

The Bluebill *Flyer*



April 2017

OLYMPIC PENINSULA BLUEBILLS NEWS

Chairman's Report



As many of you know by now, Valeria Vogt is in Seattle for treatment of very severe back issues and Myron is staying in Seattle to support Valeria's recovery. Jim Mueller has volunteered to put out the Flyer and David Goudie will handle much of computer needs we have. Thank you all so much for stepping up to fill the huge gaps from Myron and Valeria's absence! We all wish Valeria a swift recovery!

The Bluebills have been very busy the first three 3 months of 2017! You can read Karen Griffith's article on what has been going on in the 1st Grade classrooms at Chimacum. Jay Gilmour introduced the Museum of Flight STEM outreach to the Chimacum School District resulting in two days of STEM programs scheduled at the high school in May. He has written an article about this new Bluebill program. Jo and Dan Nieuwsma are coordinating the STEM Program with schools across the Peninsula. It is nice to have an infusion of new volunteers to support our expanding programs in addition to the many dedicated current Bluebills volunteers.

Barbara Berthiaume, Co-chair

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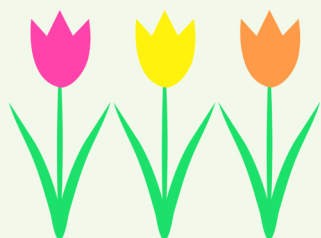
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April 5, 4:30-6:30 pm

Bluebills Spring Social

at The Beach Club

Please RSVP ASAP to bluebillsrsvp@aol.com

APPEAL for BLUEBILL EXPERTISE

Bluebills of the Olympic Chapter :

In connection with 2017 Initiative your Olympic Chapter Bluebill Leadership Group determined that it should explore the support opportunities for facilitating STEM (**Science-Technology-Engineering-Math**) education in Peninsula schools. Bluebill Jo Nieuwsma (News-ma), a retired Boeing Satellite Support engineer, and Husband Dan, a retired Raytheon laser physicist as Bluebill Program Managers.

The UW School of Engineering can only take 1/3 of 2,000 applicants due to lack of current resources. “The popularity of engineering isn’t a fad. It’s our future”, says Dean Michael Bragg.

The Boeing Company, along with most other Northwest companies, are facing a severe shortfall in qualified “technology-comfortable” staff with which to compete in an increasingly technical global economy. The Company has declared, via Ray Turner, Vice-Chairman, “STEM is important to our future”. To address this need, in 2015, the Company and Mrs. Bill Boeing, Jr. provided a \$30 million dollar endowment to establish a **Boeing Academy of STEM Learning** at the Museum of Flight in Seattle.

This Endowment has enabled the MoF to allow their professional staff to create dozens of portable Learning Modules relating to science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) for student exposure and engagement from Pre-K through 12th grade. They have created over a dozen modules that can travel to outreach sites covering areas like rocketry, astronomy, and robotics. Contact with the MoF revealed not only the breadth and depth of their outreach programs, but also their enthusiastic reception to working with Bluebills to evaluate the STEM requirements of the Peninsula. The Museum’s ability to provide on-school-site presentations means that a teacher’s lesson plan for covering STEM type subjects can incorporate, at the appropriate stage, a “hands-on” experience. Schools and districts are thus able to request a portable planetarium in which first-graders can ask “Why does the sun move?” Seventh graders might I ask, “How can a two ton airplane fly?” And the 12th graders will already know where they must create and file their Flight Plans - because the programs grow to the level of, ultimately, teaching a student to fly light aircraft.

Current Status

From January, Bluebills have connected the very welcoming Chimacum and Quilcene school districts with the Museum staff. The intent is to bring a pilot series of learning programs to those districts for the student educational value, and, in addition, to permit the Jo and Dan to observe and refine the procedural steps for districts and teachers to submit MoF requests. At this point, it appears that seven units will be requested, with the first five tentatively scheduled for May 9th and 10th with the Chimacum district.

What this Means to Bluebills

As can be imagined, this STEM activity on the Peninsula provides interested Bluebills with a wide range of participation options due to the variety of fun action points. Examples reading science adventure books to early grades, assisting teachers with robot kits in middle grades, accompanying higher grades on field trips to MoF, adopting a classroom for teacher support, tutoring an aspiring student who's struggling, assisting Jo and Dan in contacting schools and teachers, sharing a technical experience of yours with a class, and on, etc.

