

REPORT TO THE Community

Vancouver Public Schools

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BizTown buzzes with business

Imagine a Disneyland-style Main Street transformed into a street of 19 thriving businesses for the 21st century. Then imagine fifth-graders serving as the CEOs and shopkeepers, the customers and city officials of this fantasy city. That's BizTown.

BizTown is a miniature community that lets students act out careers and learn practical skills they will need as adults. It is the brainchild of Junior Achievement (JA), a program offered in 97 countries, with the purpose of providing young people with business and career experiences. For hands-on learning, JA constructed 26 Biztowns worldwide. The newest opened April 18 in a former Safeway store off I-205 in Portland to serve students in the Portland/Southwest Washington region.

Fifth-graders from seven Vancouver elementary schools (Peter S. Ogden, Minnehaha, Hough, Fruit Valley, King, Lake Shore, and Sarah J. Anderson) already have visited the new BizTown and experienced the program. Teachers were given curriculum and went through training. They worked with students for 20 hours or more to teach them skills in preparation for their visits.

On the morning of June 12, 115 students from Sarah J. Anderson stepped off school buses and entered BizTown. During a full day of simulated activities, each student played dual roles as employee and consumer. Students applied for jobs, completed interviews, and were hired for positions. They worked as bank tellers, store clerks, computer technicians, TV anchors, advertising agents, and even the mayor. Each student received a \$30 "paycheck," opened a bank account, and handled a checkbook. Students produced and purchased ads in a newspaper. They could purchase things at the café. They could even donate to the town's animal shelter, as long as they stayed within their budgets.

As the mayor of BizTown, fifth-grader Liesel Jenkins visited the businesses and asked for nominations for citizen and business awards. Katy Crabb, advertising executive for BZTV, was named a Citizen of the Day. "I liked all the different businesses where you could shop. Everyone was really nice—the businesses and the customers," Katy said.

As Principal Lucy Estrada-Guzman strolled through the town, one student came up to her and exclaimed, "This is the best field trip ever!"

Photo above, BizTown; right, the BizTown mayor and helper Sherry Henderson



The principal agrees. "It was excellent. I like the fact that it gives kids real world experiences," Estrada-Guzman said. "The students learned how to handle money and balance a checkbook—things they will really need to know. They learned why they need to be able to add and subtract, multiply and divide. This was real teaching."

"It took a lot of work and a lot of time, but it was very worthwhile," said teacher Marna Hopkins. "The kids learned economics, economic vocabulary, cooperation, and working toward a common goal—all the things you need in a workplace."

When students returned to the school, Assistant Principal Eva Unger asked them, "What was your favorite thing about the day?" Everyone had answers. Then she asked "What was your least favorite?" Silence, while the students thought, until one fifth-grader said:

"Leaving." ■



Strategic planning continues

Community members have been involved in strategic planning to direct the future of Vancouver Public Schools. Here's what some of them had to say.

"I have been most impressed with Vancouver School District's thoughtful and thorough approach to strategic planning. Those of us in the business community should take a few lessons from our colleagues in education. We could learn a great deal about how to set the future course of an organization."

Beth Quartarolo, president and CEO of the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce and parent

"As a parent and community member, I always knew Vancouver was a great school district. After being involved in the planning process, I am more encouraged than ever by the passion, energy, and dedication being invested in the future of our children. My input was received in a manner that made me feel like superintendent for a day!"

Casey Wyckoff, parent

"I feel valued and I have spoken with other parents and teachers, as well as students and community members who feel the same. I am hopeful that we will work toward real change together."

Jeri Swatosh, teacher and parent

Strategic planning, continued on page 2



Educating Children in the New Millennium: Child's Play

By Dr. Steve Webb, deputy superintendent

What we can learn from children

I'd like to share a story. This is a story about my daughter Tess, who will turn four this August. She's been in our home since August of 2004, when we adopted her from China. She has been a blessing in so many ways, and she teaches me something new every day, if only I pause long enough to listen and observe. Certainly, as a first-time parent, she has taught me a great deal about patience; she moves at a different speed and to a different drummer. She also has reinforced what I know is best in terms of how children learn. This is a story that begins at our kitchen table, traverses through our community, and concludes in the global marketplace.

Wiggles and Piaget

Tess is in love and has been for some time. Her passion is the Wiggles, a children's performance group out of Australia. At two she was in love with Jeff Wiggle whose character wears the purple shirt. She wore that shirt for a year and now has enshrined it in a special place in her closet. Her new crush is Greg Wiggle whose character wears the yellow shirt.

Fickle, perhaps, but she is only three. Recently, as we were saying grace before an evening meal, it was Tess' turn to identify one thing for which she was thankful. You guessed it: "the long-sleeve yellow Wiggles shirt with the logo on the side."

We know that our daughter is constructing mental maps based on her experiences. Jean Piaget, distinguished child psychologist, described this early childhood development stage as pre-operational. He theorized that a child's mental models or cognitive structures are based on a child's activities. Engagement is how a child makes meaning.

The Importance of Play

A recent report, "The Importance of Play in Promoting Healthy Child Development and Maintaining Strong Parent-Child Bonds," from the American Academy of Pediatrics, stated that free and unstructured play is healthy and, in fact, essential for helping children reach important social, emotional, and cognitive developmental milestones. Piaget's theory is based on the idea that the developing child builds cognitive structures known

as mental "maps" or schemes (networked concepts) for understanding and responding to physical experiences within his or her environment.

Constructivism, a theory of learning, is founded on this premise that, by reflecting on our experiences, we construct our own understanding of the world. Each of us generates our own "rules" and "mental models," which we use to make sense of our experiences. Learning, therefore, is the process of adjusting our mental models to accommodate new experiences. Constructivist teaching models focus on creating experiential, engaging, and "hands-on" activities for students. An example of a constructivist teaching strategy is having students participate in a science fair. This kind of learning also involves an element of play.

What does any of this have to do with educating millennial children? It is about balancing intellect and imagination. ■

The continuation of this article is located on the Vancouver School District website: www.vansd.org/future.

"I anticipate great things from Vancouver Public Schools."

— a parent involved in the strategic planning process

Strategic planning generates high involvement

Strategic planning for Vancouver Public Schools is well underway. Since the process began in January, students, parents, district staff, and other community members have participated in a symposium, listserv communication, an online survey, and focus groups.

