



Terrier Times

December 2010

Washington School for the Deaf

From the Principal's Desk

Bill Newell, Principal



In November we celebrated NaNoWriMo (*National Novel Writing Month*) as we do every year at WSD. This is an opportunity for students and staff to get their creative juices flowing and write their own original short stories and novels. Winners in various categories will be announced at our end of the year **All Star Day**. Talk with your child about his/her writing at school. Showing an interest will motivate your child to do their best. Share your own interests in writing. Please talk about why it is important to write well and how you use writing in your daily life.

Here are some tips for encouraging writing. There is a lot of information on the NaNoWriMo website. Why not take a few minutes to visit and explore. <http://www.nanowrimo.org?> Better yet, why not sit with your child and explore this site together? Talk about what you see. What interests you. How you look up resources. Use the search function.

Happy Holidays!



By the time you receive this newsletter we will be well into the Thanksgiving and winter holidays. Wishing you and your family a very happy holiday season.

Contents

From the Principal's Desk	1
Student Allowance Change	1
Congratulations Jane Tabor	2
Library News!	2
Upcoming Events	3
Basketball Schedule	3
Accelerated Reader	3
Nurses' Notes	4

Academic Probation Policy:

At WSD we want all of our children to be motivated, love learning and maintain high levels of academic performance. Unfortunately, despite our best efforts to motivate and inspire, some of our students need external motivators to give them that little extra "incentive" to maintain their grades, do their homework and stay engaged in learning. We have, therefore, an Academic Probation policy that kicks in for our secondary students (6th through 12th grade) when they receive a failing grade in any weekly progress report. We monitor grades weekly starting in the 2nd week of each quarter. If a student receives an F grade (cumulative) in any week they are placed on the Academic Probation list. For residential students being on AP will affect their level of privileges in the residential program. Refer to the Parent-Student handbook for specifics. For athletes in varsity sports after two consecutive weeks of being on the AP list they will be suspended from play for three weeks. At the end of three weeks if they no longer have failing grades they will resume play. During their suspension, they continue to practice with the team but they may not "dress out" for competition or travel with the team for away games.



"If a student receives an F grade (cumulative) in any week, they are placed on the Academic Probation list."

If a student is placed on the AP list for two consecutive weeks, I will notify the parents/guardians by email and encourage communication with your child's teacher. I communicate about this policy so that you are aware of it should I ever have the occasion to notify you of your child's failing grade. **Bill Newell, Principal**

Change in Student Allowance Procedure

Starting **December 1, 2010**, student allowance will only be available from the business office on Tuesdays from 2pm-4pm due to limited staffing. This is a change from 2 days per week to 1 day per week. Contact Tesfa Amene at Tesfa.amene@wsd.wa.gov or by phone at (360) 696-6525 x0415 if you have any questions. We apologize for any inconvenience and appreciate your understanding.

Congratulations to Jane Tabor!

Kris Ching, Outreach Director

Our audiologist, Jane Tabor, has been selected to serve as the new audiologist on the ICSD (*International Committee of Sports for the Deaf*) team for the Deaflympics!

Jane was nominated, interviewed and selected from a pool of international candidates. She will attend the winter games this February in Slovakia and the summer games in 2013 in Athens, Greece. Jane will continue to serve for future summer and winter games. This will provide recognition for CDHL and WSD on an international level.

Wow! What an honor that she was chosen from audiologists all over the world to serve for ICSD! Kudos to you, Jane!

We expect stories and pictures!

Find out more about Deaflympics at: www.deaflympics.com

Here are a few interesting facts:

- The games are built on 85 years of tradition (since 1924)
- More than 4,000 deaf athletes & officials from 77 nations participated in the 21st Summer Deaflympics (September 2009) in Taipei
- Over 600 athletes and officials participated in the 16th Winter Deaflympics (February 2007) in Salt Lake City, Utah



“She will attend the winter games this February in Slovakia and the summer games in 2013 in Athens, Greece.”



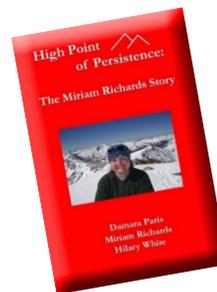
Library News!

Ginger Speranza, Librarian

The library had a busy October and November. We had our annual teacher read aloud with Library Libby and then had a wonderful Halloween parade. We also had our 9th annual NaNoWriMo (National Novel Writing Month) kickoff.

This year we were able to have Miriam Richards and Hilary White, two deaf authors, come to speak about their book “High Point of Persistence: The Miriam Richards Story.” If you have not read the book, I would recommend getting a copy. Miriam’s story is one of complete determination. She has climbed the highest points in all of the fifty states. Her inspirational story and writing motivation from Hilary were a wonderful way to kick off our NaNo month.

