

Kiona-Benton City Schools

1105 Dale Ave., Benton City, WA 99320

www.kibesd.org T: 509-588-2000



Superintendent's Message



Dear Readers,

Happy second semester!

We congratulate our students who have successfully completed the semester. We hope that you take time to read your student's grade reports and praise them for their progress. School is a good practice for life and we certainly want to encourage those behaviors and habits that will serve our students well into their adulthood.

Because we are concentrating on increasing learning, I have asked our building principals to emphasize attendance this year. We are focusing on not only reducing unexcused absences but are making an effort to help reduce all absences. Research shows that increasing attendance is an essential strategy for reducing achievement gaps. Please be aware that we will be monitoring your child's attendance and contacting you if they appear to be missing more than 5 days of school in a month or 10 days in the school year. The board has recently adopted a policy that outlines procedures regarding helping increase attendance (see Kiona-Benton City School District Policy 3122P).

We have had a number school closures and delays because of winter weather. To comply with state law, we need to make up those days. We have two days in our school calendar that were built in that we will make up (March 10 and May 26). Even with that, we will have to make up more days in June thus extending our dismissal date. Please look for further information concerning the final school day in June from the school buildings and our district website.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Wade Haun

Kiona-Benton City School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Any inquiries regarding compliance procedures may be directed to the School District's Title IX Officer, Title II and Section 504 Coordinator, the District's Special Services Director, at 1105 Dale Ave., Benton City, WA 99320; contact number (509) 588-2024. A copy of the district's appeal/grievance procedure is available upon request from the District Office (WAC 392-190-060).



KiBe HS then



Now

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Breaking News!

Special Education:

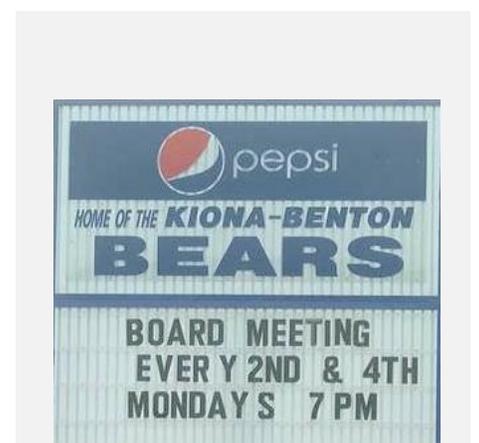
The Washington Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has released a determination study for the Kiona-Benton City School District finding it compliant with the federal requirements for Special Education. In a letter dated November 1, 2016, Assistant Superintendent Douglas H Gill from OSPI wrote, "We appreciate all of your efforts to provide quality programs for all students, and especially your efforts on behalf of students eligible for special education services."

The district received particularly high marks for preparing students for further education, employment, and independent living. We contribute that result mainly to the school-to-work transition program instituted by KiBe High School principal, Clay Henry and supervised by special education teachers Rick Harding and Donna Fluharty. We commend them for their hard work in this area.

Primary School Removed from Priority School Designation!

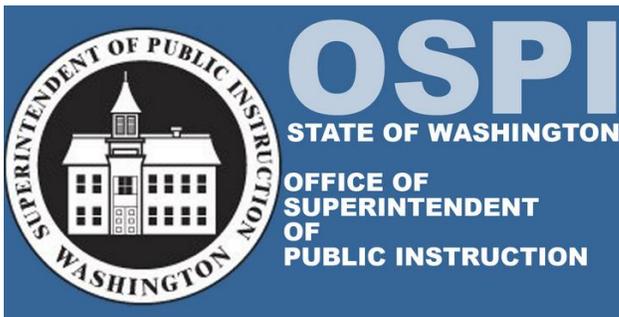
In a recent letter to Superintendent Wade Haun, the Assistant Superintendent of Special Programs and Federal Accountability, Gayle Pauley wrote, "We are pleased to inform you that [the Kiona-Benton City Primary School] is exiting Priority or Focus status, effective 2017-2018. Your teachers and principals are to be commended for their efforts to improve student learning. Your district is to be commended for the support provided to your district's educators and students."

We congratulate Principal Linda Hardy and the primary school staff for this accomplishment and wish them well as they continue to provide excellent education for our students.



Schoolhouse, Benton City, 1895

Courtesy Washington State Library; History of Benton City Washington, 1853-1959



Featured Alumni from KiBe Schools:

This edition's featured alumnus is Brad Schaffer (Class of 2005)

Bradley Schaffer's parents let him convert a garage at their Benton City home into a studio.

And it didn't sit idle. Far from it.

Schaffer loved Claymation, and he spent hours on the artistic pursuit.

