



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Message from the Superintendent

Sign up for superintendent's Newsline

Are you interested in keeping up with things going on in the district? Superintendent Baldwin's Newsline will provide frequent updates from Teresa's office. To sign up, visit our web site, www.washougal.k12.wa.us and click on the Newsline logo to the left.

Register to vote

Register to vote through Washington state's online voter registration system: <http://wei.secstate.wa.gov/osos/en/voterinformation/Pages/RegistertoVote.aspx>



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Autumn is spectacular all around Washougal this year. Driving along the river or watching the cross country team running through fallen leaves, I am reminded that this is truly a beautiful place to call home. Community pride and investment in education is highly valued, and I thank all Washougal citizens and families for supporting our schools!

The District weathered the most severe "budget storm" in state history last spring. We fared as well as could be expected when faced with cutting \$1.3 million from the budget. Our goal was to save as many jobs as possible and keep classified staff working with benefits. By mid-September, all of the teachers who had received unemployment notices had been hired back, due to an equal number of staff resignations, retirements, etc. We also had a slight uptick in enrollment above projections, which allowed us to hire one more full-time elementary teacher. Our sports programs are fully funded, and we are grateful to have saved as many programs as possible within a balanced budget.

A major budget reduction strategy was elimination of cross-town busing between Hathaway and Gause elementary schools, a savings of about \$145,000 this year. All the best planning did not create perfect results the first week of school, and we apologize to students and families who were inconvenienced as bugs were worked out of the new transportation plan. Many parents came forward with constructive ideas for improving transportation communication next year. Our bus drivers are highly trained, dedicated staff members, and we appreciate all they do to provide safe transport of students.

The big cost-saving news this year is the District-wide energy conservation plan. Last spring, Clark Public Utilities and Bonneville Power conducted an energy audit followed by a report detailing energy saving measures applicable to all schools and work sites. Each site now has a "Green Team" and will receive Washington Green Schools program training in collaboration with the City of Washougal. We anticipate saving at least \$70,000 this year in energy usage reduction.

Funds for retrofitting buildings to be more energy efficient are planned using the Federal award of \$1,000,000 for approved projects under the American Restoration and Recovery Act (ARRA 2009). See the related article or visit the district website for more information on this "big win" for Washougal schools and community.

For fans of last year's drama production, "Into the Woods," it is fair to say that we are not "out of the woods" yet where budget matters are concerned. State revenue forecasts show additional deficits that may be passed on to school districts across the state when the legislature meets

in 2010. Last spring, the 2009 Community Budget Task Force provided excellent input in developing this year's budget. Looking ahead to the budgeting process in 2010, the District seeks community members to serve on the 2010 Budget Task Force. Those who are interested are asked to contact Cassi Marshall, administrative assistant at 954-3005, or visit the District website for an application. The 2010 Budget Task Force will meet three-five evenings between January and June, 2010, when the draft of the 2010 budget needs to be completed. An interest in continuing great schools is all you need to apply. Applications are due to the District office by January 8, 2010, and the committee will be established in January. This will be a valuable community input process.

Finally, and of critical importance, the Board of Directors will place a continuation or "replacement" levy on the February 9, 2010 election ballot, along with a technology levy. (See information below.) The District website will have ongoing information regarding both of these levies leading up to the election.

Again, many thanks to the community for outstanding support of schools! We're all about great education every day for Washougal students. Go Panthers!

Teresa Baldwin, Superintendent

BOARD PREPARES FOR M & O AND TECHNOLOGY LEVIES

The Washougal School District Board of Directors plans to place two measures before voters on February 9, 2010. Both measures represent a continuation of 2010 measures, specifically a replacement Maintenance and Operations Levy, as well as a replacement Technology Levy. Voters approved a four-year M and O Levy in 2006 and a six-year Technology Levy in May 2004. Both levies will expire in 2010.

Given the current economy, the board discussed placing the measures before voters with no increase in the amount levied. The board will ask voters for \$5,092,212, which is the same amount voters approved in 2006 for the final year of collection, which is 2010. The proposed replacement M and O Levy would remain the same during 2011-2014, rather than increasing incrementally by year as most levies do. A replacement Technology Levy would also remain the same over 2011-2014 at \$250,000 per year.

See page 3 for dates and times of School Levy Information Nights.

Keeping kids healthy during flu season

The Washougal School District has established procedures consistent with recommendations by the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Clark County Public Health Department to prevent the spread of illness in our schools.

