



*Thank you LINKS
Supporters!*

LINKS enthusiastically
thanks the following
organizations who have
supported our program
through the
Lake Washington
Schools Foundation:

AXA Advisors

Catherine Victorino

Winter 2010 Newsletter

LINKS

Looking Into the Needs of Kids and Schools

A Message From the Lake Washington Schools Foundation

The Lake Washington Schools Foundation is proud to collaborate with the Lake Washington School District in support of LINKS. When the Lake Washington School District adopted LINKS in 2008, the Foundation agreed to raise funds to support the program by seeking grants from private foundations, government agencies, and businesses. LINKS addresses the Foundation's mission to support academic excellence and success for all students.

In addition to LINKS, the Lake Washington Schools Foundation funds other programs designed in conjunction with the Lake Washington School District to address specific needs. These include *Enrichment Grants* for innovative educational projects that support the District curriculum; *Access Fund* to help low-income students defray some of the costs of attending school, such as classroom fees, lab manuals, and graphing calculators; and *New Teacher Grants* of \$200 to teachers with less than one year of experience to help get their classroom started. The Foundation continues to work with the District to identify meaningful programs that engage our community in support of our schools.

You are invited to find out more about the Foundation at www.lwsf.org. If you

King County
Community
Organizing Agency

City of Redmond

AT&T

Discuren Foundation

Funding also
provided
by the LWSD PTSA
Council



*"Kindness is the language
which the deaf can hear
and the blind can see."*

are interested in attending the Lake Washington School Foundation's 5th Annual "Legacy for Learning" luncheon on April 28, please contact Foundation LINKS Liaison Claire Beighle at cmbeighle@hotmail.com for more information.

LINKS Volunteer Training
March 11th 7:00 p.m.
Sammamish Room

Lake Washington School District Resource Center
Redmond Town Center - 16250 N.E. 74th Street, Redmond, WA 98052

Guest Speaker: Michelle Vallene

Join us for an interactive discussion on Reading Curriculum that will guide you through techniques to ensure students success!

Michelle Vallene is an author and a highly respected Reading Specialist for the Lake Washington School District. She holds a teaching degree from Washington State University, with endorsements in English and reading.



LINKS Volunteer Takes It To the Next Level At Redmond High School

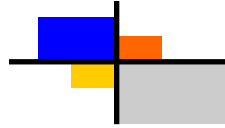
Anne Johnston had been a volunteer in David Peabody's two algebra-geometry periods once a week since the start of the school year. For students in these two classes, their experience with math hasn't always been a positive one until now.

David Peabody shares, "This class represents a broad range of aptitudes and learning styles. Because of this variety, a broad range of teaching methods is necessary. When Anne joined me in this class, she provided invaluable support through individual, small group and whole class instruction. Many of my students are having favorable math experiences this year with high confidence because of Anne's assistance."

The algebra-geometry class David teaches at Redmond High School goes beyond the classroom walls! This photo was taken in the school hallway outside David's room where Anne worked with students on a mind-powered Lego mission



students on a wind-powered Lego cruiser.
The students enjoyed this aerodynamic lesson!



Schools Welcome LINKS Volunteers!

Elementary Schools

Alcott
Bell
Einstein
Frost
Juanita
Keller
Kirk
Lakeview
Mann
Mead

Elementary Schools cont.

Muir
Redmond
Rockwell
Rosa Parks
Thoreau



Junior High

Finn Hill
Kirkland
Redmond
Rose Hill

Senior High

Juanita
Lake Washington
Redmond

Mentoring Success Shines Through!

Thomas Nash and Jacco began meeting in the Fall with the goal of helping Jacco improving his reading skills.

As with other new tutoring matches, it took a while for Jacco to feel comfortable in this setting. Slowly he began sounding out words and from there he took off! Thomas shared, “Just this past month Jacco has made true attempts to read entire books by sounding out each word and taking as much time as he needs.”

Jacco and Thomas set a goal of reading 20 books by the end of the school year. Upon returning from winter break they had five books down and fifteen to go! Together they discussed how many weeks were left in the year and how they might be able to reach this goal. Thomas shared, “When he heard we were close to one book per week I could see the light turn on in his mind.” Since then, we’ve added three books in two weeks and he even has his dad helping him every night with stories from home.”

When asked about his experience as a tutor Thomas replied, “This experience has had a positive impact on both Jacco and myself. He is showing major strides in not only

a positive impact on our lives and my son. He is showing major strides in not only his ability to read, but also his enthusiasm toward reading. For me, this experience has allowed me to gain huge experience working with grade school kids.”





DATES TO REMEMBER

'No School Days'

March 19th
March 29th-April 2nd
May 7th
May 31st

Last Day of School

Help Make Every Hour Count!



LINKS volunteers serve hundreds of students in the Lake Washington School District!

*It is very important that you sign into the **LINKS Binder** in addition to the schools Volunteer Sign-In log each time you visit a school. Volunteer hours are collected for grant reporting purposes.*

Your volunteer time is priceless.

City of Redmond and LINKS Connect

City of Redmond, American Legion, Mountain View, and King

June 16th

**LINKS Volunteer
Appreciation Reception**

May 25th
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Key Speaker:

Superintendent
Dr. Chip Kimball

LINKS
Program Coordinator:
Nanci Wehr
425-702-3410
links@lwsd.org

City of Redmond AmeriCorps volunteers, Megan Bergquist and Kayla Uden dedicate their Wednesday afternoons to oversee the After Hours Study Lab Program at Rose Hill Junior High. The vision of AmeriCorps and City of Redmond is to *provide a welcoming environment where students can find the help and encouragement they need to succeed academically now and in the future.*

Kayla shares, “One of the common things I hear from students who come to study lab is that they don’t have a place where they can work on homework. Students also comment that they are often helping their parents, playing with their siblings or distracted by TV and videogames.” For these reasons, students are encouraged to come to Study Lab in order to have an environment that supports learning and completing assignments.

Even though the students would rather be hanging out with their friends, they see the benefits of Study Lab when their grades jump from failing to passing. Thank you to our LINKS volunteers Sanjay and Rutgers! With their time and dedication, we have the capacity to tutor more students who need additional guidance.

