Annual Report Issue

What’s new for 2003-2004?

It’s the first day of school.
The bells ring.
Time’s up!

Getting three new schools ready by opening day was no easy feat. Three longtime Vancouver elementary schools—Franklin, Washington, and Hazel Dell—were completely rebuilt and ready for students as scheduled on Sept. 4. It took extra effort from district staff members and volunteers who worked around the clock—moving furniture, connecting computers, and setting up classrooms. With playgrounds and landscaping unfinished, people volunteered their time to paint hopscotch, four-square and other games on the pavement for recess activities. The public is invited to the dedications of these new school buildings.

After a decade of growth in Vancouver schools, student enrollment has leveled off. Official count for the opening of the year was 21,888 students. Enrollment growth was up in the north end of the district and down in some schools in the south end. Boundaries will
What’s new for 2003-2004, continued from page 1

change next year when the new Thomas Jefferson Middle School, and rebuilt Salmon Creek and Sarah J. Anderson elementary schools open.

This year, the focus continues on literacy at all grade levels and in all subjects. The district is addressing four critical areas: literacy, school improvement planning, personalized learning, and results. Supporting high standards for each student continues to be the hallmark of Vancouver Public Schools.

Three new schools welcome students

Franklin Elementary School
A small, friendly neighborhood school is how Franklin Elementary has been known since 1955, and that doesn’t change with the new 37,300-square-foot building that has capacity for approximately 300 students. As parents, staff, community members, and architects met to envision a new Franklin at a design symposium, a community-centered school was at the heart of their plans. A new volunteer center gives parents and volunteers room to work and meet.

Franklin Elementary is adjacent to 10 acres that the City of Vancouver purchased for a future park. Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation and Vancouver School District will coordinate park planning.

Washington Elementary School
Bold, primary colors announce that this school is child-centered. The new building is the third since 1911 on the six-acre site. Space has been so cramped that kindergarten students have been bused elsewhere for the past dozen years. Now, Washington’s kindergartners have come home. The 50,000-square-foot school has a capacity of approximately 500 students.

The new building has a gymnasium, so students have an indoor space for PE, basketball and other activities. The English Language Learner program, literacy programs, and learning support now are located together by the media center so services can be coordinated for students. A community center and family resource room give parents and volunteers places to work with students and access computers.

Hazel Dell Elementary School
The new two-story, 58,000-square-foot Hazel Dell Elementary School boasts amenities the old school didn’t have—a separate gymnasium and commons, a stage, and a parking lot.

Cooperative learning areas off classrooms give staff more flexible use of space and allow small group instruction or large group activities. Adjacent to the reading

Vancouver Police Lt. Doug Luse (left) and Mayor Royce Pollard (right) demonstrate safe walking procedures with Washington Elementary student Courtney Ogden and her mother Nita Gartner. International Walk Our Children to School Day was Oct. 8. All of Washington Elementary’s 390 students live in the neighborhood, close enough to walk to school.
Flags welcome students at Fort Vancouver High

When Haddi Sowe came to orientation at Fort Vancouver High School this fall, she was greeted with a flag from Gambia, the country where she was born. For José Valle there was a flag from Mexico. For Annela Robu, who had been in America only a month, there was a flag from her home country, Ukraine.

Forty flags now fly at the school to celebrate the various birth countries of every student. Each year, as students enroll at Fort who were born in a country not represented, a new flag will be added. Even when Sowe, the only student from Gambia, graduates, her flag will remain and become part of an ongoing story about the school’s students and history.

The display of flags was the brainchild of this year’s ASB President, Mark Woodford, who wanted to bring Fort students together and capitalize on their strengths.

The idea materialized last summer at a national leadership conference.

Woodford took it upon himself to research the school’s student population and discover that the school’s students come from 40 different countries. By getting the support of other ASB members, school administrators and custodians, he was able to order flags and have them mounted just hours before students returned for orientation.

“I did it thinking, ‘I’m going to make kids feel welcome at Fort,’” he said.

“The power of a flag is incomprehensible,” he said. “Every culture has a flag. In America we look at the flag every day when we say the Pledge of Allegiance. Some kids can’t even show their own flag in their home countries.

