



## From the Superintendent's Desk

Shauna Bilyeu, Superintendent

Happy New Year Terrier Families and Friends!

Never has a new year been met with such anticipation and hope! As I begin to think about all of the possibilities for 2021, I have to remind myself to be patient and that good things come to those who wait. WSD staff is more than ready to welcome back students, but we must plan carefully in order to ensure everyone's safety. As you know, we are only offering remote operations for grades 2-12 at this time. We will continue to engage in discussions with both local and state level departments of health on how to start bringing students back. I hope to have more re-opening information for you before the end of January. Our campus de-construction project is moving slowly, but surely forward. Four buildings are slated for demolition: Epperson Vocational Building, the Old Red Barn, the Old Cafeteria, and the Boiler House. Underground utilities reports and permit applications to the city are complete. The actual demolition will occur mid-April, and we hope to have everything complete (including site restoration) by July of 2021. In related big news, phase 2, which is the construction of a new academic building is included in the Governor's budget! It still has to pass in the House and Senate this spring, so it is not definite, but it is a good first step. We are highly encouraged.

We also learned that the governor did NOT include an operating 15% budget reduction for the next biennium. This is VERY good news, and affirms that the governor values our school and community. We will continue to share information as we have it.

2020 was certainly a roller coaster of mostly lows. My hope is that 2021 is mostly the highs as we climb back up from loss, uncertainty and fear. We still have a long way to go, but we will get there, slowly, but surely. I am grateful for your continued trust. We will continue to serve your children in the best way we know how. Please feel free to email me with questions or concerns.

Next month we will have a full version of the newsletter, because there will be lots more to share! Let's go, 2021!



***“Congratulations to Piper Gallucci for earning her National Board Certification! She joins 6 other educators at our school with this award! We are proud of our staff!”***



## MTSS UPDATE

J.Piper Gallucci

What is Anti-bias Education?

Children have a right to an education that allows them to achieve to their fullest potential. A strong bilingual program, such as the Washington School for the Deaf provides, is one avenue to supporting the child's development of their full potential. Anti-bias education is another avenue which ensures all students an equitable learning environment, but what is anti-bias education?

Anti-bias education (ABE) is not simply a curriculum. Rather, ABE is a systematic approach to an education. In a world that is diverse and inequitable, ABE provides a perspective and framework integrated into each part of the school's system. It supports each child through equitable education, social interaction, district decisions, and classroom instructional methods, materials and more.

With an equitable education system children learn a strong sense of identity about themselves and family. They recognize and honor diversity, recognize hurtful behaviors, and actively work to build an inclusive and fair world. ABE starts in early childhood education and continues until the child graduates.

This is no small feat. We, at WSD, recognize that this is a road to where there is no end. We have a lot to learn and look forward to a journey of discovery and growth for our school community and a supportive, equitable learning environment for our students.

(Article excerpts from Anti-Bias Education for Young Children & Ourselves by Derman-Sparks, Edwards & Goins (2020).

## STUDENT OF THE MONTH!

### SEPTEMBER

Persistent Perseverance\*

Briyana Moore

Mukhsina Nabieva

Momentous Motivation

Kasey Lewandowski

Enrique Jose

Inspiring Improvement

Kwabena White-Star

Trinity Cook

Cody Moody

Mukhsina Nabieva

Super Supportive

Iran Sanchez-Villanueva

Astounding Attending

Chloe Anthony-Bennett

Orlando Zepeda

Stupendous Spirit

Jesse Walker

Positively Prepared

Kasey Lewandowski

### OCTOBER

Persistent Perseverance\*

Briyana Moore

Chloe Anthony- Bennett

Kasey Lewandowski

Angel "AJ" Castro

Momentous Motivation

Micaela Medina

Briyana Moore

Iran Sanchez

Jazmin Mendez

Mukhsina Nabieva

Inspiring Improvement

Janet Tuz-Manrique

Lora Torres-

Sun Flaget

Roman Berg

Super Supportive

Kevin Diaz

Kasey Lewandowski

Julian Robinson

Astounding Attending

Sun Flaget

Trinity Cook-

Gabrielle Grosnick

Trinity Cook

Stupendous Spirit

Jazmin Mendez

Mukhsina Nabieva

Kasey Lewandowski

Positively Prepared

Gabrielle Grosnick

Orlando Zepeda

### NOVEMBER

Persistent Perseverance\*

No nominations

Momentous Motivation

AJ Castro

Briyana Moore

Inspiring Improvement

Irazema Paez

Roman Berg

AJ Castro

Astounding Attending

Irazema Paez

Jadalene Malone

Trinity Cook

Sun Flaget

Stupendous Spirit

Jesse Walker

Positively Prepared

Deborah Dennis



David Speranza's  
fantastic art that we  
turned into our WSD  
Holiday ornament.



