

# Community Connections

WINTER 2023



TOP RIGHT: This year, Washougal High School football players were league champions for the first time since 1999, and hosted their first home playoff football game since 1994. ABOVE: Washougal High School cross country runners advance to the District 4 Girls Cross Country Championship.

## Students giving back: Stuff the Bus benefits local community

Stuff the Bus, a district-wide food drive in partnership with the Camas-Washougal Business Alliance and Camas School District, culminated on December 2 with a celebration and donation collection across all schools in Washougal. Students from Washougal High School traveled to each Washougal school, picking up non-perishable food items donated for the drive. Donations were then dropped off at Children's Home Society in Washougal. Santa Claus made an appearance as a special guest for the event.

Stuff the Bus has been an annual tradition for over 15 years. The food drive engages Washougal School District students with their community, shaping civic-minded individuals. On average, the Washougal and Camas communities combined donate 40,000 lbs of food for this event each year!



Boxes of food donated at Jemtegaard Middle School are loaded onto the truck for delivery to Children's Home Society in Washougal.

## Washougal Panthers win big

Washougal Panthers celebrated a strong close to the fall 2022 athletic season.

"This was a season for the ages," said Brian Wilde, athletic director at Washougal High School. Washougal High School hosted their first home playoff football game since 1994. The team went undefeated in their league championship run this year, their first title since 1999.

Boys and girls cross country finished 9th and 4th in state, respectively. Sydnee Boothby (3rd) and Elle Thomas (4th) placed in individual finishes at state. At district, boys placed 3rd behind a 2nd place finish by Samuel Grice. Gracie Perry finished with a top ten performance.

At the district meet, swimmer Jessica Nute finished 8th in the 100 backstroke, while Emily Larzalere finished 6th in the 100 breaststroke and 7th in the 500 free. Nute,

Larzalere, Lorelei Peck, and Ava Delliquadri finished 6th in the 4 x 50 relay.

Boys golf placed 2nd at District 4 Championships. Tucker Kneipp, Austin Matern and Evan Elliot each placed 6th in their district competitions. Four golfers anticipate continued success in the spring, advancing to state.

Girls soccer finished 6th in the district tournament. Volleyball and slowpitch athletes celebrate several wins across the season.

Athletic activities are funded by the Washougal School Levy. The levy supports opportunities for students to explore their interests and share their passion with our community. Athletic programs help us know, nurture and challenge all of our students to rise

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Washougal Community,

As we celebrate the start of the new calendar year, we have an opportunity to reflect on the progress and successes of the previous year. I am proud of the positive vision the Washougal community has built for its schools, and the focus on rising together to find success. From the classroom to the field to the board room, the Washougal community has much to be proud of!



Our students have had an amazing year so far, and I'm so proud of the way they have competed at the highest levels while still maintaining their academics and community support through events like Stuff the Bus. Students use competitive opportunities to hone their craft, whether in the fine arts, academics, skilled trades, or athletics, and build job readiness skills that will serve them after high school. The excitement of family members and fans, and the amazing support from each other, makes our athletic and performing arts events a magical time when the community comes together in support of our students.

Our school board was recognized by their statewide organization for a second time. Their focus on building a widely shared vision, creating welcoming and inclusive learning environments, and establishing clear metrics to track progress have earned them this award. The board achieved this with the support of the amazing Washougal community and the many voices that contributed to our shared success.

The new year will certainly bring many new opportunities to learn and grow together. With the strong Washougal team of students, families, staff, and community all working together, I am confident that we will continue our success and help create the bright future our students deserve.

Sincerely,

Dr. Mary Templeton



## SCHOOL BOARD CORNER

### WSD Board receives recognition from state

On October 25, 2022, the Washougal School District school board received the Board of Distinction recognition from the Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA.) The annual WSSDA Boards of Distinction program honors school boards across the state of Washington that demonstrate successful leadership through effective use of the Washington School Board Standards.

This award recognizes the board's focus on professional development, closing the opportunity gap, and development of a visionary path forward for Washougal School District. The Washougal School District School Board is among 30 recipients of this prestigious statewide award in 2022, out of the 295 school boards.

Board President Cory Chase and board members Jim Cooper, Angela Hancock, Sadie McKenzie, and Chuck Carpenter work alongside Washougal School District leadership to nurture a solid educational foundation for Washougal's students. "I am honored and humbled to work with an amazing group of volunteers to serve the young people in our community. The support of the Washougal community has been unwavering through unprecedented times," said Cory Chase.

The board has invested in staff and board training around Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) that focus on boosting student achievement for all students by focusing on teacher collective efficacy. The board has also prioritized funding for the Positive Behavioral Intervention and Support work that focuses on proactively managing student behavior, maximizing instructional time and creating a strong sense of belonging in each classroom.

The board process to update the strategic plan also contributed to the recognition. The mid-point check-in process, which began in January of 2022, asked community members, students, families and staff to share ideas about the shared work serving students and the community. The opportunities for feedback, listening posts, surveys, and board presentations resulted in clear metrics for success that are highlighted in the new Strategic Plan. These metrics will help the board reach the vision of seeing every Washougal student known, nurtured, and challenged to rise. Chase added, "this award recognizes the hard work, dedication, and perseverance of the Washougal School District Board of Directors. I am proud of what we have accomplished in the past year. It is rewarding to be recognized at the State level by WSSDA for our work in Washougal."

**SUPERINTENDENT:** Dr. Mary Templeton

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



TOP: Fourth grade students in Robyn Riat's class at Gause Elementary  
BOTTOM: Firefighters from East County Fire & Rescue and the Camas-Washougal Fire Department demonstrate the turnout gear used in fire emergencies to Kindergarten students at Columbia River Gorge Elementary.

