

A culture of kindness

The past two months were especially active with students and staff providing joy and security to those who could use a boost. Those efforts included collecting coats, socks, toys or food to share with families in our community.

For example, Harbour Pointe Middle School students held a Will E. Melt Toy Drive that helped support the Snohomish County Toys for Tots program. They also collected new, warm socks. The staff partnered with their local QFC and provided about 30 Thanksgiving meals, from turkey to pie, and do so each year. This is just one middle school and it is a powerful example of how many people in our community are helped each year through the efforts of our local schools.

Mariner High School students stage an annual program called "Giving Wishes" in which classes and clubs "adopt" families and help provide necessities and gifts for the holidays. Kamiah High School has a similar effort called "Hope Holiday Drive." Kamiah Leadership teacher Crystal Stengle shared, "Even though Hope Holiday is facilitated and organized by members of the Leadership class, it is a school wide event that brings together our entire student body. Each homeroom class adopts a family for the holiday season and provides the gifts on their wish list. It's a beautiful thing to see our community come together this time of year to spread hope and joy to others in a completely



anonymous way." Through these activities, students learn about the hard-working families who want to provide for their family. Between the two high schools, they help over 100 families each year meet their basic needs and have a little extra joy around the holidays.

Mukilteo School District also partners with local South Everett/Mukilteo Rotary to provide Thanksgiving meal baskets to families in our district. That partnership extends the reach of donation efforts and makes the holiday season a bit brighter for over 300 families each year.

While these efforts are important and appreciated by the community members who receive the gifts, clothing, food and other items, the activities are essential for students. Through these giving efforts, students experience the good feelings of helping someone who is going through a tough time, and more importantly, empathize with them. These acts of kindness can be game-changers for some students and can guide future actions that can benefit our community for generations.

Left — Mariner High School students "adopt" families and help provide necessities and gifts for the holidays each year

Above — Kamiah High School students share necessities and some fun with over 50 families each year during their Hope Holiday Drive



Mukilteo
School District

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Welcome, Superintendent Brynelson

Dr. Alison Brynelson began her new role as district superintendent January 1. The school board selected her as the new superintendent, replacing Dr. Marci Larsen who retired December 31.

Dr. Brynelson's work in the district spans 22 years and several different positions including Explorer Middle School Assistant Principal, Voyager Middle School Principal, Director of Student Services, Executive Director of Secondary Schools, Assistant Superintendent, and Deputy Superintendent. She completed her superintendent's certificate in 2005 and earned a doctorate degree in Executive Leadership from Seattle Pacific University in 2014. She has been a steady guiding force in the district's equity work and the most recent teacher negotiations, which wrapped in June, months before such negotiations typically finish.

School Board President Michael Simmons stated, "With Dr. Brynelson's expert leadership and demonstrated commitment to the Mukilteo School District, the board unanimously agreed that selecting her was in the district's best interest. She's an innovator with a clear vision for the district and we're confident it will be a productive mid-year transition with Dr. Brynelson's extensive knowledge of the district and staff."

Dr. Brynelson shared, "I am honored and grateful the board has given me this opportunity. I am committed to the success of all students and look forward to leading this work from the position of superintendent."



Why are you getting this newsletter? An estimated 70 percent of the residents within the school district do not have school-age children in Mukilteo schools. The purpose of **Your Schools**, therefore, is to let those members of the community know about the programs and activities taking place in their Mukilteo School District. This publication is not mailed using an address list. Instead, to greatly reduce the cost of postage, we use a bulk mailing process that has it delivered to every residential customer on each letter carrier's route.



Mukilteo School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Coordinator and Title IX Coordinator Bruce Hobert (425-356-1310), hobertb@mukilteo.wednet.edu; Section 504 Coordinator Lisa Pitsch (425-356-1277), pitschl@mukilteo.wednet.edu; and the ADA/AAccess Coordinator Karen Moosler (425-356-1330), mooskerk@mukilteo.wednet.edu. Address: 9401 Sharon Drive in Everett, WA. Inquiries regarding ADA/Access issues at Sno-Isle TECH Skills Center should be directed to Mike Gallagher, Interim Director (425-348-2220), gallagherms@mukilteo.wednet.edu. Address: 9001 Airport Road in Everett, WA 98204.

