

Letter from the Bainbridge Schools Foundation President:

Dear Bainbridge Schools Foundation Supporters,

2008-2009 was a banner year for our organization. We raised a total of \$670,000 this year, which was almost \$300,000 more than last year. Our success was attributed to increased participation from school age families, a consistent and clear message of how we help Bainbridge Island School District, new leadership from our executive director, Vicky Marsing, and great direction from the 22 parents, teachers and community leaders who generously serve on our Board.

Our funds came from many events during the year. Phonathon was a resounding success. Our board met with Mercer Island Foundation over the summer and we employed many of their ideas for improvement. With your generosity we surpassed last year's successful Phonathon by 75%. Winter's dinner auction event was another high water mark in donor giving. Last winter's event raised almost \$190,000. Hoopfest, our community event with over 300 participants, brought in \$10,000, and increased awareness of our activities in the school. The Spring luncheon successfully highlighted the needs of remedial reading programs and brought in \$45,000 at a luncheon at Islandwood. Island authors helped us highlight the need for this critical program in the district.

The day after the luncheon, we launched SAVE OUR TEACHERS Campaign. This was in response to BISD district budget cuts of almost \$2.1million dollars for the 2009-10 school year. 17 teachers were given pink slips. BSF worked closely with the PTO's to get the word out. Immediately fund raisers began. Lemonade stands, garage sales, change jars, car washes, bake sales, rallies, generous giving, were all testimony to this island's commitment to education. In just 6 weeks, over \$210,000 was raised and together with \$50,000 from BSF's emptying their coffers and a pledge to raise another \$250,000 in 09-10, 7 teachers were funded.

The coming year presents a particular challenge as we work to build on last year's successes, and know that the economy continues to burden our families and our state's budget. We cannot rest on our laurels, but need continued support to keep our schools the best in the state. Our focus in 2009-10 school year will be on participation. If every family donated what they could, think of the improvements that could be made.

As we begin our new school year it is with a deep sense of gratitude that I thank each and every one of you who contributed with donations of time, energy, goods, services, and monies. Together we continue to make a difference in our children's education.

With deep appreciation,
Paul Greenawalt,
President Bainbridge Schools Foundation