



71 E. Campus Drive • Belfair, WA

www.nmsd.wednet.edu

(360)277-2300

The purpose of the North Mason School District, together with our community, is to educate, empower and inspire all students.

NORTH MASON SCHOOL BOARD

- Dr. Glenn Landram
- Nena Andrews
- Ken VanBuskirk
- Jeff Werdall
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Tom Kelly

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277-2303

PACE High School
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277-2329

Lippy's Excellence Earns Prestigious State Award

Science teacher Karen Lippy recently received statewide recognition as the recipient of the Department of Ecology Environmental Excellence Award for her extraordinary leadership in Hood Canal Watershed education.

Lippy's vision for environmental education began in the early 1990s, as she was building her educational program on the

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Science teacher Karen Lippy demonstrates how wetlands hold water and prevent run-off problems at the NMSD Wetlands Classroom.

Spring 2005 WASL Scores Highest Ever

The North Mason School District is making consistent, strong academic progress. The hard work of students and staff is evident in the Spring 2005 Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) test scores.

North Mason High School students (this year's junior class) who took the WASL last April earned the highest scores ever for North Mason. They beat the state average in all four tests: Reading, Writing, Math and Science.

Congratulations to the Class of 2007! Way to go Bulldogs! We are proud of your efforts.

| TEST | State | NMHS |
|---------|-------------|-------------|
| Reading | 72.4 | 74.7 |
| Writing | 64.7 | 72.7 |
| Math | 47.1 | 52.5 |
| Science | 35.6 | 35.9 |

New Graduation Requirements for 2008

Starting with the class of 2008 (this year's sophomores), all students will be required to pass the 10th grade Reading, Writing and Math WASL tests to graduate.

The 10th grade WASL tests will be given in the spring with test results returned to students in June.

If necessary, students will be given additional opportu-

nities (up to six) to pass the WASL. Students need only retake subject areas not passed - they do not need to retake the entire WASL.

Retakes and make-up test(s) due to absence will be administered off campus at a location, date and time to be announced. The first date will be in early August. Students will register on-line.

If you have questions, please contact Principal Ted Jansen at tjansen@nmsd.wednet.edu, call 277-2303 or visit the district's website.

Other new graduation requirements are noted on page 3 and include the Student Portfolio and Presentation.

READ ON ...

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From Tom Kelly, Superintendent

Our Progress Report to You

The North Mason School System with a \$17 million dollar budget for 2400 students and 250 teachers, administrators and support staff is doing well. But the bottom line measurement is how well our kids are doing. Here is our progress report (in brief) to you. Please visit www.nmsd.wednet.edu/x2298 for more in-depth information.



YOUR PUBLIC DOLLARS

How effectively are your public dollars being spent? The state auditor has confirmed with annual audits for the past seven years that we have fully and properly accounted for all public money.

With local levy dollars, we have added four new computer labs, improved building and grounds maintenance and supplemented our Special Education program with \$300,000 because we are serving more kids than the state is funding.

We purchased 17 new busses at virtually no cost to the school system by using state replacement money.

UPCOMING 2006 LEVY

In February 2006, we will ask the community to support a replacement levy.

The current levy provides \$2.6 million of our \$17 million dollar budget. These dollars support the classroom as well as extra and co-curricular programs and the \$300k supplement to Special Education. In addition, your levy dollars support technology, maintenance and other essential needs not fully funded by the state.



This replacement levy is absolutely critical for the school system to continue providing a quality program for our kids.

FUTURE BOND

After two years of work, our Facilities Citizens Advisory Committee will be making a recommendation to the School Board for a construction bond that would provide updates and expansion to current facilities.

The bond would be the first phase in a modest three-phase proposal intended to meet the long-term projected needs of the district. The Facilities Committee will consult carefully with the community as this proposal is defined.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Last spring a large group of community and staff members updated our strategic plan. We are currently refining the input from this effort. Our intent is to reconvene the group in early December to gain their input on the final draft.

