District continues energy efficiency efforts, sees cost savings increase

Since the summer of 2010, the Washougal School District has saved $316,418 in avoided utility costs thanks to its energy efficiency efforts. Rebates for retro-commissioning are starting to come in, with a $29,961 rebate so far for Washougal High School from the gas company and expects a similar rebate from the electric company.

Preschool offers great start for students

More and more families realize the benefits of quality preschool for their children. Washougal Community Education & Recreation offers Preschool at each Washougal elementary school. Children ages 3-5 (fully potty trained) can attend two or four days per week in a.m. or p.m. sessions. Our program supports the expectations for entering Kindergarten and is developmentally appropriate for students socially and academically. We are committed to addressing the development of the “whole child” in a positive environment. For more information, contact Lisa Young, (360) 954-3895 or lisa.young@washougal.org.

Message from the Superintendent

Dear Washougal Community Members,

When I spoke recently to a community group, an audience member asked a question that I had not anticipated: “Are children safe in Washougal Schools?”

My presentation covered information about the district, including student achievement gains, improvement initiatives, and student demographics. I was taken aback by the question, thinking first that the crisis lockdown situation that occurred in December might have been the source of this inquiry. As I responded, it became clear to me that the question ran deeper. As a result of the student demographics statistics, the question was a probe into how the superintendent would describe the culture of the district with so many children and families affected financially by the years of economic recession.

My first thought was that the patron asking the question was not familiar with the statistics on poverty and school aged children. Washougal is well within the average range when it comes to the number of children who qualify for free or reduced lunch. The poverty rate for the district is 40% and statewide, 43%. Even so, to share that four or five children out of every ten struggle with realities of life that often come along with poverty would be a sobering statistic for many at the gathering.

As I planned my response, I also thought about the Washougal that I have grown to know. I thought about the district’s leaf blower that was waiting by the front door of the Central Office on Sunday with a note attached, “Found this while walking my dog, sorry it took me so long to return.” I thought about the night I had set my purse down in the parking lot at WHS after an evening meeting, only to find that a student had given it to a teacher, safe and sound, after finding it there in the dark. I thought about my classroom visits where polite students welcome me, share their work, and take pride in what they have achieved. I also thought about the WHS Challenge Day where a group of students and adults made a commitment to make life better for many experiencing unimaginable hardships and burdens.

My answer to the patron was, “Yes, children are not only safe but they thrive in our school system.” The impact of poverty is powerful, but it does not have to be a barrier. A generation of Americans lived through the Great Depression 70 years ago. Our parents or grandparents took pride in what they learned during those difficult years – how to do without, how to use and reuse, and how to conserve. “Life is hard work,” my grandmother used to say, “Find work that you can enjoy.” A commitment was made by her generation to assure that the next generation would have a better life.

Many of the children in our classrooms today are growing up without the things that many would say are essential. When they come to school, a staff is waiting to attend to their basic needs, inspire hope, nurture intellectual development, and set them on a path to make futures better for others. Our schools are so much more than “safe,” and our students are poised to succeed despite what hardships they may encounter during the 70 – 80 years that lie ahead. Continue to believe in them. Continue to expect great things!

Sincerely,

Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent

Board evaluates superintendent

The Washougal Board of Directors evaluates the superintendent annually, providing feedback and guidance for the coming year. The Policy Governance responsibilities and goals set by the superintendent provide the basis of the Board’s feedback. First year superintendent Dawn Tarzian has received positive marks from the Board of Directors.

“As the Board of Directors, we would like to extend our thanks and congratulations to you for the completion of your first year at the Washougal School District. Your ethical conduct and collaborative style is beginning to change the culture within the district and improve morale among district staff. Your ability to think quickly and get your point across clearly is evident at every public meeting and has built trust with the community.”
Spotlight on student achievement

» Gause students enter poetry contest
Gause students in Julie Taie’s class had their poems published in Celebration of Poets, a publication by Creative Communications of Smithfield, Utah. Here is a sample of one student’s work:
A Warm Breeze Blows the Waves by Ashlynn Brown sand soft between my toes. White seagulls glide through the air. Waves crash down and the wind whistles as the sun sets. The sky turns red and orange. White stars turn on like a string of Christmas lights. Why does the sun have to set? Where does it go? Does it really need to go somewhere else? I love this place. I don’t want to leave!

» WHS E-Team competes at State
The Washougal High School Equestrian team competed at State in Lynden, Washington March 10-13. The Working Fours Drill team (Captain Rachel Nelson, Captain Tenley Stedman, Maddie Kitchen and Nina Pawelzick) brought home the Bronze medal.

