

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Legislature scheduled to deliberate school funding

The Washington State legislature will convene in January 2011, and school funding is on the docket. The most critical issue is the potential cut to Levy Equalization Act (LEA) funds, \$680,000 annually for Washougal School District. LEA funds are the state's promise to provide additional funds to property-poor districts where voters approve a local levy. Washougal voters approved a local levy in February 2010, providing tax dollars to fill the gap between what the state funds and what is actually needed to fully fund a quality educational program. LEA funds are calculated into the full funding plan for Washougal School District. At a recent legislative forum attended by superintendents and board members in our region, every legislator expressed support for retaining LEA funds for school districts. Community members are invited to follow legislative action on the Washougal School District website beginning in January 2011.

Long-time Board Members retire

Washougal School District board members Dr. Orlan Gessford and Tom Huffman have announced their retirement effective January 31, 2011. Dr. Gessford was appointed to the Board in 1984, and elected to his position in 1985. Tom Huffman, a graduate of Washougal High School, was elected to the Board in 1991. Both have grown children who are graduates of Washougal High.

Superintendent Teresa Baldwin says she has appreciated Dr. Orlan Gessford's leadership for finance on the board, as well as his advocacy for disadvantaged children, both of which are important functions on the board of directors. She talks about Tom Huffman's influence on teaching and learning, both as an advocate of academic rigor and advanced placement courses, as well as his vision for a strong career and technical education curriculum aligned with the Clark County Skills Center program.

boards and those who "serve," and he remembers both Dr. Gessford and Mr. Huffman as directors who have served and have made significant contributions to the students and community. Mr. Garrett said, "Tom and Orlan will be replaced, but our memory of what they have accomplished will remain a beacon for those filling their shoes. They have truly served!"

Teresa Baldwin said, "Tom and Orlan have been at the helm with a calm, steady hand, helping to chart the course of this district for many years. Their knowledgeable, experienced commitment is exceptional.

Individually and together, they are leaving a legacy of leadership in Washougal School District." Dr. Orlan Gessford and Tom Huffman will be honored as recipients of the 2011 Community Leadership Award at a reception in May next year, presented by the Washington Association of School Administrators.



Photograph used by permission of the Camas Post Record Newspaper, photographer Danielle Frost, 2010

Blaine Peterson,

current president of the Washougal Board of Directors, announced that the board will be seeking applicants to fill these two vacancies. Information will be posted on the district website in December.

Board to fill vacancies

The Board of Directors will begin the process of filling the vacancies of board members Tom Huffman, director district #4, and Orlan Gessford, director district #1. Both board members would have been up for re-election in November 2011, so the Board will appoint a qualified candidate for each position to serve until the next regularly scheduled school board election. Appointees shall be United States citizens and registered voters who reside in the appropriate director district. Please see the District website for more information.

Bob Donaldson and Phil Rohn, past superintendent and associate superintendent, felt that the policy-level thinking led by Tom Huffman and Orlan Gessford, specifically the concept of a culminating student performance judged against a standard of excellence, was ground-breaking at the time and well ahead of the state requirement for graduation. They also noted the tremendous leadership shown by these two board members when, as a result of a voter-approved school bond in 1999, the district's facilities were modernized. Donaldson said, "The knowledge that Tom and Orlan had of construction management, county codes and labor laws proved to be extremely helpful during that time of district facility reconstruction."

Former superintendent Brent Garrett also recalled that both of these board members were strong proponents of the first "Senior Project" requirement for graduation at Washougal High School. Mr. Garrett noted that there are school directors who "sit" on



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 School lunches offer healthy choices
- 3 WHS students recognized for academic excellence
- 4 Fall sports wrap up

Stuff the Bus! on Friday, December 10

For the last two years, Washougal High School has joined Camas High School in a friendly rivalry to see which school can gather the most food and toys for needy families on one day. Last year, Washougal High beat Camas High, but the real winners were the families in need who live in Camas and Washougal. The Children's Home Society, Camas Treasure House and other charities that provide food and household supplies to needy families joyfully accepted over 70,000 lbs of goods donated by our communities last December.

This year, Stuff the Bus will happen on December 10. When Washougal High School

ASB leaders and students show their community spirit, it is enough to inspire all of us to join this great cause. Community members are invited to drop off non-perishable canned or boxed foods, household supplies and unwrapped toys at any Washougal school. The big yellow bus will be parked in front of Washougal High School all day, and this is where the action is the most exciting. The ASB is also accepting cash donations which will be used for purchasing additional food and household supply items throughout the day.

Stuff the Bus is a program that was created by the Camas Washougal Business Alliance (CWBA).

The CWBA is made up of local business owners who strive to have a positive impact on the well-being of the community. The CWBA invites the public to attend the official weigh-in of the buses at 5:00 p.m. on December 10, at Exterior Wood in Washougal. Parking is available in the BiMart parking lot across the street. There will be refreshments as well as a band, and Santa may even stop in for a surprise visit! Many thanks to the CWBA, to district staff and to community members who will help Washougal High win that beautiful Stuff the Bus trophy one more time!