Encourage your child by asking them what they are writing about. Join them in the writing and write some short stories.



“If you have not read the book, I would recommend getting a copy.”



See WSDs Library Libby at
www.wsd.wa.gov

Upcoming Events for December!

December 16 - FAN (Family Academy Night) Holiday Potluck (5-7:30 p.m. - Northrop)
 December 20-31 Winter Break



Girl's Basketball

- December 1 - 5:30 pm (Away) Oakville
- December 7 - 5:30 pm (Home) Three Rivers
- December 9 - 5:30 pm (Away) OSD
- December 14 - 5:30 pm (Home) Oakville
- December 16 - 5:30 pm (Away) Washougal JV



Boy's Basketball

- December 1 - 7:00 pm (Away) Oakville
- December 7 - 7:00 pm (Home) Three Rivers
- December 9 - 7:00 pm (Away) OSD
- December 14 - 7:00 pm (Home) Oakville
- December 16 - 7:00 pm (Away) Seton Catholic

Accelerated Reader

Shauna Bilyeu, Curriculum & Assessment Coordinator



Spotlight on: Renaissance Home Connect for Accelerated Reader

Did you know that as a parent you can log in to a web site and view your child's reading practice and progress towards goals in the Accelerated Reader program? Access to online results can promote discussion about progress and motivate students to make practice more effective. Our school's Home Connect program is up and running for this school year. The website to bookmark is:

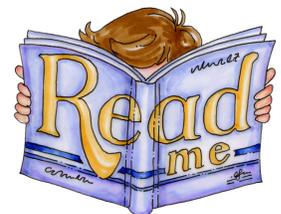
www.hosted33.renlearn.com/298160/homeconnect

You will need your child's username (which is most often his/her first name, first initial and last name, with no spaces. Ex: JSmith), and their password. Your middle or high school student should be able to tell you what this is, as they log on every time they take an AR quiz at school. **If you have an elementary aged student or your student does not know their password, please email me at: shauna.bilyeu@wsd.wa.gov and I will give it to you.**

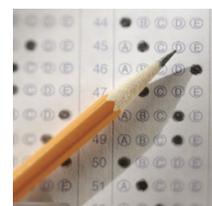
Also-please note that while we are using the Accelerated Reader program school-wide, Accelerated Math is on a class-by-class basis, so your student may not show any progress on Accelerated Math if his/her teacher is not using it. Please contact your child's teacher regarding use of this program if you have questions about it.

Other news: MAP Progress Reports

At your annual IEP review meeting, Special Education Facilitators (SEFs) will be giving parents printed copies of your child's Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment scores. We administer this computer adapted assessment to all students in grades 2-12 and use results to inform instructional practices. This normative assessment allows us to monitor student growth and compare it to national norms as well as within our school norms.



"Access to online results can promote discussion about progress and motivate student to make practice more effective."



Nurses' Notes

Joyce Sjoberg, RN & John Tannler, LPN

Can you hear my pain?!!!!

If you think the cell phone bills and the iPod/MP3 players are expensive, try treating the damages the teens are getting from excessive texting or playing the music too loud!



Reports are everywhere about teenagers at risk of tendonitis (pain at wrist/forearm/and elbow) from texting at great length on their cell phones. There are those who have pain in the neck, back, hands and thumbs aggravated from poor posturing while texting. While it is still “new”, the diagnosis is considered TTT (teen texting tendonitis). What can you do to prevent (or to minimize) TTT? Stop the excessive texting, take a break in between, if possible brace the wrist with wrist splint, and stretching. If the pain from texting (and/or from bad posturing-please seek attention from your health care professional.)

If you think deaf children are immune from the damage these iPod/MP3 players can do, think again! While most MP3 players have maximum decibel level of up to 100dB, there are a few new MP3 players as well as specially enhanced ear buds that have a max of 120 dB. Listening at these extreme decibels can result in ruptured eardrum, tinnitus, or more hearing loss.

There is a law preventing employees being exposed to 115dB or greater for more than 15 minutes. There is no law preventing teens from playing their iPod loudly, but you can help stop further damage these small devices can do. Try to get teens to use the “old fashioned” headsets that are proven to minimize these damages. The ear buds that plugs into the ears of the kids can force more “damage”. If the kids are playing the MP3 player with the ear buds and you can feel and/or hear the music you know for sure it is too LOUD!

Washington School for the Deaf
611 Grand Blvd
Vancouver, WA 98661