

# Bainbridge Island Schools Celebrate 150 Years!

**“NO PART OF A COMMUNITY’S HISTORY IS MORE REVEALING THAN THE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS SCHOOLS,”** wrote Jon Quitslund in the *Bainbridge Island Historical Museum News*, May 2010. Indeed, the history of our schools reveals the island’s long-standing commitment to educating children. Bainbridge Island School District invites you to join in celebrating a remarkable story that began 150 years ago.



Above left-right: Olympic High School circa 1912, Miss Eves 1st Grade class, Port Blakely School.



The first school on Bainbridge Island was built at Port Madison in 1860. Mrs. Hanford was the first teacher, earning \$50 a month. Port Madison School served children for more than three decades.



Eagle Harbor School, 1881; the first school in what we now know as Winslow.



First Island Center School, circa 1890.

## In the beginning

The first school was established at Port Madison in 1860—ten years before the first school opened in Seattle. Others followed in the communities of Port Blakely (1876, larger school built in 1883), Crystal Springs (1885, replaced in 1910), Island Center (1888, replaced in 1908), Rolling Bay (1888, replaced by a larger one-room school with a second building for grades 5 through 8 in 1906), Eagledale (McDonald School, 1892), Seabold (1893), Manzanita (1909), and Pleasant Beach (1914). In addition, the town we know as Winslow was served by a small school on Eagle Harbor, occupied in 1881, replaced by a larger building in 1897, and yet another in 1907. This last school, located where the Winslow Green is now, eventually housed Winslow High School.

## Ten different school districts

For most of the schools above, each represented its own school district. The number of school districts demonstrates that Bainbridge Island was far from a single community for most of its first 100 years of settlement. Centers of industry drew people to the two sawmills, established in Port Madison in the 1850s and in Port Blakely in the 1860s. Clusters of houses and commerce took shape around the island’s periphery, but communication between settlements most distant from one another was limited and was colored sometimes by fierce rivalries between people of the north and south ends.

## Two high schools

In 1909, Winslow School began the first 4-year high school course. The first high school graduating class was the Class of 1913. In 1916, Winslow High School received accreditation, which quickly led to an increase in high school enrollment.

Not to be outdone, in 1911 representatives from the three districts at the north end of the island (Port Madison, Manzanita and Seabold) petitioned the Kitsap County superintendent of schools for the formation of a high school serving their districts. By August 27, 1911, the formation of Union District #3 was approved by voters in the three districts, and Olympic Union High School was built near the present-day intersection of Day Road and Highway 305. Unlike its counterpart, this school was not accredited.

## What’s next

The most fascinating and instructive episode in the revealing development of BI schools was the drawn-out process of consolidation that occurred in the first 30 years of the 1900s. In the next edition of *OpenBook* (Winter 2011), read the story of how ten school districts consolidated into the single district #303 that serves us today.

BISD extends special thanks to Hank Helm, Executive Director of the B.I. Historical Museum, and to Jon Quitslund, whose May 2010 article in the BI Historical Museum News served as the source for this story. To view a BISD slide presentation of this history, go to [www.bainbridge.wednet.edu](http://www.bainbridge.wednet.edu).

## BUILDING OUR SCHOOLS

# Saving Taxpayer Dollars

PROJECTS from the 2006 capital bond are nearing completion. Examples of some of the projects include: renovated student restrooms at Ordway; hot water distribution to all classroom sinks, new ceiling tiles and light fixtures in hallways, and restored asphalt at Blakely; a new heating and ventilation system in portions of the Commodore building, and an updated main office; updated heating controls at BHS and Commodore; roofing repairs at BHS; and a lighter and safer path between Sakai and Woodward.

With completion of these projects, the district’s Capital Projects department

reported that there is an approximate \$800,000 surplus from the 2006 bond. The Board reached consensus on returning the surplus to taxpayers in 2011. By law, this money cannot be used for staffing or day-to-day operations.

Projects in the 2009 bond are underway. The Wilkes Elementary School replacement progresses with ongoing staff, student and community participation. Reducing energy use across the district started by retrofitting light fixtures.



[www.bainbridge.wednet.edu/cp/home](http://www.bainbridge.wednet.edu/cp/home)  
For all capital projects



# Levies Supplement State Funding and Sustain Technology

## Why is the district proposing a Supplemental Educational Programs and Operations Levy?

- Over the past 3 years, a loss of \$4.6M in state funding for the operating budget has caused a reduction in staffing and services. Last March, the state legislature passed a law allowing school districts to help offset a portion of the statewide funding cuts to education by temporarily increasing the amount local communities can provide to support their schools.
- The Supplemental EP&O Levy would be used to pay for teaching and instructional support in 2011 and 2012.

## Why is the district proposing a Renewal Technology Levy?

- The state does not provide designated funds for technology, and the current technology levy expires this December.
- Technology is an integral part of learning, and technological expectations are embedded in curriculum adoptions, state and national assessments, jobs, and college and university entrance.

- In addition to the state required technology plan, BISD developed a Technology Plan to support student learning that includes technology levy components. The plan’s four goal areas are: Classroom Implementation, Technology Skills for Students and Staff, Communications and District Operations, and Infrastructure. Please find district Technology Planning Documents and state and local technology standards online.
- The Renewal Technology Levy would allow the district to sustain technology equipment, educational resources, and infrastructure to support classroom instruction.

## Would local school taxes remain stable if these measures are approved?

- Yes, the School Board is committed to keeping local school taxes stable. The Renewal Technology Levy has been reduced to accommodate the proposed EP&O Levy. Combined, these two measures would cost \$1.525 million per year—the same as the current technology levy that is expiring.



[www.bainbridge.wednet.edu](http://www.bainbridge.wednet.edu)  
For more about these two levies

## Stars in Our Schools

### Lizzie Ordway

*The most famous educator of early days on Bainbridge Island*

Mary Elizabeth, Lizzie, Ordway came to Seattle in 1864 from Lowell, Massachusetts. She had come under the charge of Mr. Asa Shinn Mercer and was going to Washington Territory to be employed as a teacher.

A classical scholar, who spoke four languages, Lizzie became a moving force in public education. She taught in Seattle, Coupeville, Port Gamble, Port Madison, and Port Blakely. In 1881, she ran for Kitsap County school superintendent and won. Earning an additional \$58 a year to carry out her superintendent duties, she still taught at Port Madison. After completing her terms as superintendent, she continued to act on the County Education Board.

Ordway died in September 1897. In 1953, the Retired Teachers Association placed a monument headstone on her grave. In 1978, Ordway Elementary School was named for this educational “star.” In 1989, in preparation for the state centennial celebration, Lizzie was named to the Washington State Historical Society’s Honor Roll.

Bainbridge Island School District No. 303  
8489 Madison Avenue N.E.  
Bainbridge Island, Washington 98110



## Open and Read About Your Schools

- Celebrating 150 Years of Education
- Upcoming Levies
- Capital Projects Continue to Save Taxpayer Dollars



*Lizzie Ordway, famous educator.  
See Stars in Our Schools.*

*OpenBook is a publication by the Bainbridge Island School District to connect with and bring timely information to our community.*

FALL 2010



McDonald School circa 1920

# 150 years of Bainbridge Schools

- Celebrating 150 Years of Education
- Upcoming Levies
- Capital Projects Continue to Save Taxpayer Dollars