

The QRanger

Quilcene Student-Produced Newsletter

Winter Quarter Edition

2023-24

Celebrating Enrichment Programs at Quilcene Schools

Dear Quilcene School District Parents, Staff and Community,

Welcome to our latest edition of the Quilcene School District newsletter: *The QRanger!* As we journey through the academic year, we're thrilled to share with you the incredible enrichment activities that have been taking place beyond the classroom walls. These experiences not only enhance our students' growth but also foster a holistic approach to enriching their lives in diverse and meaningful ways. This newsletter edition showcases ways our students experience learning through these enrichment activities.

Did you know...

For the past 30 years many of Quilcene's enrichment programs have been funded by our Replacement Educational Programs and Operations levies. What is an Educational Program and Operations Levy? A Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy (EP&O) is a local property tax passed by the voters of a school district that generates revenue to fund enrichment activities, programs and services that the state does not pay for as part of basic education.

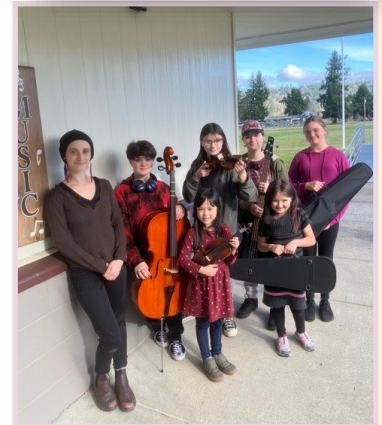
Our EP&O Replacement Levy for 2025-2028 at a \$1.35 per \$1000 assessed value:

Year 2025 = \$904, 537 Year 2026* = \$949,764
 Year 2027* = \$997,253 Year 2028* = \$1,047,115

4 Year Total is \$3,898,670 * Rate assumes a 5% increase in property valuation.

The current 2024 EP&O Levy rate is \$1.04 per \$1,000 of assessed property value – due to expire on December 31st, 2024.

The proposed Replacement EP&O levy rate is \$1.35 per \$1,000 of assessed property value (a \$.31 cent increase from the current 2024 EP&O Levy rate.)



Tax Examples for 2025

Assessed Value (AV) of your property	\$200,000	\$300,000	\$400,000
Estimated Levy Tax for the year is an increase of \$.31/\$1000 AV	\$62.00	\$93.00	\$124.00

If your home is assessed at \$200,000, your increase would be: \$200,000 divided by \$1,000 = \$200. Then multiply \$200 by \$.31 = \$62

Did You Know?

By having a **Replacement EP&O Levy**, our district gains access to State Forest Funds and Local Effort Assistance. In 2023 these two funds brought in an additional \$700,000.

Board of Directors

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HS and MS Sports:

Fall Sports: football, volleyball, cheer

Winter Sports: Our winter sports program provided (53) student athletes a chance to participate in MS Girls, MS Boys, HS Girls, and HS Boys basketball. Winter Cheer provided (10) of our student athletes a chance to participate.

Spring Sports: baseball, softball

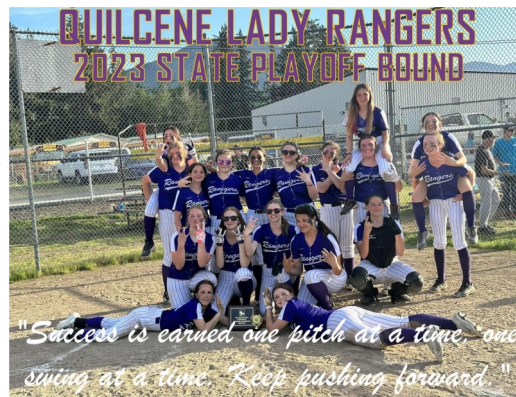
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Is there a tax break for senior citizens?

Yes! Washington State law provides two tax benefit programs for senior citizens and individuals who are disabled: property tax exemptions and property tax deferrals. For more information on qualifications, please contact the Jefferson County Assessor's office or their website at:

www.co.jefferson.wa.us/151/Assessor

(Go to back page for more info.)



Why Athletics?