"We are pleased that so many people have participated in activities and provided input. The people of Vancouver obviously care about their schools and the future of this community," said Deputy Superintendent Steve Webb.

Symposium participants gathered in March to cast a vision of the future given the exponential changes in store for our community, society, and world. They examined the history of accomplishments in Vancouver Public Schools, then assessed opportunities and threats that will influence the direction of the school district. They were asked to envision education in the year 2020, when next year's class of kindergartners will graduate from high school.

Participants in four listserv e-mail groups offered their perspectives, and more than

1,100 people completed a survey, with translated versions provided in Russian and Spanish.

Seven focus group sessions were conducted in April and May to gather additional input. Focus groups included current students, recent graduates, district employees, parents (including families with English Language Learners and Special Education students), community and business leaders, and representatives of early childhood and higher education.

"The purpose of convening the focus groups was to obtain valuable and insightful information that we might not have received in any other way," said Webb. "By bringing together groups of people with shared interests, we promoted rich, in-depth conversations."

Broad areas of agreement have emerged about the need for changes in:

- *The Learning System*—using time, space, and resources to personalize learning for each student
- *The Performance System*—sharing accountability for results (students, educators, families, community, policy-makers)
- *The Human System*—building the capacity of individuals, teams, and the

educational system; developing supportive relationships and ensuring effective communication

- *The Infrastructure System*—providing 21st century learning environments (facilities and technology)

A Futures Team currently is reviewing the information collected. Thoughts and suggestions will be organized into major themes. Educational experts from outside the district will help ensure that the themes accurately reflect the feedback of district and community members.

In late August, Goal Area Teams will be formed to represent the major themes. The teams will use the gathered input and other materials to write vision statements, goals, target objectives, and metrics (evidence of success) for the strategic plan. All stakeholders will have an opportunity to comment on the plan before it is presented to the school board in December.

Ultimately, the aim of the strategic planning process is to take the district to a new level of excellence. As one parent wrote, "I anticipate great things from Vancouver Public Schools." ■

Vancouver School District

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Photos by Ed Vidinghoff and district staff

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Students provide input to help set the direction for Vancouver Public Schools.



WAVE scholar has dreams to fulfill

This June Maria Meza walked through high school graduation with her class. Next she'll board a plane for Mexico to visit her mother's grave.

Maria came close to not graduating. Her mother died when Maria was a freshman at Fort Vancouver High School. With two younger sisters at home and a father who worked long hours, much of the responsibility of day-to-day life fell to her. She went into a deep depression and dropped out of school. Somehow, she managed to help her family—to cook and pack lunches, clean and do laundry. For her father, who could not write English, she paid the bills and handled paperwork. For her sisters, she helped get them off to school and assisted with homework. But helping herself by going to school was more than Maria could handle.

Maria's father encouraged her to go back to school, and finally, Maria decided that's what she wanted for herself, too. By then she should have been entering her junior year, but she had only one credit. Maria returned to Fort Vancouver High School and asked to enroll in a basic keyboarding class, with the hopes of graduating from high school and doing secretarial work.

Then she met teachers like Debby Evans who encouraged her to do more. Maria made up a year's worth of classwork in a computer lab and through the Partners in Careers program. She learned graphic de-

sign and web design, and became editor of the school newspaper. By her senior year, she had caught up with her classmates. She entered a SkillsUSA contest in customer service and took first place in regional competition, then won the gold medal in state competition. On June 24, Maria competed in the national SkillsUSA contest in Kansas City, Missouri.

As Maria discovered her own potential, her dreams grew. Now she wants to go to college and study criminal justice. She won a Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) scholarship that will pay two years' tuition, but she plans to save that for a university like WSU-Vancouver. To stretch her dollars, she hopes to find a job and work her way through two years at Clark College to earn basic credits first.

"It's incredible!" Maria says about getting this scholarship. "Before, I was thinking of going to college for two years. I really have dreams now."

Maria will be the first in her immediate family to graduate from high school and the first to attend college, with one technical exception. Maria's father, who had only completed education through sixth grade in Mexico, has enrolled in classes at Clark College. As Maria is attending day classes, he will be taking night courses to study English and become a U.S. citizen.

When Maria turned 15, her father offered her the traditional Mexican Sweet 15 party, but Maria used the money to visit her grandmother and her mother's grave in Sinaloa, Mexico. Two years later, though her grandmother is no longer living, Maria wants to go back to sit and reflect with her mother. "I wish she was buried here. It's especially hard on Mothers' Day and Memorial Day," Maria admits.

In spite of her setbacks, Maria has rebounded. She says, "Now I'm graduating with my class. That was my mom's dream. She would be so proud."

Maria's father is proud, too. That medal she won at state...he took it to his workplace to share with everyone the amazing accomplishments of his daughter. ■

Maria Meza



Diesel engines spark career goals

Anyone who meets Alex Grengs now could never imagine him growing up in a tough East Bay Oakland neighborhood, surrounded by drugs and gangs and crime. Education was not valued. "The attitude and mentality could have rubbed off," acknowledges Alex, who is soft-spoken and polite. Fortunately, he moved with his mother to Vancouver at a fairly young age. He attended several elementary schools, then went to Discovery Middle School and Hudson's Bay High School.

Learning didn't always hold Alex's attention, but at Bay he was placed in Linda

Herrington's Advisory Class, and she saw his potential.

"Mrs. Herrington advised me. She basically showed me all the opportunities and career options," said Alex. "She's the one who directed me to the Skills Center, and from there I took off."

At the Clark County Skills Center, Alex developed a keen interest and aptitude in diesel mechanics. In Diesel Technology, he earned 20 credits that can transfer to Clark College. This spring, Alex received a Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) scholarship that makes college and earning a professional-technical degree in diesel technology possible.

"This gets rid of some of the anxiety I have—being prepared for college and not having enough money. Now I'm set," Alex proudly states.

"I'm throwing confetti and jumping for joy this morning," exclaimed Herrington when she heard he received the award. "Alex is wonderful...so kind and appreciative. He has matured so much since he started high school."

Two days later, Alex stood before a panel of board members at the Skills Center and interviewed for the General Advisory Committee (GAC) scholarship. He was selected and came away with another \$700 to help pay for books and tools.

"He's focused. He knows what he wants," said Phil Baus, his diesel technology teacher.

