



# Summer

## From the Superintendent's Desk

Shauna Bilyeu, Superintendent

Dear Terrier Families and Friends,

We are well on our way to wrapping up an historical year! Staff and students are enjoying the short time we have together on campus, but soon we will be saying goodbye again. I am hopeful that it will only be for the usual 10-week summer vacation this time. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for Washington has announced that they expect all public schools to offer full in-person services for those families that want it with continued mitigation practices in place (face coverings, social distancing, additional ventilation and cleaning practices). The mitigation efforts may change over the summer, and we will communicate those when we know of them. Please keep an eye out for email communications from the school over the summer. At this time, there are no COVID vaccine requirements for students to attend school. Children ages 12 and up are eligible to receive vaccines.

When students and staff return at the end of August, they will see some BIG changes on campus. We will begin work to demolish four buildings down the center of campus. This is in preparation for a new Academic Building and Gym to be built in 2022! This project will be a huge task and will take at least two years to complete, but may take as long as 3 to 4. We expect to be obtain occupancy in 2025. This is very exciting! While we are making improvements to our educational programs, we are also preserving a bit of history. Recently, our elementary building, Northrop, was added to the National Historic Register. There was a nice article in the Columbian about it. You can see it here: <https://www.columbian.com/news/2021/may/20/building-at-washington-school-for-the-deaf-to-be-listed-on-historic-register/>

There are plenty of things to do over the summer to keep your child actively engaged. Please check out the rest of this newsletter for ideas. While our graduating class is small this year, they are extra special because they have persevered through some incredibly challenging times. Some of these students have been with us for most of their educational career and they are ready to fly! Congratulations! We will miss all of you!

Have a wonderful summer! I look forward to seeing everyone again at the end of August. The first day of school is **August 30th**, with cottage registration on **August 29th**. Depending on social distance requirements at that time, details about a back to school barbecue are still to come.



**Superintendents Dinner - June 8**  
**Graduation - June 10**  
**Last day of School - June 17**

**Visit**  
**[wsd.wa.gov](https://wsd.wa.gov)**  
**for the 2021-2022**  
**WSD school calendar**

## Elementary Principal

April McArthur, ASL-English Bilingual Director & Elementary Principal

I want to show my appreciation for our staff and families for working together so that our elementary students could return to in-person learning the last quarter of this year. It is impossible to measure the tremendous value of being back together and learning together in person. Thank you for collaborating and partnering with us in your child's education.

Traditions are so important to us and especially even more so during these unprecedented times. I am thrilled that our students were able to participate in our annual 500 Books competition this spring. Congratulations to all the students who met their reading goals!

Now that summer is almost here, I am sure that many of you are wondering about ideas for activities for your young ones. Included in this letter is information about **Camp Taloali**. Don't forget the power of information through social media- there are many family-friendly groups you can join via Facebook. For example, Vancouver's "Vancouver DHH Family Play Group" or "ASL Activities for Kids in and around Seattle." Families and community members often post "Deaf-friendly" activities, ideas and tips on these FB pages.

Please make sure that WSD has your working email address. If you change your contact information, please be sure to share that with us. We send out information and announcements via email. We will email important announcements before school starts in August and post on our website as well- [www.wsd.wa.gov](http://www.wsd.wa.gov). Wishing you a healthy and safe summer. Stay Strong, Terrier Pups!

Reminder:  
School starts on  
August 30, 2021

## WSD Library

Ginger Speranza, Librarian

iPads and cords as well as Hotspots all need to be returned to the school this year. Please check your shelves for any wayward library books and help them get home to be inventoried. Thanks and have a wonderful summer!



## Secondary Principal

Jason Cox, Secondary Principal

As May comes to an end, so does the unforgettable school year. I am so grateful for this community- students, families, teachers, staff for working hard to make sure students get the education they need.

When we decided for WSD to reopen April 19th of 2021, it was a good decision for everyone. Being on campus, we were able to give a lot more support compared to remote learning. Students also were happy to see each other and followed our expectations of being 6 feet apart from each other, wearing a mask, washing hands frequently and cleaning desks.

As usual, with COVID-19 still around anything can be unpredictable. If there are any changes that WSD needs to follow up with as far as safety at school with, WSD will send you an update before school starts on August 30, 2021.

If you are interested in having your child attend any Deaf camp/ events in Washington State this summer you can check our WSD website for more information.

*"Traditions are so important to us and especially even more so during these unprecedented times. I am thrilled that our students were able to participate in our annual 500 Books competition this spring. Congratulations to all the students who met their reading goals!"*

## Congratulations WSD Senior Class of 2021!

Sharon Coss  
Ethan Jacobs  
Sierra Jones  
Iran Sanchez Villanueva  
Chyann Wisdom



**Class of 2021** will have in person graduation!! **Graduation will be June 10th at 5 pm in the Auditorium.** This is a happy plan. The happy plan has some sad details. Graduation is opened to graduates and their families/relatives only. Staff members who will be presenting and involved with the graduation ceremony itself will be in person. If you are not involved with either, you can watch it via live streaming. Friends of graduates and alumni will watch it livestreaming from their homes. Cottage students will watch it live-streaming. Teachers and other staff will watch it live-streaming. Link will be shared closer to graduation.

