

# Greater Albany Public Schools

## Community Newsletter

December 2019

### Holiday Season = Awards Season!

West Albany High School business teacher **Joey Running** was named the 2019 Oregon Business Education Association (OBEA) Secondary Teacher of the Year!



Ms. Running also recently earned a Visa Innovative Educators scholarship to attend the National JumpStart Educator Conference where she received another honor, the Ted Beck Effective Educator Award. Ms. Running teaches personal finance and money management skills and has nearly three decades of teaching experience. Running regularly meets with the business community and is hopeful of a district-wide plan for all students to receive personal finance education as a graduation requirement. She also has an active federal/state Carl Perkins grant for her Career Technical Education (CTE) finance program.

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**Max White** was named the Oregon Substitute Teacher of the Year by the Oregon Substitute Teachers Association!

Mr. White taught full time for 11 years each at both South and West Albany High Schools and in retirement has served as a substitute, predominately in the math department but in many other subjects as well, including five different languages. He is also a tutor, serves as a scorekeeper at football, basketball, and volleyball games at WAHS, and leads the Special Olympics Polar Plunge every year. An avid runner, Mr. White also takes part in pep assemblies and sings in the annual winter talent show. He was a member of the Army National Guard and, upon deploying for the first time at age 60 in 2010, retired from full-time teaching before returning as a substitute.



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Northwest Community Credit Union (NWCUCU) presented GAPS Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) **Brian Baker** with a \$1,500 grant to purchase math manipulatives that help to develop number sense for 3rd-5th graders! Other GAPS NWCUCU grant recipient teachers included **Matthew Scott** (Calapooia Middle), **Suzanne Slay-Smith** (Memorial Middle), **LeAnn Wind** (NAES), **Ashleigh Thorstad** (Oak Elementary), and **Marcie McArthur** (West Albany HS).

### Inclement Weather & School Closures Update

The school days missed due to the norovirus closure prior to Thanksgiving will not be made up. However, if any inclement weather days arise before mid-February the school board may decide to use President's Day (Feb. 17) as a makeup day. If any closures are forced after President's Day, the board would consider alternate solutions to make up that time.



As we enter the winter season, sometimes we have to close school, delay the start of school, or release early because of bad weather. Closure and delayed start information will be sent as early as possible in several ways: On the district website, the district Facebook and Twitter pages, School Messenger, local TV and radio stations, and on the FlashAlert Messenger App, which is available in Google Play or the iTunes app store.

## Student Success



Calapooia eighth grader Matthew Resnik qualified for the Junior Olympic Cross Country National Championships! Matthew posted a time of 14:00.34 in the 4,000 Meters at the USATF Region 13 Junior Olympic Championships. He went on to compete at the National Junior Olympic Championships in Madison, Wisc. on Dec. 14, placing 97th in a field of 381 runners in the Boys 4K 13-14 Division.

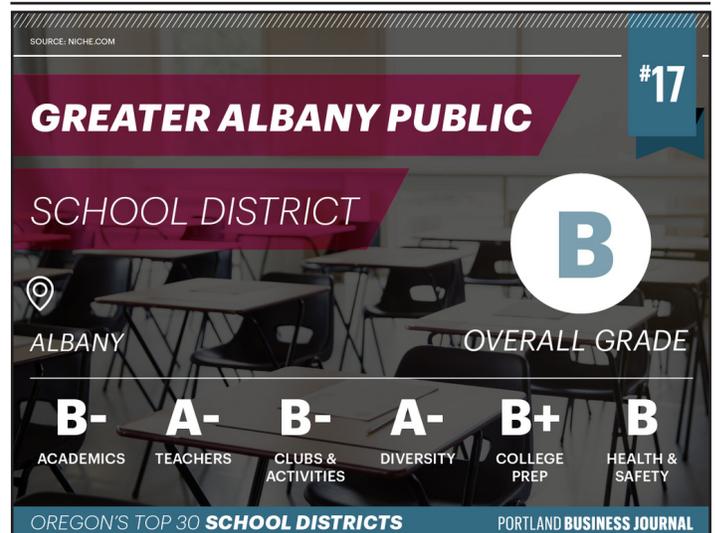


The Liberty Elementary Eagles (L) and the Fin-Tastic Fish (R) were among several GAPS school teams to compete at the Oregon Robotics Tournament & Outreach Program (ORTOP) FIRST LEGO League qualifying tournament at Oregon State. Both teams earned 1st place medals in Robot Performance while the Fin-Tastic Fish were the overall tournament champion on their day of competition. Both teams advanced to the state tournament.



