



## From the Superintendent's Desk

Shauna Bilyeu, Superintendent

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you are aware, we are at another decision point for re-opening school. We continue to meet with state and local health officials and rely on the guidance we receive as we continue our planning. Thank you for your ongoing patience. Our top priority is staff and student safety and we continue to look at how to safely re-open.

We would like to share with you our current plan if it is approved by state and local health officials. There are still so many unknown factors with testing, vaccine availability and safety. Right now, we are seeking approval from the state health officials to reopen a small portion of on-campus residential student services. This will include up to 14 students in a "hybrid model" who would begin with transportation to campus on Sunday, January 31st. This plan currently applies to residential students only. One challenge we share with you is the emphasis to provide educational equity for all students. At this time, for the students who return to campus as well as those who remain at home, we will continue all education through remote instruction.

So what will this "hybrid-model" look like? We will open two cottages. Each cottage will have seven students each (no roommates outside of siblings are permitted). Each cottage will have SLC staff 24 hours per day to supervise students. Residential department staff will support students with schoolwork and remain together in cottages. Students will not be allowed into other buildings on campus without express approval from administration. All meals will be provided in cottages. Students will be transported on a weekly basis to and from home, Sundays and Fridays.

Our goal is to provide some stability and support for residential students who continue to struggle with technology access and communication barriers in the home. We believe only an on-campus environment can provide this much needed interaction for these students. We realize that this plan does not address supports to all of the students who are struggling.

However, given the limitations of the guidelines and availability of vaccine, we are limited in the number of students we can bring back at this time. Two weeks ago we sent out a parent survey gauging interest in a "hybrid cottage model" and we are currently contacting parents that expressed interest or families with students that have been identified by administration as benefitting from this environment.

We will keep you informed as we phase in additional services. Our hope is to continue to add back residential students every two to three weeks, and in person classes as vaccines become more available within the coming months. We will contact individual families to discuss their child's timeline for returning to campus. If you have questions or concerns or would like to discuss this model further, please reach out to Shauna Bilyeu.

Here's to a bright future for the students we serve at WSD and those we serve in communities across our great state. Stay safe and stay healthy,



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

## Elementary Principal

April McArthur, ASL-English Bilingual Director & Elementary Principal

It is hard to believe that it will be almost one year since we closed school due to the world-wide pandemic and switched to remote learning. While circumstances have been far from ideal and difficult for some of us, I am extremely appreciative of our students, staff and families' resiliency through these uncharted waters. We were asked to make changes in our lives that were sudden and unexpected, and we worked hard to find ways to continue supporting our children, doing things that often required lots of patience and creativity. I see the light at the end of this tunnel and I am hopeful for our future.

*"Due to the ongoing pandemic, we are canceling this year's 2021 Flying Hands Competition. However, we still want to recognize and honor our students and ASL Poetry. We will be doing a Flying Hands Showcase instead."*

An example of coming together to figure out a way to navigate these uncharted waters is our annual Flying Hands ASL Literature competition. Our ASL staff met and brainstormed ways to make sure we could carry on this cherished tradition. One of the most beloved aspects of our annual Flying Hands ASL Literary competition is all of the schools/programs coming together and being together as we celebrate ASL Poetry and ASL Storytelling. An important part of the competition is performing live on stage in front of an audience. Due to the ongoing pandemic, we are canceling this year's 2021 Flying Hands Competition. However, we still want to recognize and honor our students and ASL Poetry. We will be doing a Flying Hands Showcase instead. We will be asking each school/program to celebrate their students' work using their school's social media platform. For example, at WSD, we will ask teachers to submit (with student and parent permission) student videos of ASL poetry to the ASL department, which will in turn post them on WSD's Facebook page. Please be on the lookout for ##FlyingHands2021, coming out the last week of March! We look forward to recognizing and celebrating our students' talents which are sure to be inspiring and uplifting, especially during these times! **In Terrier Spirit with you.**

