



# NEWS

MERCERISLANDSCHOOLS.ORG FALL 2017

MERCER ISLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

## MIHS Marching Band selected for 2019 Rose Parade

The Mercer Island High School Marching Band has been selected to participate in the 130th Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif., on New Year's Day 2019.

This will be the fourth appearance for the Mercer Island Band, with the most recent in 2012. Only nine high school bands have been invited from around the world.

Band Director Parker Bixby credited this and last year's seniors' leadership in producing the



The Mercer Island High School Marching Band performs in the Homecoming Parade on October 6 through the streets of downtown Mercer Island. (Photo by Allison Nelson)

application that helped provide the group with this fantastic opportunity.

"As a band staff, we could not be prouder than to bring our Mercer Island brand of band onto the world's stage. With a television viewership of over 50 million people and nearly one

million on the route live, the Rose Parade is one of the largest band events on earth," Bixby said.

Although the 2019 parade is more than 15 months away, the band will be busy preparing and fundraising. Bixby and others will attend the 2018 parade to ready themselves for 2019.

## Replacement levy to appear on special election ballot

The Mercer Island School Board has unanimously approved an Educational Maintenance and Operations Levy proposition to be put to voters on the February 13, 2018 election ballot. The four-year levy replaces the one that was passed by Mercer Island voters in 2014.

"This replacement levy is essential to maintaining the high quality of Mercer Island schools, a key reason people move to the Island," said Board President David D'Souza. "The Mercer Island community has consistently shown how it values education through the approval of maintenance and operations levies and the School Board very much appreciates their continued support."

If approved with a simple majority, the replacement levy would collect between \$11.75



The Educational Maintenance and Operations Levy helps provide enriching experiences for Mercer Island students, including KMIH 88.9 The Bridge, the student radio station at the high school.

million and \$12.75 million per year from 2019 to 2022 for educational programs and services, including teaching, school supplies, athletics, transportation and educational programs. It funds 20 percent of the Mercer Island School District general fund for educational programs and services, including 38 percent of special education funding.

Under a new law passed by the Legislature this year, use of local levy dollars are limited to enrichments - programs, activities and staffing beyond the basic state apportionment that are funded through local efforts, which includes the levy, Foundation, PTAs and other grants, donations and contributions.

With local funds the district has accomplished

*Continued on back page*

# SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

## Dear Mercer Island community,

Thank you all for such a warm welcome since I began serving as your new superintendent on August 1. I have had great classroom visits at each of our schools, as well as meeting many of you during my first four months here on the Island. Our students are engaged in learning and love their schools!

Last month I had the opportunity to meet our new families at our third annual district Welcome Event at Islander Middle School, joined by 25 of our school and community partners. It is gratifying to hear from many that they chose to move to Mercer Island because of the quality of our schools.



Donna Colosky

As you will read elsewhere in this issue, the School Board has placed the replacement Educational Maintenance and Operations Levy on the February 13, 2018 special election ballot. Posted on the newly-redesigned [mercerislandschools.org](http://mercerislandschools.org) website is a slide presentation that outlines the new state budget and House Bill 2242 that dramatically changes how public education will be funded. Under the new law, use of local levy dollars are limited to enrichments - those programs, activities and staffing beyond the basic state apportionment that are funded through local efforts, which includes the levy, Foundation, PTA, and other grants, donations and contributions.

In December, we will bid farewell to our two longest-serving School Board members, Adair Dingle (12 years) and Dave Myerson (8 years).

Both Adair and Dave have seen many changes to our schools, not only with our school facilities, but also our curriculum and implementation of the 1:1 iPad program. Both have been strong

advocates for rigorous academic standards for our students and have made their decisions focused on students. Join us at the Dec. 14 meeting at City Hall when we will celebrate their years of service to our schools and welcome our newly elected Directors.

Thank you for your recent support of the Mercer Island Schools Foundation "All in for Kids" Phone-A-Thon. The fall campaign funds priority requests across the district for grades K-12. This year's goal is to raise \$497,300 for strategically identified programs in core academics and enrichment. Visit [misf.com](http://misf.com) to donate.

