



I feel as though the foundation began the year by taking a giant step into it, with long legs and big shoes! We certainly have a lot on our plate and continue to be an important presence on the KP. We can only do this because of volunteers who are willing to take on challenges and tasks that come before us.

Here's an overview of what we are up to...and, by the way, feel free to get involved at any time!

- ♥ We have received new mini-grant requests from Key Peninsula Middle School teachers. By supporting their projects, the foundation is giving teachers the opportunity to offer students interesting, hands-on projects that may not have been possible without this support.
- ♥ We are now offering the same opportunity to the teachers at Evergreen Elementary School. The foundation has an established relationship with our elementary school and we believe that this additional opportunity only strengthens that by giving teachers more options for creative projects to further engage their students.
- ♥ The foundation is fortunate to have an impressive scholarship committee! We have met twice this year and have worked to formalize an updated process for awarding scholarships. Our work and discussions have been based on the reflection of several members who have participated in the process in past years and are also quite familiar with our student population and the college and technical school environment. We will be sending out letters to our current recipients this week letting them know of the requirements for requesting recurring scholarships. The committee will coordinate with the Peninsula HS Hawks and will review portfolios of HS seniors in mid-March. (We require that these students must have attended Evergreen Elementary for at least some portion of their elementary years.)
- ♥ A small, but mighty group of volunteers has been meeting (I know you read their survey!) about reprinting the cookbook that was put together in 2013 by the LIC. It featured over 350 recipes from our members, friends and neighbors in a handy 3-ring binder format. The cookbook included vignettes of historical information about our community that were illustrated by a local artist. This cookbook is a local treasure! I was fortunate enough to be gifted a copy by a neighbor when I moved into our house. Local art, history and food...what could be better??
- ♥ The foundation received two grants from the Greater Tacoma Community Foundation. The first was in the amount of \$500 to be used to “assist students and families with internet needs to help reduce the digital divide”. The second grant is for \$2000 to support “The Longbranch Foundation – Evergreen School Program.” We are so grateful to be recognized and supported by the GTCF.



- ♥ Grant requests - we have received grant requests from Food Backpacks 4 Kids to help provide the additional funds needed to purchase alternative foods, such as non-dairy and gluten-free, for those children who have food sensitivities and allergies. We have also received a request for the beautiful LIC Centennial Garden Project. The Foundation board reviews grant requests during its quarterly board meetings.
- ♥ The Foundation is participating with a coalition of other local non-profits that support families on the KP. The purpose is to understand the work each organization is doing, to offer support to each other, and to collaborate and share information. I believe that this community effort will strengthen the work being done on the KP.

Thank you, and I look forward to working to support the foundation's mission "to inspire collaboration and generosity in order to promote educational opportunities, to maintain the area's history, and to improve the natural environment."

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HAPPY
Valentine's Day



From The Longbranch Foundation Scholarship Committee:

The Longbranch Foundation Scholarship Committee held its first meeting of 2022 to better define its process for assessing Peninsula High School (PHS) student portfolios for new scholarships.

The Longbranch Foundation (TLF) awards collegiate and trade/vocational scholarships to graduates of PHS, who have attended Evergreen Elementary at one time. The Committee also renews scholarships to students in higher education schools who continue to do well.

TLF uses a “holistic” review process. This means we place emphasis on the applicant as a whole person, not just his/her academic achievements. This benefits students who may not have had the best academic marks but who can contribute to their school and community in other positive ways.

We look at each portfolio and assess each student using a variety of criteria, including GPA, community service, extra-curriculum accomplishments, letters of recommendation and a personal essay. We look at GPA because research shows that the student’s high school grades are a good predictor of their likelihood of success in college.

The applicant’s essay can express their personality by sharing their hobbies, interests, passions, hopes and goals. It can make us aware of their financial need, family support and any extenuating circumstances or adversity they have encountered.

We look at their accomplishments in areas of athletics, clubs, community service and work. Athletics demonstrate commitment to the greater good of a team. Community service shows they can think beyond their own needs. Work can demonstrate maturity and responsibility.

Letters of recommendation coming from teachers, coaches, employers and community leaders are also part of the equation.

Selecting scholarships is a rewarding process and is a serious responsibility that we look forward to each year.

These scholarships are funded by your generous contributions and your participation in The Foundation’s Biannual Auction.

Stay tuned for the winners!

Carolyn Carr