

Terrier Times

2022

From the Superintendent's Desk

Shauna Bilyeu, Superintendent

Greetings to our Terrier Families in 2022!!

2022 is starting with a bang! Our design-build team, Skanska-Mithun, is eager and ready to begin stakeholder meetings for the new K-12 Academic Building and Gym! We have scheduled the first round of stakeholder workshops for the week of **January 10-14th**. This will include a town hall, classroom visits, learning sessions, campus experience mapping with students and staff focus groups. Their purpose is to get to know us, see how we function on campus and understand our vision for the future facilities. They will be on our campus several times over the spring and more information will be shared as we have it.

This is just the beginning of a very long process. I know many are curious about the timeline for the new building and gym. Recall that we do NOT have a design yet—this is why the team is coming to campus frequently. They are beginning the design work now. That will take approximately 18 months. **Currently, we are estimating to break ground for the new building May of 2023 and to move in to the new building by summer of 2024.**

As we head in to the wintry weather months, I want to take this opportunity to remind families of our school's operating procedures. Because we are a residential school with approximately 50% of our student population residing on campus Sunday through Friday, if inclement weather hits while residential students are on campus, school may close, but residential students would stay in the cottages. What this means for locally residing families: watch the news or other social media outlets for updates for your home school district. Our transportation for local students is provided through ESD 112. They will follow whatever the local school districts do.

For example, if you live in the Battleground School District, and it closes due to inclement weather, there will be no transportation provided that day, even if WSD is open. WSD typically follows Vancouver School District's inclement weather operations.

Please call us if you have questions. We will post any school updates related to inclement weather on our [WSD website](#). We will also try to post on the [WSD Facebook page](#) any updates about school closures.

Your child's safety is always our highest priority. The school will notify you if travel to and/or from the school is deemed unsafe. There may be times that we cannot transport students either to or from school due to inclement weather. If this is the case, we will alert you and work on alternate means (either time or date) for safely transporting students.

Speaking of safety, **COVID** continues to march alongside us into the new year. Guidelines for school operations remain the same. Students are expected to wear masks at all times except when eating, sit in class at least three feet away from each other and 6 feet when eating. Our testing capabilities continue to expand. We will be reaching out to families with more information soon.

School continues to be busy. Please see all of the fun, exciting things happening throughout this newsletter. I hope you are off to a wonderful start in 2022!

 **Save the Date!**
Flying Hands - March 10, 2022

Coronavirus Info & Updates can be found on the [WSD Website](#)

wsd.wa.gov

Elementary Principal

April McArthur, ASL-English Bilingual Director & Elementary Principal

It is our mission to provide rich language, academic, social and emotional learning. We work on developing our language and academic skills AND expanding our world knowledge through what we learn and experience both in school and outside of school. We have begun opening up to engagements with various organizations to provide opportunities for our students to build and strengthen their world knowledge. I am so proud of our students who participated in Nanowrimo during November as well as those who participated in the Gallaudet Battle of Books competition! Here are our upcoming events:

- **January 2022 (date TBA):** We will have a Tooth Fairy come and visit us to show us how we should take care of our teeth!
- **February 23rd:** We will partner with Clark College NERDgirls program to host our very first elementary STEM day. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and math. STEM emphasizes critical thinking, problem solving and innovation. Our goal is to encourage our students to explore those fields and potentially consider one of the fields as a future pathway.
- **February 28th:** A police officer from Vancouver Police Activities League will come to WSD to read a story to our K-2nd graders about how police officers support our community.
- **March 10th:** One of our most cherished tradition will make a comeback! We will host the Flying Hands ASL Literature competition. Students from WSD and other deaf programs around the state and from out of state will come together to compete with our WSD students in ASL poetry, Deaf Art and ASL Short Films. Be on the lookout for more information as the date draws closer.

Secondary Principal

Jason Cox, Secondary Principal

Dear Parents/Guardians,

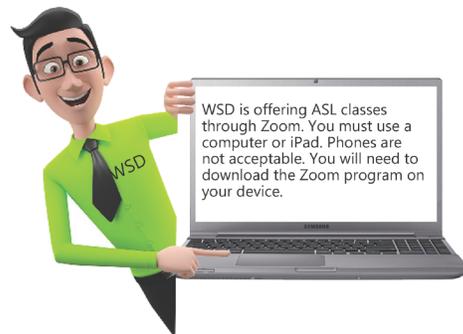
It is great hearing about the quality time students had during the holidays with family and friends. Since the beginning of the school year, students have been doing well with following protocols to help keep themselves safe. Maintaining social distance and wearing a mask all day is not an easy task.