In addition, Shelby Valaer placed fourth in Dressage, Fee Harrison placed sixth in the Idaho Stake Race, Shelby Valaer (Stevenson) took sixth in Saddle Seat, Mattie Olson (Stevenson) took sixth in Driving, and Chelsea Wright placed tenth in Over Fences.

» WHS students recognized at county event
WHS Junior Cody Hebert received a Clark County Youth Achievement Award for his work with his Great Dane puppy, Butler.

Last fall, after Cody lost his beloved Great Dane and best friend of 10 years, Cody’s family surprised him with Butler, a 7-week-old Great Dane puppy. By October, Cody and Butler joined the Mutts and Masters 4-H Club to learn conformation, obedience and dog handling. Since January, Cody and Butler have competed in several dog shows in the Northwest, winning ribbons in numerous junior showmanship and breed ring events. Since then, others have approached Cody to help prepare their dogs for the show ring.

Other Washougal honorees are: Sean Finucane, Nick Stevens, Josh Banks, Braman Warren, Hunter Nelson, Geer McGee, Cody Hebert; Inspiration, Carson Connors, Chloe Connors, Nicole Gamble; and Tolerance, Jaycob Bailey and Melia Stewart.

Bennett named Washougal teacher of the year
Washougal High School Math and Physics teacher Jay Bennett has been named 2012 Teacher of the Year. Bennett has taught at WHS for the past 12 years.

An exceptional educator with a passion for his subject, Bennett strives daily to make physics interesting and applicable to the real world for his students. His communication with students and parents is unparalleled. He uses a teacher website to provide course syllabi, homework packets, practice tests and many additional educational resources and videos to families. Bennett also frequently emails students and parents with assignment deadline reminders and updates.

“Jay challenges young adults attending Washougal High School to explore, create, and analyze concepts and theories that extend understanding and application well beyond the classroom walls,” said Superintendent Dawn Tarzian. “He does an exceptional job of reaching not only students who excel in their studies, but also those who are struggling. By challenging his students to reach new levels, he helps boost their self-confidence in their ability and potential.

“On behalf of the district and the School Board I extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the work that Jay does,” said Tarzian.

Thank you Doug!
Doug has served the Washougal School District tirelessly over the last thirty years. He was hired in 1982 and has served as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and most recently, Director of Human Resources and Operations. Thank you Doug Bright for your 30 years of service to Washougal School District. You will be missed!

Thank you retirees
Several Washougal School District staff members will retire this year. They are:

Rhea Bohlin, Highly Capable Specialist, Washougal High School. Rhea retires after 13 years with the district.

Pat Fitts, Paraeducator, Jemtegaard Middle School. Pat has worked for the District for 29 years.

Linda Green, Secretary, Excelsior High School. Currently working at Excelsior High School, Linda worked for the district’s Special Services Department for many years. She has worked for the district for 19 years.

Joel Lassman, Special Education teacher, Gause Elementary. Joel has worked for Washougal School District since 2007, with 17 years in education.

Also retiring, Barbara Hawkins, Special Education teacher who taught for 33 years in Washougal with a total of 35 years in education.

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Committee finds that WSD is making good financial decisions

Challenging financial times require organizations and businesses to take a hard look at how each dollar is spent. To this end, Superintendent Dawn Tarzian convened a group of more than a dozen citizens and WSD staff to address the district’s finances and see how they measure up. The Fiscal Review and Comparison Committee compared WSD’s budget with school districts of similar size, demographics and complexity, assessing the district’s standing and evaluating efficiencies.

Group members obtained comparative data and gathered information regarding the district’s budget to prepare a summary of their findings to present to the superintendent and the school board.

The committee undertook the task of understanding the complex process of public education finance in Washington state and the many laws, requirements and guidelines with which school districts must comply.

“We found that, in most areas, the district is doing a remarkable job fulfilling state and federal requirements with tight spending restrictions,” said committee member Roger Daniels.

“I am so impressed with the new superintendent’s planning and community outreach philosophies,” said Daniels. “I feel the district is very fortunate to have a leader of her caliber at this time.”

Committee members are: Randy Curtis, Roger Daniels, Bert Duncan, Kyle Eakins, Amanda Klackner, Sandy Ladd, Rosann Lassman, Jennifer McDaniel, Norm Paulson, Blaine Peterson, Kathy Rodeman, Dawn Tarzian, and Ron Wysaske.

