

Graduation Matters

Shelton Underway

Green Diamond Resource Company
Donates \$25,000 to help with the launch.

Graduation Matters Shelton was officially launched on January 14, 2016, with the help of Green Diamond Resource Company. Green Diamond donated \$25,000 to support the community-wide effort to ensure that our children get the most out of their education and end their high school career with a diploma in their hand.

As noted on the official website, *Graduation Matters Shelton* has one goal: prepare our children for graduation. Of course, it takes everyone in the community to help, including businesses, state, county and city officials, the school board, school staff, parents, law enforcement, higher education, social services, service clubs, parents, families, and community members, to ensure their future.

Consistent with Shelton School District's goal of student achievement and graduation for all students, regardless of circumstances or abilities, the goal of *Graduation Matters Shelton* is 100% graduation. "100% graduation" includes keeping kids in school and, for those who have discontinued their education, promoting academic reentry with high school completion.

While many in Shelton have worked with Shelton School District over the years on strategies to keep students in school and address the reasons students drop out, this is the first broad-based effort to rally every sector of the community to encourage students to stay in school, and help them succeed.

For more information about the campaign efforts, please visit the *Graduation Matters Shelton* website at www.GraduationMattersShelton.com.

A lasting, community-wide campaign to encourage students to stay in school through graduation.

Learning in real-world and community-connected environments



In early March, the 9th grade students from Oakland Bay Jr. High ventured to Seattle. The trip started with a bus ride from Oakland Bay Jr. High to Bremerton, where students boarded a Washington State Ferry, and walked from the ferry terminal to the Seattle Aquarium.

The walking route included a quick tour of the Pike Street Market.

Approximately 340 students and their teachers made the trip. The focus of the trip was Ocean Acidification. Earth and Space Science classes have been studying this topic by analyzing data and participating in a variety of labs and lessons. During the ferry ride to Seattle, Kimberly Miller from the Skokomish Indian Tribe, presented a local history and culture lesson to the students.

The trip was sponsored by the Pacific Education Institute (PEI). PEI works to help educators get students outdoors, where they can learn in real-world and community-connected environments. This adventure provided students with a variety of new experiences. The majority of the students had never been on a ferry or to the Seattle Aquarium, nor had they experienced the indisputably majestic views of Puget Sound and the surrounding environment that were visible on the trip.