We continue to expand our presence on social media. Please follow me on Twitter @suptdcolosky, the district @mercerislandsd and on Facebook @mercerislandschooldistrict.

Sincerely,



Donna Colosky, Superintendent

## Capital projects make improvements to facilities

The District completed several capital improvements to buildings and facilities this past summer.

Many of these projects were funded by the six-year capital projects and technology levy approved by Mercer Island voters in February 2016.

**Safety and Security:** Upgrades have been made to school entry areas at Island Park, Lakeridge and West Mercer elementary schools, replicating those already in place at Northwood. These improvements create a vestibule inside each of the school's front entry, and then after checking in, office staff will admit the visitor to the building. This is an important security enhancement to our elementary schools.

In addition, fire alarm upgrades were made at Island Park, Lakeridge and Islander Middle School.

**42nd Street Path:** Coordinating with our partners at the City of Mercer Island, a new asphalt path has been created along the south



New turf with a cork infill and a new track surface were installed at Islander Stadium.

side of Southeast 42nd Street from 88th SE to 90th SE to improve safety for walkers to Northwood and the high school.

**Islander Stadium (High School):** Crews from FieldTurf replaced the worn playing surface with the new one, which uses a cork infill. The track around the field was also resurfaced. Work was completed in the adjacent bus lot that will create additional overflow seating on the west side of the track/field.

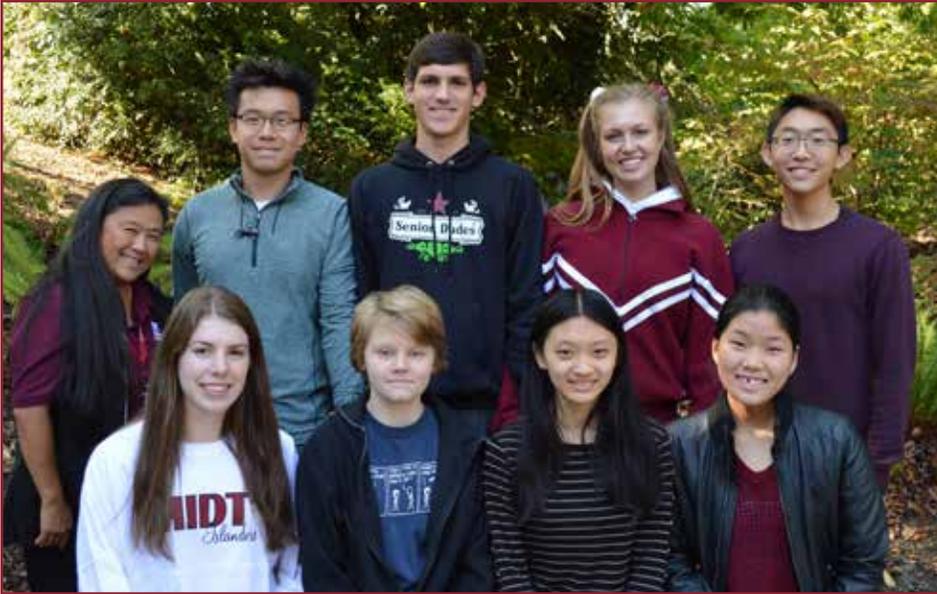


A walking path was created along SE 42nd Street to enhance student safety.

**MIHS tennis courts:** The six tennis courts have been resurfaced and now sport a green and blue color that has become the standard for competition.

**Portables moved at Island Park:** The old portables at the back of the school were demolished and the two at the north end of the school have moved into their place. The west end of the field is being restored to create a larger playfield for students and the community.

# POINTS OF PRIDE



◀ The National Merit Scholarship Program has recognized 11 Mercer Island High School seniors as semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship program, representing the top one percent of U.S. high school seniors.