## Secondary Principal


Jason Cox, Secondary Principal

I hope all is well with you and your family. This letter is to remind you all that first semester ends on Friday January 29th. We will be starting 3rd quarter on February 1st. With that being said, I have some exciting news to share with you all. February month is Black History Month. Special thanks to one of our parents, who is a person of color (POC) and a strong advocate for Deaf people, for meeting with me through Zoom to discuss some ideas for Black History Month. We will be providing some information regarding Black History Month in classes everyday for about 10 minutes. Each day one photo will be shown of either a Deaf or Hearing African American who was a strong role model for the community. All Secondary students including 5th and 6th graders will participate. On February 25th we will have a panel of 4 Deaf Black Americans and it will be LIVE on zoom. Questions from students will be addressed by the panel.


My goal is to expand this kind of activity to all different cultures in the near future. It is essential for students to learn more about diversity and other cultures outside their own. If any of you are interested in talking with me about educating students about your cultures please feel free to contact me.

### CLASS OF 2021

## TERRIER STRONG MASKS



**\$15**  
(PLUS TAX)




Reserve your masks, before February 12, 2021

Free shipping!!

Expected delivery date: March 2021

Questions?? Contact  
kelli.beechy@cdhl.wa.gov

Link to order: <http://bit.ly/3bCUq38>



## After School Program

### Virtual Winter Holiday Party: Winter Terrier Express

Thanks to D.E.A.F. for supporting our event for all WSD students!



1918-1920

## WSD Pandemic Historical FACTS

State of Washington - Board of Control - Tenth Biennial Report 1918-1920 - (Page 301) Health

During the past biennium we have had more sickness than at any time in our history. During the winter it became necessary to place the school in close quarantine for a period of several weeks and all correspondence was carried on by telegraph. The epidemic spread throughout the entire institution including officers and teachers. That there were no deaths during all the sickness is due to the splendid and efficient management of Mr. and Mrs. Clarke, ably assisted by the entire staff of employees. **Our Needs:** We need a new outside hospital. Our experience during the past winter shows the need of a separate hospital at this school. The old main building, where our sick rooms are located, is so nearly coming to pieces that contagion cannot be prevented. As we are now situated part of our population must pass the door of the contagious wards to get to their meals. If we had a hospital built as a separate unit no interference with the business of the institution would be necessary at any time. The hospital could be quarantined, and the school and business go on as usual. We should then be able to prevent any disease spreading throughout our entire population. Such as building as I desire could be built for approximately \$15,000.00.

### \*\*WSD Historical Facts:

During the 1918-1920, most of the employees (Superintendent & his family, teachers...) resided at the Main Building while the houseparents supervised and resided at the Mead (boys -1906) and the Clarke (girls -1911) Dormitories. The dining room was still located at the Main Building (1889 -1927) where the students and the employees must pass the door of the contagious wards to get to their meals. The infirmary (hospital) was finally situated at WSD campus in 1921 and the dining room in 1927.

W.S.D.A.A. Newsletter Volume 4, Issue 11 - Summer of 2008/by Curtis Peart, WSD Researcher - Page 10

Thomas Clarke resigned from WSD as a superintendent as a superintendent in August 1920. Thomas Clarke's health began to fail during an epidemic of influenza which broke out at WSD. When his health began to fail, he asked to be relieved. At request of the state board of control: he named his successor, George B. Lloyd.

Washington School for the Deaf Celebration 1886 - 2011 Trivia Edition II/ (Compiled By Curtis Peart, WSD Researcher)

### Did the Influenza Epidemic of 1918 hit WSD Campus?

Walter Kilpatrick's Superintendent's Report book stated that in 1918, there one is reported that WSD had somewhat extensive epidemic of throat trouble that occurred in December of 1916. Supt. Walter Kilpatrick reported later in 1918 that our physician inspected all the pupils for adenoids and enlarged tonsils, with a view toward eliminating or reducing the severity of epidemics of colds, throat trouble in the future. He reported that forty-one pupils had enlarged tonsils or adenoids or both of sufficient gravity to need surgical attention. This represented just about 33-1/2 percent of total pupilage.





