

# Terrier Times

## DEAR TERRIER FAMILIES:

This is the most difficult *Terrier Times* article I have ever written. We are preparing to launch into a new era of what education looks like, at least in the near future, and there are more questions than we can possibly hope to answer; but I am heartened by the actions of my colleagues, in both small and large ways. Staff are working together to ensure that our students not cut off from their WSD "family." I hope that you received the letter principals April McArthur, Jason Cox and I sent explaining our plans for social and language interactions with your child during the school closure.

I want you to know that WSD staff are tirelessly working to figure out how to reach your child. We admit, the tech learning curve is huge, and there will be bumps in the road, but I am already seeing staff come up with creative ways to harness technology in order to reach our student population. Our pledge to you is to keep trying. We will continue to look for ways to reach out to you and your family. We will look for resources to share. Please check the WSD website for a special COVID-19 Information and Updates page. We will regularly add educational resources, parent communications and general updates there.

***I urge you to make sure that your child has video remote access in some way.*** Face-to-face communication through video allows your child to have visual access to language. In order for our students to be empowered, they must have access to information in their first language. If you would like for an SLC, aide, counselor, other related service provider, teacher (or even principal or superintendent) to chat with your child about COVID-19, please do not hesitate to send along an email. More than ever, we want to collaborate with you to support your child.

As you are aware, all WSD sports and events are cancelled at least through April 24. There is a possibility that things will be postponed even longer, and we will update you as soon as we have more information in that regard. Graduation is still set for June 4<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm. We are working on communications regarding graduation requirements for seniors and their families. Please contact Teresa Stotler-Martin with questions regarding graduation. All statewide testing is cancelled. Special education services are temporarily suspended. Guidance in the area of special education continues to change, we will share information with you as we have it, but for now, all meetings will be rescheduled when school resumes. If you have specific questions, please email your child's principal, or school psychologist, Chris Newell.

Families that need meal assistance can look to their local school district for resources. We hope to have an update on statewide meal distribution sites up on the COVID-19 resources page of the website soon. Not a day goes by that I don't think of the students and staff at WSD. Know that you are all in my thoughts.

We hope to have something a little fun and entertaining up on the WSD Facebook page soon. If you have not "liked" the WSD Facebook page, please do so and share the videos with your child. We will put the videos on our website too. Check back frequently.

***Stay safe and healthy!***

Yours in Terrier Spirit,

Shauna Bilyeu, Superintendent



"LIKE"  
WASHINGTON  
SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF  
FACEBOOK PAGE



*"Graduation is still set for  
June 4<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm.  
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graduation requirements  
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Teresa Stotler-Martin  
with questions  
regarding graduation at  
teresa.stotler-martin@cdhy.wa.gov."*



## ELEMENTARY—APRIL MCARTHUR, ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL

*I hope everyone is home healthy and safe.*

We were sad to cancel our annual **Flying Hands ASL literature competition** this year. I want to express my gratitude to our Flying Hands committee: Shayne Blaylock, Piper Gallucci, Stephanie Kesterke, Kelly Souhrada, and Drew Treacy. Thank you for your hard work in preparing for this year's competition and thank you to all of our staff members who stood by ready to help us. Many students submitted wonderful works of art, poetry and storytelling. They did not cease to amaze us with their ideas and creativity. It is my hope that students saved their work to be shared and celebrated with others.

Our **Flying Hands** competition is inspired by the Marie Jean Philip ASL Poetry, Storytelling and Deaf Art competition.

You can learn more about it at <https://cssh.northeastern.edu/asl/events/mjp-competition/>

This year's theme was **"Deaf Bing"**, highlighting and celebrating Deaf Culture norms.

Did you know that our WSD Cheerleaders were featured on The Daily Moth last year in a short video highlighting a "Deaf Bing?" Check out the video here- <https://youtu.be/4R6kw4Crleo>- go to time marker 18:40 (Thank you, Cheer Coach Stephanie Kesterke!)

