

INSIDE Wenatchee Public Schools

Senior Profiles

This year's class of graduates includes hundreds of accomplished, outstanding seniors. We couldn't include them all in this newsletter so we chose six standouts. **Congratulations to all 2014 graduates!**

ALEXA ANDRE

Washington Scholar	Spanish Club President
Key Club President junior year	LaCrosse
Honor Society Secretary	Panthers Unite core group leader

Alexa Andre is headed to Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island next year. "It's like my dream school. I'm really, really excited," says Andre. She's grateful to Career Center's Colleen Parks and counselor Sara McManus for helping her navigate the college and scholarship application process.

She cites Brandon Harley, AP history teacher, as a stand out. "He was very enthusiastic and passionate about history. He was very influential and I love history now."

And although she loves history, she's interested in neuroscience and leaning toward becoming a physician.

Her advice to undergrads is to join as many extra-curricular activities as you can. "By joining Key Club I met so many people. When I was writing essays for scholarships and college admissions I was writing about the experiences that I had in those clubs. And it gets you so involved in the high school so you like coming to school."



Photo by Jeremy Williams



Photo by Dale Blair

ISAIAH BRANDT-SIMS

Football
Track
Basketball

Isaiah is an athlete and a scholar. He says that AP classes have helped him prepare for the college setting and pace, which is important since he'll be attending Stanford University on a football scholarship.

"I'm hoping to major in computer science," says Isaiah, and after college he hopes to work in the tech industry. "Maybe at Google or another big company."

Athletic Director BJ Kuntz calls Isaiah incredibly talented and very humble. He is a three-time state track champion in the 100 and 200-meter dash, and named Most Valuable Player in football in the Big Nine League his junior and senior year.

"I really like football the most," says Isaiah. "I like being part of a team and being able to share that experience with my teammates and other people in my class."

He says influential teachers include Scott Devereaux, his coach for all four years of high school, and computer science teacher Scott Feil. "I had a computer science class from him and that's probably my favorite subject in school."

Wenatchee School District No. 246
P.O. Box 1767
Wenatchee, WA 98807-1767

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Graduations

Wenatchee High, June 6
Apple Bowl
8:00 PM

WestSide High, June 10
Wenatchee Convention Center
7:00 PM

Senior Profiles



WENDY GONG

Washington Scholar Alternate
Sports Medicine
Interact Club
Piano

Wendy Gong has heard that New Hampshire weather is chilly, and since she'll be attending Dartmouth next year she's trying to prepare herself. "After four years at Dartmouth I'll be really cold," says Wendy. "I'll probably be frozen by then."

Her post-graduate college choice may be weather related. "I'll probably want to thaw out a little bit, maybe like California or somewhere warm."

Her undergraduate work will be pre-medicine, and her post-graduate work will be in medicine, possibly orthopedics. A student in Dale Blair's Sports Medicine, Wendy won the Individual Sports Medicine State Championship this spring and was named Top Senior for best score and GPA combination.

Wendy's advice for new students is to find an activity, a club or a sport that you really enjoy. "Just go for it, because sports medicine has really helped me decide what path I want to go after school. Try anything because you'll never know what you'll enjoy."

ALI GUERRERO

WestSide High
Leadership Club Founder and President

Ali Guerrero plans to major in science at either Central Washington University or North Seattle Community College. In June he is traveling to Washington, DC as part of a GEAR UP Alumni Leadership Academy. He was selected as one of only thirty students across the nation for the highly competitive Academy.

GEAR UP Coordinator Sheena Zacherle, who nominated Ali for the Academy, made a huge impact on Ali's high school career. She convinced him to attend a Washington Business Week at Western Washington University the summer before his junior year. Talking to other students at Business Week was surprising to Ali. "They had goals. They were eager to do things. They took pride in their accomplishments," says Ali. "I looked at myself and I hadn't done anything."

He decided on the spot to change his direction.

He chose to become an excellent student and pursue a college education. His senior year he founded the Leadership Club, and as club president he spoke at service clubs and performed volunteer work in the community.

