

## Your Arlington Public Schools Report

# #4

As we look back over the 2014-2015 school year, we are excited to share our accomplishments, awards, and the goals met with our community. We started our year with the Puget Sound Business Journal ranking Arlington as #4 in their “Top 10 Neighborhoods Ranked by School Performance”. Our city was the

only Snohomish County city to be included in the top ten communities in the Puget Sound list. This is such an honor for our district as well as the Arlington community!

### APS TEACHERS JOIN OTHERS IN BECOMING NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED!

Four more Arlington teachers earned their National Board Certification® in November, joining 25 other current district teachers who previously earned their certification. The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) recently announced Washington State has 946 National Board Certified teachers and now ranks first in the nation! The newest Arlington teachers who completed this goal by the end of 2014 are Jacqueline Arnold, Chad Palmiter, Emily Palmiter, and Leigh Anne Rohloff.

### 2014 WASHINGTON ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Three of our schools received the 2014 Washington Achievement Award. This award is given by The Washington State Board of Education and Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction based on data collected over the past three years. The three schools and categories for recognition were:

Kent Prairie Elementary - Overall Excellence and Math Growth

Presidents Elementary - Math Growth

Post Middle School - Reading Growth

District administrators had fun cooking breakfast for staff at each school, as well as making the initial announcement with cake, balloons and a poster. We are proud to see them recognized for their continuous improvement!

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### District Summer Schedule

Schools will be closing for the summer (check school websites for exact date). Senior graduates should arrange to obtain their transcripts prior to the closing of the high school offices.

All schools will reopen for registration on August 19.

# LEARNING IS FUN THROUGH STEM/STEAM

(Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Mathematics)



Pioneer Elementary students enjoyed creating science projects and winning medals for their submissions in the “STEAM Into Science” night. The elementary students created and played music instruments, learned how to operate the high school NeoBots 2903 robot, and presented science experiments where they had to develop a hypothesis, design their experiment, and show what the results were.

It was a fun night with a great turn out!

*Pictured left to right: Anabel Weil, Sophie Gaudin, Devyn Britton, Madyson Whitmarsh, and Kasey Wirt*

Ms. Verlaine Meyers, science teacher, obtained a grant through the Arlington Education Foundation to fund the World of Science STEM Fair at Haller Middle School.

There were 150 seventh grade students participating and approximately 500 attendees who came to see the projects these industrious students completed. This was a year-long commitment from the students who used science, technology, engineering and math as they researched solar energy, volcanoes, how salmon are affected by the environment, the African Savanna food web, asteroids, and the list goes on.

Part of the fair included local scientists who shared their tips on being ready for college and career. Families were able to meet the scientists and explore careers in robotics, aeronautics, genetics, computer technology, and natural resources. We hope to see this popular event again in the future.



*Pictured: Jayla Nelson*

Weston High School students participated in a two week, real-life STEM project where they answered the question, “How can we mitigate the effects of a natural disaster in Arlington?” Students received the support of a variety of district, City of Arlington, and private business staff to support their learning. Following a panel discussion with City personnel, students broke into project groups related to science, technology, engineering, and math to resolve challenges posed in an emergency event.

Weston students were also exposed to possible career opportunities in the aerospace field when they toured the Aerospace Joint Apprenticeship Program (AJAC) mobile unit. They learned about how threads are made and used to make carbon fiber, viewed cutting edge computerized training stations and learned about creating and flying drones.



*Pictured: Robert Jeffries with drone creator Tyler Harbick*

# STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS~AHS

## AHS MUSICAL SUCCESS

Arlington High School put on an amazing production of the musical Cinderella. Students performed for a packed house every night in March at the Byrnes Performing Arts Center. The set design and construction were a wonderful backdrop to the costuming, acting and singing.

This production was not only touted by Northwest Theatre News, but it was been nominated for one 5th Avenue High School Musical Awards:

- Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble Group for Emily Hawks and Emma Vanderweyst as the Stepsisters

Also, the following categories received Honorable Mentions:

- Outstanding Performance by an Actor in a Leading Role for Jack Rogers (Prince)
- Outstanding Choreography
- Outstanding Lobby Display

## ATHLETICS

We are so proud of the Arlington High School athletes who experienced success in several sports during each season this year.