By Mark Thompson, QSD Athletic Director and Coach

A question sometimes asked is why do athletic programs exist within schools in the United States? Most places in the world separate academics from extra-curricular activities, so why don't we? As it turns out, studies show the United States has it right. Connecting athletics to the academic curriculum makes them an extension of the classroom, giving young people an avenue to learn valuable life lessons. These same studies show students who participate in athletics perform better in the classroom, have better mental health, and enjoy more success after they leave high school. It's a "slam dunk" to say the importance of athletics in education cannot be overstated.

The valuable lessons student athletes learn from their participation in sports include teamwork, sacrifice, commitment, and self-discipline. Athletics builds character while also teaching the value of good sportsmanship. Most importantly, athletics help young people build positive relationships. High school athletes work together daily in strenuous practices preparing for stressful situations in search of a successful result. In this pressured environment, students build relationships and learn to care for each other. This is what students remember most from their high school years, the relationships and celebrations they share with their teammates.

Athletics at a small school like Quilcene can be for everyone regardless of ability. You just have to show up, have a good attitude, commit to your teammates, want to work hard, and you are then part of the family; no one gets cut. Being on the team is a great choice for all students.



Preschool and K-2 Happenings! —Contributed by Elementary Staff



The Kindergarten and First/Second grade class attended the play *Luchadora* at Seattle Children's Theatre. We all had a great time. K-2 is planning their next field trip coming up in April and an art project using Dancing Brush art studio in Kitsap County. Kindergarten and Preschool took our annual walk to the Big Quil River to release the Coho Salmon that we raised in the Elementary Hall. K-2 are participating in the Recycle school project organized by Kit



Kittredge. Many K-2 students are active in the after school programs including Performing Arts, Dance, and Outdoor club. Several K-2 students participated in the Intersession Learning during Mid-Winter break, and many will be attending the Spring Break Intersession as well as the Summer Intersession. First and Second graders are enjoying their extra music lessons on the piano, drums, and guitar. Everyone is looking forward to the Spring Concert! In our garden, Preschool - 2nd grade have been preparing the soil for spring by planting sweet peas, bulbs, and by spreading mulch. Everyone is so excited to see the plants, vegetables, and fruits bloom and sprout!



After School Clubs:

We have (76) students consistently participating in the following clubs: Drama Club, Garden Club, Wilderness Adventure Club, and Game Club.

"Game Club is a treat to run. Justin Lake and I run Dungeons and Dragons and play Magic the Gathering as well as other board games. I thoroughly enjoy this club because we get to offer extracurricular activities other than sports which allows us to better serve the students in our community who don't participate in every sports season. (Baseball/Fastpitch, Basketball, Football, Volleyball). Games like Dungeons and Dragons and Magic the Gathering teach critical thinking and problem solving as well as a wide array of other social skills, all the while masking itself as a simple and fun to play dice-rolling game."

- Paul Huwyler, Advisor

Wilderness Adventure Club has been a favorite of students for many years. Lead instructor, Justin Lake, brings his skill as an outdoor educator, tracker, and survivalist to youth groups from grades 3-5 and 6-8. Our two groups hike to locations around Quilcene and have their Base Camp by the Big Quilcene River. Activities include games and lessons that teach natural history and outdoor leadership through experiential learning. Students learn how to survive and thrive in winter conditions and make a "one match fire" with dry materials gathered in the forest. Students also manage trail cameras and collect data for the middle school science class. Many community partnerships make this possible, including healthy snacks provided by the Quilcene Food Bank. Our youth benefit greatly from the truly unique experience offered by Wilderness Adventure Club.



Garden Program:

Our garden program is one way we immerse our (65) PreK-5 th grade students in a hands-on science experience on a weekly basis. Students learn basic plant science and help grow and maintain the on site organic garden.



“The Quilcene School Garden Program has been in full swing this Spring: Preschool through Fifth Grade students have been planting seeds, spreading compost and picking daffodils, as well as making fun springtime crafts. In the garden’s thirteenth year, we are so grateful to be learning and growing in this special place!” -Farmer Carrie (Walker)

“Culinary Arts Club gives students a chance to develop basic cooking and baking skills, explore food culture, and have a hands-on opportunity to gain experience in catering and food service.”

