



# SONOJI SAKAI INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL COHO CONNECTION



Sonoji Sakai Intermediate School  
9343 Sportsman Club Road  
Bainbridge Is., WA 98110

September 27, 2007

Office: 780-6500  
Attendance: 780-6600  
Transportation: 842-4641  
[www.bainbridge.wednet.edu/sakai](http://www.bainbridge.wednet.edu/sakai)

### Message from the Principal

Thanks to all of you who were able to attend our Parent Information Nights this month. We know it is a busy time of year, especially with parent nights at every school.

We look forward to our next opportunity for you and your child to meet with teachers at parent/student conferences on October 3-5. These will be "no school" days for our students. Conferences scheduling letters have been sent home with students. Please contact your child's teacher if a conference has not yet been scheduled.

September 19 was our school district's first of eight early dismissal dates. Our staff uses early dismissal time for professional development. We highly value our time to collaborate and learn together and know that the results are of great benefit to our teaching and to student learning. We thank you for your support. Our next early dismissal date is November 7.

Many, many thanks to Sakai PTO, and especially to Lani Chaffee and Sherry Larsen-Holmes for another outstanding Math-a-thon fundraiser.

### Parent Pick Up Procedures

If you are planning to pick up your child after school, you do not need to send a note. Please instruct your child to meet you at the flagpole after dismissal.

If you wish to pick up your child during the school day, please come to the office, sign out your child and the secretary will call your child to the office.

If someone else is picking up your child and they are not on your child's authorized list, a note from you is required. Thank you.

### Student Messages

We make every effort to keep classroom interruptions to a minimum. You can help by reminding your child of any alternative after school plans prior to coming to school. If it does become necessary for a message to be delivered to your child, we deliver messages at the end of the school day. Please do not leave messages on voice mail as we may not be able to retrieve it in time.

## Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences

October 3, 4, 5  
NO SCHOOL

## School Pictures

October 17

Picture packets will be sent  
home October 10

### Parent Communication

This is the last hard copy of the Coho Connection being distributed to all students. Starting with the next edition, it will be posted on our webpage for you to read. If you don't have access to a computer and would like a hard copy sent home with your student, please contact the office. Our webpage address is: [www.bainbridge.wednet.edu/sakai](http://www.bainbridge.wednet.edu/sakai)

The district webpage provides a site where you can subscribe to a listserve which will notify you by email when the newest edition of the Coho Connection has been posted. If you are interested in getting this reminder email, and other emails announcing upcoming events, please subscribe to the listserve. The district address is: [www.bainbridge.wednet.edu](http://www.bainbridge.wednet.edu). The listserve subscription site can be found under the "for parents" heading.

## LAST CHANCE TO ORDER A SAKAI SWEATSHIRT



### Sweatshirt Orders

Please return your order form and check, payable to Sakai PTO, to school by Monday, October 1. Shirts should arrive at school around the middle of October.

### Calendar of Events:

- Sept. 28: PTO meeting 9:30 a.m.
- Oct. 3, 4, 5, NO SCHOOL Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences
- Oct. 11: Math-a-thon Awards Assembly
- Oct. 11: School Board 5:30 at Sakai
- Oct. 12: Non Contract Day - NO SCHOOL
- Oct. 17: School Pictures

### Informational Websites

Bainbridge Island School District: [www.bainbridge.wednet.edu](http://www.bainbridge.wednet.edu)

Community News: [www.bainbridge.wednet.edu/comminfo](http://www.bainbridge.wednet.edu/comminfo)

## Big PTO News!

We are very appreciative of all the parents who have been turning in their volunteer forms and offering their assistance. Laura has been organizing committees and giving your names to the chairs of the committees with immediate needs. Speaking of immediate needs, we could use some food preparation help with the Staff Appreciation Luncheon on Wednesday, October 3rd. (Yes, that's next Wednesday!) If you are willing to make a salad or a sandwich entrée or a soup, please call Connie Feikes at 780-3830 as soon as possible. She is working hard to put together a luncheon worthy of our wonderful Sakai staff. Thank you to Connie and all those who have volunteered to help out.

Thanks to all those who have signed up to help in the library and game room. There are still a few opportunities available. We have a great photo shoot committee in place for October 17th, under the direction of Ruth Lipschutz. And our Art Docents are gearing up for a great year with their first meeting taking place on October 17th. Dawn Morgan, Jill Queen and Maureen Daniels are the ones taking the lead with the Art Docents.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to Cindy Shea, last year's volunteer coordinator for the unbelievably good road map she left for us to follow. We are using her outline and format and finding that everything is going smoothly. Cindy, you're awesome!

Mark your calendars now for Wednesday, May 7th from 6-8 PM for our McTakeover of the Bainbridge Island McDonald's.

If you still want to volunteer for something, just let us know. You can fill out a volunteer form or call Judi (206-842-4370) or email her at judinlee@msn.com

Thank you to all! You help make Sakai the incredible school that it is!

Judi Leader and Laura O'Mara  
PTO Volunteer Coordinators

## Strengthening Families

Bainbridge Youth Services is offering another seven week Strengthening Families program starting on Tuesday, October 9th meeting weekly through Nov. 20th. This is a wonderful program which meets from 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. It is geared to families with 10-14 year olds. Parents and kids have dinner together, then the class splits into parent groups and student groups and they come together for a combined group at the end. Goals are to improve communication between parent and child, have discussions on substance use, understand parental and student stress/frustrations and tools for pre-teen and teen years. The cost is \$100.00. If you are interested, registration forms are available in the Sakai office or by calling Mary Jackson, Sakai Counselor at 780-6506.