### *Fall Season Sports:*

- Girls Soccer qualified for State
- Boys Tennis advanced players to Districts
- Boys Cross Country won League and District titles
- Girls Cross Country won League title
- Volleyball won League title

### *Winter Season Sports:*

- Girls Basketball won League title, and placed 4th in State
- Wrestling won the Sub Regional Championship, Regional Championship, and placed 6th in State
- Boys Basketball missed State by only one game

### *Spring Season Sports:*

- Golf - Two Girls and Two Boys qualified for State
- Boys Soccer won League championship
- Boys and Girls Track won League and District Championships
- Justean Landis won State championship in Girls Discus

## HI Q TEAM

Our AHS HiQ Team won State this year and went on to compete nationally against three other teams using video conferencing in the district board room. HiQ is an opportunity for students to exhibit their knowledge in a wide variety of subjects by answering questions about literature, sports, history, current events, government, Shakespeare, geometry and physics. The students study a specific set of subjects throughout the year, much of the time on their own, to prepare for the regional, state, and national competitions.



*Pictured left to right: Emily Hawks and Emma Vanderweyst (Courtesy of Northwest Theatre News)*

## EARLY LEARNING ~ A SPRINGBOARD FOR SUCCESS

As a result of focusing on early learning, several exciting program changes have occurred. One major change is the district is now providing tuition-free, full-time kindergarten to all families. There has been a desire for many families to enroll their child in the full-time program, but who found it difficult to afford the tuition. Parents showed their approval by applauding when the announcement was made at the Kindergarten Information Night. Research shows one of the benefits of a full-time program is the opportunity to cover all of the state standards at a pace that works best for their developmental age. We have moved away from the days of a kindergarten schedule consisting of story time, snack, activity time and rest time. Kindergarteners now learn all

the letters and accompanying sounds and the elements of a story. Many students can read by the end of the year as well. In math, they learn numbers up to 100, how to add and subtract, and identify geometric shapes.

We are excited to begin a new summer program, “Books on the Bus” to district neighborhoods this summer. The bus will be stocked with books for elementary aged children to check out. District staff members will travel with the bus to read stories to kids. The schedule for “Books on the Bus” is included in the Summer Course Offerings catalog sent home to families. The catalog can also be found on the homepage of the district website.

## GET A JUMP ON EARLY LEARNING ~ FREE PRESCHOOL



APPLE/ECEAP is a free pre-kindergarten program located in Eagle Creek Elementary and Stillaguamish Valley Learning Center for income-eligible children ages three to five years (based on qualifications) and their families. The program offers the highest quality of service in education, family support, health and nutrition.

The ECEAP curriculum is play-based and develops literacy, language, math, art, social, emotional, and science skills. They also offer medical/dental screenings, connection to community resources, parent education, and family fun nights. Enroll your child today! Call 360-618-6434.

## EAGLE CREEK READING CARNIVAL

Eagle Creek families packed the school for the 2nd Annual Reading Carnival held just before spring break. The library was open and filled with wonderful reading materials families could purchase to add to their home book collections. Ms. Arnold, librarian, received a grant to obtain one free, brand new book for each student who attended the carnival, which was a big hit.

In addition to obtaining reading materials, children enjoyed a variety of carnival activities including the ever popular Reading to Rover, bouncy houses, face painting, cake walks, bubbles, Wii dancing, and much more. This was a great family fun night!



*Pictured left to right: Fidelina (parent), Jessica and Gustavo Hernandez*

# PROVIDING A SAFE & CARING ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL

## THE W.A.Y. (Who Are You?)

This was the second year Arlington High School implemented the anti-bullying/harrassment program called The W.A.Y. This is a student-lead program where students are encouraged to think about who they are in a bullying scenario and how they can best respond by intervening on behalf of a student or by contacting a staff member to report the incident. It has been very successful at the high school level, and this year, the program was adopted in our middle schools. Arlington High School students held two evening events where students talked about the program and the impact it has had on school culture.

