



## Youth Involvement Conference

by Emily Stafford  
International School

Public opinion is a valued concept among the adults in America where adults voice their views, but in Bellevue teens also have a say about policy decisions - what should change, and what needs to be improved.

The City Manager appointed Youth Link Board was formed in 1991. After assessing the need for teens to have an opportunity to voice their ideas and opinions, the City and School District started a biennial citywide Youth Involvement Conference for middle and high school students where teens are empowered as agents of change.

"The conference engages youth to identify what is needed to make the Bellevue community a more caring place for youth," Nik Reikalas, coordinator of the conference, said.

The Youth Involvement Conference has four main objectives for Bellevue students: (1) learn about leadership skills; (2) provide opportunity



2006 Youth Involvement Conference to share opinions about youth needs; (3) connect with community resources; and (4) increase

collaboration between teens and community, academic, and business leaders.

The Action Team, composed of local teenagers, is in charge of putting together the conference as well as advertising it at their schools. They coordinate the workshops, key



2006 Youth Involvement Conference. Bottom left and above photos courtesy of City of Bellevue

note speaker, and marketing and publicity for the event.

"The conference gives youth a chance to voice what they want to see..." described Nazila Dabestani, a senior at Newport High school and a member of the Action Team.

Bellevue teens receive an excused absence from school for the conference. Teachers recognize the Youth Involvement Conference as an important event and an opportunity for community service hours.

The conference is from 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM on Friday, March 21, 2008 at the Meydenbauer Center.

Over four hundred teens are expected to attend, as well as city, county, state and school officials, business leaders,

parents, teachers, and youth-service providers.

Every conference follows a similar formula. The key note speaker opens the conference with a motivational speech. Out of the myriad of workshop topics, teens choose three to attend. During the main session teens express their ideas and concerns

about health, safety, education, recreation, and transportation. Teens break out into small groups, list their most important topics, and the groups come together to vote on their priorities, which are later given to the Bellevue City Council.

Projects and programs derived from the Youth Involvement Conference include the South Bellevue Community Center and its Challenge Course, Ground Zero Teen Center, Bellevue Skate Park, Safe Rides Program, Teen Closet, and the new Youth Court program commencing in January 2008.

"I feel it is important for teens to attend the conference to gain knowledge from the workshops, to network with their local officials and peers, and most importantly because teens have a voice in the conference for the future of Bellevue," says Reikalas.

For more information call Nik Reikalas at 425-452-6129 or [nreikalas@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:nreikalas@bellevuewa.gov) [www.youthlink.com](http://www.youthlink.com)

## Outspoken is a product of Youth Link



## Youth Link is a partnership of the City of Bellevue and Bellevue Public Schools

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# 2007 Bellevue City Council Election Results

by Rachel Jiang  
Newport High School

The 2007 race for the Bellevue City Council was a cause for celebration for the incumbents: Grant Degginger, John Chelminiak, Claudia Balducci, and Phil Noble were victorious in the November 6th election. The City Council, which consists of seven members who serve staggered four-year terms, set the city's policies and regulations, which are then carried out by the city's management team. This year, positions 1, 3, 5, and 7 were up for grabs.

For City of Bellevue Council Position No.1, incumbent Grant Degginger, who is finishing up a two-year term as Mayor of Bellevue, swept a victory against challenger John Robert Albertson, with over 70% of the votes. As a shareholder and attorney for Lane Powell Attorney and Counselors, Mayor Degginger has brought to the City Council extensive experience in dealing with environmental damage, public and private sector construction, and municipal governance issues. During his years on the Council, he has supported many environmental policies, such as the protection of Mercer Slough, improvement of the park system, expansion of Metro service hours, acquisition of additional drinking water sources, and signing his name to the Climate Agreement of the U.S. Conference of Mayors. Aiding Bellevue's transition from suburb to urban center, he has

worked during this critical time period to continue Bellevue's reputation as one of the safest American cities for youngsters. The budget that Degginger helped the Council unanimously adopt includes investments in downtown pedestrian mobility, public safety, and community partnerships. Overall, he seeks to establish better channels of communication with Bellevue residents as well as other elected officials in order to implement council initiatives in a fiscally prudent approach.

