



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Message from the Superintendent

Don't miss the Trail Band holiday concert

It's a Washougal tradition! The Trail Band holiday concert is set for Saturday, November 27 at the Washburn Performing Arts Center at Washougal High School. The Trail Band performance showcases holiday folk music that reaches across generations and cultures. Contact Roger Daniels to purchase tickets (\$15, \$20 and \$30) at 852-5151 or email Roger at: rogerdaniels@windermere.com. Funds from this concert benefit students and teachers in Washougal schools through classroom grants and scholarships.

Dear Parents and Community Members,

There is an abundance of good news this fall. Unfortunately, there is also state budget news that forecasts more cuts to education funding for schools. Local superintendents and Board members are working together, monitoring the fiscal situation carefully and preparing for meetings with our legislators beginning in October. For more details on budget issues, please see the article about how our cost-saving efforts are paying off, below.

Now for the good news. Assistant Superintendent Rebecca Miner and I have visited every school this fall, and a deep sense of pride among the faculty and students is evident in every classroom. Teachers have personalized their learning environments and the enthusiasm for teaching is infectious. September was a great month, watching the whole system gearing up and launching the new school year. I have thanked the staff for their efforts, and I also want to thank parents, grandparents and guardians who prepared our students for a wonderful start to the school year.

The best of the good news came in student

achievement results. At Washougal High School, tenth graders outperformed the state average in all areas of the High School Proficiency Examination (HSPE). Students at Gause Elementary and Cape Horn-Skye Elementary also hit the high benchmark with more than 85% meeting the standard on the third grade Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) in the subject area of reading. We continue to strive for the high benchmark of more than 85% of students meeting the standards on all state assessments in reading, writing, mathematics and science. More good news is captured in greater depth in this newsletter.

It is a privilege to be superintendent in a community that values and supports schools as the Washougal community does! We are off to a great start, and I look forward to serving you in the 2010-11 school year.

Teresa Baldwin, Superintendent

District cost-saving efforts pay off

Last spring, a committee of community members and staff developed a set of budget recommendations for the Board that resulted in \$630,000 in budget reductions. At the core of this solution was \$93,000 donated by teachers from professional development funds, matched by \$186,000 by the Board of Directors from the District's unreserved fund balance. It was a highly successful collaboration that allowed budget reductions, but preserved all employee jobs.

In September, Governor Chris Gregoire signed an executive order directing a 6.3% budget across-the-board cut to funding for all state agencies and departments, effective October 1. At the same time, the Governor's office applied for the funds to be allocated from the Federal Jobs Bill, funds that Congress approved for saving teacher jobs. Exactly how the Jobs Bill funds and the 6.3% reductions will impact school districts has not yet been announced by our funding agency, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction.

In the meantime, however, as school districts await pending budget news from the state, cost-

saving measures that were planned last spring are paying off in Washougal School District. The early results of those efforts include: \$15,000 in July/August energy savings; \$8,500 in renegotiated copy lease agreements; \$15,800 in "on-call-only" garbage collection in July/August; and \$8,000 in a required ASB software program. Together, these amount to \$47,300 in savings. In addition, administrative staff are reviewing all purchase requests and eliminating or reducing expenditures where feasible, given the potential of additional budget cuts this fiscal year. As the state economic forecast impacts school district funding, Washougal School District pauses to thank our community and the voters who passed the Maintenance and Operations Levy last February for local funds that are being used to fill the gap between what the state allocates for schools and the full range of excellent programs that our community values for students. As more information becomes available regarding state funding for schools, it will be communicated to the Washougal community and staff.



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Baldwin adds Mt. Pleasant leadership duties

In addition to serving as superintendent of Washougal School District, Teresa Baldwin has been hired to lead the Mt. Pleasant School District for 2010-11 as well.

Baldwin will serve as part-time superintendent for the 62-student school, which is also located in Washougal. She will use vacation time from her position in Washougal to work in Mt. Pleasant.

The move makes sense from both a financial

and a practical sense. The districts are very close in proximity and many of Mt. Pleasant's students attend Washougal for middle and high school. By hiring Baldwin on a part time basis, Mt. Pleasant is able to retain an experienced superintendent within its budget. The Washougal School District Board of Directors approved Baldwin taking on the additional duties as she will use her vacation time to do so.

Communications committee invitation

Washougal School District is seeking parents and community members who may be interested in serving on the 2011 Communications Committee. This committee will convene in January and meet monthly through May, 2011, replacing the former budget and facilities committees. The agenda will be designed as a two-way communication opportunity where district issues will be presented followed by committee discussion and feedback which will be taken into consideration by the superintendent, Teresa Baldwin, and the Board of Directors.