"I feel really grateful for having an alternative school like this," Ali says of WestSide. "The staff is so awesome. I love my teachers and I love my school."



Senior Profiles



ARIANA KEYSER

Washington Scholar
Musicals
RAK Club (Random Acts of Kindness) President junior year
Diversity Club President junior and senior years
Honor Society
Tennis
Volleyball

Ariana will be headed to college at the University of California, Berkeley, but not until the fall of 2015. She will study in Belgium next year through the Rotary Youth Exchange program.

An important part of high school for Ariana was being involved in different clubs, musicals and sports because of all the friends she made. “I hope to stay friends with them for the rest of my life.”

Teacher Mary Symonds is a favorite. “She’s an inspiring teacher because you want to do your best for her,” says Ariana, who is taking AP English literature and mythology from Mrs. Symonds.

“I really want to thank the community of Wenatchee,” says Ariana. “It’s a great place to grow up. It’s helped me become the person that I am and to be confident in what I’m doing. I want to thank everybody for helping me.”

DANIEL POULSON

Washington Scholar
Sports Medicine
Knowledge Bowl
Cross Country
Math Club
Track

Along with being named a Washington Scholar, Daniel has won the individual National Sports Medicine Competition for the past two years. “I’m looking to try and get the trifecta,” he says with a smile as he gets ready to compete again.

Daniel has played the violin since he was five. He played in the high school orchestra for two years and plays now with the Wenatchee Valley Symphony. He enjoyed being a member of academic clubs at WHS. “I had a lot of fun in Knowledge Bowl and Math Club,” says Daniel. “I made a lot of good friends.”

He cites Sports Medicine teacher Dale Blair as a positive force. “He wants you to do the best you can. Everything he does is for the students.”

Daniel has been a Running Start student and when he graduates from high school he will also have completed two years of college. After graduation he is leaving on a two-year mission for his church.

When he returns he’ll attend Brigham Young University. “Right now I want to do something in medicine,” says Daniel. “I’m debating between research and clinical work.”



Washington and Lincoln Elementary Washington Achievement Award Winners

Washington Elementary School and Lincoln Elementary School are Washington Achievement Award winners, earning the state's highest academic honor. Washington received special recognition for Reading Growth, while Lincoln's special recognition was for English Language Acquisition. The awards were announced today by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction in Olympia.

"We see this as a community award," said Washington Principal Keith Collins. "In terms of the work that we've been doing as a staff to become a collaborative community,

to become a school that's focused on students and working in partnership with parents, I think it really validates that work."

"It's just exciting," says Lincoln principal Tim Sheppard. "We have very dedicated teachers and we've been working hard. Now we're seeing some of the fruits of that hard work."

For the reading achievement, Collins attributes their success to a commitment to help struggling readers. "We spent a lot of time looking at data," added Collins. "Not just the whole school, but specific students. I think the

commitment of the staff to looking at each student, where they are, and then developing strategies to help our struggling readers become more proficient has been probably the key."

For Lincoln's success, Sheppard says language acquisition is part of Lincoln's school success plan. "We've been working on developing the listening and speaking skills of all of our students. We've been transitioning kids a little bit earlier from our Spanish instruction to English instruction. We've been using Imagine Learning for a wide



Washington Principal Keith Collins reading with students

variety of kids to support that — it's an engaging language based program that really helps on an individual basis for kids. We've been using a lot of GLAD strategies [Guided Language Acquisition Design], and we use the Cognitive Content Dictionary, which helps us to focus on vocabulary and have common vocabulary at each grade level across the building."

Award winning schools were selected based on the assessment scores. The top five percent achieving schools were recognized for their achievement. The awards were presented at an awards ceremony in Lacey on April 24.



Principal Tim Sheppard (center, front row) and staff members at Lincoln Elementary School. The staff was recognized for their success in teaching English Language Learner (ELL) students.

