

Community Connections

WINTER 2022



Hathaway Holiday Gift Store returns for students

The joy of holiday giving filled the Hathaway Elementary library this December, thanks to Hathaway Boosters and The General Federation of Women's Club, as excited student shoppers at the Hathaway Holiday Gift Store looked for the perfect gifts for friends and family. They made their selections from long tables of new and festive donated items including mugs, books, ornaments, toys, and more.

It's been two years since Hathaway students have had the opportunity to shop the store using tokens received from exchanging their "Pawsitive Slips," due to COVID. Students earn these reward slips by demonstrating positive behavior and characteristics. PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) is an approach utilized in schools to promote school safety and good behavior. With a focus on prevention and not punishment, it teaches children the skills they need to improve.

"The Holiday Gift Store helps all of our students learn and feel the importance and joy of giving by redeeming their Pawsitive Slips," said Wendy Morrill, Hathaway Elementary Principal. "It's a win, win!"

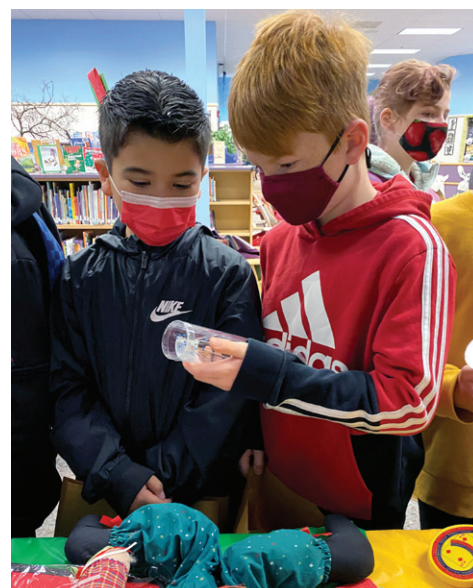
The Holiday Gift Store was started six years ago by volunteer Pam Clark, who attended Hathaway in the mid-1950s and was a member of Mrs. Nystrom's 4th-grade class. "I love helping give the students an



ABOVE: Hathaway Holiday Shop Volunteers Anna Paul, Linda Davidson, and Pam Clark help students find gifts for their families. RIGHT: Hathaway shoppers Kaleb Perez and Brody Gibson browse the offerings.

opportunity to share in the giving season," Clark said. "All of these items are collected throughout the year for this event. And some have been in storage for two years. It is wonderful to bring this experience back to our students."

"Nearly half of our students at Hathaway are furthest from opportunity and are unable to buy and give gifts for family or friends during the holiday season," said Morrill. "It is wonderful to provide this for our students."



Calling all Washougal student artists: Youth Arts Month is coming!

All Washougal students are invited to share their creativity and artistic abilities for the community to enjoy during Washougal Youth Art Month in March. Art from home instruction or school can include poetry/drama, music/dance, visual arts, CTE projects, and other items students would like to submit. Stay tuned for more information!

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Washougal Community,

As I sit down to write my column for the 2022 Winter newsletter, I am reflecting on how much we have all endured yet how much we have all accomplished during this school year! We have seen snowstorms, flooding, testing plans, student/staff absences, and higher community COVID infection rates. We have also successfully and safely kept our schools open, intentionally planned for acceleration of learning, prioritized the social/emotional wellness of our children, continued with our winter sports programs, continued to provide top-rated arts programming, and kept our “spirits” up during the pressure. Much sacrifice and hard work have been required of the Washougal School District staff, students, parents, and community over the past three years, and I am so proud that we have managed to keep our focus on our humanity, our care for each other, and our commitment to see each of our children known, nurtured and challenged to Rise.



The next few months will be an exciting time in Washougal as we celebrate student and program achievements starting with February as our Career & Technical Education (CTE) Month followed by Washougal Youth Arts Month in March. During CTE month, we will be showcasing real-world applications and projects, and student achievements that demonstrate the importance of our CTE program. We are all in for a special treat in March, when all Washougal students are invited to share their creative art with the community during Youth Arts Month.

As we move into the final months of winter and look toward the renewal of spring, I find my heart filled with gratitude for the loyalty and dedication of not just the entire Washougal School District staff, but the entire Washougal Community. I have personally and professionally counted on the abundant support from all of you over the last several years. Together, we will see our district Rise to fulfill the promise of a bright future for each and every Washougal child.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Templeton



SCHOOL BOARD CORNER

Washougal School Board receives Board of Distinction recognition

The Washougal School District Board of Directors was selected as the 2021 WSSDA Board of Distinction by the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) for their exemplary evidence of ongoing professional development, addressing opportunity gaps, and practicing governance that aligns with state standards. WSSDA's Boards of Distinction program is designed to encourage boards to examine their practices as governing bodies and how their actions and decisions impact the success of students.

