

# All three elementary schools move towards a Schoolwide Title 1 Program

In recent years the elementary schools have operated on a different set of standards and finances regarding Title 1. Two schools, Jefferson Elementary and Sunnyside elementary were a targeted assistance school, while Franklin school was schoolwide. Right now you may be asking yourself, "What is Title 1? What is the purpose of Title 1 Funding? What is the difference between targeted and schoolwide?"

## What is Title 1?

Title 1 funds aim to bridge the gap between low-income students and other students. The U.S. Department of Education provides supplemental funding to local school districts to meet the needs of at-risk and struggling students.

## What's it All About?

Most educators, parents and community members have heard the term Title 1 School thrown loosely around, but what is it? Title 1 is the nation's oldest and largest federally funded program, according to the U.S. Department of Education. Annually, it provides over \$14 billion to school systems across the country for students at risk of failure and living at or near poverty. In fact, over the course of the 2009-2010 school year, federal funding through this program was used by over 56,000 public schools nationwide in order for struggling students to meet state standards in a variety of subject areas.

## What is the Purpose of Title 1 Funding?

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the purpose of Title 1 funding, "is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high quality education and reach, at minimum, proficiency on

challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments."

The basic principles of Title 1 state that schools with large concentrations of low-income students will receive supplemental funds to assist in meeting students' educational goals. Low-income students are determined by the number of students enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program. For an entire school to qualify for Title 1 funds, at least 40% of students must enroll in the free and reduced lunch program. Even though, Jefferson and Sunnyside did not meet the 40% threshold they were able to apply for a waiver to become schoolwide and were granted the waiver in early July.

## What is the difference between Targeted assistance and Schoolwide Title 1 programs?

There are many similarities between the two delivery models, with a few differences. In a targeted program students must be identified as eligible for services based on assessments. Students who are identified as most at risk would be served first. Schoolwide serves all students, and those who are identified as at most risk are provided additional services. Targeted assistance supports mainly math and reading, whereas schoolwide looks at reform of the entire school, using a comprehensive needs assessment. Targeted assistance funds are used to support additional instruction; schoolwide Title 1 funds may be merged with Federal, State and local funds to support additional instruction. In both models the goal is to have students remain in their classroom as much as possible with educators using a push-in model to assist students.

Becoming a schoolwide Title 1 school allows us more opportunities to assist a larger population of students while still focusing on students who fall in the achievement gap. Being a schoolwide school allows us the flexibility to meet all our students' needs and use our resources more efficiently.

Sunnyside Elementary welcomes **Elizabeth Quinley** to the first grade team. Elizabeth previously worked at Lapwai Elementary and McGhee Elementary with elementary age students, as well as the Boys and Girls Club. She earned her degree at College of Southern Idaho and LCSC, with a Bachelor in Elementary Education. She is excited to live on the Palouse because many of her hobbies are abundant here, such as volleyball, swimming, camping, hiking and boating! Elizabeth says the best thing about working for Pullman School District is their reputation, and that everyone speaks highly of the district.

**Stephanie Rudd** is in her second year at Sunnyside as a paraprofessional in our Core Plus (previously Title) program. She brings with her a BA in education from Eastern Washington University, an internship with Boys and Girls Club in Spokane, and ten years in early education in child care centers in Kirkland and Pullman. She grew up on a small farm with her horse, other animals, reading, and running wild in a small town. These days, she enjoys reading, movies, and family nights with her daughter. "I love working with children in small group settings and seeing their growth! That 'ah-ha' moment when you see them understand something new!"



## 2018 Retirees

- **Evelyn Kirk**, Paraprofessional at Jefferson Elementary
- **Jeannie Neihoff**, Paraprofessional at Jefferson Elementary
- **Steve Neihoff**, Facilities Crew
- **Margi Vogel**, Teacher at Jefferson Elementary

Thank you for your service, dedication and commitment to the students and staff of Pullman Public Schools!

## Pullman Education Foundation awards \$14,000 to Pullman High School Class of 2018.

The Pullman Education Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of this year's scholarship awards to the Pullman High School Class of 2018. These scholarships have been created by community members to honor former employees and students of the Pullman School District. To learn more about the PEF scholarship program, visit [pullmaneducationfoundation.org](http://pullmaneducationfoundation.org).

The 2018 recipients are:

- Noah Stephen Francis Evermann Humanitarian Award \$2500: **Kameron Kinkade**;
- Future Teacher Scholarship \$2000: **Kaden Hildenbrand**;
- Corinne Simasko Scholarship \$1900: **Berklee Child**;
- Jessica Clark Scholarship \$1000: **Laura Shearer**;
- Karin Myklebust Scholarship \$1000: **Brianna Reyes**;
- Ryan Brindamour Scholarship \$1000: **Jared Holstad**;
- Class of 1948 Scholarship \$1000: **Alyssa Bailey**;
- Class of 1960 Scholarship \$1000: **Elizabeth Hwang**;
- Class of 1956 Scholarship \$750: **Sara Moore**;
- Mary Paznokas Scholarship \$500: **Grace Teague**;
- Chapter S PEO Scholarship \$1500: **Jane Tang**.



