



# Kids Stuff

**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**  
*Be Mine*

## Snohomish youth is the state Cabbage Ambassador

By JANA ALEXANDER HILL

An arms-outstretched “it was this big” descriptor summed it up, by a wide-eyed smiling Jacob Bailey.

And while describing something as “this big” may sound like the words of a young angler -- which Jacob is -- he was not talking about the fly fishing he does with his Dad, Todd Bailey. He was referring to an oversized cabbage he grew.

The 9 year-old student at St. Michael School is the cabbage ambassador, for the state of Washington, winning first place in a contest of 2,000 students in the state. The win included a \$1,000 bond to dedicate to his future education.

What will he do? He is not sure yet, on the college-track, as he is only 9 years old. But as he awaits those days, new gardening goals are in close view.

“I want to grow a big pumpkin,” he said.

He also likes growing blueberries.

His first-place win was part of a nationwide contest of 1 million third-graders. Jacob grew a 29.2 pound O.S. Cross variety, an oversized hybrid that can climb to the 40-pound mark on a bathroom scale like the one that weighed Jacob's plant, after a late August harvest.

“It started off as a little dead cabbage on the back porch,” Jacob said. He then took action, to bring it to its full maturity. “I mostly watered it. I put like a little bit more fertilizer.”

The program gives kids experience so that they can gain a better understanding of the origin of food. Stan Cope, CEO of Bonnie Plants, said the annual program that started in 1996 and went nationwide in 2002. The program “affords our youth with some valuable life lessons in nurture, nature, responsibility, self-confidence and accomplishment,” Cope said.

The process took a lot of care and time, with two to three check-ins per week for watering and fertilizing. His methods, like those of his

gardening family, were all organic. The idea for entering came from his teacher, Mary Anne Murphy. After harvest, Jacob posed for a photo. Teachers were directed to choose by “best of show” criteria, and sent images to Bonnie Plants, which entered him into a random selection process for the state.

Jacob's family already teaches the value of food-origins. His grandparents' home has six raised beds, and one was dedicated to his competitive cabbage. Jacob started helping out in the garden at the age of 2. He said he likes to grow blueberries and corn.

His Mom grows tomatoes, peas and lettuce at their home, and says Jacob likes the lettuce best. When she heard he won a statewide honor for his gardening, “I was so excited,” she said.

Foundations were helpful: underneath the raised-bed walls, copper-tape keeps the space free of moles. And bunnies do not climb that high: the raised-beds are about 2 feet from ground-level. The walled-in space lessens the



Jacob Bailey with his winning cabbage.

impact of the Western Washington gardener's oft-battled predator: the slug.

And his grandma has a time-honored trick for handling slugs: beer. The slugs will belly up to the bar and dive in. Gardeners are smil-

ing right now. Hint to the non-gardeners: it does not end well for the slug.

Once the cabbage was harvested, it was time for coleslaw, and much of it went to the Snohomish Community Food bank.

Third-grade teachers interested in taking part can get more information at <https://bonniecabbageprogram.com/register/>

(The Baileys used the recipe below obtained from Pinterest.)

## Fun at your local library

### Snohomish Library 311 Maple Avenue

• **Moon Madness: Feb. 7** ~ Learn about the moon and past lunar landings. Explore how craters are formed, learn about the phases of the moon, and finally build and test your own lunar lander. 4pm

• **Heart-shaped Science: Feb. 14** ~ Celebrate Valentine's Day by making heart-shaped materials fizz, dissolve and explode! 4pm

• **Marble Maze: March 6** ~ Work in teams to explore some engineering concepts and solve problems to create an amazing marble run. How long will it be? How many zig zags will it have? How fast will the marble go? 4pm

• **Reading with Rover: March 7** ~ Read aloud to a loving

canine listener. For children with a caregiver. 11am

• **Cool Camouflage: March 13** ~ Learn how animals use camouflage to hide in their environments through fun experiments, active games and other creative projects. 4pm

### Sultan Library 318 Main Street

• **Minecraft Build Challenge: Feb. 28** ~ Play the popular computer game with friends and meet other fanat-



ics! You can play for fun or compete in our build competition. Space is limited on a first come, first serve basis. 2:30pm

### Monroe Library 1070 Village Way

• **Minecraft - Garden Cave: Feb. 18** ~ Join your fellow Minecrafters and put your cave gardening skills to the test! Space is limited on a first come, first serve basis. For grades 4-12. 3:30pm

• **Therapy Horse Storytime: Feb. 22** ~ Come meet a therapy miniature horse from the Triple B Foundation! Hear stories about horses

and learn about pet therapy--then get your picture taken with a miniature horse! For grades K-5. 3pm

• **Reading with Rover: Feb. 22** ~ Read aloud to a loving canine listener. For school-age children with a caregiver. 11am

### Mukilteo Library 4675 Harbour Pt. Blvd.

• **Read with Carmen and Risa: Feb. 25, March 3, 10** ~ Read with one of these sweet therapy dogs for 15 minutes and receive a “pawtograph” souvenir. For school-age children. 3:30pm

## Cranberry Almond Coleslaw Recipe

1 Small cabbage  
1-1/2 cups matchstick carrots  
2 large apples (Gala)  
1/2 cup sliced green onion  
3/4 cup sliced almonds or 1 cup slivered  
3/4 cup dried cranberries  
**Dressing**  
3/4 cup fat free Greek Yogurt unsweetened  
1/4 cup mayonnaise  
1/4 cup honey  
2 Tbsp apple cider vinegar

salt and pepper

### Directions

In a mixing bowl, whisk dressing ingredients until smooth.

Add salt and pepper to taste.

In a large bowl toss cabbage, carrots green onion, almonds, and cranberries.

Pour dressing mixture over cabbage mixture and toss to coat.

Serve fresh for best result.