



From the Superintendent's Desk

Shauna Bilyeu, Superintendent

Terrier Families,

Spring is in the air and believe it or not, we are heading into the final three months of school! April brings lots of activities: the high school track team heads down to Fremont, California for the Berg-Seeger track meet—a fun event competing against other schools for the deaf; our academic bowl team is going to Nationals in Washington DC over the weekend of April 12th; we have elementary FAN and FAN2, (a new event for the secondary level parents), 500 Books, and Special Olympics soccer starting up in addition to all of the every day fun learning!

Last month I sent home a parent letter to secondary level students regarding social media. I am including part of that letter here for all families to see. We take cyber safety very seriously. Please partner with us in monitoring your child's use of social media networking.

Please take the time to check your child's online activities. Do you know all of the apps they use? Do you know all of the accounts they have? You may be surprised to know that many WSD students have multiple Facebook or Instagram accounts with fictitious names.

We can't turn the clock back and ban students from using social media. Teens especially are looking to grow their social networks during this critical time of their lives, and social media is not going away. We can teach them how to use it safely and responsibly. If you have questions or concerns about how your child uses the internet at school, please contact the principals or myself. In researching internet safety, I have found this website to be especially helpful: <https://www.connectsafely.org/>

Thank you for taking the time to talk with your child about their online habits!

PROM! April 25!

Theme: **Vintage Masquerade**
(masks will be provided)

Location: Overlook House 3839 N
Melrose Dr. Portland, OR

Time: 7-10 PM

Cost: Normal Entry-Including food
from Olive Garden \$35

**Entry with Limo
including food \$75**

**Senior Honor
with food and Limo \$50**



Elementary Principal

ASL-English Bilingual Director & Elementary Principal

One of the reasons I love working with children is being able to witness the powerful learning that happens during their time at school. I often see what I call “goose bump” moments and those are the moments that remind me why I became involved in education. I had a “goose bump” moment right before our Flying Hands competition last month.

During dress rehearsal for the Flying Hands event, a few staff members and I were on stage doing a walk-through of the script and power point. While we were on stage practicing our lines, looking over the script and deliberating how to best go about the competition, the K-2nd grade class was practicing on the left side of the stage. Unbeknownst to me, the K-2nd grades were watching us figure out how to solve the problems that came up in the script. As we started to move to the side of the stage, the K-2nd grade students took over center stage. They imitated us. They took turns practicing their lines with peers giving each other feedback and referring to their own scripts. They did exactly what the adults were doing just moments before. They worked together to use language and social mediation to figure out how to best go about the competition, just like we (adults) were doing. See picture on the right. (photo credit: Raye Schafer)



Here at WSD, students have access to language, their peers and staff. Through the use of ASL, students can see how their peers and adults ‘mediate’ language and solve problems. Gail Tompkins, a college professor and author of several books on teaching language to children, writes, “(Len) Vygotsky asserted that children learn through socially meaningful interactions and that language is both social and important facilitator of learning. Children’s experiences are organized and shaped by society, but rather than merely absorbing these experiences, children negotiate and transform them as a dynamic part of culture.”

Even though our students may be at different points in their language learning journey, being in an environment that allows them to truly see how adults use language to share their ideas, opinions, and to work together to solve problems. Most important of all, we celebrate the human spirit and connection to one another. I am so grateful

Secondary Principal

Jason Cox, Secondary Principal

Students are excited for **Spring break!** Next week they will be taking a break from school and spending time with friends and family. We have two events happening in April which is very exciting. Terriers’ track team will be leaving at the end of Spring break to California for a Track meet against other Deaf schools. The event is called Berg Seeger Track and Field Classic. If you want to see updates on the track meets you can check California School for the Deaf - Fremont.

In last month’s newsletter, I mentioned our Deaf Academic Bowl (DAB) winning 4th place in our region. They will now be headed to Gallaudet in Washington DC for the DAB National competition. The team will be leaving for DC after spring break.

This school year has been an amazing year so far. It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of the school year! April 12th will be the last day for 3rd quarter. The 4th and final quarter will start on April 15th. **Your child deserves a good break from all the hard work they have done this year!**

Calendar

- April 1-5 Spring Break
- April 10 Family Academy Night (FAN)
- April 11 Family Academy Night 2 (Secondary) FAN2
- April 18 Early Release
- April 21 Easter
- April 25 Prom

SAVE the DATE
All Star Day
May 30!



Sports!

Ron Spratlen, Athletic Director

High School Track Season is underway and the team has already had two meets this season. The annual Berg/Seeger Track meet will be hosted by Fremont School for the Deaf this year on April 5 and 6. WSD will have 16 Athletes participating at the Berg/Seeger meet!

Easter
April 21

Our middle school basketball team concludes their season this week and track season will start for them in April. Spring is here and hopefully everyone has the opportunity to get outside, enjoy the weather and get some exercise!

Library News!

Ginger Speranza, Librarian

Elementary had our annual **500 books Kick-Off** and the reading will be starting after Spring Break! Please encourage your child to get their six books read so they can participate in the surprise field trip!



- February Student of the Month
3 R Superstar
 Raymond Singkeo
- Momentous Motivation
 Alondra Lopez
 Jalen Tracy
 Stanity Jorju
- Inspiring Improvement
 Juliana Sanchez
- Super Supportive
 Enrique Jose
 Coeya Fine
- Astounding Attending
 Chyann Wisdom

STATEWIDE EVENTS!

Upcoming Statewide Events:

Greetings from the Outreach Team!

As spring approaches we have some more exciting events we want to share with you. If you live in the following areas, please join us.

Family Nights:

- Wenatchee Family Night - April 9, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. - Location: Castle Rock Early Learning Center
- Pasco Family Night - April 17, 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. - Location: Rowena Chess Elementary School

Annual Event:

- Deaf Fiesta - April 6, 9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. - Location: Central WA University, 400 E. University Way, Ellensburg, WA - Black Hall Room 201
- For information and registration contact: Julia Peterson at Julia.peterson@seattlechildrens.org or Phone/VP 206-257-7199

The CDHL Outreach Team, in collaboration with Seattle Children's Hospital, Washington Sensory Disabilities Services, and the DSHS Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, are excited to announce **Deaf Fiesta 2019!** This is an amazing opportunity for Spanish-speaking parents of deaf and hard of hearing children, to network with other parents, learn about community resources, and attend workshops with Spanish-speaking and Deaf presenters. Lunch and childcare will be provided. There will be activities for children of all ages so please bring the whole family. Children age 9 and up, will have the opportunity to explore a rock climbing wall and outdoor challenge course, very exciting!

Vengan y disfruten de un día de diversión y aprendizaje! Cuidado de niños y actividades estarán disponibles para todas las edades!

¡LO MÁS DESTACADO DEL EVENTO!

- Oportunidades para los padres hispanohablantes de entablar contactos con otros padres.
- Enterarse de recursos comunitarios y asistir a talleres con presentadores hispanohablantes y sordos.
- Las actividades estarán disponibles para todas las edades. Los hermanos de los niños sordos son bienvenidos. Habrá varias actividades para niños de 0 a 8 años, y para mayores de 9 años podrán disfrutar de un muro de escalar o de un curso de desafíos a campo abierto.
- Almuerzo proporcionado gratuitamente.

We look forward to seeing you in April!

Outreach Team

Myths Busted!

Stephanie Kesterke, ASL Specialist

Myth:

Early Bilingual language exposure causes language delay and language confusion.

Fact:

Decades of research have shown that early exposure to two or more languages does NOT cause language delay or confusion. In fact, bilingualism has many potential cognitive, social and educational benefits.

MYTHS
BUSTED