



Canyon Creek MS students raised \$1,600 to help support blood cancer research.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

District adopts new boundaries

The Washougal School District recently completed the public process of selecting new elementary and middle school boundaries for the 2017-2018 school year. The Boundary Review Committee, consisting of ten parents and six school principals, met over three months in six committee meetings and two public open houses. The redrawing of the boundaries is a significant endeavor and was necessary due to the following:

- Opening of the new Columbia River Gorge Elementary School and the replacement Jemtegaard Middle School
- Responding to enrollment growth and demographic projections for future years
- Reducing current elementary school size to respond to overcrowding
- Reducing reliance on aging portable classrooms.

Letters have been mailed to all families of students in grades K-7 notifying them of their attendance area. An online school boundary location tool, called "Find My School" can be used to confirm the school attendance area and is linked on the district website: <http://www.washougal.k12.wa.us/boundary-review-process/>

The Transportation Department is updating bus routes and the schedule will be provided to families in the middle of August. Transportation for students requesting boundary transfers will be the responsibility of the parent.

Information about boundary transfers is available on the district website under the "School Boundary Review" tab. The school district boundary transfer application process will begin on Monday, May 1, 2017. Applications will be completed online and processed at the school district office.



Zylus Italiano says good bye to classmates as he heads out on his around the world adventure with family.

Students travel the world through eyes of classmate

It all begins with the question "Where in the World is Zylus Italiano?" From there, it becomes a rich and personal lesson in geography and culture for Heather Kassel's second grade class at Cape Horn-Skye Elementary.

Italiano and his parents, Heather Keller and Dave Italiano, have embarked on a six-month around the world trip which he is sharing with his classmates through emails, pictures, FaceTime, packages, videos, and reports about the places he goes.

The family left February 13, 2017 and the first stop was Fiji. "We studied where Fiji is located in the world, the continent it is associated with, the flag, and some of the words in their language," Kassel explained. "We will do that with each of the places he visits." To help the class follow along and document their learning, Kassel created "Where in the World is Zylus Italiano?" booklets to be filled in with information

they learn about his stops around the world.

"It's a lot of fun when I get to talk to my class on FaceTime," Italiano said. "I really like it when I get to see their faces when they open our care packages. It's nice to see them using the words in the language spoken where I am visiting."

A world map in the classroom has pins in each of the family's major destinations with lines added to track their progress. Their itinerary reads like an epic adventure. Fiji (17 days), Australia (long layover), Bali (1 month), Thailand (1 month), Nepal (1 month), China (2 weeks), Mongolia (4 days), Zimbabwe (1 month), Morocco (2 weeks) and Italy (17 days).

Family, friends and classmates are following their progress on the website they created <http://180kellerano.weebly.com/>. "Zy's Page" has YouTube links to all of his school reports. "Our connection with Cape Horn-Skye has become the North Star of our entire trip," said Keller.

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Washougal School District patrons,

We celebrated the completion of our new transportation facility with a ribbon cutting ceremony April 25. Bus drivers, staff, city officials, and board members were among those on hand to commemorate this important event. The new facility provides an improved bus maintenance area including a bus lift, bus

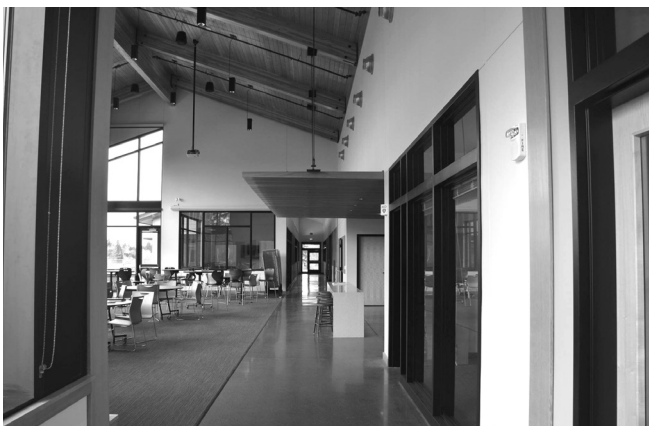
wash area, ample parking for our fleet of buses as well as staff parking, an updated dispatch area, and driver break room. Not only does the new building offer improved working conditions for staff, it also creates efficiency in student transportation, traffic flow and bus fleet maintenance. This will allow our transportation department to run even more efficiently and effectively.