Class of 2012 earns impressive awards and scholarships

» Isaac Bischoff — AP Scholar with Honor, Brigham Young Scholarship;  
» Chad Browning — AP Scholar, College Bound Scholarship;  
» Melanie Chesnutis — George Fox University Grant;  
» John Dally — AP Scholar;  
» David Choi — AP Scholar with Honor, Washougal Lions Club Scholarship, College Bound Scholarship, Camas-Washougal Rotary Student of the Year, Daughters of the American Revolution Scholarship;  
» Lauren Christofferson — College Bound Scholarship;  
» Kendrianna Cochran — Kaiser Permanente Health Care Scholarship, Pacific Lutheran University Dean’s Scholarship, PeaceHealth Southwest WA. Medical Center Health Career Scholarship, Roger Duke Memorial Scholarship, University of Oregon Dean’s Scholarship, Washington State Council of Firefighters Scholarship, Washington State University Achievement Scholarship;  
» Noah Collins — Washington State University Vancouver Award;  
» Katrina Domeyer — AP Scholar, Navy ROTC, Air Force ROTC, University of Arizona Excellence Award & Apple iPad, Washington State University Achievement Award, University of Idaho discover Idaho Merit Waiver;  
» Madeline Down — 2012 Washington Scholar, Case Western Reserve University Scholarship, North Bank Masonic Lodge Ward Hoxie Memorial Scholarship, St Mary’s College of California Honors at Entrance Scholarship, St Mary’s College of California Honor Scholarship, Willamette University Academic Leadership Award, Willamette University Music Award, Colorado School of Mines Merit Scholarship, Washington State University Engineering Scholarship, Washington State University Regents Scholarship, Washington State University Achievement Award, Washougal Schools Foundation Scholarship, Washougal Association of Educators Scholarship, University of Portland President’s Scholarship, University of Oregon Non-resident Dean’s Scholarship, Occidental College Dean’s Scholarship;  
» Lauren Fialdini — Camas Washougal Rotary Scholarship, Linfield College Faculty Scholarship, Linfield College Music Achievement Award, Linfield College Leadership/Service Scholarship, Linfield Diversity Grant, Linfield College Grant, One Stop Home Furnishings Scholarship, University of Alabama Capstone Scholar Scholarship, University of Portland President’s Scholarship, University of Portland Grant, University of Washington Undergrad University Grant, Washougal Lions Club Scholarship, Washougal Schools Foundation Scholarship;  
» Jarrett Garrett — Washougal Chapter PSE Len Bottomler Memorial Scholarship;  
» MacKenzie Helland — Arizona State University Dean’s Award;  
» Kyle Huffman — College Bound Scholarship;  
» Katie Ladwig — AP Scholar, Washington State University Academic Achievement;  
» Julia Larson — Odd Fellows Lonnie Belz Scholarship;  
» Kayla Lockard — Clark College Foundation Gregory D and Kirsten R Wallace Scholarship, Clark College Foundation Stanger Family;  
» James Maguire — Washougal Lions Club Scholarship, VFW Voice of Democracy, University of Idaho Access Waiver & Merit Waiver Scholarships, Navy ROTC Scholarship, AFROTC Scholarship, University of Portland Presidential Scholarship, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Presidents Scholarship, Washington Crossing Foundation Scholarship, Camas-Washougal Rotary Scholarship;  
» Ben McMullen — College Bound Scholarship;  
» Austin Miller — Skills Center Foundation General Advisory Committee Scholarship;  
» Montie Miller — College Bound Scholarship;  
» Loring Moore — Camas Washougal Rotary Scholarship, Camas Washougal Chamber of Commerce Scholarship, Washougal Schools Foundation Scholarship;  
» Tyler Odenthal — College Bound Scholarship;  
» Elizabeth Padgett — Texas Christian University Grant, Texas Christian University Tuition Equalization Grant;  
» Kirsten Peterson — Washougal Schools Foundation Scholarship;  
» Amber Ronhaar — College Bound Scholarship;  
» Trent Stauffer — EWU Eastern Scholar, Camas Washougal Rotary Scholarship, Odd Fellows Lonnie Belz Scholarship;  
» Colton Sullivan — AP Scholar with Honor, Case Western Reserve University Scholarship, Case Western Reserve University Grant, Lacamas Community Credit Union 2012 Joseph J Boyle Mem Scholarship, Science and Engineering Opportunity Grant, University of Portland Presidential Scholarship, University of Portland Grant;  
» Michael Thomas — Oregon State University Provost Non-Resident Scholarship, Oregon State University Eng Dean’s Scholarship, University of Washington SEFS, Washington State Opportunity Scholarship, Washington Pulp and Paper Foundation Scholarship;  
» Kendall Utter — Arizona State University Dean’s Award, 2012 Arabian Horse Foundation Scholarship;  
» Shandell Vogel — Clark College Foundation Leonard Engwall Scholarship, Washington State PTA Scholarship;  
» Rachel Walters — Washougal Association of Educators Scholarship;  
» Katie Wright — Western Washington University Admission w/Distinction, Western Washington University President’s Scholarship, Pacific Lutheran University Provost’s Scholarship, Washington State University Merit Scholarship.