“I wanted students to enter the school and think, ‘A piece of my home is with me.’”

At Fort Vancouver, the colorful and varied flags have become a symbol of a new culture developing at the school—a shift from celebrating diversity to creating unity. The kids are thrilled with them,” said Principal Nancy Faaren. “There seems to be a real pulling together.”

“Rather than focusing on the differences and where we come from, it’s what we can do when we come together,” said Woodford.

Last summer Woodford and Emily Warner, a junior at Fort, represented Washington state at the 2003 National Association of Student Councils Conference in Lancaster, New York. Under the guidance of Fort’s Associate Principal Cathy Sork, an experienced facilitator of student leadership training. That’s when Woodford decided to make a positive impact on the school.

“It (the conference) changed my life.” He decided, “I have the power to make changes for 1,600 people and I’m going to do that.”

As Fort’s ASB president, Woodford’s enthusiasm is infectious. His 24 ASB members are boosting school spirit. Participation at school sporting events is up, and more students are wearing school colors. Spirit assemblies have been turned into studies on American culture for English Language Learner (ELL) students.

“I want the Vancouver community to know that Fort’s a great school,” says Woodford. “It’s strict. Our (overall) test scores may be lower than other schools, but we are one of the most diverse schools in the state, maybe the nation.” Of the school’s 1,600 students, 500 are from homes that speak a language other than English; 287 are in the ELL program. Woodford sees this as a strength, not a weakness. “Real life is filled with diversity,” he said.

Woodford got his first leadership training at Truman Elementary School, where he learned to be a “self manager.” As he leads students at Fort, he still is guided by the “Responsibility Song” he learned in second grade.

“Next year I will go to a university, and I want to leave town knowing that my high school is a better place than when I came here,” said Woodford.

When he graduates, the flag of the United States of America—the flag of Woodford’s birthplace—will remain at the school to represent him and the other Fort students born and raised in the U.S. The American flag must, by law, hang just a little higher than the rest, but Woodford is quick to emphasize that every student at Fort is just as important as he.

“We all come from different backgrounds, but at the end of the day, we’re all Fort Vancouver Trappers,” he says. And, by now, Americans.

25 school projects completed, six to go

Just over a decade ago, Vancouver schools were in dismal shape. Many had been built in the 1940s and ’50s, and some had been constructed quickly during the peak growth years of World War II.

Since 1990, voters in Vancouver School District approved three bond measures. The timing, with interest rates at an all-time low, combined with state matching money, has allowed the district to upgrade or build new schools throughout the district. So far, five new schools have been constructed to accommodate growth. 11 schools were remodeled, and nine schools were rebuilt as new structures. Other buildings received new roofs, carpet or other necessary improvements. Technology, including computers and fiber optic networks, were added to all schools.

What’s left in the plans? A new Thomas Jefferson Middle School is now under construction in the Felida area. When it opens in the fall of 2004, it will relieve overcrowding in the district’s other middle schools. Two more elementary schools—Salmon Creek and Sarah J. Anderson—are being rebuilt and also will open next fall.

Eisenhower Elementary School will be rebuilt on its site and open the following year, in 2005. The school’s property adjoins property owned by the county, so the district and county are working together to transform the 20-acre site into a neighborhood park. From community meetings, plans are developing for a playground, soccer and baseball fields, open space, and paths for walking, jogging or biking.

A wing with three additional classrooms will be added to both Felida and Sacajawea elementary schools to alleviate overcrowding.

All projects should be completed within the next two to three years.

The good news/bad news about boundary changes

Construction and remodeling will ease overcrowding in Vancouver schools, but when most of the schools are finished, students will need to move where there’s space. The district has been holding off boundary changes until the 2004-2005 school year when the new middle school and two more expanded elementary schools open.

Changing schools is never easy for students or families. However, when compared with other school districts (including some in Oregon with class sizes of 60 or more), Vancouver School District is fortunate to have additional space.

Beginning in January, parents will be invited to community forums to look at boundary options. Dates, times, and places will be published at a later time. Watch for them in your school newsletters.