WSD has been providing students' snacks and water bottles to help prevent the spread of COVID as well. After several months of providing water bottles, it came to my attention that disposable water bottles would be left around outside on campus and in classrooms or hallways. As a result, I have decided that students will need to start bringing their own personal bottles to school to fill with water as needed. Please provide a refillable bottle with a lid for your student. I plan to email staff to see if they have any bottles that they can donate for students to use as well. If you have any extra bottles at home, please feel free to have your student bring it to school.



WSD ASL Community Classes!

Via Zoom Each class will have a maximum 8 participants- first come, first served! Classes are free to parents of current WSD students. Community Member Cost is \$75.



We are offering 2 different levels. Each class will meet once a week - choose which level you want. Please sign up only if you can commit to the full 10 weeks. Participants must be 14 years or older. Instructor: Lynn Varrelman

Tuesdays: Beginner Level

7:00pm-8:00pm
Starts Feb 1st to April 12th
(No class on April 5th due to Spring Break)

Thursdays: Intermediate Level

7:00pm-8:00pm
Starts Feb 3rd to April 14th
(No class on April 7th due to Spring Break)

Community ASL Classes: We will offer WSD ASL classes in the beginning of February. These 10-week online classes are free of charge for parents of WSD students and only \$75 for community members. Be on the lookout for a flyer/registration form coming in January!



2021 WSD Homecoming King Kevin & Queen Gabi

Library News!

Ginger Speranza, Librarian

National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo):

53 students participated in NaNoWriMo this year. We have had students writing NaNoWriMo novels since 2003. They wrote a total of 41,216 words! The winners are:

Elementary School

- Most Creative- Elvin Zepeda
Best Fiction- Alyssa Messer
Most Dedicated- Logan Johnson

Middle School

- Most Creative- Nathan Yerkes
Best Fiction- Angel Castro
Most Dedicated- Sara Johnson

High School

- Most Creative- Coeya Fine
Best Fiction- Evan Stromberg
Most Dedicated- Ashley Andersen
Best Graphic Novel- Olivia Carr

PLAQUE

- Most Likely to Publish- Savannah Anderson
Highest Word Count- Lilly Hart
Up and Coming- Betty Lou Duncan

Battle of the Books:

This year we had two teams competing in Battle of the Books a nationwide reading competition sponsored by Gallaudet University. Both teams read three books and went against 3 other teams in a preliminary round. It was great to see other deaf schools from across the US via Zoom. Our Bison team gave a strong showing but did not get the opportunity to move on. Our Blue team made it into the Playoffs. Playoffs were held on December 10th. Soon we will find out if we will be flying to Washington DC for the final competition. Please congratulate our Readers for their effort and participation in this event.



Blue! Savannah Andersen Sara Johnson Alyssa Messer Lillie Mathisen



Bison! Dalton Wilkens Jantzen Moore Rosalene Scott Esther Nelson



Sports

Ron Spratlen, Athletic Director



Hello Terrier Families, Our girls and boys varsity basketball seasons have started! Both teams have played a few games so far and they are exciting and fun to watch. Students, WSD staff, family members of the players and WSD alumni are welcome to attend the games; we are not allowing outside guests or visiting team fans to attend games at this time. All our home games and most away games are streamed on the NFHS Network. If you subscribe to the NFHS network you not only have access to WSD games, but all games nationwide; you can also re-watch games as many times as you want. For a schedule of our games please look on the WSD webpage under the Student Life tab. Have a great winter break!



Terriers

JANUARY

- January 4 vs. 3 Rivers Christian 7:00pm HOME
January 6 @ Willapa Valley 7:00pm AWAY
January 11 @ Firm Foundation 7:00pm AWAY
January 13 @ Naselle 7:00pm AWAY
January 18 vs. Columbia Adventist 7pm HOME
January 20 @ Pe Ell 6:00pm AWAY
January 25 vs. Mossyrock 7:00pm HOME
January 27 @ 3 Rivers Christian 7:00pm AWAY



Lady Terriers

JANUARY

- January 4 vs. 3 Rivers Christian 5:30pm HOME
January 6 @ Willapa Valley 5:30pm AWAY
January 11 vs. Fort Vancouver 5:30pm HOME
January 13 @ Naselle 5:30pm AWAY
January 18 vs. Columbia Adventist 5:30pm HOME
January 20 @ Columbia River 5:30pm AWAY
January 25 vs. Mossyrock 5:30pm HOME
January 27 @ 3 Rivers Christian 5:30pm AWAY

Holiday Parties!

Hosted by the Residential Department Staff



Check out Washington School for the Deaf's FaceBook Page!

REMINDER!
No School
MLK Jr. Day - January 17
Presidents' Day - February 21

