

# COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



## Committee considers long-range facilities needs

A team of community members and staff with expertise in school facilities and planning took on the task of examining the Washougal School District's current facilities to make recommendations for the future. The committee will share its findings at a Town Hall meeting April 17. Guests will be invited to give input and provide feedback before recommendations are made to the School Board in June.

### Join us!

You're invited to a Town Hall Meeting regarding Washougal School District long range facilities planning, Thursday, April 17, 6-9:00 p.m. in the Washougal High School Commons.

Please join us for this important town hall, and be part of our Washougal School District future.

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## Message from the Superintendent

I would like to begin by expressing my appreciation to the Washougal Community for your support by passing the Maintenance and Operations (M&O) and Technology Levies. The impact that these dollars have on the education of our community's children is profound and we will continue to focus our work on their academic success, character development and preparation for adult responsibilities. The M&O Levy not only continues to fund essential services that have been in place for the last several years, it also makes it possible for the district to provide new programs to students that will have a substantial impact on their education.

One of the new initiatives will be the implementation of full-day kindergarten at all three district elementary schools. State funding only provides for a half-day of instruction for our youngest students and with local dollars we are able to implement the full-day program at Cape Horn-Skye and Gause elementary schools. Work is currently underway to prepare for the classroom space needed, to hire the teachers and to determine the additional music and physical education specialist time needed to serve these students.

Hathaway Elementary School was able to get a "jump start" on our goal to strengthen our primary education program through grant dollars provided by the state for the current year. Hathaway kindergarten students have been attending a full-day program since last fall. This has given the district first-hand experience of what can happen when students are provided an effective full-day kindergarten program. With the additional time in the day, kindergarten teachers plan lessons and design instruction that allows young children to learn through exploration, play, conversation, peer interaction, and "hands on" projects. Recent mid-year assessments of their academic progress reveal the profound impact of the full-day experience. Fall reading assessments revealed that we had 28 students at Hathaway "at risk" of struggling to learn reading concepts and skills. When the assessment was given for the second time this winter, only 3 students remained at this "at risk" level. The district is anticipating even greater gains to be revealed during the spring assessments. There are fewer kindergarten children at Hathaway assessing at the "at risk" level in reading than at any of our elementary schools based on the extra time provided by the full-day kindergarten program.

The passage of the Technology Levy allows for continued implementation of a one-on-one technology tool initiative. Students in grades 5 and 6 have been provided iPad computers to support their educational development. The teachers working with these students have received training and support in helping their students learn to use these tools to conduct research, write reports that include graphs, photographs, and current events. With the support of this technology, real life problems and situations that students regularly encounter become the mechanism through which math concepts are learned and applied. Students understand math skills are essential for future success and are integral to the study of science, engineering, and even music. Most importantly, students are learning early in their education to be critical "consumers" of information – gaining the skills to know whether the information they access on-line is factual and accurate.

A quote attributed to John F. Kennedy often comes to mind when I offer a thank you to someone who has given a great gift:

*"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."*

The Washougal School District commitment is to show our appreciation by using the dollars we have been given to make a difference in the lives and futures of our children. I believe that they will make us proud and will return the investment tenfold.

Sincerely,

Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent

## CHECK OUT OUR VIDEOS

The district recently produced two short videos to share the amazing work going on in our schools. The videos highlight our curriculum, which provides a strong foundation in core academics, real-world experiences and access to sports and the arts.

With a focus on small class sizes, early learning, individualized instruction, and technology, our programs help prepare students for life beyond high school and future success in college, career or wherever life takes them.

View videos online: [www.washougal.k12.wa.us/districtinfo/mission.htm](http://www.washougal.k12.wa.us/districtinfo/mission.htm)

# Washougal elementary schools battle it out in reading challenge

Librarians Tammy Asbjornsen, Marlene Leifsen and Kathy Stanton have set the stage for the Battle of the Books at Washougal elementary schools.

