

# FEAtures



The Newsletter of the Ferndale Education Association • Vol. 9, No. 8 June 16, 2005

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## **Negotiating Team**

Bud Larson, *North Bellingham*  
Kris Skewis, *Horizon*  
Marilyn Rockwell, *FHS*  
Maggie Bagwell, *FHS*

## **Building Reps**

### *Beach Elementary*

Michelle Engels *Head Rep*

### *Central Elementary*

Denise Smith *Head Rep*

Judy Traut-Thomas

### *Custer Elementary*

Tracie Morris *Head Rep*

Diane Dodd

### *Eagleridge Elementary*

Candy Ford *Head Rep*

Jerry Finkbonner

Vicki Salisbury

Linda Strand

Sue Rutledge

### *Mt. View Elementary*

Cathy Cook, *Head Rep*

Teresa Parke

Rocky Diaz

Jan Lindsay

### *N. Bellingham Elementary*

Thirza Zagelow, *Head Rep*

Christi Liese

### *Skyline Elementary*

Greg Hart, *Head Rep*

John Cashmere

Rachel Gordon-Mercer

### *Horizon Middle School*

Kris Skewis, *Head Rep*

### *Vista Middle School*

Brita Castleberry, *Head Rep*

Gary Cocca

### *Ferndale High School*

Jenny Kubic, *Head Rep*

David Peters

Mike Smith

Adam Goldstein (*Windward*)

## **Andrea Lawson and Josh Richard receive 2005 FEA scholarships**

Each year the Ferndale Education Association grants two \$1000 scholarships to seniors planning to enter the teaching profession. This year's recipients are Andrea Lawson and Josh Richard.

Josh Richard has chosen education for his future because both his parents work in Ferndale high schools, and he is "able to see the influence they have on young people's lives every day."

Football and baseball have shaped Josh's experience; he has participated in both sports all four years of high school and was awarded the responsibilities of Football Team Captain both his junior and senior years. In addition, Josh was chosen for football's "Most Inspirational" award in 2003 and the "Leadership Award" in 2004.

Josh said his life-threatening brain injury eighteen months ago brought him closer to his friends and family and made him "realize how caring people truly are." The experience was, in his words, "one of the best and worst things that ever happened to me," and he said he had to work incredibly hard to recover his mental and physical strength.

The University of Washington, Washington State University, and Linfield College have all accepted Josh, but he has

"yet to decide" which one he will attend.

Throughout her high school career, Andrea Lawson has been a "dedicated participant in the Fine and Performing Arts offered at FHS."

For three years she has been a violinist in the Advanced Chamber Orchestra, and she has annually participated in the San Juan Music Educator's Association Solo and Ensemble and the Honors Orchestra. In addition, she has been active in the Theater Arts Club and pottery classes.

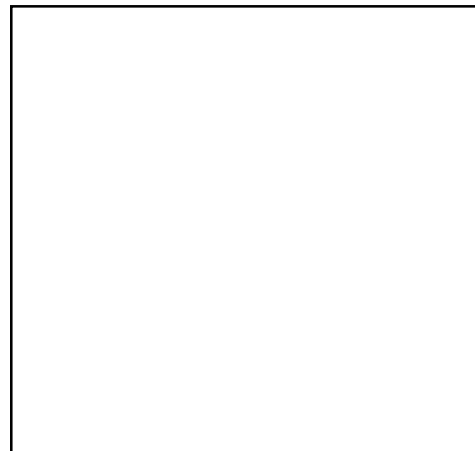
Other awards Andrea has received in high school include five Goodie Awards for her theater experience and second place in the AMC Exam, being invited to take the AIME (American Invitational Math Exam).

Andrea's future plans include a degree in Environmental Education at Western Washington University, while continuing her work with Camp Kirby during the summers.

Her ultimate goal is to be an elementary teacher because she recognizes "today's youth as tomorrow's leaders and therefore hope(s) to play a part in shaping their lives and expanding their awareness of the world around them."