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Mark Woodford, ASB President, about the 40 flags representing the students of Fort Vancouver High School

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When students get to high school, reading takes on whole new challenges, not just in language arts but in all of their courses. Literacy is essential, though different, for all areas of study, including science, math, social studies, and technology.

For the past year, teachers and curriculum specialists in Vancouver School District have taken a close look at literacy development in Vancouver from pre-kindergarten to grade 12. This evaluation led to dramatic changes at the ninth-grade level. All freshmen now benefit from a literacy focus in freshman block, a two-period course which integrates English and Technology, plus Integrated Science.

All teachers of these three courses were trained in Reciprocal Reading, which promotes active involvement with reading. Techniques of predicting, questioning, clarifying, and summarizing text are used throughout the course to make students more literate in these subject areas.

To help some students even more, two new courses were added at the ninth-grade level. Academic Literacy gives readers a toolkit of strategies to apply when they don’t understand their reading. Freshmen learn how to handle the specific demands of reading in science, social studies, math, or literature.

Linguistics, which was piloted successfully at several secondary schools last year, is now offered for ninth-graders. This course helps struggling readers become proficient. It can help students who have learning styles that have made reading difficult, those who have moved from other areas and raised curriculum offered in Vancouver schools, or those with English as a second language.

“Both new courses for ninth-graders are excellent. They are research-based,” said Tom Dudley, chief of secondary education. “Also, with training in new reading strategies, all ninth-grade teachers are having positive influence on reading skills for ninth-graders throughout the core curriculum.”

Dana Newsom, technology teacher at Skyview High School, gives the Standardized Test for Assessment of Reading (STAR) reading test in her technology class to determine how students’ reading compares with a nationally tested sample of students. In the past, she would hand the scores off to the English teacher and be done with them. Now she works with the English teacher on the best reading strategies for students in each block, and shares STAR scores with science teachers, so they know how to work most effectively with individual students.

“It’s our intent to prepare students to meet the state standards as tenth-graders,” Layne Curtis, curriculum director said. “If they can do that, it will be an indication of the many things they’re able to do. It will mean they’re competent readers and writers and competent in the areas of math and science as well.”

Dudley, a former counselor and principal at Hudson’s Bay High School, wholeheartedly supports the emphasis on literacy at the high school level. “I think it is very positive and we’ll see some pretty dramatic results,” he said.

Employees earn honors, take leadership roles

• Lee Goeker, associate superintendent for human resources and management, who has moved from other areas who have made reading difficult, those who have moved from other areas and raised curriculum offered in Vancouver schools, or those with English as a second language.

When Vancouver School District Superintendent John Erickson received the Distinguished Alumni Citation for Achievement in Education from Willamette University, he was upstaged a bit by another alumnus—his father.

At a special ceremony Sept. 20, Dr. John Erickson was honored as the oldest alumnus of 91, he was honored as the oldest alumnus of 91, he was honored as the oldest alumnus of 91, he was honored as the oldest alumnus of 91. His father, George Erickson, previously had been inducted into the school’s Athletic Hall of Fame and also had a distinguished career in education. On this night, however, at the age of 91, he was honored as the oldest alumnus in attendance.

social worker at Fir Grove Children’s Center, was elected to a second two-year term as president of the School Social Worker Association of America. School social workers help children with issues that can impede academic progress.

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Students excel in . . .

Academics

• Fifteen Columbia River High School 2003 graduates were notified this summer that they had successfully completed the requirements for the International Baccalaureate Diploma. They completed a two-year preparatory program and a two-year rigorous course of studies, 150 hours of community service, and a 4,000-word original research essay before taking and passing all of the course exams. Awarded diplomas were Mary Brown, Kaitelin Delano, Cecelia Fortner, Renae Hamilton, Chris Helgeson, Heather Hughes, Nikhil Jacob, Bharath Kuman, Dan Tri Van Le, Angela Lee, Haenee Lee, Yih-Chi Niu, Tegan Pennell, Rachelle Robinson, and Ashley Van Allen.