"The idea for the battle started at a Professional Learning Community (PLC) meeting of elementary library assistants last year," said Kathy Stanton, Hathaway Elementary librarian. "We decided then to have a competition between our schools in April of this year." Library staff at Gause, Cape Horn-Skye and Hathaway elementary schools chose 20 books for the battle and in September began encouraging students to read those titles.

The format for the battles is based on a format developed and used by CCMS library assistant Holly Vonderohe.

"A student must read eight books to qualify to compete on a battle team," Stanton explained. "There are four or five 4th and 5th graders per team. Teams are asked questions from any of the 20 books. Each question begins: "From what book....?", and each team answers with the title and author of the book they think the question is from."

Points earned with correct answers decide the winners.

This spring, each elementary school will have an in-house battle to choose their top two teams. On April 14, the winning teams will meet at Washougal High School to compete for the top honor.

Hathaway Elementary fifth grader, Brienna Elliott, from Erin Hayes' class, was recently recognized for having already read 14 out of the 20 battle books. Her prize? She was given a special "parley" with the "Pirate King," aka David Tudor. The two sat down in the library over lunch last week and discussed her accomplishment and chatted about the books she had read. Tudor also visited classrooms to help spur on excitement in the contest.

Mt. Pleasant School will participate in the battle as well.



*For her achievement in reading, Hathaway Elementary fifth grader, Brienna Elliott, earned a parley with the "Pirate King," aka David Tudor, Washougal School District Curriculum Director as a part of the Battle of the Books competition.*

# Tech Levy dollars will be used to expand iPad program

With voter approval of the new Tech Levy funds, the Technology Committee will begin to roll out iPads to classrooms, expanding the already successful district iPad program.

This summer, seventh and eighth grade classrooms will receive iPads funded through the previous Tech Levy that expires at the end of 2014. Funding from the newly approved levy will be available beginning in the summer of 2015 and will be used to purchase iPads for ninth and tenth grade classrooms. In the summer of 2016, grades 4, 11 and 12 will receive iPads.

The Technology Committee, made up of teachers, community members, building leadership, and technology staff, has plans to maintain existing classroom technology as well. Plans include a six-year cycle of replacing teacher computers, supporting one computer lab per building, and replacing document cameras and projectors or displays in every classroom.

The increasing number of devices will require expansion of the district's wireless network, as well as replacement of core network infrastructure. The committee has also planned for providing standardized productivity software for new computers, expansion of the amplification systems in K-5 classrooms, and some needed repairs for the district phone system.

The committee is planning training in May and June for teachers in grades 7 and 8, as well as training in August to model instructional uses of iPads once they are provided for all students.

# Washougal Hispanic students seek bright futures

Creating a bright future for students can begin with a small spark. That was the goal on January 23, when 18 middle school students from Canyon Creek and Jemtegaard attended the La Chispa! Regional Workshop, a bilingual leadership conference for middle level Latino students.

"La Chispa! translates to The Spark!," explained Michele Mederos, CCMS School Counselor. "The goal for this one-day leadership conference was to ignite a spark and create a flame of focused energy with middle level Latino students."

The Latino school population is the fastest growing student population the nation, which unfortunately has the highest dropout rate of all student demographic groups. "La Chispa! helps students build their self-confidence, strengthen their cultural identity and increase their academic success," Michele added.

By delivering content in English and Spanish, students experience a school function that actively practices the values of biculturalism. As a

result, students affirm their self-worth and their bilingual assets and are encouraged to develop their speaking, reading and writing skills in both languages. Participants also build an academic identity through positive connections with Latino high school role models.

"I learned to stay positive and be true to yourself," said CCMS student Jefeny Salas.

"The event was inspiring as our students heard stories of Hispanic and Latino students who were successful at high school and had already been accepted into colleges. Many of them were the first in their family," said JMS Principal David Cook. "Many of our students said that they wanted to go to college as well. Our students have many new ideas to bring to Jemtegaard. I am excited to get our students started on these projects."

Also attending the conference from Washougal were JMS School Counselor Linda Jones, and JMS Math teacher, Ron Schlauch.



