

**WE EXPECT EXCELLENCE****WE INNOVATE****WE EMBRACE EQUITY****WE COLLABORATE**

RECOGNITION OF STUDENTS, STAFF AND COMMUNITY**POLICY ISSUE/SITUATION**

Tonight, the District recognizes the following individuals for their outstanding achievement and contribution to the Beaverton School District and the community. The following recognitions exemplify the Pillars of Excellence and Innovation.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**WE Expect Excellence: Band Rocks – Ashley Alexander and Blake Allen**

For students at Mountain View, Five Oaks and Highland Park middle schools, Band Rocks!

Every Wednesday, for eight weeks, middle school musicians learn from and play alongside professional musicians and Aloha High School band mentors for small group instrument instruction and whole-band rehearsal. To make it fun, and to pique their interest, students learn modern and popular songs like the theme to Star Wars, “Some Nights” by the band Fun and Chicago’s “25 Or 6 To 4”.

Band Rocks culminates in a whole-band concert performed for parents and family members. “The students improve dramatically in eight weeks benefiting from specialized instruction. They then take their new experiences back to their school bands and make them better,” says Alexander.

The program costs \$20, but there are scholarships for students who cannot pay. The next session of Band Rocks will run April – May and will expand to include all eight of the District’s middle schools.

WE Innovate: Translator Tree at Jacob Wismer – Joan McFadden, Tracy Bariao-Arce, Byron Wong

At Jacob Wismer Elementary School, everyone is one big family. But this wasn’t always the case.

“Jacob Wismer has 31 different languages spoken and our newsletters and school communications were only going out in English,” says Joan McFadden, Principal.

Through research, Joan and assistant principal, Tracy Bariao-Arce, determined that most of the families in the school spoke English in addition to their native language, but there was a small population of Japanese and Chinese families that required translation services and were unable to understand the school and PTO newsletters.

To solve the problem, Joan and Tracy decided to think outside the box and turned to their parent community. Joan put a request in the school newsletter for any bilingual Japanese or Chinese parents who would be willing to translate the newsletters and distribute them to the families who need them – creating a Translator Tree.

Two parents, Byron Wong and Jane Hoh, generously agreed to translate abbreviated versions of the newsletters and important SchoolMessenger communications into Japanese and Chinese and distribute them to a list of families who need them.

District Goal: WE empower all students to achieve post-high school success.

The Beaverton School District recognizes the diversity and worth of all individuals and groups. It is the policy of the Beaverton School District that there will be no discrimination or harassment of individuals or groups based on race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, national origin, marital status, age, veterans' status, genetic information or disability in any educational programs, activities or employment.

“The first time we realized the Translator Tree was working, was when all of Japanese students showed up to school on “Super Hero Day” all dressed up in the most amazing super hero costumes. They didn’t participate before. Now, they feel like they are a part of the community – our family,” says Joan.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the School Board recognize Ashley Alexander, Blake Allen and the Jacob Wismer Translator Tree for their contributions to student success.