IN SUMMARY ...

Our school system is focused on the success of our students. Students, parents and staff are working hard to make our good school system into a GREAT school system.

We ask for your help in that effort so that every student has the opportunity to live a life of dignity and purpose.

OUR STUDENTS

For the first time, our 10th grade 2005 WASL scores exceeded the state averages in Reading, Writing and Math.

Disciplinary referrals are down – student behavior is more respectful and purposeful.

Parents are helping their students make wise decisions for the future. Student-led conferences held last spring had 98% of elementary, 92% of MS and 58% of HS parental or other significant adult participation.

OUR STAFF

We have completed the realignment of our K-12 Reading, Writing and Math curriculum, linking learning within and between grades.

Our teachers are making major efforts to work together examining and improving teaching practice through discussions within grade levels, within buildings and among elementary, middle and high school staff. Our teaching is aligned with state standards.



Priority Objectives for the 2005-06 School Year

“Do what is best for kids”

The North Mason School Board has defined these priority objectives to focus our efforts on what’s best for kids and continual improvement of the school system. Please visit our website for more in-depth information.

Priority Objectives

More info at www.nmsd.wednet.edu/x2205

1. Complete and Implement the Strategic Plan

Publish the plan; Establish a management system; Report progress

2. Continue Academic Program Improvement

Enhance the academic, extra and co-curricular performance of kids; Consider all-day kindergarten; Pass levy; Fully implement assessment system; Complete program study; Define and pass bond

3. Improve Community Relations

Maintain good community relations through Citizens’ Advisory Committees, Council of Key Communicators and other community groups; Establish NMSD Foundation

4. Improve Quality Staff

Focus on recruitment and retention of highly-qualified candidates; Maintain/expand our number of teachers

5. Improve Support Services

Complete negotiations and sign contracts; Maintain and improve support systems

New 2008 Graduation Requirements

More info at www.nmsd.wednet.edu/x1522



Along with passing all four areas of the 10th grade WASL (see page 1), students graduating in 2008 must also meet additional state requirements. They will be required to show off their accomplishments in the framework of the 4 P’s, which stands for Plan, Pathway, Project and Presentation. To help students succeed, North Mason is adding a fifth P, which stands for Parents.

For the past two years, a committee of staff and parents has worked to map out the new North Mason graduation requirements, which the state says can be determined at a local level. Students will create a portfolio and give a presentation of their best work encompassing all four years at the high school.

Student portfolio and presentation requirements are detailed on our website at www.nmsd.wednet.edu/x1522. If you have more questions, please call our Counseling Office at 277-2191.

We’re Testing Grades 3-9

More info at www.nmsd.wednet.edu/x2299

Here’s why: As our students advance through school, we want to be sure that they’re ready for the next year’s work. That’s why all students in grades 3-9 were individually tested this fall using a computer-based assessment program. By testing in the fall, we establish a beginning point for each student. We will administer these tests again in the spring to measure each student’s progress. The tests will help determine if students are ready to move to the next grade or if extra help is needed to master the work required at the current grade level. Test results will also assist teachers when planning lessons for the classroom.



What is the Program Study?

The North Mason School District Program Study Committee is composed of nine teachers, three administrators, two board members, four students and six community members. Further staff and parents are involved in sub-committees at each of the schools. The committees are examining how we educate our students and determining what we can do better.

The focus is on these essential questions:

- *To what extent are we achieving powerful learning and teaching?*
- *Can we improve instructional organization and practice? How?*
- *Can we more effectively use our instructional time? Should schedules be revised?*
- *How can we increase relevancy for our students so that they become more engaged in their own learning?*
- *Is our course work sufficiently rigorous? Do we hold students to appropriate standards?*

The Program Study will conclude with a presentation of its findings/recommendations to the school board in December.