Bond Sale Saves Taxpayers Money on School Projects

Lower-than-expected interest rates on \$66.5 million in bonds will save Wenatchee School District property owners about 10 percent in taxes.

"We timed it really well and were able to get a low interest rate," Annette Sommer, senior vice president for Piper Jaffray investment banking, told the Wenatchee School Board at their April meeting.

Wenatchee voters approved the sale of bonds at an estimated cost of \$1.77 per \$1,000 assessed property value in a February 2014 election. The lower interest rate will reduce the estimate from \$1.77 per \$1,000 to \$1.61 per \$1,000. The owner of a home valued at \$100,000 will pay \$161 in annual taxes to

repay the bond. Under the previous estimate, the same homeowner would have paid \$177 in taxes.

The bond approval passed with a 68.19% yes vote, one of the highest in Wenatchee School District history.

The \$66.5 million will be used to fund a new Washington Elementary School, modernize and add additional classrooms to Lincoln Elementary, modernize the Special Education and Early Childhood Development building adjacent to Washington, modernize the gymnasium and replace grandstands at Pioneer Middle School, and redesign the parking lot and sidewalks at Mission View Elementary to improve safety.

Alex Albert GWATA Future Technology Leader

Alex Albert, a seventh grader at Foothills Middle School, was named Future Technology Leader at the 2014 GWATA Innovator Awards Luncheon on March 19 at the Wenatchee Convention Center. It was the 14th annual GWATA (Greater Wenatchee Area Technology Alliance) Innovator Awards to recognize entrepreneurs, use of technology, and innovative businesses in North Central Washington, including Future Technology Leaders and Innovative Use of Technology in the Classroom. Over 300 people attended the awards.

Alex was nominated for two projects: a science competition and a hat that detects distance by getting data from multiple ultrasonic sensors, which then run vibration motors at different



Alex Albert accepts the Future Technology Leader as presenter Laura Jaecks looks on. Photo by Wendy Hulse, Truly Me Photography.

intensities to provide feedback for the visually impaired and help them avoid obstacles.

"I just really want to create a good tomorrow for everyone," Alex said of his projects, "and I think the first step is getting everyone knowledgeable and excited for science and math."

Alex's parents are John and Christina Albert.

THANK YOU!



Wenatchee Learns Strategy Three: Use the best tools and resources to advance learning
Key Objective: Facilities that support optimal learning



Wenatchee Learns Strategy Four: Balance change for all with excellence for all
Key Objective: High student achievement

Ramon Rivera Honored as Jefferson Award Winner

Ramon Rivera, Director of the Mariachi program was selected as a Washington State Jefferson Award Winner by the Seattle City Club, which selects five people each year for the award. Regarded as the Nobel Prize for public service, the Jefferson Awards honor unsung heroes for their volunteerism and action to make the world a better place.

The Seattle City Club said of Ramon Rivera: "As the director of the renowned Mariachi Huenachi program, Ramon inspires kids to stay in school by creating opportunities for them to learn Mariachi, a form of folk music from Mexico, travel and perform regionally, while touring college campuses. He views it as a leadership program for students as a way to inspire their dreams and fuel their thirst for education. This past fall, eight of the students were accepted at Washington State University and for each one of them, they will become the first person in their family to attend college." Rivera was one of five award winners out of more than 150 nominations.

"I was honored to accepted the Jefferson award with my mom and dad from California, my family and Rufus Woods in Seattle," said Rivera. "Mariachi Huenachi was able to perform for the event."

Additionally, Mariachi was featured twice on CBS Evening News and featured on the Spanish language television station Univision, which televised the story throughout the U.S. and Latin American. Mariachi has been written about in the Associated Press, the Seattle Times, and is a past recipient of the KCTS Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Education.



In this selfie at the Jefferson Awards, Ramon Rivera holds up his Jefferson Award medallion in the midst of mariachi students. The group performed at the ceremony in Seattle on April 7.

