

Terrier Times

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

November 2013



From the Superintendent's Desk

Jane Mulholland, Superintendent

What Makes WSD So Special?

Some of you enrolled your child at WSD for the first time this year. Others have been part of the WSD family for a long time. Regardless, it is important for you to understand what WSD has to offer and what makes this school different from other placement options.

First and foremost, WSD is a bilingual ASL-English program. We believe helping children become bilingual—being fluent in two languages—is a gift that will help their cognitive and academic development throughout their entire lives. Most countries in the world value the ability to use two, three or more languages. Research shows the mind is uniquely designed to process multiple languages, and those who know more than one language typically are more successful and have higher academic achievement. At WSD our focus is to support the acquisition of ASL and English. This is an attainable goal for all children.

Other characteristics of WSD that make the school special include the ability for students to access instruction and services directly from their teachers and related services staff as opposed to relying on an interpreter; smaller class sizes; and the ability to participate equally in class projects and discussions. Deaf role models help students develop a vision of what they themselves are capable of achieving in the future.

I was recently invited to write an article for The Endeavor, a quarterly magazine published by the American Society for Deaf Children. The purpose of the article was to dispel the myths often associated with schools for the deaf, and to describe the unique characteristics of a residential program.

I invite you to read the article and share it with others who may be interested in understanding more about WSD. You can find the article at: <http://issuu.com/asdc/docs/endeavorfall2013lores>. And while you are there, please look through the entire magazine. This edition is entitled “Deaf Ed 101,” and has lots of articles that would be of interest to you.

Enjoy the Holidays!

The fall season holds lots of opportunities for special focuses within our educational program. September 15 - October 15 was national Hispanic Heritage month. October is national Anti-bullying month, and at WSD we focused on this issue the third week of October. Of course we just celebrated Deaf Awareness Week the end of September, and we are quickly approaching the holiday season with numerous events that recognize cultural celebrations throughout the world. As you engage in your family traditions during the upcoming holidays, please talk to your child about how the tradition began, why it is important to your family, and make sure they are able to fully understand and participate in the events. This type of background knowledge is critical to children feeling a part of their family life, and also to ensuring they build a better understanding of the world around them.



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“We believe helping children become bilingual—being fluent in two languages—is a gift that will help their cognitive and academic development throughout their entire lives.”



On **Thursday, October 24th**, WSD preschoolers will be going to Bizi Farms! It is our annual trip to the **Pumpkin Farm** where students will feed animals at the petting zoo then take a bumpy hayride to the pumpkin patch! Students enjoy choosing their own pumpkins. No rest for the weary at this farm because Bizi is home to an adventurous haystack maze, especially designed for young children. We are thrilled that many of our students' parents are able to join us for this traditional autumn fieldtrip!



Math Team!

Stowe Beecher, MS Teacher

National Technical Institute for the Deaf

NTID Math Counts Competition is a competition for middle school Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing students from around the country. The competition is held at the Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, New York. Any deaf school or mainstream student who is Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing can attend. The competition is modeled after the Math Counts competition, which is a national competition for public schools.

Zhano Ingram, Taylor Payne, Jacob Tufton and John Smart, with alternate Kaja Stone, were selected this year to be a part of the math team. The team coach is Stowe Beecher with assistant coach Jennifer Ellis. We will practice after school once a week from mid-October until the end of March. We will be fundraising, and we will gratefully accept donations to sponsor the team. The competition will be held April 4-6, 2014.

Parents & Terrier Pups!

Shauna Bilyeu, Elementary Principal



November brings beautiful colors to the Northwest, and I particularly enjoy this time of year as things start settling into routines and students begin to invest their energy into learning. I also see students and staff begin to build relationships that forge into enduring bonds that last well beyond the school years. For me, this is one of the critical pieces of education: the social role of school. One of our guiding principles at WSD is to educate “the whole child.” This means we are looking not only to increase academic knowledge, but to build an awareness of how the world works and how one fits into it through relationships—both with peers and adults. This is done through communication. I believe firmly that first and foremost, all teachers are language teachers. It is through language that we can give the gift of knowledge. There are many things that happen through language on a daily basis that we take for granted: watching TV, reading the newspaper, catching up on Facebook, chatting with a friend or loved one. All of these require an innate sense of how language works: there is a multitude of meaning layered within sentences and words. Deaf and hard of hearing children often need to be taught these explicitly. They do not have access to spoken language like their hearing peers in order to incidentally acquire new knowledge. This is one of the reasons some deaf and hard of hearing students require more time to learn new concepts. At IEP meetings, I am often asked, “Why isn’t my child making faster progress?” I don’t have an easy answer to this, other than to say that it takes time to build concepts that are built through language. Rest assured, your child IS growing leaps and bounds; we see it everyday, but it’s in the way he or she communicates and relates to the world, and that is not always perceptible through the academic lens of assessment. Regardless, know we are keeping close tabs on student progress and please feel free to contact us to discuss your child’s education. One of our highest priorities this year is to keep communication lines open with parents. Many of you live several hours away, we don’t want that to be a barrier to partnering with us in your child’s schooling.

