



This Week from the Mayor



MAY 2, 2018

VOL. III, NO. 14

Renton businesses supporting education

IT'S BEEN NINE YEARS since a foundation was established to support students of the Renton School District. It continues to grow and provide valuable opportunities for many local students.

Friends of Renton Schools was established by a group of local business owners, educators, community leaders and volunteers, committed to providing quality education opportunities for all kids in Renton School District. In its ninth year of existence, and now known as Renton Schools Foundation, nearly \$2 million in private donations have been raised in support of school projects.



Dr. Quinton Morris gave the keynote address at the Renton Schools Foundation Breakfast. Dr. Morris is the Director of Chamber and Instrumental Music and associate professor of violin and chamber music at Seattle University and a graduate of Renton High School.

The mission is clear: "To provide supplemental funding to support Renton School District so that EVERY STUDENT in EVERY SCHOOL has an opportunity to achieve an exceptional education." The local commitment every year has been impressive.

I attended the 9th annual benefit breakfast Monday morning and couldn't help but be impressed with the representation of local business, residents and community leaders who joined our educators in raising funds for this important cause. It was a very successful event with over \$140,000 raised during the breakfast.

The event featured a very inspiring keynote speaker--Dr. Quinton Morris, the Director of Chamber and Instrumental Music and associate professor of violin and chamber music at Seattle University. His resume can only be described as "impressive."

I have known Quinton for several years and I'm always amazed by his tremendous talent and accomplishments. He is a concert violinist, chamber musician, educator, entrepreneur and filmmaker. He performs solo concerts/recitals and chamber music and presents lectures all over the world: United States, Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia and the Middle East. He has performed sold-out recitals at Carnegie Hall for three consecutive seasons.

During the 2015-2016 academic year, Quinton embarked on a world tour that included recitals, concertos, public lectures on entrepreneurship and master classes and community outreach projects in 22 cities on five continents. His list of accomplishments and awards is too long to list here.

With the exception of one important note.

Quinton is homegrown and graduated from Renton High School! He is one of many very successful and famous people who are alumni of Renton School District, and he continues to teach music to students in our community. We couldn't ask for a more positive role model for local kids.

The real success of Renton Schools Foundation is due to the continuing support of Renton's business community. It's especially important to recognize the significant role that local auto dealers have played these past years.

Dating back to the beginning, Bob Bridge, former owner of Toyota of Renton, led the effort in convincing a number of us to donate at least \$1,000 a year for the first couple years while he devoted time to solicit larger donations from other local companies. He said he was committed to do his part in providing educational opportunities for our youth as a way to give back to the community. And his goal was to get others to follow.

Bob Bridge (and Michael O'Brien who later purchased the Toyota of Renton dealership), along with Dale Walker, owner of Walker's Renton Subaru and Mazda, have been major donors every year. Kaye-Smith, a marketing and communications company headquartered in Renton, and Boeing have also been major donors every year. Many other local firms have continued to be annual supporters.

We're fortunate in Renton to have businesses, community leaders and residents committed to providing educational opportunities to Renton students. If you missed this year's event, donations can be made online at rentonschoolsfoundation.org.

Taste of St. Anthony's is Saturday



I INVITE YOU to join with our partners from the Mayor's Inclusion Task Force and the Latino Community and take part in the [Taste of St. Anthony's](#).

The annual event is this Saturday from 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Contact either Violet Aesquivel 425-765-8087 or Sarah Doan 425-387-6695 for ticket information.

Feedback

Comments, questions or suggestions, or just want to share all the great things that are happening in the city, please [email](#) me. Thanks for reading. | [Newsletter archive](#)