

Terrier Times

From the Superintendent's Desk

Shauna Bilyeu, Executive Director

Happy (almost) summer, Terrier Families!

We made it! The first school year in the new building and gym are complete! It has been a whirlwind of a year as students and staff settled into the new buildings, playground and routines. I love watching the students play on the playground from my office. It is a happy place. As we wind down the year, I'd like to share a few updates and reminders.

As you may be aware, Governor Ferguson signed the state transportation, capital and operating budgets this week. State-wide education was well-supported with the operating budget: there is an additional \$1 billion for K-12 funding, and \$800 million for Special Education funding. The capital budget included funding to continue with our Northrop elementary remodel project. Work will begin this summer, and the building will be closed for the duration of the 2025-2026 school year. The preschool will be housed on the 3rd floor of Clarke Hall next school year. We will share more details with those families in the coming months. I continue to feel fortunate that our state values education AND deaf education.

There will be other changes to campus when students come back in August. Our new Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) lab will be open and running! This room will house robotics, 3D printing, and Esports classes! It takes the place of an old auto shop at the back of the Kastel Cafeteria. We are extremely excited to see this classroom take shape. It will be state-of-the-art! This is the last piece of the new school/gym project. We look forward to showcasing it to families in the fall!

You will also see some new faces when you return. As you are aware, we are in the midst of a principal recruitment as Dr. Shannon Graham moves into the new role of Director of Instruction. We hope to have a new K-12 principal in place by the time school starts. Additionally, we continue to see climbing enrollment at WSD. To that end, we hope to hire a new elementary teacher this summer. Look for announcements during the summer regarding staff updates.

Please plan to join us on Sunday, August 24th for a Welcome Back BBQ at noon. Cottage registration will begin at 2 for residential students. Come join the fun. **The first day of school is Monday, August 25th.** The cafeteria will be open beginning at 7:40 for breakfast, and school starts at 8:00 am.

As we wind down the school year, I want to take an opportunity to thank two very important organizations that support our students and staff. Deaf Education Advocates Foundation (D.E.A.F.) is a non-profit, volunteer organization that works to add enriching activities for the students and morale boosters for the staff. Our Parent Staff Organization also went into double overtime this year to support staff. Staff were completely spoiled during Staff Appreciation Week with coffee, treats and well-wishes. DEAF and PSO combined forces to support a shave ice truck coming to campus to celebrate the end of the school year! Thank you DEAF and PSO!! Both organizations have websites—check them out if you would like more information on how you can support them and in turn, support us!

Please be on the lookout for important information shared through email and Parent Square through the summer. We will use your most recent contact information, so please make sure it is updated. Have a wonderful summer!



June 12
Graduation
June 17
6th & 8th
Grade
Promotion
June 18
Last Day
of School



Check Out
WSD's
Facebook page

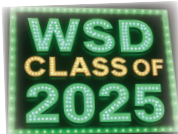
"There will be other changes to campus when students come back in August. Our new Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) lab will be open and running! This room will house robotics, 3D printing, and Esports classes!"



Sports

Ron Spratlen, Athletic Director

The 2024/25 sports seasons and after school program (ASP) sessions have concluded, where did the time go?! Scheduling and planning for Fall sports and ASP have already begun. **Practices for Fall High School sports will begin the first day of school, Monday, August 25.** Students entering 6th grade through 12th grades will need have a current Sports Physical on file to participate in Fall sports. If your child does not have a current/updated physical on file, please get those completed during the summer break. Please look on our WSD website for information, schedules and upcoming events. Thank you for your continued support or our sports teams and student athletes, we appreciate you! If you have any questions, please let us know.



**Omar Barragan-Lopez,
Jocelynn Briones,
Kadyn Carver, Jasmyr Chavez,
Angel Cruz-Ramirez,
Deborah Dennis, Sun Flaget,
Jadalene Malone,
Irazema Paez-Hernandez,
Ariana Siqueido, Jesse Walker,
Orlando Zepeda-Montoto**

Flying Hands

Kelly Souhrada, ASL Specialist

On April 24th, we hosted our 18th annual Flying Hands ASL Poetry competition. A total of 8 schools from Canada, Oregon, and Washington participated this year. It was a smashing success. The theme was Imagination in the Wild: Deaf Animal Kingdom. Students were super creative with their poetries and the audience were entertained by their poetries and stories! Some students also showcased their artistic skills by combining animals with ASL. As always, this is a favorite event for many and we look forward to next year's event!



Student Life Department

Rick Whitney, Director of Residential Services

The Student Life Department is preparing for the end of the year, and the cottage students should be bringing their belongings home for the summer. This school year we will be saying goodbye to three of our staff who will retire in June and we already said goodbye to two staff that retired last winter.

