

Terrier Times

From the Superintendent's Desk

Shauna Bilyeu, Executive Director

Happy Spring!

As I sit here with my warm tea, cozily wrapped up in a sweater watching the rain and wind pelting down outside, I am reminded that sunnier days are ahead, and it takes rain to grow the flowers. I believe staff and students are also looking ahead to warmer months and end of school year celebrations. We will soon be nearing the end of the 3rd quarter and rushing headlong into the flurry of 4th quarter activities.



Parents may have seen a recent post on social media regarding recruitment for a new principal. Do not worry! Our administration is intact—mostly. We will say farewell to our beloved former principal, elementary principal and current assistant director for admissions, Bill Newell, in June. After retiring twice from WSD, Bill is leaving us for a 3rd and final time to enjoy some well-deserved rest. This, along with my decision to retain some superintendent duties in my role as executive director, prompted us to do some restructuring at the administrative level. Beginning next school year, Dr. Shannon Graham will assume the role of director of instruction and oversee the academic department as well as WSD special education processes and admissions. Piper Gallucci will maintain her role as assistant principal, and we are currently recruiting a principal. We will share information with parents and families regarding finalists for this critical role later this spring. We hope to have a new principal in place in time for the start of the 2025-2026 school year.

We still have several capital projects occurring or wrapping up around campus.

Here is the rundown:

- **Jim's Soccer Field:** *our beautiful turf field is almost complete! We are scheduled to open it after spring break! There will be a small dedication ceremony on April 9th for staff and students only.*
- **Kastel STEM Lab:** *construction is set to begin late April/early May. Students will have robotics, esports, and other STEM-related courses in this state-of-the art classroom next fall! Construction is expected to be completed before school starts August 25th.*
- **Clarke Hall Bilyeu Conference room:** *we are remodeling this room to be better suited for meetings with technology and lighting upgrades. Work is expected to be completed by June 2025.*
- **Northrop Primary School:** *this building will be completely renovated, pending legislation approval. If approved, work will begin in July 2025 and be completed by August 2026.*

There are a lot of changes happening at the federal level with the new administration. While we do receive some federal funding, we are primarily state funded. Currently, I do not anticipate interruptions to our programs. If things should change, I will alert families.

However, Washington State is experiencing a revenue shortfall, and the budget projections are not promising. Governor Bob Ferguson has repeatedly said that schools will be protected from any budget cuts. I will know more about what the potential impacts could look like for our school later this spring. I will share information as I have it. I am cautiously optimistic that our programs will be sheltered. Make sure to watch the Parent Square calendar and notifications for news about our upcoming events! I hope you can dodge those raindrops and get outside to enjoy the spring!

Save the DATE

Flying Hands
Literature Competition
is **April 24!**

This year's theme is
"Imagination in the Wild:
Deaf Animal Kingdom."

Calendar

April 15
Family Night
April 24
Flying Hands
May 29
All Star Day
June 12
Graduation
June 17
6th & 8th
Grade
Promotion
June 18
Last Day



Washington Career Academy for the Deaf, WaCAD

Toni Stromberg, Program Specialist-WaCAD/ILS

WaCAD Spotlight

WaCAD Participant: Chyann Wisdom

Chyann, a WSD Graduate in 2021, has been in the WaCAD program for about 2 ½ years. She has volunteered in numerous places to earn work experience: Habitat for Humanity ReStore, Share: Backpack Program, Share: Hot Meals Program, Humane Society's ReTails Thrift Store, and WSD's Family Academic Night. For the last five months alone, she has volunteered in three different locations and for more than 260 hours. Chyann will complete the program with us on March 28th and start transitioning to Sherwood Community Services near her home in Oak Harbor. She wishes to work in a retail stocking position in a store. We want to congratulate Chyann for her success and wish her well for a new opportunity.



WaCAD Spotlight

WaCAD Participant: Abraham Ramirez

Abraham, a WSD Graduate in 2022, has been in the program for about 2 ½ years and will complete it in June 2025. Abraham previously volunteered at the Washington School for the Blind in the facility department with Brian Kindblade and other WSSB staff for about a year. This year, he volunteered for the Share: Backpack Program. He prides himself that he has a driver's license and enjoys making those deliveries to drop off "backpacks" of food to schools for families in need. He also works in Share's warehouse. He did other volunteer work for WSD, such as the state car wash and detailing, which he loves to do, Clarke Hall Basement, and works with Alex Garcia in our facility department. He also volunteered for WSD's Family Academic Night for three years. For the last five months, Abraham volunteered for more than 280 hours. Abraham aimed to work with Vocational Rehabilitation in his hometown of Renton in a car detailing business, construction business, or maintenance mechanic.

