

STEPS (Sammamish Totems Enrichment Program Supporters)* just had their January meeting on January 11th. At the meeting we discussed:

- You can earn money for STEPS by shopping online, using the "escrrip" link on the PTSA & STEPS webpage (accessed from the school website). You can make money for STEPS when you shop at Amazon (2.4%), Netflix (\$15.60 for new users), and many more! Check it out! It doesn't cost YOU anything!
- The spring STEPS fundraiser will be held at a private residence on Saturday, May 8th. It will not be a traditional auction, but rather an "ask" to help support STEPS. The SHS orchestra and jazz choir will perform, and there will be an audio/visual presentation to celebrate the 50 years of SHS, as well as yearbooks from years past displayed. There will be 200 tickets sold for this wonderful event, so please save the date! If you are interested in helping with this event, contact Janelle Steinberg at janelle.steinberg@cobaltmortgage.com. The next fundraiser meeting will be held at 6pm on February 8th before the regular STEPS meeting.
- We voted on two allocations this month:
 - \$2750 to support Totem Reach (a retired teacher is employed to staff Totem Reach on Wednesdays). Tom Duenwald stated that this program reaches 50 - 100 students.
 - \$500 to pay the yearly fees to the "Discover" program. Discover helps students (freshmen through juniors) find their interests and thus provide various career pathways. It includes access to specific college information as well. Ms. Mallin will create a parent presentation for this spring to make sure parents understand what their students are finding out at school. Ask your student, and if you need more help, contact the counseling department.
- Winter sports are in full swing. Sprint sports start March 2nd. Pat McCarthy said that we will stay a 3A school for the next two years. This means that we will compete with the same opponents as we've been playing, even though our school size has been reduced to a 2A level.
- By the way, we'd love to have more parent involvement in STEPS. Remember, we allocate funds to SHS groups, clubs, and the school itself. YOUR students are benefitting from our fundraising efforts! Please become involved.
- The next meeting will be February 8th at 6pm for the STEPS fundraiser and 7pm for the STEPS meeting. We meet in the library.

*: STEPS would like to remind everyone, what STEPS is and the important function that it serves! S.T.E.P.S. stands for "Sammamish Totems Enrichment Program Supporters". This group performs the functions of a Booster Club for sports, but it also supports the academic and cultural sides of SHS. It is a parent support group and the primary fundraising body for all cultural, academic, social and athletic activities and clubs. In the past STEPS has funded fast pitch home run fences, reader boards for the commons, weight room improvements including sound systems, photographic equipment for Totem Imaging, seed money for Robotics, and many more other great causes. STEPS makes a huge behind-the-scenes difference in your student's life at SHS.