Congressman Dave Reichert Visits Mariachi



Congressman Dave Reichert with Ramon Rivera and Mariachi students

Congressman Dave Reichert visited the Wenatchee High School Mariachi group today and met their state Jefferson Award-winning leader, Ramon Rivera. The meeting began with music and quickly turned into an inspirational afternoon. The inspiration came from both the students and the congressman.

After introductions, Rivera asked some of his students to tell about their experience in the mariachi program, and what it meant to them. One after another told of finding a sense of belonging and the constant support and encouragement to go to college.

Then it was Reichert’s turn. The 8th District representative talked about growing up with an alcoholic father. The oldest of

seven children, he described dismal living conditions. He did poorly in school and had no self-confidence, and finally ran away from home and lived in a car he bought for a hundred bucks. It was a football coach who helped him find a sense of belonging and a path to college, where he earned an A.A. degree. After service in the Air Force he became a police officer and eventually King County Sheriff before becoming a congressman.

After the inspirational stories the students gathered around the congressman for a handshake and selfies. Rivera said it was his goal to get his students to Washington DC. and Reichert said he liked the idea. Given the determination of both Rivera and Congressman Reichert, it’s a trip that’s likely to come to pass.

The Success of Mariachi

Mariachi is a program whose time has come. Ramon Rivera is a driving force changing lives for his Mariachi students, who are primarily Latino, many with roots in Mexico. The Mariachi program celebrates the music and culture of Mexico while helping kids to navigate the world of education. Rivera connects his students with programs and people who help them choose colleges, apply for college, and apply for scholarships. Most of these kids are the first in their family to attend college, and need the knowledge and skills to pursue higher education. The Mariachi groups perform often at college campuses, where kids meet admissions staff and begin to feel at home on campus. Mariachi performs (most recently at the governors invitation) in Olympia, where students see government in action. And Mariachi provides a strong connection in a large school. These kids do not get lost in the sea of 2,000 students. Instead, they shine.



Wenatchee Learns Strategy Two: Tap into the power of our whole community
Key Objective: Citizen-student mentoring

Andi Brizendine and Denia Alaniz Chelan County Excellence Award Winners

Andi Brizendine, Washington Elementary Health and Fitness teacher has been named the



Brizendine

certificated Chelan County Excellence Award Winner, and Denia Alaniz, Family Advocate

at Columbia Elementary School, was named classified Chelan County Excellence Award Winner for 2014. They were honored at The Chelan County Banquet April 29 at Lake Chelan, hosted by the North Central Educational Service District.

Washington Principal Keith Collins nominated Andi Brizendine for the award. "Teaching elementary age students about wellness, fitness and appropriate social behavior has not only been Andi's job, it is her calling," Collins wrote in his nomination. "As accomplished as Andi is helping students with the social behavior she is an even more superior health and wellness teacher. Andi is one

of those teachers whose constant mission is the refining of her teaching skills . . . Her enthusiasm for her craft, her love of children, and her expertise make Andi a highly respected and admired teacher."

Denia Alaniz was nominated by Columbia Elementary counselor Kelli Ottley. "Denia is a person who provides a safe, nurturing culture for students and staff with a clear and shared focus on lifelong success as evidenced by her passion and commitment," Ottley wrote. "As the family advocate for a high poverty school Denia's job can be ever changing from helping families get necessary services

in the community to providing clothing and food for students. I have witnessed Denia give up her



Alaniz

own coat so a mother who did not have one didn't have to walk home in the cold."

GRETCHEN MANN CLASSIFIED EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Gretchen Mann, Office Manager of WestSide High School, has been selected as the North Central ESD Region 2014 Classified School Employee of the Year. Gretchen has been with the Wenatchee School District for 16 years and has served as the Office



Mann

Manager for 12 years.

Gretchen was nominated by Kory Kalahar, WestSide principal, and Chet Harum, Executive Director of Student and Support Services. She was recognized in Olympia at award ceremonies on May 9.

