

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



## Andrews named Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to Penny Andrews who has been selected as Washougal School District's 2011-12 Teacher of the Year.

Penny is a fourth grade teacher at Cape Horn-Skye Elementary.

She has been a teacher in the district for seven years and recently earned National Board Certification.

Her nomination by a fellow teacher emphasized her joy of teaching, knowledge and expertise, collaboration with staff, and involvement in district and state committees.



Penny Andrews



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## Message from the Superintendent

Dear Washougal Community Members,

As many of you know, I am retiring in July after five years as superintendent of Washougal School District. Schools are truly the heart of this community, and there is great pride and accomplishment associated with educational opportunities for students in Washougal schools. During my tenure, I have come to know families who have graduated generations of children from Washougal High School and families who have moved here so that their children can access all that Washougal has to offer in a small town setting with excellent schools. I have met parents and grandparents of graduates who have followed extraordinary career paths all over the world, and I have met students whom we all know are destined to "knock our socks off" as future adults and citizens of the 21st Century.

There are a few things that matter most as I look back on my time in Washougal. It has been a pleasure to walk the halls of every single school in this district and interact with talented staff members whose care and attention to students is grounded in a deep, philosophical mission of teaching. It has been a pleasure to attend sporting events, concerts, theater performances, senior project presentations and competitions involving students whose sportsmanship, character attributes, skills and knowledge have been enhanced by teachers and coaches. It has been a pleasure working with the Washougal Schools Foundation, the City of Washougal and members of the business community who have shared in the leadership for Washougal public schools. It has been a pleasure working with the Board of Directors, whose teamwork and range of knowledge, experience and skills is remarkable. The exemplary culture of Washougal schools reflects a knowledgeable, experienced Board of Directors, a professional cadre of teachers, broad community support, and conscientious parenting--all of which together have set high expectations for the success of all students. These are the things I will carry forward and remember most about my time in Washougal.

As superintendent, I have valued the community's support of voter-approved measures which hearken back to 1999, when people came together around a vision for modern school facilities. In my tenure alone, voters have approved two maintenance and operations replacement levies and technology levies, funds that are used to provide staff, programs and technology that are fundamental to a quality K-12 public education. Protecting the community's investment in its schools and being a good steward of public funds have been top priorities the last five years.

Effective superintendent leadership today requires leveraging limited resources to meet the varied needs of the school district. Budget development for next year has been hampered by the grim reality of the worst budget scenario that the education community has seen in many years. As we prepare next year's budget, it must reflect resources for classroom teaching and student activities balanced with resources supporting facilities and the operations side of the school system. This balance ensures that students have access to standards-based instruction and the technology tools necessary for being prepared for citizenship and work in the 21st Century. This balance ensures that staff and students have clean, respectful and safe learning and work environments. This balance ensures that the district has a long-range facilities plan and utilizes energy conservation measures. Information on next year's budget will be posted on the district's website.

I will always have a place in my heart for the students and the people I have come to know while working in Washougal. It has been a blessing to work here. I wish you all the best!

Sincerely,

Teresa Baldwin, Superintendent

# District offers exemplary music program

Research shows that music is good for a child's brain development. A study by Canada's McMaster University published online in the journal "Brain", found that music lessons can improve memory and learning ability in young children by encouraging different patterns of brain development.

Other studies cite early music training as helpful in brain development in the areas of language and reasoning. Some research suggests that students who study the arts are more successful on standardized tests and achieve higher grades in high school.

The good news for Washougal students is that despite tough economic times, Washougal School District continues to offer a quality music program. At the elementary level, students in grades 1-5 receive music education twice per week; kindergarteners once per week. Elementary music teachers are Sandee Canton (Hathaway), Dr. Frank Zahn (Gause); and Bryn Scamahorn-Walker (Cape Horn-Skye).

At the elementary level, students learn music theory (learning to read music notation -- quarter notes, quarter rests, half notes, half rests, whole notes, whole rests); music appreciation (introduction to the classics); repertoire (songs that include themes such as patriotic, holiday, and cultural); and performance skills (working in a group, etiquette).

