

## HAWKEYE STAFF EDITORIAL

## Food drive does wonders for community

As the HAWKEYE went to press, the current food drive earnings totaled more than 18,000 cans.

The entire MTHS community did an outstanding job collecting food and cash for the Concern for Neighbors food bank in Mountlake Terrace.

Food drive organizers did a great job coordinating classes and groups to collect cans outside of local grocery stores.

The clubs, activities, classes, students and staff of MTHS put in hard work, standing out in the cold for hours to collect food for the less fortunate.

In our last issue, we reported on the issue of homelessness in the Mountlake Terrace area.

It is clear that the MTHS community deeply cares about its neighbors.

The holidays are an especially hard time for people living in poverty. As the temperatures get colder and families are short on cash, it's important that we think about others, not just ourselves.

The students, parents and staff at MTHS have shown genuine generosity in a time when it's needed most. 📌

## Incredible performance from drama department

The drama department put on a stunning performance in November's production of "The Miracle Worker."

Although MTHS's drama program consistently does a great job, this recent play was even more amazing than usual.

The acting was what made this production exceptional. Lead actors Danielle Hirano and Emily Davidson were thoroughly believable in their exceedingly challenging roles.

Davidson took on the incredible task of playing Helen Keller, who was both blind and deaf. She handled the role with great professionalism.

Hirano's intensity as Keller's instructor Annie Sullivan led to a moving performance.

Hats off to the cast, crew and director/instructor Jeannie Brzovic. 📌

# TIME TO FULLY FUND OUR FUTURE

Editorial Board endorses upcoming ESD Props. 1 and 2

When voters open their ballots in February 2014, they will decide the fate of two important propositions. Both are for the Edmonds School District. Both are necessary for the future of education in our community. The Hawkeye Editorial Board fully endorses Edmonds School District Propositions 1 and 2 for voters to decide on early 2014.

The two propositions are common sense solutions to ensure that students in the Edmonds School District receive a great education. Once educated, the choice becomes clear. Propositions 1 and 2 create little burden on the taxpayers, yet create a tremendous difference for students.

The first measure set in front of taxpayers is Proposition 1: the Replacement School Programs and Operation Levy. This measure is simply a continuation of the current levy, which expires in Feb. 2014. The levy currently is essential in the success of students and teachers at school.

One cannot understand the importance and necessity of this proposition without understanding what the levy actually does.

The levy supports a variety of athletic, music, drama and other after-school and co-curricular activities. These activities are crucial in giving students the opportunities to explore and develop their passions and talents, engaging students at school and providing opportunities for students to demonstrate leadership and citizenship.

MTHS is nationally recognized for many of its co-curricular programs, such as our esteemed Jazz 1 ensemble. The thought of MTHS without its unique blend of clubs and activities for students to become involved in is rather unthinkable.

The levy also provides funding for activities right in the classroom. It provides funding for textbooks and supplies, funding for paraeducators and learning support employees, technology and training programs and it gives the school the ability to hire more teachers to keep class sizes smaller.

As it currently stands, many classes at MTHS are filled beyond belief. Some classes hit close to 40 students per class. It is frightening to think of class sizes any higher if funding for the levy were to be cut.

Passing Proposition 1 would neither increase nor decrease the tax rate. Rather, it would keep taxes at the current level so that students across the district would receive a quality education.

If Proposition 1 were to fail, the results would be devastating. It would almost certainly result in drastic cuts to co-curricular activities, large staff layoffs and increases in class sizes and a slash in the availability of learning support and resources.

Despite the overwhelming effects of Proposition 1, it simply isn't enough. It does not provide funds to replace the many run-down facilities used for educating our nation's future. Many schools are in need of modernizing, and in several cases, rebuilding.

Proposition 2 would result in the replacement of Lyndale Elementary, Madrona K-8 School, the replace-

ment and relocation of Alderwood Middle School, major improvements to Spruce, Mountlake Terrace and Lynnwood Elementary schools, and several much-needed improvements to nearly every other school in the district. The Proposition will also result in the construction of more classrooms to reduce class sizes even further, and make full-day kindergarten a reality.

At MTHS, major improvements are scheduled to take place, with the replacement of the entire ventilation system (which currently has students freezing in the cold months and roasting in the warm months). Also at MTHS would be the replacement of the artificial track and the turf fields in the back of the school.

This measure is immensely crucial because no student's education should be compromised because the school couldn't provide a decent learning environment.

Students should not be forced to take history notes at a two-person desk with three people because the class is overloaded. Students should not have to try focusing on the calculus lesson while shaking because of the cold. These are not the ideal conditions in which to place the learning environment.

Unlike Proposition 1, Proposition 2 does require a tax increase. The average household's taxes will increase by nearly \$12 per month. However, this is a small investment for such an enormous pay-off.

If you simply cut out a trip to the coffee shop three times per month, you will have saved the money needed to pay your part in the common cause of educating

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the next generation.

These two propositions are essential for the success of students here at MTHS and at every school in this district. However, the propositions can seem complex. They are necessary solutions to a critical problem in our state. The state simply does not adequately fund public education.

In 2007, the state was sued in the court case McCleary v. State because of the legislature's failure to meet its constitutional responsibility to fully fund public education in Washington. Since the decision was issued by the state supreme court, funding has been slowly increased. But it is simply not enough. If our state will not fund education, it must be the taxpayers who fill in the gap. This is what Proposition 1 and 2 aim to do.

The needs of students are legitimate and critical. If we want our young people to have the skills to compete in a global world, against the bright students of other nations, we must make it our paramount duty to provide each and every student with the necessary resources.

This means we cannot overcrowd class sizes. We cannot take away vital co-curricular programs. We cannot subject students to work in poor conditions in poor facilities.

It is the responsibility of each and every citizen to invest in our nation's future. It starts by passing Edmonds School District Propositions 1 and 2 in Feb. 2014. 📌