

From the Superintendent's Desk

Shauna Bilyeu, Superintendent

Dear parents, students and friends of WSD:

In light of the recent tragedy in Florida, I would like to dedicate this article to school safety. OSPI has developed a guide for schools related to school violence prevention and training. I have outlined those here with a note about the measures that WSD has taken.

Prior Knowledge: *In approximately 80% to 90% of school shootings, at least one person had information that the attacker was thinking about or planning the school attack. Think trusted adult. WSD is fortunate in this area. One of the hallmarks of our school are the close relationships that staff build with students. Visiting accreditation members noted strong, positive relationships among students and staff. I believe that most, if not all students can name a trusted adult on campus. Our PBIS philosophy and work in the area of a building positive self identity for students continue to lay the foundation for strong relationships and trust.*

Prevention: *Have an established multidisciplinary threat assessment team at your school. Include and work with local law enforcement and 911. WSD has an Emergency Procedures Committee that meets twice a month. Members of this committee include school administration, the facilities department and administrative assistants. This committee reviews all emergency procedures and is responsible for maintaining the Continuity of Operations Plan for our school. WSD is in routine contact with the local law enforcement and since we are a training site for the local SWAT team, they know our campus layout.*

Practice: *Implement tabletop exercises with all school staff. Plans are underway at WSD to implement Run-Hide-Fight trainings for students and staff. You can find more information about this response strategy here: https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/active_shooter_pamphlet_508.pdf*

Protection: *Have clear, consistent lockdown procedures. Advise students to not call or text except 911 only if/when safe to do so. WSD routinely practices lockdown drills, and has procedures posted in every room where students may be at any given time.*

Mitigation: *Provide training to staff and families on social networking and social media. Establish procedures and guidelines around the use of personal technologies in emergency situations. Actively involve students and teach digital safety and citizenship across curriculum areas. WSD has made a concerted effort in this area over the last two years. We provide digital safety presentations to our students, and review guidelines around the use of personal technologies on a routine basis.*



Special Olympics State Basketball Tournament in Wenatchee March 2, 3, 4!

****This month Detective Robert Givens from Vancouver Police Department will be doing a presentation on social media and digital safety for ALL of our families. March 14 at 6:00pm in Lloyd Auditorium. This will be a powerful and very timely presentation. Please consider coming. ASL and Spanish interpreters will be provided.**

“Terrier Totality”

Elementary Principal Secondary Principal

April McArthur, Elementary Principal

Jason Cox, Secondary Principal

We would like to take this opportunity to remind our families of our safety protocols here at WSD. Safety is of paramount importance to us and there are several measures we take to keep our students safe during the school day. WSD student handbooks were distributed in the beginning of the school year. You can also find a copy of our student handbook on our website: <http://www.wsd.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/Student-Handbook.pdf>

Every year, before school begins, our staff participates in a 2 day state mandated safety training. We practice emergency drills throughout the year. Once a month, our facilities department conducts earthquake, lockdown, or fire drills. Our teachers review the purpose of these drills with students so they understand why we practice for emergencies.

As stated in our student handbook, WSD maintains a closed campus. This means students need parental and school permission to leave campus. Students are expected to abide by all school rules and regulations when off campus during school hours. Northrop (elementary building) and Divine (secondary building) are locked most of the day, requiring staff keycards to enter buildings. When visitors come to campus, they are required to sign in the front office and to wear a name tag. If a visitor does not have a visitor pass, staff will check in with the person and ask that they sign in and wear a badge before visiting on campus. We ask that parents sign in when bringing students to school late or sign them out for appointments. If your child will arrive late or need to leave early, please communicate with program secretaries. For elementary students, contact Mariel Schemp at mariel.schemp@cdhl.wa.gov or via phone 360-418-0414 (voice) 360-334-5449 (videophone.) and for secondary students, contact David Martin at david.martin@cdhl.wa.gov or via phone 360-696-6525 ext 4341 (voice) 360-334-5775 (videophone.) Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Student of the Month January 2018

Momentous Motivation

Danixa Velasco Ortiz

Jalina Miller

Inspiring Improvement

Jayson Cabanizas

Kyler Eagan

Enrique Jose

Ramon Varaja

Astounding Attending

Jessane Rogers

Positively Prepared

Christopher Castro



WSD students **Ashantay Truong, Etasha Stone and TJ Payne** traveled to Washington D.C. February 26-March 1 to again participate in the **CEASD Capital Hill Advocacy Day Summit**. They met with legislators to share information about schools that serve low incidence populations such as ours and represented WSD well!