BRENT GROTHE JOINS HALL OF FAME

Brent Grothe, Leadership teacher at Wenatchee High School, was inducted into the WACA's (Washington Activity Coordinator Association) 2014 Hall of Fame for leadership and excellence. The award honors individuals who have made a significant, lasting impact on student activities in the



Wenatchee Learns Strategy Four: Balance change for all with excellence for all
Key Objective: Highly trained and engaged staff

state of Washington. Recipients demonstrate leadership and dedication to providing high quality programs at the school, district and state level.



Grothe

SUPERINTENDENT BRIAN FLONES RECEIVES TRAILBLAZER AWARD

Superintendent Brian Flones was awarded the trailblazer award by North Central Washington Camp Fire for his outstanding service to the community and youth. The surprise award was presented at the Wohelo Luncheon at the Wenatchee Convention Center.



Flones

SKILLSOURCE NAMES JEFF SCHOONOVER EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR WENATCHEE SCHOOL DISTRICT EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

Wenatchee School District (WSD) has been named Employer of the Year and WSD employee Jeff Schoonover has been named Employee of the Year for SkillSource, Chelan/Douglas County.

Jeff Schoonover was hired as a technology specialist for WSD in November 2013. A few years earlier Schoonover lost his job in the transportation industry during the downturn in the economy, and he turned to SkillSource, a Washington nonprofit agency that provides education and training. SkillSource counselor Donita Bernstein found a spot at Wenatchee Valley College in their Industrial Electronics program. Schoonover earned two degrees at Wenatchee Valley College - an Associate of Arts in Industrial Electronics and Associate of Arts in Aerospace Electronics.

"SkillSource sent me to school. They paid for my tuition and paid

for my books," says Schoonover. "All they asked was for me to pay attention."

After graduation Bernstein again stepped in with guidance. She had noticed an opening at Wenatchee School District and recommended that Schoonover apply. He applied for the job and interviewed with Dave Yancey, Director of Operational Technology at Wenatchee School District.

"I was so impressed that I went down to

SkillSource to find out how Jeff got into the program and look at the documentation of the work he did with them," says Yancey.

"I could not be more happy," says Schoonover. "In fact if I were to sit down and draw out my

perfect job, my dream job, this would be it. I love what I'm doing. The people are great. I'm not being micromanaged. There's plenty of work to do. This is just fantastic. This is a great place to work."



Dave Yancey, Donita Bernstein and Jeff Schoonover

Taunya Brown New Orchard Principal

Taunya Brown has been selected as the new principal at Orchard Middle School. Brown will replace Mike Hopkins who is retiring at the end of the school year.



“I am honored and extremely excited to have been selected as Orchard’s new principal,” says Brown.

Brown is currently assistant principal at Orchard, a position she’s held for two years. She taught math and science at Orchard for ten years, at Pioneer for one year, and was an instructional coach in the district for eight years prior to being the Assistant Principal at Orchard.

Brown has a long history with Wenatchee School District. She attended Orchard as a student and graduated from Wenatchee High School. She earned a Bachelors of Science in Biology with endorsements in biology and chemistry in 1993 at Eastern Washington University, and her Masters in Science Education from Eastern in 1998. She earned her Principal Certification from Washington State University in 2008.

“I am a firm believer in Orchard’s mission,” says Brown. “Learning for all whatever it takes.”

Sarah Hanchey New Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Sarah Hanchey has been chosen for the Director of Curriculum and Instruction position at Wenatchee School District. Hanchey joins the Learning and Teaching Department in this new position. Jodi Smith Payne is the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning.

“I look forward to working with the staff to provide a high quality, well-rounded education that puts all students on the path of lifelong success,” says Hanchey, who has been the Director of Curriculum and Federal Programs at the Moscow School District for the past four years, and was the Associate Principal for two years in the Twin Falls School District.



Hanchey has a BA in Elementary Ed from Idaho State University, a Masters Degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Lesley University and an Educational Specialist degree in Educational Leadership from University of Idaho.

Hanchey will provide leadership and expertise in curriculum, including leading the curriculum adoption process. She will also organize professional development for curriculum adoption and in support of the instructional framework.