"Chyann and Abraham are excellent WaCAD participants and volunteers, and we appreciate their contributions to the community."

-Toni Stromberg, Program Specialist

WSD's Website

www.wsd.wa.gov

Mt. Hood

What's awesome about **WSD's Physical Education program?**

Not only do we stay active in the gym, but we also explore the incredible backyard of **Mt. Hood!**

Our middle school students had an unforgettable experience snowshoe hiking at **Timberline Summit Pass**, soaking in the beauty of the PNW while building outdoor skills and confidence! **A huge shoutout to Deaf Education Advocates Foundation and Adventures Without Limits for making this adventure possible.**

From fresh mountain air to breathtaking views, our students embraced the challenge and had a blast! We can't wait for more outdoor adventures ahead!





**March 31-April 4
Spring Break**



“Additionally, we participated in professional learning on neurodiversity, led by Dr. Jilene Modlin, who has partnered with us for the past two years. Her expertise continues to help us improve our strategies and better support students with additional needs.”

Academic Department

Shannon Graham, Ph.D., Principal

The year has flown by, and we're looking forward to all that's ahead! Our new school building is starting to feel like home. When we opened in the fall, the walls were bare, but now they are filled with vibrant student work that reflects creativity, learning, and pride. It's wonderful to see our building come to life and take on the personality of our students and staff.

Since January, our staff has been engaged in meaningful professional learning, continuing our training in Strategic and Interactive Writing Instruction (SIWI) to support our school improvement goal of strengthening students' ASL and writing progress. In February and March, our bilingual language arts teachers received targeted coaching from the SIWI team, with the third and final session scheduled for April. These coaching sessions provide individualized suggestions and support for teachers based on their specific needs, helping them refine their practice and strengthen student outcomes. Additionally, we participated in professional learning on neurodiversity, led by Dr. Jilene Modlin, who has partnered with us for the past two years. Her expertise continues to help us improve our strategies and better support students with additional needs.

We're also excited to share that Kelli Beechy has joined us as our new ASL Specialist Aide, replacing Shayne, who has moved on to another position. Kelli has been an important part of our community for many years as a paraeducator. We're thrilled to welcome her into this new role. She will bring so much to our ASL-English bilingual program.

Following spring break, our calendar will quickly fill with events and celebrations to close the year. Please make sure you have access to ParentSquare so you can stay up to date on all upcoming events and important information. We're looking forward to a wonderful finish to the school year! As always, please do not hesitate to reach out if you ever need anything.



April 8th to 17th, all students from 3rd-8th and 10th grades will take the **Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA)** in Math and English on a computer (iPads for elementary & ChromeBooks for secondary). 5th, 8th, & 11th graders will also take a science test, known as the **Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science (WCAS)**.

For more information about the tests or to try a practice test, visit this website: www.smarterbalanced.org.

It is very important that your child attends all testing days fully rested and well-fed. Please encourage your child to do their best. If you have any questions about state testing at WSD, please contact me by phone (VP): 360-553-4626 or email: dana.miles@cdhl.wa.gov.

Thank you for continuing to work with us to ensure your child succeeds. Please let us know if there is anything we can do to better support your child. We want your child to leave us with a solid foundation of skills and a future full of opportunities.



Sports

Ron Spratlen, Athletic Director

We have finished up our winter sports season of Girls and Boys Varsity Basketball, Special Olympics Basketball, Cheer Competitions and Elementary/Middle School Basketball as well as Early Spring ASP. It has been a busy, fun filled Winter! Our Track season has already started, and we have had two track meets so far. Please check out our WSD website for more information and upcoming track meets. **The Spring ASP session will be starting on Monday, April 14 and will conclude on Wednesday, May 21, sign-ups coming soon.** Thank you for your continued support of our sports teams and student athletes, we appreciate you.



2025 SCHEDULE HIGH SCHOOL TRACK & FIELD



MARCH 20TH
DISTRICT 4 1B/2B
LEAGUE MEET
@ NAPAVALINE



MARCH 27TH
DISTRICT 4 1B/2B
LEAGUE MEET
@ ILWACO



APRIL 12TH
BERG-SEEGER -
TEXAS SCHOOL FOR THE
DEAF - AUSTIN, TX



APRIL 16TH
1A TRICO LEAGUE
MEET @
FORT VANCOUVER



APRIL 22ND
DISTRICT 4 1B/2B
LEAGUE MEET
@ MOSSYROCK



MAY 1ST
DISTRICT 4 1B/2B
LEAGUE MEET
@ OCOSTA



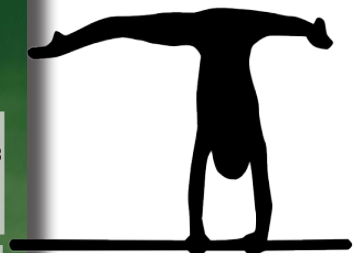
MAY 6TH
DISTRICT 4 1B/2B
LEAGUE MEET
@ ONAKASKA