**Andrea Lawson**



**Josh Richard**

## FEA Website Address: [www.ferndaleea.org](http://www.ferndaleea.org)

### Vista loses Betty Robertson to retirement

by Brita Castleberry

After 33 years at Vista Middle School, Betty Robertson is ready to travel and to support her daughters as they compete in soccer at universities in Arizona and Oregon.

Betty graduated from the University of Washington in 1966. She served as program director for the YWCA in Seattle until 1972, when she began teaching physical education at Vista.

During her stint at Vista, Betty remembers several landmark changes in physical education, sports, and coaching.

She helped to establish equal pay for all coaches and sports at the middle school level.

In addition, she remembers how Title 9 required a shift to coed physical education classes and encouraged equal after school athletics programs for girls.

Betty also helped to establish Ferndale's relationship with Bellingham's middle school sports teams.

As a coach for 15 years, Betty contributed to the lives of many student athletes. Through her efforts to make positive changes in physical education and athletics, she will continue to impact the futures of many for years to come.

### Marilyn Knauf retires after 28 years

by Lisa Cochran, Janet Wynne, and Natalie Newman

Marilyn Knauf has enriched our speech department with her vast experience that she brought with her when she arrived from Oregon.

She could have opted to enjoy her grandkids after her retirement from the Portland schools, but she is a life-long educator and learner.

She is calm, competent and kind. Marilyn's sense of color, style and whimsy has enriched our personal and professional lives.

She enjoys working with children so much that she was willing to take on the hectic scheduling, meeting mania, and tough problem solving of numerous children with a variety of communication needs.

Her professional contributions, flair for fashion, and zest for life will be missed.

A reception in Marilyn's honor will be held in the Skyline Library on Thursday, June 16, at 4 p.m.

### Memories of Mrs. Knauf

I really liked working with her because it was just a great time.

Adam, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

Mrs. Knauf came to my house when I was in preschool. She lets me tell stories in the tape recorder.

Nicole, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

I liked it when she let me be the teacher.

Torrey, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

I like going to the treasure basket. I like the Alien racing game. Speech is fun.

Justin, 1<sup>st</sup> grade

You play a lot of games, and when you get 20 stickers, you go to the treasure basket. It is fun.

Nathanael, Kindergarten

I liked playing the Face Game with Mrs. Knauf.

Amelia, 4<sup>th</sup> grade

Mrs. Knauf is very nice. She teaches me how to get in control. I am very happy we are making kites.

James, 6<sup>th</sup> grade

She is nice when she lets us play. We made puppets and a kite.

Lydia, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

Mrs. Knauf is nice. I like going to the treasure box.

Edvin, 6<sup>th</sup> grade

Mrs. Knauf is a wonderful teacher who always helps kids with their speech problems. I liked doing the reader's theater for the first graders and reading to them.

Makena, 6<sup>th</sup> grade

When I got here, I couldn't talk very good. She helped with my s's and th's so now I can say them. I like to play Go Fish and Guess Who with her.

Nicholas, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

We play games: the Fishing game, Go Fish and Snail's Race. One time Mrs. Knauf let me have 3 stamps! I like going to the treasure box.

Austin, Kindergarten

When my card is filled she lets me go to the treasure basket. We do cards for I's and we play games. Mrs. Knauf is nice.

Michael, 1<sup>st</sup> grade

We would always play computer games. When you got 20 stamps you got to go to the treasure box. Mrs. Knauf is nice and generous and cool.

Tim, 6<sup>th</sup> grade

I really liked building things with Legos. I liked playing Go Fish and Memory. I learned a lot of stuff working with Mrs. Knauf.

Avery, 2<sup>nd</sup> grade

## WEA Fourth Corner assesses members additional \$2.13

In order to hire another Field Representative, WEA Fourth Corner UniServ Council has voted to assess its members \$2.13.

For the record, the Ferndale delegation voted against the assessment, according to FEA vice-president Candy Ford.

