

Greater Albany Public Schools

Community Newsletter

October 2019

Strategic Planning Commences



Greater Albany Public Schools is embarking on the implementation of a comprehensive Strategic Plan and will be asking for your guidance in the process. The core values, goals, expectations, and growth opportunities for the district are imperative for success in giving our children an education that will prepare them for successful adult lives.

Coinciding with the creation of our Strategic Plan is an opportunity for additional funding provided by the Oregon Legislature's \$2 billion Student Success Act. This historic investment in k-12 schools throughout the state could allow Albany to receive \$5.5 million per year through a state application process. The 2019-20 Strategic Plan will not only guide our work for the next several years but also inform our investments from the Student Success Act.

The planning process begins in October, as Greater Albany Public Schools will hold a series of focus groups and community forums while distributing a survey throughout all of our schools and the community at large.

Community Forums will take place on Oct. 22 and Oct. 30. RSVP for forums and take the online survey through October 31 at bit.ly/TellGAPS.

Community Forums

- **Tuesday, October 22** - 6:00 p.m. (En Español)
South Shore Elementary (910 Bain St SE)
Childcare and Pizza Provided • Register by 10/18/19
- **Wednesday, October 30** - 9:30 a.m. / 11:30 a.m.
Albany Boys & Girls Club (1215 Hill Street SE)
Childcare and Snacks Provided • Register by 10/25/19
- **Wednesday, October 30** - 6:00 p.m.
Mid-Willamette Valley YMCA (3201 Pacific Blvd SW)
Childcare and Pizza Provided • Register by 10/25/19

Welcome to GAPS!

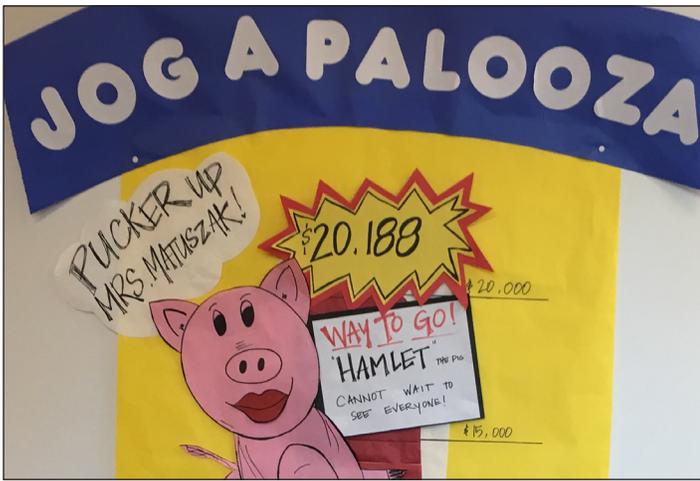


Melissa Goff was named the new Superintendent of Greater Albany Public Schools on April 22, 2019 and officially assumed the position in July. Goff began her career in teaching in Mitchell, Oregon, and served as Superintendent of Philomath School District for the past four years. A mother of two daughters, Goff has been married for twenty-three years and has parents who live in the Willamette Valley. Goff has a BS from Western Oregon State College and a MEd from Portland State.

Andrew Tomsy joined Greater Albany Public Schools as Communications/Media Administrator at the end of September. Tomsy spent the last 11+ years working in collegiate athletic communications, most recently at Fresno State. He has a BA from UC Davis and an MA from Northern Arizona University. His wife, Heather, is an Oregon native who attended Tangent Elementary and Memorial Middle School. They have a 14-month-old daughter.



Goal Met, Pig Kissed!



Oak Grove Elementary principal Jerrie Matuszak challenged her students to raise \$20,000 towards a new electronic reader board during their Jog-A-Palooza and vowed to kiss a pig if that goal was reached. They did, and she followed through with a kiss on the snout of Hamlet at a school assembly on Oct. 9.



United Way Campaign in November

United Ways serving Linn and Benton Counties is a community of donors, advocates, volunteers, and partners who fight for health, education, and financial stability of every person in every community.

The organization works all over our communities every day. They strive to develop children and youth to their full potential, to strengthen families and neighborhoods, and to support those rebuilding their lives.

Community-driven donations are allocated into education, financial stability, and community health. United Ways belong to the community in which they operate and are committed to aiding all donors and investing in services and agencies in their own back yard. Dollars raised are invested back in the community in which they are raised.

