FROM JEFF NELSON - ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF TLI

We hope that all our students, families, and staff members are doing well during these unprecedented times. We’d like to take a moment to update everybody about the progress of our various construction projects. We are so appreciative of the workers, consultants, builders, tradespeople, architects, and all others involved in keeping our school projects going. Thank you!

SURPRISE LAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL

Our contractor for the SLMS project, Cornerstone, has implemented a variety of safety and health checks before one can access the site, including temperature checks, health and wellness questions, PPE requirements, and contact information recording. We appreciate their attention to the health and welfare of all involved in this project as work continues at the site. Gym floors are about to be delivered. HVAC, windows, cabinetry, and painting are all well underway. It is very easy now to see what the inside of SLMS is going to look like! The remaining ‘old’ portion of SLMS has been emptied, and the upper parking lot has been stripped of concrete in preparation for demolition. We anticipate that work will begin this month. As you can easily see driving by SLMS, the old turf is gone. The new turf has been delivered and will be installed very soon. Other work around the track will eventually include resurfacing of the entire track.

(Continued - next page)

MORE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT PHOTOS

Below Left: The old and the new - SLMS as seen from the air
Below Middle: Rendering of new FHS STEAM Center of Innovation
Below Right: Student store area of FHS STEAM Center of Innovation
Construction updates...continued

Fife Elementary, STEAM Center and ISS work move forward

FIFE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Our new elementary has a name, a mascot, and school colors - Fife Elementary, home of the Falcons, sporting navy blue, white, and black! A huge thank you to the hundreds of community members, students, family, and staff who helped along the way. We are thrilled to announce that site work has commenced for Fife Elementary school! Vast amounts of dirt is being moved, fences are being installed, rock is being put down, and the batting cage has been prep for demolition. It will be replaced when we build two brand new baseball fields on the site where the district office now sits. Again we are working with Cornerstone on this project. In fact, we are working with almost the exact same team from the SLMS project. This has really sped up communication among all of the stakeholders, which given the unusual times in which we are living and working, is proving to be of great advantage. In addition to the site being prepped, Mrs. Mittelstaedt, current principal at Endeavour, future principal at Fife Elementary, is hard at work with our consultants in the Furniture, Fixture, and Equipment (FFE) process. This is a considerable amount of work when you consider everything that literally goes into a school.

FHS STEAM CENTER

The FHS STEAM Center is also moving along nicely. We are thrilled to share some of the latest images of this beautiful building in this newsletter. Work will begin on the campus of FHS this summer. We are moving the portables we have been leasing at SLMS down to FHS, as the STEAM Center will be built exactly where the current portables at FHS sit. McGranahan Architects have continued to fine tune the classroom needs with FHS teachers, and we appreciate their leadership and work!

INFRASTRUCTURE/SAFETY/SECURITY (ISS):

The work replacing the exterior wall and insulation on Fife High School has been completed. The next project for FHS is roofing. Bids have gone out and will be awarded by the first week in June. Entry ways at Discovery Primary, Hedden Elementary, and Columbia Junior High are under construction. Offices were cleared in April to allow for the restructuring of the front entrances. The three schools will also have a fiber/IT infrastructure update that will begin within the next two weeks. The roof at Discovery Primary will also be replaced over the summer. Work will begin within the next 2-3 weeks. Discovery will also have a new water filtration system installed in June as well as new door hardware for classrooms which are more secure and ADA compliant.

LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT CONTINUES THROUGHOUT CLOSURE

Following the closure of all public schools in Washington, the Fife School District immediately began preparing to provide continuous learning services to our students. While pivoting to an online education service model almost overnight provided a unique set of challenges for staff and students, both have embraced this challenge, and students are continuing to learn content in new and creative ways. Many of the learning opportunities created are possible due to technology available to our students under Fife Forward, our voter-approved district 1:1 initiative. In order to ensure access for all students, our District Technology Department worked hard to provide hot spots and Chromebooks to families without internet or a device at home. Using Google Classroom, Google Apps and other EdTech tools including Zoom - a secure video conferencing application - teachers and students have continued to engage and have two-way interactions. Additional resources for students and families continue to be available at bit.ly/fifelearning and bit.ly/fifeenrichment. We encourage you to check them out! OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION GOES OUT TO OUR PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS WHO HAVE WORKED HARD TO ENSURE THEIR STUDENTS CONTINUE TO BE ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN ONGOING LEARNING.

CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2020

Without a doubt, the Class of 2020 has definitely experienced a less-than-typical senior year! But rather than focus on the things the Class of 2020 has lost, the Fife School District and Fife High School have worked hard to find ongoing, meaningful ways to celebrate the accomplishments of this year’s seniors in spite of COVID-19, social distancing, and the cancellation - or at least rethinking - of many of the events typically associated with one’s senior year.

