



## 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,

I hope this note finds you well. It was nice of mother nature to share a little taste of spring recently. With the coming of our winter musical performances, district and state meets, play-off games, registration for spring sports and activities and the preparation of valentines, we know the real thing is just around the corner.

I have spent a lot of time in schools and classrooms over the past couple of weeks. The growth our students have made since September is striking. It is a time when schools are rich with opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning through very authentic projects and demonstrations. I've observed mock trials, congressional hearings, musicals, robotics, architectural design, author and artist supported projects, and research in preparation for our science fairs and symposia. These authentic opportunities would not be possible without a broad circle of support and I want to thank parents, community members, and community leaders who have participated in making these learning events possible for our children.

I have also watched our schools supporting each other through the loss of one of our wonderful high school students and of one of our beloved teacher colleagues. Our heartfelt thoughts and sympathy continues to be with the staff, students, families, loved ones, and all those impacted by our loss. Our building leaders and school staff have been outstanding in caring for our students. I want to personally thank our staff and students for their thoughtful leadership and compassion through this difficult time. I would also like to thank the members of our school community and those who came from other communities to share support and care. The support has been beautiful and very much appreciated.

### **Graduation Rates**

As the Department of Education released graduation data last week it was refreshing to see that rates in West Linn-Wilsonville schools continue to climb and remain at or near the top in the state. West Linn-Wilsonville showed a 7% gain in the graduation rate this year, adding to gains in the past several years, indicating continued progress on raising rigor and closing achievement gaps.

### **Boundary Adjustments**

This week we will share recommendations for the attendance area boundary adjustments that will allow us to move from 7 to 9 primary schools serving our students. The adjustments will provide important relief to schools significantly over capacity and will provide space for expected growth over time. I want to thank our community and staff members who so graciously and thoughtfully volunteered their time and great thinking as task force members in this project. The community is invited to attend our attendance area boundary meetings tonight, February 13<sup>th</sup> at Rosemont Ridge Middle School -6:30pm and Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at Wilsonville High School -6:30pm.

### **Budget**

The March state revenue forecast was released last week and brought with it reason for hope. While the forecast was down slightly, it is expected that it was not enough to cause any more reductions from the state K-12 education budget during this biennium. While we do have some work to do in terms of managing our costs related to declining local option revenues this news regarding the state economy is good.

I look forward to seeing you at the many events and performances our students will be involved in over the course of the next few weeks. I know you join me in feeling tremendous pride in our students' growth, accomplishments, and their willingness to be involved in their school and community. Thanks for all you do in support.

With Spirit- Bill