Give, advocate, and/or volunteer by visiting unitedwayoflinncounty.org or unitedwayblc.org. Staff will receive fliers with donation information, including an option for payroll deduction. If you or a loved one needs help, Dial 2-1-1.

Snacks For Packs

In response to a growing need, Fish began the Snacks for Packs program providing food to students attending a GAPS school living in households experiencing food insecurity, especially on the weekends while school breakfast and lunch programs are not available. S4P started with 23 packs in three schools and this year volunteers are packing over 500 packs per week and delivering them to 17 schools!

Packs contain 8-10 individually packaged, child friendly and nutritious "snacks" in a brown paper lunch sack. Volunteer drivers deliver them to the schools to be discretely distributed by school personnel. Student and family information remains confidential and private at all times.

The need is great and growing! Donations and foundation grants provide partial funding for food purchases while Fish absorbs the operating costs of the program. Fish would like to see this unique and vital program continue year after year but needs your help!

Food donation boxes are available in all GAPS schools and at the district office. If you would like to donate funds or food or arrange a fundraiser through your organization or group, contact the Fish office at 541-928-4460.

Items Needed (Individually Packaged):

| | | |
|-----------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Granola Bars | Breakfast Bars | Oatmeal Packets |
| Applesauce Cups | Fruit Snacks | Fruit Leathers |
| Fruit | Meat Sticks | Ramen Noodles |
| Crackers | Cereals | Rice Krispies Treats |
| Pudding Cups | Toothbrushes | Travel-size toothpaste |



**United Ways serving
Linn, Benton & Lincoln
Counties**

Bond Updates

Oak Grove Elementary had its official opening on Aug. 29 ahead of the first day of school on Sept. 9! Over 27 months countless people worked diligently in demolishing the old building and completing the new school with 20 classrooms for 360 students.

The new building has a separate cafeteria and gym, a teacher professional learning center, a media center, outdoor mini amphitheater, and upgrades in technology, including voice-lift amplifiers and interactive televisions with touchscreens. The new school also features color-change lighting in the special programs classrooms.

The other new elementary school under construction, Meadow Ridge, is on track to be completed in early 2020. Located next to Timber Ridge School, Meadow Ridge will feature 24 classrooms and serve 600 students, helping alleviate overcrowding as the district's 15th elementary school.

Exterior sliding panels have been recently installed and painted while sheet metal workers installed flashing around roof edges and parapets. New pavement for roads and parking lots are in place as building construction is nearing completion and finishes are being installed throughout the interior.

Students at South Albany High School saw many changes when they returned to class in September, including new Career Technical Education (CTE) classrooms and a new theater space. Construction continues at South Albany on the new auxiliary gymnasium and a new open entry way for the original gym. The new complex is scheduled to go live in January.

West Albany High School is also receiving a new auxiliary gym with concrete tilt panel walls recently put in place. West Albany is also receiving new CTE spaces, a new student commons, and an auditorium which will be available for use by the entire district.

Classroom conversions and upgrades, primarily in CTE spaces, have been completed at all four GAPS middle schools.

In addition to the major projects, bond money has also been used for critical upgrades on existing facilities, including paving, roofing, restroom remodels, HVAC maintenance, and repiping. Planning and construction on upgrades will continue into the 2020-2021 school year.



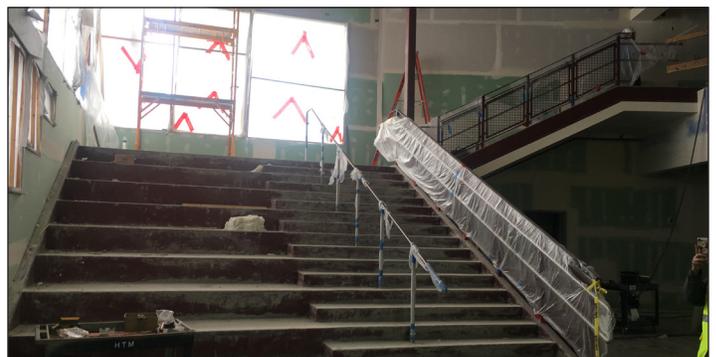
New Maker's Space with 3D Printers at South Albany HS



Lunch time in new cafeteria at Oak Grove Elementary



New auxiliary gym coming together at West Albany HS



Interior stairwell assembled in Meadow Ridge