The committee will be comprised of employees, who will be selected by their peers at their work sites, and parents and community members who represent a wide-range of interests. The following chart shows the categories of parent and community representation to be filled:

A Parent Representative with child/children...	A Community Representative who...
In elementary school(s)	Is a senior citizen (over age of 65)
In middle school(s)	Has a business in Washougal
At Washougal High School	Currently has no school-age children
At Excelsior High School	Works for the City of Washougal
Of pre-school age or in pre-school	Homeschools their child/children
In special education for at least 2 years	Is a recent WHS graduate (Class of 2006-2010)
In the Hi-Cap (highly capable) program	Is a WHS Alumni (Class of 2005 or earlier)
In the English Language Learner program	Is currently a high school student at WHS
In performing arts at WHS	Is currently a high school student at Excelsior
In band or choir at Jemtegaard or Canyon Creek	
In a foreign language	
In sports at Jemtegaard or Canyon Creek	
In sports at Washougal High School	
In an Advanced Placement class at WHS	

Interested parents and community members must attend an informational meeting where the scope of the committee's work will be explained and applications will be distributed. Committee member selection will be based on the categories above. Two identical informational meetings have been scheduled, and interested individuals must attend one of these meetings to be considered for the committee, either on November 2 or on November 8. These meetings will be held from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the District Office, 4855 Evergreen Way, Washougal, WA 98671.

Exchange program makes lasting memories

This is the third year Washougal families opened their doors to welcome students from Shukutoku Yono High School from Japan. This year, 44 students visited Washougal from September 24-27.

Pictured: Maia Fleck, daughter of Special Services Director Allan Fleck, is assisted by exchange students Akane and Anna to dress in the kimono that they brought for her.



District receives \$996,999 grant to improve teaching of American history

Washougal School District is one of just two districts in the state to receive a Teaching American History Grant from the Department of Education in the amount of \$996,999.

"American History is a foundation of social studies and civics education in Washington state, and these funds provide a premier program of professional development for teachers," said Grant Director Carol Boyden. "We wrote the grant in collaboration with professors from Washington State University Vancouver and the Clark County Historical Museum, and funds are used to bring historians from around the United States to share their knowledge and expertise in the best American History teaching strategies for students in grades 4-12."

The quality of the teachers' experience is enhanced by the relationship that is built with nationally recognized experts in the field of teaching American History. The program provides teachers with the skills and tools to teach American History in a way that results in exciting, enduring learning experiences for students.

Eggleston named region's Teacher of the Year

Brian Eggleston has been named Educational Service District 112 region Teacher of the Year. A teacher at Washougal High School, Eggleston is one of nine finalists from around the state for the Washington State Teacher of the Year Award.

Eggleston has taught Spanish at Washougal High School for the past five years. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Colorado and a Master's Degree in Teaching from the Evergreen State College.

Eggleston serves as chair of the Foreign Language Department and says

that his greatest accomplishment is the expansion of the WHS Spanish program from five classes to eight classes in just four years. He has helped organize several cultural events for students as well as serving as staff advisor to the Spanish Club.

"My teaching rests on the belief that students learn best when we teach through activities that are engaging, worthwhile and purposeful," said Eggleston, who is described as enthusiastic, fun and inspiring by coworkers and parents.

"Brian's contributions in the classroom, school and district are remarkable," said Assistant Superintendent Rebecca Miner. "It is sometimes said that teaching is a combination of art and

science and Brian is a teacher whose artistry makes the science of teaching a pleasure to observe and his students richly benefit from his talents."

Prior to joining the Washougal School District



Brian Eggleston received the Teacher of the Year plaque from ESD 112's Barbara Lomas.

in 2005, Eggleston worked as a provisional teacher in Oakland, CA. He taught English classes in Madrid, Spain and worked as a tutor at South Puget Sound Community College in Olympia and as a Spanish Teaching Assistant at Seattle Central Community College. Eggleston completed his student teaching in Tacoma and

Olympia.

Former Washougal High School Principal Gerry Stavney calls Eggleston "one of the strongest teachers I have observed in my thirty-plus years in education". "The students of Washougal High School are fortunate to have a teacher of Mr. Eggleston's caliber," said Stavney.

Superintendent Teresa Baldwin said, "Mr. Eggleston consistently provides intellectually challenging and engaging instruction for students, and it is fun to visit his classes and watch students actively engaged in learning."

Energy conservation pays off

Last year, as part of the Washington Green Schools initiative, the Washougal School District took steps to conserve energy and save money by putting together teams of students, staff, parents and community at each school to look at the district's energy use. Energy audits were conducted and the teams made recommendations as to how to improve conservation and increase cost-savings. Hathaway Elementary earned Washington Green Schools certification by conducting a rigorous energy assessment and determining where energy savings could be found.

Energy conservation is a key initiative for the district over the next few years. The School Board adopted an Energy and Resource Conservation policy last summer and a part-time resource conservation manager, Geert Aerts, was hired

through Educational Service District 112. Aerts will work to reduce energy and systems costs across the district. Aerts will ensure efficient use of heating and cooling systems, install internet programmable thermostats in portable classrooms, and obtain grants and reimbursements for energy upgrades through Clark Public Utilities and Bonneville Power Administration.

It is estimated that energy efficiency measures at Washougal High School will save \$33,000 in 2010-11 and up to \$66,000 annually when all changes have been implemented at the school. The entire district is expected to save \$200,000 annually when all schools are running efficiently. These savings will more than pay for any needed upgrades.

