

December 9, 2009

Renton School District is proud of the accomplishments of our students, staff and families. Here are just a few Good News items highlighting those accomplishments.

Renton High teacher named Teacher of the Year

Renton High School's audio/visual communications teacher Susan Johnson has been named Teacher of the Year by the Washington Association for Skilled and Technical Services (WASTS). Susan (middle) was selected for the award by her colleagues, teachers and other members of WASTS, based on her passion and commitment to students and her work to ensure students develop skills and values that positively impact their lives and the communities where they live. [Read more.](#)



Jay Leviton, the district's director for Career and Life Skills Education, has been presented a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Washington Association for Skilled and Technical Services (WASTS). Jay has worked in the Renton School District for 26 years, serving as a teacher, principal and director for career and technical education. He has been a member of WASTS for 34 years serving in various capacities in that organization, including president. In presenting the award, WSTS recognized Jay's commitment to students, his leadership in the state and his dedication to providing



Washington students with the skills to be successful. Along with his work in the district, Jay currently serves on the state Board of Education task force, a legislative education committee and several state education committees.



Artwork by Black River High School students in Karen Fuller's class is being displayed at several storefront windows in downtown Renton. The City of Renton's Allied Arts Commission is collecting artwork from schools to create rotating art displays in windows at vacant stores to beautify downtown businesses.



Eighteen Renton High School students were selected to attend the Future of the Law Institute, a program that encourages students to enter a career in law. Under the guidance of Renton High business education teacher Eric Hougan, the students recently visited Seattle University, University of Washington, and Washington Superior Court where they met a diverse panel of legal professionals and judges, attended workshops and conducted a mock trial. The students will receive a \$500 scholarship as part of the year-long program.

Distributive Education Club of America (DECA) students in Gene Kolczynski's Business Education class at Lindbergh High

School have started their 2nd annual Giving Tree program where 100 wrapped gifts will be purchased and distributed to local elementary schools. DECA student Adrian Villanueva is working with elementary principals and counselors at four schools to gather names of 25 students from each school for the gift-giving program.

Two students in Corrie Freiwaldt's fifth-grade class at Tiffany Park Elementary School took first and second place in the recent Renton VFW "What Makes Our Country Great!" essay contest. The students were honored at an ice cream social for their work at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Hall in Renton.



Lindbergh High School offensive/defensive lineman Nick Anderson (left) has been selected as one of four finalists for the National Football Foundation's Scholar-Athlete Lineman of the Year Award. Nick, a senior, also named to first team offense by the Seattle Times, will learn if he's the winner of the award on Dec. 13. The award comes with a \$2,000 scholarship. Lindbergh head football coach Pat O'Grady nominated Anderson for the award based on his stellar athletic ability and leadership.

Renton High School students on Jessica Buchan's Speech and Debate Team recently placed well during the 4th annual Speech and Debate tournament, hosted at Renton High. Twenty schools from around Puget Sound attended the tournament to compete for trophies and state berths. Renton High students qualified for state berths in five of the eight speech events and in the student congress debate.

Renton Schools Superintendent Dr. Mary Alice Heuschel and her Cabinet team delivered more than 5,000 homemade cookies to staff throughout the district today as part an annual staff appreciation celebration. Each year Dr. Heuschel (far right with Bryn Mawr Elementary staff) and her team spend several nights making cookies and treats to deliver to all staff during the holidays. Dr. Heuschel started the tradition to show her gratitude to staff upon taking over as superintendent three years ago.

