

# Terrier Times

Washington School for the Deaf - Center for Childhood Deafness & Hearing Loss

April 2015



## From the Superintendent's Desk

Jane Mulholland, Superintendent

Dear Families:

We recently had the opportunity to host the Special Ed Directors from each of the 9 Education Service Districts (ESDs) in Washington for an informational meeting about WSD's ASL-English Bilingual Program. It was wonderful to share the principles behind our bilingual program and to showcase our teachers and students. I was reminded once again of how special WSD's educational environment is and how fortunate the students are to be surrounded by so many highly qualified and dedicated staff. I want to share with you just a few of the things we shared with the Directors.

- ASL is a natural, rule-governed, fully developed language that any child can access without barriers because it is visual in nature. It is as complex and sophisticated as English or any other world language.
- ASL and English are equally important languages; they are distinct and separate languages; they use different modalities.
- Student who are bilingual—whether hearing or deaf—develop skills and abilities more advanced than students who know only one language. Research shows people who are bilingual have stronger cognitive, social and educational benefits; they are more creative in thinking and problem-solving; and they have better mental flexibility.
- Research indicates deaf students who are bilingual have stronger signed and spoken language skills, and better overall social, emotional and behavior skills.

WSD is proud of its ASL-English bilingual program. We invite you to explore some of the following resources to learn more about the benefits of being bilingual.

- Visual Language Visual Learning: <http://vl2.org>
- WSD - Bilingual ASL-English Education Tab [www.wsd.wa.gov](http://www.wsd.wa.gov)
- American Society for Deaf Children <http://www.deafchildren.org>
- ThrivingWithYourChild: <http://csdeagles.com/outreach/calnews/2011>
- Turning the Tide: Making Life Better for Deaf and Hard of Hearing School Children by Gina A. Olivia and Linda Risner Lytle

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**Early release in April has changed to April 2, not April 16!**

[www.wsd.wa.gov](http://www.wsd.wa.gov)

## Parents & Terrier Pups!

Shauna Bilyeu, Elementary Principal

Terrier Pup Families,

**Happy April!** Time really flies in April! There are a lot of events in the last few months of school, so I want to take a few moments to give you a run down, both forwards and backwards.

First off: all of the students did a great job in the ASL Poetry Competition this year! It was inspiring to see ALL of the elementary students up on the stage--even the preschoolers. The teachers and the ASL department, especially Krissy Walker, worked very hard with students to ensure they each had a polished poem to perform. I want to say a special "thank you" to this group of dedicated staff.

Battle of the Books is in full swing through the month of April. Please check in with your student to make sure that he/she has a goal and help them reach their goal by requiring some reading time at home. Field trip information will be coming home soon, so be on the look out for that!

State-wide assessment time is upon us. Students in grades 3 and up will be taking the most comprehensive, computer-adaptive, state-deployed assessment ever this spring. This is a new test and the results will look different than in years past. OSPI cautions schools and parents about comparing past results with this year's. That would be like comparing apples to oranges. Results are supposed to be shared in a much timelier manner: three weeks from the time of testing. Bear in mind this is barring any technical difficulties. Look for further details from Shannon Graham, our curriculum and assessment coordinator, in this newsletter. Our school will continue MAP testing. These results will be shared with parents at IEP meetings.

One exciting event that always happens every first weekend in May is the Family Camp in Ellensburg, WA. This is a time for families all over the State of Washington to gather in a camp setting and learn about resources and topics specifically geared towards families of deaf and hard of hearing children. I encourage you, whether you live locally or farther away, to attend this special event. Look at our website and the WSD Elementary Facebook page for more information on this special camp.

Lastly, please plan to attend All-Star Day on May 21st. This is a day we celebrate the hard work students have done all year. This date coincides with the last FAN, so we have decided to poll parents asking if an alternate date for the end of year FAN BBQ is preferred. We are looking at June 4th. Look for more information from me as we get closer to that date, but please make note that FAN for May 21st is cancelled due to All Star Day.

Important updates and reminders for Terrier Pups and their Families

April-500 Books kick off

**Surprise** field trip in May to be announced

Spring ASP begins-April 20th  
No FAN in April

All Star Day-May 21st

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All-Star Day  
May 21, 2015



**April 6-10 Spring Break**

# April Calendar

April 2 - Early Release

April 5 - Easter

April 6-10 Spring Break

April 22 - Earth Day

April 22 - Biztown

April 23 - Prom

Travel Days 3,12,17,19,24,26



## Camp Taloali

### Easter Eggstravaganza!

Join us for our Free\* event!

