

November 2008

Renton PTSA Council Legislative News



Construction at Honey Dew Elementary

Honey Dew Elementary School is currently undergoing modernization to upgrade all major building systems to meet the needs of a 21st century school.

The modernized Honey Dew Elementary, located at 800 Union Ave NE, Renton, was part of a **bond measure approved by voters in 2003. The construction project is on time and on budget.** Many elements of the existing building will be reused in an effort to be environmentally friendly.

The new school will feature 16 general classrooms and 3 kindergarten classrooms. Each classroom will have computer workstations that are networked through a server. Other building elements include a music room, library/media center and a gymnasium, which will also act as a cafeteria and student performance space. The new entry pavilion will also be used as a student waiting area. The

office and other administration areas will be centrally located to allow

Renton Schools Superintendent Dr. Mary Alice



easy supervision. School bus and parent drop-off areas will be separated. The existing courtyard will become a functional and useable space that will serve the library as an outdoor reading area and provide visual relief for the classroom areas.

District to soon review boundaries for the Honey Dew School

Heuschel soon will convene the district's Boundary Review Committee to determine the boundaries for Honey Dew Elementary School. The expectation is to create a boundary that allows neighborhood students to walk to school. Currently, many of the students who live near the school attend neighboring schools.



This newsletter is for you - the Local Unit PTA Leader. There are many different ways you can share this information:

1. Provide copies at your local unit PTA meetings.
2. Include this information in your local PTA newsletter
3. Post this on your website



It is my hope to publish the Legislative News each month. I will do my best to fill it with interesting and pertinent data for right now!

If there is a topic you would like to see covered, please contact Pam Teal at 425-235-6288

or
mpteal@comcast.net

Visit the Renton PTSA Council website: www.rentonptsa.org

The education community urges a NO vote against Initiative 985

"I-985 claims to reduce traffic congestion, but its major effect will almost certainly be to take away money from classrooms," said Lisa Macfarlane, co-founder of the League of Education Voters. "Our schools need every

dollar they currently get to prepare our children for college, job training programs and the workforce."

"We believe I-985 would result in unacceptable cuts to K-12 education,

health care and other programs that are important to children," said Laura Bay, President of the Washington State PTA.

Washington State
PTA
everychild.one voice.



Discovery Program accepting referrals

The Discovery Program will begin accepting referrals November 3rd, with the forms available at each elementary and middle school. The deadline is December 19, 2008. Referrals not received by this date will be considered for the following school year. Qualifying students will be placed, on a space availability basis, in the 09-10 school year.

The Discovery Program is designed to serve the Renton School District's highly capable students from 2nd through 8th grade with challenging, advanced curriculum. Kenndale and Talbot Hill are the designated elementary Discovery locations, with designated Discovery teachers at each level.

All three middle schools have Discovery Program classes for language arts and social studies in grades six through eight. At the high school level, counseling for appropriate selection of courses is provided. The High School Registration Booklet describes the various course options, including Honors and Advanced Placement classes. For more information about the Discovery Program contact Vickie Damon, Director, Categorical Programs (425) 204-2401.

WASHINGTON STATE PTA FOCUS DAY

Mark your calendar now for a rally on the steps of our state capitol
February 26 ~ 12 noon
More information to come!

Washington State PTA Top "5" Legislative Priorities

1. Basic Education Funding
2. Strengthening Math and Science Curriculum and Education
3. Washington State Assessment System Improvements
4. Support State Board of Education Core 24 Framework
5. Support Rational Approaches to Teacher Compensation



Nine Renton PTA members attended the PTA Legislative Assembly in early October and casted votes on your behalf. This information came from the Renton PTSA Legislative Survey on Survey Monkey. **Thank you to the 107 people who responded!!**

Open House for Trails & Bicycle

November 12 ~ from 6 to 8 pm

www.rentonwa.gov

Join Renton area bicyclists, walkers and other trail users by participating in a public open house at the Renton Senior Activity Center, Wednesday, November 12 from 6 to 8 pm. This event will be a great opportunity for you to review and provide comments on the existing and proposed

trail systems and bike routes in and around Renton. Participants will also have the opportunity to review information regarding usage patterns and to review draft additions or modifications to goals and policies relating to trails.

For [more information](#) contact:

John D. (Dan) Hasty,
Civil Engineer

City of Renton Transportation Systems Division

(425) 430-7246.

Address of Senior Center: 211 Burnett Avenue N.