Now that Alex has found a subject of interest, he puts in hours of extra time. After school, he attends evening meetings of the Equipment Maintenance Council in Portland, and he's using his new skills to help others. Recently, Alex and a classmate constructed a special tricycle for a young boy with multiple disabilities.

This spring, at the 2007 SkillsUSA competition, Alex took fourth place in diesel mechanics at the regional level and finished sixth place at state. "He has the winning attitude, and he's willing to work for it," said Baus in explaining Alex's success.

When Alex graduated from Hudson's Bay in June, he became the first in his family to earn a high school diploma.

"I'm thankful to the people who helped me," said Alex. "I just hope I can set an example for my younger brothers and cousins." ■



Alex Grengs



EVENING OF EXCELLENCE

EVENING OF EXCELLENCE

More than 700 students were honored at the first Evening of Excellence, a collaboration of eight Clark County school districts. Nearly 1,200 people attended the event on May 31 at Skyview High School. Students were recognized for academic and civic accomplishments at the regional, state, and national levels. Those students are included in this issue of *Report to the Community*.

The Evening of Excellence program was recorded and will run on cable channels 27 and 29 through June. The final broadcast is 9:30 p.m., June 29, on channel 27.

Celebrating student success and accomplishments

Academic

• Students named Washington Scholars are **Katie McVicker**, Hudson's Bay; **Sean Stoker**, Columbia River; **Kendra Broadwater**, Vancouver School of Arts and Academics; **Kunal Vaswani** and **Christopher Wyszynski**, Skyview. **Zara Lukens**, Columbia River, was an alternate.

• **Maria Meza**, Fort Vancouver, and **Alexander Grengs**, Hudson's Bay, received WAVE (Washington Award for Vocational Excellence) Scholarships.

• Skyview took 4th place in the 4A division of the Washington State Knowledge Bowl. Team members were **Kunal Vaswani**, **Christopher Wyszynski**, **Andrew Read** and **Elizabeth Wulf**. Another Skyview team placed 11th in the bowl. Team members were **Nicholas Ewing**, **Robert Fiszer**, **Shane Smith**, **Daniel Woodman**, **Brian Tang**, **Randy Powell**, and **Steven Tsai**. A team from Columbia River made the field of 18 teams in the 3A division.

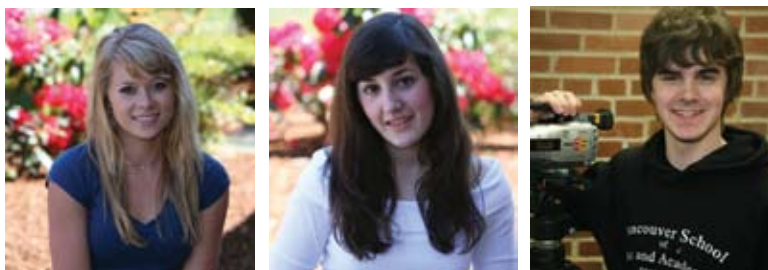
• Skyview took 1st place in the 4A division at the NW Regional Science Bowl. Team members were **Kunal Vaswani**, **Robert Fiszer**, **Christopher Wyszynski**, **Daniel Woodman**, and **Brian Tang**.

• Two VSD teams went to the National Science Decathlon held in May. After placing 3rd overall in the Pacific NW Science Decathlon, the **Fort Vancouver science team** qualified to go to nationals. Several students placed individually in the national competition. **Kathryn Westerberg**, 2nd in Marine Biology, 3rd in Scientific Method; **Avery Stephens**, 3rd in Forensics; **Amanda Labbe**, 1st in Ichthyology, 1st in Ornithology, 3rd in Forensics; **Dan Mateo**, 3rd in Scientific Method, 3rd in

Tower Breaking, 3rd in Entomology; **Ana Jordache**, 3rd in Tower Breaking, 3rd in Entomology; **Jesse Coker**, 1st in Robotics; **Jordan Kloster**, 1st in Robotics, 2nd in Crane-fly, 3rd in Water Rocketry; **Derek Simpson**, 2nd in Tower Breaking; **Jordan Rosdahl**, 3rd in Ichthyology, 1st in Marine Biology, 2nd in Tower Breaking; **Sarah Rosdahl**, 1st in Marine Biology, 3rd in Ornithology; **Caitlin Rosdahl**, 3rd in Ichthyology, 3rd in Ornithology; and **Robert Stewart**, 2nd in Stump the Panel (Anatomy). Team coach was Nathan Shields.

• The **Hudson's Bay Science Team** placed 3rd overall in the National Science Decathlon. Members were: **Chris Hatley**, **Travis Carrizosa Oehley**, **David Limoges**, **Jon Chase**, **Evan Labrant**, **Brian Lott**, and **AJ Robertson**. The following students won medals in individual events: **David Limoges** and **Travis Carrizosa Oehley**, 3rd in Red Planet; **David Limoges** and **Brian Lott**, 2nd in Geo Trekker; **Chris Hatley** and **Travis Carrizosa Oehley**, 2nd in Four N Six; **Chris Hatley** and **Brian Lott**, 2nd in Robotics; and **Evan Labrant**, 1st in Crane-fly. Team coaches were Irean Sych and Gordon Patterson.

• **Heather Daniels**, **Nicholas Ewing**, **Phillip Poonka**, and **Kunal Vaswani**, Skyview, were finalists in the Oregon Junior Academy of Science.



National Merit Finalists for 2007 are: (above, left to right) Ariana Orford, Emma Jeffries and David Ditullio; (top row) Michael Bobbe, Joel Brown, Matthew Herson; (bottom row) Mathias Quackenbush, Zara Lukens, Allen Roberts, and Rachel Carlson.

• **Rachelle Cobb**, **Emma Li**, and **Mark Lisowski**, Columbia River, qualified to compete at the National Science Symposium.

• **Nicholas Ewing**, Skyview, was a finalist in the Oregon Junior Science Symposium, and he was an Alternate Delegate for the International Science and Engineering Fair.

• Columbia River's **Rachelle Cobb** took 1st place, and **Emma Li** placed 4th at the Washington Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. **Emily Cabanatuan** and **Elizabeth Carlson** were selected to present orally. **Mark Lisowski** placed 2nd at the Oregon Junior Science and Humanities Symposium.