## CAREERS IN THE CLASSROOM

# Washougal kids learn about real-world jobs

From Kindergarten to 12th grade, Washougal School District emphasizes job-readiness skills and solving real-world problems. Through hands-on projects and interactive visits, the district brings industry professionals and relevant career standards into the classroom.

### Gause kids apply math to construction project

Through a hands-on construction activity, fourth grade students in Robyn Riat's class experienced how mathematical concepts learned in the classroom can be applied to future careers. As students donned hard hats and aprons, Robyn Riat's fourth grade classroom was transformed into a construction zone! Students used measuring tapes to calculate the perimeter and area of shapes in the classroom.

### Kindergarteners and firefighters talk fire safety

In partnership with East County Fire & Rescue and the Camas-Washougal Fire Department, firefighters Chris, Cody, and William visited Columbia River Gorge Elementary this fall to teach fire safety education to our kindergartners. Students had a chance to walk around the fire engine outside of the classroom. In the classroom, the fire department demonstrated turnout gear worn by firefighters in fire situations, so that children know what to expect in a fire emergency.

## ASL club prepares for winter showcase

Mark your calendars! On January 19 and 20, the American Sign Language (ASL) after-school club at Washougal High School will present their winter show at 7 pm in the Washburn Performing Arts Center. During the performance, students demonstrate their knowledge by signing the lyrics to popular songs with use of props, costumes and choreography. The event is planned



LEFT TO RIGHT: Sam Jackson, Natalie Schoenborn, and Zach Bobeck in Tami Grant's ASL 3 & 4 class prepare for the winter showcase.

and presented by Washougal High School students.

"My friends and I are performing a song from Hocus Pocus for the winter showcase," said Jaisa Wilson, student public relations officer for the ASL club. As the showcase approaches, student club officers prepare staging, lighting, sound, music, and performances. "This is my second year as a student officer in the after school club, and it's gotten me more involved in school activities. We have seven student officers in the ASL club, and about 60 student participants."

Club events like this one are funded by the Washougal School Levy. The levy supports great opportunities for students to explore their interests, develop their talent, and share their passion with our community.

Student leaders in the ASL club plan and present a winter showcase, spring showcase, and one holiday show each year. The theme for the 2023 spring showcase will be announced at the winter showcase this month.

## WASHOUGAL GRADS IN THE COMMUNITY



**Ellie (Boon) Townsend**

"The Medical Terminology class at Washougal High School helped to shape my career path," said Ellie (Boon) Townsend, Washougal High School class of 2013. Ellie went on to earn her Bachelor of Science in Biology at University of Portland in 2017 and earned a Doctor of Physical Therapy at George Fox University in 2022. Ellie is now a Doctor of Physical Therapy and Women's Head Coach of soccer at King's Way Christian High School in Vancouver, Washington.



**NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT:** The Washougal School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Civil Rights Coordinator: Aaron Hansen, 4855 Evergreen Way, Washougal WA 98671, (360) 954-3050; Title IX Officer: Aaron Hansen, 4855 Evergreen Way, Washougal WA 98671, (360) 954-3050; Section 504 Coordinator: Connor McCroskey, 4855 Evergreen Way, Washougal WA 98671, (360) 954-3020.



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## Washougal school levy information



The school board voted unanimously on November 22, 2022 to place replacement Educational Programs & Operations (EP&O) and Capital levies on the Feb. 14 special election ballot. If approved by voters, the EP&O and Capital levies would provide funding for three years: 2024, 2025, and 2026. These are not new taxes.

The EP&O and Capital levies work in tandem, keeping students safe, warm, and connected. Board President Cory Chase said, “With the proposed levy rates, we will have a lower rate than what voters approved in 2020. The board was intentional in not asking for more than is needed to support students. The levies fund the programs and services beyond what the state funds that help every student feel welcome and included in our district. Our athletics and technology programs have specifically benefited from our past levies.”

Levy dollars make up 18% of Washougal School District’s overall budget. Board member Sadie McKenzie said “With this levy, our students benefit not only from the basics of reading, writing and math but they also benefit from athletics, visual and performing arts, after school clubs and activities, librarians, and counselors. I hope our voters will consider the importance of the levy, which benefits all students in our district, as they cast their ballots.” The levy also provides funding for teachers to reduce class sizes, and for security staff, custodians, nurses, paraeducators, and substitute teachers who support all students.

The EP&O levy is projected to be assessed at \$1.99 per thousand of assessed value each year, collecting \$9,500,000 in 2024, \$10,500,000 in 2025, and \$11,500,000 in 2026.

The district’s voter approved 2015 bond included a step-down that begins in 2025. The capital levy is projected to be assessed at \$.21 in 2023, and then would increase as bond collections decrease, resulting in a stable and consistent tax rate. The Capital levy would be assessed at \$.84 in 2025 and \$.85 in 2026. The levy authorizes \$950,000 for collection in 2024, \$3,950,000 for collection in 2025, and \$4,150,000 for collection in 2026. Visit our website for more information.

## Art programs provide opportunities for self-expression and creativity

Visual art programs are funded by the Washougal School Levy. The levy supports great opportunities for students to explore their interests, develop their talent, and share their passion with our community. These events help us know, nurture and challenge all of our students to rise!



TOP: Mary Byrum uses watercolors in Mr. Yee’s Intro to Art Class at WHS. Students learn how colors can be used strategically to solve real world problems, strengthening presentations with design concepts. BOTTOM: Following a lesson in landscape and horizon lines, students in Mrs. Yang’s fourth grade class at Cape Horn-Skye Elementary practice working with a variety of media.