Please congratulate Roxane Smith-Divine, our morning Dean of students, as she is set to finish her long tenure in our residential department. Joining her will be Laurie West and Jane Hamlin-Cruzan. Both Laurie and Jane are long-term Student Life Counselors (SLCs) that are about to embark on a new phase in life. They will be joining JoAnne Coehlo and Christine Kindblade who have already retired earlier in the school year. JoAnne was an SLC that has worked for WSD since the early 80s and Christine was our WaCad job coach when she retired. Christine has worked in both the academic department and the residential department during her years here. **Raise your Terrier paws to these five for all they have done for our school and to their new journeys!**

HONOR ROLL 3.0-3.49

Jordan Angel
Jorge Barojas-Hernandez
Violetta Blumenstein
Kadyn Carver
Angel Castro
Aunnalia Cate-Hayes
Angel Cruz-Ramirez
Kaylee Gobroski
Jonathan Hysons
Elijah Johnson
Sara Johnson
Tymofii Klymenko
Hector Lopez
Michael McCullough
Kathryn Mohagen
Gracias Muraya
Esther Nelson
Aidan Rivers
Alejandro Saldana
Ariana Siqueido
Peyton TiaTia
Jesse Walker
Dalton Wilkins
Elvin Zepeda
Orlando Zepeda-Montoto

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE 3.5-3.99

Jocelynn Briones
Savannah Cruz
Deborah Dennis
Hailey Devan
Sun Flaget
Kiera Green
Liam Gregory
Jesus Hernandez
Zaine James
Zane Johnson
Kiana Kawai
Celest Lane-Cummings
Cassandra Learned
Kasey Lewandowski
Graham Macklin
Lillie Mathisen
Ruby Miles
James Olson
Mauro Palma Linares
Diofina Souken
Jazmina Zepeda
Dimas Zepeda-Montoto

WSD's Website
www.wsd.wa.gov



March 2025

Student of the Month

Kindness Kudos

Jasmyn Chavez

Momentous Motivation

Diofina Souken

Kathryn Mohagen

Inspiring Improvement

Zane Johnson

Zaine James and

Elijah Johnson

Super Supportive

Jantzen Moore

Positively Prepared

Kiana Kawai

Eric Elkins

Honorable Mention

Pickleball

team players:

AJ Castro, Kadya

Carver,

Deborah Dennis,

Irazema Paez

Academic

Shannon Graham, Ph.D., Principal

It feels like just yesterday I was standing in our new building and welcoming families during the Back-to-School BBQ / Registration. I remember thinking, "It's going to be a great year." And it truly was but also fast-moving!

Now, with summer just around the corner, it's a natural time to reflect on what went well and where we can continue to grow. While we're still waiting on final data in June to assess our year-long progress, we've completed most of the key activities aligned with our school improvement goals: improving attendance, strengthening social-emotional learning supports, and advancing ASL and writing development.

As part of our work toward the ASL and writing goal, our teachers completed their second year of Strategic and Interactive Writing Instruction (SIWI) training, which continues to strengthen our ASL-English bilingual approaches.

Also, our preschool and kindergarten teachers began participating in a related study on Strategic and Interactive Sign Instruction (SISI) led by Dr. Leala Holcomb and her team. This work is already bringing valuable insights into our early childhood classrooms. We look forward to continuing this work and reviewing our end-of-year data to help refine our goals for the 2025-26 school year.

I hope to see some of you at our 6th and 8th-grade promotion ceremonies and graduation. For everyone else, I wish you a wonderful and restful summer. As always, thank you for trusting us with your child's education. We look forward to another year of amazing growth!

April 2025

Student of the Month

Kindness Kudos

Zane Johnson

Persistent

Perseverance

Jocelynn Briones

Kathryn Mohagen

Kiana Kawai

Eric Elkins

Momentous Motivation

Jesus Hernandez

Inspiring Improvement

Nathan Yerkes

Jantzen Moore

Ariana Siqueido

Jesus Hernandez

Astounding Attending

Elijah Johnson

Positively Prepared

Elvin Zepeda

Honorable Mention

Jadalene Malone

Kiera Green

Jesus Hernandez

Mauro Palma Linares

Hailey Devan

Aunnalia Cate-Hayes

James Olson

Taste the Rainbow Week Brings Healthy Fun to WSD!