Washougal School District is fortunate to have a quality band program that garners many awards at the secondary level. Students may participate in band as early as fifth grade. Each elementary school has its own band program, and students and teachers meet in the morning before school starts. Opportunities to participate in band continue to grow at the middle and high school levels.

At the middle school level, students can participate in several different band classes (concert band, wind ensemble, symphonic band, and jazz band) based on their ability level. This allows students who may be starting later or at a different skill level than their peers to still participate regardless of their respective grade level. Middle school students can also take choir. Jennifer Bohn teaches music at Jemtegaard Middle School, while Lora Brandt is the music teacher at Canyon Creek.

At Washougal High School, Kelly Ritter teaches five band classes, including Jazz Band I, Percussion Ensemble, Concert Band, Symphonic Band, and Wind Ensemble. Ritter also works with

the WHS Pep band, which is made up of students from several band classes.

WHS also offers Jazz Band II taught by Bryn Scamahorn. Current enrollment for the WHS band program is around 130 students.

Mixed Choir, Chamber Choir, and X-tet are taught by Jennifer Mahorney, who also teaches Intermediate Choir and Husky Singers (advanced choir) at Jemtegaard. Approximately 70 high

instruments they use, which covers cleaning and basic maintenance. Another source of support comes through generous parents and community members who purchase season arts passes and theatre chairs. The remainder of the funds come from donations at performances in the community, or out of teachers' own pockets.

Washougal music teachers use state tests in all of the music classes throughout the district.

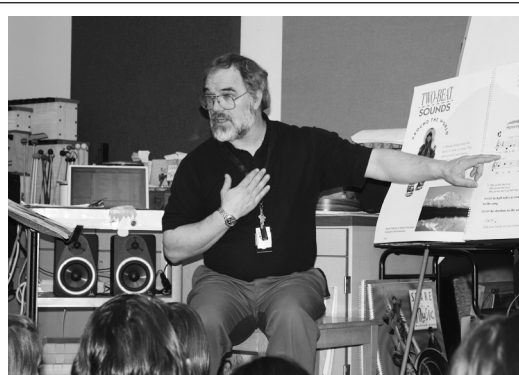
Teachers follow music-specific standards and, like most content areas, they tailor curriculum and instruction to match the expectations, as well as meet the needs and abilities of students. "I am proud to say that our music department at WHS meets and exceeds the performance standards set by the state," said Ritter. "In a nutshell, every rehearsal and every performance is a 'test' of sorts, and is judged/graded by the listeners. This has been the same since the beginning of formal public school music education. Music festivals and competitions are our opportunity to get feedback on student's performances, whether it be individuals or groups, and hear what the musicians at other schools are doing. These opportunities are invaluable to the music program, which gives students examples (both good and bad) of performances, allowing for critical analysis and performance application."

"The success of this program comes from the hard work of the students, and their commitment to producing a truly excellent musical product," said Ritter. "Their willingness to go above and beyond basic classroom expectations with extra performances, after school rehearsals, honor bands, and more is what makes this program great."

Students have opportunities to participate in various competitions, festivals and parades and this is where expenses can add up. A substantial portion of a band's budget goes toward festival entry fees and transportation.

"It's great to work for a district that is pro-arts," said teacher Jennifer Bohn. "I'm thankful that although money is tight and budgets are being reduced, that we still value the arts and supporting our students' art education. We are still offering a rich arts curriculum to our students."

"Lack of funding does limit some of the opportunities for our students," said Ritter, "but it does not limit what they are capable of as musicians and artists."



*Dr. Frank Zahn teaches music at Gause Elementary. Above, he teaches students a cultural song about Mt. McKinley (top) and then gets students moving, as they "paddle" canoes as part of another song.*

school students and 50 middle school students participate in choir.

Over the past few years, the music program budget has become quite lean. The Washougal High School band budget was about \$700 total this year – which, according to teacher Kelly Ritter, buys about four pieces of music and pays for cleaning about two instruments. "The cost to run a band program of our size is around \$20,000 a year," said Ritter. To keep the programs running, WHS staff and students work hard to raise money, including selling elephant ears and Krispy Kremes, as well as working the concession stand at games.

