



# Good News

about **Renton Schools**

March 25, 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 School senior Quincy Robinson has won the President's Volunteer Service Award and the Prudential Spirit of Community Award Certificate of Excellence for his community service and volunteer work. Quincy was recognized for his work as a counselor in an after-school learning program, and mentor in a bible school program, both at the Harambee Community Center in Renton. Quincy also founded a gospel choir and assists with various youth programs to help teens set goals and direction in their lives. The awards recognize and honor those who selflessly give of their time and talent to better their community. Quincy plans to attend Princeton University to pursue a doctorate in Theology.



Three students from Lindbergh and Hazen high schools have been selected as Washington Aerospace Scholars for 2009. Monica Razniewski from Hazen High School, and Pulkit Gaur and Steven Thorkildson from Lindbergh High School, are among talented juniors from across the state accepted into the Aerospace Scholars program which emphasizes science, technology, engineering and math, and encourages students to consider careers in these fields. The program curriculum covers the history and future of space exploration where students compose essays, design graphics, and solve mathematic problems. Students also are guided by professional engineers to design a human mission to Mars, tour engineering facilities, receive briefings from experts in the field, and compete in hands-on engineering challenges.



Campbell Hill Elementary School students in Stephanie Manderscheid's third-grade classroom recently completed a biography project in which they took on the persona of historic figures, wrote speeches and performed in costume for parents and staff—like Jamill Jimerson (r) as President Lincoln. The project was part



of a language arts and social studies research assignment where students learned about famous Americans and their contributions. Biographies presented included Wilma Rudolph, Marian Anderson, Helen Keller, Thurgood Marshall, Betsy Ross, Amelia Earhart, Abraham Lincoln and the Wright Brothers.

Renton High School's Speech and Debate Team did well in the recent state speech and debate tournament at the University of Puget Sound. More than 100 schools from across the state competed in the event. Renton High senior Angel Luton took first place in humorous interpretation and senior Redal Lewis took second in that category. The team, led by language arts teacher Jessica Buchan, took third place overall.

Hazen High School's Sport Stacking Team brought home four trophies and 96 medals from the recent Northwest Regional Sports Stacking Championships. Several students set new state records, and the team, managed by Angie Atkinson, chair of Hazen High School's Special Education Department, is waiting on video verification from the Worlds Spot Stacking Association to see if two new world records were set by the team.

Renton High School journalism students (r) received eight individual awards from the state journalism convention sponsored by the Washington Journalism Education Association. Renton High's student newsmagazine, ARROW, earned three individual awards and the school's yearbook, Illahee, earned five individual awards. Students won individual awards in newspaper feature writing, visual communications, editorial cartooning, photo editing and more.



Renton Academy has been selected as a host site during the international conference of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), which will be held in Seattle in early April and will host as many as 10,000 special educators from around the world. As part of the convention, participants were offered a tour of Renton Academy to present a first-hand look at a unique public school facility that offers students alternative, meaningful education. The tour of about 25 people sold out immediately. Students at Renton Academy will lead the tours. Renton Academy is a therapeutic program for students led by a team of specifically trained teacher/counselors who employ the Re-Ed education philosophy to build on every student's strengths and help them become a contributing and participating member of society.

---

More than 260 students and parents from all of the district's 13 elementary schools recently participated in a Physical Education night where families learned of school PE programs and had a chance to exercise and play together. The Healthy Lifestyles event, coordinated by Tabettha Magnuson, PE Specialist at Talbot Hill Elementary School, was hosted at Renton High School and included activities such as dance, free-throw competitions, jump rope, Tae Kwon Do, juggling, riding unicycles and more. The event also connected families with local businesses that offer physical activities to help children and families choices in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

---

The Renton Education Support Professionals (RESP) union recently presented its 2009 scholarships to staff and students. RESP, which includes clerical, administrative support staff and para-educators, gave \$1,000 scholarships to high school seniors from all three comprehensive high schools. Additionally, individual \$1,000 scholarships were given to three RESP members who are pursuing teaching degrees.

---

Renton Head Start families at Spring Glen Elementary recently held a Doodlebug reading celebration to commemorate students and families reading together for more than 13,400 minutes. Doodlebug (kneeling with red tie and glasses) is a caterpillar-like character created by Kasondra Horrocks, the center's coordinator, whose tail grows in sections as children and families log reading time. The celebration included children singing a song they wrote about the character and a visit by Doodlebug.