Reminders:

Field trip season is upon us: classes are beginning to leave campus to go to **pumpkin patches** or on reward trips. To ensure safety, please make sure that your child’s medical information is up to date in the Student Health Center.

Family Academy Night (FAN) is the third Thursday of each month. Come and join the fun! Dinner is free and childcare and children’s activities are available for students and their siblings while parents attend a workshop. 5:00-7:15 pm in Northrop Elementary building.

Each class at the elementary level has at least two iPads. Students are learning to use these quickly. If you have questions or would like to learn about apps that are specifically related to ASL, literacy or math, please contact your child’s teacher. Enjoy the fall colors and take time to enjoy watching your child grow!



November 2013 Calendar

November 1-14 DAPE (Developmentally Appropriate Proficiency Exam)

November 11 Veterans' Day - No School

November 25-29 Thanksgiving Break

Travel Days 1, 3, 8, 11, 15, 17, 22

"Terrier Invitational" Volleyball Results

1st - Oakville

2nd - Hudson's Bay

3rd - Oregon School for the Deaf

4th - Washington School for the Deaf

5th - Firm Foundation

6th - Pope John Paul II

7th - Fort Vancouver

Special Thank You To

Snack Bar - Carmine Faella, Roxane Smith-Divine,

Jim Divine and Jayne King

Scorekeeping - Stowe and Jason

Admissions - Jim West



VARSITY BASKETBALL

TRYOUTS FOR GIRLS AND BOYS WILL BE THE WEEK OF NOVEMBER, 12-15. THE FIRST GAME OF THE SEASON IS TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10. SCHEDULE COMING SOON!



Google play

SMARTSign

Now available from Google Play for all android devices, a new app to teach sign language, specifically designed for families, SMARTSign. Produced by the Georgia Institute of Technology, Center for Accessible Technology in Sign, it is free and available at <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=ccg.asl.smart>

Legislators visit WSD for Deaf Awareness Week!



Mayor Tim Leavitt



Representative Liz Pike



Representative Jim Moeler



Representative Paul Harris



Councilman Jack Burkman

Library News!

Ginger Speranza, Librarian

National Novel Writing Month!

NaNoWriMo (na-noh-RY-moh)

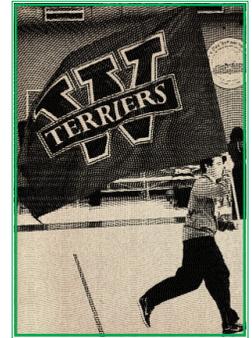
First of all, a **BIG** thanks to all of you who shopped at our book fair! I especially want to thank the PSO for supporting teachers and cottages!

We are currently in the middle of our annual NaNoWriMo event. That's right! It is once again National Novel Writing Month. Please support your child by asking what they are writing about. If you would like more information about the program, check out <http://ywp.nanowrimo.org>. This year we are encouraging students to try out the Dare Machine. The Dare Machine is a button on the website that asks writers to think outside the box. For example, a dare may be, "Put a character in a situation that you were in yesterday," or "Give your character the hiccups." These prompts are a great way to keep your mind fresh and your juices flowing. I look forward to December when I get the privilege of judging student work. I continue to be surprised by the quantity and quality of work our students can put out in a month.

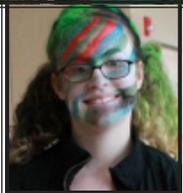
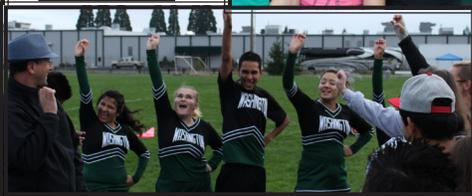


If you are interested in purchasing books for donation to the library, there is now an Amazon wish list. If you go on the Amazon website, there is a drop down menu to the right that says Wish List. In the "Find a wish list" box, put "WSD library" and you will see our list. I try to keep this updated as new titles come in. Thank you for all your support, and, as always, happy reading.

Homecoming!



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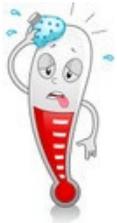


Nurses' Corner

Jillian Bain RN, MS, FNP-BC, Jon Tannler, LPN,
Linda Meier, RN (on-call)



“When you receive your child’s flu shot permission slip/form-please fill it out and return the form immediately.”



