



Shaw Island School District 10

May 2022

Dear Shaw Island Community,

Whew! We have almost completed another school year. And what another COVID year it has been. Our students and teachers are looking forward to a restful and relaxing summer! Though not before we graduate Elijah Miller as our sole 8th grader and end the year with our Spring Concert and Graduation Program. We hope some of you will join us!

We had hoped that our students would have been able to experience more outdoor learning adventures, but unfortunately COVID took its toll on many of these plans. Still, our younger grades were able to go several times to the Ellis Preserve to learn about the Garry Oaks. Our upper grades have visited SJI parks. We have been able to have visiting instructors teaching chess, robotics, art and writing and science to our students. We are so grateful for our visiting teachers who help expand learning opportunities for all of our students.

We are excited to report that both of our teachers, Ms. Diane Clifton and Ms. Abi Ellingson, and I will be returning next year in our current roles. Both of our teachers are outstanding, and we are thrilled that we may enjoy the continuity of such great staff.

We were entirely disappointed in our state allocation for next year's budget. We had hoped for the state to provide enough money for the mandatory pay raises . . . but with a decline in enrollment and the lack of new funding, such is not the case. We will be able to pay for their raises, but unfortunately will have to dip into our reserves to do so. We are lucky that we have saved some money over the years for such a rainy-day scenario.

The district has just contracted (using Capital Improvement Funds) with PBW Architects to create a plan for teacher housing on district owned land. The plan will consist of two modular homes (approx. 1200sqft and 900sqft) that could be rented to teachers and thus guarantee a place for our teachers to live. Once the plan has been completed the Board of Directors will determine the viability of the plan and, if proceeding, how to raise the needed financing. We are excited by this prospect as we know that without guaranteed teacher housing, the district could soon cease to exist.

It finally looks like spring is coming with summer right around the corner. I wish you all a fabulous summertime. May these summer days create lasting fond memories!

Best Wishes,

Kari