Elementary schools are very fortunate in that they typically have a multitude of parent volunteers. More often than not, it is the moms or women in the community. The WatchDOGS (Dads of Great Students) program is changing that, recognizing that men have a special role to play at our schools.

Dads, stepdads, uncles, male neighbors or friends, are asked to visit participating schools for one full day, at least once a year. They wear a T-shirt that identifies them as one of the WatchDOGS. They help in classrooms, the lunchroom, and on the playground.

“The program founder’s philosophy is that one dad coming into a school for one day doesn’t make a big difference, but 100 dads coming in for 100 days sure does!” said Briarcrest Principal Jonathan Nessan, whose school was the first in Shoreline to welcome WatchDOGS.

“This isn’t so much a program for the dads; it’s really a program for the kids who benefit tremendously from the extra support and caring that the dads bring to the school,” Nessan said.

At Briarcrest, the dads are provided with a schedule of activities, including welcoming students as they arrive, assisting in four classrooms, at lunch and recess, and helping with departure at the end of the school day. They wear an official WatchDOGS T-shirt and distribute blue “paws-itive” cards – a positive behavior support system.

With a five-day week, there are four slots available each day, which aligns perfectly with the 20 classrooms at Briarcrest.

Jeff Lovelace is the WatchDOGS program coordinator at Parkwood Elementary.

Nessan keeps an online calendar for the dads as well as a “Wall of Fame” comprised of photos taken of all the visiting male mentors.

“In the classroom, they can serve as a great ‘guide by the side’ because by literally sitting with a student, that child’s day can be totally turned around,” Nessan said.

WatchDOGS has now expanded to other schools in the District, including Parkwood, where dad Jeff Lovelace is always on hand to get that day’s WatchDOGS participant started in his duties.

“It’s been an incredible experience seeing these dads getting involved in our school,” said Lovelace, whose own father and father-in-law are now among the group of WatchDOGS.

The WatchDOGS Wall of Fame at Briarcrest Elementary displays photos of all the men that have participated in the program this year.
Superintendent’s Message:
Thank you to our community for a successful 2012-13 school year

Dear Shoreline Schools Community,

As the 2012-13 school year comes to a close, it is a very appropriate time to express our sincere appreciation to the residents of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park.

For those who may not know, approximately 30 percent of everything we do in the Shoreline Schools is funded locally through our voter-approved levies, PTAs, Foundation and private giving. If we had to depend exclusively upon the funding of our state and federal government, our District funding would have been exhausted in March. Instead, because of your consistent support of our schools, we are in the enviable position of offering an exceptional education program for students all year long.

Our well-staffed and robust programs provide opportunities for students that are unparalleled in most school districts. Academically, our recognitions this year included 11 Washington Achievement Awards for eight of our schools. Two of the awards we were most excited about were the Overall Excellence Awards for Shorewood High School and Lake Forest Park Elementary.

Previously this year Lake Forest Park had been honored as a National Title I School. Most recently, Shorecrest was ranked 11th among all high schools in the state of Washington by U.S. News & World Report.

Our teachers are also a source of pride in Shoreline. This year we had five “Heroes in the Classroom” identified by the Seahawks/Symetra partnership. Four more of our teachers received their certifications from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, bringing our total to 65.

Administrator Don Dalziel, director of athletics, school safety and facility use, was honored with the Athletic Director Service Award from the Washington Secondary Schools Athletic Administrators Association.

And most importantly, our students are the source of our greatest pride. Highlights this spring include:

• Shorecrest High School student Jane White was honored at the 40th Annual Superintendent’s High School Art Show May 17 at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) in Olympia.

• The Shorewood High School girls track team was honored as Academic State Champions for the spring sports season with a 3.9 GPA.

• Shorecrest sophomore Mara Childs has been appointed to a two-year term on the Washington State Board of Education as the student representative from Western Washington.

• The Einstein Middle School symphony orchestra was awarded first place in the Junior Division at the Northwest Orchestra Festival in Gresham, Oregon.

• The Shorecrest hip hop team, coached by Rex Kinney, won first place in the 3A division at the WIAA State Championships in Yakima.