John Chelminiak, currently Bellevue's Deputy Mayor, was re-elected to City Council Position No. 3. He bested his opponent, Valentina Kiselev, with over 70% of the votes. Prior to the election in 2003, Chelminiak served as a member of the Bellevue Planning Commission and as the Chief of Staff of the King County and Snohomish County Councils. He continues to serve as a public affairs and strategic communications consultant and has contributed to the lessening of the impact of megahomes and the improvement of roads and transit opportunities. Believing that the council acts in a manner similar to the board of a corporation, he advocates economic development as well as cooperation with private nonprofit organizations and faith-based communities to increase employment.

Unchallenged, Claudia Balducci stepped back into Council Position No. 5 after the elections. During previous years she has championed youth issues within the Bellevue community through her involvement with Bellevue Youth Link. Council member Balducci sits on the Youth Link Board as a representative for the Bellevue City Council and serves as a member of the Leadership Team for the Wrap-Around Services Project located at Lake

to firefighter requests for more personnel and the construction of a downtown fire station during his previous term. He has served on the council for the past eight years and was a former Bellevue School Board member.

Noble's experience as Chairman of the Eastside Transportation Partnership and Eastside Human Services Forum are apparent in his council record of advocating for affordable housing and neighborhood

protection. From these experiences, he has been able to promote the rejuvenation of deteriorating, aged neighborhoods and create a core-class centered school—the nationally acclaimed International School. In the future, he seeks to ensure residential security and services (roads, waste handling, etc), aid for those needing assistance, alliances



Bellevue City Hall: Council Chambers.  
Photo courtesy of the City of Bellevue.

Hills Elementary School. Always active in the community, Claudia Balducci is involved in the Lake Hills Neighborhood Association, which supports several family oriented activities throughout the year that benefit children and teens.

Councilman Phil Noble retained his seat as Council Position No. 7, winning against challenger Keri Andrews by a sound 60% of the vote. Placing public safety first, Noble agreed

with local businesses, and a responsive local government.

The voters have spoken and the incumbent City Council members were given the green light to lead the city for another four years. All have committed to furthering the progress in the development of a fiscally solid, environmental, and safe Bellevue.

To learn more about Bellevue's elected officials, visit [www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/](http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/)

## Ground Zero Teen Center Concert Schedule

Outspoken Music Highlight: Ground Zero concerts feature the best local and touring bands almost every Friday and Saturday night. All shows start at 7 pm and cost \$6 (or \$5 with a can of food). For more information email [groundzeroteencenter@hotmail.com](mailto:groundzeroteencenter@hotmail.com) or call 425-452-6118.

### Fri, January 4

A Clockwork Orange, Alexis V.O., The Acidix, Ramo Bolton

### Fri, January 11

Madison Drive, Girl on Fire, For Open Arms, With Honest Eyes

### Sat, January 12

Ghidorah, War Paint, Midwife, Carbon Arc

### Fri, January 18

Mighty Giant, Yes oh Yes, Madrid

### Sat, January 19

Cheyenne, Mortal Remains, Idols, Acies

### Fri, January 25

Alex Sehnoer's Art Show: You.May.Die.in.the.Desert, Red Museum

### Sat, January 26

Jon Crocker

### Sat, February 2

Never Looking Back, See it Through, Johnny Cage

# Music Mavericks: Zune vs. iPod

by Lucinda Li & Bonnie Pan  
Odle Middle School

Teens and music have always been inseparable, and now Microsoft and Apple are innovating the relationship: Two key players have entered the MP3 scene-- the new Zune and iPod Nano.

## Zune:

The second generation of the Microsoft Zune was launched in November of 2007, two months after the third generation of the iPod Nano.

There are three new size capacities for the Zune—4 GB, 8GB, and 80 GB. These digital music products can share files wirelessly with other Zunes. Zune online services include Zune Marketplace and Zune Social, an online music community.

