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Tukwila School District #406 school connection

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Digital Learning Commons Launched at Foster

Governor Gary Locke announced the creation of the Washington Digital Learning Commons to Foster High School students on March 20, 2003 at the Performing Arts Center.

Dr. Terry Bergeson, the state superintendent of Public Instruction, also spoke to inspire the audience about the progress of education and her excitement about the Digital Learning Commons.

The Digital Learning Commons is a web site that will improve education in Washington by delivering high quality digital resources, learning tools and online courses to all students, teachers and parents in the state.

"Times are changing, and we must change with them," Locke said. "Our students deserve the best education possible to prepare them for the high-tech, global economy that awaits them after graduation. The Digital Learning Commons will help them to that."

Starting September 2003, approximately 15 schools across the state, including Foster, will participate in a "proof of concept" phase, to field test and evaluate the implementation, outcomes and policies of the Digital Learning Commons. This pilot program will last approximately two years, during which, all three areas of the project should be available to students and teachers.

The website includes a portfolio area, where students have a unique



State Superintendent of Public Education, Dr. Terry Bergeson helps launch the Digital Learning Commons at Foster

login access to capture, preserve and present their work. The online courses would include a wide range of classes for middle and high school students, adults and teachers. Online resources would link to a broad range of educational and cultural organizations and rich multimedia content to enhance curricula in schools.

The Commons, and Locke's vision is to provide access to great courses in every subject that students wish to pursue regardless of district resources.

"I am pleased that Foster will participate as a pilot school for the Digital Learning Commons. The access to technology will assist the small school academies, students, and families," superintendent Michael Silver com-

mented.

The Washington Digital Learning Commons has been established as a dedicated non-profit organization to provide digital resources, learning tools, and online classes.

Foster was invited to apply because of its diverse cross section of students and community demographics. Foster is the only school in the Seattle area participating in the pilot program.

Locke expressed enthusiasm as he concluded his address, "Today we're announcing a very important step in education for Washington state. As we make this important beginning with the Digital Learning Commons, we are that much closer to our vision of world-class education for all the students of our state."



Governor Gary Locke poses with Foster students Riley Haggard, ASB president, and Alyssa Chandler

connect one

Meet future author, actress, lawyer, and naturalist Nikki Bray.

Nikki is a fifth grader at Tukwila Elementary school this year. She loves to read mystery books and is an honor roll student at school.

This year for Young Writers Day she created a book that illustrates the alphabet, with a Christmas theme. She wrote and illustrated the book with a decorative cover. She likes writing because it allows her to put her ideas down on paper. "She's able to explain herself in writing, which is a tricky thing," teacher Maria Flack notes.

Some of her favorite books are the Nancy Drew series and books



Nikki Bray displays her latest book, an alphabet story, created for Young Writers Day

by Roald Dahl, who wrote George's Marvelous Medicine.

In January, Nikki won first place in the School Geography Bee.

Nikki is eager to work with other students who need help, Flack says, "her own academic achievement doesn't come before being a good citizen."

The thing Nikki likes most about school is that she gets to meet new people and have a lot of friends. She stays involved in as many after school activities as she can, including floor hockey, basketball, and unicycling. She is looking forward to attending Camp Thunderbird later this spring.

Besides the lofty goals she has planned beyond Tukwila Elementary School, Nikki would like to attend

Harvard Law School.

"Study, pay attention, ask for help. Just do your best!" Nikki said that's what keeps her doing her best in school. She says her teacher is helpful by providing detailed instruction for every assignment, taking the time to explain things well.

No matter what comes her way, Nikki maintains a positive attitude and keeps striving. Someday you will read about her again, maybe in a newspaper, or maybe her own book!

A student from each school will be featured throughout the year in **connect one**.