In addition to all of these and other celebrations, Shoreline Schools is particularly proud of the two new high schools that our students and staff will soon occupy. Thanks to your generosity as a community, our facilities at Shorewood and Shorecrest High Schools will finally match the exceptional quality of our programs and staff.

We are very proud that our District continues its reputation for excellence as an educational community, and we cannot thank you enough for your commitment to our students, schools and staff. Have a safe and wonderful summer, and we will see our students back in school on Wednesday, Sept. 4.

Sincerely,

Sue Walker
Eight schools receive Achievement Awards

Eight Shoreline schools received 2012 Washington Achievement Awards. The awards, in their fourth year, are sponsored by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education. Award winners are selected using the state’s Achievement Index and the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Waiver.

Shoreline Schools were recognized for being top performers in these categories:

• Overall Excellence: Lake Forest Park and Shorewood.
• Science: Brookside, Highland Terrace, Lake Forest Park and Parkwood.
• Closing Achievement Gaps: Briarcrest, Highland Terrace, Parkwood and Shorecrest.
• High Progress (Title I eligible or participating schools only): Ridgecrest.

Frank Halferty, music department head and band director at Einstein Middle School, has been selected as the 2013 Shoreline Teacher of the Year, and Leslie Martin, security monitor at Kellogg Middle School, is the Support Person of the Year.

“Frank has the universal respect of peers, students, parents and administrators, and shows the highest degree of professionalism,” a parent wrote in nominating Halferty for the award. “He provides a teaching environment that fosters vast musical and personal growth in his students.”

In 2012, Halferty was elected to the Washington Music Educators Association (WMEA) Hall of Fame.

Halferty, a graduate of Shoreline High School, has taught at Einstein since 1993 and serves as the District Music Coordinator.

Currently Halferty has more than 200 compositions and arrangements in print, including the Folk Song Trilogy performed by the Shoreline School District Honor Choir in its concert with the Cascade Youth Symphony at Benaroya Hall in 2011.

Leslie Martin joined the Kellogg staff as an instructional assistant in 1991. As the security monitor at Kellogg since 2000, Leslie works at every athletic contest, attends every music event and other evening celebrations, and supervises three days a week in the after school “Hang Time” program.

“Leslie has worked at Kellogg for over 20 years and is truly the spirit and often the face of our school,” read her nomination, signed by all Kellogg staff.

“Leslie does whatever she can to keep us safe,” her colleagues wrote. “Immediately following the Sandy Hook tragedy, she toured the whole campus, checking to see what needed to be done in every room to improve safety. In true Leslie style, she led the charge.”

Halferty and Martin were selected by a committee of parents, staff and administrators from nominations submitted from across the District. Each received a professional development grant from the Shoreline Public Schools Foundation.

Teacher and Support Person of the Year honored

Frank Halferty with the Shoreline School Board and Supt. Walker.

Leslie Martin and the Kellogg Knight.
A baby becomes the teacher in the Roots of Empathy program now in place at several district elementary schools.

Roots of Empathy was founded in Canada in 1996 by Mary Gordon, on the premise that a baby can teach us all how to be more empathetic. A mom (or dad) and a two-to-four month-old baby are chosen from the community to visit a class once a month for nine months. Students witness the empathetic interactions that happen between the parent and the baby.

In a pre-lesson that takes place before the baby and parent visit, the trained instructor picks a baby-related topic to share with the students. The instructor then returns for a debrief lesson after the visit, tying observations of the experience to the children’s own lives.

“You can’t teach empathy, you catch it,” said Meridian Park Principal Amy Jessee. “Empathy is lived through this program and it’s pretty amazing to watch it in action.”

Roots of Empathy’s mission is to build caring, peaceful and civil societies through the development of empathy in children and adults. Its goals include reducing levels of bullying, aggression and violence, and promoting children’s knowledge of human development, learning and infant safety.

“It is often said that parents don’t need a license to raise children, but if there was a program in place, it would be one like Roots of Empathy that would teach and prepare parents. It really, truly breeds responsible parenting,” Jessee said.