## CHALLENGE DAY

Challenge Day, a national program, was brought in for two groups of Arlington High School students and another group of combined Haller and Post Middle School students. This one-day program was established in 1987 with a vision of “every child living in a world where they feel safe, loved, and celebrated.” The program goes beyond prevention of bullying to include developing a supportive and safe school environment.

Over the six and a half hours each day, two facilitators, along with approximately 100 students and 25 staff, gathered together in the Arlington High School gym to learn more about each other and how they can support one another. Student participants were invited from a variety of grades, social circles and experiences. As a result of this experience, a new AHS club emerged to carry on the torch of creating a supportive school culture.

## “OUT OF THE SHADOWS” COMMUNITY EVENT

The Arlington Drug Awareness Coalition held their first community event, “Out of the Shadows” on April 28. The event was co-sponsored by Arlington Public Schools, Cascade Valley Hospital and the City of Arlington. Prior to and following the presentation, families were able to visit with representatives from local agencies and also see what healthy activities are available for children in our area. Two guest speakers from Battlefield Addiction spoke about

their approach to helping families with addiction and the struggles they faced in their own lives and families. A video was shown with interviews of past Arlington students who “came out of the shadows” and shared about their battle with drug addiction. Arlington police officers Rory Bolter and Molly Ingram educated participants about what they are seeing in our community and in Snohomish County.

The evening wrapped up with families and community members signing a poster pledging to “Be the Change” for the health and safety of our communities through communication, networking and education. The posters will be posted in each school this fall. This was very impactful and a well-attended event. Watch for more events in the coming year!

## EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE TEAM (EMART)

Did you know that our school district has an emergency management team that meets throughout the year to update procedures and debrief after drills? The EMART team consists of district administrators, school principals, district nurse and the public information coordinator. Meeting regularly allows for us to continually improve the safety of our schools. The team has invited police and fire representatives to provide information on current practices in emergency situations. The procedures and materials created by the EMART team are living, up-to-date documents used for drills so if an emergency occurs, staff and students will be well practiced.

Parents can better understand how they can help in an emergency by viewing our document, Be “schooled” for emergencies! on the district website under the For Parents tab/Health and Safety.

**Be “schooled” for emergencies!**

**reYOUunification:** | re-yoo-nuh-fi-kay-shun | noun  
1. Following a school emergency, reYOUunification is the careful and thoughtful process your local school district uses to ensure students are released to their authorized guardians. reYOUunification is a partnership in which IISD have a role to pre-think, prepare and remain calm during school emergencies.

**Stay connected and keep informed.**  
Arlington Public Schools use Blackboard Connect, Facebook Messenger, and local television radio stations to get school-related emergency and reYOUunification messages to parents. Please connect with your school district to learn more.

**How YOU can help prepare your family to be ready for a school district emergency.**

- Become familiar with your school's emergency notification systems
- Ensure up-to-date phone, text and email numbers are on record at each school a student in your family attends
- Ensure there is an emergency contact if schools can't reach parents or guardians
- In an emergency, keep your phone lines open
- Keep school phone lines open; schools need clear lines to connect with emergency responders
- Keep ready to school; open emergency responders need quick access to schools
- Listen for reYOUunification location announcements; get there, not to the school
- Take ID to reYOUunification location; be patient; students are released ONLY to adults you have authorized and who have ID
- Load I.E. (In Case of Emergency) numbers into student cell phones (not text)
- Have your own family emergency plan

Prudently supported by Snohomish County Public Schools Information Cooperative

## PROGRESS IN COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

During the 2014-15 school year, our College and Career Readiness Task Force made great gains in building a bridge from our current graduation requirements to the new requirements set by the State Board of Education. During its monthly meetings, the task force evaluated the 24-credit requirements, beginning with the class of 2019, and looked at ways students can customize their education to meet their post-high school goals through “personal pathways.” As we head into the future, students will develop their pathway in agreement with parents and the school to assure they have a well-developed plan to follow beginning in middle school.



