

COMMUNITY +Link



Spring 2023 NEWSLETTER



Closing Out the School Year Strong: Celebrating Growth and Diversity

As we approach the end of the 2022–2023 school year, we reflect on yet another year of growth and achievement for our students. This newsletter showcases the incredible progress happening in our district each and every day. Our students have amazing opportunities to engage and learn about the diverse cultures and traditions of their classmates, with a focus on diversity, inclusion and belonging in the classroom. Our partnership with the Binational Teacher Exchange Program allows us to offer unique Migrant summer school programs that cater target the unique needs of our students and families. We are continually exploring innovative programs to provide the best education for our students.

Another concept we are exploring is modifying the school calendar. As part of this exploration, we are asking the question, “Is there a different way to redistribute the required 180 school days to better serve our students?” We will be hosting Community Forums this spring to discuss the 'why' and 'what' of this proposal, and we look forward to hearing from the school community about what this could look like. We encourage all our community members to attend one of the Community Forum dates to connect and share their thoughts.

As we approach the finish line, we want to encourage our school community to stay focused and finish strong. We will continue to educate and support our students and work diligently towards our district’s vision: To graduate inspired and critical thinkers who embrace diversity and are committed to the betterment of their own lives and the lives of others.

Please stay healthy and safe.
Warm regards,

Ismael Vivanco, Ed.D
Superintendent, Mount Vernon School District



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Featured Alumni

You will find our alumni working in every field imaginable, changing the world around us every day. Take a look at what our alumni are doing today and where they started.

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Governor Inslee visits LaVenture Middle School

On February 2, 2023, students from LaVenture's LUCHA (Latinos Unidos Con Honor y Amistad) and MCL (Migrant Leaders Club) traveled to Olympia with the incredible support of Mrs. Tammy Oommen. Since 2013, LaVenture LUCHA has been attending Legislative Day. With just five students initially, the numbers have grown over the years. This year, LaVenture invited students from MVHS and MBMS to attend as well. Although Governor Inslee was originally scheduled to meet with the students that day, he was unable to due to illness.

However, with the help of Mrs. Oommen and Mr. Riddle, students were pleasantly surprised when Governor Inslee decided to pay a special visit to their school.



ASB officers, LUCHA and Migrant Leader Club students from LaVenture, gave Gov. Inslee a warm welcome as he arrived.

During the governor's visit, MLC students Andree Sanchez and Johanan Godinez recited In Lak'ech and presented him with a framed copy of the poem as a memento of the event. LUCHA students Stephanie Solis and Ivan Mendoza-Quiroz explained the purpose of their club and their efforts to be more involved in the community. They also showed Governor Inslee a booklet with pictures of students who attended previous years and highlighted the individuals they met.

To conclude the meeting, students Leslie Duran, Karla Pitones, Yasmin Barraza, and staff members Sra. Solis and Mrs. Oommen revealed a mural they designed in collaboration with the Mount Vernon Police Department.



Over the years, Mrs. Oommen has leveraged her network connections to organize events and connect people. She organized the LaVenture Legislative Day on The Hill, to give students an opportunity to meet legislators and see how laws are made. Her hope is to encourage students to use their voice and someday lead in these positions and in their communities. It was an incredible opportunity for the students to showcase their achievements and goals to Governor Inslee. Many thanks to the staff and students who made this event possible.



Annual Multicultural Week a success thanks to MVHS ASB students

The ASB students of Mount Vernon High School worked tirelessly to put together a fantastic Multicultural Week. Throughout the week, students had the opportunity to partake in various activities during their lunch break, including sampling new foods and learning new games.



MVHS Students participate in this year's Multicultural Week events

Students had a great time learning about the beautiful cultures in our school. Thank you ASB Students and staff for your help in putting these events together!

The week's highlight was the 2nd annual Multicultural Night, organized by the MVHS LIA group, which drew a sizable crowd of family and community members and was a resounding success.

The event was hosted by the MVHS and included surrounding districts, Sedro-Woolley and Burlington-Edison. Students from Burlington-Edison performed throughout the event.

The district would like to thank all of the students and staff who helped with these two major events during the month of March. Great job team!



We are exploring the idea of modifying the school calendar.

Is there a different way to redistribute the required 180 school days?



COMMUNITY FORUMS

Please join us to learn more about our exploration of a Student Focused Balanced Calendar (SFBC). Here are some topics we will share about:

What might this change look like?

Starting the school year earlier and ending the school later?

More frequent breaks during the year?

WHICH FORUM SHOULD YOU ATTEND?

You are welcome to join the forum that best fits your schedule.

