“Buddy Table” builds friendships at recess

Lake Forest Park School receives a gift that will keep giving

Shorecrest students lead conversations on race and equity

Shorewood students give voice to kindness video campaign
Superintendent’s Message

We find strength in our diversity

If you live in the Shoreline School District, you should have recently received our Annual Report to the Community. There is a lot of valuable and important information contained in the report, but I want to take this opportunity to highlight one of those sections: our demographics.

We are fortunate to learn, live and work in a very diverse community. As an example, there are more than 70 languages spoken in our families’ homes throughout the district. After English, the top five languages spoken in the district are: Spanish, Amharic, Korean, Tigrinya and Vietnamese.

We celebrate and showcase the diversity of our community. At times, as in any system, we will encounter behavior that runs counter to our community values of promoting kindness, compassion and respect for others. Our students, staff and community are tackling those issues head on and seeking out ways to help in their schools and the world around them.

In this issue of The Flagship, you’ll read about a series of student-led equity forums held to create conversations and develop understanding around a wide range of topics. You’ll also learn about a youth-focused video campaign students participated in to encourage people to stand up for their friends and neighbors, as well as a story about a special table to help students make friends at recess.

I’m incredibly proud of the work our students, staff and families are engaged in to ensure that our schools respect and embrace all of the cultures, customs and identities that make up our amazing community. I hope that you will join us in following their lead and seek out opportunities where you can help build a bridge of understanding and care.

It is truly an honor to serve a school district and community that is so committed to creating a more inclusive and compassionate future for us all.

Regards,

Rebecca Miner
Superintendent

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Upcoming Dates

Due to two snow days this school year, there will be school make-up days on May 15 and June 12. These days were previously scheduled as staff work days.

April
26: PTA Recognition Dinner
29: Shoreline Track and Field Invite

May
1: State of the Schools at Shoreline Ctr.
2: State of the Schools at Shoreline Ctr.
2: Teacher Appreciation Day
8: School Board Meeting
10: School Nurse Appreciation Day
11-14: Shorecrest Play
18-21: Shorecrest Play
20: Shoreline STEM Festival
22: School Board Meeting
29: No School - Memorial Day

June
5: School Board Meeting
12: District Retirement Celebration
18: Graduation Day
19: School Board Meeting
23: Early Release - Last Day of School

You Are Invited!
State of the Schools Presentation and Forum

May 1 at 7 p.m.
May 2 at 10 a.m.
Shoreline Center Boardroom

Interested in learning more about Shoreline Schools? Have a question you’d like to ask? Join us for our State of the Schools Presentation!

You are invited to join Superintendent Rebecca Miner for the 1st Annual Shoreline State of the Schools Presentation and Forum on May 1 at 7 p.m. or May 2 at 10 a.m. in the Shoreline Center Boardroom, 18560 1st Ave NE, Shoreline.

Superintendent Miner will present information about the District’s demographics, budget information, academic achievement and much more. There will also be a question and answer session at the conclusion of the presentation.

Spanish, Amharic, Mandarin, Korean and Vietnamese interpreters will be available at the May 1 presentation.

There is no need to RSVP. If you have any questions, please contact Curtis Campbell at curtis.campbell@shorelineschools.org or 206.393.4412.

The Flagship | Spring 2017

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The Flagship | Spring 2017
“Buddy Table” builds friendships

Students at Lake Forest Park Elementary have an amazing new piece of equipment on their playground. It’s not a new slide or monkey bars. It’s a table, but not just an ordinary table. The school recently held a kick-off celebration for their new “Buddy Table” that was donated by their PTA.

“The purpose of the Buddy Table is to promote friendship and ensure that every student has a place on the playground,” said Principal Aimee Miner. “Not only can students draw, play games, read or rest at the table, but it is also a place for engagement.”

The school began a Recess Buddies program in the fall. Over 60 students in grades 2-6 received special training and leadership opportunities to welcome and engage with other students on the playground who might need someone to play with at recess.

