

Terrier Times



Reminder!
Early Release
November 16
Thanksgiving Break
November 23-24

The *Battle of the Books* competition is scheduled for November 16.

Our Bison Team consists of 7 participants this year, including DJ Wilkins, Ruby Miles, Rosalene Scott, Olivia Carr, Arik Pelchie, Colton Anderson, and Elvin Zepeda.

We would like to express our gratitude to everyone who supported our book fair. The new books have made a great addition to the classroom libraries, and the teachers are thrilled.



From the Superintendent's Desk

Shauna Bilyeu, Superintendent

Greetings Terrier Families and Friends!

I hope you are enjoying the fall weather. It is hard to believe that we are almost finished with the 1st quarter of the school year. WSD has been a busy place with lots of action going on in both the classrooms as well as outside as we watch our new gymnasium and school building take shape!



So far, everything is on track to be completed in time for the start of the school year next year. We will continue to cross our fingers that the timeline stays that way!

Students have been enjoying lots of events so far: Deaf Awareness Week, Spirit week and Homecoming pep rallies and games, trips to the pumpkin patch and various guest speakers just to name a few.

Please make sure we have your most current contact information so we can stay in touch. All absences must be reported to either transportation staff or school staff. If we do not hear from parents, we will reach out to you. The school is making a concerted effort to increase attendance rates across all grade levels. Studies show that students who miss more than 10% of all school days are at risk of failing grades and have a harder time keeping up with their peers academically and socially. We are here to support you and your child. You can track your child's grades and absences on Skyward. Please contact Rima Nandakumar in the Divine front office for details on how to get an account.

Elementary families have a friendly new face in the Northrop front office. Administrative Assistant Katie Diiorio is happy to help check in students and work with families to get what they need. Please note her contact information: Katie.diiorio@cdhl.wa.gov, 360-334-5449 VP, 360-418-0414 Voice. Enjoy the fall colors!

What's Happening in Our Elementary Program?

William (Bill) Newell, Elementary School Principal

The school year is off to a good start....

Currently, we have 55 students enrolled in our preschool through 6th grade. Our K - 2nd grade classrooms are at capacity and we have a waiting list. We accept students year-round to our program. If you know any families who want to know more about WSD and may be considering enrolling their deaf or hard-of-hearing student with us, please have them contact Dawn Smith at Dawn.Smith@cdhy.wa.gov. We will be happy to have families visit our campus to get to know what we offer.

Our Family Activity Night (FAN) kicks off on November 15. FAN is an opportunity to visit our campus and engage with our staff and with other families in fun and educational activities. It is a way to connect and get support from other families with deaf and hard-of-hearing children. Stay tuned for more information on FAN. Our teachers will be sharing information on this event through SeeSaw.

WSD is engaged in a strategic objective to improve attendance. As you may know schools around the country are focused on improving attendance after the stay-at-home orders required by the COVID epidemic disrupted normal school attendance for many families and students. Attendance to school is critically important to your child's success. Please make every effort to have your child ready for school and the school bus so your child may attend full days. Of course, if your child is too sick to attend school you should keep them home to avoid spreading illnesses. Please plan medical appointments, vacations and other family business so that your child does not have to miss school.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will be reading about the progress on construction for our new Academic building. Daily our students are able to observe the construction process and progress. Our staff are taking advantage of this building project to introduce students to basic elements of the construction process and machinery. The project is very visible in the middle of our campus so it becomes a focal point for comments and conversation. Thank you for entrusting your child to our school and for being a part of our WSD community.

PSO meeting on November 28!

"Hello everyone! My name is Ashley Wilkins, and I am WSD's PSO President and a mom to a 7th & 6th grader, DJ and Brody. I also work here as an on call Instructional Assistant. We are so excited for what the PSO has planned for this school year! I am a busy volunteer mom with my hand in many different things so I rely heavily on our awesome PSO team! This year is sure to be amazing with several new projects coming up! CONTACT US psosforwsd@gmail.com"

"We are always looking for volunteers! Contribute your skills and knowledge for the benefit of our Terriers and the school community, we hope to see you at our next PSO meeting on November 28 at 6PM, this meeting will be held via Zoom."