IB certificates were awarded to the following 2003 graduates who scored well on their IB course requirements: Jonathan Fackler, Sheena Ingenthron, Amber Lyon, Elizabeth Paterson, George Goodrich, Terry Hersh, Andrew Nordmeier and Matt Wu of Skyview High School, and Zachary Jacob of Lewis and Clark High School.

• Two Columbia River High School students are state officers in Skills USA/VICA. Danielle Alexander is state treasurer and Rachel Giffoni is state secretary.

Career Development

• Two 2003 graduates of the Communications Academy placed second in the nation in TV production at the Skills USA/VICA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Kansas City, Mo., June. Adam Huson, graduate of Hudson’s Bay High School, and Shannon Achenbach, graduate of Skyview High School, took the silver medal.

Kristina Rometto, who graduated from Skyview and the Communications Academy, placed 12th in prepared speech at the national event. Also representing Vancouver were Jake Michels, a 2003 graduate of Skyview who competed in video production, and Kris Anderson, senior at Fort Vancouver High School who competed in job skills.

• Automotive Technology students at Clark County Skills Center made an impressive statewide showing in test

Students excel in . . .

• National Merit Semifinalists named

Vancouver School District had 11 Semifinalists and 19 Commended Scholars in the 2004 National Merit Scholarship Competition!

Semifinalists are Jennifer Buford, Jeana Devine, Samuel Early, Alan Hsieh, Eugene Kim, Christina Metea, Tristan Orford, Nathaniel Reed, Alistair Rockford and Miriam Smith of Columbia River High School; and Erin Stuhlsatz of Hudson’s Bay High School. All go on in competition for National Merit scholarships.

Commended Scholars in the National Merit program are Christina Bletter, Dylan Carlson, Blake Harrington, David Kim, Andrea Kussman, Weston LeMay, Nicholas McGuiness, Molly Roberts, Amy VanderZanden, and Keith Wong of Columbia River High School; Patrick Carpenter and Toni Martello of Fort Vancouver High School; Zack Lapidus, Chris Fols and Amy Jenifer of Vancouver School of Arts and Academics; and Evan Cate, Erik Etelson, Andrew Nordmeier and Matt Wu of Skyview High School.

Leadership and Service

• African American Youth Awards went to four students in Vancouver School District. Karisti Tihanyi of McLoughlin Middle School received the Harriet Tubman Award, Felicia Turay, Hudson’s Bay High School, the Jackie Robinson Award; and Jason Hall, Fort Vancouver High School, the Rosa Parks Award.

• Clark County Commissioners gave Sammy Awards for the restoration of salmon habitat to students in the Lewis and Clark branch at Columbia River High School. They received a Sammy for their work to restore riparian habitat along a section of Cougar Creek near the school. Students are Rob Anderson, Gabe Bailey, Gary Baltazar, Ryan Dekarske, Melissa Dickerson, George Goodrich, Terry Hersh, Matt Jones, Celeste Snelling, Jake Swan, Marc Vincent, and Will Weglage. Tim Smith is the teacher.

Arts and Athletics

• Alki Middle School eighth-grader won in competition for her age group at the annual International Model United Nations Conference in Kansas City, Mo., June. She has been in several local plays and television commercials.

• Lucy Holmes, junior at Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, had one of her photographs accepted for use on Jones Soda bottle labels.

• Julia Higgins, 2003 graduate of Skyview High School, finished in the top 10 and was a preliminary talent winner in America’s Junior Miss Pageant in Mobile, Alabama, in June.

• Aliki Middle School eighth-grader Jeni Pulliam won in competition for her age group at the annual International Model and Talent Agency in New York City this summer. She has been in several local plays and television commercials.

• Three films by Vancouver School of Arts and Academics students were among the 25 accepted for the 2003 Young People’s Film & Video Festival in Portland in July. The films were made by Robert Thach, Taylor Nida, and C.J. Frederickson and Ken Mihn Nguyen, all members of VSAAs class of 2003.

• Kyle Bounds, junior at Columbia River High School, won the 1-45-pound Greco-Roman championship at the USA Wrestling Cadet Championships in Fargo, N.D.