A revision of the graduation requirement policy to address the new requirements was approved by the Board on June 8. It speaks to the credit requirement of 22.5 for the classes of 2015 to 2018 and the change to 24 credits beginning with the class of 2019. The policy also addresses the Career and Tech Ed (CTE) equivalencies for some courses. Having classes with cross equivalencies means a course could count as a CTE credit or a credit for another subject based on the course.

Evaluating tools available to help students establish and track their High School and Beyond Plan was another goal for the task force. The decision was made to use Naviance, a comprehensive electronic college and career readiness platform. Naviance begins with students building

a better understanding of their talents and strengths before progressing to career exploration and academic planning. Support and information on college preparedness and admissions are also components of the platform. This tool will support the guidance counselors and parents as they help direct students toward their career goals.

Beginning this fall, Ms. Amie Verellen-Grubbs will fill the position of Director of Innovative Programs and Career Readiness. She will be overseeing college and career readiness, high school and beyond planning, CTE and STEM. We are excited to have her fill this new position and look forward to continued progress in these important areas.

## FINANCE AND FACILITIES UPDATE

As a district, we pride ourselves in being good stewards of taxpayers' dollars. We have been acknowledged at the state and federal level over the past few years for our efficiency and providing a high return on district funds. In 2011-12 and 2013-14 the the district received an excellent Financial Health Indicator rating. This indicator is based on Fund Balance to Revenue Ratio, Expenditure to Revenue Ratio and Days Cash on Hand.

Feedback on how we are being good stewards helps us know we are making wise and prudent decisions with our public funds. If you would like to learn more about school district finance, please visit our website at [www.asd.wednet.edu](http://www.asd.wednet.edu) and

click on [Administration/Financial Services/Citizens Guide to the Budget](#).

The district has completed several facility improvements over the past year, including a new roof for Post Middle School and gutter replacement for Eagle Creek Elementary. This summer we are focusing on the Haller Middle School gym with replacing the floor, scoreboard, and bleachers.

Every summer our maintenance department polishes floors, paints walls, checks and repairs roofs, and cleans gutters to make sure our buildings are in great condition when school starts in the fall.

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2015 GRADUATES!

Best wishes to our 334 Arlington High School Graduates



Wishing success to our 22 Weston High School Graduates



Congratulations to our four Stillaguamish Valley Learning Center graduates:

Gabriel Jett, Elle Lee, Corwin Phillips, Riley Spalding

# ARLINGTON

## Public Schools

315 North French Avenue  
Arlington, WA 98223

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## PARTNERING WITH OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES



The Arlington Education Foundation recently hosted a meeting at Ellie's at the Airport for local businesses who are partnering with our school district to develop a new rigorous

technical and professional program for Arlington students. The goal for the evening was to create partnerships between those who need a trained work force and those who are preparing students for the work force.

We are excited about the new manufacturing technology coursework we are planning to offer students. This program will provide a certificate showing students have been specifically trained in this field.

A special thanks to the represented businesses who were willing to make professional recommendations on industry standards to prepare our students to join the workforce:

Commercial Aircraft Interiors  
General Aerospace  
Absolute Manufacturing  
Universal Aerospace  
Lamartech  
Thomas Machine & Foudy, Inc  
JR Covlet  
AJAC  
Senior Aerospace  
Bowman Manufacturing  
Everett Community College  
Northwest Service Group  
Senior AMT  
Windermere, Arlington  
Aiooa, LLC  
Northwest Metal Craft  
Economic Alliance, Snohomish County  
Sea-Lect Plastics Corp  
Global Machine Works

*Arlington Public Schools provides equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without discrimination based on race, religion, creed, color, ancestry, national origin, age, marital status, honorably discharged veteran or military status, gender, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, 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. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:*

**TITLE IX OFFICER AND COMPLIANCE COORDINATOR**

Mr. Mike Johnson  
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**SECTION 504 COORDINATOR**

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