



The Class of 2017 high-fived their way through the hallways of their former schools June 16.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

New buildings, new opportunities

Columbia River Gorge Elementary

It's been 42 years since the district opened a new elementary school, so it's understandable that staff, students and the community are excited for the opening of the new Columbia River Gorge Elementary School this fall.

Perhaps no one is more excited than Principal Tracey MacLachlan, who has spent months preparing for the school's opening.

As a new member of the Washougal School District team, MacLachlan did a lot of research to prepare for her new role. She met with Booster groups, other principals and teachers to learn about Washougal traditions and what's important to the Washougal community, asking "What will we take from other schools and what will we do that's our own? I want to make sure that everybody feels like it's their place," she said.

"It has been energizing to meet with the staff," said MacLachlan. "We have an amazing opportunity to be able to write the first chapter and build the story of Columbia River Gorge Elementary. We're building something from the ground up."

When it opens, CRGES will be the district's largest elementary with

a capacity of 550. The school will share a library and commons with Jemtegaard Middle School. The close proximity of the middle school will allow for collaboration among elementary and middle school students, benefitting both groups.

At the school's groundbreaking ceremony last June, Superintendent Mike Stromme told students that the new schools (both CRGES and the replacement Jemtegaard Middle School building) would be there for generations. "Your kids and your grandkids will go here," he said. MacLachlan takes that to

heart. "This school will definitely outlive me," she said. "And I want to make sure we are good stewards of the gift the community has given us. This wouldn't be possible without the community's support. It is obvious that people in Washougal place a high value on education and care about supporting it."

Jemtegaard Middle School

The new home of the Jemtegaard Middle School Huskies is a far cry from the outdated and overcrowded facility it replaces. Dedicated in 1981, the former school building was designed in the then popular "pod system" where students walk outside to make their way to classes. "I am excited that all of our classrooms are now inside," said JMS Principal David Cooke. "Our new building will be a lot safer and more practical." Another feature Cooke is pleased with is the larger classroom size. "This will allow students to move around the room more easily with space to work in groups with their peers," he said. With capacity to serve 600 students, the new facility will feature many

enhancements to improve learning and efficiency. Among them: energy efficient LED lighting, large windows in every

instructional space with lots of light, a courtyard that can serve as an outdoor learning space, classroom sound amplification built into each instructional space to help ensure students hear the teacher and each other via a pair of wearable microphones. "A new building inspires school pride," Cooke pointed out. "When students are proud of their surroundings they will care for their school and their work inside its walls. The community has shown our middle school students how valuable education is by voting to fund construction of this new building."

"It is obvious that people in Washougal place a high value on education and care about supporting it."

— CRG Principal Tracey MacLachlan



Chung Savoie named Washougal Teacher of the Year

English Language teacher Chung Savoie has been named the Camas-Washougal Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year for Washougal School District. She is being honored for her work helping students from various backgrounds and different cultures learn English as their second language.

According to the Hathaway principal, David Tudor, Savoie does not work or serve for awards or accolades, but simply to inspire and impact all those she comes in contact with each day. "Chung supports both students and families with empathy coupled with complete professionalism. She teaches her students to strive for excellence, to love reading, and to respect each other; and she teaches her peers to give our best for our students and to always wear a smile."

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Washougal
School District
patrons,

Across the district, we are experiencing some exciting changes, creating new opportunities for students and staff to approach how they learn, grow and work.

Our brand new Columbia River Gorge Elementary and the remodeled Jemtegaard Middle School will welcome students and staff in the fall. Construction crews will be busy all summer and it's going to be exciting to see the final project in just a few months. With the new school comes new attendance boundaries, which means new faces and new friends this year. Staff, too, are shuffling among schools and will gain new colleagues at every elementary in Washougal.

In addition to our new facilities, we also have some exciting program changes happening as well.

At Excelsior, a new program aims to meet the different learning needs of all students, by engaging them in smaller group work, online learning, Career and Technical Education experiences, and project-based learning opportunities, all with full access to all WHS programs. This change allows us to focus on meeting learning goals for all students, through a well-rounded program.

For the past couple of years, we have been expanding our CTE program to include more opportunities at both the middle and high school levels. I'm looking forward to sharing more about this in the near future.

I have great confidence in our teachers and staff ability to create a safe, secure learning environment focused on academic achievement for all of our students.

Sincerely,
Mike Stromme, Ed. D.



Change ahead for Excelsior program

In fall of 2016, a team of teachers, counselors, community members, career specialists, and administrators initiated a review of the Excelsior program. Their goal was to consider how to best meet the needs of students through a more personalized path to earning their high school diploma.

The team focused on three themes:

1. academic program
2. student support services (e.g. counselors)
3. school climate and culture

The committee met throughout the year to refine the program offering for students. The highlights of the new Excelsior program, which will be a component of Washougal High School, will focus on personalized support for students at different stages of

their high school careers.

