

From the Superintendent's Desk

Shauna Bilyeu, Superintendent

Terrier families and students,

Mother Nature decided to wreak a little havoc in February. While many other parts of the state were hit with heavy snow, Vancouver got very little. This meant that while many residential students missed some school, WSD remained open and local students were able to attend as usual. I have had some questions regarding the need to extend the school year due to inclement weather. State law mandates that we have 180 instructional days for students and at least an average of 1027 instructional hours for K-12 schools. Our school calendar has more than the required number of both days and hours, so at this point, we do not need to make up any school days. Our last day of school for students is June 14th. If that changes, we will alert families as soon as possible. The 2019-2020 school calendar is in the final stages of editing and will be published by March 4th.

Our campus will be going through two rather large upgrades. First, we will be replacing lighting throughout campus with LED lights. We are looking forward to seeing things in a brighter, more energy efficient way! The second is related to security. We will be replacing our key card lock system, adding some security cameras and replacing our visual emergency alert system. The work for both of these projects is scheduled to begin in March. There should be little disruption to normal operations.

Other happenings in March:

- Our high school Academic Bowl team is off to Phoenix, Arizona for the Western Regional competition March 1st-4th! We wish them the best of luck!
- The state-wide Flying Hands competition that we host annually will be held on March 14th. Make sure to ask your child how he/she is participating. If you would like to watch your child perform, and need overnight accommodations, please call Sharon Caton to reserve a room. We have limited availability, so please know that availability is on a first come, first served basis and call soon! To see more information about the Flying Hands competition, see our website.
- MAP testing for elementary and secondary students begins this month. Contact Shannon Graham for more information.
- March 26th, secondary students will be travelling to Seattle to see a special performance of Romeo and Juliet. Deaf actor, Joshua Castille, will be performing!
- March 27th and 28th, some secondary students will be travelling to BizTown and Finance Park. Parents are welcome to attend as well. Contact Teresa Stotler-Martin for more information.

Spring is on the way!



**Flying Hands
ASL
Competition
March 14!**

Elementary Principal

April McArthur, Elementary Principal



Like many other schools, students at WSD participate in several academic and sport competitions with their peers. For example, in January, our secondary students participated in the Western States Basketball Classic (WSBC.) Gallaudet University's Youth Programs hosts several competitions that we participate in, such as the Battle of the Books competition and Deaf Academic Bowl. **We are thrilled to announce that two of our elementary students, Roman Berg and Angel Cruz, received honorable mention in the recent National Literary Competition in ASL!**

The National Literary Competition for ASL and for Writing is hosted by Gallaudet University's Youth programs and Pi Kappa Zeta. The purpose of the ASL competition is "to further the development of academic ASL; promote creativity and originality in the use of ASL; and to foster a sense of pride in ASL among Deaf and Hard of Hearing students." You can check out Gallaudet's Youth Programs at <https://www.gallaudet.edu/youth-programs> We are so thankful to Gallaudet University and to their partners for supporting these programs. Our students truly enjoy these kinds of opportunities to not only showcase their skills and talents, but to meet other deaf and hard of hearing peers and adults from around the country! Special thank you to our staff and families for supporting our students' participation in these competitions.

Don't forget to regularly check out our calendar on our WSD website for upcoming events and if you have not yet done so, be sure to like our Facebook page so you can see posts of events at WSD. We are very proud of our students and staff and we enjoy celebrating all of their accomplishments! Go Terriers!

Secondary Principal

Jason Cox, Secondary Principal



Check Out
Washington
School for the Deaf's
Facebook page

It has been an exciting news for the Terrier's Nation. Recently our Deaf Academic Bowl (DAB) went to Phoenix to participate in the competition. We won 4th place! We are now qualified to go to the Nationals in Washington D.C. On April 11th. Our students worked hard each week with our Teacher/Coach Tyler DeShaw so we all are so proud of the team for their hard work.

More information will be shared on the next newsletter about how DAB will do at the Nationals. You can also check Washington School for the Deaf (WSD) Facebook page to check updates on how the team does at the Nationals.

Myths Busted!

Stephanie Kesterke, ASL Specialist

Myth:

Sign language is universal

Fact:

Sign language isn't a universal language. There are over 135 sign languages around the world. Even though the USA, Britain and Australia all share the same spoken language, English, they each have their own sign language, American Sign Language (ASL), British Sign Language (BSL) & Australian Sign Language (Auslan). <https://blog.ai-media.tv/blog/6-myths-about-sign-language>.



Calendar

March 14 - Flying Hands ASL Competition
March 17 - St Patrick's Day
March 21 - Early Release



Sports!