## iPod Nano:

The iPod Nano is a portable media player, marketed by Apple Inc.

The nano was updated on September 5, 2007 and was released the following weekend.

The 3rd generation nano features browsing via Coverflow (a new user interface), video playback, and support of the new iTunes Store games.

Unlike the previous iPods, the new nano lacks a remote connector, limiting the number of third-party accessories it is compatible with. However, the new nano can function with camera connectors, unlike its previous two generations.

Sources: <http://www.zune.net/en-US/>  
<http://www.apple.com/ipodnano/>

	Zune 4GB	Zune 8GB	Zune 80GB	iPod 4GB	iPod 8GB
<b>Price</b>	\$149.99	\$199.99	\$249.99	\$149.99	\$199.99
<b>Capacity</b>	4 Gigabytes	8 Gigabytes	80 Gigabytes	4 Gigabytes	8 Gigabytes
<b>Available Colors</b>	Black Green Pink Red	Black Green Pink Red	Black	Silver	Black Mint Green Red Silver Turquoise
<b>Dimensions</b>	41.4 x 91.5 x 8.5mm	41.4 x 91.5 x 8.5mm	61.1 x 108.2 x 12.9mm	69.8x 52.3x 6.5mm	69.8x 52.3x 6.5mm
<b>Weight (g)</b>	47	47	128	49.2	49.2
<b>Battery Life</b>	Music: 24 Voice: 4	Music: 24 Voice: 4	Music: 30 Voice: 4	Music: 24 Voice: 5	Music: 24 Voice: 5
<b>Accessories</b>	Headphones Zune Sync Cable Foam covers for earpiece	Headphones Zune Sync Cable Foam covers for earpiece	Zune premium headphones Cable Ear inserts	Earphones Dock Connector 3.5-mm stereo jack	Earphones Dock Connector 3.5-mm stereo jack