Greetings from the CDHY Outreach Team,

We hope you can join us for the following Family Events in February:

Wednesdays 4:30-5pm - ASL Family Time with Shawn Broderick  
Join us on Zoom for family friendly ASL activities with Shawn Broderick! Each week, enjoy mini lessons on a variety of topics (classifiers, school subjects, time/week/day, furniture, yard tools)! This opportunity is free!

Feb 3 - furniture

Feb 10 - time/week/days

Feb 17 - school subjects

Feb 24 - ASL classifiers

February 17, 6:00-7:00pm - Family Activity and ASL Story Time  
Families with children ages 0-12, please join us on Zoom for a family activity and ASL story time!

Family Night - February 17, 6pm - 7pm  
Families with children ages 0-8, please join us on Zoom for a family activity and ASL story time!

February 22, 4:00-4:45pm - Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teen Social  
Deaf and hard of hearing Teen Social. Please join us on zoom at <https://zoom.us/j/97395104408>

We also welcome parents and guardians to the following Professional Development opportunities in February:

February 9, 3:30-4:45pm - Small Talk: Developing Social Skills for Students Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing and use Listening & Spoken Language with Haley Brown & Tara Slinn

This presentation will focus on how to understand and support the development of social skills for students who are deaf and hard of hearing, and who use Listening & Spoken Language as their primary mode of communication. The workshop will place emphasis on the subtleties of language, peer interactions, and how to increase social skill development for students.

February 16, 3:30-4:45pm - It is Always about the Language with Cathy Corrado & Shawn Broderick

It is always about the Language is a class created to show that when working with deaf and hard of hearing students, access to language and expanding their language is the key to creating an educational environment where the deaf child will learn.

February 23, 3:30-4:45pm - Deafness & Multilingualism for Children Using Multiple Spoken Languages with Gabriela Holzman & Haley Brown

This presentation will debunk the historical myths surrounding exposure to multiple spoken languages for children who are deaf or hard of hearing with an emphasis on current research-based trends in bilingual education. Participants will gain understanding of both legal criteria and best practices in assessing deaf or hard of hearing children from bilingual homes. The workshop will share strategies for further expansion of language for children while supporting the family as a whole.

For more information, or to register for any of these events, please contact Christy Camarata [christy.camarata@cdhy.wa.gov](mailto:christy.camarata@cdhy.wa.gov)

Have a wonderful February, CDHY Outreach Team

## WSD Pandemic Historical Facts

**Oregonian - April 22, 1920**  
**"School Paper Reappears Institute for Deaf Trouble with Sickness Among Pupils"**

Vancouver, Wash....April 21.  
(Special) - The Washingtonian, the school paper of the Washington State School for the Deaf, which has been issued for six weeks on account of sickness at the institution, is out again today with apologies for its long silence.

Since the opening of the present school term there have been 11 mild cases of smallpox. The head of the laundry, rather than submit to vaccination, resigned, and left rather hurriedly. On March 4, two girls became ill with scarlet fever and the whole institution was quarantined. Scarlet fever, in a mild form, spread until 40 had taken it. A few cases of diphtheria also developed.

There were no fatalities and not an hour of school was lost except by those who were ill.

**Oregonian, May 29, 1920**  
**"Formal Closing Omitted - Deaf and Blind Schools Decide to Take No Risks"**

Vancouver, Wash...May 28  
(Special) - No public exercises will be held at the Washington State Schools for Deaf and Blind this year. This announcement was made after consultation by Professor Thomas P. Clarke, superintendent of the school for the deaf and doctors attending patients at the school during the recent epidemic.

The health of the pupils at the school is now fine and the long siege has been overcome without losing a patient, but there is considerable sickness in Vancouver and a big gathering would be a risk, it was thought.