BRIEFS

Camas-Washougal Rotary Club donates backpacks

Many Washougal students headed back to school with all their needed school supplies, thanks to a generous donation from the Camas-Washougal Rotary Club.

75 new backpacks loaded with school supplies, including pencils, notebooks, and paper were delivered just in time for the first day of school. The backpacks were given to students who might otherwise be unable to afford them.

"It makes such a difference when we can help a student go to school with everything they need, including a quality backpack," said Superintendent Teresa Baldwin.



Sports Fee donation fund allows all students to participate

Sports fees are collected at Jemtegaard and Canyon Creek Middle Schools and at Washougal High School. Sports fees are used in conjunction with district dollars to fully fund athletic programs. Schools use 60% of collected sports fees directly for the sport for which the fee was collected, and the remaining 40% partially funds team transportation. A funding gap exists because sports fees are waived for students eligible for free lunch through the National School Lunch program, and those eligible for reduced lunch prices pay a reduced sports fee. Last fall, 411 athletes participated in fall sports, and between 12% - 20% were on free lunch across the three secondary schools.

To help close the funding gap on behalf of these athletes, a Sports Fee Donation Fund has been established as a means for community members to donate funds that are then transferred in the name of free/reduced athletes into the sports fees account. At the middle schools, there is an annual flat fee of \$50.00. At Washougal High School, the fee is \$100 per sport for the first two sports and \$50 for a third sport. For more information, please contact Leslie Batten at Jemtegaard, 954-3400; Jan Caday at Canyon Creek, 954-3500; or Judi McDonald at Washougal High School, 954-3107.

WHS Fall sports off to a strong start

Varsity Football has started strong in 2010. The Panthers got off to a 2-0 start, and are currently 2-1. New head coach Bob Jacobs has the team playing hard and scoring touchdowns with a new and exciting brand of football reminiscent of the glory days of Panther Football. With players such as quarterback Colton Sullivan and running back Sam O'Hara energizing the offense and the outstanding leadership of players such as Ryan Erdwins, Jarrett Gregory and Caleb Howard it's safe to say that "The Panthers Are Back".

Head Coach Brian Anderson's **Boys Golf** team is 3-1 and showing good improvement over last year's excellent showing. A strong group of seniors, including defending state champion Connor O'Neill look poised to improve on their 3rd place finish at State last spring.

Girls Soccer is off to a great start at 5-2, 4-0 in league play. Strong senior leadership and some outstanding team play under new Head Coach Harrison Martin equate into some very impressive wins for the Panthers. Standouts so far this season have been Senior Darcy Akers at Goal, and Sophomore Ellie Boon providing goals and assists.

Boys Tennis, coached by Eric Balholm is showing strong at 2-2, 1-0 in league. Foreign

exchange student Nicolas Severich has been impressive and is undefeated as the #1 singles player, while the duo of Patrick McCarthy and Eyan Cagle remain undefeated as the #1 doubles team.

The **Panther Volleyball team** is showing strong and consistent improvement under new Head Coach Mandy Busby. The teams are looking good and playing well from top to

equating into some fine performances both individually and team-wise for the Panthers. The Boys team is led by State 4th place finisher and senior Dylan Croeni who is running well ahead of his times from last season and recently set a very impressive new meet record in winning the Run-A-Ree in Vancouver. Not far behind is sophomore sensation Sean Eustis who has run well and will be looking to place high at the State Meet in November.

The **Girls Cross Country** team is led by top performers Kendall Utter and Taneal Tanner, both seniors, and sophomore Tara Duey. The girls have shown strong both individually and as a team this season. A top three finish in District and chance to compete as a team at the State Meet is certainly high on the list for our hard working girls team.

Under the direction of coaches Anita Williams and Craig Grable, the **WHS cheerleaders** are one of the highlights year after year, and this fall season is no exception. The hard work and dedication to work together all summer has again produced some outstanding results for

our spirit squad. The precision and excellence with which they perform is an impressive display of spirit and enthusiasm. Wherever we go, our cheerleaders are always the BEST!



WHS girls soccer, pictured left to right: Alex Hacker, Megan Sharp, and Katherine Meyer. Photo by Sierra DeHart.

bottom. It's just a matter of time until the hard work and dedication starts to pay off in the win column on a regular basis.

Cross Country has a new Head Coach in Terry Howard. He brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to the program which is

Find More News at - www.washougal.k12.wa.us

The Washougal School District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and will not illegally discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender identity, age, marital status, or the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. This holds true for all district employment and educational programs. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX/RCW 28A.640 compliance officer, Doug Bright, Director of Human Resources, and/or Section 504/ADA coordinator, Allan Fleck, Director of Special Education.

You're invited to the Washougal School Board meetings!

Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. in the district board room, 4855 Evergreen Way.

October 26 • November 9 • November 23

Check out our blog

Be sure to visit the Washougal School District Blog, <http://washougal.district.k12.wa.us>. This new blog will showcase the great things that are happening in Washougal Schools, focusing on student successes in areas like fine arts, sports, and academics. The blog will be updated frequently, and you can subscribe to get updates.

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Teresa Baldwin

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