• At the Northwest Science Expo, Skyview's **Bryndis Ingimarsdottir** took 1st place in animal sciences. **Nicholas Ewing** took 2nd place in computer science; **Heather Daniels**, took 2nd place in animal sciences.

• Two teams from Skyview placed in the Washington State Math Council State Championships. **Kunal Vaswani**, **Daniel Holstein**, and **Yuan Kai Tsai** took 1st place in the categories of Team Problem and Topical. **Robert Fiszer**, **Greg Fisher**, and **Brian Tang** placed 3rd in Topical.

• **Kunal Vaswani**, Skyview, took 1st place in Statistics at the State Mu Alpha Theta Math Championships held in April in Federal Way.

• Three students from Fort Vancouver placed in the State Spanish Literary Contest. **Amellalli Gonzalez-Rocha**

took 1st place in Essay Writing; **Karina Salinas**, 1st in Poetry, and **Maria Nayeli Ornelas-Valencia**, 2nd in Poetry.

• Nearly 250 students at **Sarah J. Anderson Elementary** are published authors. The students wrote manuscripts which are included in eight different classroom anthologies and approximately 70 individually authored books. Hard-bound copies of each of the eight class anthologies are available in the school's media center thanks to Anderson's generous PTA.

• **Caleb Adams**, Fort Vancouver, was one of three high school students in the nation to be named a Scholastic 2007 READ 180 All-Star Award Winner. The award is given for gains in reading.

• **Jake Sloan**, 7th grade, Gaiser Middle School, qualified for the National Geographic State Geographic Bee by scoring in the top 100 on the qualifying test.

• Columbia River took 2nd place in High Five Challenge. Team members were **Thomas Avila**, **Mathias Quackenbush**, **Sam Whedon**, **Victor Tea**, **Kevin Margado**, **Matt Varga**, **Valerie Metea**, and **Matt Herson**.

• Students from Fort Vancouver earned awards in the 2006 national Russian Essay Contest. Earning gold medals were **Kseniya Kryukova**, **Veronika Loginova**, **Valentin Logunov**, **Anzhela Lubyunitskaya**, **Sophiya Makarenko**, **Ina Nikutsyeva**, and **Nelya Petrovich**. Silver medals went to **Anna Garbuzov**, **Anastasiya Fefelova**, **Karina Statnik**, and **Mikhail Tihohod**. Bronze medals went to **Sergey Kushnir**, **Inna Kuzmich**, **Svetlana Tihohod**, and **Ivan Tihohod**. The Fort students also competed in the Oral Olympiada. Earning gold were **Mikhail Tihohod**, **Kseniya Kryukova**, **Sophiya Makarenko**, **Anzhela Lubyunitskaya**, and **Anastasiya Fefelova**. **Svetlana Tihohod**, **Ivan Tihohod** and **Ina Nikutsyeva** brought home silver medals.

• Several students earned their two-year associate degrees from Clark College along with their high school diplomas. Running Start Associate Degree Awards went to **Kelsey Dold** and **Jaime Musgrave**, Columbia River; **Jessica Peppers**, Fort Vancouver; **Kim Lee**, **Keith Neale**, and **Heather Nicewonger**, Hudson's Bay; **Julie Steiger**, Lewis and Clark; **Megan Hunt** and **Amanda Lock**, Skyview.



Skyview team takes regional and national awards

The team of **Robert Fiszer**, **Brian Tang**, **Christopher Wyszynski**, **Kunal Vaswani**, and **Daniel Woodman** took first place in the 2007 National Science Bowl regional competition. They won an all-expenses-paid trip to the National Science Bowl in Washington, D.C., sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy.

At nationals, Skyview took third place in its division of eight teams, just missing the finals, which went to the top two teams in each division. Overall, Skyview placed 25th among 64 teams from all regions of the U.S.

- Alki Middle School competed in several chess tournaments this year. The team of **Lee Holstein**, **Thomas Burleson** and **Alexander Jensen** won 2nd place in the Ridgefield Chess Tournament. Holstein also won a 5th place trophy at the King's Way tournament in Vancouver. Jensen took 1st place in his division at the Cornerstone Chess Tournament.

- A team from Jason Lee Middle School took 1st place in the State Math, Engineering, Science Association (MESA) competition held in Seattle. The 1st-place finish included an all-expenses paid trip to national competition in Washington, D.C., for the students, teachers, and one parent for each student, June 22–24. Students were **Galyna Shkurko**, **Elena Popercinii**, **Eugenia Kagramanova**, **Anna Motorna**, and **Olga Shakiryanova**. Teachers are Susan Lindenmeyer and Suzie Womack. Another Jason Lee team, **Anoulack Naovarangsy**, **Erick Cueto** and **Will Kamatule**, placed 3rd in the district competition.

- Jacqueline Gibbs**, 8th-grader at Gaiser Middle School, took 1st-place in the Veterans Essay competition.

- Students receiving International Baccalaureate Diplomas from Columbia River were **Thomas Avila**, **Kristina Bair**, **Elizabeth Beck**, **Joel Brown**, **Brian Burger**, **Rachel Carlson**, **Lisa Cavola**, **Rachelle Cobb**, **Chelsea Conrad**, **Lisa Grove**, **James Han**, **Matt Herson**, **Jaclyn Hess**, **Sarah Hwang**, **Jana Koch**, **Emma Jeffries**, **Kuang Liang**, **Mark Lisowski**, **Zara Lukens**, **Kevin Margado**, **Timothy Niou**, **Ariana Orford**, **Mathias Quackenbush**, **Alexandra Rockoff**, **Allen Roberts**, **Sarah Ryan**, **Elissa Seid**, **Larissa Stiglich**, **Natalie Tapias**, **Matt Varga**, **Sam Whedon**, **Kristin Weihl**, **Brandon Wood**, and **Scherezad Yusef**.

Community and Civic

- Nicole Schriock**, a senior at Fort Vancouver, was named the 2007 YWCA Young Woman of Achievement. Community Service Awards went to **Kayla Griffin**, Fort Vancouver; **Ashli-Marie Grant**, Vancouver School of Arts and Academics; and **Andrea Trujillo**, Columbia River.

- Students in Debby Mohler's 5th-grade class at **Lincoln Elementary** spent their free time making 30 quilts for "Babies in Need."