In other construction news, the opening of our new and remodeled schools is just around the corner. For the first time in 42 years, Washougal School District will add a brand new elementary school. In order to effectively distribute our student population across our four elementary schools, we have undertaken the task of redrawing our school boundaries. All parents of children in grades K-7 received a letter this spring, telling them which school their child will attend next fall. There is a process for parents to request a boundary transfer and all information and forms can be found on our website: <http://www.washougal.k12.wa.us/boundary-review-process/>.

Speaking of exciting new facilities, the Excelsior building next to Washougal High School is nearly complete. This school will offer a new program that will meet student needs in a new way. The new Columbia River Gorge Elementary School and Jemtegaard Middle School will open next fall. Between now and then there is a lot of work to do but it's a very exciting time for Washougal School District. Watch for more details about the opening of these new schools. We can't wait to share them with you!

Sincerely,

Mike Stromme, Ed.D., Superintendent



The Excelsior building next to Washougal High School is nearly complete, thanks to voters who approved the bond measure in 2015.



NEWS IN BRIEF

New transportation facility opens

Just after spring break, WSD buses began routes from their new transportation facility located behind the Washougal District Office. The new, modern building was funded by the voter approved capital bond. The new facility provides a cleaner, safer, and more comfortable work environment for bus drivers and mechanics to continue their great work caring for the transportation needs of students.

The new facility features a spacious staff lounge, bus lifts, exhaust catchers, and even a bus washing system.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held April 25.

It's time to STRIDE!

Mark your calendar! The Student Stride for Education is set for May 20. This community event helps raise money for the Washougal Schools Foundation.

The event includes student runs (by grade level), and an adult 5K run/walk. Participants receive a commemorative T-shirt, race-day medal, bottle of water and finish line treats.

To participate, sponsor or volunteer, visit www.washougal-schoolsfoundation.org/stride/.

District receives waiver for winter weather closures

The Washougal School District has been granted an emergency instructional day waiver from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The request is based on the state of emergency declared by Governor Inslee in response to winter weather, which necessitated the closure of schools 11 days this winter.

Washington state requires 180 days of instruction and an average of 1,027 instructional hours.

Washougal School District closed for a total of 11 days due to weather, using up three planned and three additional snow makeup days. Earlier this year, the district made several changes to the school calendar to make up six of the missed days. The waiver excuses the additional five missed days, but students will still meet the requirement of instructional hours by attending school longer each day. Beginning February 6, 2017, additional time was added to each school day. June 23, the last day of school, has been changed from a 3-hour early release to a full school day.

JMS Robotics Club takes first in state

The Jemtegaard Middle School Robotics Club attended the Oregon First Lego League State Championship Saturday, March 4 and came home with a first place award!

The JMS "Robiobots" team placed first out of 59 competitors in the Project Presentation category. Members are Meryl Keeler, Jace Poulsen, Matt Chaffee, Xawshua Moua, Spencer Hill, and Jacob Albee. The Presentation Award recognizes the team that effectively communicates the problem they have identified and their proposed solution to both the judges and other potential supporters.

"The students were so excited to get first place on their presentation," said Cherise Marshall, JMS Robotics/Science Teacher. "They have been working so hard for seven months, contacting several professional biologists and government agencies to help them with their research. Their presentation was clear, thoughtful, and thoroughly researched. They practiced memorizing their lines every spare moment they had."