**Class of 2025** (current 8th graders) - will have a promotion celebration on **June 17th** starting at 8:15 am. 7th and 8th graders will attend in person. 8th graders families will be invited. Others will be able to watch it live-streamed. Link will be shared later.

**Class of 2027** (current 6th graders) - will have a promotion celebration on **June 17th** starting at 8:15 am. 5th and 6th graders will attend in person. 6th graders families will be invited. Others will be able to watch it live-streamed. Link will be shared later.

## Residential

Rick Whitney, Director of Residential Services

### Senior Traditions!

June is here again and with that comes Senior class traditions in the Student Life Department. We missed out on these traditions last June when we had to stay at our homes instead of being on campus due to the pandemic that impacted most of the entire world. Now we are slowly getting back to “normal” in our daily lives.



*“Once a  
Terrier,  
always a  
Terrier.”*

Every year for the Seniors participate in the Superintendent’s Dinner then join the residential staff in the annual Senior Tease. The Student Life Counselors (SLCs) put on a “roast” for the outgoing Seniors which is always in good fun. Some presentations are speeches, skits, prop comedies and gift giving. Each Senior is recognized and funny or heart touching stories are shared about them during their time at WSD. Sometimes the skits have the audience and Seniors roaring with laughter or misty eyed with sweet sentiments shared.

Usually the day after the Senior Tease the Seniors will embark on their Senior Trip. That is when another tradition that the underclasses takes place much to the Senior’s dread. That is the pranking of their bedrooms. Over the years the outgoing Seniors have wised up by making their bedroom have the least amount of stuff possible due to the pranking that will occur. Sometimes when they arrive back to WSD at night they will find their bedroom is various states of disarray. Toilet paper strung about the room, confetti lined floors, clothes hanging from the ceiling or even a bed outside on the lawn. It is all in good fun and never malicious. This year’s Seniors run the risk of forgetting this tradition due to last year’s stay at home order but if they read this article then this serves as a fair warning of what will come. Congratulations to the Senior Class of ’21 for making it this far! Once a Terrier, always a Terrier.



Student of the Month  
December 2020/January 2021

Persistent Perseverance

Enrique Jose

Roman Berg

Momentous Motivation

Juan Ramirez

Jose Ramirez

Trinity Cook

Jesse Walker

Inspiring Improvement

Jalina Miller

Jazmin Mendez

Aunnalia Cates-Hayes

Super Supportive

Jace Lewandowski

Astounding Attending

Julian Robinson

Jazmin Mendez

Sierra Jones

Kasey Lewandowski

Mukhsina Nabieva

Jasmyn Chavez

Stupendous Spirit

Micaela Medina

Stanity Jorju

Orlando Zepada

Positively Prepared

Yoorim Lee

Deborah Dennis

Kasey Lewandowski

MARCH 2021

Momentous Motivation

Kwabena White-Star

Kasey Lewandowski

Inspiring Improvement

Jazmin Mendez

Chyann Wisdom

Yarizbeth Aparicio

Savannah Cruz

Hector Lopez

Kasey Lewandowski

Super Supportive

Tye Gonzales

Astounding Attending

Chloe Anthony-Bennett

Stanity Jorju

Kwabena White Star

Jesse Walker

Orlando Zepada

Roman Berg

Stupendous Spirit

Enrique Jose

Chyann Wisdom

Iran Sanchez

Roman Berg

Lupita Villa Recendiz

Positively Prepared

Kasey Lewandowski

Roman Berg

Monique Pete-Johnson

FEBRUARY 2021

Persistent Perseverance

Lora Torres

Momentous Motivation

Sun Flaget

Sierra Jones

Inspiring Improvement

Jadalene Malone

Super Supportive

Deborah Dennis

Astounding Attending

Kasey Lewandowski

Mukhsina Nabieva

Roman Berg

Jesse Walker

Abraham Ramirez

Positively Prepared

Mukhsina Nabieva



This summer, **Camp Taloali** is offering one week of summer camp with COVID precautions from August 2nd until August 8th 2021 (Monday to Sunday).

Here's the camper application link:

<https://form.jotform.com/CampTaloaliAdmin/camper-application>

We offer archery, rock tower climbing, high ropes featuring the leap of faith and flying squirrel, low ropes/challenge course, nature adventures, team-building games and sports, STEAM classes, fishing, and presentations successful from Deaf role models. We ensure that our staff is certified in First Aid/CPR, lifeguarding, archery and climbing activities through RedCross, NASP and Synergo for facilitating our various activities.

Contact Randall Smith, Camp Administrator for more information:  
(509) 690-2028 (mobile number, text only)  
(503) 400-6547 (office number)

Check Out  
Washington  
School for the Deaf's  
Facebook page



## Sports!

Ron Spratlen, Athletic Director

Hands waving and standing ovation for our WSD Student Athletes who participated and navigated through the sports seasons! As we slowly and cautiously returned back to school and sports our students opened with Cross Country followed by Track and wrapped up with Basketball seasons. This has been a challenging year and our student athletes meet those challenges head on and I can't express enough how proud I am of them. Wearing masks for practices, meets and games and adjusting to rule changes to keep everyone safe and able to play; it was truly humbling to see them meet those challenges head on and persevere. Proud of our Terrier athletes and I know you are too!