"He was always out there," said mom Linda Schaffer. "I would always be stressed that he wasn't going to get his school work or studying done because he spent so much time there. But he did. He was always really, really motivated."

Schaffer, won an Emmy Award for his character animation work. He picked up the statue during a star-studded ceremony in Los Angeles. In a phone interview later in the week, he said the honor hasn't totally sunk in yet.

"It all happened so quickly. It feels really good to be recognized, of course. It makes me want to go back and keep working hard," he said. Schaffer graduated from Ki-Be High in 2005. He took classes at Columbia Basin College before going on to California Institute of the Arts. He works for Stoopid Buddy Stoodios in Burbank, Calif, home to shows including the popular stop-motion animation TV show *Robot Chicken*. It airs on the Cartoon Network's *Adult Swim*.

Schaffer had some words of wisdom for young aspiring artists: "Just keep at it."

"As a young filmmaker, if you're able to finish a film, you'll send it to a lot of film festivals. You'll get more rejection letters than acceptance letters," he said. "But don't get discouraged. It's all about building momentum. If you throw something at the wall hard enough, eventually it will stick."

Or you might just win an Emmy

From Tri-City Herald, Sep. 18, 2015 at

<http://www.tricityherald.com/news/local/article35786316.html#storylink=cpy>

Dual Language Program for K-5 Being Studied

A committee has been formed to study the possibility of a dual language program in the Primary and Intermediate Schools. Dual language classrooms deliver some of the core subjects in Spanish and some in English. Research has shown that this approach not only gives second language skills to students but also enhances the achievement performance of students throughout the rest of their school career. The three goals of dual language programs are developing bilingualism, biliteracy, and biculturalism. This would be the first step in establishing a program of study toward the Washington State Seal of Biliteracy upon graduation.

If you have any questions or would like to be part of this committee please contact Joe Lloyd, the District Federal Program Director at 509-588-2000.

Kiona-Benton City School District



Intermediate School Team Wins Lego League Award

On October 6th a parent meeting was held introducing First Lego League to 4th and 5th grade students. Twenty-three students became the initial First Lego League club of Ki-Be. Coaches Joni Ashley and Lindsey Walchli met twice a week with the team after school.

December 3 was the big day of competition. The rules allowed for only 10 students to present. The competition was held at Pasco's Ochoa Middle School and was a wonderful day of fun, friendship, learning, presenting, and WINNING!!!! Our research project took 1st place! Not bad for our very first try. (by Joni Ashley)



Resources at School

Get Help and Give Help Using 2-1-1

Need help, but don't know where to turn? Get connected by calling 2-1-1. Calls to 2-1-1 are confidential and FREE. You can also call (877) 211-5445 and visit www.win211.org. Trained local specialists are available to help you find services including: rental assistance, temporary shelter, child care, medical care, food pantries, counseling and much more! The call center is open Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm.

Did you know you can call 2-1-1 to apply for the Basic Food benefits? Basic Food is a program that helps supplement Washington residents' diets with healthy, nutritious food. Eligible households receive an Electronic Benefits Card (EBT) to purchase food items at participating businesses each month.

If you worked at all in 2016 and earned between \$1 and \$53,505 you may be eligible to receive the Earned Income Tax Credit. Call 2-1-1 today to set up an appointment for free tax preparation. Availability fills up quickly!



Alyse
Pivovarnik
High School
student
support



Heather's Pantry is Now Open at the High School

Heather's Pantry is now open at KiBe high school and is located in Mr. Burke's classroom. Students in need of food, hygiene products such as toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, and conditioner, clothing, or school supplies can visit the pantry daily from 7:30am to 3:00pm. The pantry will also be open after school on Monday and Friday until 3:30pm. Students can also see Mrs. Minkler, Mrs. Loy, Mr. Tovar, or Ms. Pivovarnik for assistance.

Donations are gladly accepted! Food items requested include: Cup Noodles, individual oatmeal cups, pop top cans of soup/ chili/ stew, granola bars, fruit snacks, and anything individually packaged for preparation ease. Clothing items include: jackets, sweatshirts, gloves, beanies, and scarves. School supplies include: backpacks, highlighters, color pencils, markers, rulers, calculators, and index cards. Similar pantries are being started at the elementary and middle schools.

HEATHER'S PANTRY
@ KIBE HIGH SCHOOL

DO YOU NEED: School supplies, hygiene products, non-perishable food items, clothing

**OPEN MONDAY-FRIDAY
DURING SCHOOL**
&
**MONDAYS & FRIDAYS UNTIL
3:30PM**

IN MR. BURKE'S CLASSROOM
See Mr. Tovar, Ms. P, Mrs. Minkler, or Mrs. Loy for assistance



