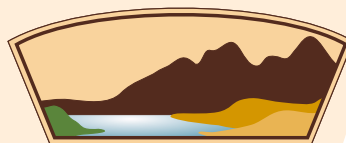


# Community Connections

WINTER 2018



## WHS culinary classes take the cake

### Newly expanded program provides hands-on career experience for students

Washougal High School's Advanced Culinary program is teaching students skills for the world of work beyond high school. The class is taught by Chef Brenda Hitchins, who brings 30 years of experience as a chef in well-known restaurants in Las Vegas. This is Hitchins' second year at Washougal High School. Last year she taught an Introductory Culinary class and this year has added the advanced class and a Baking and Pastry course as well.

Students learn all aspects of preparing, cooking and serving a meal, including nutrition information, meal planning, table service, meal costing, food preparation, safety and even clean up.

A fun learning opportunity for culinary students is to prepare lunch for students and staff at WHS one day per week. Hitchins works with Sodexo, the district's food service provider, to plan a featured entree once a week, on Thursdays, during both lunches. The response has been very positive. "The meals are delicious!" said WHS Administrative Secretary Amanda Klackner. "I think it's great that these students are getting the opportunity to apply what they've learned in the classroom to a real-life, hands-on setting. They get to showcase their talent and we get to try something different and delicious during lunch! A win-win for sure."

In November, students prepared a special Veterans Day lunch for veterans from our community. The event was extra special because it was the first time the class used the brand-new Excelsior facility for a "plated event" where students prepared, served and enjoyed the meal in the school's new kitchen



Chef Brenda Hitchins shows her advanced culinary students how to put the finishing touches on lunch (top) and students prepared and served the meal to local Veterans as part of a Veterans Day celebration (bottom).

and commons area. Students prepared chicken piccata with green beans and sautéed tomatoes. Dessert was prepared by students in the Baking and Pastry class and featured a pumpkin roll and sugar cookies.

The Advanced Culinary program is one of Washougal High School's Career and Technical Education programs where students gain experience in a variety of career paths. 🌿

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Washougal School District Patrons,

Early this year, I shared with the Washougal Board of Directors my intention to resign as superintendent, effective June 30, 2018. This is a difficult choice to make, as I enjoy the Washougal community and its unwavering support in the important work of educating students. I am continually impressed with the generosity, dedication and commitment the Washougal community proudly demonstrates in serving the educational needs of children. It is gratifying to work in a community that places a premium on the quality education programs it provides for all students.

It is my privilege to work with an outstanding team of education professionals in Washougal. We have much to be proud of, as we have achieved several milestones in our continuous effort to deliver high quality educational programs and construct new 21st century schools to benefit all Washougal students. Several of the those key milestones include:

- Implementation of an eight-year curriculum adoption plan to provide all students equitable access to high quality curriculum
- Completion of over \$60 million of new capital facilities construction, including: safety and security improvements, facility infrastructure improvements, a new transportation facility, a new high school building to house the Excelsior Program, a new replacement Jemtegaard Middle School and our newest school, Columbia River Gorge Elementary
- Restructuring high school instructional support programs and Career and Technical Education pathways to meet the diverse needs of students on their personalized path to high school graduation
- The addition of approximately three weeks of instructional time embedded within the future elementary school calendar providing for the opportunity to consider enhanced electives
- The addition of two Family Resource Centers to support the needs of students and families
- Hiring talented school administrators, teachers and support staff throughout the school system
- Studying and revising elementary school and middle school boundaries to respond to recent and future community growth

Over the next six months, I look forward to the continued work with our principals, teachers and administrators in our efforts to serve the educational needs of all students. I will be working closely with the Washougal School District Board of Directors to ensure a smooth transition in new school district leadership.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mike Stromme, Ed.D.

## Hathaway students encouraged to dream big

The first ever Dream Big event helped Hathaway students to explore ideas for their future and learn about various careers, hobbies, cultures, and subjects to promote healthy home life. Students passed through tables of parent and community member presenters separated into four main quadrants: home and family, education and careers, hobbies and recreation, and community and service. 🌱



At the Dream Big event, former NFL player and member of the Dallas Cowboys 1995 Super Bowl Championship team, Alundis Brice, carried a message to kids interested in pursuing a life in sports. "They need to understand it all begins with being a student athlete," he said. "And being a student always comes before being an athlete."

## Cape Horn-Skye fosters leaders

Students at Cape Horn-Skye Elementary are participating in a program that fosters leadership and responsibility.

"For every student to reach their full potential, they need good instruction, activities that specifically meet their learning needs, and a safe, welcoming classroom environment," said Principal Penny Andrews. "In addition, we feel students need specific leadership skills to take charge of their daily actions and learning."

The schoolwide leadership program is called The Leader in Me and is based on a book by the same name written by author Stephen Covey. This program is based on seven habits that empower children to reach their full potential and become true leaders. Each month, students will be introduced to a new theme and given ideas of how they can incorporate these habits into their daily lives. Monthly school assemblies are a time to celebrate successes and showcase how students have contributed to the school's culture and climate.

Some of the themes include: "Be Proactive," "Put First Things First," "Think Win-Win," "Seek First to Understand, Then to Be Understood," and "Leadership."

