlington! She reports the community and schools are supportive of our young adults by helping them develop into good citizens. She has lived in other towns and attended other schools in other districts - she knows the difference.

passionate about helping other athletes prepare for a game to prevent injuries.

Her goal is to become a physical therapist and she has already earned 10 college credits in her Junior year for AP English Language Arts and Chemistry. She is working on AP Government, Physics and Pre-Calculus college credits during her senior year. She said this will help her obtain her goal of reducing seven years of college to five or six. Molly is thankful for the option of taking College in the High School classes.

Making sure you graduate and are ready for college and your career is a real focus at Arlington High. Molly has felt supported by Ms. Hayman, Mr. Brown and Mr. Murray in preparing for her future.

In addition to the support she has from teachers, her basketball coach and teacher, Mr. Marsh, has taught her the importance of “putting work into what you do and it will take you a lot of places”. Her other favorite quote of his is “TCB” meaning “Take Care of Business!”

Molly sees the benefit of being part of the Arlington High School Council where students all come together to experience life as a community. These students help create a caring environment for their school. She also realizes the atmosphere at school would be much different without all of the clubs. Arlington High offers a myriad of clubs for students so there is something for everyone: robotics, drama, foreign language, music, and sports medicine to name a few.

As the Sports Medicine Club President, she understands both sides of the equation. She is an athlete for basketball and softball in addition to being on the soccer and football fields taking care of sprained muscles and taping up ankles when an injury occurs. She makes sure the athletes are hydrated and is



*Molly Rasmussen shows off the new ultra sound machine used for diagnosing injuries.*

## Full-Time Kindergarten - What's Best for Kids

Arlington Public Schools has made a significant and important change for kindergarten students in our district by offering universal, full-time kindergarten. Three of our four elementary schools qualified for state-funded full-time kindergarten, and district leadership opted to fund the fourth so that all kindergarten programs are equitable.

In conjunction with this full-time program, Arlington also opted to change kindergarten programs in order to work with the developmental stages of five year olds. Essential components of this change are as follows:

- Use of WaKids assessment and tools (website: <http://www.k12.wa.us/wakids>)
- Common student assessments in August
- Family conferences during the first two days of school
- Early kindergarten learning (the first 9 weeks) resembles preschool, emphasizing social-emotional development and school skills
- Mid-year learning (18 weeks) resembles traditional kindergarten learning with an academic emphasis
- End-of-year learning (the final nine weeks) are designed to transition children into first grade
- 60 minutes of daily "Work Time" (learn through play at art, library, writing, blocks, toys, dramatic play, and kitchen stations)
- A maximum of 15 minutes of seat time so students have more opportunity for movement

## Know Your Schools - October 29 at 8:30 a.m.

In October and April each year, our district invites the community to participate in *Know Your Schools* where you have an opportunity to meet and hear from Dr. McDuffy and tour an elementary, middle and high school. This is an opportunity to hear from students about their school and learning

experiences as they give you a tour of their school. We will begin at the Byrnes Performing Arts Center at 8:30 a.m.

**Please RSVP to  
Andrea Conley at  
[aconley@asd.wednet.edu](mailto:aconley@asd.wednet.edu) or 360.618.6217**

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS INVITES YOU TO...

## Know Your Schools



|           |  |   |
|-----------|--|---|
| Date:     | Thursday, October 29, 2015   | Please RSVP to:   |
| Time:     | 8:30 to 11:00 am   | Andrea Conley at 360-618-6217   |
|           |  | email: <a href="mailto:aconley@asd.wednet.edu">aconley@asd.wednet.edu</a> |
| Location: | Byrnes Performing Arts Center<br>18821 Crown Ridge Blvd.<br>Arlington WA |   |

### Postal Customer ECRWSS

## Project-Based Learning at Weston High School

Project-Based Learning (PBL) isn't new at Weston High School. Students have used English, Science and Math to address the guiding question, "Evaluating renewable energies, how can Weston reduce its carbon footprint" during the summer of 2014. Then in the following fall, they explored ways to mitigate the effects of a natural disaster that involved the City of Arlington and first responders.

Students choose to come to Weston High School for

many reasons; most often students have had challenges at a traditional comprehensive high school with a traditional instructional delivery model. It has been our experience that students and staff report positive experiences when participating in Project-Based Learning opportunities and other hands-on learning. Weston High School staff believe that experiential learning and performance assessments will contribute to student College and Career Readiness goals

including: Collaboration and Communication, Creativity, Critical Thinking, and Completion, all visible during the culmination of each project, known as the Demonstration of Learning. Weston staff have two projects planned this year, one for grade levels 9 and 10, and one for grade levels 11 and 12 to occur some time in late February to early March.

*Arlington Public Schools provides equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without discrimination based on race, religion, creed, color, ancestry, national origin, age, marital status, honorably discharged veteran or military status, gender, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The District will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society.*

**TITLE IX OFFICER AND COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR**

Mr. Mike Johnson  
Executive Director, Human Resources  
315 N French Ave.  
Arlington, WA 98223  
(360) 618-6212  
mike\_johnson@asd.wednet.edu

**SECTION 504 COORDINATOR**

Ms. Diane Kirchner-Scott  
Assistant Superintendent  
315 N French Ave.  
Arlington, WA 98223  
(360) 618-6217  
dkirchner-scott@asd.wednet.edu