

Americorps members explain tutoring and after school programs in Banks

The highlight of the Banks School District board meeting, December 9, was the presentation by two Americorps members about programs they are currently operating in the district. In addition to their tutoring duties during the school day, both direct after-school sessions.

Sam Chan, a graduate of the University of Puget Sound, is in charge of the after-school program at Banks Junior High School, where 11 to 13 students receive one-on-one encouragement with homework. Community and high school students assist Chan. In response to a question from Board member Willis Meeuwse, Chan said that most students need help in the areas of

Lack of quorum stymies Banks' public hearings

Banks City Council should have no trouble getting a quorum after the first of the year, however, the regular council meeting and two public hearings scheduled for December 10 were cancelled due to lack of a quorum. Four of the six councilors are required to conduct business and, on the 10th, councilor Judy Shepard was in Germany, Katie Murdoch was ill and Tim Hardie was coaching basketball.

The remaining councilors, Ryan Birr, Teri Branstire and Gary Coffey, along with Mayor Bob Orłowski became part of the audience to witness the swearing in of two new reserve police officers. Since both officers, Robert Richards and Blake Rose, had many family members present for the short ceremony counsel decided to go ahead and allow city recorder Debbie Dugan to swear in the two new officers.

In January, newly elected councilors will be sworn in. Brock Banks, who received 285 votes, was the only candidate appearing on the ballot, however, write-in candidates Peter Edison, with 50 votes, and Kirk Andrews, 49 votes, will fill the other two positions. Other write-in candidates included Mark Haynes, Mary Brington and Rhett Preston. Mayor Bob Orłowski was re-elected without opposition.

science and social studies.

Theresa Pompili, a graduate of the University of Portland, operates the elementary Learning Lab, where, for twenty weeks, students will be able to get help for one hour after school on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Twenty-seven students are participating in the program, which concentrates on the benchmark areas of math and reading. High school and adult volunteers also staff this program, which uses a variety of alternative approaches to make learning fun. There will be two separate evening activities for parents to share education ideas and support their students' academic successes.

Successful Fundraiser

Superintendent Marilyn McGlasson told the board that last month's fundraiser, organized by Julie Bradford, was a tremendous success. Banks residents gathered in November to

enjoy desserts and hors d'oeuvres provided by Bradford and her friends, and to write checks to provide items on a teacher "Wish List." Items on the list included graphing calculators, lab equipment, world history videos, physical education equipment and textbooks. Individuals wrote checks for over \$5,000, which will be matched by \$15,000 from Intel. According to McGlasson over \$26,000 was raised during the fundraiser orchestrated by Bradford.

Programs operated by volunteers

Two other programs are being successfully operated by volunteers, who "stepped up to the plate" when the programs were cut from the elementary budget. Paula Somers and Angie Spiering are coordinating the "Character Counts" program and will have it up and operating soon. Catherina

Bradley has been coordinating the "Reading Is The Key" program. Twenty-eight students were recognized for their reading efforts during November, including Devon Brown, Sean Klopfenstein and Mathew Stone, with 300 hours each, Jalen Todd with 375 hours, and Jeffery Manivanh and Sam Edison, who each racked up 450 hours.

BJHS teacher wins cash award

Banks Junior High School principal, Mark Everett told the board that Mary Lau, BJHS science teacher, was the recipient

of \$5,000 from Fred Meyer as a part of their "Cash of Class" program. Lau plans to use the money to purchase a refrigerated fish tank, take her students on field trips and purchase curriculum supplies to supplement her salmon egg unit.

Special schedule

Banks schools will have two long weekends in January. In addition to the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday January 20th, there will also be no school on January 23rd and 24th to provide staff time for in-service and grading at the end of the semester.

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