“I am excited to join the Wenatchee School District as the Curriculum Director because of the wide array of programs available to students, the diversity of the community, and the district’s commitment to provide a safe, nurturing culture focused on meeting the individual needs of all students,” Hanchey writes in an email. “I look forward to working with the staff to provide a high quality, well-rounded education that puts all students on the path of lifelong success. “

She will be relocating to the Wenatchee area with her husband and two children. “Our oldest son, Christian, will attend Wenatchee High School,” says Hanchey. “ Our younger son, Forest will be in middle school.”

Jim Beeson New Athletic Director

by Bridget Dowd, Editor-in-Chief, The Apple Leaf

Jim Beeson from Kenai Central School in Alaska will be the new Athletic Director at Wenatchee High School. “[I felt] relief and excitement with a little bit of fear,” Beeson said. “It’s a big change to move 3,400 miles away.”

Beeson is currently the Assistant Principal at Kenai Central High School, a position he’s held since 2009. Also at Kenai Central High School he served as Activities Director for 5 years, and taught accounting, business law, economics, finance and math, among other subjects for 21 years. Beeson was Northern Lights Conference Football Coach of the Year six times, among other coach of the year awards.

Beeson earned a Masters in Educational Leadership at University of Southern Mississippi in 2004, a Bachelor of Arts in Business Education and a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Central Washington University in 1988.

The position opened up after current Athletic Director, BJ Kuntz accepted a position as Dean of Students for next year, replacing retiring Mike Franza.

WHS principal Bob Celebrezze said he is excited for the coming year and he feels like he is “winning the lottery” with such a qualified new athletic director, as well as having Kuntz step in for Franza. “[Beeson] has big shoes to fill,” Celebrezze said. “I have complete confidence he’ll do a great job as athletic director.”



Celebrezze said 54 people applied for the job and it was narrowed down to seven, based on their experience and backgrounds. “One key reason [why Beeson was chosen] was his experience as an athletic director, as assistant principal, and as a coach,” Celebrezze said. “His accomplishments in all those areas made us sure he was the right fit for Wenatchee High School.”

Beeson said with the winters getting longer and longer in Alaska and family being so far away, it was time he moved closer to his siblings and kids. He also grew up in the area, graduating from Chelan High School, and said “there’s nothing like coming back home.”

Beeson said despite the fact that the job will be a huge change for him and his family he is looking forward to a new challenge, working with the students, and getting involved with the community.

Shout Outs

Jennifer Carmichael, Marcia Hahn & Transportation Team

I would like to give a shout out to the Transportation Department. This spring they have bent over backwards accommodating all of the field trips we have put together for the After School Programs. It has been a complicated schedule to take students to BOTH the Town Toyota Center for ice skating lessons and on the SAME DAY take another set of students to an outdoor education opportunity through the Chelan Douglas Land Trust. In particular, **Jennifer Carmichael, Marcia Hahn**, and the bus drivers have demonstrated flexibility and adaptability with a complicated and challenging bus schedule. They put the needs of the students FIRST. Hats off to them! I am proud to have them on my team!

Carolyn Griffin-Bugert
WSD Grant Coordinator

Angela Richmond

Angela Richmond, Tech Resource Teacher at Mission View, is a gem! She held a Workshop on Demand for National Board Candidates on compressing video in i-Movie and converting video from other programs into i-Movie for some National Boards candidates. She went above and beyond, several months to follow up with us, assist us, and research solutions to problems we were having with the technology component of our National Boards. Thank you Angela!

Angie Willms
Intervention Specialist, Lincoln Elementary



Wenatchee Learns Strategy Four: Balance change for all with excellence for all
Key Objective: Highly trained and engaged staff

Project Lead the Way

by Dennis Conger, Director Career and Technical Education

Wenatchee School District has adopted Project Lead The Way (PLTW) and will begin offering courses in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) at the beginning of the 2014-15 school year. PLTW is the nation's leading STEM program. More than 5200 schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia offer PLTW programs to their students.

