

## YOUTH

EPS students David Wen and Samantha Schaap studied their only source of calming the hunger pangs during the 31-hour famine in support of tsunami victims.

*Brian Giebelhaus photo*



# Students put hunger on hold

by Jennifer Lang

MetroValley News

They read to seniors at Semiahmoo Manor, picked up litter at the beach, and repainted school garbage cans.

Then they planned to play cards, sing karaoke, watch some movies and take part in a scavenger hunt.

In short, they aimed to keep busy and try not to listen to their growling tummies.

April 7, a group of 172 Elgin Park Secondary students staged a 31-hour famine, voluntarily going without food as a way to collect donations and pledges. They raised another \$5,000 on behalf of a school in Thailand.

Student council president David Wen said his classmates were so moved by the plight of Dec. 26 tsunami victims in Southeast Asia, they decided to sponsor a school in Thailand. In January, they were able to raise \$34,000,

thanks to an ongoing project partnership with Semiahmoo Rotary Club.

They want to rebuild a school, and then replace lost equipment, such as textbooks, library materials or even school uniforms. EPS students have learned \$8 will buy a new Thai school textbook, and \$30 will replace a girl's uniform.

"We're thinking of replacing computer labs," Wen said.

Elgin Park students have tentatively chosen to sponsor the Kuraburi School, a 752-student facility located in a resort-area district of the same name.

Wen said by coincidence, some Thai students from another part of the country are currently visiting Elgin Park.

"We are naming schools they have actually heard of," Wen said.

He said one day Elgin Park students hope to visit their sponsored school.