



EDUCATION MATTERS

FEB. 2018



Community spirit fuels FB victory

Reflecting on the Hawks' first-ever state football championship in December, two teammates said a sense of community—on field and off—was key to their success.

“... it seemed like the whole of Clark County was behind us.”

“After we won the state championship, it was so special to look up (in the stands) and see the whole community of Hockinson was there,” said senior quarterback Canon Racanelli.

The win against Tumwater marked the end of a fairytale season in which a team from a little-known district in Southwest Washington just kept on winning. The team bus returned to Hockinson High School under police escort, and the team was met by crowds of supporters and fire trucks from District 3. They received atta-boys when they visited the Hockinson Market, on trips into Vancouver and even, recalled senior defensive lineman Kyle Brabec, on a post-season flight to Florida.

“You’re playing in front of the whole community, and it seemed like the whole of Clark County was behind us,” Canon said. “It feels like the world,” Kyle added.



HHS seniors and teammates Canon Racanelli and Kyle Brabec hold the Hawks' state football championship trophy.

The sense of community that surrounded the team was reflected in the players' dynamics on the field and off.

“Often teams have the talent but not the connection as a team,” Kyle observed.

The teammates said head Coach Rick Steele played a key role in that as he mentored team members and taught “Man Class,” a weekly gathering where he encouraged his players and others to make good choices in every decision, whether big or small.

“We started to be more than a team,” Kyle said.

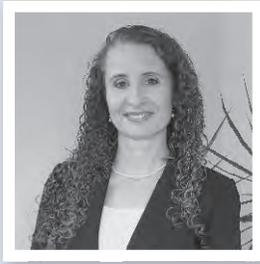
“It’s something I’m going to carry with me the rest of my life,” Canon said.

Kyle recalled the moment when everything came together for the Hawks. It was at the end of Liberty game, the win that launched the team into the semi-finals.

“That was when we first locked everything in,” Kyle said. “We trusted each other.”

And that carried the Hawks all the way to the state championship.

“It shows if you really want something and are willing to put in the effort, you can achieve those dreams,” he reflected.



SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Community Members,

I hope your 2018 is off to a fantastic start!

There are so many things happening and changing in the world around us. Here are just a few that are having a direct impact on our school district:

Our new Middle School construction project is nearly complete, and we are working through a final list with our contractor. We are eager to show off our new school to our community and will let you know as soon as we set a date for a dedication and open house!

Hockinson's student numbers continue to climb, so we are assessing our facilities resources and needs district wide, and updating our facilities plan to be ready to meet Hockinson's future.

During the 2017 session our state Legislature made major changes to school funding, and these changes are transforming the way school districts are funded statewide.

The new school funding model is having a big impact on school districts and taxpayers across our state, and we are still working to determine exactly how it will affect our budget.

I believe it is our responsibility as a school district to keep you informed, so please be on the lookout for our next newsletter, which will include detailed information regarding these changes and how they will affect our school district and you, our community.

Meanwhile, if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 360-448-6400.

Sincerely,

Sandra Yager

Smith joins Hockinson School Board



Gordon Smith has joined the Hockinson School Board of Directors to represent District 5. He was elected in November.

A lifelong Washingtonian, Smith was a board member at Cape Flattery School District before moving to Clark County for his current job as a compact negotiator in the Northwest Field Office of the Office of Self-Governance, Department of the Interior. Previously, Smith was self-employed as an owner-operator of a commercial fishing vessel and served as an infantry officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. He also has been chairman of the Makah Tribal Council, served as a student advisor at Yelm High School, coached basketball at Neah Bay High School, Hockinson High School and Hockinson Middle School (through Hockinson Community Education), and coached youth soccer.

Kathy Nordberg and **Steve Nylund**, who have represented District 2 and District 1, respectively, since 2013, were re-elected to the Board in November. Nordberg was subsequently named chairwoman of the board. **Dave Olson**, District 3 representative since 2006, was elected vice chair.

Greg Gospe, District 4 representative since 2003, is the Board's fifth member.

Hockinson School Board meetings are generally held on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. The Board calendar is available at <https://tinyurl.com/HSDboard17-18>. The director district boundary map is online at <https://tinyurl.com/HSDboardmap>.