If you have not yet, be sure to check out and subscribe to The Daily Moth, which you can find on Youtube or Facebook. Alex Abenchuch-an, host of The Daily Moth, shares daily news via ASL and often incorporates Deaf Culture into his videos. [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaayieDFpDIZ1b\\_mspO\\_Rzg/about](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaayieDFpDIZ1b_mspO_Rzg/about) Please stay safe and keep in touch with us!

*"If you would like for an SLC, aide, counselor, other related service provider, teacher (or even principal or superintendent) to chat with your child about COVID-19, please do not hesitate to send along an email. "*

***"Please check the WSD website for a special COVID-19 Information and Updates page. We will regularly add educational resources, parent communications and general updates there."***

## SECONDARY—JASON COX, SECONDARY PRINCIPAL

Hello Parents/Guardians,

A few weeks ago, Washington School for the Deaf (WSD) sent a few high school students and their coach, Tyler DeShaw, to Hawaii for Deaf Academic Bowl competition (DAB). They did not make it to the nationals but they brought home a **"Sportsmanship Award"**! We are so excited and proud of our team for doing well.

As you all already know this is a sad and difficult time for all students not being able to come to school until the COVID-19 pandemic settles down. On a positive note, all of our staff from Washington School for the Deaf are committed to keeping in touch with as many students as they can. We hope to keep them engaged with staff and each other as much as possible.

Please communicate with your child and let them know to check the WSD Facebook page for daily video updates from their WSD administrators. We want to keep your child informed with WSD related news and activities. Stay Safe.



<https://classroommagazines.scholastic.com/support/learnathome.html>



## Communication Services for the Deaf <https://www.csd.org/coronavirus>

### COVID-19 UPDATES & RESOURCES - SHC

Hello from the WSD remote Student Health Center! I hope everyone is managing as best as they can in these strange times!

In order to help keep everyone informed, I wanted to put together some quick resources promoting good health practices. If we are on top of what we need to do now, hopefully we can slow down the spread of COVID-19 so our loved ones will be safe and hospitals and clinics will not be overwhelmed.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) put out some good information about protecting yourself and others. I'm going to give some highlights, but the links to the original materials are included. Symptoms & what to do: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/symptoms-testing/symptoms.html>

- Watch for fever, cough or shortness of breath. This can start 2/14 days after exposure.
- If you develop difficulty breathing, persistent chest pain/pressure, bluish lips or new confusion – go to the ER Protecting yourself: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/prevention.html>
- The best way to avoid getting sick is to avoid exposure since there are no vaccines yet.
- The virus is mainly spread through the droplets we spread when coughing or sneezing.
- If these droplets touch your eyes, mouth or get in your nose, you can be infected. So wash your hands with soap for 20 seconds (best) or use hand sanitizer - <https://www.cdc.gov/handwashing/>
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth without first washing your hands.
- Stay 6 feet away from others & stay away from gatherings If you are sick: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/if-you-are-sick/steps-when-sick.html>
- Cover your mouth and nose when sneezing/coughing – stop those droplets from touching others. Use a tissue or into your elbow/clothes (just not into your hands)
- Wear a facemask when around others (healthy people should not wear facemasks unless the sick person is not able to wear a facemask – facemasks are in low supply and should not be wasted). • Clean & Disinfect regularly (the above links have guidelines & <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/cleaning-disinfection.html>?)  
 CDC\_AA\_refVal=<https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcoronavirus%2F2019-ncov%2Fcommunity%2Fhome%2Fcleaning-disinfection.html> )

The Association of Medical Professionals with Hearing Losses (AMPHL) compiled some deaf and HoH accessible resources: <https://www.amphl.org/blog/2020/3/15/covid-19-resource-list>

- ⇒ There are interviews with members of AMPHL all done in ASL
- ⇒ Links to NTID/RIT and Gallaudet & many other resources.

