

# Terrier Times

March 2012



Washington School for the Deaf

## From the Principal's Desk

Bill Newell, Principal

Our girls and boys basketball teams and our cheerleading squad had a very successful experience at the Western States Basketball and Cheerleading Classic in Fremont, CA in late January. Our girls and boys represented WSD well, fought hard and showed good sportsmanship. Elsewhere in this newsletter the individual achievements of our participants will be highlighted. Congratulations to all of the players and coaches. Thanks for showing your Terrier Pride and making us all proud.

Last month I focused this column on reading—the importance of reading in the home and using reading as a communication tool. This month I want to focus on writing. Deaf children develop their writing skills through using writing for authentic communication purposes. With very young children you can follow their lead and the teacher's sequence of writing instruction. Support your children at home with their writing. As children develop their reading and writing skills, you can use writing as a form of communication at home. Write short notes and leave them on the refrigerator or bulletin board. Label objects in your home with the names of things. Use pictures with captions. Set aside time with your child to write together, caption pictures together and prepare grocery lists together. Have your child start a journal or diary where they write privately every day. Don't look for perfection in writing. Gently teach, correct and demonstrate as your child is ready to learn. These forms of functional, authentic uses of writing will go a long way toward helping your child develop as a writer. For many deaf people, writing is an essential form of communication with persons who don't sign. Encourage your child as he or she becomes older to use writing as a form of communication with hearing people who don't sign.

Just as with reading, showing your child how you use writing, and that you enjoy writing, will go a long way toward instilling the desire to become an effective writer.

Our academic athletes will be competing in the Deaf Academic Bowl sponsored by Gallaudet University and the MS National Math Competition sponsored by the National Technical Institute for the Deaf this spring. Both of these events take place in March. Wish our teams well! Many thanks to all of the generous donors who contributed funds to support these activities.



St. Patrick's Day  
March 17!

### Contents

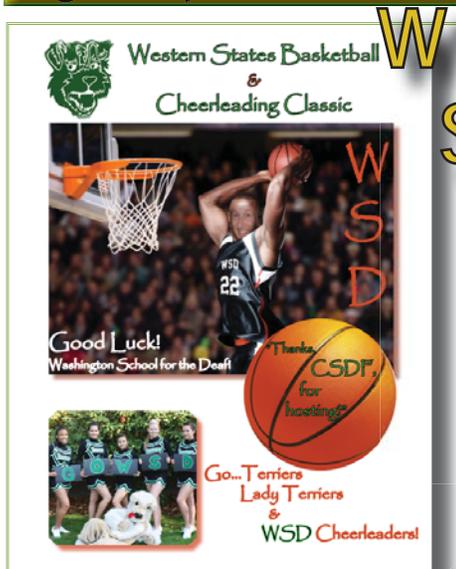
From the Principal's Desk	1
WSBC/WSCC	2
WSD's Special Olympics	2
March Calendar	3
Transition Fair	3
National Math Competition	3
Nurses' Corner	3
Washington Reading Corps	4
ACT Testing	4

Get your  
WSD YEARBOOK  
EARLY!

\$33 before March 9  
\$35 after March 9!



*The National Academic Bowl will be held at Gallaudet University from Thursday, April 12th to Monday, April 16th.*



## WSBC/WSCC 2012... results for Team & Individual Awards!

WSD cheerleaders and the boys and girls basketball teams represented WSD proudly at Western States Basketball and Cheerleading Classic (WSBCC), held in Fremont, California, this year!

Throughout the tournament, our coaches and players were approached by other schools staff, players and fans commenting on how positive we are regardless of if we win or lose! I am VERY PROUD of our Terriers and you should be too!!  
 Ron Spratlen, Athletic and Recreation Director



Girls Basketball Team-5th Place Individual Awards  
 -1st Team - Maria Chavez  
 -2nd Team - Daniela Chavez



Boys Basketball Team-7th Place Individual Awards  
 -1st Team - Isaac Cook  
 -2nd Team - Trevor Dockter

Cheerleading Team -2nd Place Individual Awards  
 -1st Team - Brittany Randant  
 -2nd Team - Tykeaya Terrell

## WSD's Special Olympics!

Jayne King, Student Life Counselor (SLC)



CONGRATULATIONS to WSD's Special Olympic basketball team. The team won silver medals at the regional tournament held in Bremerton, Wa., February 12th. These were not easy games. The first game was close. Our Terriers held on and won.

The championship game was against a team we played last year, a Division 1 team, WSD is Division 2. This didn't matter. Our team came out with strong offense and defense. BEWARE of the fast hands of Patrick, who stole the ball numerous times, going in for the lay ups and SCORES! The passing skills of Cesar and Cassie to Ashley, Antonio or Jeremy, resulted in points. Our defense was strong with our center, Jeremy, blocking many of the opponents' attempts to score. Moniquea was strong at rebounding. We didn't win the game, but our spirits were high because we played well.

WSD's team got the invite for the state tournament in Wenatchee, March 2-4. The team knows who they will play and are ready for the challenge. Anyone who is in that area, please come and support our WSD Terriers. Our team consists of: Jeremy Descloux, Antonio Guijarro, Cassie Tracy, Cesar Sanchez, Ashley Medlock, Moniquea Harvey, Patrick Saturay and Maria Preciado (who was ill and didn't go to regional).