Ron Spratlen, Athletic Director

Track season has started and athletes have been practicing and preparing for the first meet of the season at Raymond High School on **Thursday, March 14**. We have 23 athletes participating on the track team this year! Please go to the WSD webpage and look at the track schedule; we would love to have you come to a meet. See sports calendar for upcoming games at wsd.wa.gov.

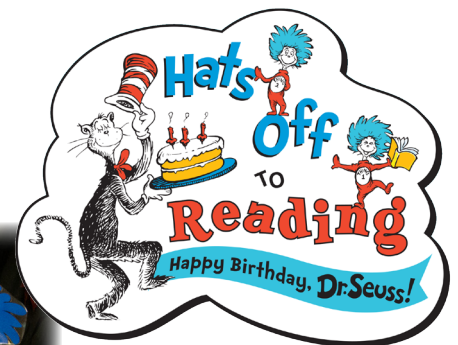


Deaf Academic Bowl (DAB)

Tyler DeShaw, Secondary English Language Arts Teacher

The Washington School for the Deaf Academic Bowl (DAB) team just returned from Phoenix, AZ, where we competed all weekend in the West Regional Tournament. Twenty teams from all over the West battled for the regional championship and a berth to the National Competition in Washington, DC in April. The WSD team ended round robin play with a record of 1-3 and in an unprecedented Cinderella-like storyline, won their first three matches in bracket play on their way to placing 4th in the West! **This result means we earned a trip to Nationals, our second in three years!** Please extend your hearty congratulations to the three young gentlemen who worked super hard this past weekend: Don A. Redford IV (Dared), senior, Ethan Jacobs, sophomore, and Nicolaus Moore, freshman.

WSD Celebrates Happy Birthday Dr. Seuss!



STATEWIDE EVENTS!

Greetings from the CDHL Outreach team!



Family Night events are coming up in March so if you live in the following areas please come join us! These events are a collaborative effort between CDHL, local school districts, parents, and community members. Each night is unique but in general they involve dinner, fun activities for kids, and engaging topics for parent discussion groups. We look forward to seeing you on the following dates for Family Night:

- **March 12** - Wenatchee 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.
Castle Rock Early Learning Center: 112 South Elliott, Wenatchee, WA 98801
- **March 19** - Walla Walla 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Sharpstein Elementary School (Library) 410 S Howard St., Walla Walla, WA 99362

We also have some wonderful training opportunities coming up in March.

- **March 13** - Family Webinar: The Safety & Success of Our Children: Parents as Observers, Teachers and Lookouts 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. Presenter: Harold Johnson, PhD - Michigan State & Kent State University. For more information and registration: <https://wahandsandvoices.org/event/family-webinar-parents-as-observers-teachers-gatekeepers-for-the-safety-success-of-their-children/>
- **March 23** - Hands & Voices Educational Advocacy & Support Training 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Central Washington University (Black Hall): 400 E University Way, Ellensburg, WA 98926. For more information: <https://wahandsandvoices.org/events/2019-03/>. This event is for parents, professionals, and community members.

Last but certainly not least - we are very excited for our upcoming annual event:

- **March 27-28 - Deaf2Deaf Experience:** Junior Achievement BizTown
Junior Achievement (JA) is the largest organization dedicated to giving young people the knowledge and skills they need to own their economic success, plan for their future, and make smart academic and financial choices. JA teaches skill in work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy - igniting the spark in young people to experience and realize the opportunities and realities of work and life in the 21st century. The Department of Social and Health Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and Childhood Deafness and Hearing Loss have partnered to provide this opportunity for students who are Deaf, Hard of Hearing and Deaf-Blind in middle schools and high schools statewide. Last year we had an amazing crowd of 225 students from Oregon, Washington, Alaska, and Idaho. In addition to all the student focused activities, this year we have a couple of special opportunities for parents as well:
- **March 27** from 12 - 2 p.m. our ASL Outreach specialist will be running a workshop for parents entitled: How to Navigate Life as a Deaf Person. This workshop will be full of valuable insights about how to be successful in the world from the Deaf perspective.
- **March 28** from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. we will have a Parent Panel that will include representatives from: Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (ODHH), Hearing Speech and Deaf Center (HSDC), Gallaudet University, Washington Hands & Voices, and DVR. This is a great opportunity to ask questions, make connections, and gather important information for your child's future!

Deaf2Deaf Experience is an amazing opportunity for both students and parents that you do not want to miss! For more information please contact cathy.corrado@cdhl.wa.gov.

We look forward to seeing you all in March!