New E-mail Addresses for All

Everyone in the school district has a new e-mail address. For simplicity, they all follow the same pattern: first initial and last name@nmsd.wednet.edu.

If you’ve attended a football game this fall, you may have noticed that North Mason High School is collecting parent e-mail addresses. Parent e-mail addresses will be requested at almost every NMHS event, so that the high school can share student and school information with you electronically.

Send us an email.

NEW E-MAIL ADDRESSES DISTRICT-WIDE

Just use a first initial and last name (all one word)

Sample: tkelly@nmsd.wednet.edu

An alphabetical list by last name is also on-line at

www.nmsd.wednet.edu/x1556



Ms. Welander's 6th graders mug for the camera after creating a book to be shared with kids struggling to overcome the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Belfair Elementary Kids Send Hope and Coins to Katrina Victims

When news of Hurricane Katrina reached Belfair Elementary, our students wanted to help. Ms. Welander's 6th grade writing classes created books to provide comfort and hope to the kids in New Orleans. They wanted to remind them of the good things in life that serve as a sign that things are getting better.

The books were delivered by a family from the Seattle area.



*"Pretty soon you will be able to lay on your back in the lush green grass and watch the clouds sail across the baby blue sky ...
Pretty soon you will be able to wake up in the morning and hug the ones you love and smile because you're with them ...
Pretty soon you'll wake up to a warm bed and a cup of hot chocolate."*

In Mr. Beard's 6th grade class, Ariona Monson and Megan Romanoski held a coin drive for Katrina victims and raised about \$500. "We did it because it's a really hard time for them now and every little bit helps," said Megan. The girls asked fellow students and staff members to contribute coins in a five-gallon water bottle. The money was donated to the American Red Cross.

Everybody feels better when they can help in some way.



Megan Romanoski (L) and Ariona Monson (R) organized a coin drive to help victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Please take our ON-LINE LEVY & BOND SURVEY!

Click on www.nmsd.wednet.edu and answer a few short questions about the 2006 Replacement Levy (for LEARNING) and a possible Construction Bond (for BUILDING).
Tell us your thoughts. We're listening.

Lippy's Award

Continued from page 1 ...

Theler Wetlands trails. Over the past 15 years, her environmental science program has served more than 10,000 students.

Under Lippy, students have successfully conducted environmental monitoring projects, measured water quality and forest sediment runoff, conducted salmon surveys, researched and managed wild salmon incubators, and researched adding salmon carcasses into the upper reaches of the Hood Canal watershed. They have made many meaningful contributions through their work for the health of the watershed.

"The Environmental Excellence Award given to Karen Lippy represents the leadership she has consistently provided in helping to protect the Hood Canal Watershed through the development of our science curriculum at the wetlands. Karen's commitment to this program has led to greater interest in and success in Environmental Science for our students," said Ted Jansen, Principal.

Congratulations to Karen for a well-deserved award!

In closing ...

Whenever we mail you this newsletter, we face the challenge of "information squeeze." There's never enough room to tell you as much as we'd like you to know. That's why we hope you will visit our website to find more expanded and in-depth information about the topics we've covered here.

As always, if you have any subject to discuss with school staff, administration or the school board, we welcome your comments. Please feel free to call or e-mail us anytime.

The North Mason School District is an ever-changing, always growing, positive place in our community. Thanks for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Your Volunteer School Board of Directors

| | |
|------------------------------|----------|
| Glenn Landram, President | 275-7060 |
| Jeff Werdall, Vice President | 277-0470 |
| Nena Andrews | 275-7453 |
| Ken VanBuskirk | 275-3890 |
| Art Wightman | 275-6396 |

| | |
|---------------------------|----------|
| Tom Kelly, Superintendent | 277-2300 |
|---------------------------|----------|

Now you can easily stay up-to-date with our NEW DISTRICT-WIDE ON-LINE EVENT CALENDAR! Click on <http://northmasonwaus.bcsems.com/> and see everything that's happening in our school district!