“I am very proud of the work of our board and honored to receive this recognition,” said Cory Chase, WSD Board President. “Our efforts have been focused on work surrounding our strategic plan which was developed collaboratively with our community. I believe the strength of this board comes from members who represent a broad range of perspectives and who are listening to our community. It is exciting to have boards across the state reaching out to learn about the work Washougal has engaged in, after seeing the success we are achieving.”

Superintendent Dr. Mary Templeton lauded the board for their volunteer work and efforts to serve the community. “This board has been focused on finding ways the district can serve our families and community, engaging in tough conversations to move our school district forward and see students rise.” Templeton, who serves as the secretary to the board, noted that “board members have transparently led the district through crisis after crisis, while still maintaining a focus on student achievement. Under their leadership, the district graduation rate has risen from 74% in 2016 to 88% in 2020.”

“We have made clear that we seek what is best for students, families, and staff, and have prioritized work that addresses the achievement gap, ensures equity, and provides opportunities for students to be known, nurtured, and challenged to rise,” Chase wrote in the application. “We listen to the community, weigh important issues in public, and encourage civil participation. With multiple children and grandchildren of our own being served in our schools, we have prioritized safety, transparency, and excellence in our actions.”

BOARD MEETINGS

February 22 • March 22 • April 26

Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. in-person (masks required) and via Zoom. All meetings held at the District Board Room (4855 Evergreen Way). Visit our website for information on how to participate.



WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

#WashougalRising

SUPERINTENDENT: Dr. Mary Templeton

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Cory Chase, President; Angela Hancock, Vice President; Chuck Carpenter, Legislative Rep; Jim Cooper; Sadie McKenzie

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Washougal fights food insecurity in December with Stuff the Bus event

What started over 10 years ago as a fun food drive has blossomed into one of the premier food drives in Clark County that has a direct impact on Camas-Washougal families furthest from opportunity. 2021 Stuff the Bus was one for the books, as students, staff, teachers, and parents came together for a common cause to fight food insecurity in our community. Beginning November 1, 2021, all schools in the district collected nonperishable food items that would benefit local agency holiday and emergency food programs which culminated in an all-day pick-up event on December 3, 2021.

On a cool crisp December morning, cheers could be heard from students lining the street as the “Bus to be Stuffed” pulled up to the schools to pick up donated nonperishable items. “As the students and staff stood outside, prepared to load a large amount of donated food items onto the bus, I was overcome with a keen sense of gratitude for this school district and this community,” Dr. Mary Templeton said.

During a time of great need, the participating schools set a high bar with collecting thousands of pounds of food that will have a direct impact on the Camas-Washougal community. Thanks to generous support in both Camas and Washougal schools, local organizations are well stocked to supply those who need a little extra help. Thank you to everyone who donated and made this such a tremendous success.

TOP: One of the final Stuff the Bus stops of the day at Columbia River Gorge Elementary. MIDDLE: A warm welcome on a chilly morning from Gause students and staff for WHS students for Stuff the Bus! BOTTOM: The buses were stuffed at Cape Horn-Skye and Canyon Creek!



#WashougalRising
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Nonprofit Organization
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Washougal, WA 98671

Washougal Learning Academy's new logo and mascot honors heritage and culture of local indigenous people

The Washougal Learning Academy, in partnership with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe, received a mascot and logo in 2021. With the help of Cowlitz Indian Tribe member Sarah Folden, an Olympia-based artist, WLA received a special mascot and logo showing



The new mascot of Washougal Learning Academy is an eagle designed by Sarah Folden.

appreciation and gratitude to the indigenous people of our region. As more students moved to in-person learning, the need for online learning was still high, and moving into the second year of online learning, WLA identified that they should have a mascot and logo.

A call to action to students and parents to receive feedback and suggestions to assist in the process would garner numerous ideas, but there was one common idea that kept surfacing. The Eagle "was chosen in part because they're about flying above it all, rugged individualism, seeing far into the distance, and that really resonated with the kids, and that became the No. 1 pick," Jason Foster, WLA Principal said. Wanting to honor the heritage and culture of the local indigenous people, WLA leaders reached out

to the Cowlitz Indian Tribe to collaborate.

Sarah Folden, Cowlitz Indian Tribe artist, created the logo based on a Coast Salish 3000-year-old relief carving found in the area and the Washougal Learning Academy's colors. Upon completion of the logo, the design went before the Cowlitz Tribe board to approve the school's use of the artwork and was unanimously passed. In addition to collaborating and giving their approval of use, the Cowlitz Indian Tribe is providing tribe-based learning materials to WLA students during the school year.

Washougal School District and Washougal Learning Academy are honored and grateful to continue and grow our partnership with the local indigenous people of Southwest Washington.

Jemtegaard teacher Scott Rainey awarded VFW's State Middle School Teacher of the Year

The Veterans of Foreign Wars named Jemtegaard Middle School teacher Scott Rainey as VFW's Citizenship Education Middle School Teacher of the Year at a ceremony in Yakima earlier this month.