Serving up healthy school lunches

Serving lunch to over 1,300 students in five schools daily can be a challenge. When you consider shrinking budgets, changing guidelines and constraints of insurance, transportation, and quantity, not to mention media attention and picky eaters, the business of school food service can be pretty complex.

Food Services Supervisor Michael Piekarski is up to the challenge. He says the district's food services are evolving and changing to continually offer the best possible options for kids. He has seen Jamie Oliver's tv show, Food Revolution, which calls for removing junk food from schools and teaching kids about good eating habits. "The focus has been on the revolution, but really it's a process of evolution," says Piekarski. "We are slowly making positive changes and moving away from a reliance on convenience foods."

Piekarski is staying in the loop of state and federal changes, such as Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" campaign to help kids become more active. The district has already seen some changes in food offerings since Sodexo was selected as food service provider two years ago. Lunch offerings include fewer convenience items and more fresh choices, such as a salad bar at all grade levels. Students also benefit from more variety. At the elementary level, there are now five choices instead of one or two. In addition to three hot lunch options, there is always a salad option, as well as a sandwich or other deli choice. An "offering bar" has fruits and vegetables (both fresh and canned) and is open to all students, whether they purchased a school lunch or not, so no child ever needs to go hungry.

At WHS, students can choose fresh sandwiches, pizzas (not frozen), baked French fries (not fried), as well as "grab-and-go" premade salads. Fresh grilled items include stir-fried meats and veggies and a salsa line offers nachos and tacos.

Breakfast, with both hot and cold options, is also served at all schools.

Everything meets National School Lunch Program (NSLP) guidelines. Through NSLP, the district receives cash subsidies and donated commodities from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to provide nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children. In return, WSD must serve lunches that meet Federal requirements, and they must offer free or reduced price lunches to eligible children.

For the past few years, a Summer Food Service Program provided free lunch for any student in the Washougal area from age 1-18. This is part of a national program to encourage healthy eating and is offered at no added expense to the school district. The program is offered in conjunction with the Feed Your Brain program which provides fun literacy activities for children in grades K-3.

Piekarski supports local businesses by ordering produce from Duck, a company that offers local and organic options.

When asked about some of the not-so-healthy offerings still found in district lunchrooms—such as chocolate milk—Piekarski says these items still have a place in schools.

"Chocolate milk does have more sugar," he said "but it encourages kids who might not otherwise drink milk at all to get the benefits of calcium and other nutrients."

At Washougal High School, kids still have access to "a la carte" items, but you'll see offerings such as baked potato chips, rather than the full-fat version.

Piekarski has introduced some fun events to encourage

healthy eating and food preparation as well as an overall positive relationship with food and dining. The Kids Can Cook event brought third- and fourth-grade students into the kitchen to prepare healthy snacks (Ants on a Log, fruit kabobs, banana bread) for family and friends. Last year, fifth graders at Gause and Cape Horn-Skye worked hard to earn the opportunity to attend a fine dining experience, a five-course meal complete with glassware, china and table linens. At the high school level, students participated in an Iron Chef-style cooking competition against students from other districts. Students were given a series of ingredients and asked to come up with their own recipe.

Piekarski says there's more where this came from. He plans to stay involved with state and federal guidelines for increasing student health and looks forward to even more healthy options.

"It seems that school lunch has gotten a bad rap," said Piekarski. "But much of that refers back to the days when only one entrée was offered. We are doing some great things considering time and budget constraints. We are really moving in the right direction."

School Lunch Prices

Elementary Schools	Regular	Reduced	Adult
Breakfast	\$1.35	No charge	\$2.00
Lunch	\$2.30	\$0.40	\$3.25
Middle Schools	Regular	Reduced	Adult
Breakfast	\$1.60	No Charge	\$2.00
Lunch	\$2.50	\$0.40	\$3.25
High Schools	Regular	Reduced	Adult
Breakfast	\$1.60	No Charge	\$2.00
Lunch	\$2.70	\$0.40	\$3.25

WHS students recognized for achievement

Several Washougal High School students have been recognized for their scholastic achievements this fall.

Alexander Maxa has been awarded Semifinalist status in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program. Alexander is among 16,000 Semifinalists and is one of the highest scoring entrants in Washington state.

Patrick McCarthy has been named a Commended Student in the 2011 National Merit Scholarship Program. Patrick is one among 34,000 Commended Students throughout the nation to be recognized for his exceptional academic promise.

In addition, Patrick is a graduate of the 2010 Washington Aerospace Scholars Summer Residency hosted by The Museum of Flight in Seattle. Washington Aerospace Scholars (WAS) is a competitive educational program for high school juniors from across Washington state.

Patrick spent six months studying a NASA-designed, distance-learning

curriculum and then attended the summer residency program to collaborate on the design of a human mission to Mars.

Several Washougal High School students have earned Advanced Placement (AP) Scholar

Awards on the basis of their outstanding academic performance on AP Exams.

Washougal High School has three AP Scholars: **Natalie Hoyte, Cynthia Mace, and Haley Strohschein**. These students have completed three or more AP exams with scores of 3 or higher.