- Members of Alki's "Safety 6" were awarded the Community Inspiration Award by the Youth House of Vancouver for their work to create a safe school environment. Team members were **Anthony Collura**, **Kevin Boyd**, **Brittany Wilson**, **Samantha Yewman**, **Brock Mueller**, and **Allie Townsend**.

- Several Gaiser 7th-graders were recommended for the People-to-People World Leadership Forum for their positive leadership skills. They were **Melissa Kromer**, **Kayla Buckles**, **Karissa Martin**, **Tyler Urke**, **Devon Kemp**, **Alyssa Martens**, and **Sierra Davidson**.

- Genay Tucker**, Skyview, was named Miss Washington Outstanding Teen 2007. Tucker advocated for the rights of people with autism for a service project tied to the competition.

- Skyview High School** raised \$21,000 for the Make A Wish Foundation through the Mr. Skyview Pageant. **Taylor Bean** was named Mr. Skyview.

- Columbia River High School** raised over \$43,000 for Doernbecher Children's Hospital through the Mr. Columbia River pageant. **Evan Mozzochi** was named Mr. Columbia River.

- Hudson's Bay** raised \$138,400 for Doernbecher Children's Hospital. **Joe Clark** was crowned Mr. Hudson's Bay.

- Students at **McLoughlin** held a fundraiser for children at St. Jude's Hospital and improved their math skills at the same time. Students raised \$3,000 through a school-wide "mathathon" during April.

- Alki students raised more than \$6,000 for the Make A Wish Foundation at their annual Working on Wellness Day.

Career Development

- Three students from Hudson's Bay participated in DECA competitions. **Sean Davila** took 1st in the Accounting event at the regional competition and finished 2nd in state. **Corrinne Rice** took 1st in Apparel and Accessories in regionals and finished 6th at state. **Ricky Baran** took 2nd place in the Technical Sales event at regionals.

- In the State DECA competition, students from Columbia River placed 1st in Quiz Bowl. The Quiz Bowl team was **Rachel Carlson**, **Isaac Cameron**, **Jacob Hess**, **Emma Jeffries**, **Arianna Orford**, and **Pat Tate**. **Alex Stroscher** placed 7th in Accounting Applications. The team participated in nationals.

- The Hudson's Bay Debate Team placed 5th in its district competition. The team qualified for state. Members are **Nina Mulargia**, **Tyler White**, **Darcy Cahill**, and **Craig Wiley**. **Darcy Cahill** placed 1st in Open Expos and was named District Champion.

- Vancouver students were overwhelmingly successful at the State SkillsUSA competition. From the Culinary Arts program at Fort Vancouver, **Louis Stark** took gold in Culinary Arts, **Alexis Kamerath** took gold in

Food and Beverage Service, and **Kyle Prichard** took silver in Commercial Baking. Fort Vancouver's Graphic Arts classes had several award winners. **Maria Meza** won the gold in Customer Service, **Ryan Condon** and **Igor Frolov** won silver in Web Page Design, **Ashley Callis** took the bronze in Customer Service, and **Igor Pesetskiy** created the winning State Pin Design. Students in Fort's Communications Academy: **Jessica Lueck**, gold, Prepared Speech; **Ryan Bates**, gold, Creed; **Jessica Ruffalo**, gold, Extemporaneous Speech; **Jeff Hogue** and **Adam Wallberg**, gold, 2-person Video Production; **Jesse Garrison** and **Wilson Rector**, gold, Web Page Design; **Jesse Garrison**, **Wilson Rector** and **Jessica Ruffalo**, gold, Promotional Bulletin Board; **Casey Kuhnhausen**, **Jamie McDougall**, **Wilson Rector**, **Jessica Ruffalo**, and **Andrea Sagen**, gold, Quiz Bowl; **Ryan Bates**, **Jeff Hogue**, **Jessica Lueck**, **Josh Newman**, **Billie Soto**, **Adam Wallberg**, and **Alisha Wooldridge**, gold, Opening and Closing Ceremonies; **Ryan Bates**, silver, Job Skills Demonstration A; **Josh Chambers**, bronze, Extemporaneous Speech; **Josh Chambers**, **Austin Ferguson**, **Jesse Garrison**, **Jann Messer**, and **Randall Thiel**, 4th, Quiz Bowl.

- Columbia River's Video Production students also placed at the State SkillsUSA competition. The students were: **Jim Dykes** and **Tyler Walsh**, gold, Video Product Development; **Travis D'Ambrogi**, **Jeff Woodward**, **Joe Wilson**, and **Miriam Chapin**, silver, Promotional Bulletin Board; **Jordan Proano**, **Nick Maupoux**, and **Sarah Russo**, silver, Television News Anchor; **Brock Ricker**, **David Leatitagaloa**, and **Andrew Lapidus**, bronze, Television News Anchor; **Mathias Quackenbush**, bronze, Related Technical Math; **Brock Ricker**, **David Leatitagaloa**, **Andrew Lapidus**, **Brandon Heller**, and **Jordan Proano**, bronze, Quiz Bowl.

- Two students from Skyview placed at the State SkillsUSA event. **Cody Moncur** and **Kellen Eggert** took the silver in Video Production.

- Entrepreneurship students from Hudson's Bay took 2nd place in the "Developing Real Estate and Mentoring Students" 12th annual event in Portland. Students **Taylor Farrar**, **Chris Lott**, **Anders Manley**, **Alik Odegard**, **Dakota Rhodes**, and **Randyn Stutesman** won with their marketing plan to develop the basement of the Hilton Executive Tower.

Arts

- Several Vancouver students earned spots in the Washington Music Educators' Association's (WMEA) All-State Choir, Orchestra, and Band. **Rachel Marston**, **Danica Suguitan**, **Jordan Scott**, and **Sean Walters**, Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, made

All-State Choir. **Tirzah Houser**, VSAA, played string bass in the All-State Orchestra. **Evan Tweed**, trombone, and **Bryce Robertson**, trombone, both from Skyview, performed in the All-State Band.

- Students selected for WMEA's All-State West Orchestra were **Francine Grattan**, string bass; **Nick Hall**, violin 1; **Daniel Kelly**, cello; and **Salena Walker**, violin 2; Vancouver School of Arts and Academics; and **Robert Platt**, violin 1, Thomas Jefferson Middle School. VSAA's **Tom Zink**, trombone, and **Nate Scovil**, trumpet, played in the All-State West Band.