Roots of Empathy began in Shoreline after Linda Averill, retired principal of the Shoreline Children’s Center, attended a workshop and was impressed with the program. The program was started at Lake Forest Park Elementary in 2009 and was recently featured on PBS Newshour.

The curriculum addresses the affective side of education, but the activities also link to the classroom curriculum. For example, students use math skills when they calculate and chart the baby’s weight and measurements. Literature is used as a way to open the door to feelings and empathy. Art plays a large role as children paint their inner feelings, which they cannot always say with words. Music stirs powerful feelings and speaks to everyone regardless of language or culture.

Kim Stockamp teaches kindergarten at Lake Forest Park and her baby son Bennett “taught” a class of third graders this year there.

As a mom, she has been touched by the tender and heartfelt interactions of the older students with her son. The students are making the connections at home with their own families and then sharing their experiences in class. Parents have also observed and commented on the empathetic behavior of the students with their brothers and sisters.

Seattle was the first U.S. city to participate in Roots of Empathy. It was launched in 2007 and since then has served over 5,300 children in Washington state. PTA has funded the program in several Shoreline schools and training has been provided free of charge by Roots of Empathy with donations from the John and Nancy Sabol Foundation.
High School Construction Update

SHORECREST

Behind the existing school building, the steel structure and walls for the three-story new main academic building have risen to their full height over the past few months, with occupancy expected in February 2014. The current building will be demolished after that. The new gymnasium and performing arts center, which includes the theater and classrooms for music, theater and visual arts, are now fully operational.

SHOREWOOD

The new high school remains on schedule for its opening in September. Crews are busy completing finish work throughout the three-story classroom building, theater, commons and gymnasium. A public auction of surplus items from the current building will be held June 26; visit murphyauction.com for more information. Demolition of the old Shorewood buildings is expected to begin in July to make room for fields and parking.

This view of the new Shorecrest main academic building is looking southeast from the existing fields at the school.

The courtyard area of the new Shorewood High School will include outdoor seating for students. This view is looking back at the classroom building and the new library with its wall of windows.
Secondary Summer School registration now open

Registration is open for the Shoreline School District's 2013 Secondary Summer School program serving students entering grades 7 to 12. Classes will be held July 8 to Aug. 2 at Einstein Middle School.

Course offerings include math classes for students to either retrieve credit or for review prior to fall enrollment, assistance for students entering high school, reading support and online credit recovery.

Summer school is open only to Shoreline School District students.

Scholarships and free bus transportation are available. For information, call the Summer School Office at 393-4408, email summer.school@shorelineschools.org or visit the Secondary Summer School Web page.

The Elementary Extended Learning Academy will be held July 8 to Aug. 2 at Ridgecrest Elementary. It serves students in the Shoreline School District who are invited based on district assessments.

Summer fun at the Children’s Center

The Shoreline Children’s Center and Extended Day Program offers a high quality and cost-effective summer recreational program. This program is available for children 2-1/2 years old through 6th grade, and runs weekdays from 6:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Students participate in a variety of theme-based learning and recreational activities. The Children’s Center is located at 1900 N. 170th St. in Shoreline. For information contact the Shoreline Children’s Center at 206-393-4256.

Shoreline Schools Calendar

For a complete list of events, visit www.shorelineschools.org

June 2013
10 • District Retirement Celebration, 5 p.m., Shoreline Center
10 and 24 • School Board meeting, 7 p.m., Shoreline Center
16 • Graduation ceremonies at Comcast Arena in Everett; Shorewood 2 p.m., Shorecrest 6 p.m.
21 • Early Release, last day of school for grades K-11
24 • Shoreline Children’s Center summer programs begin
26 • Shorewood HS surplus auction, visit murphyauction.com for information

July 2013
8 • Elementary and Secondary Summer School begins
31 • School Board meeting, 5 p.m., Shoreline Center

August 2013
6 • Primary Election Day, please remember to vote
12 • School offices open
13 to 15 • Summer HSPE testing
24 • Back to School Consortium event, register at btsconsortium.org
26 • School Board meeting, 7 p.m., Shoreline Center

September 2013
4 • First Day of School for 2013-14 year

Kindergarten enrollment for 2013-14 is under way at all District elementary schools. For more information, call 206-393-4211.