WSD's Website
www.wsd.wa.gov

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September
Student of the Month
Persistent Perseverance
Kasey Lewandowsk
Dimas Zepeda-Montoto
Liam Gregory
Momentous Motivation
Kasey Lewandowski
Inspiring Improvement
Celeste Lane-Cummings
Lilian Hart
Super Supportive
Tye Gonzales-Woodbury
Savannah Cruz
Thein Mana
Jorge Hernandez
Angel Cruz
Kadyn Carver
Violetta Blumenstein
Astounding Attending
Trey Hopkinson
Briyana Moore
Jasmyn Chavez
Stupendous Spirit
Deborah Dennis
Positively Prepared
Chloe Parsons
Honorable Mention
Kasey Lewandowski
Kadyn Carver



Secondary Department

Shannon Graham, Ph.D., Director of Instruction and Special Education

We hope you're enjoying the fall season, and thank you for your continued support of our school community.

We have exciting changes in our secondary department that will enhance the educational experience for our students. Some of our veteran teachers have taken on new roles, emphasizing our commitment to student success in a multi-tiered system of supports (MTSS), curriculum and assessment coordination, and work-based learning. Piper Gallucci is our new Academic Dean and will be coordinating MTSS efforts. Dana Miles has taken the position of Curriculum and Assessment Coordinator. Michelle Clark will lead our work-based learning program. We also have three new teachers. Antonia Remsing joined our middle school team. Kari Bingham teaches high school BLA and social studies. Trey Balding took Michelle's position to lead our high school science program.

We are offering new electives this year, such as Introduction to Marketing, Health, Nutrition, and ASL Literature. Additionally, we have expanded options for middle school studies with the addition of deaf studies. These courses are designed to enrich student's educational experience and prepare them for future success.

We continue to provide ASL/English bilingual training for our staff to support the best use of bilingual strategies for all students. Some staff completed the last phase of our ASL/English bilingual professional development session in August. The next step is to roll out Strategic and Interactive Writing Instruction (SIWI), a framework for Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. Check out the website for more information about SIWI: <http://www.siwu.utk.edu/about>. We will have more information to share as we get started, but feel free to email me if you have any questions.

Last but not least - we have set new goals for our School Improvement Plan. We will focus on improving student attendance, enhancing social-emotional learning, and boosting ASL progress monitoring and scores. These goals are integral to ensuring a well-rounded education and the overall well-being of our students.

Sports

Ron Spratlen, Athletic Director/After School Program

We have wrapped up our Fall sports season and transitioning to the Winter sports season. Our elementary school and middle school students soccer teams, Pups, Beagles and Terriers, ended the season with pouring down rain, smiles and laughter; always bringing me joy seeing them having FUN! Thank you to all the families for supporting your children throughout the season, they and we appreciate you. The varsity football season was a successful one, with a few bumps along the way, finishing with a final record of 4 wins and 3 losses and a 3rd place finish in league. And our varsity volleyball team also had a successful season finishing with a final record of 11 wins and 8 losses. The volleyball team advanced to the playoffs losing in the first round but ending with a winning season. Last but not least, a great season for our Cross Country runners. All our runners had successful seasons setting individual personal records throughout the season. A special thank you to our senior players for their commitment, leadership and support to the underclassman and representing WSD proudly!

Fall ASP (After School Program) has also concluded and will restart for the Winter Session on December 4. Keep an eye out for Winter ASP forms being sent out via Skyward by the middle to end of November. The Winter ASP session will be December 4 through January 25, Monday's and Wednesday's, 3:00pm to 5:00pm.



The Seattle Seahawks honored Deaf Awareness Week by inviting four Terriers up to Seattle for the Carolina game. Two lucky coaches, a football player, and our team manager got to meet Pete Carroll, the head coach and VP of the Seahawks. What an honor!