The assessment raises next year's dues to \$12.80 per month per WEA member.

The regional level of the WEA Fourth Corner UniServ (short for Unified Service) is made up of NEA trained employees who deliver the expertise and programs available through the statewide Association to members at the local level.

These staff members help our local associations with bargaining, contract enforcement, grievances, professional growth seminars, community outreach, political action, and public relations.

The current UniServ president is Denny Cleary, who was re-elected this spring. Cleary is also a half-time middle school counselor in the Bellingham School District.

Staff members include UniServ Representatives Skip Williams (15 years), Greg Alarid (4 years), and Jim Fotter, who replaced Phil Becker in August of 2004.

In addition to UniServ Reps, Fourth Corner employs two Field Assistants: Elaine Wood (who is retiring in August after 25 years) and Jennifer Wolf (14 years).

WEA's UniServ councils are the direct link between local members and programs available at the regional, state, and national levels.

The Council has its own governance leaders, with members directly electing their local officers. Council leaders make major policy and financial decisions in conjunction with the policy directives set by

member-delegates at the annual WEA Representative Assembly.

WEA Fourth Corner is one of 22 UniServ Councils in the state of Washington and includes members

from the San Juan Islands, northern Snohomish County, and all of Skagit, Whatcom, and Island Counties.

The UniServ office is located at 1800 James Street in Bellingham.

*Put this date on your calendar now,  
so you remember it in the fall!*

# **Fall Benefits Fair**

## **September 7, 2005**

### **FHS Library**

### **1:30 - 5:30 P.M.**

*If you have any questions regarding your benefits, be there!*

***Additional sites to attend before school starts:***

***Bellingham - August 31, 2:00-6:00 p.m.***

*Kulshan Middle School*

***Blaine - August 30, 7:00 - 9:30 a.m.***

*Middle School / High School Cafeteria*

***Lynden - September 6, 2:30-5:00 p.m.***

*High School Cafeteria*

***Nooksack Valley - August 29, 3:00-5:30 p.m.***

*NVHS Performing Arts Center*

***Meridian - September 1, 3-5:30 p.m.***

*High School Cafeteria*

***Mt. Baker - September 7, 3:00-5:30 p.m.***

*High School Commons*

***Ferndale - September 7, 1:30-5:30 p.m.***

*Ferndale High School Library*

***(Specific allotment amount and plan  
information/costs will come in the mail prior to the start  
of the school year.)***

***Enrollment forms will be due on Sept. 12 at 4 p.m.***

# Carla Dixon retires from Eagleridge

by Susie Lutton

Carla Dixon has been with the Ferndale School District for 35 years. In 1970 she started at Central and continued there for eight years. She then taught for one year at Mt. View, 15 years at Skyline, and finally nine years at Eagleridge.

Carla has many memories over the years, both professional and social. She fondly remembers peanut wars, unbirthdays with unthings, and a time when she overslept, and her colleagues hung crepe paper in her classroom. Much laughter was woven into her career.

Professionally, Carla's journey in Ferndale has been great. She, along with some of her colleagues, designed the original Tennant Lake curriculum.

She taught fourth grade for many years, teaming with Bud Larson for one. She takes most pride, however, in her experience with Reading Recovery.

In 1993 she and Jan Eerkes traveled frequently to Portland, Oregon, to train as Teacher Leaders. They worked with 24 students before school to make the program work. In addition, she taught numerous courses to practicing educators, all emphasizing reading. In 2000 she won the Golden Apple Award for her commitment to helping struggling readers.

Carla's legacy in Ferndale goes way beyond Reading Recovery. She changed the way we all looked at teaching reading. She pushed us to continually evaluate how we were

teaching reading and always asked what we could change to make a bigger difference for our students. Her students over the years, both child and adult, have been very fortunate to have such an extraordinary person as part of their lives.

