Groundbreaking puts extra fun in Fun Days

Fun Days 2016 included a special celebration June 4 with the groundbreaking for the new Hockinson Middle School!

Superintendent Sandra Yager and members of the School Board braved record temperatures to toss the first shovels full of soil at the new school site, behind Hockinson Community Church.

What comes next? The District received its building permit from Clark County, and the contractor, Robinson Construction Co. of Tigard, Oregon, is scheduled to start site prep work in July.

Hockinson, we have begun our journey toward opening a new Middle School in January 2018!

High school improvements continue

When the 2016-17 school year starts this fall, Hockinson High School students will return to a state-of-the-art band room, sports pavilion and grandstand. The building improvements are on schedule!

Work on the sports fields is running a little behind due to weather conditions and permitting timelines, but as of mid-June they had been graded and were being prepared for drainage work. Sod is expected to be laid in August, weather permitting.

All of this work is funded by our supportive Hockinson community, which approved our bond request in February 2015. The district extends its heartfelt thanks for the community’s support—and looks forward to seeing everyone this fall enjoying football and soccer games from the new grandstand seating!

ABOVE: Superintendent Sandra Yager and School Board members Katherine Davis, Kathy Nordberg, Greg Gospe and Steve Nylund kick off the HMS construction project.

BELOW: The High School improvements as seen June 10 from the new stadium seating. In the left foreground is the new sports pavilion, and in the left background, near the High School, is the new band room addition.
Dear Community Members,

This has been a big year for Hockinson School District. Our students have impressed our community and others statewide—and around the country—with their ingenuity, talent and kindness.

Meanwhile, our community has amazed us with its generosity. We are reminded of it as we watch new facilities take shape at the High School, as our children run the mended track at the Elementary School and as we prepare for construction to begin on the new Middle School. None of these things would be possible without all of you!

Over the summer, our families will receive their students’ scores from this spring’s state-mandated assessments. These scores offer a snapshot of each student’s mastery of the material and of the testing process. The data will help our teachers focus their teaching strategies and continue to improve every student’s learning experience.

We recently bid a proud farewell to the 164 members of the Class of 2016 and will be rooting for them as they embark on new adventures and do great things.

On behalf of the School Board of Directors and myself, thank you for your support and commitment to our schools. It has been our honor and privilege to serve you this year.

Sincerely,
Sandra Yager

Hockinson Heights Elementary bolstered its arts programs this spring—thanks to community sponsors and a grant program.

Teachers and students teamed up for HHES’s 22nd-annual Run for the Arts, with students collecting pledges from family, friends and neighbors—and running enough laps to raise $16,482.25!

The money will be used to purchase art supplies and musical instruments, and to fund artist-in-residence programs and field trips to performances.

“We’re grateful to our students’ generous sponsors who make these enriching experiences possible,” said principal Lisa Swindell.

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The school was one of only 20 schools statewide to receive a Music Aid Northwest Grant. The $4,000 grant will be used to purchase Orff and world instruments, and to replace old instruments. The school district will provide a 10 percent match.

“These different instruments will give our students an authentic experience and opportunity to explore other countries through music,” said HHES music teacher Megan Miles, who applied for the grant.

Thank you to all who participated in our After School Care survey! We will make our decision and post our plans July 15 on the Hockinson School District homepage (http://hocksd.org).

Come join your friends for SUMMER FUN!

Community Education has great summer offerings for students and adults, including:

- Minecraft Code to the Future Camps
- Chess Camps
- Watercolor Workshop
- Sew Much Fun
- My Dolly & Me
- Summer Art Club
- Summer Spanish Camp
- Girls and Boys Basketball Camps
- U.K. Soccer Camps
- Tae Kwon Do

To see more classes and to sign up online: Please visit http://www.hocksd.org/community/community_education, or call Janet Hawkins, Hockinson Community Education, at 448-6480.

We will begin accepting Facility Use Applications for the 2016-17 school year Aug. 22. If you have questions about renting school facilities, please contact us.
HHS jumper leaps to state win

By the time HHS long jumper Kedrick Johnson reached the state track meet, he had realized there was only one person he needed to beat.

"I was jumping against myself," reflected the 2016 Hockinson graduate, "not the other athletes."

It was Kedrick’s first year competing in the long jump, and he had jumped 23 feet before, on a lark—“just jumping, having fun.” But in the three weeks leading up to state, he had struggled to find his footing at meets. Focused too much on the board, he was taking off too early, or too late … or not taking off at all.

“I was getting too into it with my head. I just couldn’t jump,” he said. “I’ve never been so stressed in my life.”

Kedrick credits one of his HHS coaches, Marinella Jiganie, with helping him turn things around. She told him he needed to stop worrying about the line.

“Overthinking stressed him,” Jiganie said. “I had to teach him how to focus and not let those thoughts come and take over.”

At districts, Kedrick barely qualified for state. Jiganie told him, “You can fly high, you can fly long. Believe. Trust in what you know. Have fun with it.”

Kedrick arrived in Tacoma with a new attitude: He was there to enjoy the state competition. He had listened to music all the way up, and it played on in his mind as he prepared to jump.

Assigned the first jump in the first flight, he soared.

“I was calm and I was relaxed, and I did the best jump,” he said.

In the finals, Kedrick jumped last. He raced toward the board and then brought back his arms, gathering momentum before taking off for one last amazing flight, landing hard in the sand.

“I jumped, and it felt far,” he said. “I tried to get up, and I couldn’t.”

Kedrick had dislocated his shoulder. But lying there in the sand, he cared less about the pain than about learning how far he had flown: 23 feet—the winning jump.

“I always knew I could do it,” he said.

IN THE NEWS

HMS students make history

HMS eighth grader Jasmine Shigeno’s history project was selected to compete in June in Washington, D.C., at the National History Day event—and for display at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History. Her project describes the plight of Jewish refugees trying to escape Nazi Germany.

Three other HMS students—Morghan Codino, Seanna Miller and Kennedy Carter—also earned state awards.

HHS student’s resiliency featured

HHS 2016 graduate Drew Beckley was featured in the Columbian’s graduation section this month with other graduating seniors who have overcome significant obstacles.

HHS bands take top honors

The Hockinson High School bands received top awards this spring in three days of back-to-back competitions.

Read more and see news coverage at www.hocksd.org/news/in_the_news
CLASS OF 2016 FUN FACTS

Our grads by the numbers:

- Graduating—164
- Heading to college—127
- Going straight to work—15
- Playing collegiate-level sports next year—12
- Starting an apprenticeship—7 (IBEW Electrical Training Center and Northwest Line JATC)
- Entering the military—3 (2 Navy, 1 Marines)
- Going on a religious mission—2 (Arizona and Youth with a Mission in St. Lucia)
- Volunteering abroad—1 (Free Burma Rangers in Myanmar)
- Beginning an internship—1 (Fire District 3)
- Starting trade school—1
- Scholarship money received—Offered = $4,043,682, Accepted = approx. $1,300,000

Other facts:

- 18 percent of seniors earned the State of Washington Honors Award
- 75 seniors are honor students (cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher)
- 28 seniors are members of the National Honor Society
- 8 seniors are graduating with their Associate of Arts degree