I hope this information is helpful. Please play-it-safe and stay healthy!  
 The Student Health Center (SHC)  
 Hattie Nosko, RN  
 Tim Vaner Ploeg, RN

### LIBRARY NEWS!

Hello from the library!

I hope that you are all doing well and keeping busy. As always now is a good time to read a good book! Students all have the Epic app on their iPads and can find all kinds of good things to read there.

They can also use the Libby app to borrow books from the public library.

Here is free learning hyperdoc [https://](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lmBFfe_himBsXeENZD2Sp9tIOrCdZAR4cUBwvkexXGI/edit)

[docs.google.com/document/d/1lmBFfe\\_himBsXeENZD2Sp9tIOrCdZAR4cUBwvkexXGI/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1lmBFfe_himBsXeENZD2Sp9tIOrCdZAR4cUBwvkexXGI/edit)

You can click on any of the blue links within the doc and it will take you to a variety of sites to explore.

We will be adding this to our web page as well. Remember to access these sites your child needs to be logged into WiFi.

If you have questions please email me

at [ginger.speranza@wsd.wa.gov](mailto:ginger.speranza@wsd.wa.gov).

Here is a link to our iPad tech tips page [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1EDZnC\\_g0ooyFjjek5gZ\\_lg\\_uHXXQJTmtZ1G291kBFcmg/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1EDZnC_g0ooyFjjek5gZ_lg_uHXXQJTmtZ1G291kBFcmg/edit?usp=sharing).

We will continue to add items here as things arise.

Please reach out to me with concerns. This is uncharted territory and we will do our best to support our families through this troubling time.

Yours in reading and tech-ing,

Ginger Speranza, Librarian



## ATHLETES

RON SPRATLEN  
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Hopefully everyone is doing well during this time and remaining active as much as possible. As we all take this journey together we need to try our best to get our bodies moving and stay as active as possible. The fun activities such as riding bikes, skateboarding, shooting hoops, going for a walk or hike, playing with your family members and/or pets. Or the less fun activities such as working in the yard as I found myself doing this past weekend, including my reluctant teenage son! He actually said "dad this isn't so bad, now I can see why you like to do yard work, it's nice to be outside"; it's those moments we need to cherish and remember as we navigate through life.

We need to be mentally active as well; playing cards, board games or reading a book. Just talking with each other or listening to our kids thoughts and feelings. Letting them know we value what they are thinking and how they feel.

Stay safe, healthy and active and I look forward to seeing our students when we return back to school and the stories they will share.

## FREE INTERNET ACCESS FROM COMCAST

### Two months of Free Internet Access from Comcast

With school closings as a result of the Coronavirus and students needing Internet access for online instruction, Comcast has developed a plan to support low-income families and students with Internet Essentials.

Effective **Monday, March 16, 2020**, anyone who signs up for Internet Essentials **will receive two free months of Internet service**. We are also **increasing the speed of the program to 25 Mbps downloads, and 3 Mbps uploads for all new and existing customers**.

After the first two free months expire, the subscriber can either cancel the service (which can be done at any time) or keep it as a regular paying Internet Essentials customer (\$9.95/month).

## SUPERINTENDENT LETTER

March 19, 2020



Dear WSD Parents and Families,

During these uncertain times, we are committed to keeping our students engaged with our staff for language and social purposes. To that end, we are reaching out to you to let you know that you and/or your child will soon be receiving communications from WSD Staff. Teachers, school counselors, aides and/or student life counselors (if your child is a residential student) may contact you and your child to check in and provide enrichment activities. Please help us stay in contact with you and your family during this time. You can always email your child's teacher and/or principal if there are any changes in your contact information.