Community Education Opportunities

Hockinson Community Education has some great classes this winter. Find these classes and more on our website:

- » **Jazzercise (adults)**
- » **Men's Basketball (adults)**
- » **Art Club (grades 3-8)**
- » **Success thru Chess (grades K-5)**
- » **Power Volleyball (adults)**
- » **Sweetheart Chocolate 101 (for adults, age 16+)**

Seeking instructors: Would you like to teach a class? Do you have a hobby or knowledge in a certain subject area? We are looking of new class offerings!

After School Adventures: Community Ed offers after school care for HSD students in grades K-5, on school days Monday-Friday till 6 p.m.

For information on classes, teaching or the after school care program, please visit our website at www.hocksd.org/Community/Community_Education, or call Charity Schadt at (360) 448-6480.

New HMS introduces new opportunities to teach, learn

A new school does more than replace an old one—it opens up new ways of teaching and learning.

The new Middle School is expected to serve the Hockinson community for the next 50 years. During the planning process Superintendent Sandra Yager encouraged staff, students and community members to share local needs with the architects and to envision what education will look like in the future.

“In all those meetings, Sandra said, ‘Dream big, and then we’ll do what we can do,’” recalled HMS instructional coach Kim Abegglen. “They did a lot of what we dreamed about.”



HMS students use the new school’s extended learning spaces for independent work and collaboration. Here, students help each other prepare for a U.S. history test.

“They did a lot of what we dreamed about.”

Recently Abegglen and HMS Principal Brian Lehner shared a few of their favorite features of the new Hockinson Middle School.

Extended learning spaces

In the old HMS, group work often meant students met in the hallways. In the new HMS, students meet in “extended learning spaces.”

Located in each wing of the school and surrounded by classrooms, these spaces are furnished with high tables, chairs, and floor-to-ceiling white boards and tack boards—perfect places to collaborate on projects or to do independent work.

Windows in the surrounding classrooms enable teachers to monitor the spaces.

Multiple seating options

Like the extended learning spaces, the HMS classrooms have white boards and

tack boards running floor to ceiling—a resource that gives students the option to sit and work where they are most comfortable. Some choose to sit in chairs, while others perch on “wobble seats” or on the floor, while still others stand at tall desks.

“When we’re encouraging creative thought, some students really need to move. That movement’s connected to the brain’s need to organize,” Abegglen said.

“The seats and the desks were picked with the latest brain research in mind.”

Flexible classrooms

Parents of today’s middle schoolers might recall classrooms equipped with a single screen and an overhead projector. Today’s HMS classrooms have multiple screens, which make sharing visuals with the whole class easier. They also can be accessed by individual groups working on projects.

The classrooms also are equipped with expandable walls. Neighboring classrooms can combine into one to hear guest speakers or participate

in integrated lessons.

Principal’s favorite

Asked his favorite part of the new school, Principal Lehner settled on a pretty low-tech feature: the light.

“I love the windows. It’s so bright in this building,” he said. “I find the attitudes are pretty good.”

We’re eager to share the new Hockinson Middle School with our community!

Our building team is wrapping up some final items, and we are planning a dedication and open house plus patron tours for this spring.

Watch your mailbox for an invitation in the next month or so.

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Watch for our March newsletter, which will include information on the state's new education funding model and how it affects our school district and members of our community.

Students care for those in need



Hockinson students and their families are eager to help others in need. Here, Elementary School leadership students gather by the school's Giving Tree.

Collecting food and other donations for those in need is a tradition in all of Hockinson's schools, and the end of 2017 found our students especially busy making life better for their neighbors.

At the Elementary School, Leadership students and friends led the effort to fill the school's Giving Tree with gifts and messages for families in need. They also incorporated a canned food drive that brought in more than 2,025 items. Can you even see the tree for all the gifts and messages?

Not to be outdone, our Middle School students set a goal to collect 3,000 cans for their December food drive. Thanks to student and staff enthusiasm, and our kindhearted Hockinson community, they reached a total of 4,030!

We're proud of our students and community for making the new year happier for many families.

Special thanks to Fire District 3, which distributed these donations to people in need.

Notice of Nondiscrimination: The district will provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without regard to race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation (including gender expression or identity), marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, participation in the Boy Scouts of America, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. District programs will be free from sexual harassment. The superintendent will provide for annual evaluations, periodic surveys, annual notice and complaint procedures as required by law to ensure that there is in fact equal opportunity for all students in the district. The board will designate a staff member to serve as affirmative action/Title IX compliance officer.