April 14, 2023
6:00pm-8:00pm

Mount Baker MS

2310 E. Section Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

April 21, 2023
6:00pm-8:00pm

Madison Elementary

907 E. Fir
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

April 25, 2023
6:00-8:00pm

Harriet Rowley Elementary

400 53rd Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

April 26, 2023
6:00-8:00pm

MVHS

1075 E. Fulton Street
Mount Vernon, WA 98273

Featured Alumni

Emma Oats: A Mount Vernon Local Making a Difference

2017 Mount Vernon High School alumni, Emma Oates, is rediscovering Mount Vernon with fresh eyes. After leaving to pursue higher education, she discovered that Mount Vernon had a special place in her heart.



After graduating from Mount Vernon High School, she attended Northwest University and received her Masters in International Community Development and a Bachelors in Intercultural Studies and Sociology in 2021. While at college, Emma interned at World Relief Seattle, a refugee resettlement agency, where she worked to help newly resettled families acclimate to American systems. She helped them with simple but crucial tasks like attending medical appointments, teaching English to adults, or obtaining driver's licenses. She acted as a support system and friend to the families and filled in any gaps in their needs. Emma loved this part of her job, stating "Engaging cross-culturally is valuable and learning that you don't have to be perfect at it is important, what's important is that you try".

A job at a local foster agency originally brought her back to her hometown, but a newfound appreciation of the valley she grew up in got her to stay. "I didn't really have intentions to come back, I definitely thought I wanted to stay in the Seattle area. Growing up I didn't realize the beauty that was all around here. I was blind to it." After moving back, her commitment to the community led to her taking the position of Community Engagement Manager at the Mount Vernon Downtown Association. Growing up she remembers feeling like her school was her community. She was involved in sports, leadership, and ASB. She felt connected to her school community, but not necessarily her town. "I was born and raised here, but until recently didn't understand the connection I was missing with my town."

She hopes to create a bridge between the school community and the larger Mount Vernon community. Emma's goal is to get young people more involved in their community, and she believes the key to accomplishing this is by helping students find their own way of getting involved. She has already reached out to students at Mount Vernon High School about volunteering for the upcoming Tulip Festival Street Fair, but she plans to do much more. Emma wants to hear from the younger generation and encourage them to take ownership and become excited about investing in their community.

As Emma continues to fall in love with Mount Vernon, she is dedicated to helping young people feel connected to their hometown. Her work has just begun, and she is determined to make a lasting impact. If you are interested in getting involved, please feel free to reach out to Emma Oates at the Mount Vernon Downtown Association at emma@mountvernondowntown.org or by visiting the Mount Vernon Downtown Association website at www.downtownmountvernon.org

Community Bulldog Award

Each quarter, we honor a community member or group with the district's Community Bulldog Award. This quarter we show our appreciation to our service club organizations. Skagit Rotary, Mount Vernon Rotary, and Kiwanis Club of Mount Vernon have been great supporters of our district and students throughout the years. The generosity of volunteers in all local service organizations provides experiences and support to our community. Thank you service club members and organizations for all you do.



Skagit Rotary



Mount Vernon Rotary



Kiwanis Club of Mount Vernon

Kindergarten Round Up

Join us May 15-19 to meet the principal and school staff. They will answer your questions and you and your child can see the school.

Registration Requirements

Proof of age documents include a birth certificate; a religious, hospital, or physician's certificate showing date of birth; a passport; an adoption record; previously verified school records; an affidavit from a parent; an entry in a family bible; or any other documents permitted by law.

Register Online:

www.mountvernonschools.org/kindergartenregistration



Registration forms are also available at all elementary schools upon request, beginning in Mid-April

District office:

124 E. Lawrence St.
Mt. Vernon WA 98273

May 15, 2023	May 18, 2023
Harriet Rowley 400 53rd St • 5-7 PM • (360) 428-6199	Little Mountain Elementary 1514 S. LaVenture Rd. • 4-6 PM • (360) 428-6125
May 16, 2023	Washington Elementary 1020 McLean Rd. • 4:30-7 PM • (360) 428-6138
Jefferson Elementary 1801 E. Blackburn Rd. • 5-6:30PM • (360) 428-6128	Skagit Academy 2001 Cleveland Ave • 4-6 PM • (360) 428-6206
Centennial Elementary 3100 Martin Rd. • 5-7 PM • (360) 428-6138	

SEE YOU THERE!



www.mountvernonschools.org

Mount Vernon Schools
Successful Learners Strengthening Our Community

Lets stay connected!



Jefferson Elementary
360-428-6128



Centennial Elementary
360-428-6138



Skagit Academy
360-428-6206



Madison Elementary
360-428-6131



Little Mountain Elementary
360-428-6125



NCTA
360-848-0706



Harriet Rowley Elementary
360-428-6199



Mount Baker Middle School
360-428-6127



Mount Vernon High School
360-428-6100



Washington Elementary
360-428-6122



LaVenture Middle School
360-428-6116



Mount Vernon Virtual Learning

Aspire Academy
360-428-6216
MVVL
360-428-6216