Participants in La Chispa included CCMS students Jefeny Salas (standing) and Beatriz Pineda-Trujillo (sitting left) and JMS student Araceli Martinez (sitting right).

# WHS student earns amazing opportunity

As a senior at Washougal High School, Bobby Jacobs is ahead of the curve in knowing what type of career and education he will pursue after graduation.

Jacobs is just one of 12 students in Clark County to be selected for the Boeing TechPrep program, a paid summer internship that gives students hands-on experience in machining and manufacturing as well as job application skills and work experience. The program intends to bridge the gap between high school and college, to help students determine if they would like to pursue a career in manufacturing production and engineering.

Jacobs completed the first four-week program last summer, where he spent 40 hours per week working with drills, mills and lathes.

He learned how to read and create technical drawings as well as build a variety of products, including a telescoping hammer which was his pick for a class project.

"This opportunity has really helped me get my foot in the door with Boeing," said Jacobs.

In addition to gaining valuable hands-on skills, Jacobs learned all about working in a high-security

professional organization. He also learned how to abide by company procedures, work safely, and deal with security and confidentiality within a large organization.

Jacobs has been invited back to participate in a second internship. This summer he will work as part of a team to produce a rocket boat. After that, he'll be eligible to participate in a seven-week program where he will job-shadow professionals, gain interview skills, and create a resume. By the end of the program he will be poised to apply for a highly competitive job with the company or pursue a college education in engineering.

"He's gaining a lot of experience that's tough to come by anywhere else," said CTE Director Marsha Spencer.



*Bobby Jacobs*

## District will offer full-day kindergarten at all elementary schools next fall

Washougal School District will offer free, full-day, every day, kindergarten to students at all three of its elementary schools beginning next fall.

Full-day kindergarten has been offered at Hathaway Elementary this year, thanks to state funding to support kindergarten programs at schools with higher percentages of students qualifying for free or reduced-price meals. Currently, students at Cape-Horn and Gause elementary schools have been attending kindergarten only part of the week, full days, but not every day of the week.

Thanks to voters who approved the recent Maintenance and Operations Levy, the district is able to extend the full-day

kindergarten program to include Gause and Cape Horn-Skye schools beginning next school year.

Research shows that all-day kindergarten improves academics and behavior of young learners. Students participating in full-day kindergarten at Hathaway Elementary this year have shown tremendous progress due to the additional classroom time.

"Our school board felt strongly about providing full-day kindergarten to all of our students," said Superintendent Dawn Tarzian. "We are so pleased that voters agreed and that all of our youngest students will have this opportunity."

### **Kindergarten registration begins May 5**

- Students must be 5 years old before September 1, 2014
- Registration requires an original birth certificate and current immunization records

For more information visit the district website: [www.washougal.k12.wa.us/kindergarten](http://www.washougal.k12.wa.us/kindergarten)

Call your local school:

Cape Horn-Skye Elementary 954-3600

Gause Elementary 954-3700

Hathaway Elementary 954-3800

# News about our Highly Capable Program

## **Committee helps shape Highly Capable work**

A team of Washougal staff known as the Multiple Disciplinary Selections Committee (MDSC) has been working hard to develop a Highly Capable plan for the 2014-15 school year. The purpose of the MDSC is to work closely with the district and Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) during the 2013-14 school year to support implementing new legislative changes within the Highly Capable Program.

The committee, which has been meeting monthly, consists of Brian Amundson, Lora Brandt, Cindy Coons, Susie Donnelly, Kathlynn Sloop, David Tudor, Connie Vernon, and Mary Lou Woody.

## **Staff attend Highly Capable training**

Several Washougal staff have attended a series of Highly Capable trainings by Roger Fisher on K-12 Differentiation. The workshops focused on strategies for teachers to offer differentiated learning for students.

Staff members participating are Jim Schroeder, Connie Vernon, Erin Smith, Ron Schlauch, Kelli Dizmang, Susie Donnelly, Susan Champion, Shoko Fuchigami, Cherise Marshall, Erin Eaton, Kathleen Lawrence, Cindy Coons, Erika Stauffer, Grace Koch, Susan Stevens, Ashley Johnson, Michele Weitman, Mary Lou Woody, Lora Brandt, and Kathlynn Sloop.

