

Terrier Times

January 2010

Washington School for the Deaf

From the Principal's Desk

Bill Newell, Principal



Contents

From the Principal's Desk	1
Mini-TISLP	1
Nurse's Corner	2
Governor's Reform Measures	2
ILS	2
Assessment Updates!	2
2010	3
Breakfast! Read all about it!	3
Staff Celebration	4

Happy Holidays and best wishes for a much better 2010! Let's all hope our economy recovers in Washington State and around the nation.

You will see elsewhere in this newsletter information about the Governor's proposal to shift responsibility for WSD to the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). We are still in the process of understanding what this move will mean for our school but we are confident that it will offer WSD many opportunities. Since OSPI is responsible for all of K-12 education in Washington State this will position WSD to be within the same system as other schools in the state and we anticipate this being beneficial to our school. We will keep parents posted as we move forward.

Last month in the newsletter I focused attention on writing. We were engaged in November in the **National Novel Writing Month** (NaNoWriMo). Your student may have brought home their finished novel. We hope you will cherish this example of your student's creativity and celebrate your student's accomplishment in writing.

Hi Mini-Total Immersion Sign Language Program Participants,

Thank you for your understanding regarding the cancellation of the Mini-TISLP.

Good news - the trainers are available to teach on March 5 & 6, 2010. Please mark your calendars for March 5 & 6, 2010, Friday evening and Saturday all day. During my retirement (I will retire on January 1, 2010) I will email you with more information.

Nikki Ekle

This month I want to focus attention on reading. Reading is fundamental and we encourage you to engage with your student in reading daily. Depending on the age of your child, reading can take many forms.

For young children Dr. David Schleper of Gallaudet University offers tips on reading to deaf children based on the practices of deaf parents who read to their children. These tips are posted at this website: <http://www.paec.org/david/reading/deafread.pdf>. WSD has some excellent resources for the parents of our young children with regard to reading with your child. Contact Ginger.Speranza@wsd.wa.gov



For children of all ages the following tips will encourage reading for your child:

- Have books, magazines, newspapers in your home and available to read.
- Have age-appropriate books available.
- Visit the library frequently to check out books for you and your child to read.
- Read daily yourself. Show your child that reading is important by modeling good reading habits.
- Leave notes for your child.
- Use text-based communication (text messages, email) with your child.
- Discuss environmental print with your child; ask questions to see what your child understands about text in the home or community.