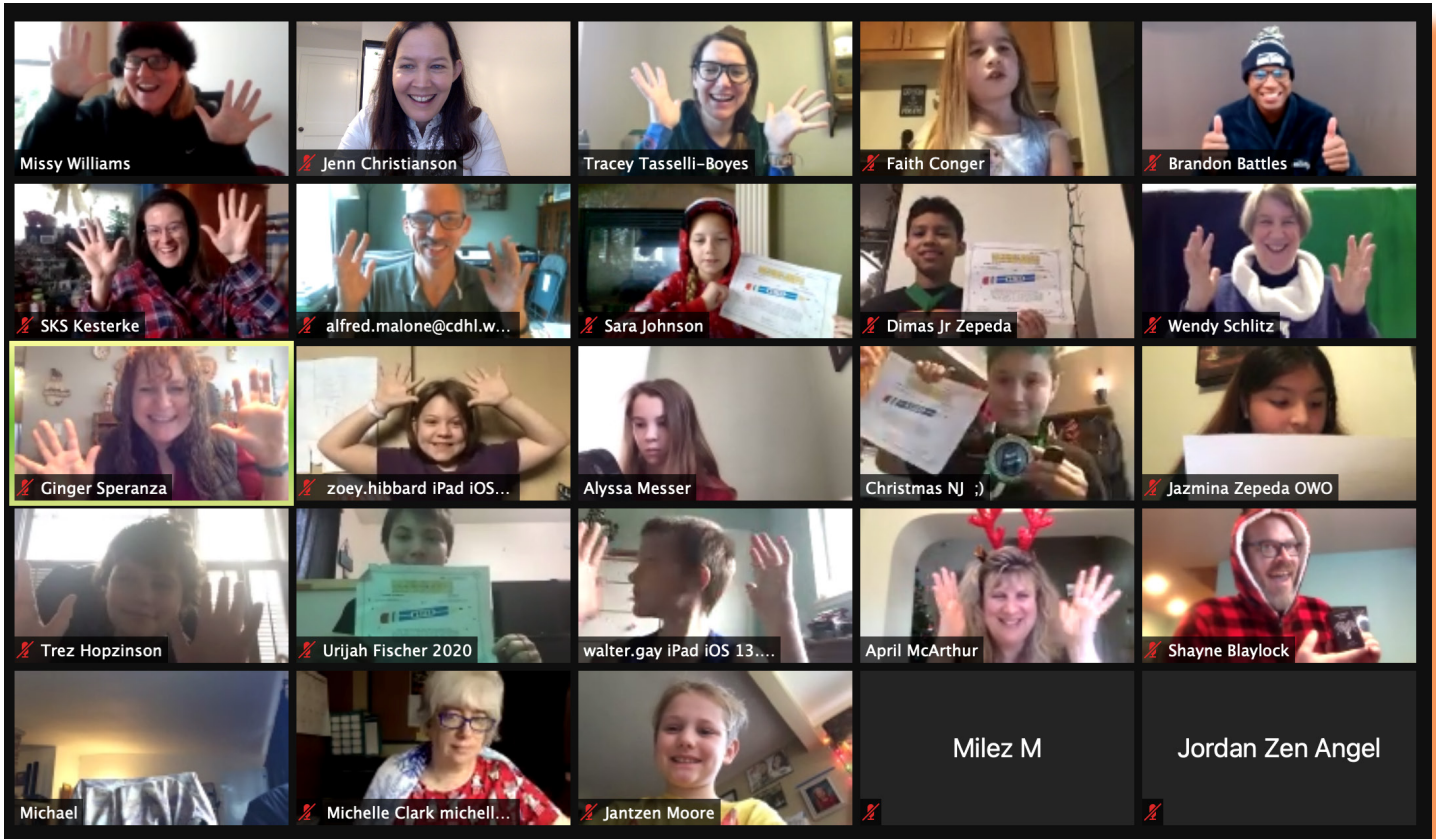
Check out  
Washington School for the  
Deaf's FaceBook Page!

## WSD Library

Ginger Speranza, Librarian

### NaNoWriMo 2020

National Novel Writing Month was a bit different this year. Students wrote from home and were motivated by their teacher Jenn Christianson. This 17 year tradition kept alive even in the worst of times. Thanks to those who participated I could not be prouder of this resilient group of students.



**Congratulations to our  
big winners this year!**

**Most Creative-  
Nathan Yerkes**

**Best Fiction-  
Sara Johnson**

**Most Dedicated-  
Walter Gay**

**Most Committed-  
Dimas Zepeda**





## *In Loving Memory...*

*In the early morning of November 2nd, David Martin passed away in his sleep. As the world awakened, the family quickly learned that life has forever changed.*



David Martin

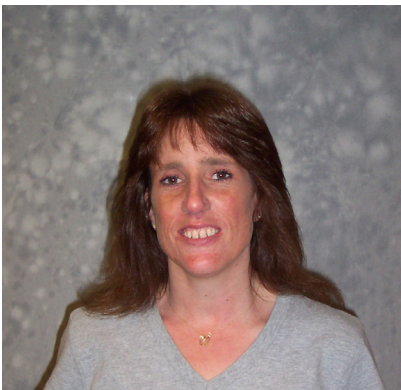
*David was the man in many people's lives. He was a friend, he was a lover, he was a teaser, he was a hand-holder, he was a go-to-guy, among a million other things to each individual person, and he was a loving father to top it all.*

*David's home was in the kitchen. He loved to cook meals. Recipes were never followed. He used to cook up elegant breakfasts for WSD staff, even bringing his BBQ grill along with a canopy to work! He loved cooking St. Patrick's meals and never accepted a dime for the ingredients. Christmas was a holiday he enjoyed. He loved hosting the annual holiday party with the crazy bingo game.*

*David loved the ocean; before his spine started fusing, he was an avid kite flyer.*

*David graduated from WSD in 1974. He only attended WSD as a student for 3 years. David started working at WSD in 1994-ish. First as a contracted paraeducator, then as a transportation secretary (in various buildings as the residential director kept moving offices - at one time, he was in elementary) and his final position was secondary administrative assistant.*

*David had a personal connection with many staff and WSD. He has touched many people in different ways. Many will find it hard to replace that special feeling.*



Paula Olson

*It is with a heavy heart that we inform you of the passing of Paula Olson. Paula was our Custodial Lead and has been employed at WSD for the last 23 years. Paula was dedicated employee, an absolutely kind person--she always had a smile on her face and a "can do" attitude. She was a wonderful co-worker and she provided excellent leadership to the Custodial department. She was kind and supportive to everyone.*

*Paula's passing was unexpected and we know that staff members will need time to process this loss. We wish we had more time with Paula but we feel honored to have known her.*