According to Marshall, all of the JMS Husky competitors represented Washougal well as they presented their research project, demonstrated teamwork in core values, and competed with their robot on the game board.



The Robiobots at the First Lego League competition.

District welcomes new associate and elementary principals

Two associate principals will join High School staff next fall

Mark Castle will oversee the new Excelsior Program at Washougal High School. He is currently the Dean of Students at Evergreen High School in Evergreen School District. Prior to his current role, Castle was a mathematics teacher at Evergreen High School for 11 years. He and his wife, a counselor with Evergreen Public Schools, live in Camas and have two pre-school age sons.



Gary McGarvie will work as associate principal and athletic director. McGarvie is currently dean of students at Cascadia Technical Academy in Evergreen Public Schools. He previously was the athletic director and dean of students at Union High School. McGarvie was a mathematics teacher for 10 years. He and his wife, a teacher in Vancouver Public Schools, live in Washougal and have a ninth grade son attending Washougal High School.



New principals chosen to lead Cape Horn-Skye and Hathaway

The Washougal School District is pleased to announce the hiring of two new elementary school principals.

Penny Andrews will replace retiring Principal Mary Lou Woody at Cape Horn-Skye Elementary. Andrews is currently an Elementary Instructional Coach and Behavior Interventionist for the district.



Andrews joined WSD in 2004 as a 3rd and 4th grade teacher at Cape Horn-Skye. In 2013, Andrews became an instructional coach in mathematics for grades K-5, collaborating with teachers to plan lessons and assessments. Currently, Andrews spends half of her days as a behavior interventionist at Hathaway Elementary. In this role, Andrews coordinates services, behavioral supports and interventions for students who are at-risk academically.

During her time at WSD, Andrews has been very active on committees and learning initiatives both locally and at the state level. Andrews has also been an Adjunct Lecturer for Washington State University Vancouver, teaching mathematics pedagogy to pre-service teachers. Penny and her husband have three grown children.

Sarika Mosley has been selected as the principal of Hathaway Elementary to replace David Tudor, who is relocating to Georgia.

Since July 2016, Mosley has served as the principal of Slater Elementary School in Burns, Oregon. She leads a school of 423 students, 25 certified and 15 classified staff. She also coordinates Title I, English as a Second Language, and services for highly capable students. She is also an adjunct Professor at Lewis and Clark College for Grad Students in Education.

Mosley began her teaching career in the Beaverton School District in 2004 as an English as a Second Language Teacher for five years. She taught 5th grade for six years, including five years as a teacher in a Spanish bilingual program. During her time as a classroom teacher, Mosley also served as an English as a Second Language facilitator for grades K-8 and served as a Professional Development facilitator.

She has a six-year-old son and a three-year-old daughter and her husband is a stay at home dad who is also a professional chef.





WASHOUGAL
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Alisa Vail's daughters, Annabelle and Abbie, on their mother's bench, which features a quote from Dr. Seuss's "Horton Hears a Who."

Buddy bench memorializes teacher, encourages inclusiveness

A "Buddy Bench" was dedicated at Gause Elementary School in memory of beloved teacher, Alisa Vail, who passed away June 23, 2016. The concept of a Buddy Bench is to provide a space for a student to go to when they need a buddy to play with at recess.

Dozens of friends, family and co-workers were on hand for the dedication March 29. Gause Boosters purchased the bench, which was something Vail had hoped to see at the school.

"This will help people remember the kind of person she was," said teacher Allison McGranahan. "The bench symbolizes the way that Alisa lived her life and the values she helped instill in her students to be a friend to everyone and look for people who are being left out and include them."

WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
www.washougal.k12.wa.us

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Dr. Mike Stromme

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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Upcoming Washougal School Board Meetings

May 23, District Board Room

June 13, District Board Room

June 27, District Board Room

Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. in the District Board Room, 4855 Evergreen Way, unless otherwise noted. All are invited!

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when you "Like" us!



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