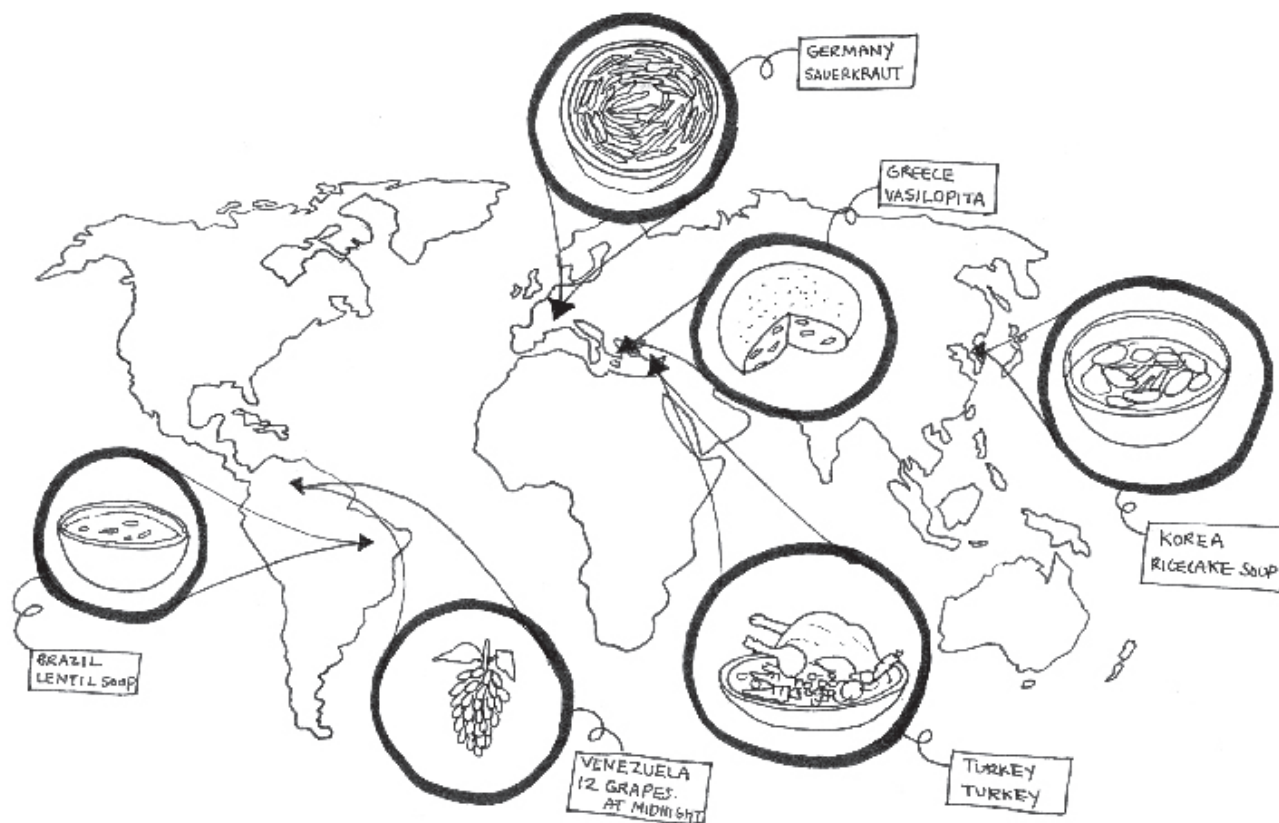
# 14 Ideas for Valentine's Day

by Catherine Michael  
Sacred Heart School

- 1. Make or buy cards.**  
Give a card to your grandparents, parents, teachers, siblings, and friends.
- 2. Dress for the occasion.**  
Dress in pink, red, and white.
- 3. Make cookies.**  
Give them to family/friends. Ask permission from your parent/guardian before making the cookies.
- 4. Eat Chocolate!**  
What more is there to say?!
- 5. Enjoy a favorite food.**  
If you're still hungry after eating chocolate, savor one of your favorite foods.
- 6. Candy Valentines.**  
Give candy valentines to your friends at school.
- 7. Plant a tree.**  
Give nature a bit of your love. Plant a tree and celebrate life.
- 8. Poem.**  
Write a poem/letter and let loved ones know that they are important to you.
- 9. Relax.**  
Take a walk and smell the roses.
- 10. Flowers.**  
Send flowers to someone special.
- 11. Joke.**  
Share a funny joke with someone and let laughter be your guide.
- 12. Have a party.**  
Ask your parent or guardian if you can have some friends over for a Valentine's Day Party.
- 13. Say hello.**  
Greet people with a friendly "hello" and let them know that they are loved.
- 14. Smile.**  
Enjoy the day and let cupid find you.

# Greeting the New Year with Food

by Jenny Nam  
Bellevue High School



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## Bellevue's 24-Hour Relay Challenge



Bellevue's 24-Hour Relay Challenge is celebrating its 10th anniversary! The Relay is a 24-hour event where teens and adults walk around the Bellevue Downtown park, enjoy food and entertainment, and promote unity, community, and fun.

Bellevue's 24-Hour Relay Challenge will take place on Saturday, June 21 through Sunday, June 22 from 10 am to 10 am.

The Relay Steering Committee meets every first and third Wednesday of the month at Bellevue City Hall (450 110th Ave. NE) from 6:30 pm to 8 pm to plan this event.

The first Relay Steering Committee Meeting is Wednesday, Jan. 16th. Stop by and join the planning team!

Students receive school community service hours for participating on the Relay Steering Committee and/or participating in the event.

Look for more Relay details in our next Outspoken edition.

For more information about the Relay, email Brandi at [bdorsett@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:bdorsett@bellevuewa.gov)

### 2008 Relay Steering Committee Meetings

Bellevue City Hall from 6:30-8PM

Every first and third Wednesday of the month

January 16 - room 1E-112

February 6 - room 1E-112

February 20 - room 1E-112

March 5 - room 1E-112

March 19 - room 1E-108

April 2 - room 1E-108

April 16 - room 1E-108

May 7 - room 1E-108

May 21 - room 1E-108

June 4 - room 1E-108

June 18 - room 1E-108



Bellevue Youth Link



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