Latest news and updates on construction work

SURPRISE LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

We are moving inside at Surprise Lake Middle School! Our contractor took full advantage of the recent dry days we’ve had to work on the permanent roof at SLMS. This is allowing work inside the building to go on - full speed ahead. Insulation and windows are being installed. Brickwork is also now being done around the main entrance to the building.

Earlier in the month, we visited a ‘mockup’ of a classroom. This allowed us to discuss where the learning wall, technology, clock, and so on would live in each classroom. We did the same visit in the office area. On another note, Mr. Beddes, SLMS Principal, worked with a group looking at the art that will be installed in the school. He secured a grant from the state which will allow a unique piece of art to be created specifically for SLMS. The artist the group selected is Clay Enoch. His artwork is amazing, and we can’t wait to see what he designs for SLMS!

MORE PHOTOS INSIDE THE NEW SLMS

Below Left: Natural light will fill the new SLMS band room. Below Right: A view of the SLMS Commons, grand staircase and three-story classroom building
Construction updates...continued
Elementary naming, STEAM Center and ISS work move forward

INFRASTRUCTURE/SAFETY/SECURITY (ISS)

The work replacing the exterior wall and insulation on Fife High School is expected to be completed during March. Better weather conditions will allow the buildings to be painted and work to rapidly come to an end. Fencing projects around three schools - Hedden, Discovery, and Columbia Junior High - have started and will be completed by mid-March. Door hardware for classrooms at Hedden has been replaced with more secure and ADA compliant features. Hardware replacement will begin at Discovery within the next two weeks. Bidding has gone out for hardened entries for these three schools as well. Hedden will begin the process to temporarily relocate the front offices by April. More information from Hedden will be sent to the school community.

District Science & Technology Showcase celebrates innovators of all ages

A well-attended 11th Annual Science & Technology Showcase was held at Columbia Junior High on Thursday, February 6 from 6:00-8:00 pm showcasing examples of student innovation and 21st Century problem solving from across the district. Throughout the commons, halls and gymnasiums one could find students proudly displaying their applications of scientific reasoning and demonstrations of cutting-edge technology. Display topics included - just to name a few - an analysis of how heat effects ocean currents, an examination of the impact of Australian bush fires, and how bread preservatives impact shelf life.

A variety of robots and technology-based displays were showcased as well, including CO2 car races, drone flying, and projects from the new 8th Grade STEAM Innovators course at Columbia Junior High. Each building also featured a Chromebook-based display showcasing projects and class activities now possible because of the Fife School District’s recent 1:1 initiative - Fife Forward.

FHS STEAM CENTER

The value engineering process is also wrapping up for the FHS STEAM Center. A team of district leaders made a second visit to the Washington High School STEAM Center to revisit their graphics art area specifically. Final input from teachers is helping finalize program choices for the new STEAM Center. Work on the STEAM Center is scheduled to begin this summer!

Discovery student wins national art award

CONGRATULATIONS goes out to Discovery Primary 1st grader, Addelyn Bendixsen, for her recent first place win in the National Johnson-O’Malley Association’s Student Art Contest! The theme for this year’s Student Art Contest was “The Next Era.” Along with her artwork submission, Addelyn wrote, “In the next era, I will be a nurse, making sure people are okay and that they won’t get sick. Hospitals will be a lot better at making people better.” Her artwork was featured in the program for the Johnson-O’Malley National Conference held in February in Arlington, VA. The Student Art Contest was open to all Native American Indian students in grades Prek-12, with Addelyn’s win in the Prek-3rd grade category. In addition to being featured in the conference program, Addelyn also received a $200 cash prize! Special thanks goes to our Native American Education Program Coordinator, Martha Sherman, for encouraging our students to enter this year’s contest. We are proud of you, Addelyn!

Spring conferences help students finish the year strong

Don’t miss this opportunity to meet with your student’s teachers and have informative conversations around what it takes to have a successful conclusion to the 2019-2020 school year! Elementary conferences are student-led and will be held on March 11, 12 & 13. These conferences are key to helping students and families understand where students were in October and the progress they have made on the academic and behavioral goals set for this year. A key component of these conferences is having students actively involved in articulating their learning and progress towards this year’s goals as well as setting new goals. As a parent or guardian, your collaboration and input in this process is so important in helping our students achieve maximum success.

Spring secondary conferences will be held in arena-style format from 6:00-8:00 pm on their scheduled evenings. SLMS will hold their conferences April 23, Columbia Junior High will hold theirs on March 26, and Fife High School’s will be held on March 25. All students and families are encouraged to attend.
A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

February 28, 2020

A friend of mine - Dr. Greg Borgerding - who is a high school principal in Eugene Oregon, posted the following quote on social media last week, and it made me reflect on the outstanding principals (and assistant principals) we have leading our schools in Fife!

**THE PRINCIPAL**

_The school takes on the personality of their principal. If the principal is mean, the staff will be mean to one another and the kids, and the kids will be mean to one another. If the principal is full of energy, excitement, and enthusiasm, the teachers will be energized to teach and the students will be excited about learning. The principal can either extinguish a flame of positivity or ignite a flame of hope. The principal is responsible for the culture and mood of their school._

- Dr. Marcus Jackson -

The quote is simple but it reminds me that we have some of the finest building leaders in our schools in Fife, and as the superintendent, I am very proud of that! Our principals and assistant principals are all honest, hard working folks who lead with their hearts and minds and whose actions replicate the words they speak. They serve their staff and students and make sure safety and learning are the top priority for ALL students. Are they perfect? I think you know the answer to that question, but I can guarantee you they are all working toward perfection everyday!

National bestselling author - Jim Collins - stated in his book _Good to Great_ that organizations who make the leap from good organizations to great organizations have common factors, one of those being analogous to hiring. He equates staffing to “getting the right people on the bus” - and how once you have the right people on the bus, the key is getting those people in the right seat on the bus.

I have never been more assured that we have the right people leading our schools, and those people are in the right spot for our students and staff to succeed at high levels! As we head into spring, please make an effort to thank our principals and assistant principals for all they do for our students, staff and school communities. I appreciate them, and I am thankful for this current team of building administrators!

Kevin Alfano, Superintendent