“A Recess Buddy is someone who helps make sure that recess is fun and safe for everyone,” said 2nd grade student Khadija Mehreen. “We look to see that everyone at recess has a friend to play with and invite others to play games with us.”

In addition to helping students find things to do and kids to play with at recess, the Recess Buddies also help other students problem solve their disagreements and follow the rules.

The Recess Buddies were very excited about the addition of the Buddy Table to their playground. “Now, we have a place to sit together to talk or play,” said 2nd grade student Mila Trujillo. “Also, if we see someone sitting there alone, any of us can go over and invite them to play with us.”

The Buddy Table was donated by the Lake Forest Park Elementary PTA with the support of the Zelo Family, Tubbs Family, Claar/Sodal Family, Snapdoodle Toys and Mr. T’s Trophies.

Special table and buddies help students find friends and activities at Lake Forest Park Elementary

Shoreline Success Shorts

Good news. Bite-sized.

Shorecrest Teachers Honored

Shorecrest Band Teacher Vince Caruso and Art Teacher Laura King were recently presented with the 2017 Friends of the Community Award by Third Place Commons. Caruso and King were selected for their contributions and commitment to the arts.

Shorecrest Hip Hop is Tops

The Shorecrest Hip Hop Team made it a 3-peat by winning the 3A state championship. They were also the 2A state champs in 2015 and 2016. This is their first year competing at the 3A level. Shorewood’s team joined them on the podium after placing fourth.

Echo Lake Students Sworn In

Echo Lake 5th grade students were honored by Governor Jay Inslee and Chief Justice Mary Fairhurst for their participation in the Civic Learning Initiative. The project helped students learn about democracy, political parties, election campaigns and governance.

Shorecrest Choir students recently had the experience of a lifetime when they performed at New York’s Carnegie Hall on April 2 for the National Youth Choir Performance. Senior Kat Rodriguez was selected to perform a solo at the concert.

Students Perform at Carnegie

Robotics Team Sets Records

The Shorewood and Shorecrest students who comprise “Team Pronto” scored big at the FIRST Robotics competition in Glacier Peak on March 24-26. The team broke and then re-broke the regional scoring record and their alliance placed 2nd in the event.

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Shorecrest students fill the Shorecrest Commons for the Race and Equity Forum on April 7, 2017.

ASB Treasurer Alaiyi Lawson leads part of the discussion during the forum.

Shorecrest race and equity forums build understanding

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Shorecrest race and equity forums build understanding

Students lead monthly forums to discuss today’s important topics

Discussion of topics like race, identity, religion or mental illness can be difficult. But these are just a few of the subjects discussed on a regular basis as part of Shorecrest High School's student-led “Race and Equity Forums.”

Once a month, Shorecrest’s student leaders plan, coordinate and facilitate round table discussions in the school’s commons that are open to all students during their advisory periods, according to Shorecrest Activity Coordinator Johanna Phillips.

“Student Council came up with the idea and developed it,” said Phillips. “The idea is to deepen understanding and listen to each other... it’s not a debate; it’s a way to understand others’ perspectives and experiences.”

“You can’t force someone to change their mind, but the first step to change is just making others aware.”

- Davian Apillanes, senior

“People wanted an outlet to share their feelings and points of view in a constructive way,” said Miki Demeke, freshman. “That is what we are trying to provide with these student forums.”

The students plan to continue to hold the Race and Equity Forums each month. “We’ll continue to find and discuss topics that are relevant to students and their lives inside and outside of school,” said Demeke.

“We want the students to hear from and learn about those who might not be part of their own social circles,” said Phillips.

After everyone is seated, student leaders go over the norms and expectations for the discussions to help ensure everyone’s views are heard and respected. They then lead students through a set of questions and conversation starters that each table discusses. Students are expected to share their thoughts around the table while others listen with an open mind.