— Camille Hildebrandt, Advisor



“Congratulations to this year’s Mathletes! James Scanlon took 1st and Anna Munn took 3rd in the individual topical competition, and Drake Johnson was awarded Distinguished Junior.” —Jim Weller, Coach



Knowledge Bowl Finale

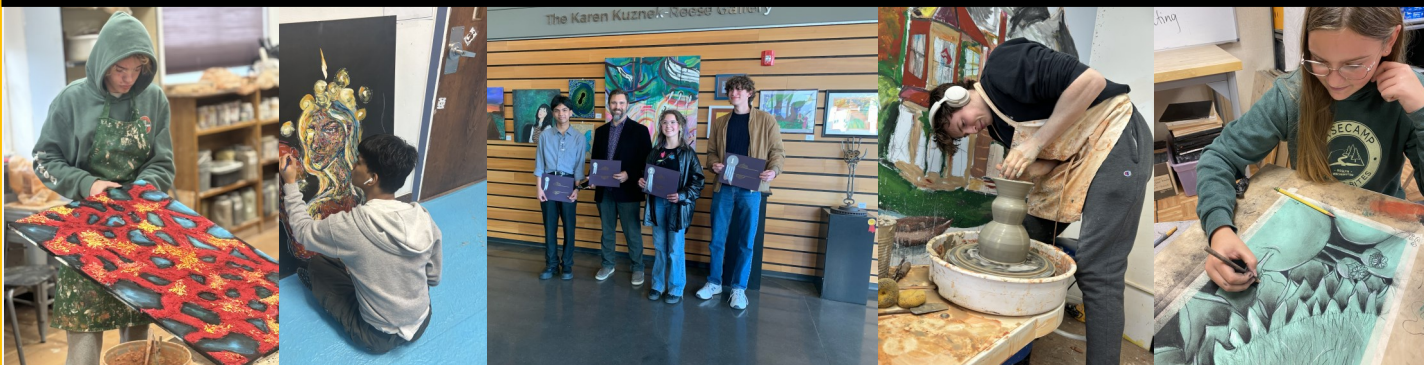
By Trey Beathard, Advisor and Coach

The Quilcene Knowledge Bowl teams completed their season with a great showing at the final meet of the 2023-2024 school year! The team made up of Drake Johnson, Eli Fox and Eli Iverson outscored two teams from Port Townsend, two teams from Klahowya, one team from Sequim, and one team from Evergreen Lutheran.

The team made up of August Jaber, James Scanlon, and Mason Iverson showed their strength in a 7-7 tie against a strong Sequim team and a 7-2 victory over a team from West Sound Academy.

Congratulations to the Quilcene Knowledge Bowl Team!





Art Shows and Competitions: This year, QHS has entered five different curated shows, showing the work of 28 different students in Port Townsend, Sequim, and Port Angeles art galleries. Nearly every art student at QHS has exhibited their art in a professional show. Quilcene students are often among the awards winners, competing against students from throughout the Olympic Peninsula and the State of Washington.

—**Jake Reichner**,
Advisor/Teacher



Performing Arts:

Performing Arts Club engages students in a series of creative projects to gain experience and skills in the performative arts including drama, dance, poetry recitations, wearable art, puppetry, interdisciplinary arts projects and theater improve and public speaking skills.

We have had over (133) K-12 students participate during our Winter Performing Arts Show in December, the January Jazz Cabaret performance, Wearable Art Show, and Poetry Out Loud. As well, performing arts students participate in open mic's at The Grey Coast Guild Hall, and learn and collaborate with area music specialists to enhance and develop their skills as young musicians.

— **Camille Hildebrandt**, Advisor/Teacher



“Drama Club has been working hard after school! Fifth Graders are performing Willy Wonka this Spring, with dates to be determined soon!”

- **Greta Miller**, Drama Club Instructor





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E C R W S S



*Please don't forget to
vote April 23, 2024!!*

To find more information on our REPLACEMENT Educational Programs & Operations Levy please go to:
<https://www.qsd48.org/District/Department/105-Levy-Information.html>

As we celebrate these enriching experiences, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated teachers, supportive parents, community, and enthusiastic students for their unwavering commitment to learning and growth. Together, we continue to inspire, empower, and uplift each other, creating a vibrant and nurturing learning community.

Thank you for allowing us to educate your students every day!

Proud to be a Ranger,

Ron Moag, Superintendent