Fife High School hosted a drive-thru cap and gown pickup on April 20 as well as an outdoor “Kickoff to Graduation” on May 8. For this event, staffed by socially distanced, sign-waving staff members, students picked up special yard signs prepared for each member of the Class of 2020. During the last week of May, seniors, in full cap and gown, participated in a filming session that will be woven into a virtual graduation program to be shown June 20. Also on the schedule for seniors are several virtual award presentations, including the Drama Academy Awards, FHS Scholarship Foundation Award Winners, Seniors Awards Night, and Heart of the Trojan Awards - to name a few. A live graduation event is currently tentatively scheduled for July 25, to be held at the Fife High School Stadium. More specific information will be coming regarding this event, as state guidelines for such events continues to evolve. For a complete list of Class of 2020 activities, as well as a video archive of celebrations held, please go to the FHS Graduation 2020 website at tinyurl.com/fife2020.

Fife Feeds reaches 100,000 meals served

Fife Feeds - implemented immediately following our district closure to provide an ongoing supply of healthy meals for district students - reached the amazing milestone on May 15 of having delivered over 100,000 meals! This milestone could not be reached without the combined efforts of District Food Service staff members Charity Giboney, Deanna Corrie, and Sue Allen, Toni Barnett-Food Services Director, Ben Ramirez-Deputy Superintendent/ Fife Feeds Supervisor, Val Palumbo-Fife Feeds Coordinator, Cat Bowman-Transportation Director, Elaine Lee-Transportation Specialist, as well as the countless classified and certificated staff members who volunteer each week. The Fife School District would also like to recognize the generous contributions of the Mountainview Community Center, which provides 500 “Weekend Kid PowerPack”s each week to supplement the weekly Fife Feeds meal delivery program.

16th annual district art show goes virtual

Virtual galleries of student-created projects from all six of our schools are on display now at bit.ly/fifeartshow! Here, you will see projects from artists across our district created earlier this year in the art rooms as well as projects that they have submitted since we have transitioned to distance learning! Please check back as this show will continue to be updated throughout the month of June!

THANK YOU! to our retirees for their years of dedicated service

Jeanne Berg
Librarian - Discovery Primary, also taught K-3rd grade - 40 years of service

Betsy Ritchie
Librarian - Fife High School, two-time FEAPresident - 28 years of service

Pearl Bell
Educational Assistant - Hedden Elementary - 14 years of service

Lynnette Crouth
Library Assistant - Discovery Primary - 28 years of service
A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Fife Public Schools Community,

This was certainly not the way we anticipated ending the 2019-2020 school year. While this has been an extremely difficult time for our school community, we have been steadfast in looking for and celebrating the “silver linings.” Though they may seem to be few and far between, we have managed to find and celebrate them.

Since we started Fife Feeds on March 16, the district has delivered over 100,000 meals to our students! In fact, just prior to Memorial Day, we handed out over 8,000 meals to students in one day! As your superintendent, I am proud of our staff members in food service and transportation. They have worked diligently to make sure our students are fed. It should also be noted that Fife Feeds has largely been supported and staffed with volunteers from across our school district! Yes, your teachers, support staff members, and administrators have all chipped in to make this work.

Academically speaking, in Fife Public Schools we have worked hard the past six years to master our lesson design and delivery, fine tune instructional practices, and increase student engagement. For good reasons, our core business is built on having students in our classrooms with teachers live and in person. The transition to our continuous learning model, which is 100% distance learning, was difficult to say the least. While we are very proud of the model we created with little notice, we also recognize the challenges it poses - for students, teachers and parents alike. The silver lining? We now have a learning model in place that has potential for future use, should the need arise, and as a district, we can continue to refine and work to make it even better for teachers and families. I am proud of the work our teachers are doing, the way in which they are delivering instruction, and the persistence and diligence shown by our students.

The biggest question I get as we approach the end of the 2019-2020 school year is what the school day will look like when the 2020-2021 school year is set to begin. It’s a great question, and like much of our work the past two and half months, there are still more questions than answers. School districts in Washington are anxiously awaiting for the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to issue guidance the week of June 8-12 on this very question. Once the guidance is issued, we will overlay it with the approximately 7 options we are exploring for September. We do know, at this point in time, it will be a very long shot that we return to the “normal” we knew before the pandemic started. We will have social distancing measures in place but are not totally sure what that looks like right now. We may be directed to run our schools on modified schedules or reduced capacity. And what about sports? Music classes? Assemblies? Bus rides? These are all questions yet to be answered.

While there will be many things to consider, our leadership teams are ready to get to work solving this next challenge. It is our goal that we continue to operate in a methodical manner that is driven by expert guidance and common sense. We will consider all options and implement changes to our structure in a way that makes sense for our schools, our students, our families, and our community. We understand that not all implemented measures will work perfectly for everyone. However, we are asking that you continue to communicate with us so we can address concerns, make adjustments as necessary, celebrate victories - both large and small, and last but not least, continue the great work happening in our schools. The Fife School District is a special place, and it is an honor to serve the Fife, Milton and Edgewood communities! We thank you for your patience, persistence, and your kind words as we navigate this most unprecedented time in world history!

Families with students who attend our schools will continue to receive updates from their principal and the district office as we work this summer to develop the 2020-2021 school year and as information is provided to us. Stay tuned and be well!

Together We Are Fife!