Calapooia's new Community Construction classes are creating and donating their projects to the Albany Area Habitat for Humanity ReStore, located at 1225 SE 6th Ave. Any money made by the store in selling the student creations goes to building homes with Habitat for Humanity.

## District Success



Greater Albany Public Schools ranks in the top 10% among Oregon school districts in rankings released by Niche.com.

Out of 199 school districts in the state of Oregon, Greater Albany Public Schools was ranked No. 17 in the ratings published by Portland Business Journal. GAPS earned all A's and B's in each of the six rating categories, receiving an A- in both Teachers and Diversity and a B+ in College Prep. The district got an overall grade of B.

School districts were ranked on the following factors:

- Academics, based on state assessment proficiency, SAT/ACT scores and survey responses from students and parents comprised 50 percent of the overall grade.
- The quality of teachers, an assessment that includes salaries and absenteeism rates, comprises 15 percent.
- Culture and diversity, based on survey responses, makes up 10 percent of the rating.
- Parent and student surveys gauging satisfaction contributes another 10 percent of the rating.
- Two factors — health and safety, and resources and facilities — each contribute 5 percent.
- Clubs/activities and sports make up 2.5 percent of the final ranking apiece.

### Upcoming Dates

**Dec. 23-Jan. 3: No school (Winter Break)**

**Jan. 20: No school (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)**

**Jan. 24-27: No school (End of Semester)**

# Meadow Ridge Elementary to Open in August

The Greater Albany Public Schools Board passed a motion to open the new Meadow Ridge Elementary School in August to begin the 2020-21 school year.

“Clearly the residents of that district have spoken and I’m ready to move the open to next year,” Board Director Michael Thomson said Monday night, making the motion to approve a fall of 2020 opening for Meadow Ridge. The board unanimously approved the motion.

District leadership worked with Western Demographics, Inc. to research and present a survey to the families of Clover Ridge and held a pair of open houses in November to gauge public opinion on the opening of the new school. Presented with three opening date options – immediately after President’s Day weekend (middle of February), immediately following spring break (early April), or at the beginning of next school year (late August) – nearly 70% of respondents chose the beginning of next school year option. Western Demographics owner Shannon Bingham presented those results to the school board on Nov. 18 and the board made its decision at its meeting on Dec. 9.

“We greatly appreciate the feedback we received from our Meadow Ridge community and look forward to the grand opening of our new school in August,” Superintendent Melissa Goff said. “The public expressed concerns regarding academic disruption and logistics in moving to the new building during the current school year and the board recognized their recommendation in electing to open the new school in the fall.”



Meadow Ridge Elementary front view as of Dec. 3



Meadow Ridge Elementary back view as of Dec. 3

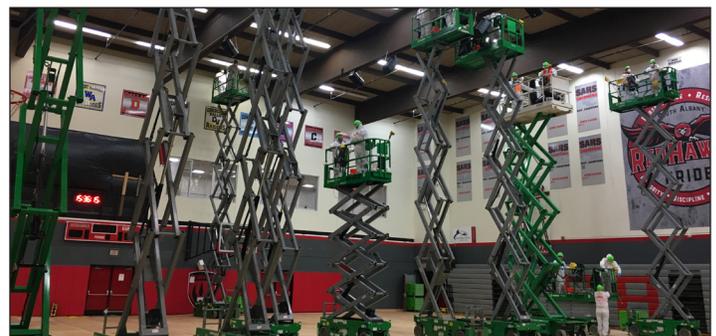
## Bond Construction Updates

Meadow Ridge has the gym floor going in presently as well as the acoustic wood ceiling in the cafeteria. The library had carpets installed in mid-December and is ready for the built-in shelving to arrive.