Students pay rental fees for the school

# GRADUATES EARN AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

*Washougal High School's Class of 2011 earned impressive awards and scholarships*

*Congratulations to these students!*



**Amanda Acheson**—One Stop Home Furnishings Scholarship; **Darcy Akers**—Washington Scholar, 2011 Washington State Honors Award, Camas-Washougal Rotary Scholarship, Washougal Schools Foundation Scholarship, Oregon State University Provost Scholarship, Marquette University Ignatious Academic Excellence Scholarship; **Kyle Anderson**—University of Idaho Discover Idaho Scholarship; **Chandler Audette**—Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizenship Award, Soroptimists Violet Richardson Honoring Young Women Award, Washougal Lions Scholarship; **Benjamin Austin**—2011 Washington State Honors Award; **Kasha Banks**—Central Washington University Freshmen Scholar Tuition Award; **Greg Boland**—International Air & Hospitality Academy High School Senior Culinary Scholarship; **Kathleen Botello**—Soroptimist International C-W Professional Technical Fund Award; **Aviv Bresler**—Best Buy at 15 Scholarship, University of Massachusetts Amherst Chancellor's Scholarship, Washougal Schools Foundation Scholarship, California Polytechnic University Scholarship, Washington State University Scholarship, Champlain College Trustee Scholarship, Champlain College Inspiration Scholarship, University of Vermont Presidential Scholarship, Boston University Grant; **Jenna Connolly**—2011 Washington State Honors Award, Washougal Association of Educators Scholarship, Western Oregon University Presidential Scholarship, Washington State University Vancouver Achievement Award, Whitworth University Legacy Scholarship; **Karissa Cooke**—Clark College Academic Scholarship; **Ryan Erdwins**—2011 Washington State Honors Award; Pacific Lutheran University President's Scholar Award; **Cassie Helland**—Camas-Washougal Rotary Scholarship, Joan of Arc Mason Memorial Scholarship, UA Local Union 290 Scholarship Trust Fund; **Sarah Hess**—2011 Washington State Honors Award, Port of Portland Council Scholarship, University of Oregon Academic Scholarship, Pacific Lutheran University Provost's Scholarship, Western Washington U. Western Foundation Scholarship, Western Washington U. College of Business and Economics Distinguished Scholar, Western Washington U. President's Scholarship, Willamette

University Academic Award, Willamette University Jason Lee Award; **Natalie Hoyte**—2011 Washington State Honors Award, Bentley University President's Scholar for Women Leaders, Cal Poly Outreach Scholarship, Champlain College Brouillette Scholarship, Champlain College Excellence Scholarship, University of California Santa Cruz Undergraduate Dean's Award, Washington State PTA Scholarship, Western Washington University President's Scholarship; **Laycee Hyde**—2011 Washington State Honors Award, Central Washington University Merit Scholarship, Grange Insurance Group Scholarship, Odd Fellows Lonnie Belz Scholarship; **Trevor Johnson**—Imagine America Scholarship; **LaDawna Jurgens**—Kaiser Permanente Health Care Career Scholarship; **Janelle Kovacs**—2011 Washington State Honors Award, Allegheny College Trustee Scholarship, Gannon University Social Science Essay Scholarship, Gannon University Scholars Award, University of Portland President's Scholarship, Western Washington University President's Scholarship; **Danea Lentz**—Odd Fellows Lonnie Belz Scholarship; **Robyn Matias-Jenkins**—Washougal Association of Educators Scholarship; **Alexander Maxa**—2011 Washington State Honors Award, Evergreen State College Scholastic Achievement Award, Evergreen State College Merit Tuition, Evergreen State College Foundation Scholarship; **Patrick McCarthy**—Gonzaga University Honors at Entrance Award, Washington Scholar, 2011 Washington State Honors Award, Camas-Washougal Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, Camas-Washougal Rotary Scholarship, Gonzaga University Entrepreneurs Scholarship, Gonzaga University Dauna Leigh Bauer Scholarship, Gonzaga University Honors Scholarship, Gonzaga University Trustee Scholarship, Gonzaga

