PULLMAN COMMUNITY UPDATE

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Vol. 23 No. 6 • June 2018

PULLMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Bike to School Day

On Wednesday, May 9th, Lincoln Middle School participated in Bike to School Day. The purpose behind this, for LMS, is to promote walking and biking for our school community. This was the most successful Bike to School day we have had during our four years of celebrating the day. Over fifty students rode their bikes to school! We look forward to continuing our work with the local community and providing opportunities for our kids to bike to school.









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.

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\$10,000 award launches Spartan Seed to Feed Project



Lincoln Middle School teacher **Marla Haugen** recently received the good news that the Pullman Education Foundation selected the Spartan Seed to Feed Project for its \$10,000 Innovation Grant award. The raised-bed garden project will get underway fall 2018 with the help of the Palouse Conservation District, Boy Scout Troop 460, Lion's Club, FFA and other community volunteer groups.

This project will give middle school students hands-on experiences preparing soil, making cold frames, planting, weeding, and harvesting crops for use by the school's kitchen, the Culinary Club and the YMCA. Any excess produce will be donated to the Community Action Center. During the summer months, it is anticipated that the garden will be maintained by the YMCA.

The garden plan also includes an aesthetically pleasing area with benches and picnic tables for use as an outdoor classroom and a peaceful resting place.

Let's be social!

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Franklin Elementary Teacher Nancy Nelson Named Recipient of 2018 Dedicated Teacher Award

Each Spring the Pullman Public Schools
Board of Directors awards one teacher with the
"Dedicated Teacher Award". This year, based on a
heartfelt nomination from Principal **Bill Holman**,
Franklin Elementary 2nd grade teacher **Nancy Nelson** was honored with the recognition from the
Board.

Just a few of the kind words Mr. Holman had to say about Mrs. Nelson:

"It is usually difficult to separate just one teacher from a group of hard working, high achieving professionals. Nancy Nelson continues to be an exemplary exception to this rule. She has done more to influence positive climate, student centered focus and continuous improvement than any teacher I have worked with in my career.

Nancy seeks specific information about each child, developing extremely positive, effective connections with her students. She differentiates extremely successfully, creating powerful learning opportunities for students of all abilities and developmental stages. Nancy is masterful at setting the stage for students to achieve their full potential. This mindset and related practices have produced some notable and surprising results.

Nancy has participated in numerous professional development opportunities, from book studies to trainings in classroom management, standards and pedagogy. She consistently implements strategies and knowledge from these experiences in her own practice, but she is also exemplary in sharing her trainings with others. She has presented at three PSD Learning Improvement Days within the past



couple of years on a variety of topics. A number of teachers in all three elementary schools are utilizing management techniques Nancy has shared.

Last year Nancy inspired a program at Franklin Elementary called Friday Ice Cream Sharing.

Nearly every Friday for the past two years, a staff member invites the school staff to their classroom or space to share their program, a specific effective practice or perhaps just to share things like favorite children's books. This is a teacher inspired, teacher led activity that is amazingly effective and popular. On several occasions, every single classroom teacher and several other staff members have been in attendance. Friday Ice Cream Sharing has inspired a greater level of commitment toward continuous improvement and has enhanced the collaborative environment at our school.

Last fall Nancy engaged the assistance of two families to build and install two little free libraries, one for general literature, the other for math and science games and books, at the front of our school. She has additionally sought grants and other sources to stock these libraries. The libraries have been immensely popular, putting educational materials in the hands of many who could not otherwise afford them.

Nancy places student learning above all else. Toward this end she develops fabulous and effective relationships with her students. She attends to their social/emotional well-being and learning as effectively as any teacher that I have worked with. In addition to academics, Nancy fully implements our Second Step curriculum and ideas from our Lost at School book study.

The result is a thoughtful and intentional education of the whole child.

Nancy consistently inspires a positive classroom atmosphere. She is an excellent relationship builder and takes a very thoughtful and effective approach to management. Students are most comfortable when in an environment in which they can be successful. Nancy artfully creates opportunities to fly while minimizing chances to 'fail in unconstructive ways.' (At the same time, she is great at helping students learn to fail constructively and to try again.) Nancy's pedagogical toolbox is immense and continuing to grow. She has served as a mentor to many teachers, several in just the past two years. She has inspired then to grow in their practice."

Congratulations, Nancy!

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