Face to face communication is the most secure and reliable way for your child to connect with our staff. Our staff members are going to make every effort to try to connect with your child through video remote options such as SeeSaw, Zoom, Google Duo and their WSD issued iPad. **Please monitor all of your child's internet use carefully.**

While these times are unprecedented and we are learning how to navigate these uncharted waters, we want to work with you and your child to provide support and engaging activities. The current guidance from the state is that if we cannot provide equitable access to all of our students, we cannot provide specially designed instruction. **All special education services are temporarily suspended.** IEP meetings and evaluations will be rescheduled when school resumes.

All activities that staff share are optional at this time. (This guidance may change, and if it does, we will alert all parents at that time.) There will be no impact to grades for students in grades preschool through 11th grade. *Please note: Senior students and families will soon be receiving information that pertains directly to graduation requirements.*

As always, maintaining a strong school and family partnership is of utmost importance to us. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher and/or principal. All staff email addresses may be found on our WSD website.

Again, please be sure to monitor your child's use of the school issued iPad and stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,  
Shauna Bilyeu, Jason Cox and April McArthur

## 2020 SENIORS AND FAMILIES

As you know, Gov. Jay Inslee announced the closure of all Washington schools through April 24. We know there are many questions and concerns about graduation and other requirements for our 2020 senior class.

WSD is receiving updates from Olympia how to modify graduation requirements. The 3 required areas: Graduation Pathways (formerly assessment), credits, and High School & Beyond Plan are still required, and currently being modified to allow equal access for all students during this time of crisis. The commitment to you is to communicate these changes to the seniors and their parents either through email or phone. Our key role is to make sure child is on track to graduate. You will be hearing from me weekly on the changes and child's status towards the graduation requirements.

- ◆ **Graduation ceremonies and requirements:** High school graduation ceremony dates will not change. Graduation is still set for June 4, 2020 at 6:00pm.
- ◆ **High School and Beyond Plans:** Students can check out google classroom – HS and Beyond Plan for documentations that need to be completed.
- ◆ **Dual Enrollment classes:** Some seniors are enrolled in this program. WSD is in contact with NTID/RIT how we can complete this course and earn college credits. NTID/RIT is also doing remote online learning.
- ◆ **Graduation Pathway:** Gov. Inslee has removed the Smarter Balanced test (SBAC) as one of the options for meeting state standards for the Class of 2020. WSD is working with OSPI to find ways other graduation pathway options to meet state standards.
- ◆ **Questions?** Please feel free to email: [teresa.stotler@cdhl.wa.gov](mailto:teresa.stotler@cdhl.wa.gov). If you prefer a phone call, email me and I will make a phone call to you. *This is a difficult and stressful time for all of our families. Please know that we are working hard to provide resources and information to our seniors and families as quickly as we can.*

**“Our key role is to make sure your child is on track to graduate. You will be hearing from me weekly on the changes and child's status towards the graduation requirements.”**



*“High school graduation ceremony dates will not change. Graduation is still set for June 4, 2020 at 6:00pm.”*

## ASSESSMENT UPDATES

Hello parents and guardians.

In the spring we usually prepare for state and district testing. However, due to the closure of Washington schools through April 24th, our assessment plan has changed.

State testing (Smarter Balanced Assessments [SBAC], Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science [WCAS], Washington Access to Instruction & Measurement [WA-AIM]): Governor Inslee has cancelled state testing for spring 2020 for students in grades 3 through 8, and 10. Seniors are still required to demonstrate postsecondary career and college readiness. Our transition coordinator, Teresa Stotler-Martin, is working with the state office (OSPI) to determine the best assessment tool for our seniors. She will be reaching out to parents/guardians of seniors with more information. In the meantime, you can visit the following website to learn more about the new graduation pathways: <https://www.k12.wa.us/student-success/graduation/graduation-requirements/graduation-pathways>

District testing (Measures of Academic Progress [MAP]): MAP testing is for grades 2 and up, and was scheduled to begin after spring break. Due to scheduling uncertainties, MAP testing will either be postponed to May or cancelled.