The students are Alison Dickstein, Aidan Dobson, Joy Guo, Donald Hildebrandt, Jon Ho, Mithril Hugunin, Fiona McCann, Christoph Schmidt-Warnecke, Zoe Sheill, Kenneth Wang and Jasmine Zou.

An additional 24 MIHS seniors have been recognized as National Merit Commended Scholars, honored for their exceptional academic promise.

▶ The Mercer Island Schools Foundation (MISF) presented a \$1.2 million check to the School Board at its August 24 meeting from its BRIDGE 2017 campaign to support Mercer Island schools.

Funds from the BRIDGE campaign are used to help reduce class size, provide professional development for staff and to purchase new curriculum materials.

Last fall, the MISF Phone-A-Thon priority funding request of \$484,000 was also 100 percent funded and distributed throughout the school year, bringing the Mercer Island community investment for the 2016-2017 school year to nearly \$1.7 million.



◀ Northwood Elementary has been selected for a national Award of Excellence for facility design by the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

Designed by Mahlum Architects, Northwood opened to students a year ago as the first new public school built on the Island in 50 years, following voter approval of the 2014 bond proposition.

Northwood was one of only five projects nationwide to receive the AIA Award of Excellence this year.

## FALL DISTRICT NEWS

**Mercer Island School District**  
4160 86th Ave. S.E.  
Mercer Island, WA 98040

Non-Profit Org.  
US Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit # 19  
Mercer Island, WA

ECRWSS

# Postal Customer

## MISD Board of Directors

### David D'Souza, President

*david.dsouza@mercerislandschools.org*

### Tracy Drinkwater, Vice President

*tracy.drinkwater@mercerislandschools.org*

### Adair Dingle

*adair.dingle@mercerislandschools.org*

### Ralph Jorgenson

*ralph.jorgenson@mercerislandschools.org*

### Dave Myerson

*dave.myerson@mercerislandschools.org*

### Donna Colosky, Superintendent

*donna.colosky@mercerislandschools.org*

The Mercer Island School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The Mercer Island School District offers classes in many College and Career Readiness programs, admission to which is non-discriminatory. Lack of English-language proficiency will not be a barrier to admission and participation in those programs.

### Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying Compliance Officer:

Erin Battersby, Senior Director of Compliance and Legal Affairs, (206) 230-6227  
*erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org*

### Title IX Compliance Coordinator:

Erin Battersby, Senior Director of Compliance and Legal Affairs, (206) 230-6227  
*erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org*

### Section 504 & ADA Coordinator:

Dr. Lindsay Myatich, Director, (206) 236-3326  
*lindsay.myatich@mercerislandschools.org*

### Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator:

Erin Battersby, Senior Director of Compliance and Legal Affairs, (206) 230-6227  
*erin.battersby@mercerislandschools.org*

## Replacement levy on Feb. ballot

*Continued from front page*

much to enrich the student experience on Mercer Island, including:

- Having a seven-period day at the high school;
- Elementary K-5 music, Art, PE and Spanish;
- Expanded electives at HS and IMS, including upper level science courses beyond the traditional one-year sequences and classes not normally available to students, such as the radio station at the high school;
- Smaller class sizes for focused sections for struggling students or in specific areas;
- Ongoing professional development opportunities for staff;

- Stipends for staff to offer additional opportunities for students, including after-school clubs and activities at all grade levels;

- Enhanced library collections;
- and classified staff support in classrooms with overloads, additional special education or English Language Learning students, as well as student supervision and safety.

Ballots will be mailed January 24 to all registered voters on Mercer Island. They must be returned by February 13. A drop box is available at the Mercer Island Community and Events Center. If you are not registered to vote, you may do so online at [vote.wa.gov](http://vote.wa.gov).

They started out on an island.  
Then they touched the world.



## 2018 Mercer Island School District Pathfinder Alumni Awards

Nominate a graduate today at  
[mercerislandschools.org/alumni](http://mercerislandschools.org/alumni)  
Nominations close Jan. 19, 2018