Hathaway students take pride in caring for books

Sixty fourth and fifth graders at Hathaway Elementary have adopted a shelf in their library as part of the Adopt-A-Shelf program. Students choose a library shelf they want to take care of, librarian Kathy Stanton puts their name and grade level on it, and asks that they check on their shelf at least once a week. So far, 32 4th graders and 28 5th graders have adopted a shelf. “I have been having the best time watching our students take care of their library,” said Stanton. “Younger students have noticed the names on the shelves and want to help too.”

Hathaway students with their adopted shelves.
Local youth and adult classes offered through Washougal Community Education & Recreation

Summer Camps offer your child a fun, safe, and educational way to spend their summer days and meet new friends!

Week Long Summer Camps, Ages 4 to 10 run 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Weekly themes include: “Fantasy Land”; “Out of This World” Legos; “Wild Wild West”; “Ooey Gooey”; and “Dino Dig”.

Also offered: WHS Credit Recovery, grades 9-12; Mad Science Summer Camp, ages 5-10; Latin Dance Fitness for Kids, ages 5-12; Tae Kwon Do Classes, ages 6-Adult; Soccer Fundamentals, ages 6-12; Track and Field Camp, grades 6-12.

For more information, call Kathy at 360-954-3838 or visit www.washougal.k12.wa.us/wcer.

Library benefits Hathaway families

The Helen D. Hull Memorial Reading Library Fund gives Hathaway families an opportunity to read quality literature together on a weekly basis. Through this year’s grant, Hathaway purchased 226 new books to add to the Helen Hull Take-Home library. These new, leveled additions are specifically made for children and parents to share—the parent reads one page, then the student reads the other. By involving parents, this system promotes literacy in the homes of our students.

In addition, the Helen Hull library is now branching out to include some sets of “We Both Read” phonics books for teachers and aides to use with small groups of struggling students during reading interventions. These books follow the same format as the books in the Take-home library, and they attack specific reading skills.

Thank you to Mr. Hull and The Community Foundation for generously supporting Hathaway students.

WHS diplomas are just the beginning for these successful grads

You probably already know this, but Washougal High School grads go on to great things. Here are some examples:

- **Kyle Schlauch**—WHS Class of 2008
  Kyle graduated from West Point on May 26. He will attend engineering school at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and then be stationed at Fort Riley, Kansas. Kyle is the son of JMS teacher Ron Schlauch.

- **Reiner Hershaw**—WHS Class of 2008
  Reiner was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the USMC in May after graduating in March, 2012 from the University of Washington with a degree in Political Science with an emphasis in International Security. Reiner was a member of the Husky Crew team, which just won its 15th National Championship in Camden, NJ. Reiner is the son of Hathaway teacher Marcia Hershaw.

- **Daniel Robinson**—WHS Class of 2009
  Daniel is currently studying Economics at Willamette University where he is the recipient of two scholarships: the Oliver C. Brown Scholarship and the John D. Gray Scholarship. Daniel’s team placed first at the International Collegiate Business Strategy Competition.

- **Allie Reeves**—WHS Class of 2011
  Allie is majoring in Chinese at Arizona State University and has been selected to go to China this summer.

Rotary program a positive experience for girls

Fifth grade girls at Hathaway Elementary gained self-confidence as they learned financial management, etiquette, career planning and the importance of community service through the Camas-Washougal Rotary Club’s Young Women in Action program.

Through the free eight-week program, 11 professional women have volunteered more than 200 hours to provide one-on-one mentoring guidance and friendship to the fifth grade girls. This has inspired the development of life goals that help to sustain these young women through adolescence and into young adulthood.

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 IV/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, unless otherwise noted.

June 26 • August 14 • August 28

Washougal School District Patron
Washougal, WA 98671

SUPERINTENDENT
Dawn Tarzian

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Blaine Peterson, Chair
Ron Dinius
Terrie Hutchins
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WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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