## CONGRATULATIONS!

### Sakai Spirit

This month the following students were honored for outstanding spirit:

Bailey Starbuck	Trent Loughnane
Emma Pazoff	Kylie Van Aken
Marshall Moriarty	

These students invited a guest to attend a pizza party with Ms. Reynvaan, our Associate Principal. Thank you to Marti Grant at That's a Some Pizza and Westside Pizza for providing free pizza for our student incentive program. The nominations are made in reference to Sakai's Four R's: Responsible, Respectful, Reasonable, Reliable.

## Sakai Site Council Report

Sakai Site Council met on Tuesday, Sept. 25. Our Site Council provides building-level leadership in the achievement of the mission and goals of the district, as outlined in the School Improvement Plan. The Site Council is a partner with the school board and district administration in fulfilling the district's mission: to help students learn successfully. Our 2007-2008 president is Sakai parent Jeanne Bastiani. Other Site Council members are: Mendy Droke, Kymberly Myrick (parent reps.) Susanne Jonson (PTO Liaison), Kasey Jeffers (gr. 6), Roz Kephart (gr. 5), Laurie Melear (specialist/special ed.), Peg Chapman (classified), Jo Vander Stoep & Melinda Reynvaan (principals).

Regular meeting dates of Site Council will be at 2:30 on Oct. 23, Nov. 27, Jan. 22, March 4, April 22, May 27, and June 10. On March 4, our Site Council will meet with Woodward's Site Council at 3:15 p.m. Visitors are welcome at any of these meetings.

Sakai's Associate Principal, Melinda Reynvaan, will lead a committee of our Site Council to study and make recommendations in regard to our school climate. Please call Ms. Reynvaan at 780-6502 for more information.

# **FACTS about the “Simple Majority” Amendment**

## **Quick Facts:**

The November 2007 ballot will include a “Simple Majority” measure, a proposed amendment to the Washington State constitution.

This is also known as EHJR 4204. Approval of this amendment would allow a simple majority of voters (50% + 1) to authorize excess capital, maintenance and operation and transportation levies for school districts. Currently, schools must have a 60% voter approval for levy requests.

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **What does the Simple Majority Amendment do?**

The “Simple Majority” measure (EHJR 4204) is a proposed amendment to the Washington State Constitution that allows a simple majority of voters (50% + 1) to authorize excess capital, maintenance and operation, and transportation levies for school districts. The amendment also removes the 40% election validation requirement for levy elections.

### **Will this proposed amendment also change school bond elections to a simple majority vote?**

No. It applies only to school levies.

### **Why was the supermajority requirement imposed on school districts?**

The supermajority (60%) requirement was voted into the State Constitution 63 years ago after the Great Depression and during World War II. At that time, over 2000 school districts existed in Washington State. The supermajority requirement was proposed to address voter concerns and confusion about school funding elections. Today, there are only 295 school districts, and school districts are required to provide the community with specific information about levy requests.

Currently, school levies must receive both a 60% supermajority approval and the 40% validation requirement.

### **How can the supermajority requirement be changed?**

A constitutional amendment is required to change the supermajority requirement. Two-thirds of the House and two-thirds of the Senate must pass a joint resolution putting a constitutional amendment on the ballot. Then, a simple majority of voters must approve the measure at the ballot box. The Washington State Legislature passed EHJR 4204 on April 12, 2007.

### **Why doesn't EHJR 4204 include a voter validation requirement?**

Because of the increased number of people voting in every election (directly related to all but three Washington State counties currently voting by mail), the validation for school levies has been exceeded in every school election over the past five years.

### **Is this a tax increase?**

No. It is not a tax increase; it is a proposed constitutional amendment.

# October

<b>Monday</b>	<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Friday</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> \  <b>Parent/Student/Teacher Conferences</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>8</b> 9:40 Bus Evac. Drill 2:15 After School Activities Begin	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 1:25 Math-a-Thon Awards Assembly 5:30 School Board Mtg. at Sakai	<b>12</b> <b>NON-CONTRACT DAY</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>
<b>15</b> Progress Reports Today	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> School Pictures 8:00-11:00 a.m	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Sakai Spirit Pizza
<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 1:00 Earthquake Drill 7:00 p.m. Gr. 5-12 HIV/ AIDS Curriculum Preview	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 5:30 School Board mtg at Sakai	<b>26</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>		

## **PTO Fundraising Opportunity**

Do you shop at Safeway and use a Safeway Club Card? If you do you can earn money for Sakai with no risk to you, and you do nothing more than continue your normal shopping routine. Go online at [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com), click on the "Sign Up-It's Free" and follow the instructions to register your Safeway Club Card. Our school is listed as Sakai Intermediate School PTO. Our escrip Group ID is 8566374. After that, you never have to worry about it again. Every month escrip automatically deposits into Sakai's PTO account a fixed percentage of your monthly grocery bill. The best part is any one with a Safeway card can sign up. Neighbors, friends, even grandparents who live out of state can sign up and designate Sakai. The money comes to our school year round and your PTO greatly appreciates your contributions. Sign up today!