

BHS technology curriculum updated for employment standards

Revamping the technology program at Banks High School to prepare students to participate fully in the technological world of today and tomorrow is the goal of an advisory team that presented their conclusions to the school board at the April ninth meeting.

Studies by the Oregon Employment Department indicate that future opportunities for Banks students depend upon having a solid foundation in the applications of computer skills. Gary Hartman, director of the Technology/Assessment Department, said that the committee had established a goal "to provide every student with exposure to the core area" of technology skills.

The advisory team, composed of teachers and administrators from BHS, community members active in the high-tech industry and a Portland Community College consultant, analyzed the current curriculum. Strengths included keyboarding at the junior high level, current course offerings, and teacher involvement in enhancing their skills. Areas identified for improvement included the need to revise standards, including databases and spreadsheets in the curriculum, increased exploration of career opportunities at both the introductory and advanced level, and increasing enrollment of girls in computer classes.

After discussion of industry needs and standards for entry-level positions and examination of a variety of documents, the team developed a proposed twelfth grade technology standard. Foundation skills are integrated into required courses and a new course, "Computer Technology Concepts," will be developed. The new course would introduce students to both theory and application in database development, enterprise systems, network design and administration, software engineering, technical support and writing, and web design and administration. If approved, the course will be introduced in 2001-02, with a recommendation that it be a graduation requirement beginning in 2005. The team also recommended revisions and additions to elective courses, and

expansion of current offerings to better prepare students to enter the workforce.

Hartman introduced four students from the InfoTech program currently in operation. Info Tech provides students an opportunity to participate in on-the-job training in information technology. Students Graham Linn and Rory Young unveiled the district's new web site. Webmasters Linn and Young are responsible for the layout and content as well as building and maintaining the site. They work closely with district administrators, especially superintendent Marilyn McGlasson. McGlasson said that Linn and Young have created an excellent web site and done a great job of turning ideas into reality.

The site includes general information about the district and each school, job openings, a map, State Report Cards and lots of additional information. The students have been focusing on developing and maintaining an events calendar for each school. Future plans for the site include developing teacher, sports and club pages. The site is online at www.banks.k12.or.us

Students Kelly Zietz, Colin Douglas and Nick Maller are responsible for the front line of technical support in the district. These highly trusted students provide maintenance and upgrades for all 300+ devices in the district. They fix problems in hardware and software, instruct teachers and other students in ways to avoid problems, and set-up and administer the network. All support issues are first directed to these students. They are available daily in the elementary and high school and every other day in the junior high. Both

McGlasson and Hartman stressed the competence of these students, without whom the district would not be able to support or utilize its current level of technology.

Ester Lee, Banks Elementary Principal, said that over 50 percent of the student body participated in the annual Battle of the Books on April 6. Character Counts students for the fourth six weeks are: Shea Rue, Kyle Braukman, Abigail Hardie, Justin Miller, Chelsea Mathews, Mitchell Arias, Kelvin Applebee, Andrew Jimenez, Sean Goplen, Nicole Purvis, Alicia Duyck, Amanda King, Stephanie Case, Brad Markham, Jordan Tijerina, Stephanie Kuiper, Elise Bufton, Tess King and Sarah Vanderzanden. Tammy Schraeder, Oregon's winner of the 2000 Elementary Teacher of Mathematics and Science was also honored.

Lee said that 110 students have signed up to participate in the Science and Technology Fair, May 3.

Academic Excellence week, March 12 - 16, at Banks High School was highlighted by two events. Cranial Pursuit finals were won by the teacher team, ably opposed by the winning student team. The National Honor Society inducted Seniors Heather Bays, Rose Strassel, Shauna Ness, Chelsea Larson, Allen Herinckx and Scott Jansen; Juniors Kristen Wilhelm, Pasapong "Pup" Gamonwet and Evgeniya Verovskaya; Sophomores Michelle Dickinson, Leah Orlowski, Gretchen Bayless and Bruce Duyck; Freshman Krista Donovan, Megan Jurasek, Rachel Partin, Jared Hatch and Danielle Van-dehey.

Ted Faro, Banks Junior High

Principal, congratulated three students for their efforts in the annual poster contest sponsored by Metro and AK Media for Earth Day. From a field of 1800 entries, Ryan Evers and Ashley Dudley were selected as finalists and Jessica Reser received an honorable mention for her poster of a lightbulb containing the earth and the slogan "Recycling, It's a bright idea!" Faro also congratulated Josh Williams and Ban Williams for their first place finishes in state wrestling competition.

In other business the board:

- Received information on new Fire Fighter course.
- Encouraged donations and attendance at the Banks Community Auction, Saturday, April 28.
- Approved board and superintendent evaluation instruments.

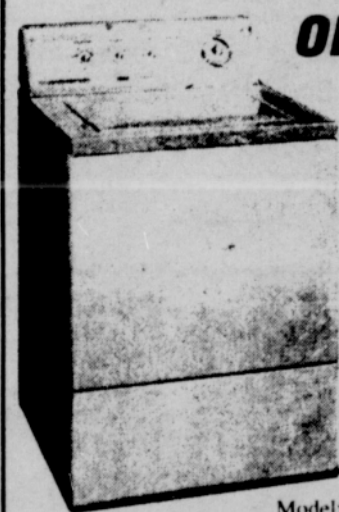
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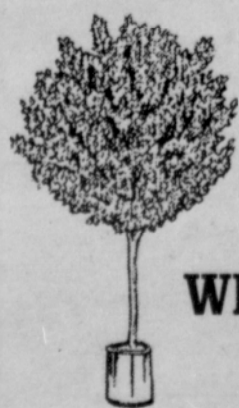
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