Thank you, Carla! Enjoy the beach!!

from the desk of

## Tracie Morris

### 2005-06 FEA President

When I think of FEA, I think of support, organization, and voice. I know when I have needed support, my president, our building representatives, our Uniserv staff, and our negotiators were right there to guide me in the right direction and to let me know that we pay dues dollars to get this kind of support.

My #1 job as president is to support our members. If we work together, we might be able to make some positive changes in the district. The purpose of the Ferndale Climate Survey that your head reps are asking you to complete is to give me, as a new president, some feedback as to what concerns are, or even if there are any concerns, around the district.

Plus, we might generate some good information for negotiation purposes. This is also one way for you to have a voice in what your membership can do for you.

It would be great if everyone could fill out a survey. If for some reason you didn't get one, please contact your head rep or feel free to call or e-mail me and I will get one to you. My home e-mail is:

**traciemorris@comcast.net.**

I look forward to serving as your president next year.

Tracie Morris

Time is running out  
for using building Special  
Projects money. Use your  
\$100 allotment by July 31.  
See your Building Reps  
for details.

*FEAtures* is published 11 times a year, August through June, to inform Association members of FEA activities, negotiated policies and district-wide points of interest. Letters, guest columns, announcements, and story ideas are welcome.

**Submission Instructions:** Send items to Donna Sargent, *FEAtures* Editor, Ferndale High School, x9359, [dsargent@ferndale.wednet.edu](mailto:dsargent@ferndale.wednet.edu) or David Fayram, *FEA Web-site* Editor, Ferndale High School, x9267, [dfayram@ferndale.wednet.edu](mailto:dfayram@ferndale.wednet.edu).

Please submit copy electronically on Microsoft Word. Deadline is the third Friday of each month.

## Bette Keller retires from Eagleridge

by Kathy Pipkin

Bette Keller is retiring after 32 years in the Ferndale School District. She graduated from WSU in 1957 and went on to teach in California, Pennsylvania, and Washington State.

Bette's career in Ferndale includes being the librarian at Custer, 1973-74; at Ferndale High School, 1974-75; at Vista, 1975-80; at Skyline, 1980-95; and at Eagleridge, 1995-2005.

Working as a librarian the past 30 years, Bette has seen many changes take place, from the infamous card catalogue to computerized records. She has accepted the many changes graciously, and with her help, our libraries have grown to be warm and welcoming places for our children.

She has encouraged us to celebrate many days such as Pig Day, Rodent Day, and Character Dress-up Day, to name just a few.

She has inspired and encouraged many students to become life-long readers. Students have come back and told her it was because of her that they decided to go into the field of education.

She is going to leave a lasting impression on staff and students as to what an "exceptional" librarian is.

Some of Bette's next adventures will include lunch dates with friends, visiting her grandchildren in Minnesota, being an adoring fan in the audience as she listens to her son lecture (Steve is a chemistry professor at the University of Minnesota), and enjoying traveling abroad.



## Mt. View will miss Judy Vose

by Cathy Cook

It has been our privilege to know and work with Judy Vose at Mountain View. She is retiring this year after many years in the Ferndale School District.

Judy taught in the district from 1973-1978 at North Bellingham Elementary. In 1985, after a hiatus to raise her children, she came to Mountain View to teach 4th and 5th grade.

In 1993 she moved to Vista to teach 7th and 8th grade math, but she returned to Mountain View in 2001 to start a math pilot program that targeted students struggling with math.

According to Judy, "Getting to set up a math pilot program and then to see it grow and succeed" has been one of the high points in her career. Also, living in the same community

where she works and getting to see her students grow up and then to teach their children has been so rewarding.

In some families she was able to teach all of their children. "It has been so gratifying to bond with those families," she said.

"Judy brings out the best in every student because she truly cares about the "whole child" rather than just their academic growth.

"Her expectations are high and she masterfully modifies for diverse learners," says colleague Mary Wilder. "The students absolutely adore Judy, and it is obvious that she sincerely loves them."