- Seventh-graders **Gabe Manske**, violin, Thomas Jefferson Middle School; and **Robert Berman**, violin, VSAA, earned spots on the WMEA Junior All-State Orchestra.



Matthew Cohen



Ran Sun



William Goforth

Three students from Vancouver were selected for the prestigious 2007 Young Artists Debut Concert at the Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall. **William Goforth**, tenor, and **Matthew Cohen**, viola, from Vancouver School of Arts and Academics; and **Ran Sun**, piano, Columbia River, performed under the baton of Conductor **Niel DePonte**.

Student accomplishments, continued

- Students who received a superior composite rating in the 2007 State Solo and Ensemble competition were: **Evan Tweed**, trombone, and **Brandon Smith**, piano, Skyview; **Adam Owings**, tuba, and **Eric Berg**, tuba, Columbia River; **Angie Noack**, alto, and **William Goforth**, tenor, VSAA. Skyview also received a superior composite rating in the Small Brass category for French Horn Duet with students **Zach McDonnell** and **Jeremy Phillips**; and in the Large Percussion category for the **Skyview Tropical Storm Steel Drum Band**.



◀ Hazel Dell Elementary student **Ashley-Lynn White** won 1st place in the 5th-grade division of the All-District Fort Vancouver Regional Library Bookmark Contest. Her bookmark design was reproduced and made into bookmarks available at all library branches.

- **Michael Wu**, Skyview, participated in the State Solo contest on the cello for the 3rd year in a row, and he participated in the All-Northwest Orchestra.

- **Hudson's Bay's dance team** won 1st place at the St. Paddy Day Open National Championship.

- A VSAA quintet—**Matthew Paige**, **Jenelle Roskelley**, **Amara Sperber**, **Thomas Kelly**, and **Sam Cornell**—was the regional winner of the Lower Columbia Music Educators' competition.

- The Columbia River Rush dance team took 1st place in Small Team Hip Hop and 1st place in Officer Line Hip Hop at the MA National Dance Team Championships. Team members were **Samantha Shipman**, **Kristina Bair**, **Michelle Langdon**, **Courtney Wahl**, **Olivia Morawski**, **Chelsea Smith**, **Katie Cochrun**, **Courtney Bogart**, **Joey**

Wan, **Alyssa Anoi-Shroyer**, **Haley Leichner**, **Shandie Schmidt**, **Elizabeth Wyche**, **Alyssa Dixon**, **Marissa Garcia**, and **Samantha Frimberger**. The team also took 2nd place in Small Team Jazz and Officer Line Jazz.

- Students from Vancouver School of Arts and Academics won regional awards in the Superintendent's Regional High School Art Show. They were: **Kale McConathy**, "Titleless," photography; **Michael Sims**, "Untitled," mixed media; and **Tanner Casey** and **Sam Cornell** teamed to create their digital media piece titled "7th Street Transit." Students receiving ESD 112 Awards were: **Sadie Saxen**, "Gary the Monkey," clay; and **Chris Zimmerman**, "Dead Seagull," steel, Fort Vancouver; **Emma Craig**, "Longing," photography; and **Micaela Grover**, "Catone," acrylic, VSAA. Honorable Mention Awards went to VSAA students **Olivia Mitchell**, "Three French Hens," clay; **Cassidy Meyer**, "Mother's Arms," photography; **Kara Conley**, "Bamboo Beads," photography; and **Rachel Haywood**, "Timed 5 minute figure drawing #4," acrylic.

- The **Jason Lee Marching Band** took 2nd place in the Out of State A category (99 members or less) in the Portland Junior Rose Festival Parade. Band director was David Kinch. **Discovery Middle School** placed 3rd in the same category. **Columbia River Chieftan Marching Band** took 1st place in the Out of State A division of the Starlight Parade.

Sports

- **Magaiva Herman**, Hudson's Bay High School, won the State Championship in both the long jump and the triple jump at the State 3A Track and Field Competition. His jumps also set two school records in those events. Other Bay students who competed at the state meet were: **Kelsey Castrey**, 10th place, 300-meter hurdles; **Marc Jackson**, 11th place in 300-meter hurdles; and the relay team of **Lau-**



▲ **Shannon McCafferty**, a 7th-grader at Gaiser Middle School, was one of four winners in the Clark Public Utilities Clean Water Billboard contest. Her poster, "Because Their Water Doesn't Have Filters," will be on a billboard on 72nd Ave, north of 99th Street. **Karina Linchuk**, 1st-grader at Hazel Dell Elementary, and **Felecia Mensel**, 2nd-grader at Truman, were two of six students who received honorable mention awards. More than 1,600 students submitted entries in this year's contest.

Ferrets or fish or tennis? Oh, the choices seniors must make...

Heather Daniels has a keen interest in animals and biology. When her older brother's ferret, Jubilee, died, she began working as a volunteer at the Cascade Ferret Network, a ferret shelter located just outside Portland.

At Skyview High School, she excelled in science classes. This year she competed in the Oregon Junior Academy of Science and was one of five top finalists selected to compete at the National Junior Science and Humanities Symposium in Huntsville, Alabama in May. At the Northwest Science Expo, she took second place in Animal Sciences.

Heather also has a keen interest in tennis and played on Skyview's varsity tennis team for the past four years. Last year, the team was one game short of going to state; this year the team made it. The problem? The state tennis match conflicted with the national science symposium. Not wanting to let her team members down, Heather chose tennis over the science competition. Her doubles team came in eighth in the state.

As tennis and science competitions and Advanced Placement exams filled her senior year, Heather's time for volunteering with ferrets dwindled. Next fall she will attend Humboldt at California State University to study fisheries biology. She is turning her love of science into a career, and whether it's ferrets or fish she will still get to work with animals.



ren Duckett, **Kelsey Castrey**, **Alyssa Turner**, and **Bre'Anna Glynn** which finished 10th in the 100-meter relay.

- Columbia River students excelled at the 3A State Tennis tournament. **Jennifer Skardon** finished 4th in girls singles; and **Maria Monnick** and **Christine Wang** took 2nd in doubles. River girls finished 2nd overall in team standings. **Dylan Olbrich** and **Allen Roberts** finished 8th in boys doubles.