• Elizabeth Palmer, a 2003 graduate of Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, and her skating partner, Ryland Stucke, placed second in novice pairs ice dancing at the North American Challenge Skate, an international event. They are hopefuls for the 2006 Olympics.

Student artists lauded in Olympia

Gina Siciliano of Vancouver School of Arts and Academics earned a “Jury Choice” award at the 30th annual High School Art Show at the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction in Olympia. Her piece, “Self Portrait,” was purchased for the state’s permanent collection. This piece and work by Natika Ball, also a VSA student, are featured in Educational Service District’s 2003-2004 calendar.

Other students whose art was in the state art show included Natika Ball, C.J. Frederickson and Andy Lyons, VSA; and Jacob Colebank and Ola Burchak, Fort Vancouver High School.

Regional Award winners at the Educational Service District 112 High School Art Show were Kari Asai, Max Wilson, Kenneth Minh Nguyen and Kristen Miles, VSA; and Loren Shaw and Mike Staub, Skyview High School. Todd Dormiera of Fort Vancouver and Sarah Bader of VSA received honorable mentions.
Report for 2003-2004

Vancouver Public Schools

School Report Cards available
Report cards for each school in Vancouver School District are available on the district website: www.vansd.org. Go to “School Information,” drop down to “School Performance Reports,” and then select the school name. Complete reports for all K-12 schools in Washington state are on the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) website: www.k12.wa.us.

Paper copies of Vancouver School District reports are available at the Jim Parsley Administrative Center, 2901 Falk Road. Each school also has a paper copy of their report at the school office. Annual school report cards are required by the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

Quick Facts
Enrollment: 21,888 (Oct. 1, 2003)
Number of schools:
21 elementary schools (K-5)
Six middle schools* (6-8)
Six high schools* (9-12)
* includes Vancouver School of Arts and Academics (grades 6-12)
Early Childhood Center (preschool)
Fir Grove Children’s Center/Vista Program (1-12)

Scheduled school days: 180
Number of bus routes: 128 buses, 500 routes
Number of pupils transported daily: 11,000
Size of district: 58 square miles
Per-Pupil spending: $7,234 (includes transportation)

Average student-teacher ratio:
Kindergarten-Grade 3 24 to 1
Grade 4-Grade 5 27 to 1
Grade 6-Grade 8 28 to 1
Grade 9-Grade 12 29 to 1

Some facts about our employees
Number of employees 2,770
Certificated staff 48.1%
Classified support staff 48.7%
Administrative staff 3.2%

Teachers’ average years of experience
Kindergarten-Grade 3 24 to 1
Grade 4-Grade 5 27 to 1
Grade 6-Grade 8 28 to 1
Grade 9-Grade 12 29 to 1

Beginning teachers’ salary $29,149
Most experienced teachers’ salary $56,588

Student characteristics
Minority students as percentage of total enrollment 20.12%
Students enrolled in English Language Learner program 8%
Students with a home language other than English 3,319 (15%)
Number of different languages spoken by students 64
Elementary students eligible for free- or reduced-price lunch 47.9%
Student enrollment stability (percent in district for the entire year) 81%
Students receiving special education services 2,730
Gifted students enrolled in Challenge Program 515
Students participating in summer programs 1,809
Schools that offer extended day activities 100%
High school students enrolled in magnet programs 1,599
Graduation rate 85.7%
Dropout rate 2.1%

Literacy fund to benefit Salmon Creek Elementary
Parents are paving the way to the new Salmon Creek, selling personalized bricks for a walkway leading to the school’s main entry. Money raised from the sale will be allocated to the Travis Hays Literacy Fund. The fund will help support a high-tech area where students and community members will be able to do research and create and give presentations.

The engraved bricks will be laid in a curving pattern to reflect Salmon Creek. Cost is $40 for present students and staff and $50 for alumni. Families or businesses can pay $100 for an 8 x 8-inch brick, big enough for a company logo.

But it’s not just about bricks. Salmon Creek will be 150 years old when the new building opens in 2004, and parents are researching the school’s history and looking for people who attended Salmon Creek. For information on the bricks or the history, contact Connie Hays at 573-6397.

Seeing Seeing Double Double??