Your Schools

A publication for residents of the Mukilteo School District

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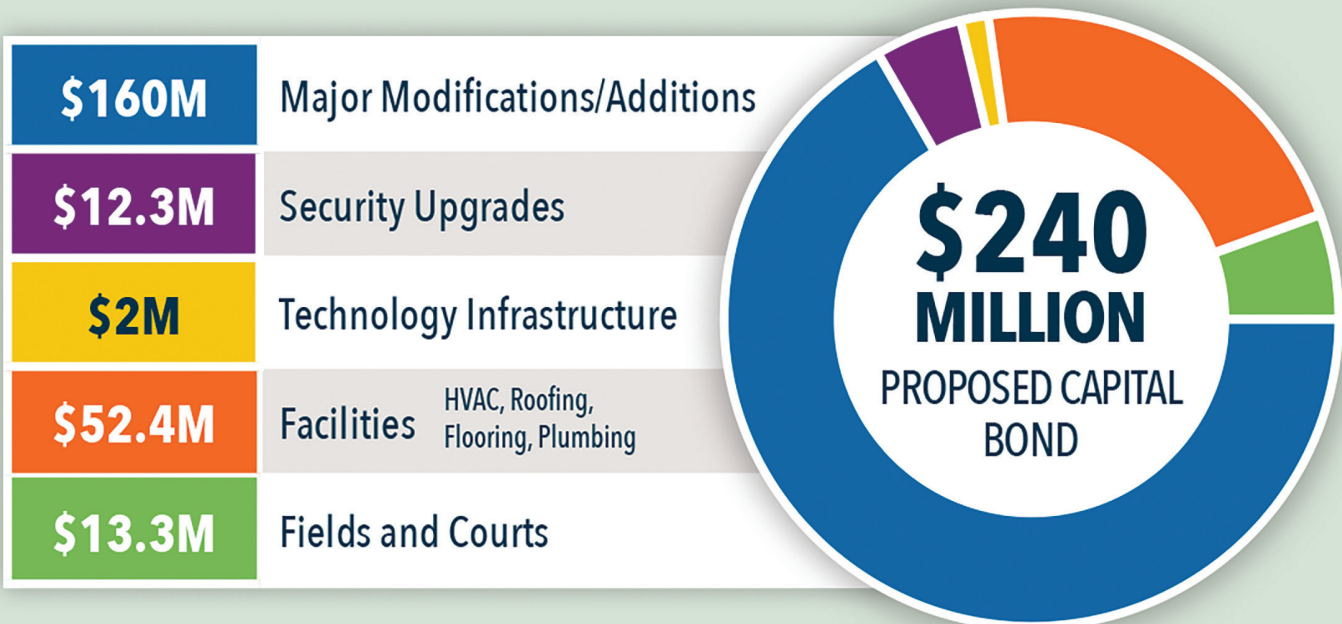
BOND ON THE BALLOT

All of the schools in Mukilteo School District are at or over capacity. To make room for the nearly 900 more students projected to join our school district in the next six years, the district needs more space. The challenge is there is no more land available within our district large enough to build an entire new school on. If approved by voters, the 2020 capital bond proposal would provide \$160 million for additional classrooms and learning space at seven of our existing schools.

The bond would also provide funds for roofing, flooring, and heating and ventilation improvements at 13 schools. Fourteen schools would receive field and tennis court replacements. Every school in the district would benefit from district-wide technology infrastructure improvements and would receive security system upgrades.

The security system upgrades would include integrated classroom door locks that allow teachers to lock their classroom doors from the inside rather than stepping into the hallway to lock their doors with a key. School emergency communication systems would be installed or upgraded at schools where they already exist. Automated systems at all schools will also be installed or upgraded to better control school access and security.

The total bond proposal is \$240 million to fund these space additions, building system replacements, and security improvements. If voters approve the capital bond with the required 60 percent supermajority, it would increase local tax rates by 9.4 cents per \$1,000 of Assessed Property Value. For a house valued at \$500,000, that would be an increase of \$47 per year.



Learn more about the bond and specific projects at www.mukilteoschools.org and, if you have questions about the capital bond, please email communications@mukilteo.wednet.edu. Watch for your ballots to arrive in late January and remember to vote by the February 11 election day.

JOIN THE GOLD TEAM

Mukilteo School District receives a tremendous amount of support from the senior citizens who live within the school district. The Gold Team is our way of saying “thank you” to senior citizens for their support and importance in the community. If you are at least 65 years of age and a resident in our school district, consider registering as a Gold Team member to receive:

- free admission to athletic games and performances in Mukilteo Schools District
- a publication called *Gold Team News*, which keeps members informed about upcoming school events

To get a Gold Team card, complete an application form at <http://bit.ly/GoldTeamApplic> and mail it to: Communications and Public Relations, Mukilteo School District, 9401 Sharon Drive, Everett, WA 98204. If you have any questions, or would prefer receiving an application by mail, please call Mary Wastman at 425-356-1215 or email WastmanML@mukilteo.wednet.edu.



The school board meets twice a month most of the year to conduct district business and regularly recognizes student and staff achievements

BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

The school board is the governing body for the district, elected by community members. The elected five school board members meet regularly to discuss and vote on policies that guide school district practices, financial reports, personnel changes, cooperative agreements, large contracts and more. School board meetings often include student recognitions, school improvement plans or presentations that dive deeper into the details of a topic.

The amount of time, focus and guidance school board members give is enormous and they get very little in return. January is the perfect month to recognize their often-difficult work because it is School Board Recognition Month. If you see any school board members at a school event or in the community, please thank them for their time and dedication to serving the community.

Learn more about the school board on the district website at www.mukilteoschools.org.



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BONDS AND LEVIES — WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE?

School districts receive much of their funding from state and federal sources, but for needs beyond basic education, districts ask their communities for additional funding through bonds and levies.

A simple way to remember the difference is the saying, “Bonds are for building. Levies are for learning.” Levies can fund additional programs, help fund the portion of special education which is not yet fully funded by the state, pay salaries not covered by the state, and cover other day-to-day costs. Districts collect levy dollars from local taxpayers each year, making them more useful for smaller projects or regularly occurring needs. A levy requires a simple majority (50 percent plus one) to pass.

Bonds are sold to investors and then repaid over a longer period of time (usually 20 to 30 years) with taxpayer dollars. Bonds help school districts fund capital projects such as major renovations, additions or new schools. Bonds can also be used for new multi-school or district-wide initiatives. Because bonds are financed over a longer time, they make it possible to complete bigger projects in which larger investment is needed upfront. Bonds require a 60 percent supermajority to pass.

You can learn more about school bonds and levies at <https://youtu.be/T5hml3UY3o0>.