

November 27, 2023

Dear Knappa Community:

We hope that you enjoyed your Thanksgiving celebration.

While students and staff were away, a lot was happening behind the scenes (and under the ground) in the Knappa School District.

As you probably know, Knappa School District is a recipient of a \$2.5 million grant to conduct a seismic retrofit at Knappa High School. Design work has been going on for several months. The project will include improved bracing, wall reinforcements, and new roofing structures for the cafeteria, locker rooms, and gym. Over the break, RGS Structures, an Astoria Company, performed “cut outs” to help investigate the current conditions of the structure. Because of the invasive (and noisy) nature of the work, it was done while students and staff were on break. A final design should be complete shortly, so that the project can be bid and the work performed this summer.



In January, we will see the new gym and middle school rising up from the ground. Site preparations continue.

For example, an item that was addressed during the break was installation of a new 8" water pipe running between the schools. The current water line is too small to carry water for fire sprinklers and fire suppression purposes in the event of a fire. The new line will make the building safer and provide water supply for the new gym and middle school. While the trench was open, Big River Construction (another local contractor) installed a conduit that will be used for relocated fiber optic line and telecommunications lines.



In addition to this line installation, our technology director continued work to install new telecommunications devices on campus, partially funded by the bond and partially funded by e-rate grant funding. This will help our staff to be able to better communicate internally and with parents, as our antiquated system has limited outside-line capacity.



The other underground project that occurred during the break was completion of new drain lines for the parking lot that will serve as storm drain lines for the new gym and the Hilda Lahti Courtyard (that has been sinking due to failed drainage lines). When the roof is installed on Hilda Lahti this summer, the gutters will be connected to this system so that water will move off of the site properly, rather than into the soil below the courtyard. This work was also performed by Big River. The failed drain lines were removed during the weekend.

Security updates at Hilda Lahti Elementary continued during the break as well.

Not tied to the bond, our CTE students have continued their work on the new visitor dugout at the softball field. The nice logger-style timbers on the front are appropriate to our mascot. The students' plan for this to be ready for the spring season.



Next week, on December 7, at 6 pm our musicians will be performing their Holiday Concert. High school winter athletics gets going this week with basketball at home on Wednesday and at Warrenton on Friday. Our home wrestling meet is also on Friday. Our middle school basketball team is already on a roll; they play at Clatskanie on Tuesday and host Vernonia on Thursday. We hope that you can visit the school and see the hard work of our students, athletes, coaches, and teachers.

Season's Greetings,

Bill Fritz, Ph.D.

Superintendent

Knappa School District #4