Easter Egg Hunt at 11:45 am

Followed by: Lunch

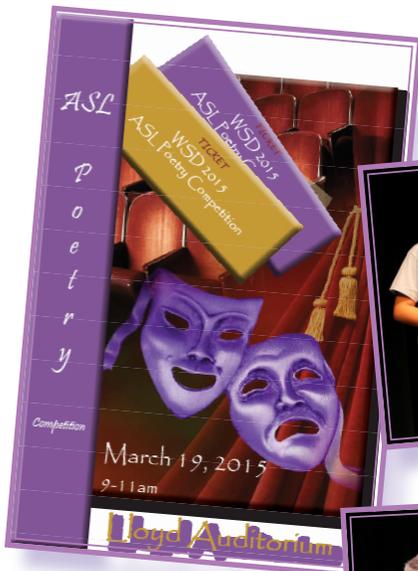
Climbing Tower-Weather Permitting

Additional Easter Activities

Saturday April 4, 2015

RSVP at [camptaloali@comcast.net](mailto:camptaloali@comcast.net) or

971-239-8153



ASL Poetry Competition!



## United States of America Deaf Basketball (USADB) All Star

Game: The United States of American Deaf Basketball Association is hosting its annual All Star game April 10 in Oakland, CA. WSD is proud to have **Yajaira Bedolla** selected as one of the players for the West team, and **Tracey Boyes** has been selected as assistant coach for the West team. Congratulations to both of them!

## Smarter Balanced Tests (SBAC)

Dr. Shannon Graham, Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator

Hello parents/guardians!

As you may already know from newspapers, television news or your local public schools, many states, including Washington, are implementing the new Smarter Balanced tests (SBAC) this spring. Part of my role as curriculum and assessment coordinator is to schedule and administer these tests, train teachers on the student interface and universal tools, and report the results.

The SBAC testing in math and english language arts has two components - a computer adaptive test (similar to MAP) and a performance task. Examples of what these look like can be found here: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/practice-test/>. Please take the time to review the contents and discuss testing tools with your child. Your child is getting this information from their teachers but the more they are familiar with SBAC, the better your child can maneuver through the questions and focus on providing quality responses. More information on parent resources can be found at <http://www.readywa.org>.

Testing begins mid-March and ends mid-June. When your child has been scheduled for testing, we encourage her/him to eat a healthy meal the day before and get a good night's sleep. A schedule will be available soon. With flu and allergies season arriving sooner than expected, please encourage good habits so your child will remain healthy in order to participate fully in the tests.



We are ready for this change and look forward to what the results tell us about your child's academic progress. Please let me know if you have any questions.

## FEBRUARY STUDENT OF THE MONTH

3 R Superstar  
Cesar Sanchez

Astounding Attending  
Hilda Beltran-Lopez

Inspiring Improvement  
Dalton Schatz  
Jackie Wiles  
Sofia Rodriguez  
Maria Velez

Stupendous Spirit  
Marissa Paxton

Momentous Motivation  
Jackie Wiles  
Tyler Eagan  
Jayson Cabanizas

Super Supportive  
Hilda Beltran Lopez  
Robbie Paresa

### North Puget Sound Deaf & Hard of Hearing

#### Transition Fair

#### Deaf & Hard of Hearing Students & Young Adults

**WHEN:** Wednesday, April 29, 2015 (4-8pm)

**WHERE:** Roosevelt High School (Cafeteria) 1410 NE 66th Street - Seattle, WA 98115

**COST & RSVP -** This event is free:

Please let us know if you are coming. Please RSVP to Lee Ellis by April 16.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** ASL Interpreters will be provided; for other languages contact Lee Ellis before April 8, 2015 Persons with disabilities should request auxiliary aids or accommodations by April 8.

For more information contact: [lee.ellis@cdhl.wa.gov](mailto:lee.ellis@cdhl.wa.gov) or [dan.cradycdhl.wa.gov](mailto:dan.cradycdhl.wa.gov)  
VP: 360-334-5441

*What do you want for  
your future?*

*Do you want to go to college  
or get a job?*

*Deaf professionals, agencies,  
and college representatives will  
explain post secondary options,  
paths to employment, ADA  
rights, community resources  
and more during this fun and  
informative one-day event.*

*Parents and educators are  
encourage to attend!*