Sara Gallagher, Program Manager, Nutrition Services Department



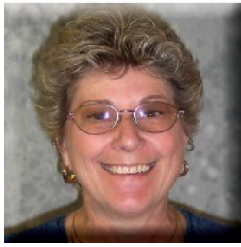
Students and staff recently celebrated "Taste the Rainbow" week — a colorful event and spirit week dedicated to promoting healthy eating habits, trying new fruits and vegetables, and encouraging daily movement.

Hosted by the WSD Wellness Team, and generously sponsored by D.E.A.F., the week-long initiative was filled with activities that made nutrition exciting and accessible for all grades. Each day featured a different color of the rainbow, encouraging students and staff to dress in the colors of the day.

To complement the colorful themes, the school cafeteria served specially designed meals that matched the color of the day. From stuffed red peppers on Monday, vibrant green banana muffins with spinach for breakfast, and Blackberry BBQ chicken for blue/purple day, the meals not only aligned with the theme but also encouraged students to eat a wider variety of fruits and vegetables.

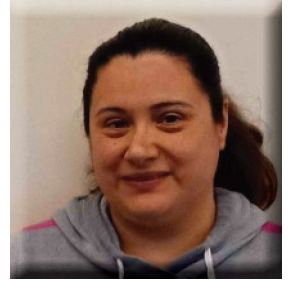
Students also had the opportunity to sample unique fruits and vegetables throughout the week, including dragon fruit, purple sprouting broccoli, and fresh coconut water — a fun and educational way to introduce them to less common produce. They were so brave to try the new fruits and vegetables!

Taste the Rainbow week ended with a Rainbow Fruit Parfait Social and a special guest appearance from Library Libby! With full bellies and bright smiles, students wrapped up the week more aware of their food choices — and more willing to try something new.



Learn Here Hero Award Winners

Nancy Sinkovitz & Edelmira Fernandez. Please join me in congratulating them!



Nancy has a long history with Washington School for the Deaf (WSD) and Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth (CDHY). She began visiting WSD as a child, as her parents worked in the residential program. After spending nearly 27 years working in the residential department herself, Nancy retired from WSD in 2014. She immediately immersed herself in volunteer work and advocacy for our school in two significant roles. She serves as Vice President of the Deaf Education Advocates Foundation (D.E.A.F.) and has been a member of the CDHY Board of Trustees, appointed by Governor Jay Inslee, since 2014. Nancy's tireless efforts to fundraise through her work with D.E.A.F. and advocate for deaf and hard of hearing children through her role on the Board of Trustees are remarkable.

Last year, she led a large fundraising campaign to secure critical funding for our new playground. She is currently serving on a committee to raise funds for a new Science and Technology classroom on campus. Nancy's fierce love and dedication to our students are unparalleled. We are incredibly grateful for her stewardship and leadership.

CDHY Family Camp

Drew Treacy, MA, Outreach Services Manager K-8

Celebrating 25 Years of Connection & Empowerment at CDHY's Family Camp

May 2-4, 2025, marked the 25th anniversary of the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth's (CDHY) annual Family Camp, held at Lazy F Campground along Manastash Canyon in Ellensburg, WA. This milestone event brought together 38 families (67 parents and 65 children) of deaf and hard of hearing children for a weekend filled with community, education, and celebration.

This year's camp featured a powerful presentation by Deaf educator and storyteller Ben Jarashow, who explored the concept of allophilia and addressed systems of oppression within the Deaf community. A highlight of the weekend was a dynamic Deaf panel, bringing together deaf people from across Washington State to share their lived experiences, career journeys, and perspectives on advocacy and identity. The panel offered invaluable insights and inspiration for families.

Families stayed in cozy cabins and the parents participated in a variety of workshops while the children participated in activities designed to foster community and support. Parents also benefited from targeted support, thanks to sessions led by CDHY's staff offering tools for navigating the unique challenges and joys of raising deaf and hard of hearing children. As CDHY celebrates 25 years of Family Camp, the event continues to serve as a vital space for connection, support, and empowerment for Washington's Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Special thanks to CDHY's staff and volunteers for supporting this event.

Congratulations!

It is a pleasure to nominate Edelmira Fernandez, a dedicated custodian at Washington School for the Deaf, for the Learn Here Hero Award. Edelmira's unwavering commitment to the school community and her exceptional contributions makes her a standout candidate for this honor. Her daily efforts ensure that our school remains a safe, clean, and welcoming environment for both students and staff. Edelmira embodies the qualities of a true Learn Here Hero. Her dedication, compassion, and tireless work ethic have left an indelible mark on our school community.

Edelmira consistently goes above and beyond her role as a custodian, exemplifying the very qualities this award seeks to recognize.



Washington School for the Deaf is part of a larger organization the WA Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Youth (CDHY).

CDHY serves students around the state of Washington.