- The Skyview Girls Tennis Team claimed the district championship for the second year in a row. **Abby Olbrich** and **Sarah Click** were the district doubles champions. **Heather Daniels** and **Catherine Cloakey** took 2nd in district doubles. **Marley Hughes** placed 4th in district singles. At the State 4A tournament, **Olbrich** and **Click** took 4th place in doubles. **Daniels** and **Cloakey** finished 8th.

- Columbia River placed at the State 3A Track and Field Competition. Sophomore **Kaleb Kallappa** took first place in the 3200, 1600, 800, and javelin for male wheelchair athletes. **Chelsea Conrad** took 2nd in the 100 hurdles; **Brooke Bekkedahl**, 5th, 300 low hurdles; **Amanda Alvarez**, 5th, long jump, and 16th, triple jump; **Karah Amrose**, 5th, high jump; **Athena Alvarez**, 8th, high jump; **Nick Stewart**, 11th, discus; **JJ Cadwell**, 11th, javelin; **Mike Winkler**, 11th, 110-high hurdles and 14th, long jump; **Elissa Seid**, 15th, javelin; **Zara Lukens**, 15th, 3200; and **Whitney Gassaway** 15th, pole vault. Overall team scores put the girls at a tie for 14th, and the boys took 2nd.

- **Garrett Comfort**, Skyview, took 2nd place in discus at the 4A State Track and Field Competition. **Eric Kasinger** placed 5th in the high jump. **Larisa Bloomstrom** took 3rd in discus, and **Jennifer Pike** placed 7th in the 100 hurdles. Other members to qualify for state were **Mark Leineweber**, pole vault; **Matt Moncur**, 3200; and the 100 relay team of **Jeremy Dreitlein**, **Jacob Burkey**, **Erick Ramsey**, **Logan Carlson**, and **Tommy Sanchez**.

- **Lauren Castro**, Hudson's Bay, placed 2nd in the Bi-District Golf Tournament. She finished 26th at state. Bay students **Jesse Boal** and **Darcy Cahill** also went to state and finished in the top 80.

- The Skyview boys golf team placed 7th in the 4A State Golf Tournament. Team members are **Sean O'Brien**, **Kevin Kadow**, and **Andrew White**. Individually, **Mike Johansen** tied for 15th, and **O'Brien** tied for 32nd place. In girls golf, **Avery Collura** placed 7th; **Sara Taylor**, 44th; and **Suzanne Patterson**, 56th.

- Hudson's Bay High School's **Greg Peavey** was named Oregon Health and Science University Sports Medicine Student Athlete of the Week April 12.

- Both the **Hudson's Bay boys and girls basketball teams** at captured the Basketball League Championships this year.

- The **Skyview Storm Football Team** won the League Championship and was a state quarterfinalist. ■

Senior project helps others

Steven Chen's senior project is a gift that will keep on giving. A student at Vancouver School of Arts and Academics, Steven decided to do something for his senior project that would help others at that school: he developed the VSAA Community Scholarship.

Steven sought out sponsors to establish a scholarship fund with the initial amount of \$3,000. The school's PTSA and community members, including current and retired teachers, contributed.

"I decided to create a scholarship for VSAA because I thought it would strengthen our already strong community, and through my research paper I studied how a strong community in a school setting positively affects student achievement," said Steven.

Steven established the purpose of the scholarship, eligibility criteria, an application process, and a selection process. He

developed a teacher nomination form and a scholarship application form. Dr. Jim Sork, executive director of the Vancouver School District Foundation, served as Steven's advisor and helped set up an agreement with the Foundation to manage the scholarship funds. When it was time to select the winners for this year, Sork advised Steven not to sit on the selection committee, telling him, "You've set up the process. Now sit back and let it work."

At VSAA's senior awards assembly, Steven had the honor of announcing the first two VSAA Community Scholarship award winners. To unveil the surprise, he had rigged two giant checks in the rafters above the stage and had them lowered at the appropriate moment. Names on the checks were Brittany Basset and Alena Tokarev. Both girls excelled in school involvement and community service, as stipulated in the criteria.

Money is already in the bank for one scholarship for next year, and a system is in place that will direct any leftover funds from senior class fundraising projects into a perpetual scholarship fund for VSAA students. If Steven's plan works, at least one VSAA Community Scholarship will be given out every year—from 2007 until forever. ■

From Steven Chen's graduation announcement: Steven requests that in lieu of graduation gifts to him, you make a donation in his honor to the VSAA Community Scholarship fund being administered by the Vancouver School District Foundation.



Lifetime friends help others and honor their mothers

Three boys—Jake Bond, Jesse Krynak, and Dustin Cruzen—met in the first grade and formed a lasting bond. They had a lot in common. They played basketball with the Truman Trail Blazers and baseball with Alcoa Little League. They came from modest homes. Jesse was raised by his mother, and Dustin split his time between his mother and father. Each of them had a dream—to graduate from high school, go on to college, and be successful.

The boys graduated from Fort Vancouver High School in 2001 and are fulfilling their dreams. Jesse earned a BA in Finance at Pepperdine University, a Master's in Economics from USC, and he now is studying to be a Chartered Financial Analyst. After working for Boeing, he has accepted an investment banking position with Credit Suisse bank in Houston, Texas. Jake received his BA

in Economics from the University of San Francisco. After working for a corporate firm, Jake and two others formed True Capital Management, a private wealth management firm. Dustin earned a BA in Economics at the University of Texas-Austin and is working in the Enterprise Software space for Endeca Technologies in Boston, Massachusetts.

The young men have kept in touch, and two years ago they contacted the Vancouver School District Foundation. They wanted to give back—to start a scholarship program to help others. They developed a mission statement, and wrote:

"We started the Rose Sarkkinen, Lori Bond and Pati Cruzen Scholarship because we wanted to show our gratitude and appreciation to our mothers, friends, and our community for the support we received growing up in and around

single-parent homes. We felt compelled to instill in our scholarship recipients the very sense of purpose that we realized as students at Fort Vancouver High School, knowing that an entire community believed in us and supported us. We ultimately hope for our recipients to channel the great adversity they have overcome into positive contributions to their communities, and understand their sense of value in this world.

"We named the scholarship after our mothers because they were the cornerstones of our support networks, the first people to make us believe in ourselves.... As they are the heroes in our eyes, every recipient of this scholarship will have benefited from their outstanding support."