We also have an individual skills team. They practiced very hard and have greatly improved. They, too, participated in Bremerton. Robbie Paresa and Tyler Eagan were unable to make the trip, but next year expect them to be there. Sarah Lasco received a bronze medal and Crissy Gelderd a 5th place. A great big THANK YOU goes out to Ron Spratlen, JoAnne Coelho and Chris Newell for joining us at this tournament.



*"The team won silver medals at the regional tournament held in Bremerton, Wa., February 12th."*

# March Calendar

- March 8 - Flying Hands
- March 15 - Family Academy Night (FAN)
- March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
- March 29 - After School Program quarter ends
- Travel Days 2,4,9,11,16,18,23,25,30

## March is Women's History Month



Nellie Zabel Willhite (1892-1991), the first deaf female pilot and the first woman to earn a pilot's license in the state of South Dakota.

Transition Fair for Deaf & Hard of Hearing High School Students and Families!  
 March 28, 2012  
 Mount Tahoma High School  
 5-8pm  
 MountTahoma High School  
 4634 S. 74th St.  
 Tacoma, Washington  
 Fair will be held in the auditorium & pizza in the cafeteria!

## M.S. National Math Competition!

Stowe Beecher, MS Teacher



Three middle school students, Noah Tufton, Mira Stapleton and Brandy Pietsch, will be heading to Rochester, New York, at the end of March to compete against 21 other schools for the deaf from around the country. These three students have been working hard to pick up all the extra math skills they can before the competition. For some of them, this will be their first time flying and it will definitely be a great social and educational experience. The coach accompanying the students is Stowe Beecher, their math teacher. It is her second year bringing students to the math competition and she hopes to continue this next year.

## Nurses' Corner

Joyce, Jon & Linda, School Nurses



### We Got The Beat!

*"There is a nurse present at all WSD home football and basketball games. We never miss the beat!"*

Very recently, there have been reports in the Vancouver area of young athletes with cardiac (heart) issues that have made many parents and children concerned. The staff at those athletes' schools should be commended for their heroic efforts at reviving the students. They never missed the beat!

We, at WSD, take pride in caring for the students, staff and others on campus with our First Aid and CPR/AED (every two years) training for staff. We have four Automated External Defibrillators (AED) on campus. This is more than most schools in the state! Two of our nurses are certified trainers in First Aid/ CPR and AED. We are in continuous communication with coaches, our student athletes, parents and many others regarding their cardiac health. There is a nurse present at all WSD home football and basketball games. We never miss the beat!

Our athletes go through their physical examination before they start practicing with their team. Unfortunately, most physical examinations normally do not include an Electrocardiogram (ECG), which can detect most cardiac abnormalities. You can encourage your child (and yourself) to have an ECG performed at you doctor's office. Please take a look at the link below for more information. We do not want you to miss the beat!



- [www.cnn.com/2011/HEALTH/01/04/children.heart.deaths/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/2011/HEALTH/01/04/children.heart.deaths/index.html)
- <http://www.deafmd.org/content/topics/index.cfm>

## Washington Reading Corps!

Junior Kargbo

Tips to make reading fun for kids:



- GOLD STAR:** Try some positive reinforcement to kick-start the reading process. Make a list of three, five or 10 books you and your kids can read together, and create a chart to keep track. Whether it's two pages or 200, any progress is progress worth noting. From my experience with kids, for anyone to be motivated to do anything, two things have to happen: one - they have to believe they can do it; two - they have to want it. A sticker on a chart, a promise of a tangible prize like a trip to the zoo, swimming pool, or museum is what they may need to get them started.
- SET AN EXAMPLE:** You are a reader, too, so make time for some reading of your own. Kids love to repeat the things adults say or do. They may be quick to follow if they see that you are interested in your own book.
- READ/SIGN OUTLOUD:** Ask your kids to read/sign aloud regularly. That way, you can track their progress and stay aware of any difficulties they might be having. Teaching your kids to read is like teaching them to ride a bike. Start by picking a text that's just a little too difficult for your kids to read on their own. Cuddle and snuggle up with them and sign the book aloud in unison. Your child will begin to feel what it's like to be a reader; they see themselves reading the book. Once they become comfortable and fluent with this, have them repeat after you by reading a sentence. It's like you are taking the training wheels off but still holding onto the seat. Remember, kids still have you if they need support. Eventually, you will know when it is time to let go of the bike and allow them to fly solo.
- GIFTS THAT KEEP GIVING:** For holidays and birthdays, give your kids books. Be sure to show your enthusiasm about the book and they will appreciate the gift they've received.
- BOOKS UNDER THE BED:** Leave books next to your kids' beds. If you encourage them to read for a few minutes each night, they will be polishing off books in no time. When they receive a book as a gift or bring one home from school, add it to the box. Stay in the habit, even if you only have 10 minutes. This sets up a lifelong pattern of reading before bed.
- ADVENTURE:** To kids of all ages, there is nothing like a good adventure. Turn a trip to a local library or bookstores into an anticipated event. Your little rug rats might even beat you to the car, you never know! Help your kids sign up for a library card. Not only will they feel more grown up, they will feel a sense of accomplishment and possession over their reading abilities. Be sure to pick a book for yourself while your kids make their own decisions. Be sure to send your child the message that reading is its own reward.



## ACT Testing!

Registration is now open for high school/college-bound students who are interested in taking the ACT Test on April 16th-19th.

Registration closes Monday, March 5th.  
Registration takes 4 weeks to process.

Students can see Teresa Stotler-Martin for an application form. The test costs \$34.00.

## January was School Board Month!



CDHL Board of Trustees received many "Thank You's" from WSD Students!