



## West Linn-Wilsonville School District

*How do we create learning communities for the greatest thinkers and most thoughtful people...for the world?*



Greetings West Linn-Wilsonville School Community,

It is hard to believe that we are nearly half way through the school year, but the buzz of students studying hard for upcoming finals is always a telling sign. Along with impressive academic pursuits it is always refreshing to take in the extra-curricular and community supported performances of our students.

Among the many events of the past couple of weeks it was a pleasure to catch our Rosemont Ridge Middle School students competing in the Lego Robotics tournament and to follow our Bolton Primary team as well. The commitment by students, coaches, and parents in supporting the student research, practice, and presentation is outstanding. This was also evident as a group of Athey Creek Science students carried out a Mock Trial in the Board room last night.

I was impressed with the Wilsonville High School girl's basketball team and coaches last Friday night as they hosted a Teacher/Staff appreciation night in association with their game. This was a heartfelt and sincere public thanks to staff for all they do to support their total school experience. It was wonderful for parents and the community to join in and support them in these endeavors.

### **For the World**

Recently, the University of Oregon invited us to host a visit from 20 administrators from Beijing, China. This team was particularly interested in working with U.S. schools that do well at generating creativity and high levels of performance in broad areas while still performing at very high levels on traditional measures of achievement. While touring our world class academic classrooms, libraries, and athletic facilities, the group was treated to the representative work from staff and students who are always our best ambassadors. They experienced Soul'd Out and Beauty and the Bridge at Wilsonville; Jazz Ensemble, Choirs, & ISEF presentations at West Linn High; and Orchestra, Band & Lego Robotics classes at Rosemont Ridge Middle School. The experience will lead to further partnerships with schools from China and other countries through the University of Oregon's Global Education Program.

### **For the World...and Language**

The partnerships we are building with universities, organizations, and schools in other countries will enhance our efforts to further develop both secondary and primary school programs in world language education. Increasingly, we are creating opportunities for global connections that foster our ability to share learning experiences with students and colleagues from other parts of the world. We have enjoyed our recent meetings with parents and families interested in our programs of study in language and culture. These sessions have been very important in informing our thinking as we design learning opportunities for our children.

### **School Boundaries**

Thanks to the persistence of the boundary task force, we move closer to making recommendations for primary school boundary adjustments that will go into effect in the fall. The task force will meet one more time to refine a set of recommendations to take to the community for review in February. The community is invited to meetings on February 13<sup>th</sup> at Rosemont Ridge Middle School -6:30pm and February 16<sup>th</sup> at Wilsonville High School -6:30pm. We appreciate everyone's patience and support as we work thoughtfully through this process.

I want to share again how fortunate I feel to be a part of this school community. As we continue to work through the challenges and complexities of our growth and change we have been able to share our diverse views, opinions, cautions, and thinking in well articulated and thoughtful ways. We have communicated in ways that help us all to better understand the complexities of the issues we face and importantly, in ways that make our children proud. Thank you for your support.

With Spirit- Bill