West Albany HS has made tremendous progress this month on the structural framework of the new commons area and foundation of the new theater. The new fire lane and parking area are now in place with the foundation cast and ready to support the remainder of the project.

At South Albany HS, a fire occurred on Dec. 10 in the new construction portion of the gymnasium. No one was injured and the fire was contained to one area thanks to the quick response from the Albany Fire and Police Departments. The AFD stated that the fire was not suspicious in nature and will have a full fire investigation report forthcoming.

ServePro Restorative Services has more than 150 staff members working 12-hour shifts to clean up the area and will be restoring salvageable items and removing unusable components. Gerding Construction has been working diligently to reschedule subcontractors to return and replicate work that was previously completed in the damaged areas.



Workers on lifts cleaning the SAHS gym ceiling

# Albany Public Schools Foundation News

ALBANY PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION



The annual iSwim for Kids fundraiser for the Albany Public Schools Foundation will be held on **Saturday, February 8, 2020 from 8:00 – 11:00 a.m.** at the South Albany Community Pool!

Students obtain pledges for the event and half of the proceeds raised (after expenses) go directly back to the schools of the swimmers. The other half of the funds are distributed through APSF's classroom grants program. These grants help enhance education opportunities for students throughout our district.

It only takes 20-30 minutes of swimming to complete 20 laps! If your child cannot swim, they can walk in the shallow end of the pool. If your child would rather walk the track than swim, they can walk around South Albany High School's track and each lap of the track counts as four laps in the pool.

## Prizes

- \$350 for the school collecting the most money.
- \$250 and a Dutch Bros Party for the classroom collecting the most money (a formula will be used to take class and school size into consideration for the bonus money prize so it will be fair to all schools.)
- Pizza and Ice-cream party for the entire class to the student who collected the most money.
- Students who raise \$40 or more will receive a free iSwim for Kids t-shirt.

A student flier will be sent to you after winter break. Paper pledge forms will be available at your school office after winter break and electronic pledge forms will also be available at [www.99pledges.com/fund/iswimapsf](http://www.99pledges.com/fund/iswimapsf)

## Other Upcoming APSF Events

- iRun for Kids - Saturday, March 14, 2020
- iCelebrate Kids Benefit Gala - Saturday, May 16, 2020

## APSF Awards \$50,000 in Classroom Grants

Each year the Albany Public Schools Foundation (APSF) receives classroom grant applications from teachers throughout the 21 schools in the Greater Albany Public School district. By the deadline of October 15th of this year, the Foundation had received a total of 105 grant applications equaling over \$94,000 in requests.

On October 29th, the APSF Allocations Committee joined together with other community partners and recommended the funding or partial funding of 84 of these applications for a total of \$50,000. The funded enrichment-based classroom grants, approved by the APSF Board, ranged from electronics to materials for art, reading, music, and physical education.

One of the Foundation's community partners, Samaritan Diagnostic Imaging Services, jumped at the chance to help Jennifer Bornheimer, a health teacher at West Albany High School, with her request for colored paper. The colored paper helps Mrs. Bornheimer to teach her students about organization. In her 21 years teaching she realizes "that one of the most significant obstacles to a student's success is the lack of organization."

Another community partner that stepped up to help was Baldwin General Contracting. The construction company was notified that South Albany High School teacher Matthew West (pictured below with Baldwin General Contracting Marketing Manager Anastasia Anderson (L) and APSF Executive Director Aimee Addison) needed funds to help maintain and grow his CTE Manufacturing and Construction classes. They helped fund his request with a match from the Foundation in order to purchase tools and supplies for his programs.

All grant recipients are listed at [bit.ly/APSFGrants2019](http://bit.ly/APSFGrants2019)



**GREATER ALBANY**  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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