Scholarships were awarded to Fort Vancouver High School students in 2006 and 2007. ■

"Mac Attire" could set the trend

McLoughlin Middle School is taking the lead. When school resumes in the fall, it will be the first public school in Southwest Washington to have a specified dress code. "Mac Attire" dress code will be a two-year pilot program.

The idea was first suggested by parents and supported by McLoughlin staff five years ago. This year the concept resurfaced. Public meetings and a survey of current and incoming McLoughlin students and parents revealed a substantial majority were in favor of a dress code.

Originally, uniforms were proposed, but during the process the recommendation eased into a less restrictive dress code. Mac Attire will consist of pants, shorts, skirts, skorts, capris, and jumpers in tan, navy or black. Blue jeans also will be acceptable. Shirts and tops must be solid colors in white, grey, black or red. No logos larger than a quarter will be al-

lowed, with the exception of McLoughlin sweatshirts and T-shirts.

"The purpose of Mac Attire is to build a sense of community, making kids feel like they belong. You do that on an athletic team," explained Principal Rich Reeves. Schools adopt standard dress attire to eliminate competition, level the playing field, and keep the focus on learning.

Other public schools in the Northwest have implemented dress codes. In Tacoma Public Schools, 10 middle schools have adopted uniforms and one middle school implemented a dress code. Most Tacoma elementary schools also have dress codes or uniforms, and one high school adopted a dress code.

Students who do not wish to adhere to the dress code at McLoughlin have the option of getting a boundary exception to another school. ■

New graduation requirements

Recently, state lawmakers made changes to the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) graduation requirement, including postponing the passing of math and science until 2013.

For the graduating classes of 2008-2012, student must pass the reading and writing WASL, a state-approved alternative to the WASL, or an assessment for students in special education. Students can meet the state's math requirement by passing the math WASL, a state-approved alternative or an assessment for students in special education, or they can continue to earn math credits until they graduate. Students who pass the reading, writing and math assessments earn a Certificate of Academic Achievement or Certificate of Individual Achievement and a high school diploma. Students who fulfill the math requirement by earning math credits do not receive a certificate but do earn a diploma. For more information: <http://www.k12.wa.us/GraduationRequirements/default.aspx>

Students must register for the August WASL between June 8 and July 8. Please register online at www.k12.wa.us/waslregistration, or by calling 1-866-400-WASL (9275) between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday-Friday. Make sure to have the student's WASL score report handy as you will need the State Student Identifier (SSID) number, which is printed on the front page of the report. If you need help in getting the student's SSID number, please call the district's Office of Assessment and Research, 313-1180.

Pilots encourage students to soar

Is flying an airplane related to math? Well, if a pilot must allow 90 miles to begin descending for landing from 30,000 feet, how many miles would she have to allow if she were starting a descent from 20,000 feet?

That was a question posed to Peter S. Ogden Elementary fifth-graders by First Officer Kristy Romito, a pilot for Southwest Airlines. The question was part of a competition between fifth-grade teams following four weeks of “training” by Romito and two fellow pilots from Southwest, Captain Jay Murray and Captain Mark Lambert.

“The students are learning science, math, and geography. It fits right in with our fifth-grade curriculum,” said teacher Annie DeKlyne.

Southwest Airlines began offering the “Adopt-a-Pilot” program nationwide 10 years ago to provide opportunities to students at schools with high rates of poverty. The program has grown and is now open to all schools. This is the first year the fifth-grade teachers at PSO have incorporated the program into their lessons and they plan on using it next year, said teacher Sue Smith.

The pilots come to PSO once a week for four to five weeks. They provide each fifth-grade student with a booklet that includes travel miles between cities, maps, time zones, a key for the phonetic alphabet, and facts about airplanes. Students use the books to answer questions that

fit into the framework of math, science and geography. They form teams, select team captains, and clamor excitedly to answer questions posed by the pilots.

The pilots have established a relationship with the students. “They’re nice,” said student Kaylee Campbell. “And when they teach us things, they know how to explain it really well.”

The students also are exploring careers. “Most of these kids have never been on a plane,” explained teacher Michael Wood. “The pilots are role models for the students. The program opens up possibilities—especially for the girls to see a woman pilot.”

Captain Murray emphasizes three goals for the students: “Stay in school, work hard, and learn writing, reading, math and science.”

First Officer Romito got involved in the Adopt-a-Pilot program because she wanted to give back to the community. “I want to let kids know what options they have.” Romito was in high school when she decided she wanted to fly.

“When I was in third grade, I knew that girls could be pilots,” said fifth-grader Ashley Kourn. “But First Officer Romito was the first woman pilot I met.”

When asked if she might want to be a pilot, Ashley replied, “It looks hard, but I might take the challenge. Or, I might be a pediatrician!” ■



A class competition draws everyone’s attention.



Festival showcases talent of district orchestras

Orchestras from nine middle and high schools performed at the All-District Orchestra Festival, May 8, at Skyview High School. It was the first time in a decade orchestras from throughout the district combined for a performance. Teacher Sandra Edwards organized the event. Participating schools were Columbia River, Hudson’s Bay, Fort Vancouver, and Skyview high schools; Alki, Discovery, Jason Lee, Thomas Jefferson middle schools; and Vancouver School of Arts and Academics. The grand finale featured all orchestras performing *The Columbia River Suite*.

Foundation luncheon is a success

When 350 people came together May 24 at the Hilton Vancouver, they had a common purpose: to help kids. The fundraising luncheon brought in nearly \$110,000 for the Vancouver School District Foundation.

Guests enjoyed the camaraderie, a great meal, and bantering by emcee Bruce Murdock of the K-103 morning team. Some found themselves holding a winning ticket for one of the fabulous door prizes, all donated by local businesses. When a number was drawn for a Beaches gift certificate, who held the winning ticket? A Beaches employee. Then a number was drawn for a \$300 gift certificate donated by Erik Runyan Jewelers. Who held up that winning ticket? A sheepish Erik Runyan. In the spirit of giving, both tickets were thrown out for a second drawing.

Besides the students who will benefit from health care or clothing or scholarships through the Foundation, students in Fort Vancouver High School’s Culinary Program gained from the event. They had a rare opportunity to learn the hospitality business behind the scenes at the Hilton. Working under the direction of the hotel chefs, students handled professional food preparation, presentation, and serving for a first-class event.

The hotel staff thought they had drawn a winning ticket, too. They discovered a pool of talented young culinary artists who would be great future members of the hotel team.

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