A Ninth Grade Academy will provide larger blocks of time for a smaller learning community. Research shows that freshmen who fall behind spend the rest of their high school career trying to get back on track. This learning “family” will hold students accountable to the highest standards while providing academic, social and emotional support.

Excelsior “On Track” will offer a personalized learning program to support juniors and seniors who are credit deficient to help them meet their future goals.

The new Excelsior program will feature a full-time counselor and full-time associate principal and will include options such as online learning and project based learning.

Summer reading resources abound for Washougal kids

Washougal students now have online access to free reading options and library resources. Our Washougal School District libraries are now using a new library management system called Destiny Discover: <https://washougal.follettdestiny.com>. Washougal students can access their school library resources by visiting this link and clicking on their school. After logging in with their school gmail account, current students can access digital resources and eBooks which remain available all summer long. Parents and guardians can help their children find great reading options for their students when school is not in session.

The Fort Vancouver Regional Library - Washougal Community Library launches their summer reading program June 15 - August 15. Register online at <https://fvrl.beanstack.org/reader365> or sign up at the Washougal branch.

Washougal welcomes new summer school fine arts offerings

Washougal Community Education and Recreation has added exploration of art, music and dance to the list of summer offerings. The new art camps include work with mixed media and clay; dance camps will focus on dancing around the world and Disney and Broadway musicals; music camps feature singing, games, making and playing musical instruments and crafts. These camps are available only to Washougal students.

In addition to the arts offerings, summer sport camps will include flag football, basketball, Taekwondo as well as speed and agility training courses.

For details, go to the Washougal School District website at www.washougal.k12.wa.us/wcer. Camp enrollment is limited so register early!

Thank you, 2017 retirees!

Pam Anderson, First-grade Teacher Cape Horn-Skye

*19 years with WSD;
23 years in education*

FAVORITE WSD MEMORY:

"Having fun with my coworkers."

RETIREMENT PLANS:

"Flying down to Arkansas to see my two sisters. We're going on a road trip to New Orleans together."



activities to complete. We worked together for months to complete all tasks, culminating in a board meeting power point presentation. Our team was so proud when Hathaway became the first school certified as a green school."

RETIREMENT PLANS:

"Reacquainting myself with some of my creative forces lying dormant for years. I am also thrilled at the thought of having more time for my family and grandkids! Traveling is on the horizon! And I'll spend some time volunteering for causes that create meaning for myself and others."

Eric Balholm, Transition Tech, Washougal High School



Doris Donald, Special Services Secretary

21 years in WSD

FAVORITE MEMORY:

"I started working at Cape Horn-Skye because that is where my child started school, I have moved through the district as they have moved on and graduated. At each building I have had the opportunity to work with outstanding teachers and staff. I have worked at District Office for the last 11 years. I love being here as part of the support team."

RETIREMENT PLANS:

"Spending more time with my husband, family and grandchildren."



Debbie Benson, Day Custodian, Washougal High School

Carol Boyden, Principal, Excelsior and Associate Principal, WHS

*19 years with WSD;
46 years in education*

FAVORITE WSD MEMORY:

"Seeing students walk across the stage having met all graduation requirements."

RETIREMENT PLANS:

"Road trip across the country with my best friend from high school and then spending time doing something artsy. Spending a significant amount of time at my beach house in Lincoln City."



Cathy Burrows, Reading Resource Teacher, Hathaway

*17 years with WSD;
36 years in education*

FAVORITE WSD MEMORY:

"Leading the Hathaway Green Team in 2010. The team consisted of interested teachers and students. There were endless tests, measurements and



Janine Hobson, Paraeducator/ Occupational Therapy Assistant

17 years in WSD

FAVORITE WSD MEMORY:

"The best part of my job is celebrating with a student when they have finally achieved a goal. It's what makes education so rewarding for me. We pull students from their classroom to work in the therapy room. It is individualized for each student and we try to make it as enjoyable as possible and they usually just love to be there."

RETIREMENT PLANS:

"My husband and I plan to visit all the national parks and we already have our senior pass. I also plan to spend as much time as I want outside in the garden. I will



miss working with the students, but excited about this new chapter too."

Karen Martell, Paraeducator, Special Ed, Hathaway Elementary

22 years in WSD

RETIREMENT PLANS:

"I have loved my years at WSD but looking forward to gardening and spending time with grandbabies!"



Karen Wildenberg, Counseling Secretary, WHS

23 years in WSD

FAVORITE WSD MEMORY:

"I have met some incredible people through the schools that I have worked in. I will forever take these memories with me!"

RETIREMENT PLANS:

"Fishing, traveling, and spending a lot more time in Seattle with my kids and grandkids."



Mary Lou Woody, Principal, Cape Horn-Skye

*13 years with WSD;
40 years in education*

FAVORITE WSD MEMORY:

"The summer our Boosters built our playshed. The year before we had the structure, our students had indoor recess for 63 straight days. Boosters collected donations and raised funds to pay for it. Parents spent the summer building it. It was a hot summer, but everyday, when they left their day job, they came to work on the play structure. We had a beautiful grand opening ceremony. It was such a proud moment for our community."