The change in the weather and seasons is upon us! Are you prepared for the rain? For the snow? For the cold virus? For the flu?

The flu season has already begun! We are now ready to face it head on! We will be offering flu vaccinations here for the students within the next month. The flu vaccine will include protection for the annual, seasonal flu. When you receive your child’s flu shot permission slip/form, please fill it out and return the form immediately. In case of illness when the student is showing any of these symptoms shown below, the student WILL NEED TO STAY HOME:

- Temperature of 100 degrees or higher. Also, the child MUST BE FEVER FREE for 24 hours prior to returning to school (Center for Disease Control’s recommendation)
- Vomiting and/or persistent diarrhea
- Serious respiratory infections with persistent cough, fever, and or large amount of yellow/green discharge

There is another serious disease, and the number of occurrences is on the rise - Pertussis (otherwise known as Whooping Cough). Pertussis symptoms include very persistent, loud (barking) cough, and can be associated with respiratory distress. It is called Whooping Cough because the cough can be described as sounding like a loud “whooop.” In adults, Pertussis may present as a really bad cold, but in infants and children, pertussis can be fatal (due to their much smaller airways); so it is very important for us to protect ourselves and youngsters by being vaccinated. Those with compromised immune systems, respiratory diseases (including COPD and asthma), and smokers are also at increased risk for fatal effects from Pertussis. Many young adults, teenagers, and adults are past due for a Pertussis booster. We encourage you to check with your doctor about getting a booster for TDap if needed.

We, at the Student Health Center, want everyone to remain happy and healthy through cold and flu season. Please always remember that the most important things you can do to help prevent spreading illness include: (a) wash your hands; (b) cover your mouth when you sneeze/cough; (c) get plenty of sleep, good nutrition and lots of hydration/fluid; (d) get vaccinated.

Important

Calling all Parents of WSD Students!

School year 2013-2014 begins an exciting journey for our school. Three years ago, we received full accreditation from CEASD (Conference for Educators and Administrators of Schools for the Deaf) and AdvancEd (the accreditation team for public schools). These two teams will return in the fall of 2014 to visit our school and review our status for accreditation.

Accreditation is very important as it allows us receive external validation of areas in which we are doing well, and in the areas for continuous improvement. We have convened an on-site accreditation committee that will meet monthly or more frequently as needed.

As part of the accreditation process, we are sending out surveys to all stakeholders. Your input is extremely valuable to us. Please take a few minutes and complete a survey about our school. This survey is online and should take no more than 20-30 minutes. This survey will be open for the month of November.

Important

Please go to the parent survey at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/7WDYPDQ>

Your time and honest feedback IS appreciated! If you have questions or would like to know more about the accreditation process and other ways you can be involved, please contact me. Thank you, Shauna Bilyeu - shauna.bilyeu@cdhl.wa.gov

SAVE THE DATE! C.I. FAMILY CAMP!!

Children who are Deaf with
Cochlear Implants & Families
Lake Wenatchee YMCA Camp
Weekend of June 13, 2014

Registration Is Open January 2014

Come have fun and make new friends!

C.I. families are spread out and are not always in the settings where they get an opportunity for their children to be around other children with C.I.’s. We have all chosen the best location, educational environment, and communication mode that fit our individual families. This camp is an opportunity for our families to come together and for our children and us to meet new friends.

Volunteers: I am looking for volunteers who use sign language so we can have interpreters to support the families who do use sign language as part of their family’s communication. It would be nice to have an interpreter when noise volume gets loud and when important information is presented. If you would like to volunteer please contact me at the email address below.

Booths: There will be an opportunity for information booths. If your organization/school would like to have a booth to present information, please contact me at the following email address. (Tamie38r@gmail.com)

Grand Reopening Ceremony Program
 Washington School for the Deaf
Lloyd Auditorium

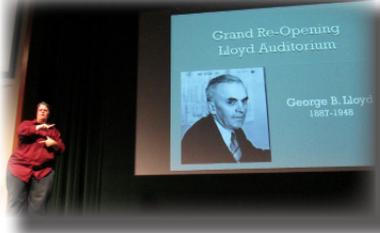
 George B. Lloyd, Superintendent
 1920-1945
 September 25, 2013

Grand Reopening - Lloyd Auditorium!



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Governor's office - Schuyler Hoss, Mayor - Tim Leavitt, Parent - Belle Johnson, Elementary Student - Sara Johnson, High School Student - Trevor Dockter, Board of Trustees, Chair - Nita Kamphuis, Longest WSD Employee - Robin Castrey, WSDAA - Carey Price



*George B. Lloyd, Superintendent
1920-1945*



Harold & Marjorie Stickel



Guy Wonder, De'VIA Artist



Special Performance by John Maucere

