Schoolhouse News Spring 2023

Skamania School students continue to grow

Skamania students, staff, and families have enjoyed a year filled with learning, growing and celebrations. Field trips have resumed, partnerships have expanded, student enrollment has grown, and the community continues to show up in support of our students.

HOOL DISTRICT

THANK YOU, PTO

Most small schools or districts have inactive Parent Teacher Organizations (PTO) due to limited participation or resources. Skamania is incredibly fortunate to have such an active and great group of parents and staff in our PTO who have a united focus on supporting our students and staff.

One example of our amazing PTO group was seen at the annual Book Fair in April. The PTO wanted to ensure each student



Mrs. Shumway's kindergarten students shop for their new books provided by the the PTO at April's Book Fair.

received a new book to read, so they purchased a variety of books and bookmarks and invited each class into the library to choose a book to keep.

WE'LL MISS YOU, MRS. HODAPP

On May 1, we celebrated the long career of Skamania's beloved music teacher of 30 years, Jeannette Hodapp, as she conducted her final concert. The spring concert was a hit, consisting of a variety of choral and small group singing performances and several songs played by the Skamania middle school band. We are so grateful for Mrs. Hodapp's many years of service to Skamania, and we wish her all the best as we send her off to enjoy a very well-deserved retirement.



Students give Mrs. Hodapp flowers at the spring concert on May 1 to thank her for her 30 years at Skamania School.



School Board Message

Greetings from the Skamania School Board!

As this school year quickly comes to an end, it's time to reflect on all that has happened this year – it's been an absolutely awesome year for Skamania School District No. 2. The Board of Directors is so pleased and proud of the fact that we have an incredible staff, supportive parents, and outstanding students. Thank you all.

This was a year of transition. We welcomed Dr. Milt Dennison as our new interim Superintendent and Katie Chavarria as Head Teacher. They're a leadership team that has worked so well together and we're excited they are continuing through next year. We have also welcomed new staff members in many positions and have enjoyed seeing how they've seamlessly blended in with the great staff that was already in place.

In addition to the transition of staff there has also been a transition in the school board leadership. After significant turn-over of board members last year, the board has settled in this year and is doing great work in supporting staff and students.

As we look forward to next school year it is so gratifying to reflect on all that was accomplished this past school year. I know it will be an equally excellent 2023-2024. Thank you for your part in supporting our students and staff!

Angus Anderson, Chairman



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

The 2022-23 school year has been eventful at Skamania School!

Let's start with the excitement:

- Inclement Weather Snow and septic system issues resulted in nine missed school days; 4 days were made up and the remaining 5 days were waived. Even with the missed days, we still exceeded the required hours of instruction for our students.
- Winter Concert Snow on the scheduled date led to an initial cancellation, but we're fortunate that our talented head cook was able to conduct the rescheduled program.

And now for some highlights:

- **Thank you, voters** Voters approved our renewal levy in February! The 3-year levy begins collection January 1, 2024, and will continue to fund many of the programs that our students enjoy and rely on.
- **Thank you, PTO** Our uniquely active, small-school PTO has been an amazing support this year!
- Retirement recognition Jeannette Hodapp will be retiring from her music position after 30 years of service and she will be sorely missed. Congratulations on a job well done, Mrs. Hodapp!
- **Enrollment growth** This year we have seen our projected enrollment increase by about 15% (10 students), which brings more funding to our school.
- New walking/jogging track In May, a path was installed on the perimeter of the playfield. It will be available after-school, on weekends, and for community use during summer months.

I have very much enjoyed my first year at Skamania and working with our terrific students and families. In March, I agreed to return for the 2023-24 school year on a part-time contract. I'm looking forward to summer break with plans to catch up with my family, especially my grandchildren, ahead of their move from Ankara, Turkey to Madrid, Spain.

Wishing everyone a happy and safe summer.

Milt Dennison, Superintendent

ABOVE: Superintendent Milt Dennison reads Green Eggs and Ham to a group of kindergarten, first, and second grade students on Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 2 after a breakfast hosted by the Skamania School PTO.





Building



SCIENCE





ENGINEERING

ARTS

MATHEMATICS

A Skamania partnered with the U.S. Forest Service, Friends of the Columbia River Gorge, and the Center for Ecodynamic Restoration to plant native seeds and then later transplant the starts on the Sam Walker trail.

TECHNOLOGY

³ On April 28, Skamania took all students on a field trip to the Oregon Zoo. Students, staff, and parent chaperones enjoyed a rare 85-degree day as they strolled through the zoo and learned about animals such as giraffes, polar bears, predatory cats, penguins and more.

G Students had the opportunity to propagate spider plants and transplant them into their own personal pot to keep. First grade teacher Camille Schauble helped visitors at the STEAM Night prepare their plants to take home.

D On March 29, Skamania opened the school to the community for STEAM Night, which combined concepts of STEAM with Women's History Month. Students had the opportunity to read about influential women such Amelia Earhart and Eugenie Clark and explore airplane engineering, bridge building, and more!





Seeking volunteers for a Citizen Advisory Committee

Skamania School is seeking volunteers to serve on our Citizen Advisory Committee and be part of thoughtful and respectful discussions on vital topics in education such as curriculum, student achievement, safety, discipline, and more. If you are interested in joining or learning more, please contact Milt Dennison at mdennison@skamania.k12.wa.us or the school office at 509-427-8239.





2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT

Local

17%

Other

4%

2021-22 Revenues & Expenditures

State Funding

47%

Federal

16%

16%

Revenues by Source

LOCAL Levies\$244,437 Non-tax.....\$3,208

STATE Funding...... \$683,358

Grants \$230,566 FEDERAL......\$234,216 OTHER\$58,243

TOTAL: \$1,454,028

Expenditures by Activity

TEACHING - \$862,570

Classroom and extracurricular activities. library, guidance and counseling, professional development, curriculum

OTHER - \$329,976 Maintenance, custodial and grounds work, utilities, insurance, food services, transportation and public activities

ADMINISTRATION - \$352,518

Principal/supt., office manager, supplies, materials, school board expenses, elections, audits, outside contracts, supervision of transportation/food services/maintenance

TOTAL: \$1,545,064



District Data

Our Students



NON-DISCRIMINATION STATEMENT Skamania School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, 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 in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employee has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Milt Dennison (mdennison@skamania.k12.wa.us), Section 504/ADA Coordinator Compliance, Coordinator for 28A.640 and 28A.642 RCW | Katie Chavarria (kchavarria@skamania.k12.wa.us), Title IX Coordinator | 509-427-8239 | 122 Butler Loop Road, Skamania, WA 98648