The Membership Survey

At the **April 5th Bluebill Social at the Beach Club**, Kathy Roden and Laura Paul will distribute an important Membership Survey. It will provide Bluebills an opportunity to indicate a preferred STEM area and your level of interest in participating. Jo's phone number is 424-333-5413, Port Townsend & email rocketmama@verizon.net.

JG 3/26/17

[For more information on the Museum of Flight's STEM Education Academy,](#)

[Click here](#)



With a Little Help From my Friends....

By **Karen Griffith**, Boeing Bluebill

We all know the jokes about asking our grandchildren to help us with our smart phones or iPads. And we all chuckle a little when we hear the jokes because we realize that there is great truth in them. Our grandchildren have been using digital technology since their baby hands could hold Mom's cell phone. Although we may have a pang or two occasionally about our grandchildren being glued to screens instead of interacting with their peers, we breathe just a little bit easier knowing that they have a leg up in the ever-pervasive digital world as they grow up.

But what about kids who don't have any access to such tools? Maybe a television at home is the extent of their electronic world. What happens when they are faced with taking state-mandated, computer-based tests? Our school district's technology budget does not extend to classroom computers. In the comfort of our own homes and that of our grown children's, we hardly ever give issues like this a thought. But the Boeing Bluebills did and we acted to do something about it.

The Bluebills Board has long thought about a way to get involved in the education of our local children, but it was only recently that we found the perfect venue. A decision was made to adopt the 1st grade at Chimacum Primary School. Barbara Berthiaume and Judy McKay met with the four 1st grade school teachers, Ms. Proctor, Ms. Mosher, M. Johnson and Ms. Hallanger. They were asked how we could support them, not knowing what their specific needs might be.



(L to R) Ms. Proctor, Ms. Mosher, Ms. Johnson and Ms. Hallanger

"First, we need classroom volunteers," Ms. Proctor said. Secondly, the teachers told us, "We need help with technology." Judy McKay immediately jumped on the need for the volunteers. She recruited three other people besides herself to volunteer: Rose Yim, Bob Reasoner and Susan Abrahamson, all retired educators. They came weekly to work with the students one-on-one listening to them read and helping them with their math skills.

Barbara Berthiaume said she'd tackle the technology aspect. What the 1st graders needed were 10 HP Chromebooks in each classroom (40 in all) equipped with small, Panasonic on-ear stereo child-size headsets and 3-button wired optical mice. Each set would cost \$200.

The teachers put their request on DonorChoose.org, a sort of crowd-funding website. It was approved for solicitation. Then Barbara forwarded their request to the Bluebills membership, asking us to participate as well as forward the request to anyone we knew who wanted to support public education. Within only 2 weeks the \$8,000 request was fulfilled. DonorChoose matched donations up to \$50, and google.com matched any amount. Talk about leverage!!!

You can imagine the excitement that was building as the 1st graders awaited the arrival of their Chromebooks. On February 4th, the teachers received word that everything was en route to the school. This is what a child from another school looked like when he opened a box of supplies for his school.



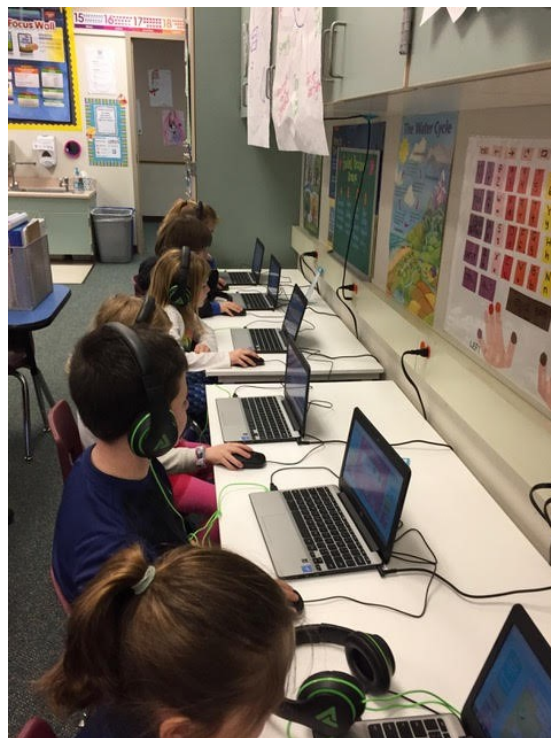
In early March the Chromebooks arrived at the Chimacum School. The students were “so excited about the new Chromebooks, mice and headphones.” They use the computers daily for math and language arts using such program as Raz Kids, Accelerated Reader for Reading, Abitalk for Phonics and Phonic Awareness, and Spelling City. During reading rotations, “students are able to spend 10-15 minutes practicing their keyboard skills, or interacting with their sight word and spelling,” says Mrs. Hallanger.

