

School Construction

On the web at www.newcastle.issaquah.wednet.edu

The Name Game is over ...

November, 2003

and the winner is ...

Newcastle Elementary School!

The Issaquah School Board has selected the name for the district's 13th elementary school, now called Newcastle Elementary.

The Steering Team, made up of future Newcastle Elementary parents, considered 14 suggestions submitted by residents of the Issaquah School District and made their recommendations. Planning Principal Christy Otley presented the team's top three choices to board members at their meeting on October 22. The top three choices were:

- 1 Newcastle Elementary
- 2 Coal Creek Elementary
- 3 Columbia Elementary

The first two names focused on the history and historical significance of the Newcastle area. The third carried through the "space" theme used to name other district elementaries. All the entries were well thought out and carefully presented and made the Name Game judges' work very difficult!

PTSA Update

A key component of any school is an active PTSA. Starting a PTSA requires filing with the state organization, chartering, by-laws, meeting planning, and legal designation as a non-profit 501c3.

A group of future Newcastle parents have begun the paperwork and started building the framework for a PTSA that will be up and running in time to coordinate with the opening activities of our new school.

Watch for notices of a Newcastle PTSA "chartering" meeting in March. At that meeting, open to all who are interested, the Newcastle school community will take official actions necessary to launch our PTSA. Those actions include "standing rules" and the selection of an executive board.

If you or anyone you know is interested in serving as an executive board member and in being in the Newcastle Elementary PTSA, contact Elizabeth Pendleton at Bpen22@aol.com or Andra Swegle at aswegle@comcast.net.

Matters

Newcastle Elementary Core Team formed!

Congratulations to our 13-member Core Team – just beginning to take on the exciting challenges of developing, planning and successfully launching our new school! They're getting right to work and won't stop until school opens in September.

The Core Team includes:

Parents

- Heidi Wick (China Creek)
- Sarah Herr (Olympus)
- Angela Morrison (Milepost)
- Linda Bergam (Olympus)
- Theresa Bockes (Licorice Fern)

Certificated staff

- Joanne Kim
- Leah McGraw
- Theresa Gekeler
- Chasma Hughes
- Cathy Andrews

Classified staff

- Dave Holbrook (Custodian)
- Teri Ratzsch (Secretary)

Our leader

- Christy Otley (Principal)

Special notice for present and future Liberty High School families

The doors are open; come in and look around. Liberty High School is open for tours.

Would you like to see the school in action, visit classrooms, meet students and teachers? **Thursday, December 11** is the first of what will be monthly opportunities to spend time with LHS student tour leaders who will take you into classrooms for a look at what students are learning at Liberty. You'll also have a chance to meet with administrators and counselors who can answer your questions about what Liberty does to prepare students for the future. **The tour begins at 9:30 a.m.** in the main office and lasts approximately an hour.

Questions? Call Jane Harris at 425-837-4835 or e-mail harrisj@issaquah.wednet.edu.

Watch for notices of dates and times of the January and February tour opportunities.

Announcements...

1 For Newcastle Elementary kindergarteners!

**Kindergarten Registration Roundup
March 3 & 4, 2004
Apollo Elementary School**

Watch future issues of Construction Matters for more kindergarten registration information.

2 Here's the latest Newcastle Elementary construction report:

- The water retention pond south of Coal Creek Parkway is nearly finished.
- Temporary and permanent storm water facilities are in place. They withstood the test during heavy October rains.
- Grading for SE 88th Way is underway now that the rocks are gone and the utilities are installed.
- Crews are backfilling behind the concrete retaining walls.
- The building's underground electrical and plumbing work is nearing completion.
- First floor classroom concrete slabs are poured. The rest of first floor areas will be poured by the end of November.
- Crews are now erecting the steel in classroom areas and building the concrete block façade.

3 Newcastle Elementary fast facts:


- **Site:** 12.3 acres
- **Building:** Approximately 60,000 sq. ft.
- **Classrooms:** 24
- **Classroom floor area:** 49,700 sq. ft.
- **Gymnasium:** 10,107 sq. ft., with 650 person occupancy
- **Covered Play Area A:** 2400 sq. ft.
- **Covered Play Area B:** 2400 sq. ft.
- **Parking Spaces:** 89

4 Important information for all Newcastle Elementary families of current 4th graders:

All students in grades kindergarten through 4th grade will automatically attend Newcastle Elementary next fall. However, consistent with past practice, 5th graders and their siblings will be allowed to attend Apollo Elementary during the 2004-2005 school year. The district will provide transportation for one year. Thereafter, Newcastle Elementary families who wish to continue attending Apollo may apply to do so through the Open Enrollment Process each February. Enrollment decisions are made on a case-by-case basis. For more Open Enrollment information, go to www.issaquah.wednet.edu. Select "For Parents", "Enrollment," and "February is Open Enrollment Month."

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The logo for Newcastle Elementary features the school's name in a stylized font. Above the name is a graphic of a mountain range with a sun or moon rising behind it. The text 'ISSAQUAH' is written in a bold, blocky font across the middle of the graphic, and 'SCHOOL DISTRICT #11' is written in a smaller font at the top.