Congratulations
to our 812 graduates in 2019!
We are so proud of you and wish you the best of everything!

A collective commitment

Dear Community,

We have crossed the finish line to the 2018-19 school year and want to congratulate our more than 800 graduates! At this time of the year, we have a moment to catch our breath and think about all the remarkable stories from the year.

In this edition of our community newsletter, we want to take stock and thank the community partners who support our families and staff in many profound ways. From funding solar panels (right), Whatcom Youth Pride activities and a film festival just this month to the daily support in our classrooms and after-school programs, we thank you in the deepest way. Turn the page and you will see snapshots of just a few of our treasured partners. (We didn’t have room to list them all here!) Please know that your support is appreciated inside and outside our schools. Community engagement is a key strategy to student success.

On the back page, we share our newest iteration of The Bellingham Promise with the key strategy of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion added. While it’s hard to demonstrate graphically how all the key strategies work in tandem, we hope the new design reflects how everything we do in our district touches and overlaps everything and everyone.

We hope you have a wonderful summer and that you find great pride in this community in which we live. As The Promise says, together we achieve more than alone.

Best regards,

GREG BAKER
Superintendent of Schools

IN THIS ISSUE:
1 Message from Supt. Baker
2-3 By the numbers: community partners support all students
4 Updated strategic plan, The Bellingham Promise
The Sustainable Schools program of RE Sources helps teachers integrate conservation education into curriculum helping students develop lifelong skills in environmental education and resource conservation.

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association’s Students for Salmon program teaches the basics of salmon and stream ecology while reinforcing values of stream stewardship through hands-on field activities.

One of the Big Idea grants of the BPSF went to Cozier Elementary School for a library makerspace lab. Library media specialist Emily Jones (pictured) applied for the grant to create a makerspace lab and to provide equitable resources to students interested in science, technology, engineering, arts and math, often referred to as STEAM.

With start-up funds to purchase media equipment, the Foundation launched the Kulshan Middle School Seventh Grade Film Festival this school year. With the support of the Bellingham Youth Media Project, all 210 seventh grade students worked on a semester-long media project which was screened June 10 at the Pickford Film Center.

RE SOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

40 elementary green classrooms | 80 workshops for middle and high school students

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NOOKSACK SALMON ENHANCEMENT ASSOCIATION

20 years in our schools | 80% of our fourth grade classrooms reached this school year

RE SOURCES FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Nearly $400,000 awarded in 2018-19 benefiting 22 schools and reaching 11,000 students

We love our community!
After-school programs continue to grow at Alderwood and Cordata elementaries with funding from United Way of Whatcom County. Each school offers 10 to 15 clubs ranging from soccer to chess, and ukulele to crochet, closing opportunity gaps for students. Enrichment programs have been shown to build confidence and social skills, while giving students a chance to explore passions, skills and talents.

Thanks to the profound work of our volunteers, we are able to enrich student lives and deepen learning. Whether as a parent, PTA group, classroom helper, food educator or after-school assistant, their contributions are priceless.

ABOVE: Alderwood volunteers Ray Dellecker (left) and Tim Farris (right) — shown here with Superintendent Greg Baker — were honored with the Community Leadership Award 2019 from the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) this spring.

The first annual Whatcom Youth Pride week was funded in partnership with Northwest Youth Services. Hundreds attended and supported the culminating June 9 parade and festival. The WCF contributed $5,000 in startup money to coordinate the week-long activities.

ABOVE: Aaron Brown (left) of the Whatcom Community Foundation presents a check to after-school club volunteer Sandy John, Villa Santa Fe manager Katie Ortiz and district staff Kathe Koruga and Cristina Manterola. Several of the WCF grants this year will support families and build community at Villa Santa Fe.
**the Bellingham Promise**

**vision**
We, as a community, make a collective commitment to Bellingham's children. We will empower every child to discover and develop their passions, contribute to their community, and achieve a fulfilling and productive life.

**mission**
We collectively commit that our students are cared for and respected, and that they will graduate from our schools prepared for success. All students will be exceptional in their own way, with strong character, a passion for learning, and ready for the widest range of educational and vocational options to support a diversity of life choices.

**core beliefs**
We believe:
- all children should be loved,
- the whole child is important,
- every child can learn at high levels,
- early learning and development are critical,
- learning is lifelong and essential to a high quality of life,
- compassion and service build community,
- teaching children to do their best involves self-reflection and reaching higher,
- diversity enhances a strong and healthy community, and
- together we achieve more than alone.

**outcomes**
We develop students and graduates who are…

- readers and writers,
- scientists and mathematicians,
- historians and global thinkers,
- artists and performers,
- artisans and technicians,
- multilingual readers and speakers,
- skilled users of technology and information,
- leaders, collaborators and team players,
- dependable and responsible people,
- confident individuals who continuously challenge themselves,
- respectful and compassionate humans,
- honest and ethical individuals who act with integrity,
- healthy, active individuals,
- critical thinkers and problem solvers,
- effective communicators,
- innovators and creators, and
- well-rounded community members engaged with the broader world.

**key strategies**
We will accomplish this by focusing on…

**Equity, Diversity and Inclusion**
We envision and strive for a more diverse, inclusive and equitable organization. Focus areas include, but are not limited to, race and ethnicity, gender identity and sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, ability, language and culture.

**Innovation and Flexibility**
We support the diverse needs and learning styles of our students by being innovative and flexible. We embrace change and creative thinking and know that this requires a high level of trust and engagement with our community.

**Great Teaching with Strong Support**
High quality instruction occurs every day in every classroom, where we establish a safe and engaging learning environment. We support culturally-responsive instruction through effective leadership, ongoing staff learning, and a diverse staff reflective of our students.

**A One Schoolhouse Approach**
Our schools are part of a larger One Schoolhouse, and we focus on taking care of each other. We provide an equitable distribution of resources and services to ensure excellence for all students.

**Early Childhood Education**
We support students and families from prenatal through graduation. We invest in a strong early childhood program because of its powerful long-term return for our students and community.

**Student, Family, and Community Engagement**
We develop partnerships and engage with a wide variety of stakeholders, including families and community partners, to support the success of all students.

**KNOWLEDGE**
-•

**CHARACTER**
-•

**ACTION**
-•

bellinghamschools.org