

July 19, 2002

Dear Parents and Friends,

When you approved Issaquah's school construction bond in 1999, you authorized three new elementary schools in the District. Cascade Ridge opened last fall. We thought an elementary school in Issaquah Highlands would be next; however, the population within Newcastle has outdistanced that of the Highlands, and we've been working with the City of Newcastle to site the District's 13th elementary school at the intersection of 136th and 135th Avenues SE in 2003 or 2004.

Given construction and permitting timelines, it's now clear that the school will open in September 2004. Setting boundaries for the new school will be a work project for 2002-2003. Watch for announcements about that boundary process beginning this fall.

Christy Otley, formerly the principal at Sunny Hills Elementary, begins this fall as Elementary #13 planning principal. In that role, she will be a communications liaison within the District's New Construction, Curriculum, and Personnel Departments and the Newcastle community to coordinate information, program plans, and hiring for the new school.

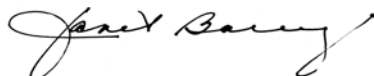
Parents of Apollo students have seen the school grow over the last few years and have also noted a recent slowing of growth in the area. In fact, we expect only 12 to 15 new students at Apollo in each of the next two years, and we know we have classroom space for those students without compromising teacher/student ratios. Principal Wayne Hamasaki and the Apollo site council will be in touch with Apollo parents and staff regarding plans to serve students until the new school opens in September, 2004.

As you follow the school's construction progress, here are some timelines the Issaquah School District and City of Newcastle have targeted:

- Approval of a new rock ordinance by the City of Newcastle is anticipated by the end of September. This will ensure safe, efficient rock removal from the new school site—using procedures that avoid the lengthy and noisy chipping now being experienced along Coal Creek Parkway. Because the Parkway project has created local disturbances and has been more costly than other methods of removal, the City and District have been working together to find ways to minimize residential impact, ensure safety, and potentially save time and District expense.
- A building permit is expected by December 31, 2002. This permit will authorize construction to begin.
- The bid award process will begin in January, 2003 with a contractor to be selected by April 1, 2003.
- Construction activity should begin by mid-April 2003.

We'll keep you informed along the way. You can follow our construction and planning process by clicking on www.issaquah.wednet.edu for updates. Or, for specific questions about the school plans, we are happy to visit with you. We're excited about the design and development of our thirteenth elementary school—and we know you are, too.

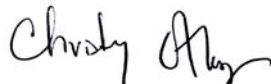
Best regards to all,



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