Ms. Proctor told us “we are really enjoying our new Chromebooks. We now have a dedicated technology corner where we can all sit and work together on our learning.”



She went on to explain that the kids are learning how to type with a beginners Typing Program. By the third grade, all students are expected to know how to type so they are able to take those state-mandated assessments on computers. This practice will allow the children to do that with confidence.

Ms. Proctor said many of the students are independent learners and working on the computer is one way they can excel. The game-like programs enable the at-risk students to learn in a more engaging manner, while programs like Accelerated Reader are enabling high-functioning readers to learn at their own, quicker pace.



“Before we had our own Chromebooks,” Ms. Proctor said, “computers were a huge (literally) scary thing that many students were afraid of. One student in particular was so afraid of them that she would make herself sick whenever she was asked to use one.” Now she is comfortable with the small size of the Chromebook, headphones and mouse. “She is excited about using them and has even taken an assessment on one without fear or illness.”



The four 1st grade teachers want to thank all of the Boeing Bluebill and friends of the Bluebills for funding this project. “We are now able to have working, child-size technology in our classroom to help students with language arts, mathematics, science and writing. We are so excited to receive our computers! We love and appreciate each of you for your generosity.”

The Boeing Bluebills can once again look with pride at a project we took on and succeeded at again!

*Thank
You*

CERTIFICATE *of* APPRECIATION

THIS ACKNOWLEDGES THAT

The Boeing Bluebills

HAS GENEROUSLY CONTRIBUTED

**TIME AND RESOURCES TO
CHIMACUM SCHOOL DISTRICT**



JANUARY 25
2017

x

R Thompson

SIGNED, *Rick Thompson*, Superintendent

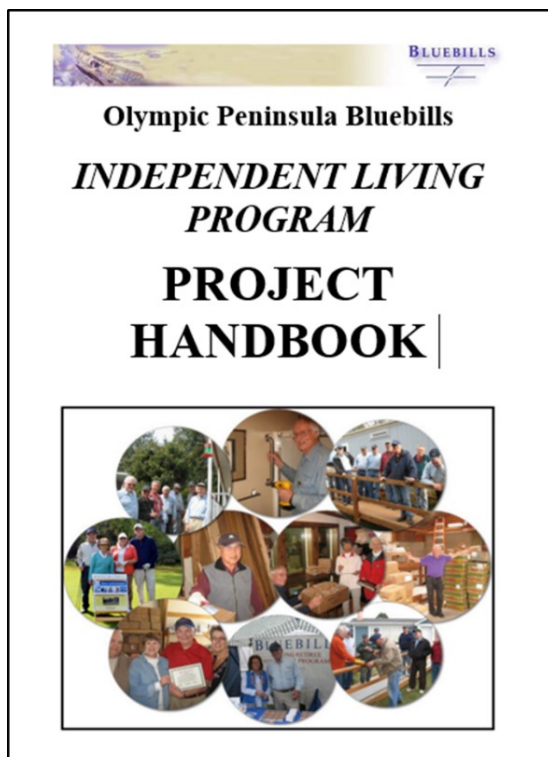


Updated Builders Handbook

Boeing old-timer engineers have fond memories of the time spent hunched over the drafting table, churning out those drawings that were as much a piece of art as they were engineering. Documents were generated using an electric typewriter, and correspondence was by way of written memos and interoffice mail – forcing one to “think” before responding. Numerical calculations were swiftly churned out using a slide rule, which some kept holstered at their side so that it was available at all times.

When Myron asked if I would accept the job of updating our Bluebills Independent Living Program Project Handbook, I said yes, assuming it was an electronic document that just needed editing. What I received was a hardcopy “work of art,” that was well written, well thought out, hand-drawn and typewritten. Fortunately there exists an option on my scanner called “save as editable text.” Although most of the formatting was lost, and some of it came out garbled, it beat typing it all in new. Even more fortunately, David Grellier, a retired (still working 1 day a week) Bluebill architect volunteered to re-do the graphics electronically.

