



INSIDE Schools

YOUR BELLINGHAM PUBLIC SCHOOLS NEWSLETTER

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Career Preparation, Jobs and the Economy

A MESSAGE from SUPERINTENDENT of SCHOOLS GREG BAKER

If you have a moment, please check out the two-minute video clip "Why Early Investment Matters," by Nobel Prize recipient Dr. James Heckman that is posted on YouTube or our Levy Facts website at www.bellinghamschools.org Dr. Heckman shares research supporting the idea that the best way to turn around our economy, create jobs, and fill them with the type of workforce that America so desperately needs is to invest in young people, particularly in early childhood education. He makes the case that this is a far better return on investment than other

programs with payoffs including a community reduction in crime, promotion of schooling and a more skilled workforce.

Research strongly supports our local community investment in full-time kindergarten for all students with an impetus for building better preschool connections in the future. Yet, I am often asked by community members about what we are doing now for high school students. In particular, people ask why shop classes were removed

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Photo: Hands-on learning experiences, such as this robotics course at Sehome High School, keep students engaged in school and help prepare them for a variety of options following high school.

Developing Students Who Lead at Lowell Elementary

Lowell Elementary School has become a leadership-themed school, inspired by Stephen Covey's "Seven Habits of Highly Successful People." Covey's recent book, "The Leader in Me: How Schools and Parents Around the World Are Inspiring Greatness," takes his timeless and universal habits and presents how they work in a school setting, complementing both curriculum and character programs. By implementing Covey's key habits in classrooms, hallways, the cafeteria and playground, the school encourages leadership principles as a pathway to success.

key habits for success. Names of real world leaders that children study are stenciled over doorways leading into classrooms.

Principal Missy Ferguson believes the framework of Covey's work is the template for student success. In her recently published school report, she writes, "Teaching our children to be respectful to one another, to put forth their very best, to take responsibility for their actions, and to find

the positives in everyday life will be the stepping stones to their future aspirations." The seven habits in kids' language have become the school's core beliefs.

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Photo below: Lowell leaders Isaac Shapiro, Maddie Call, Brinkley Walden, Kellia Hoyle, Aleah Pechthalt and Cole Zecha work on their weekly leadership presentation.

The Lowell vision is simple:
Developing Students who L.E.A.D.
L: Listen to Understand
E: Express Kindness
A: Achieve Goals
D: Demonstrate Responsibility.

The school displays the leadership theme prominently, covering the interior walls with stencils of inspirational quotes and the