As you know, the H1N1 or Swine Flu can be easily spread from person to person. Here are a few things that families can do prevent the spread of the flu:

- Teach your children to wash their hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. You can set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children not to share personal items like drinks, food or unwashed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. Covering up their coughs or sneezes using the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of the hand when a tissue is unavailable.
- Know the signs and symptoms of the flu. Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or

stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.

- Keep sick children at home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected.

- Do not send children to school if they are sick. Any children who are determined to be sick while at school will be sent home.

The following resources have up-to-date information regarding the flu:

- U.S. Department of Health: www.flu.gov
- Region IV Public Health: www.flunewsswwashington.org
- NW Regional Flu Site: www.nwflunews.info
- Region IV Public Health Flu Hotline is 360-397-8021.

AMERICAN RESTORATION AND RECOVERY ACT DOLLARS A "BIG WIN" FOR THE DISTRICT

Washougal School District applied for AARA funds, part of the Federal Stimulus package allotted to states for school facility repairs, and Washougal was one of 18 districts in the state authorized to issue 15-year, interest free Qualified School Construction Bonds. Washougal was approved to issue bonds in the amount of \$1,000,000. The following projects were approved: school energy efficiency improvements, Fishback Stadium turf replacement, WHS gym floor replacement, fiber optic installation, and other school facility repairs that meet requirements of the law.

The bond sales are scheduled in December and work on the approved projects will be completed in 2010. It is very important that our citizens know that these funds are designated for specific "shovel ready" school and facility work that will put contractors and laborers to work at no local added cost to taxpayers. The no-interest repayment of the bonds will be paid annually from revenues resulting from energy improvements.

These funds represent a "big win" for Washougal. Not only will much needed school repairs be completed, but an open bid process will allow local contractors an opportunity to put people back to work. These funds are designated for specific school and facility repairs and cannot be used for any other school or district expenses. The Board of Directors and Superintendent Teresa Baldwin will oversee the use of these funds, as specified by law.

District taps into social networking to communicate with patrons

Chances are you have read about Facebook and Twitter in the newspaper or have seen a story on the evening news.

Twitter, Facebook and other social networking websites give people the ability to receive instant updates from organizations they choose to stay in touch with.

These sites enable school districts to reach students and parents with immediate information and updates, ranging from sports scores to important school board actions.

Not only do both sites offer the ability to reach audiences quickly and efficiently, they are entirely free to both users and school districts. This means we can offer everyone in the community immediate access to district information, including links to more details on school websites.

If you haven't used Facebook, it's not hard to get started. Go to www.facebook.com and sign up for a free account. The district page is located at www.facebook.com/WashougalSD. Click the "Become a Fan" button, and you'll start receiving every update from our district directly to your Facebook home page.

Interested in Twitter? You don't even need to sign up. Just go to www.twitter.com/washougal_sd to see the latest tweeted updates. If you decide to sign up, you can follow the district in your own homepage. In fact, Twitter will send text messages to your mobile phone every time there's a status update.

Our website will continue to publish the most important information about the district, but the social networking sites are a new way to stay in touch.

Washougal schools examine energy efficiency

As part of the Washington Green Schools program, students, staff and community volunteers will examine energy consumption within Washougal schools to develop an energy conservation plan designed to save money and improve environmental impact.

The Washington Green Schools program is led by a partnership of agencies and organizations and grant-funded by the Washington State Department of Ecology.

Partnering with the district in this effort is the City of Washougal. Pamela Tuite, a member of the city's Planning Commission as well as its Sustainability Taskforce, has been working with Washougal School District to coordinate the program. District staff and community members will receive training in late October, and an assessment will be completed in November. In January, a plan will be assembled, including development of policies to help reduce energy consumption. Staff and students will be educated on the findings and energy conservation activities will continue throughout the year.

For more information, visit Washington Green Schools, www.wagreenschools.org.

School Levy Information Nights

Parents and community members are invited to attend a levy information night at any school location. These public informational meetings will be held as follows:

November 9--Hathaway Elementary Library at 6:30 p.m.

November 30--Cape Horn-Skye Elementary & Canyon Creek Middle Library at 5:30 p.m.

December 1--Jemtegaard Middle Library at 7:00 p.m.

January 11--Washougal High School Theater at 6:00 p.m.

January 21--Gause Elementary Library at 6:00 p.m.

These meetings are open to the public and all community members, staff and parents are invited to attend and learn more about the levy election to be held on February 9, 2010.

District seeks community members to serve on Community Budget Task Force

Last spring, the 2009 Community Budget Task Force provided excellent input in the development of this year's budget. Looking ahead to the budgeting process in 2010, the District seeks community members to serve on the 2010 Budget Task Force. Those who are interested are asked to contact Cassi Marshall, administrative assistant at 954-3005, or visit the District website for an application. The 2010 Budget Task Force will meet three - five evenings between January and June, 2010, when the draft of the 2010 budget needs to be completed. An interest in continuing great schools is all you need to apply. Applications are due to the District office by January 8, 2010, and the committee will be established in January. This will be a valuable community input process.

BRIEFS

Cape Horn-Skye named School of Distinction

Cape Horn-Skye Elementary is among 104 Washington state schools to be named a School of Distinction for sustained improvement in student achievement as measured by seven years of WASL scores. Representatives from Cape Horn-Skye were recognized at an Awards Luncheon September 26.

Canyon Creek students take to the Gorge

Thanks to the generosity of a Friends of the Columbia Gorge donor, the Canyon Creek sixth graders were treated to two days in the Gorge where they learned about the geology of the Gorge, wildlife habitat, native plants, wilderness survival skills, and the adventures of Lewis and Clark.

Vancouver resident Phyllis Clausen established the Vic Clausen Youth Fund in honor of her late husband.

Students took a guided hike on the Gibbons Creek trail, observed wildlife and its habitats and learned survival skills.

Sports Fee donation fund allows all students to participate

The Sports Fee Donation Fund has been established to provide a funding source to cover sports fees for students who qualify for free and reduced lunch. The fund will support students attending Jemtegaard Middle School, Canyon Creek Middle School, and Washougal High School. No district funds are allocated to the Sports Fee Donation Fund. Patrons, parents, service clubs, and other interested parties may donate money to be deposited in the fund at any of the participating schools, simply take a check to the school's secretary.

Washougal Schools Foundation supports learning through grants and scholarships

Washougal School District is fortunate to have an active foundation that helps support classroom learning and educational opportunities. Each year, the Washougal Schools Foundation awards scholarships, grants and mini-grants to classroom projects and students in the district.

The following teachers and students received assistance from the Washougal Schools Foundation in 2008-2009:

FULL GRANTS FOR 2008-2009:

1. Young Author's Conference for students in the third, fourth and fifth grade throughout the school district. The grant was written by Lucie Willeman, Cape Horn-Skye Elementary. WSF granted \$600 toward the cost of the conference.
2. Hathaway Elementary hosted Paul Owen Lewis as an Author in Residence. The grant was written by Michelle Craig, Hathaway. WSF granted \$1,000 toward the cost of hosting Lewis's visit.
3. Literacy Day at Gause Elementary School on June 4, 2009. The grant was written

by Marlene Leifsen of Gause School. WSF granted \$1,000 toward the cost of the day.

4. Missoula Children's Theatre artist in residency visit at Hathaway Elementary School during the week of February 2, 2009. The grant was written by Colleen Hord of Hathaway School. WSF granted \$1,000.
5. Tile mural project at Hathaway Elementary for the 4th grade students. Grant written by Philicia Weaver of Hathaway. WSF granted \$1,000.
6. River's Edge Poetry Book at Cape Horn-Skye Elementary. Grant was written by Michelle Rutherford. WSF granted \$627.

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2009:

\$1,000 winners: Katie Daniels; Kayla Down; Emily Johnson; Amber Sherman.

\$500 winner: Maureen Murphy

In addition, the Washougal Schools Foundation awarded more than 30 mini-grants for curriculum materials, supplies, and other materials to support classroom learning.

Don't miss the Trail Band holiday concert

Saturday, November 28 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 grants and scholarships.

East County Community Education goes green

East County Community Education will no longer mail its course catalog. The catalog will be sent home with students, posted online at washougal.k12.wa.us/districtinfo/communityed/htm or camas.wednet.edu/district/teaching_learning/community_ed.htm and available at your local library, as well as Community Education and Washougal and Camas District Offices.

Call 954-3838 for more information.

FIND MORE NEWS AT -
www.washougal.k12.wa.us

Camas-Washougal Rotary Club DONATES BACKPACKS



The Camas-Washougal Rotary Club donated backpacks stocked with school supplies to elementary students who might otherwise be unable to afford them.

From left: Assistant Superintendent Rebecca Miner, Superintendent Teresa Baldwin, Career and Technical Education Director Marsha Spencer, Gause Principal Rex Larson, and Rotarian and Washougal City Councilmember Molly Coston.

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.
October 13 & 27 • November 10 & 24 • December 8 • January 12 & 26

SUPERINTENDENT
Teresa Baldwin

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

WASHOUGAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT



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