## **Coming this Spring...SENG classes for parents of Highly Capable students**

### **April 7-June 2**

Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG) certified trainer Kathy Sloop will offer an eight-week series for parents of Highly Capable students. In the workshops, parents discuss the social and emotional needs of their children. The series emphasizes the positive aspects of parenting, avoiding power struggles and helping gifted children learn appropriate life skills while enhancing the parent-child relationship and parent self-esteem. For more information, contact Kathy Sloop, [kathy.sloop@washougalsd.org](mailto:kathy.sloop@washougalsd.org).



## SUPERINTENDENT

Dawn Tarzian

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## Washougal High School 100th Commencement Celebration, 1914-2014

This spring, Washougal High School will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its first commencement in 1914.

This milestone is a great reason to reflect on the history of WHS by capturing some of the most memorable moments of past graduates and staff.

Please share your stories. We know many WHS grads that have gone on to make a difference locally and in other places. How many generations in your family have graduated from WHS? Share any special accomplishments, either during your time at WHS or since your graduation. We want to know! Take our survey at: <http://svy.mk/NxN16c>

*The Washougal Drum and Bugle Corps, led by Eldon Phillips, is a rich part of WHS history and provided the entire community a source of pride in the 1930s and 1940s.*

Join us for a special celebration  
**April 24, 2014 at WHS to  
commemorate this anniversary!**  
Watch for more info coming  
soon!



Washougal Community Education and  
Recreation has a new phone number!  
You can now reach WCER at 954-3040.

Find More News at  
[www.washougal.k12.wa.us](http://www.washougal.k12.wa.us)

Washougal School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employee has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Title IX/RCW 28A.640 compliance officer and Section 504/ADA coordinator, Allan Fleck, Director of Special Education.

You're invited to the Washougal School  
Board meeting!

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

April 15, District Board Room  
April 29, Washougal High School  
May 13, District Board Room

## In-district transfer students must complete forms by May 14

The Washougal School Board requires that all families requesting to have their child attend a Washougal school other than their designated boundary area school complete a boundary exception form annually.

### What parents/guardians need to know:

- This year the forms will be accepted online beginning March 3 at: [www.washougal.k12.wa.us/ibe](http://www.washougal.k12.wa.us/ibe).
- Priority will be given to students who currently have approved transfer status, but parents must submit a new form each year for each student request, (for example, if you have two students you need to submit two forms.)
- The district will accept transfer requests through August 13, but priority will be given to applications received between March 3 and May 14.

Find more info on our web site:  
[www.washougal.k12.wa.us/ibe](http://www.washougal.k12.wa.us/ibe)

## Thank you voters!

On February 11, Washougal voters approved the renewal of two levies to support our educational program and continue the excellent work happening in our classrooms. Election totals showed our Maintenance and Operations Levy with 58.68% approval and our Technology Levy with a 61.75% approval. On behalf of the Washougal School District and our 3,077 students, we would like to extend a heartfelt thank you! By supporting the renewal of these levies, voters have shown their commitment to education and students in the Washougal community. Levy funds will allow us to continue our educational programs with increasing enrollment and fund expanded learning opportunities and programs such as district-wide all-day kindergarten, summer school, instructional coaches and safety improvements. The Washougal School District will continue to offer a strong educational foundation that prepares students to compete in a digital world and to succeed in college or a career upon graduation. Our district will continue to be a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars by maximizing resources and making decisions that put children first. We look forward to continued success and watching our students benefit from the programs and services that these levy dollars will provide. Again, thank you for supporting our students!

The WSF STRIDE is coming!  
Mark May 17, 2014 on your  
calendar for the annual  
STRIDE for Education Family  
Fun Run. [www.washougal.k12w.wa.us/STRIDE](http://www.washougal.k12w.wa.us/STRIDE)