Foothills, Orchard, and Pioneer middle schools will offer PLTW's Gateway to technology (GTT) program. Through topics like robotics, flight and space, and DNA and crime scene analysis, students will find their natural curiosity and imagination engaged in creative problem solving. The GTT program provides a strong foundation for further STEM learning in high school and beyond, challenging students to solve real word problems like cleaning oil spills and

designing sustainable housing solutions. Using the same advanced software and tools as the world's leading companies; students see the application of math, science, technology, and engineering to their everyday lives.

Wenatchee High School will offer PLTW's Pathway to Engineering program. The program will start with two courses, Introduction to

Engineering Design and Principles of Engineering. In following school years the program will expand to include courses in Aerospace Engineering, Civil Engineering and Architecture, Computer Integrated Manufacturing, and a capstone course in Engineering Design and Development.

In addition to providing world-class STEM programs, PLTW provides ongoing, high

quality professional development training that equips teachers with the program content, academic framework, and instructional skills required to teach each PLTW course. PLTW schools also benefit from the organization's engaged network of Fortune 500 companies, educators, and partners. School based PLTW Partnership Teams compliment the curriculum by recruiting local business

and industry professionals to serve as mentors and share their real world experiences with students.

"In today's global economy, Americans are competing not just against each other but against their peers in countries like China and India," said Vince Bertram, CEO of PLTW. "It is more crucial now than ever for our education system to help students develop the critical-thinking and problem-solving skills to prepare them for the global economy."



Pre-engineering teacher Doug Merrill visits with Dennis Conger, Washington State Representative Cary Condotta, Wenatchee Learns coordinator Diana Haglund, while students Cesar Mendoza and Alexis Vidal work on a drafting assignment.

Wenatchee Learns Connect Timeline

With the help of community leaders and over 4000 other people who live, work or study in Wenatchee, we launched Wenatchee Learns – an initiative aimed at developing a common vision for the future of local learning, and supporting that vision.



Three Key Findings:
1. Provide a more personal approach to the learning.
2. Expand "Teacher" to include parents, volunteers and other partners in the community.
3. Use technology to bridge the components of a personalized learning model.



Develop District's Four Strategies: 1. Design the personalized Learning System of the future, 2. Tap the power of the whole community, 3. Use the best tools and resources to advance learning, 4. Balance change for all with excellence for all.

Autumn 2011

Winter 2012

Autumn 2012

Winter 2013

Spring 2013



Finding Our Pathway to Success: Community members identified a set of eight strategies and solutions to transform learning.



A New Vision: "We envision a Wenatchee renowned for making education personal and a local culture that values learning and is committed to success for all."



A Better Way to Volunteer. We Hear You.

Introducing **Wenatchee Learns Connect** a new innovative way for parents and our community to partner with the Wenatchee School District. Using technology to personalize learning we will be launching several new ways to connect including an online volunteer application portal, downtown Wenatchee partnership center at 2 South Mission Street and iPad school sign in system.



Volunteer Tom Treat works with 6th grader London Grinstead in Mona Hein’s math class at Pioneer Middle School. Treat retired as plant manager of Rock Island Dam for Chelan County PUD in 2013. He had always wanted to try teaching, but never had the time until now.

Treat discovered that London is interested in electricity. “There’s a lot of math in electricity,” says Treat. “We’re going through Ohm’s law and learning about voltage and amperage and resistance and the relationship between the three. It really fits with the math that he’s taking in class.”

Coming Fall 2014
iPad School Sign In
Online Volunteer Application Portal
Wenatchee Learns Connect Partnership Center



WENATCHEE LEARNS connect
2 South Mission Street
Wenatchee, WA 98801
wlconnect@wenatcheeschools.org
(509) 888.2828
wenatcheelearns.com

Creating a Community Partnership Center

Formation of a Volunteer & Partnership Center Committee: The committee is made up of community leaders with the objective of creating a volunteer and partnership center that supports career exploration and community/school relations.

Creation begins on Wenatchee Learns Connect, the new volunteer and partnership center. