

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



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Message from the Superintendent

Creating extraordinary opportunities for students to shine

Stuff the Bus. A philanthropic seedling of an idea planted by a few community yeoman in the hearts and minds of high school kids that grew into a mammoth, charitable beanstalk. On December 5, 2009, 23,660 pounds of food and toys were collected for the Children's Home Society of Washougal. Right next door, the Camas community rallied behind its high school and collected a similar load of goods for local food banks. Who could have imagined that the students in Associated Student Body (ASB) leadership classes could muster an entire community and transform an ordinary food drive into a monumental contribution for families in need. It was extraordinary, indeed.

In the luminous glow of success, WHS students stand out as the heroes, the leaders and the team who pulled together to inspire their peers, their teachers, their families and their neighbors to become emissaries for this great cause. Behind those kids, who in truth deserve all the credit and glory, is another force that simply cannot be overlooked. Behind this incredible opportunity for students to learn the true meaning of "giving" to our community stand a few community members from the Camas-Washougal Business Alliance, the ASB teacher and other WHS staff who created a structure and provided guidance tailored to the kids' youthful enthusiasm and energy. It was challenging and attainable. I offer my deepest gratitude to those who created this unique opportunity and made it possible for students to shine. Through the intentional support of a team of adults, the students led an authentic project and fully understood that the real winner in Stuff the Bus was our community.

Taking one step back from Stuff the Bus, I can recite other examples where community and staff members have organized opportunities, particularly for high school students, and students were inspired to successfully complete a large-scale project. The Interact Club at Washougal High School recently planted a dozen deciduous trees



on campus, no small feat given the rocky nature of the soil! It came together when the parents of an Interact member donated the trees, and another parent, a horticulturist, selected appropriate trees and designed the landscape plan and other parents and staff agreed to come with shovels and tools to assist. On November 15, 2009, a sunny Saturday morning, a crew of strong kids and supportive adults planted a dozen trees to beautify the campus for years to come.

There are many other examples here in Washougal School District where community and staff join together to make extraordinary opportunities for students to shine. You could see it in the first drama production, *You Can't Take It With You*. I saw it again when I attended Cape Horn-Skye's winter concert and was amazed at the staff and parent collaboration to provide decorations, dessert, a delightful audience sing-a-long and, of course, children performing only as little kids can, a selection of heartwarming holiday music. I've seen this phenomenon everywhere across the district. It is in these stellar moments where authentic experiences intersect with classroom learning that our students have the opportunity to shine. So, thanks to all of you who as community and staff members band together to create opportunities for children to do far more than they ever imagine they can do, to shine.

Teresa Baldwin
Superintendent



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District honors Canyon Creek teacher

Kam Lawrence knew while attending Cal Poly that she wanted to be a teacher. And 31 years later, she knows that was the right choice.

This winter, the Washougal School Board honored her dedication to the profession by awarding her Washougal School District Teacher of the Year.

This is Kam's third year at Canyon Creek Middle School. She teaches a morning class of seventh graders and an afternoon class of sixth graders.

"Kam is a selfless, dedicated teacher who simply does not give up, on anyone," said teacher and literacy specialist Linda Herrmann.

Georgia Parks, a Volunteer Grandma, says that Kam is the reason she volunteers. "She taught my grandson and he just loved her," she says. "She genuinely likes kids, and they like her."

Linda says that Kam attends many of her students' sports events and constantly encourages her students to take part in activities ranging from spelling bees to door decorating contests.



"I really appreciate and admire the hard work and dedication of the Canyon Creek Staff."

Kam Lawrence,

Washougal School District
Teacher of the Year

"What I really like about my job is watching students grow and change," Kam says. "My sixth graders are in an entirely new environment, changing classes and

having more homework," she says. "Some actually are in tears after their first day. But they overcome it, and it's wonderful to watch them transform into young adults."

"Mrs. Lawrence is outstanding at communicating with parents and students," says Principal Sandi Christensen. "She forms a genuine bond with her students. They know how much she cares for them, and they will work hard for her because of that."

Kam's son-in-law is a former student. He came back to see her and saw her daughter's photo on her desk. They married and came to the Northwest, and Kam flew up often to see them. She finally decided to make the move north and now relishes her time at Canyon Creek.

"I really appreciate and admire the hard work and dedication of the Canyon Creek staff," Kam says. "They have welcomed me with open arms and made my transition so much easier."

The Washougal School Board presented a plaque to Kam at its December 9 meeting.

Community budget task force convenes

As the state and the nation grapple with an uncertain economic future, Washougal School District is committed to open communication as we plan our budgets for 2009-2010 and beyond. Superintendent Teresa Baldwin is establishing a Community Budget Task Force to foster two-way communication regarding issues of school finance. The Board needs to approve the budget by August 31 for the budget year that begins September 1. The Task Force will meet three or four times in the next few months. Members will be encouraged to share information with others in the community. The Washington state legislature will be meeting to determine the operating revenue available to school districts for the next two school years.

The Community Budget Task Force will be comprised of 10-20 representative citizens with knowledge of K-12 public education and an interest in budgetary matters. Task Force members will represent the diverse interests in the community.

Purpose

The purpose of Task Force is to establish stronger links to the community throughout the budget development process. In addition, an Employee Budget Task Force will be convened involving elected officials from teacher and classified staff bargaining units plus one ad hoc budget member from each employee group. Broad-based understanding and participation in budget development demonstrates fiscal responsibility, good stewardship of taxpayer dollars and accountability to the public.

Budget in support of district mission and Board's direction

The district's responsibility is to maximize available resources and manage those resources in support of the district's mission and the board of directors' Ends Policy. The mission is to provide a high quality educational system that inspires students to vigorously pursue excellence and citizenship. The board's Ends Policy states that each student will be prepared to compete and succeed beyond high school in post-secondary education, work and citizenship in a democratic society.

Meeting Strategy

The Task Force meetings will be open to the public with meeting dates, times, locations and agenda published on the district website. Task Force meetings will be facilitated by the district's superintendent, Teresa Baldwin, and Rosann Lassman, budget manager. Agenda setting and discussions will be limited to Task Force members, but time will be provided for citizen and employee comments. Meetings will be scheduled to coincide with key legislative action dates so that the most current legislative budget information may be utilized in budget planning.

Scope of Work

The scope of Task Force work will be to understand district budgeting parameters, which will be part of the initial training process, and to use that information relative to legislative priorities in public school funding.

Learn More

To follow the work of the Task Force, please visit the district website or call Cassi Marshall at 954-3005.

WHS students focus on local, global needs

A dedicated group of some 40 students is working to make Washougal High a better place and a group of Mexican children healthier.

The group is called InterAct and is affiliated with the Rotary Clubs. The club name comes from the words INTERNational ACTion. They have committed to one local project and one international project per year, but the WHS group is "interacting" a lot more than that.

"I am approached by a lot of students to sponsor clubs or activities," says Brian Amundson, club advisor for all three of its years. "But this is one I really wanted to do. These kids are actively working to improve our community, and places a long way away."

The club is young; most of its officers are sophomores. Seven attended a leadership camp in the fall and four represented WHS at a district Rotary Project Fair where the students showed off last year's international project, sending books to Uganda. With the sponsoring Camas-Washougal Rotary Club's help, they raised more than \$800 and sent more than 10,000 books and dictionaries to Uganda.

At recent club meetings, students and Rotarians gave presentations on polio, clean water projects, helping firefighters in Argentina, stopping the spread of Malaria and fight the malnutrition in underprivileged regions. After the presentations, the students voted to support the Moringa tree nutritional project in Obregon, Mexico.

The Moringa is an amazing tree whose leaves contain a wealth of vitamins and nutrients especially helpful to infant growth. It can be grown with very little water and so it survives well in arid climates where it may be difficult to find other food choices.

WHS Interact will help with this project by raising funds to buy more trees with the help of the WHS Booster Club by staffing concessions at sporting events. The club held a baked goods and craft sale at the WHS Holiday Bazaar Saturday last month. The officers hope to be able to send a club member or two to Mexico to help with the planting.

Many of the current members have siblings who belonged to, and even founded, the club.

Emily Carroll's older brother was a member. Now she's vice president. "The

The Washougal High School InterAct Club received a Governor's Award this year from Rotary District 5100. The award was given for completion of two International and six local community service projects last year.

leadership conference we attended really blew me away. And the projects that the other clubs are doing were amazing."

"I wanted to get involved in something that would make a difference," says Ryan Erdwins, club president. "Helping kids in Africa and Mexico really appealed to me."

"I was surprised at how many students showed up to help with the tree planting," says international project committee chair Patrick McCarthy.

"The Interact club members have a real heart for community service," says Margaret McCarthy, club parent advisor. They will be doing at least three local community service projects this year. They planted trees at the high school last month. The Erdwins family, in honor of their beloved Grandpa Gale, donated a dozen large maple and cherry trees.

Another local community service project the Interact club will be helping with again this year is the Clark County Sheriff's Department's "Santa's Posse." This organization helps needy families during the holiday season by providing food and household items.

BRIEFS

Learn web safety February 10

The district's Anti-Bullying Task Force and the Washougal Police Department will discuss what adults need to know to protect family members from online predators, bullying and harassment on February 10.

Examples will illustrate Internet safety issues and audience questions will be addressed. Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to monitor family Internet use and recognize the dangers that can come from strangers posing as potential friends. Children and senior citizens are the most vulnerable victims of Internet abuse, and the information in this presentation will be useful for families with dependents of all ages.

The presentation will take place at 6:30 p.m. at Washougal High.

Congratulations

Cara Wade, a senior at Washougal High, has been honored with a National Merit Scholarship Program Letter



of Commendation. The award is based on her performance in the PSAT test that she took last year, in which she placed within the top five percent of the 1.5 million students who took the PSAT. Cara has a focus on band, and participates in softball. She also excelled on the SAT test this year, scoring in the 90th percentile of those taking the test.

High School Tree Planting



Tree planters – Larry Blaufus, president of the Camas-Washougal Rotary Club, helps WHS students Tylar Anderson, Elle Wade, Jordin Seekins and Chandler Audette plant trees at the high school.

Thank You



The Washougal School District thanks Nautilus and Columbia Machine for their generous donations to the district!



The Camas-Washougal Rotary, in partnership with Columbia Credit Union, purchased and distributed dictionaries to every 3rd grader in Clark County. Mike Adamson (Rotary), Zia Bhatti (CCU), Dennis Wickham (Rotary), Gwenda Morrison (CCU), Barb Crozier (Rotary), Dennis Short (Rotary) and Teresa Didler (CCU) are shown here with Hathaway students. Rotary's dictionary project is a welcomed annual donation that supports literacy among younger students.

SNOW MAKE UP DAYS SET

Students will attend school March 26 and 27 as make up days for December 15 and 17 when school was cancelled due to snow.

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

Scholar Athletes

Sixty-six Washougal High School athletes who achieved a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.5 or above while participating in athletics were recognized as athlete scholars last month.

In addition, Doug Cox, WHS athletic director, announced that the Washington Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) have recognized the following teams with a team-wide average GPA of 3.5 or above:

*Boys Cross Country
Girls Cross Country
Boys Tennis
JV Girls Soccer
Football and Girls Volleyball.*

The Varsity Girls Soccer team was given the WIAA Distinguished Scholarship team recognition. Gerry Stavney, WHS principal, said, "We are enormously proud of our scholar athletes. These students demonstrate personal dedication to a team sport while maintaining high academic performance."

The 66 scholar athletes are:

TENNIS

Browning, Chad
Choi, David
Hensler, Brandon

McCarthy, Patrick
Moore, C. Loring
Nunes, Caylem
Quinanola, Peter
Stevens, Michael
Wilmoth, Andrew

CROSS COUNTRY

King, Chism
Phillips, Shane
Quackenbush, Ryan
Sherman, Amber
Sherman, Brandi
Tanner, Taneal

SOCCER

Akers, Darcy
Bowie, Laken
Carroll, Emily
Chandler, Brianna
Cochran, Kendra
Daniels, Katie
Day, Mollie
Down, Kayla
Down, Madeline
Hoyte, Natalie
Lackey, Dana
Loveland, Sydney
Murray, Dana
Reeves, Alexandra
Reeves, Natasha
Schmid, Emily
Tanner, Karen
Watts, Hailey
Wright, Katelyn
Young, Kelley

GOLF

Price, Brian
White, TC

CHEERLEADING

Connolly, Jenna
Lund, Rebecca
Schmid, Haley
Shelley, Brittany
Wilson, Alicia

VOLLEYBALL

Chesnutis, Melanie
Cooke, Karissa
Helland, Mackenzie
Kennedy, Amanda
Larson, Julia
Peake, Karlee
Seekins, Erin
Walker, Sarah

FOOTBALL

Arzhanov, Aleks
Erdwins, Ryan
Hawley, William
Nightingale, Taylor
Tkach, Peter
Campbell, Casey
Dally, John
Elsensohn, Josef
Gregory, Jarrett
Greig-Prine, Jake
Milojevic, Nathan
O'Hara, Sam
Strecker, Ryan
Sullivan, Colton
Sullivan, Devon

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.

January 13 & 27 • February 10 & 24 • March 10 & 24 • April 14 & 28
May 12 & 26 • June 9 & 23 • July 28

January is School Board appreciation month

SUPERINTENDENT

Teresa Baldwin

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SCHOOL DISTRICT



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