

# Boys & Girls Club raises funds with a polar plunge

By ARLA SHEPHARD  
MASON COUNTY LIFE

Going on more than 20 years, North Mason teens, teachers and community members have taken the plunge to support the Boys & Girls Club.

This year's event takes place Saturday, Jan. 31, with festivities starting about 8:30 a.m. at Allyn Waterfront Park, before intrepid polar plungers run into the chilly waters of North Bay.

Plungers raise funds for the Boys & Girls Club of South Puget Sound's North Mason Teen Center in Belfair.

"I still think this is a very important event because it's at the beginning of the year and it gives us funds right away," said North Mason branch director Christy Garner. "It gives us that momentum going forward throughout the year."

Garner will be plunging with a team of female staff from Boys & Girls Clubs around Kitsap and North Mason counties. Her team, the Average Josies, plans to raise at least \$600.

Other prominent plungers include Hawkins Middle School Principal Thom

Worlund, Kitsap Credit Union Belfair branch manager Katie Hopkins, and potentially a special guest from the North Mason School District.

The North Mason High School Leos Club will provide refreshments for participants and onlookers at the polar plunge, while Stan Yantis and the Windjammers will once again provide music to rouse the early-morning crowd.

That crowd will include at least 20 teen fundraisers who will have spent the night at the Teen Center for a Late Night and Lock-In rally for the polar plunge.

The two teens who raise the most money will receive incentive prizes from the club.

The North Mason Boys & Girls Club Teen Center sees about 80 kids per day, Garner said. The club is working on a transition plan with the North Mason School District to move the club after the new high school and football stadium are built at or near the club's current location.

As the district shifts around the use of many of its former buildings, such as turning the old high school into a new middle school, the plan is for the Boys & Girls Club to move into a new location on campus,



PHOTO BY ARLA SHEPHARD

More than a dozen North Mason teens and community members plunged into North Bay to benefit the North Mason Boys & Girls Club Teen Center last year. This year's polar plunge includes music from Stan Yantis and the Windjammers and refreshments provided by the North Mason High School Leo Club.

whether that be the administrative building or high school annex, Garner said.

"Everyone's goal is to have uninterrupted service for the Boys & Girls Club," she said.

Meanwhile, the annual polar plunge serves to keep the club in the community's mind.

"It always helps to raise more awareness," Garner said.

## Hood Canal School students take a science adventure

HOOD CANAL — On Thursday, Jan. 8, fourth- and fifth-grade students at Hood Canal School enjoyed a visit from the Seattle Children's Hospital Science Adventure Lab.

The Science Adventure Lab is a custom-built, 45-foot, state-of-the-art mobile science lab outfitted with research-grade equipment and space for up to 28 students at a time.

The mobile lab travels to schools across Washington to provide innovative, hands-on science curriculum, according to the science lab's website.

Fourth-grade students

studied DNA isolation, while fifth-grade students had the chance to explore a neuroscience module entitled "Exploring Brain Functions."

For more information, visit [www.adventurelab.org](http://www.adventurelab.org).



PHOTO COURTESY OF HOOD CANAL SCHOOL

The Seattle Children's Hospital Science Adventure Lab's custom-built, 45-foot science lab includes research equipment for up to 28 students.

## Mason County life

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### ON THE COVER

Fourth-grade students Alexis Germaine and Justiz Beringer prepare a saliva DNA sample for the Seattle Children's Hospital Science Adventure Lab visit, Jan. 8 at Hood Canal School.

Photo courtesy of Hood Canal School

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