

# Terrier Times

December 2009

Washington School for the Deaf

## From the Principal's Desk



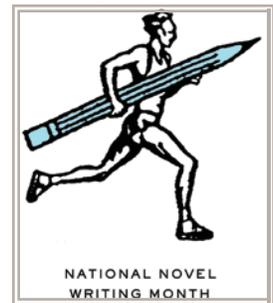
Bill Newell, Principal

November brings National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) to WSD. Annually we celebrate our students' literary creativity by devoting a portion of daily Language Arts instruction to creative writing. Students set goals for themselves to write a certain number of words per day, per week and for the month. By the end of the month students will be publishing their novels in book form. If you see your student talking about his or her novel you will know what this refers to. Visit the NaNoWriMo website to learn more: <http://www.nanowrimo.org/>

Encourage writing at every opportunity.

There are many great resources on the internet to help parents encourage writing. Here are just a few:

<http://www.rif.org/parents/articles/encouragingyoungwriters.msp>  
<http://oldfashionedliving.com/kidswriting.html>  
<http://www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource/nwp/ten-ideas.html>



- Write notes and leave them for your child to discover.
- Sit together to generate a grocery list.
- Encourage your child to write thank you notes when he/she receives a gift.
- Use text-based communication with older children (email, text messages)
- Develop a scavenger hunt around your home using notes as clues.
- Assist your child with homework involving writing.

Support all writing attempts. Don't criticize. Expand what your child writes. Show alternative vocabulary choices. Use writing in meaningful ways. Show your child the ways you use writing in your daily life.

## WSD goes PINK for Breast Cancer Awareness!

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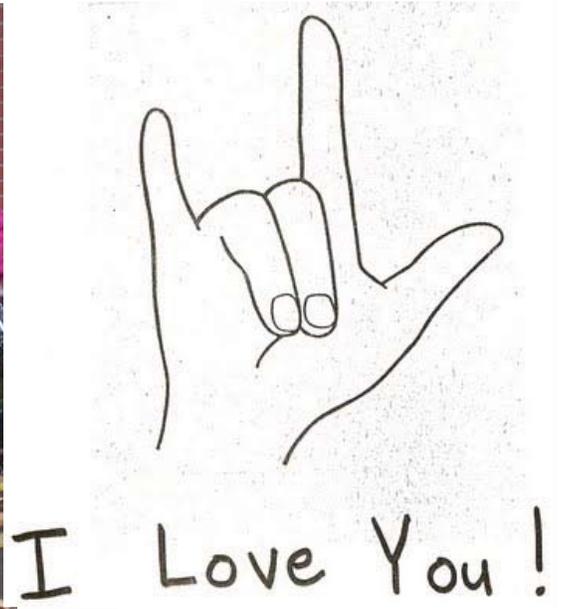


## WSD get a new bike rack!

The new bike rack was designed by Gretchen Volker, our Special Education Secretary. As an environmentalist junkie, she noted that a bike rack would add to the overall environmental quality index of the campus. She didn't propose just any bike rack though; she proposed a rack that fit the characteristics of WSD. She wanted to design a fun and meaningful structure that was aesthetically pleasing yet functional. After a few days of wrangling with designs, she had an Eureka! moment. She had been walking across campus when she saw kids passing off care-free i-love-you signs. Is there a better message to convey?



*"The bike rack will accommodate up to 8 bikes!"*



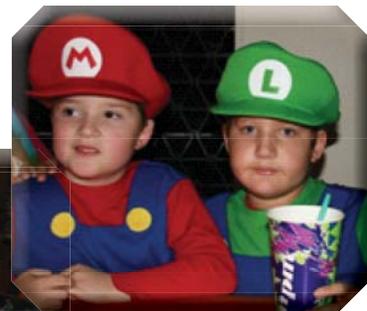
Basketball seasons begins soon.  
Check the wsd website for game schedule at  
[www.wsd.wa](http://www.wsd.wa).

# Upcoming Events for December

December 1 Winter Electives Begin  
December 11-12 Mini ASL Total Immersion  
December 21-31 Winter Break



## Halloween at WSD!



## Nurse Notes

Joyce Sjoberg, RN



Now that we have finished most of the flu immunizations for our students, this seems like a good time to share our other health promotion activities in the next few months. We are in the process of finishing taking heights, weights, and Basal Metabolic Index (BMI) on all students.

Our next focus will be on vision testing and we are hoping to work with the local Lions Club in using their screening van and staff to test our students' visual acuity.

We are thrilled to announce that we have a new volunteer joining us this year in the Student Health Center. She is both a family member of one of our residential students and a Dental Assistant. We are truly excited that she will be able to provide basic dental screenings in the next months ahead, especially with Halloween and all that candy behind us!

All health screenings are free and are done to inform the parent and/or guardian if the student is within normal ranges and if further medical, dental, and/or vision evaluation is recommended. Our expectation is when your student is finished with all the health screenings you will receive a letter, detailing all that we have done and found. As usual, if you have any questions, feel free to call or send an email to [joyce.sjoberg@wsd.wa.gov](mailto:joyce.sjoberg@wsd.wa.gov).

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