We released the Olympic Peninsula Bluebills updated and all-electronic “Independent Living Program Project Handbook,” on March 10. But sometimes it feels better to have a hardcopy in your hands, so Boeing has agreed to print up 100 color copies of it. We’re planning to hand them out to all the builders, plus use them in training and recruiting sessions to be held in May.



OLYMPIC PENINSULA BLUEBILLS
INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM – PROJECT HANDBOOK

Project Handbook Contents
Rev 3/10/2017

Part 1 – Managing the Program

- Independent Living Program
- Suitable Projects/Work Scope
- Project Evaluation
- Processing Project Requests
- Agency Partnerships
- Funding
- Insurance Coverage
- Reporting/Communications

Part 2 – Common Projects

- Ramp Design and Construction
 - Ramp Features
 - Site Survey
 - Material List
 - Ramp Layouts
 - Site-Built Ramp Construction Plans
 - Modular Ramp Construction Plans
- Level Changes at Doorways and Sills
- Exterior Stairs and Guardrails
- Stair Handrails
- Grab Bars and Transfer Poles
- Chair and Sofa Risers

Bluebills is a Boeing supported group of Boeing retirees, their spouses, and other volunteers in Western Washington. The Olympic Peninsula Chapter serves Jefferson, Clallam and Kitsap Counties with a number of programs, including Independent Living. <http://bluebills.org/olympic.html>

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CALENDAR FOR APRIL



Tuesday, April 4th ~ Pick for Kitsap Co. Be at warehouse at 9:00.

Wednesday, April 5 ~ Spring Social Beach Club 4:30 – 6:30 pm.

Thursday, April 6th ~ Leadership Team Meeting - Bay Club 3-4pm.

Friday, April 7h ~ Deliver World Vision goods to Jefferson Co. Meet at warehouse at 9:00am.

Tuesday, April 11th ~ Pick up goods at World Vision for Kitsap Co. Be at Fife at 9:00am.

Tuesday, April 11th ~ Central Leadership Council meeting in Seattle 10:00 - 11:00am.

April

May 2015

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5 <small>Easter Sunday</small>	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 <small>Thomas Jefferson's Birthday</small>	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	1	2

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Tim Kelly

April 3rd

Kathleen Roden

April 8th

Dale Glidewell

April 11th

Clint Webb

April 14th

Bob Reasoner

April 16th

Alana Morriss

April 17th

Anita Knapp

April 21st

Audrey Witsoe

April 24th

Nora Alwarth

April 29th



Have You Reported



Your Volunteer Hours??

REMEMBER: YOU CAN REPORT ANY VOLUNTEER HOURS! NOT JUST THE HOURS YOU WORK FOR BLUEBILLS. CHURCH, SCHOOL, COMMUNITY~ ALL THESE HOURS COUNT TOO!

DID YOU KNOW?

BOEING SETS OUR BUDGET BASED ON OUR REPORTED VOLUNTEER HOURS!

Volunteer hours for February, 2017

**58 Bluebills reported 1118 hours.
That is 31.52% of Bluebills reporting.**

OFFICERS & PROGRAM CHAIRS

CHAIR ~ Barbara Berthiaume

barbara.berthiaume@gmail.com

CO-CHAIR ~ Clint Webb

cwebb91275@aol.com

VICE CHAIR ~ Myron Vogt

vogt@cablespeed.com

SECOND VICE CHAIR ~ Bob Keever

stableguy@hotmail.com

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Kitsap Co.	Bob Keever	stableguy@hotmail.com

World Vision Essential Supplies– Myron Vogt

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Jefferson Co. Coordinator	Erica Mayfield	emayfield@q.com
Hood Canal Coordinator	Bonnie Douglass	lbdouglass@wildblue.net

School Week-end Feeding Program

Chimacum School	Barbara Berthiaume	barbara.berthiaume@gmail.com
Quilcene & Brinnon	Bonnie Douglass	bdouglass@wildblue.com
Sequim Schools	Charile Johnson	acer6@hotmail.com

Electrical and Electronic Recycling

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Sequim	Charlie Johnson	racer6@hotmail.com

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Kitsap Co.	Bob Keever	stableguy@hotmail.com

Dove House Tournament

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Myron Vogt	vogt@cablespeed.com

Jefferson Co. Homeless / Dove House Support

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Kathy Roden	kroden0408@aol.com