

April 15, 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.

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Lindbergh High School science and robotics teacher Matthew Randall has teamed with Renton Park Elementary School fifth-grade teacher Stephane Eliason to create an afterschool Science and Robotics Club for elementary school students. Lindbergh High students enrolled in the school's robotics class meet with Renton Park Elementary students (r) every Monday to explore ways math, science and technology intersect with robotics, and to design, build, test, and race remote controlled vehicles.



Renton High School senior Raychelle Duazo (below) has won Soroptimist International's Live Your Dreams art contest with her portrayal of Frida Kahlo (l), the highly acclaimed Mexican painter. Raychelle says she chose Kahlo as a subject because of Kahlo's challenges to culturally define herself and her work which reflects internal self-conflicts and acknowledgment of the world around her. The Live Your Dream campaign is sponsored by Soroptimist International of



the Americas, a volunteer organization for business and professional women who work to improve the lives of women and girls.

McKnight Middle School students in Jackie Longee's eighth-grade social studies class (r) recently swept the Regional National History Day competition, taking 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in several categories. The annual competition hosts middle school students throughout the region who prepare exploratory projects including exhibits, original performances, documentaries, Web site design and research papers. Twenty-two McKnight 8th-graders participated in the event. Students worked on their projects since October, spending hundreds of hours researching primary and secondary sources, conducting interviews and crafting their research into a culminating project. The top three in each category move onto state level competition on April 25, with a chance at nationals later this year in Washington D.C.



More than 120 Campbell Hill Elementary School students (like those seen left) recently met their Accelerated Reader (AR) reading goal. Students in 2nd - through 5th -grades participate in the reading program by setting personal goals with their teachers, tracking their reading levels, and taking AR tests. This trimester was a particular success with the highest number of students meeting their reading goals in the past four years.



Lindbergh High School students in Sarah Cowart's freshman language arts class hosted a school-wide book drive to collect library books for students at Renton Park Elementary School and Nelsen Middle School. During the eight-week project the Lindbergh students collected more than 900 books.

Maplewood Heights Elementary School recently hosted an art and science fair where more than 120 students showed off the creative right side of their brains and the science-minded left side. The education fair is part of Maplewood's School Improvement Plan, and the school's science committee worked with parent Mark Bashaw to create the program.

Displays included:

- Portable Planetarium from the Museum of Flight
- Robotic displays
- Neuroscience team from UW
- Virtual Microscopy lab
- Scientific Sodas
- Van De Graff Generator

Tiffany Park Elementary School is one of only two schools statewide declared an exemplary Positive Behavioral Support school by the Washington Positive Behavior interventions & Supports Network, a University of Washington-based program that works to implement school-wide positive behavioral. Using the program, Tiffany Park has set expectations of students and staff to participate respectfully and act responsibly, which has helped the school significantly improve student discipline. From 2005 through 2008, Tiffany Park reduced yearly major discipline referrals from 102 to 23.

Seven Lindbergh High School students have been awarded scholarships ranging from \$750 to \$1,250 by the Lindbergh Memorial Scholarship committee. In addition to their academic achievements, students who received the scholarships are active in student government, sports, and service to their community. Additionally, the Lindbergh committee awarded three students the Jeremy Gidlund Memorial Scholarship, which recognizes students served by the district's Special Education department who are pursuing post-secondary education.

Students on the Lindbergh High School soccer team recently impressed members of the Tiffany Park Neighborhood Association with their hard work and commitment. The president of the neighborhood association won the services of the soccer team to do yard cleaning as part of the school's booster club auction. Working with Lindbergh soccer coach Dave Stevens, the association used the students to clean up Ginger Creek Park near Tiffany Park Elementary School. Because the weather was cold and rainy, association members were not expecting many students to show up for a weekend of hard labor. Nearly all of the team reported for duty and completed in one day almost all of the parks' winter clean up. In a letter of appreciation, the association president wrote, "It is rare when I can write a letter of support and appreciation; but these young men worked hard and were extremely courteous, and most importantly they did a great job!"