Teachers at Chinook Elementary School were seeing double by the end of last school year. Graduates of the school’s kindergarten class 2003 included five sets of twins! Left to right, they are Morgan and Jordan Foster, Cameron and Erin Hutchison, Isaiah and Gabriel Kerlegan, Mauricio and Daniel Alvarez, and Alexa and Paulina Barbosa.
2003-2004 School Calendar

Sept. 4, 2003  First day of school
Oct. 2     Late start, 2 hours
Oct. 10    State inservice, no school attendance
Oct. 23    Parent conferences, elementary and middle schools only, no student attendance
Oct. 24    Parent conferences, all schools, no student attendance
Nov. 11    Veterans Day
Nov. 26-28 Thanksgiving holiday
Dec. 11    Late start, 2 hours
Dec. 22–Jan. 2 Winter holiday
Jan. 19, 2004 Martin Luther King Day
Jan. 29    Late start, 2 hours
Feb. 2     Semester break, no student attendance
Feb. 13 and 16 Presidents’ Day holiday
March 12   Parent conferences, high schools only, no student attendance
March 18   Late start, 2 hours
April 5-9  Spring break
May 31     Memorial Day
June 18    Last day of school*

* make-up day in case of school closure is June 21

Phone Numbers

General information
Central Office Receptionist — 313-1000
Public Information — 313-1230
Information Hotline — 313-1234
Internet — www.vansd.org

Specific departments
Assessment, Research & Evaluation Services — 313-1180
Boundary Exceptions (in district) — Call your home school
Boundary Exceptions (out of district) — 313-1330
Challenge Program — 313-4888
Clark County Skills Center — 604-1050
Clothes Closet — 693-8514
Elementary Education and Operations — 313-1010
English Language Learner Program — 313-1250
Facility Planning — 313-1040
Federal Programs — 313-1260
Fiscal Services — 313-1340
Human Resources, Certificated — 313-1090
Human Resources, Classified — 313-1088
Learning Improvement — 313-1020
Jim Parsley Community Center — 313-4888
Nutrition Services — 313-1190
Partnerships — 313-4720
School Boundaries — 313-1011 or 313-1230
School Rentals — 313-4710
Secondary Education and Operations — 313-1011
Special Education — 313-1250
Student Records — 313-4896
Superintendent — 313-1200
Superintendent’s Office — 313-1200
Transportation — 313-4800
Vancouver School District Foundation — 313-4730
Visual & Performing Arts — 313-4621

Schools

Elementary schools
Sarah J. Anderson, Chinoock, Eisenhower, Felida, Franklin, Fruit Valley, Haney, Hazel Dell, Hough, Martin Luther King, Lake Shore, Marshall, Peter S. Ogden, Salmon Creek, Eleanor Roosevelt, Sacajawea, Truman, Walnut Grove, and Washington
AM Kindergarten  8:30 – 11:10 a.m.
PM Kindergarten  12:10 – 2:50 p.m.
Grades 1 – 5  8:30 – 2:50 p.m.
Lincoln and Minnehaha
AM Kindergarten  8:10 – 11:50 a.m.
PM Kindergarten  12:50 – 3:30 p.m.
Grades 1 – 5  9:10 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Middle schools
Ali, Discovery, Gaiser, Jason Lee, and McLoughlin
High schools
Columbia River, Fort Vancouver, Hudson’s Bay, and Skyview
Lewis and Clark High School
Morning Program (Mon.–Fri.)  8:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.
Afternoon Program (Mon.–Fri.)  1 – 4:40 p.m.
Evening Program (Mon.–Fri.)  6 – 9 p.m.
Vancouver School of Arts and Academics
Fir Grove Children’s Center
Grades 1 – 8  8:30 a.m. – 2:05 p.m.
Viola Peta Program  7:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Vancouver Early Childhood Center
AM Preschool  8:20 – 10:50 a.m.
PM Preschool  12:20 – 2:50 p.m.

