

# SCHOOLHOUSE NEWS

*The Gorge is our classroom*

## SCHOOL SPIRIT SPOTTED: ASB RETURNS AFTER YEARS AWAY

We are excited to announce the return of the Associated Student Body (ASB) at Skamania School after a few years' hiatus! Recognizing the importance of fostering student leadership and giving our students a voice in school decisions, we felt it was essential to bring back this vital organization.

The ASB provides students in grades 3-8 the opportunity to engage in leadership roles, develop teamwork skills, and contribute to the school community. This initiative allows students to express their ideas, share their perspectives, and collaborate on projects that enhance our school environment.

Eighth-grader Alison Mitchell, ASB President, shared her excitement: "I wanted to run for president to give students and parents a year they can look forward to. I want to be a good role model for the younger kids as well." Her leadership is already setting a positive tone for the year.

Sixth-grader Gus Hendricks, ASB Treasurer, echoed this enthusiasm, saying, "I'm thrilled to be a part of ASB and this school community. Together, I hope we can create a happier, healthier school that brings positive change both at school and then the world."

Through the ASB, students will have a direct impact on various aspects of school life, from planning events to advocating for their peers. We believe that by empowering our students, we are helping to cultivate the next generation of leaders.

We look forward to seeing the positive changes and innovative ideas our ASB will bring to Skamania School. Stay tuned for updates on their initiatives and activities!



**WE'RE THRILLED TO INTRODUCE OUR NEWLY ELECTED ASB OFFICERS FOR THE 2024-25 SCHOOL YEAR! PLEASE JOIN US IN CONGRATULATING:**

**ALISON M. - *President***

Alison has been a cornerstone of our school for 9 years, demonstrating exceptional leadership qualities that inspire everyone around her!

**MALLORY M. - *Vice President***

With 7 years at Skamania, Mallory is a beloved figure among both staff and students. Her positivity and dedication shine bright!

**FRIEDA P. - *Secretary***

Although Frieda is new to our community, her friendly demeanor and genuine smile have already won us all over. We're excited to see her contributions!

**GUS H. - *Treasurer***

Gus is also a newcomer but has impressed us all with his intelligence and innovative ideas. We can't wait to see what he brings to the table!

# Superintendent's Message

The leaves have fallen, the time has changed, and it is chilly in the mornings. We must be well into the 24-25 school year at Skamania School. Even though I have retired five times over the past six years, I am back at Skamania for my 3rd year. There is one main reason I keep coming back—this is a very special place. We have a great staff, supportive parents, wonderful students, and one of the best school boards I have worked with. When school superintendents meet, they like to complain. I have a difficult time adding to the conversation.

Even though we are only in the first few months of the school year, there are already many highlights that I would like to share with you.

**Student Enrollment:** There has been a 25-student enrollment increase compared to last year. While the additional students have put a strain on our space, it has brought some financial security to the district. We now have 110 students at Skamania School and still growing.

**Student Services:** Not many small K-8 schools can offer the breadth of curriculum that we are able to offer. Any addition to their classroom instruction, our students have Physical Education, Music, and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, Math) from a specialist. As early as 5th grade, students can participate in band. In addition, we are fortunate to have a part-time Counselor, and the School Library has opened.

**Student Leadership:** For the first time in a number of years, we now have an Associated Student Body group. Officers have been elected and the students are already busy planning events.

**Cell Phone Ban:** The School Board has approved a policy that restricts student use of media devices during the school day. Students are permitted to use devices on the school bus. Teachers have reported that this has had a positive impact on teaching and learning. Students have accepted the change, and we have only had one violation over the last few months.

These are just a few of the reasons that I keep coming back. Don't hesitate to stop by for a visit. I am on a part-time contract so not here on Fridays.

*Milt Dennison, Superintendent*



**SKAMANIA SCHOOL  
DISTRICT NOW HAS A  
FACEBOOK PAGE!**

*We invite the community to  
like and follow our page to  
receive updates.*



# STEAMing Ahead

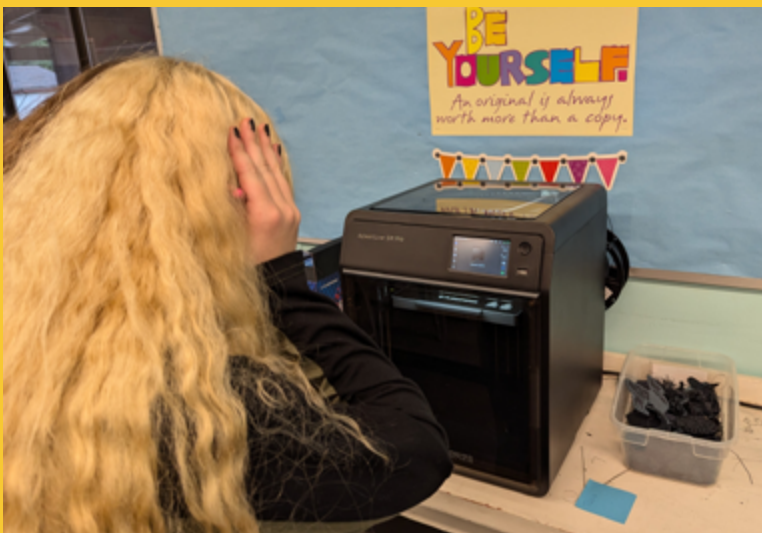
## Empowering Students with 3D Printing

We're always looking for innovative ways to fuel curiosity and better student learning. It is with gratitude that we announce that a new, community-funded 3D printer has arrived at Skamania School. The initiative is called "STEAMing Ahead with 3D Printing," a project designed to immerse students in hands-on experiences with cutting-edge technology. Led by Mr. Pruitt, the project introduces students to the world of 3D printing, where their creativity can take shape in real, tangible ways.

This will not only enhance the STEAM curriculum but also provide students with the opportunity to design and build their own projects. By turning ideas into physical objects, students will deepen their understanding of science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics through practical, interactive learning.

One of the most exciting aspects of this project is its focus on developing future-ready skills. 3D printing requires collaboration, problem-solving, and creativity—skills essential for the careers of tomorrow. As students work together on their designs, they will learn the value of teamwork, trial and error, and thinking outside the box.

Our students are incredibly resilient and come from diverse backgrounds, bringing a variety of perspectives and strengths to the classroom. They thrive in collaborative environments and are eager to explore new technologies. By providing access to 3D printing, we are unlocking their potential to become the next generation of innovators, engineers, and creators. Together, we can inspire our students to reach new heights and turn their imaginations into reality.





# Skamania School Honored for Academic Growth



Skamania School has been recognized as one of 571 schools across the state to receive the prestigious Washington School Recognition Award for the 2022–23 school year! This honor celebrates the hard work and academic growth our students have shown, placing us among the top-performing schools in Washington.

The Washington School Recognition Program acknowledges schools that have demonstrated outstanding achievement in areas such as closing opportunity gaps, student growth, and overall academic success. Skamania School was specifically recognized for our progress in student growth, which reflects our commitment to helping every student succeed.

As part of this recognition, Skamania School will receive a banner to proudly display in our building, signifying our dedication to continuous improvement and the success of our students. We are incredibly proud of this accomplishment and grateful for the support of our staff, students, and community.

*Thank you for being part of this journey as we continue to strive for excellence in education*