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The Pullman School District Board of Directors and the Pullman School District shall provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities programs without regard to race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation (including gender expression or identity), marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, participation in the Boy Scouts of America 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. District programs will be free from sexual harassment.

The following employee has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: **Roberta Kramer**, Assistant Superintendent, Pullman School District Administrative Offices, 240 SE Dexter Street, Pullman, WA 99163, 509.332.3144. Applicants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations in the application process by contacting the Personnel Coordinator at (509) 332-3584.

## BOARD REPORT

# Four New Schools

*Nathan Roberts, Board Member*

As Pullman's population has grown, with SEL, WSU, and other local industries leading the way, our schools have faced mounting pressure to accommodate this growth. This rapid growth is felt most acutely in our elementary schools. This next year will perhaps be the most difficult for them. Our teachers and staff have made many sacrifices and experienced growing pains, but the good news is that relief is on the horizon with the completion of our fourth elementary school, Kamiak Elementary.

Our wonderful teachers and staff have done a fantastic job accommodating the growing elementary populations, but the ultimate solution will only come with the opening of Kamiak, and the additional classrooms it will provide. This means that we will all experience a number of issues related to very crowded schools during the 2018-2019 academic year. As student populations have slowly crept up, space has often been found by taking over specialist spaces and sometimes hallways to make room. This situation has led to some compromises and some creative solutions by our elementary schools.

The comfortable building capacity for Jefferson Elementary is 420 students, but they had 509 enrolled last year. Jefferson has and will continue to transition space into classrooms. They have moved the faculty break room, lost offices and a conference room to free up classroom space. The Art and Science storage room has even been planned for instructional use. Despite these difficult circumstances the teachers at Jefferson have worked together to accommodate students and solve their space issues.

Franklin Elementary has a capacity of 366, while they had 456 students enrolled this past year. **Bill Holman**, the Principal at Franklin this past year, explained that his school has coped so well with these crowding issues because he enables the teachers and staff to collaboratively solve problems, plan space, and figure out the best way to serve our students. Franklin, too, has made sacrifices. Next year some teachers will have to prep their courses in the staff lounge, and they will work to fit STEM and art education into the lunch room between breakfast and lunch. Franklin will also lose their staff meeting space, with meetings cycling through classrooms.

Sunnyside is in a similar situation with a capacity of 341, but an enrollment of 424. Sunnyside Elementary students are sometimes three to a locker and they have converted their conference rooms and some classroom space to accommodate more students. Sunnyside Principal

Pam Brantner is optimistic that they will keep most of their work spaces during the next year. Their teachers and staff have managed the transition together to prioritize instructional space.

The loss of two beloved Principals complicates the situation and their replacements will have some tough shoes to fill. **Craig Nelson**, former Principal of Jefferson Elementary, shared his optimism that maybe "a hardship year would help forge bonds between the new principals, the teachers and staff." **Evan Hecker**, the Principal of Kamiak Elementary, said it best when he observed that we would really be opening "four new schools" in 2019, not just one. I ask that the community remember the reasons for optimism, thank the teachers and staff for their sacrifices, and be patient if they experience the impact of any of these issues during the next academic year. It will be a difficult time, but in the end we will have plenty of space for years of future growth.

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## Jim Bruce Selected for Jefferson Elementary School Principal Position

**Jim Bruce**, currently principal at Sacajawea Elementary School in Richland, was selected through a rigorous process and from among four finalist candidates to be hired as principal of Jefferson Elementary School beginning in July, 2018.

The comprehensive interview process included a formal interview and presentation to the interview committee, a written exercise, an observation and written feedback of a lesson, a tour of Jefferson and interview with Jefferson students, and a staff and community open forum. Among the four highly capable finalist candidates, Mr. Bruce emerged as a capable and desirable candidate in the view of the staff, students and community members that participated in an open forum.

The interview committee consisted of administrators, a board member, 2 district instructional coaches, 4 Jefferson staff members, and 2 Jefferson parents selected by lottery.

Students from Jefferson that met with Mr. Bruce noted that "kids are comfortable around him and he is nice and funny" and that he "treats everybody the way he wants to be treated".

Nearly 80 staff members and community members joined the candidates at an open forum where they had the opportunity to meet and talk to each candidate. The feedback from guests was overwhelmingly in support of selecting Mr. Bruce as Jefferson principal. One employee noted that Mr. Bruce is "very knowledgeable, has a warm and kind demeanor, has a wealth of experience, and plans to focus on relationships in order to improve student learning." A parent noted that Mr.



Bruce is "knowledgeable and experienced with a long career at the elementary level. He is an engaging speaker, and is solution-focused when asked tough questions."

Mr. Bruce has served as Principal at Sacajawea Elementary for the past fourteen years. Prior to that, he served as an elementary school principal in Clarkston, and has taught at



several elementary grade levels. He is a graduate of Eastern Oregon State College and holds a Master's degree in Educational Administration from the University of Idaho. Superintendent **Dr. Bob Maxwell** said, "Jim Bruce brings a wealth of knowledge and ideas and his experience will serve him well as the principal of Jefferson Elementary School." We look forward to welcoming Mr. Bruce to Pullman Public Schools!