

**"Patience" continued from Front Page**

white boards and new, ADA-compliant sinks. Classrooms were given phone and data ports and a new communication system.

The school has updated its security system with cameras and motion detectors.

The construction is scheduled to continue throughout the year and should be completed by August, 2011. This means that there will be some construction during the school year, but many steps have been taken to reduce the impact on students.

Much of the exterior work will be done on a split shift schedule so that work will be done before and after school hours. Once the interior work begins, hours of construction will return to a regular schedule.

According to Becker, North West Construction has vetted all of their workers and they have been cleared to work in the school environment.

The project will include a complete remodel of the classrooms, library and computer lab. A new cafeteria, covered play area, additional parking and a new entrance off of 3rd Avenue are in the works. Improvements will be made to the administration's office such as a new conference room.

When asked about the changes to the school, Becker said, "I am so excited!"

The ongoing construction will need to be accommodated by students, faculty and staff.

One such change is that the covered play area had to be removed in order to make room for the new cafeteria. Becker explained that this means that the children will not always have a place to play outside during inclement weather.

"We want the children outside as much as possible so they can get fresh air, but there will be times when they have to stay in the classroom."

She also encourages parents to send children to school with the proper clothing so that they can go outside as much as possible. She stressed the need for appropriate shoes.

"This is still a construction zone," she said. "And we want to keep the kids safe."

Her words of advice for the children beginning the school year?

"Patience," she said. "'Patience' is the word of the year. Patience with each other; patience with the process."

Becker has been looking forward to the start of another school year.

"It is going to be exciting this year and I can't wait for the kids to get here. It's going to be a lot of fun."

# Enjoying the last days of summer...



Samuel Chase (6) practiced his soccer skills at Tolt MacDonald Park in Carnation just days before he started first grade at Carnation Elementary. His brother, Hogan (8) was also practicing at the field. Photo by Anne Laughlin

## Local CERT Volunteers Train at State Fire Academy

by Anne Laughlin

For the past several years, the annual Citizen Corps Expo has been held at the Washington State Fire Academy in North Bend.

An impressive facility, this site was the training ground for nearly two hundred volunteers from Citizen Corps, Medical Reserve Corps and Ham radio operators on the last Saturday in August. Volunteers from all over the region gathered to test their disaster response skills in a hands-on exercise involving an earthquake scenario.

According to some event information, the day was an opportunity for volunteers to "work together in a disaster scenario to practice and advance their skills."

Local Citizen Corps volunteers, Kathy and Rowland Brasch and Helen Duffy, participated.

"There were staged car accidents and fires that teams were sent out to handle," said Kathy Brasch. Teams also practiced what to do with hazardous materials.

She explained that because of the number of participants, this year's expo was divided into four major groups and twelve teams. Groups rotated through the event to make sure everyone had an opportunity to role play.

Jon Bromberg and Steve Van



Kathy Brasch and Jon Bromberg stand in front of Com80.

Wombeck, service support volunteers from the Sammamish Citizen Corps, manned 'Com80,' a communications vehicle donated by East-

side Fire & Rescue.

"It is important to be clear," said Bromberg. "We are not volunteer firefighters or EMTs. We are volunteer communication specialists and Ham radio operators."

They transformed the donated truck into a mobile field communications unit. Bromberg did all of the radio programming work and said it was a state of the art system with capabilities such as email over radio and global position tracking.

Bromberg and Van Wombeck provided information about the capabilities of Com80 and Ham radio, which provides backup communications in the event of a 'catastrophic failure of all other systems.'

"This is our first time at the state-sponsored expo and we need the chance to get out and practice...to make sure things work so

that we can be better prepared," he said.

For Carnation resident, Helen Duffy, this was her second year at the expo. Duffy chairs the Carnation-Duvall CERT Program and the Neighborhood Watch Program.

"I'm impressed with the level of participation and the simulations - it's like the real thing," she commented. The realism of the drill made the exercise more of a learning experience and a confidence builder.

Duffy strongly urges others to get involved. In addition to being a critical survival tool in the event of an emergency or a disaster, the training was also "a great way to see other groups, increase training and work as a team."

The next local training opportunity will begin on September 29 and run until November 15. This training series will be held on Wednesdays during that time. Most meetings will occur at the Duvall Fire Station with the exception of a couple of meetings to be held at the Carnation Fire Station. The course is available to people ages 16 and up and requires registration and a \$35 fee. Participants will receive training, materials and equipment.

For more information and to register for the course, visit [www.carnationduvallcitizencorps.org](http://www.carnationduvallcitizencorps.org).