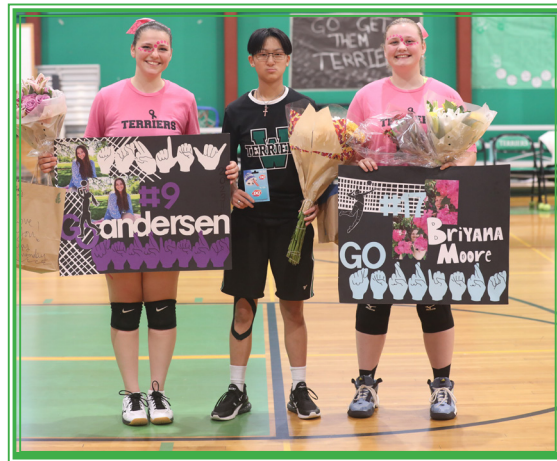
Happenings at **WSD!**



Unity Day



Mayor Anne McEnery-Ogle
visits WSD!



Senior Day



King Lorenzo Fortunato &
Queen Ashley Andersen



Elementary
Halloween
Parade



Student Life Department

Rick Whitney, Director of Residential Services

It is amazing that more than two months have already passed so far this school year! It has been nice to see the residential program, also known as the Student Life Department, growing larger again with many new faces. It is also always so nice to see the returning students begin another year at WSD.

Parents/guardians of our cottage students please refer to your parent letters on the best ways to contact your child's Student Life Counselors (SLCs) and please direct any questions regarding transportation needs to our Administrative Assistant Residential/Transportation, Sharon Caton, for the Student Life Department.

If you have any questions about our sports program or after-school activities please do contact our Athletic Director/After School Coordinator, Ron Spratlen, and he will be happy to help.

All of the students in the cottages have the opportunity to attend social nights during the week at Clarke Hall in the basement. The social room has a variety of pool tables, air hockey and other games for our students to use. We also have a snack bar located there where they may purchase drinks and snacks if they wish. We also do show movies on occasion for all students with a loud sound system that is always popular.

All juniors and seniors in the cottages are part of the Independent Living Skills program. They attend classes on Monday evenings that cover a range of subjects to help them beyond school. They will also be planning to a dinner meal once a month for their cottage families. ILS students also get to enjoy new movie nights on Wednesdays at the Clarke Hall basement. Day students are welcome to join the program and should contact our ILS/WaCAD Program Supervisor, Toni Stromberg, about enrolling.

We have two Student Life Deans that oversee the SLCs outside of school hours. Carey Price works in the afternoons and evening times. Roxane Smith-Divine takes over at midnight and is on campus until the students are back into school.

All of our contacts is on our web site, www.wsd.wa.gov, under the staff directory. I am looking forward to the new buildings that are soon coming our way and all the memories that we will make this year.



MTSS Corner

J.Piper Gallucci, NBCT, Academic Dean

Each child's academic and social-emotional success is foundational to the Washington School for the Deaf (WSD). Programs like PAWS every Friday in Northrop Elementary, and Student of the Month in the secondary program, are ways WSD creates a positive environment where students are recognized for their successes. The list of secondary students recognized for Student of the Month is listed in each newsletter.

Attention to attendance is essential. Missing two days a month, whether it is an excused absence or unexcused absence, can have a significant impact on student success. Secondary students with chronic absenteeism may begin to feel disconnected from their peers and other social relationships. Grades may decline, and there is a higher risk of that student leaving school before graduation.

To help support students, WSD carefully monitors attendance. For September, 55 out of 72 secondary students had good to perfect attendance. They were recognized at the Student of the Month assembly and received certificates. For the elementary students, seventy-seven percent of students had good to perfect attendance. We want to congratulate the students and thank you, the families, for ensuring your child attends school regularly. If you have a child reluctant to attend school, please contact the elementary principal or the secondary Academic Dean. Together we can determine barriers and set goals for your child's success.

December 18-29

Winter Break!

Scott Lehmann and Shayna Unger are Deaf mountaineers who have reached the summit of four out of seven highest mountains in the world, most recently, Mountain Everest. Scott is the first Deaf American to reach the summit of Mt. Everest, and Shayna is the first Deaf woman ever to reach the summit of Mt. Everest. Their goal is to complete the seven summits together.

WSD had the privilege of having Scott and Shayna visit us and share their amazing journey with our students.

They were captivating and the students were fascinated with their stories of bravery and challenges they faced on the mountain. We loved their energy and they are an inspiration to our students and staff!