"As a staff, we are excited to see students using these habits to reach their full potential, become leaders of themselves and others, while connecting with family and friends in positive ways," said Andrews.

In June, students will "pass the torch." As fifth graders move on to middle school, they will pass the torch to fourth-grade students, who will become the new leaders that younger students will watch and learn from. 🌱

# Afterschool activities abound at Jemtegaard

Excitement, creativity and discovery are in the air at Jemtegaard Middle School, even after regular school hours thanks to a popular afterschool program.

The JMS Afterschool Program has grown in popularity and participation with more than 100 students choosing to stay late on Tuesdays and Thursdays to explore a variety of new interests and be a part of enriching activities.

"We have several staple programs such as robotics, art, guitar and help with math in four to six week sessions," explained JMS Principal, David Cooke. "We also offer Husky Sled Team all year, which is our approach to Associated Student Body (ASB) leadership. Just like a sled team, it takes teamwork to move forward and accomplish goals."

Cooke said Husky Sled Team, guided by JMS teacher Rebecca Bohlin, has helped uncover untapped student resources, especially from sixth grade students. "In the past, these students did not have the opportunity for after school sports or leadership roles until the seventh grade. Many were leaders in their elementary school and there is no



Guitar playing, taught by JMS teacher Scott Rainey, strikes a chord with students.

reason to make them wait a year before they can be involved and contribute to their school."

Another popular afterschool offering is art. Teacher Dani Allen is helping students explore graffiti art on posters. "This time is all about free expression," Allen explained. "We provide a creative place for kids to go. It is a place for them to express themselves freely." Past projects have included pumpkin sculpting and creating craft projects they can give to friends and family as holiday gifts.

According to Cooke, a benefit of the program they are seeing is students building community. "These classes and projects are very socially active," he said. "Students are able to make new friends based on their interests and the classes offer new ways to connect with teachers." 🌱



JMS students are excited to stay after school for the fun and challenge of learning about robotics.

## Teacher support programs help recruit and retain excellent teachers

Succeeding in the teaching profession can be a challenge and new teachers, in particular, need support to start their careers on the right foot. Data shows that across Washington state, approximately 25 percent of new teachers leave the profession within their first five years in the classroom (Plecki, 2005). With that in mind, several Washougal programs are in place to help support teachers who are new to the profession, and also support those who are in the first two years of their career as well as experienced teachers who are new to the district.

WSD offers new teacher orientation

at the beginning of each school year as an opportunity for teachers to become familiar with district policies and procedures, to have focused time to meet with their principal and to become familiar with their school building, allowing them to be prepared for the start of school.

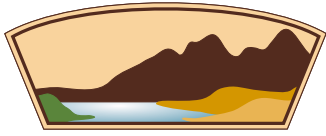
Washougal School District received a BEST (Beginning Educator Support Team) Grant to support beginning teachers in their first two years in the profession.

Throughout the school year, teachers are invited to monthly meetings with a new topic each session. New teachers are connected with a mentor for weekly

meetings, observations and feedback to support them in their crucial first year.

Across the district, teachers participate in instructional coaching where teachers gain professional development through one-on-one support with their veteran peers, as well as model lessons, team-teaching opportunities, and curriculum support. Second and third year teachers are invited to participate in book studies with their peers.

All Washougal schools have professional learning communities, where teachers meet weekly during early release time with their colleagues. 🌱



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SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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## A strong tradition of sharing

Washougal students, staff, businesses, and community have a wonderful tradition of supporting those in need in our community, and this holiday season was no exception.

### Stuff the Bus

Celebrating 10 years, the Stuff the Bus event again collected food for families and programs right here in the Camas and Washougal communities including C.A.R.O.L. Program, The American Legion in Skamania County, Children's Home Society's East County Family Resource Center in Washougal, and the Inter-Faith Treasure House in Camas. This year the Washougal and Camas communities collected 40,040 pounds of food to support these organizations.

### Family Resource Center

Many community organizations contributed gifts and food to local families through the Washougal School District Family Resource Center. More than 60 families received support through a combination of gifts, food boxes and/or holiday meals thanks to community organizations including Clark County Sheriff's Department

(Santa's Posse), Gateway Community Church, St. Matthew Lutheran Church, MOMS Club of Camas/Washougal, Orchard Hills Golf Club Women's Group, St. Anne's Episcopal Church, as well as several individuals from the community.

### Festival of Trees

Sponsored by the Washougal Lions Club, this event is a family favorite. This year \$13,419.30 was raised through the sale of decorated trees and gift baskets. All proceeds benefit Washougal schools. 🌿



The Papa's Choice Award went to this beautiful tree designed by Columbia River Gorge Elementary staff, featuring hand-made ornaments with the school's mascot—the river otter!



**WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
[www.washougal.k12.wa.us](http://www.washougal.k12.wa.us)

**SUPERINTENDENT**  
Dr. Mike Stromme

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
Cory Chase, President  
Teresa Lees, Vice President  
Ron Dinius  
Elaine Pfeifer  
Donna Sinclair

### Upcoming Washougal School Board Meetings

**February 13**, District Board Room

**February 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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