Schools

Elementary Schools  Address  Principal  Phone
1  Sarah J. Anderson  2215 NE 104th St., 98686  Karen Leary  313-1500
2  Chinoock  1900 NW Bliss Rd., 98665  Joe Lapidus  313-1600
3  Eisenhower  9201 NW 9th Ave., 98665  Glynis Paveglio  313-1700
4  Felida  2700 NW 119th St., 98665  Scott Leary  313-1750
5  Franklin  5206 Franklin St., 98663  Mary Ellen Brunsuch  313-1850
6  Fruit Valley  3410 Fruit Valley Rd., 98660  Debbie Elliott  313-1900
7  Haney  3212 E Evergreen Blvd., 98661  Donna Jeffries  313-2000
8  Hazel Dell  511 NE Anderson Rd., 98665  Craig Homnick  313-2050
9  Hough  1900 Daniels St., 98660  Sean McMillan  313-2100
10  King  4801 1st Ave., 98660  Steve Kinsla  313-2200
11  Lake Shore  9200 NW 21st Ave., 98661  Steve Lindblom  313-2250
12  Lincoln  4200 Daniels St., 98660  Mona Boyer  313-2300
13  Marshall  6400 MacArthur Blvd., 98661  Julie Kassner  313-2400
14  Minnehaha  2800 NE 5th St., 98663  Dr. Jackie Merz-Bernick  313-2500
15  Petersen  8100 NE 29th St., 98662  Curtiss Smith  313-2550
16  Eleanor Roosevelt  2921 Falk Rd., 98661  Marianne Thompson  313-2600
17  Sacajawea  700 NE 112th St., 98665  Edna Nash  313-2750
18  Salmon Creek  1631 NE 129th St., 98665  Dr. Bill Nicolson  313-2800
19  Truman  4505 NE 42nd Ave., 98661  Dr. Retta Hamilton  313-2900
20  Walnut Grove  6103 NE 27th Ave., 98661  Ellen Bucek  313-3000
21  Washington  2908 S St., 98663  Bertha Sturms  313-3050

Middle Schools
22  Ali  1800 NW Bliss Rd., 98665  Karla Schlosser  313-3200
23  Discovery  800 E 40th St., 98663  Susan Con  313-3300
24  Gaiser  3000 NE 99th St., 98665  Betty Roberts  313-3400
25  Jason Lee  8500 NW 9th Ave., 98665  Janet Gillingham  313-3500
26  McLoughlin  5802 MacArthur Blvd., 98661  Richard Reeves  313-3600

High Schools
27  Columbia River  800 NW 99th St., 98665  Mike Stormme  313-3900
28  Fort Vancouver  5700 E 18th St., 98661  Nancy Feam  313-4000
29  Hudson’s Bay  1208 E Reserve St., 98661  Kathy Everidge  313-4400
30  Lewis and Clark  2901 General Anderson Ave., 98661  Stephen Frisbee  313-4350
31  Skyview  1300 NW 139th St., 98665  Ed Little  313-4200
32  Vancouver School of Arts and Academics (grades through 12)  3101 Main St., 98663  Chris Olsen  313-4600

Vancouver Early Childhood Center
33  391 S. Lieser Rd., 98664  Linda Gilroy  313-4850

Fir Grove Children’s Center
34  1501 E Evergreen Blvd., 98661  Mike Pahls  313-1800

Other Facilities
A  Jim Parsley Community Center  2901 Falk Rd., PO Box 8937, 98668-8937  313-1000
B  Jim Parsley Community Center  entrance is from Plumondon Rd.  313-4980
C  PNSD Aquatic Center  605 N De Vine Rd., 98661  313-3625
D  Stadium (Kiggins Bowl)  40th & H Streets  313-2100
E  Transportation  2501 Stapleton Rd., 98661  313-4800
F  Warehouse  2419 Stapleton Rd., 98661  313-4750
Are new reading programs helping? Just ask the kids

If you want to know how to read well, ask Kyody Kutz and Jacob Walthrip, third-graders at Sacajawea Elementary School. They didn’t start out as good readers, but now they are. Like lots of kids, they had missed some of the early fundamentals for successful reading. The Read Well program and reading specialist Bobbi Terret are helping them get back on track.

