

Feb. 25, 2009

Renton School District is proud of the accomplishments of our students, staff and families. Here are just a few Good News items highlighting those accomplishments.

Talbot Hill Elementary School students are staying fit during gym class using ballet. The Evergreen City Ballet (ECB) program Dance ALIVE! introduces students to the world of dance and movement. Under the supervision of ECB Artistic Director Kevin Kaiser, students learn healthy lifestyles,



including diet, exercise and rest. The program (led here by Andi Bryndza, ECB's Ballet Mistress) teaches students: the five basic ballet positions of the arms and feet; ballet vocabulary, presented in French with English translation; and a better understanding of their own physicality through movement and body awareness. Students who successfully complete the program have the chance to perform in ECB's own Black Box Theatre. Dance Alive! serves elementary students throughout South King County at no cost to students or their schools.

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Lindbergh High School students in Creed Nelson's construction/manufacturing class are building picture frames for the Veterans of Foreign Wars to distribute to families with loved ones fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan. Nelson read about the program in a trade magazine and worked with students (including those pictured I-r Zach Nielsen, Russell Beal and Chris Nelson) to create 28 frames to send to the VFW Foundation in Kansas City to be given to military families throughout the U.S.

Hazelwood Elementary School's Student Council sponsored a shoe drive in conjunction with the ASHÉ Foundation's *Shoes for Africa* campaign. Hazelwood students, parents and staff collected over 500 pairs of shoes to be delivered to children throughout Africa. The ASHÉ Foundation is a non-profit organization committed to collecting 1 million pairs of shoes, clothing and other necessities for the millions of children throughout Africa who have been orphaned by the devastating effects of war, famine and HIV/AIDS.



Staff at two elementary schools will receive funding for special projects thanks to the O.J. Harper Engineering, Children's Needs Fund. A team of fourth-grade teachers at Bryn Mawr Elementary will receive \$650 to purchase materials to improve student achievement in mathematics and parent involvement. Sierra Heights Elementary will receive \$430 to purchase calculators and mathematics books for students throughout the school. Requests for the funds were made as part of the annual Circle of Giving campaign where local community members offer personal financial support to district staff for specific projects. The O.J. Harper Fund, advised by retired district employee Pat Auten, is made possible by the owner of Harper Engineering Company, a Renton-based aeronautical engineering group.



Renton High School students in the Culinary Skills 1-4 course are catering staff and student events at the school. Students (like those pictured left) try various recipes for appetizers and desserts to offer as part of the catering business including Swedish meatballs, pumpkin rolls, white chocolate macadamia nut cookies, and lumpia, which are pastries similar to spring rolls from the Philippines and Indonesia. Students recently catered a faculty meeting which played hosts to more than 75 people.

Parents throughout the district are taking advantage of free English classes taught by Renton School District teachers. Family members are learning basic English skills and making personal connections with their children's teachers at Cascade, Sierra Heights, and Tiffany Park elementary schools, Nelsen Middle School, and Hazen High School. At many of the sites, educational activities for children are provided while parents attend class. Students whose parents attend the classes are more accountable and focused in class, and parents are more empowered to connect with teachers to intervene with students who are not completing assignments. The English language courses are paid for through the Emergency Immigrant grant from the state's education office.