MAY 14TH
DISTRICT 4 MEET
@ NASELLE

PLAYOFF - MAY 22ND
QUAD DISTRICT MEET
@ FRANKLIN PIERCE, TACOMA,
WA

MAY 29TH-31ST
2024 WIAA STATE
CHAMPIONSHIPS -
ZAEFFEL STADIUM,
YAKIMA, WA



Deaf2Deaf Experience 2025

The CDHY Outreach team hosted our annual Deaf2Deaf Experience event at Junior Achievement World in Auburn, Washington and it was a big success. We had 170 people in attendance this year with schools from all over the state including WSD. The students had the opportunity to take a soft skills workshop, internet safety workshop, and spent the afternoon doing activities focused on financial literacy. We also had some parents join us and hosted a parent panel for them. Many vendors and partnership agencies joined us as well and we look forward to doing it again next year. A huge thank you to the Outreach Team for all their hard work and coordination to bring this event to fruition.



Checkout the
WSD
Facebook
Page

Understanding Cyberbullying

J.Piper Gallucci, NBCT, Assistant Principal

Bullying is a serious issue that can have lasting effects on children. It is defined as repetitive insults and comments that interfere with a student's education and cause pain and/or fear. In today's digital age, cyberbullying has become the most frequent type of bullying, occurring through texting, group texts, and social media platforms such as Facebook, Instagram Live, and Snapchat. Most cyberbullying takes place in the evenings and on weekends, making parental involvement crucial.

What Can Parents/Guardians Do?

- Regularly check your child's social media accounts and online interactions.
- Use parental control apps like Boomerang or consult your cell phone provider about monitoring options.
- Have open and honest discussions with your child about responsible social media use.
- Reinforce the importance of reporting concerning content.
- Discuss the consequences of engaging in or spreading inappropriate posts.
- If your child reports cyberbullying to you, there are some things you can do:
- Have your child show you the message(s).
- Educate your child on how to disengage from unhealthy texting and online messages.
- Inform the assistant principal.

At WSD, we prioritize the safety and well-being of our students. We implement digital citizenship lessons, guide responsible social media use, and collaborate with families to address concerns. We aim to create a positive and supportive online environment for all students



What Is
Cyberbullying?
Cyberbullying
is the use of
technology to
harass, threaten,
embarrass, or
target another
person.



Student of the Month Recognition Secondary Students October 2024-February 2025

Kindness/Kudos

Jayden Rathje
Diofina Souken
Kiera Green

Persistent

Perseverance

Graham Macklin
Wes Hopkinson
James Olson
Kaylee Gobrowki
AJ Saldana
Graham Macklin
Cassandra CC Learned
Dimas Zepeda

Momentous

Motivation

Jocelyn Briones
James Olson
Jacob Knipp
Jesus Hernandez
James Olson
Cassandra CC Learned

Inspiring

Improvement

Jayden Rathje
Nevaeh Juneau
Gracias Muraya
Cassandra CC Learned
Valentin Medina
Mauro Palma Linares
Kathryn Mohagan

Super Supportive

Angie Vinalay Jimenez
AJ Saldana
Aunalia Cate-Hayes
Valentin Medina
Cassandra CC Learned
Mauro Palma
Aunalia Cate-Hayes

Astounding

Attending

Cassandra CC Learned
AJ Saldana
Aunalia Cate-Hayes
Savannah Cruz
Jocelynn Briones

Stupendous Spirit

AJ Castro
Violetta Blumenstein
Deborah Dennis
Kasey Daniel
Kasey Lewandowski
AJ Castro
Violetta Blumenstein
Ruby Miles

Positively Prepared

Kasey Lewandowski
Mauro Palma Linares
Elvin Zepeda
Dimas Zepeda
Cassandra CC Learned

Honorable Mention

Jorge Barojas-Hernandez
Kasey Lewandowski

The WSD Middle School Math Team competed in the **RIT/NTID West Regional Math Competition at Oregon School for the Deaf**, joining 13 other teams. They demonstrated teamwork, strategy, and problem-solving skills!



Flashback!

WSD was **Elfed** during the holiday season! WSD staff and students had a surprise visitor for breakfast! Our very own **Elf on the Shelf** - Shauna Bilyeu, Exective Director!