While these forums are relatively new at the school (the first was held in December), students who have participated feel the thought-provoking discussions are serving their purpose.

“People wanted an outlet to share their feelings and points of view in a constructive way,” said Miki Demeke, freshman. “That is what we are trying to provide with these student forums.”

Students who choose to participate are randomly assigned to tables when they check in. This is to ensure they don’t gravitate toward their friends or people they know well.

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Video campaign to promote kindness and compassion gets a boost from Shorewood students

What does it mean to be there for others and what does it mean for others to be there for you? Those are some of the questions students from Shorewood High School are helping answer as part of a video campaign aimed at inspiring people to “show up” for others.

Show Up for All is a youth-centric awareness campaign and sharing platform started by area filmmakers, teachers and community leaders to highlight how we can all show up and be there for each other, according to Shorewood freshman Nadia Metales.

She heard about the project in her English class. “I just really connected with the idea of sharing our stories about just being there for one another or what it feels like when someone wasn’t there for you,” said Metales. “There is a lot of power in that; I really wanted to help.”

Metales quickly volunteered to help find other students willing to share their stories with filmmaker Bonnie Phariss and her video production crew.

One by one, the students came and shared their stories. “There is simplicity and truth in what these kids have to say,” said Phariss. “Their heart and compassion was extraordinary and their ability and willingness to share their stories is incredibly inspiring.”

The four-minute Show Up for All launch video was debuted in early April at the Columbia City Youth Theater’s Using Arts as a Catalyst for Social Change Conference. It is now available to watch online at www.showupforall.org or www.facebook.com/showupforall. In the short time since its release online, the video has already racked up over 33,000 views.

“I hope the people who watch the video will feel empowered to be the person who speaks up and shows up,” said Metales. “I want people to see themselves in these stories and know they are not alone.”

The Show Up for All project will also let people literally see themselves in the stories shared on the site. People who watch the video or visit their website are invited to upload their own stories to share and possibly be used in future videos.

“We hope these stories will serve as a vehicle for inspiring everyone at every age to ‘show up’ for each other,” said Phariss.
Three Shorecrest students earned awards at the 2017 Regional High School Art Show sponsored by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and Washington Art Education Association (WAEA).

Victoria Sepulveda's "What My Painting Sees" and Sue Ellen Zhang's "Pathway" paintings earned top Regional Awards and will advance to the OSPI State Art Show in Olympia this spring. Sepulveda's work also earned the Best in Show Award for 2D art and King County Executive Award. Teagan Woods' painting, "Stargazers" earned an Outstanding Achievement Award.

The Washington State 2017 High School Art Show, co-hosted by OSPI and WAEA, is an artistic celebration each year for the regional finalists from the State's nine educational service districts.
ARE YOU A PROUD SHORELINE SCHOOLS ALUM?

Cut out this page, take a picture of yourself holding up the opposite side of the page at an interesting location, project or event and send it to us at public.info@shorelineschools.org. Be sure to include your name, which high school you attended and graduation year.

You may find your picture published in a future issue of The Flagship or posted on our social media channels.

Feel free to post on your own social media accounts too! Just don’t forget to hashtag.

#SPSTAKESYOUTHERE

Sue Semrau (Shorecrest c/o 1980) is the Head Women’s Basketball Coach at Florida State University. She has guided the Seminoles to 12 NCAA Tournaments, including two Elite Eight appearances, four NCAA Sweet 16s, won a pair of gold medals with USA Basketball and was named the 2015 Associated Press National Coach of the Year.

Dr. Kia Nicholson (Shorewood c/o 2004) is completing her surgery residence at the University of Pittsburgh, after completing medical school at USC.

Tristan Sill (Shorewood c/o 2001) runs an English conversation school near Funabashi City, Chiba Prefecture, Japan. Here, he poses in front of a sign that roughly translates to “The 3rd district of Shibayama’s Green Land.”