Principal Georgia Dellinger says, "It was my greatest honor to invite her back to start the math pilot program. Mrs. Vose is obviously a

### It's YOUR Government Make Contact!

#### US Senator Patty Murray

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competent professional in every way. It's great to see her finishing at the top of her game."

Former student Sara Howell said, "Even though math was never my best subject, math class with Mrs. Vose was my favorite part of the day. She always made me feel comfortable in her class, and gave me the self-confidence I have today. She was a savior to me in 7th grade, and still continues to be today."

Judy was the first person to be awarded the Golden Apple Award from the Ferndale *Record Journal* in 1989.

Thank you, Judy, for your commitment and dedication to teaching.

You will be missed indeed.

## First grade at Central Elementary hit hard by retirement

by Denise Smith

Central Elementary School has two teachers retiring this year, and we will miss both of them greatly.

Bridget Brown and Linda Pettett are both first grade teachers who have provided hundreds of children with a solid educational foundation. The combined moves will create a big hole in the first grade program at Central Elementary.

Linda Pettett, a native of Port Angeles, has taught all 28 years of her career in the Ferndale School District. She started at North Bellingham, then moved to Central in 1990.

Her assignments during that

time period included mainly special ed and first grade. One of her first grade students was Jeff Demorest, who currently teaches math and interns as principal at the high school.

When Linda leaves her education career behind, she plans to do a lot of reading and gardening. In addition, she wants to spend time caring for her animals (a horse, a dog, and a cat) and traveling to parts yet unknown.

Bridget Brown has spent 33 years of her life as an educator, 30 years in Washington State and three in Hawaii. Central has been fortunate to claim 18 of those years.

Bridget has taught every age level but kindergarten, including high school art, junior high special ed, and all elementary grades except kindergarten.

A move to Green Valley, Arizona, is in Bridget's immediate retirement plans.

Linda and Bridget were honored at a reception in the library at Central Elementary School on June 15, from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

## Funny things adults say on resumes . . .

*The following quotations were taken from actual resumes and cover letters from all over the country.*

- \* "I am very detail-oriented."
- \* "I have a bachelorette degree in computers."
- \* "Graduated in the top 66% of my class."
- \* "I worked as a Corporate Lesion."
- \* "Married, eight children. Prefer frequent travel."
- \* "Special skills: Thytyping."
- \* "I have exhaustive experience in manufacturing."
- \* "I have used lots of software applications."
- \* "Objection: To utilize my skills in sales."
- \* "Reason for leaving last job: Pushed aside so the vice president's girlfriend could steal my job."



- \* "Reason for leaving last job: Bounty hunting was outlawed in my state."
- \* "I am quick at typing, about 25 words per minute."
- \* "I am a rabid typist."
- \*\*"Strengths: Ability to meet deadlines while maintaining composure."
- \* "Education: B.A. in Loberal Arts."
- \* "Work Experience: Dealing with customers' conflicts that arouse."
- \* "Education: College, August 1880 - May 1984."
- \* "Experience with: LBM-compatible computers."
- \* "Fortunately because of stress, worked in the cardiac intensive-care ward."
- \* "Typing Speed: 756 wpm."
- \* "Objectives: 10-year goal: Total obliteration of sales and federal income taxes and tax laws."

## Possible Premium Support in 2005-06

by Cheryl Frazier

The Ferndale School District Benefits Advisory Committee is working on a plan to help cover medical premiums for employees who waive benefits in the fall and have a qualifying event during the year.

While the details have not been completely worked out, it appears to be an excellent proposal that will maintain the integrity of the pool and provide a vehicle for funding medical premiums for members who later need coverage due to a qualifying event.

Qualifying events are changes that affect an employee's coverage, i.e. divorce, death of a spouse, birth of a child, etc., and are specified by federal law.

## Pooling Unused Benefit Allotment Dollars

Washington State pooling law requires that any unused benefit allotment dollars go into a "pool" to help decrease out of pocket premium costs for state employees.

Pooled dollars are calculated and distributed equitably to those employees who have payroll deductions for basic benefits.