Kyody, who has moved to several different schools, can sound out and read the words in his reading workbook, comprehend what he reads, and discuss it. By now, he’s also an expert on the Read Well program and how it works. He can explain the student parts versus the teacher parts (which he now tends to read, too).

Both boys demonstrated how to sound out words with the “stretch and shrink” tool, a modified Slinky. They can print tough words legibly, too, using the Theo Bear Guide with the “hat line,” “belt line,” and “foot line.” The Read Well program, which stresses accuracy and fluency, not only teaches students to read but helps them write neatly and communicate well, too.

The Read Well program is adding a basic phonics component to Vancouver School District’s reading curriculum. The program was introduced last year in all first-grade classes, and all first-grade teachers and elementary reading specialists were trained. It was so successful, curriculum was purchased for all second-grade classes for this year, and some teachers are expanding its use for third grade and beyond.

The Read Well program, which is based on research of the National Reading Panel, adds instruction in phonics, fluency and comprehension. Vancouver teachers also continue to use Silver Burdett Ginn reading curriculum, which is literature based.

“We wanted the best of both worlds—basic phonics instruction and rich literature,” explained Curriculum Director Layne Curtis. “Phonics instruction, by itself, can be flat—‘Ann can fan the man’—but Read Well combines phonics with meaningful text. If there’s something to talk about, there’s a reason to read. We already had rich literary resources in our schools. Now we have wonderful and balanced reading programs.”

The basic Read Well program consists of 38 lessons, which can be taken step-by-step to ensure that a student understands all the basic fundamentals of reading. By lesson 38, students are reading at the 2.4 grade level and have a solid foundation.

A new Read Well K program also was added for kindergarten students this year. The Read Well K lessons include whole group activities with chants and rhyming. It’s a fun way to learn the sounds and get a start on being a fantastic reader.

When asked what kind of progress she has seen in students at Sacajawea, Terret responds, “Astronomical!”

She adds, “It’s absolutely amazing when a first-grader comes in and doesn’t know the sounds of the alphabet, and by the end of the year they are reading at the second-grade level.” She says that in some cases, it turns students around who otherwise would be slated for failure.

Jason and Kyody have improved their reading skills tremendously, and they have advice for younger students. “You need to try your best to read. Try and sound out the words,” said Kyody. “It’s real important because if you aren’t a good reader, you won’t learn that much about stuff.

“I just got my library pass for the city library and I can check out books now,” he added. He prefers books about bugs, birds, and snakes.

“I like all of them . . . and magazines and comic books, too,” added Jacob. “It’s fun.”

“We’re a lot better readers than last year . . . and all the other years,” said Kyody. “It’s cool.”

American Red Cross CEO will deliver Marshall Lecture

American Red Cross President and CEO Marsha “Marty” Evans will deliver the 2003 Marshall Lecture Friday, Nov. 7, at the Hudson’s Bay High School gymnasium.

High school students from schools throughout Clark County are being invited to attend. In addition, Evans will meet with students at Marshall Elementary School and provide interview opportunities for high school journalism and video students.

Prior to joining the Red Cross, Evans was chief of staff of the U.S. Naval Academy, and executive director of the Girl Scouts of the USA. After 29 years of service in the U.S. Navy, she retired as a Rear Admiral, a position attained by only two women.

The Marshall Lecture is part of part of Celebrate Freedom, a program of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve Trust. Vancouver School District and the City of Vancouver host the annual lecture. Lecture tickets are available to the public. Call the Historic Reserve at 992-1800. The audience must be seated by 10:45 a.m. for the 11 a.m. to noon lecture.

Festival of Trees supports students

Students from Vancouver schools will be singing, tapping, and fingering the ivory keys at the Festival of Trees Nov. 28-30 at the Inn at the Quay. Musical groups from Walnut Grove, Chinook, Eleanor Roosevelt, Sacajawea, and Truman elementary schools are among the performers.

By participating in this fund-raising event, students are raising money to help themselves. Sponsored by Vancouver Rotary, the Festival of Trees supports scholarships for Vancouver students, the Lunch Buddy program in eight Vancouver schools, school picnics, and annual contributions for school supplies.

For a schedule of events, see www.festivaloftrees.net.