University Ignation Leaders Scholarship, Hormel Foods Charitable Trust Scholarship, Executive Women International Scholarship, Virginia Tech College of Engineering Dean's Scholarship, Ward Hoxsie Masonic Scholarship; **Corrine Murphy**—2011 Washington State Honors Award, Greater St. Helen's 2A League District IV Scholarship, University of Portland Academic Scholarship, Washougal Lions Scholarship; **Taylor Nightingale**—2011 Washington State Honors Award, University of Portland Academic Scholarship, Washougal Schools Foundation Scholarship; **Christopher Norton**—2011 Washington State Honors Award, Camas-Washougal Rotary Sophomore Scholarship, University of Washington Merit Scholarship; **John Oviatt**—2011 Washington State Honors Award; **Brian Price**—2011 Washington State Honors Award, Camas-Washougal Rotary Scholarship, Catholic Daughters of the Americas of Felix Mueller Scholarship, Washougal Lions Scholarship; **Alexandra Reeves**—2011 Washington State Honors Award; **Erin Seekins**—Camas-Washougal Rotary Scholarship, Arizona State University Dean Award, Eastern Washington University Presidential Scholarship, Callis Education Fund Scholarship, University of Oregon Academic Scholarship; **Samuel Sharp**—2011 Washington State Honors Award; **Brandi Sherman**—2011 Washington State Honors Award; **Victor Slavick**—2011 Washington State Honors Award, Society of Exploration Geophysicists Scholarship, Scholarships for Oregon Scientists, University of Oregon Dean's Scholarship, Clark Honors College Scholarship, Veterans of Foreign Wars Essay Contest Award; **Ethan Starkey**—2011 Washington State Honors Award; **Haley Strohschein**—2011 Washington State Honors Award; **Taneal Tanner**—2011 Washington State Honors Award; **Brylie Taylor**—Portland State University Out of State Opportunity Scholarship; **Peter Tkach**—Marine Corps Scholarship, Willamette University Academic Leadership Award, Willamette University Jason Lee Award; **Andrew Wilmoth**—2011 Washington State Honors Award; **Kelley Young**—Washougal PSE Len Bottemiller Scholarship.

# Travis Hibbs wins community contest

A Washougal student attending Excelsior High School is the winner of Clark Public Utilities' Stream Team 2011 Watershed Reflections Contest.

Hibbs is a junior at Excelsior High School in Washougal School District. His photograph was selected as the winner for the 9-12th grade category in visual arts.

This year's theme was "We all live in a Watershed". Teacher Trudy Tkach incorporated the watershed project into her botany class. Students could choose to write a poem or short story, take a photograph or paint a picture.

"It was great to see a student take interest in learning more about the local watersheds and Travis made an effort to go above and beyond the expectations of the assignment. We are all very proud of him," said Tkach.

Travis and other winners were announced at Clark Public Utilities' Earth Day celebration April 23.



Travis Hibbs in front of his award-winning artwork.

# WHS students show off their culinary skills at county cooking event

Washougal High School students rolled up their sleeves and prepped their saucepans Saturday, May 7 for the Third Annual Clark County High School Culinary Competition. WHS students competed against their peers from Battle Ground, Prairie, Camas and Woodland high schools at the event, which was sponsored by Sodexo, the food service provider for all five high schools.

Washougal students were awarded the Food Critics Choice and Best Overall Award for teamwork, presentation and taste.

Students had three hours to prepare a main dish, side dish and to create a salad and dressing from ingredients they were given. They were also given a mystery ingredient to add somewhere in their meal.

The students' winning dish was a French Cassoulet of



Peter Tkach, Nick Green, teacher Mary Walker, Blair Kraft and Kyle Taisacan

Kielbasa, simmered and baked with white beans, tomatoes, apples, rosemary and sage. Their side dish was asparagus with puff pastry covered in a béchamel sauce.

Washougal's team was coached by Mary Walker, who teaches the Family and Consumer Science class at WHS.

Students who competed are: seniors Nick Green, Peter Tkach, Kyle Taisacan, and Blair Kraft.

## Find More News at - [www.washougal.k12.wa.us](http://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 or 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.  
June 28 • July 26 • August 23

**SUPERINTENDENT**  
Teresa Baldwin

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
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Jim Gadberry  
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SCHOOL DISTRICT



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