RETIREMENT PLANS:

"Visiting my grandchildren in Virginia and Colorado anytime I want to see them."





**WASHOUGAL
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

4855 Evergreen Way
Washougal, WA 98671

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Washougal, WA 98671

Class of 2017 Awards & Scholarships—Congratulations!

**Jacob
Albert-Sonneman**
*Evergreen Football Officials
Association Evans-Luse
Scholarship*

Cale Ashton
*Local 290 Plumbers &
Steamfitters Scholarship*

Maral Atto
*Camas Washougal
Business Alliance
Scholarship*

Michael Barles
*Camas Washougal
Business Alliance
Scholarship*

Kaylei Berry
*Rotary Club of Camas-
Washougal
Washougal High School
Old Timers Alumni
Scholarship*

Tanner Braun
*Camas Washougal
Business Alliance
Scholarship*

Dylen Cherry
*Camas Washougal
Business Alliance
Scholarship*

Catherine Clark
College Bound Scholarship

Arieanna Divine
*Cheryl Trent Memorial
Scholarship*

Elizabeth Gregory
NW Christian University

Gabriel Heinrich
*Washougal Association
of Educators Scholarship*

Matt Hickey
*Arizona State University
President's Award
Washington State
University Regent's
Scholarship
Washington State
University Engineering
Award
Navy ROTC Scholarship
at Texas A&M*

Evan Hoff
*Camas Washougal
Business Alliance
Scholarship*

Meghan Jackson
*Phi Theta Kappa
Scholarship
University of Montana
Western Undergraduate
Exchange Scholarship*

Audriana Kallie
*Yakima Valley Community
College Athletic
Scholarship
Yakima Valley College
Foundation Don and Helen
Jewett Scholarship*

Jacob Klackner
*Camas Washougal
Business Alliance
Scholarship
Eastern Washington
Presidential Scholarship
George Fox University
Academic Scholarship
Rotary Club of Camas/
Washougal Scholarship
Washington State
University Achievement
Award
Washougal Lions Tom
Hays Memorial Scholarship*

Ryan Krout
*Camas Washougal
Business Alliance
Scholarship
Greater St. Helens League
Scholarship
Kaiser Permanente Health
Care Scholarship
North Bank Masonic Lodge
Ward Hoxsie-John Sinden
Scholarship
ODD Fellows Lonnie Belz
Scholarship*

*Pacific University Founders
Scholarship
Pacific University
Pacesetters Scholarship
VFW Voice of Democracy
Award for 2nd Place
WHS Alumni Scholarship*

Kayla Lagerquist
*Concordia University
Scholarship*

Gabrielle LaRue
College Bound Scholarship

Mitchell Leon
*Camas Washougal
Business Alliance
Scholarship
Camas Washougal
Chamber of Commerce
Scholarship
Christopher's 2017 High
School Poster Contest
Creighton University Grant
ODD Fellows Lonnie Belz
Scholarship
Vancouver Methodist
Foundation Scholarship
VFW Voice of Democracy
(Local)
VFW Voice of Democracy
(Regional)
WSAJ American Justice
Scholarship
Washougal Lions Club
Scholarship*

*Washougal Schools
Foundation Scholarship
WHS Alumni Scholarship*

Shelley Morgan
College Bound Scholarship

Courtney Owens
*Clark College Foundation
Shirley Caswell Rude
Scholarship
Rotary Club of Camas
Washougal Scholarship
Washougal Schools
Foundation Scholarship*

Kiersten Parker
*University of Idaho
Western Undergraduate
Exchange Scholarship
Washington State
University Regent's
Scholarship*

Ryan Perkins
*University of Idaho
Western Undergraduate
Exchange Scholarship*

Collin Prangle
College Bound Scholarship

Aurora Riley
*Passport to College
Promise Scholarship*

Christian Schicker
VFW Essay Contest

Audrey Smith
WHS Alumni Scholarship

Lindsey Thomas
*Rotary Club of Camas
Washougal Scholarships
North Bank Masonic Lodge
Ward Hoxsie/John Sinden
Scholarship*

Brianne Scholz
*Camas Washougal
Business Alliance
Scholarship*

Haley Turner
*Camas Washougal
Business Alliance
Scholarship*

Abigail Young
*Camas Washougal
Business Alliance
Scholarship
Camas Washougal
Historical Society & Two
Rivers Heritage Scholarship
Rotary Club of Camas
Washougal Sophomore
Student of the Year*

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

SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. Mike Stromme

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Ron Dinius, President
Elaine Pfeifer, Vice President
Cory Chase
Teresa Lees
Jaron Barney

Upcoming Washougal School Board Meetings

August 8, District Board Room

August 22, 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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teacher and school achievements by "Liking" the
Washougal School District Facebook page. And
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www.facebook.com/WashougalSD

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