More information will be available soon. If you want more information about MAP, visit <https://www.nwea.org/parent-toolkit/>.

*Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions:*  
[shannon.graham@cdhl.wa.gov](mailto:shannon.graham@cdhl.wa.gov).

Best,  
Shannon Graham,  
Curriculum & Assessment Coordinator

*“More information will be available soon.*

*If you want more information about MAP, visit <https://www.nwea.org/parent-toolkit/>”*



## SCHOOL LUNCHES

### Food availability

**Regardless of which school your child attends, you and your family are welcome to pick up food at no cost to you. Identification is not required.**

Sack lunches are being given out Monday through Friday between 10 a.m. and noon in front of the following schools.

Anderson Elementary,  
2215 NE 104th St.

Fruit Valley Elementary,  
3410 NW Fruit Valley Rd.

Ogden Elementary School,  
3200 NE 86th Ave.

Roosevelt Elementary,  
2921 Falk Rd.

Washington Elementary  
School, 2908 S. St.

Discovery Middle School,  
800 E. 40th St.

Jason Lee Middle School,  
8500 NW 9th Ave.

McLoughlin Middle  
School, 5802 MacArthur  
Blvd.

Food pantries:  
[https://  
www.clarkcountyfoodbank  
.org/foodpantrysites](https://www.clarkcountyfoodbank.org/foodpantrysites)

Hot meal sites:  
[https://  
www.clarkcountyfoodbank  
.org/preparedmealsites](https://www.clarkcountyfoodbank.org/preparedmealsites)



## POSITIVE BEHAVIOR SUPPORTS

**Student of the Month** -J. Piper Gallucci, Teacher and Coordinator, [piper.gallucci@cdhl.wa.gov](mailto:piper.gallucci@cdhl.wa.gov)

An important aspect of WSD's Secondary **Terrier Pride Program** is the monthly recognition assembly, Student of the Month. Staff members nominate and vote for students whom they see go above and beyond school expectations. There are seven recognition categories: Three R Superstar, Astounding Attending, Momentous Motivation, Inspiring Improvement, Super Supportive, Stupendous Spirit, and Positively Prepared.

In light of COVID-19 school closures, our assembly to recognize February Student of the Month recipients will not take place. Still, we would like to ensure those students receive recognition. Below is the category and the student recipient's name. They will receive their certificate once school reconvenes. Congratulations to each student!

3-R Superstar- Jasmyn Chavez

Momentous Motivation- Ethan Jacobs

Inspiring Improvement- Sharon Coss

Super Supportive- Yarzibeth Aparicio and Chyann Wisdom

Stupendous Spirit -Lora Torres

Positively Prepared-Macaela Medina, Caleb Plock, Emma McKinney, Irazema Paez

## GOT QUESTIONS?

Call our hotline using ASL  
Now or VP (833) 682-7630

*\*This hotline does not give medical advice. The agents taking your call have no medical training. If you're calling because you're sick, call 911 or your primary care physician.*

### Student of the Month

DECEMBER 2019  
Momentous Motivation  
Jayson Cabanizas  
Osvaldo Cruz  
Chris Castro  
Enrique Jose

Inspiring Improvement  
Gabi Grosnick  
Stanley Jorju

Super Supportive  
Jace Lewandowski  
Juan Ramirez  
Jose Ramirez  
Osvaldo Cruz

Stupendous Spirit  
Jesse Walker  
Kevin Diaz  
Jace Lewandowski

JANUARY 2020  
3 R Superstar  
Orlando Zepeda

Momentous Motivation  
Trinity Cook  
Mukshina Nabieva

Inspiring Improvement  
Deborah Dennis

Super Supportive  
Tye Gonzales

Astounding Attending  
Janet Tuz-Manrique

Stupendous Spirit  
Trinity Cook  
Ella Stromberg

Positively Prepared  
Nic Moore  
Jadalene Malone