What Every Parent Needs to Know about Their Child & Social Media

Special Guest Presenter:

Rob Givens, Detective for Digital Evidence
Cybercrime Unit



Wednesday, March 14th
6:00pm-7:15pm
Lloyd Auditorium



Children's Program available for children ages 0-12
ASL and Spanish Interpreters will be provided
Please join us for dessert afterwards!

Washington School for the Deaf - 611 Grand Blvd, Vancouver, Washington

Calendar

March 7-8 Flying Hands Competition
March 14 - Family Academy Night (FAN)
March 15 - Early Release
March 17 - St Patrick's Day
Travel Days 2,4,9,11,16,18,23,25,30



*March 7-8
Flying Hands!*



*April 2-6, 2018
Spring Break!*



Track Schedule

WSD @ Kalama High School – Thursday, March 22
WSD @ Naselle High School – Thursday, March 29

Snow Day

Rick Whitney, Director of Residential Services

We recently had snow come to our area after the mid-winter break which has resulted in the local school districts on Tuesday night cancelling school for the following day. This meant that our day students could not be transported in and WSD made the decision to cancel classes as well. Since we are a residential school and we already had students on campus during this time we had to depend on the Student Life Counselors (SLCs) as well as the Deans to pull through while we were snowed in.

The SLCs were fabulous during this time! Many of the SLCs came in before their shifts were to begin in order to make sure there was coverage for our students and were willing to work beyond their scheduled shift to adequately provide supervision. Our Deans also put in extra hours and were instrumental in making sure coverage was provided. The kitchen staff could not come in due to the weather conditions but the kitchen staff already had a plan in place to provide the cottages with all the necessary food in case of situations like this. The SLCs cooked breakfast, lunch, and dinner for our students on that Wednesday.

The cottage students were great during this time. They got to sleep in if they wanted to. Many played outside and they enjoyed each other's company. We even had two movie matinees for the students to enjoy in the later part of the afternoon. To our SLCs and Deans we'd like to say "Thank You" for being who you are!



Deaf Academic Bowl (DAB)

Tyler DeShaw, Secondary English Language Arts Teacher

As mentioned earlier this school year, based on our performance on the screening test, we qualified as one of the top 20 teams for the **West Regional competition at University High School in Irvine, CA on March 9 - 12**. The actual competition itself consists of two days, the first day being pool play (4 pools with 5 teams each, round robin play with four back to back matches) and second day being bracket play (4 or 5 rounds to the championship match with the top 4 teams moving on to Nationals).

As mentioned, there are four pools with the top ranked four teams "leading" each pool (makes sense so they don't have compete against each other in pool play). The top four teams are CSD-Riverside, CSD-Fremont, Edmonds-Woodway HS and WASHINGTON SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF!!!

That's right! We will come in West Regionals as the #4 ranked team out of 20 teams and the highest-scoring team in our pool! We will compete against Hawaii School for the Deaf and Blind, Del Oro HS (Sacramento), SE Los Angeles County, and Phoenix Day School for the Deaf. Team members are seniors Annie Kvamme and JaBil Miller and juniors Cristian Martinez-White and Dared Redford.

ASL Community Classes



Participants must be at least
14 years old

Classes are **FREE** for parents of
WSD Students

Community Members **\$50 Fee**

ASL 1 (Level 1) - March 12-May 21, 2018
(10 week class)



WSD Library

Ginger Speranza, Librarian

We are looking forward to Dr. Seuss's birthday on March 1st! The cafeteria will be having **green eggs and ham** for lunch and the library will be hosting an activity with the elementary students.

Lunch and letters is having our second book club meeting March 15th. We will be reading "**Wool**" a **graphic novel** by **Jimmy Palmiotti**. This contemporary dystopian classic is about the impact of optimism. Thank you to D.E.A.F. for sponsoring this event.