Four WHS students have earned recognition as AP Scholar with Honor: **Darcy Akers, Sarah Hess, Patrick McCarthy, and Shane Phillips**. These students earned an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken, and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

Finally, WHS student **Christopher Norton** has earned the title of AP Scholar with Distinction. Christopher qualified for this award by earning an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and by earning a score of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.



Pictured left to right: Chris Norton, Sarah Hess, Darcy Akers, Patrick McCarthy, Natalie Hoyte, and Haley Strohschein.

Pirates is a hit with audiences

Arrrr! Washougal High School set sail with Gilbert and Sullivan's *Pirates of Penzance* this fall. The operetta had its Broadway debut over 130 years ago, but the story, the songs, and the sense of humor have remained timeless.

Washougal's production featured over 50 WHS students acting, singing, playing in the pit orchestra, and working in technical capacities.

The show even featured the largest moving set piece in recent WHS history – a 16-foot pirate ship which sailed across the stage.

WHS freshman Bret Wade played Frederic, a young man recently released from years of serving as an apprentice to a pirate captain (junior James Maguire). It turns out that he was supposed to be apprenticed to a pilot (or ship's captain), but his nursemaid, Ruth (Kalene Cummings), was hard of hearing and

apprenticed him to a pirate instead. Freed from the pirates, he meets the first young lady he's ever seen, Mabel (senior Kelley Young), the daughter of a Major General (junior Alexander Brown). But when the pirates return to marry Mable's sisters, lies are told and hilarity ensues.

The show had great support from both school personnel and community members. The attendance was wonderful, and the

reviews were positive.

Director Kelly Gregersen called the play "One of the most enjoyable experiences I've had during my years at WHS." For those who missed it, plan on joining the drama department for *Harvey* February 10-12, or take in a band concert, a choir concert, or a Blue Note Café. You'll be glad you did!



District seeks parents and community members to join Communications Committee

Washougal School District is seeking parents and community members to serve on the 2011 Communications Committee. This committee will convene in January and meet the third Thursday of each month through May, 2011. This committee replaces 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 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, as well as parents and community members who represent a wide-range of interests. Committee member selection will be based a broad selection of individuals who represent Washougal, including senior citizens, business people, city employees, and parents with children in school.

Two introductory meetings are scheduled to explain the scope of the committee's work, and interested parents and community members must attend one of these meetings to be considered for the committee. The next introductory meeting will be on Thursday, December 9, from 6:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the District Office, 4855 Evergreen Way, Washougal, WA 98671.

WHS Fall sports wrap up

Varsity Football started strong in 2010 and continued to rack up some wins throughout the season. The Panthers got off to a 2-0 start, and concluded the season with a 34-0 trouncing of league rival Hockinson to bring their record to 5-4. New head coach Bob Jacobs had the team playing hard and scoring touchdowns all season long 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 finished the season 6-2 and showed good improvement over last year's excellent showing. At the recently concluded District Tournament the Panther team advanced four golfers to the final round on Saturday and finished fourth as a team. Defending state champion Connor O'Neill will return to the State Tournament this spring, and will be joined by Beau Scott.

Girls Soccer finished the regular season with an impressive 10-4 record. Strong senior leadership and some outstanding team play under new Head Coach Harrison Martin equated into some very impressive wins for the Panthers, and a share of the Greater St. Helen's

League Championship. After starting the post season strong with a 2-1 win over Black Hills, the Panthers season came to an end at the District Tournament with a semifinal round consolation bracket 0-2 loss to Mark Morris, who the Panthers had defeated three times previously this season. Standouts have been senior Darcy Akers at goal, and sophomore Ellie Boon providing goals and assists.

Boys Tennis, coached by Eric Balholm brought home the league championship with a perfect 6-0 record. Foreign exchange student Nicolas Severich was very impressive and finished the regular season undefeated as the #1 singles player, while the duo of Patrick McCarthy and Eyan Cagle also finished the season undefeated as the #1 doubles team. At the District tournament Nicolas earned a berth at the State Tournament this Spring by finishing second, while Patrick and Eyan also earned a spot at State with a third place finish.

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 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 has equating into some fine performances both

individually and team-wise for the Panthers. The Boys team is led by 2009 State fourth place finisher and senior Dylan Croeni. Not far behind is sophomore sensation Sean Eustis. At the recently completed State meet in Pasco, the entire six member team of Dylan, Sean, Noah Collins, Brendan Casey, Josh Banks and Isaac Stinchfield qualified to run by earning a 3rd place finish at the District Meet. Dylan ran an impressive race at the State Meet to finish second by one second to the defending 2009 champion.

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. Kendall finished seventh at District to earn an opportunity to run at the State Meet where she ran a personal best time for the 5K course.

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!

Check out our blog

Be sure to visit the Washougal School District Blog, <http://washougalsd.blogspot.com/>. 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.

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.
November 23 • December 14 • January 11

SUPERINTENDENT
Teresa Baldwin

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Blaine Peterson, Chair
Ron Dinius
Orlan Gessford
Thomas Huffman
Elaine Pfeifer

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SCHOOL DISTRICT



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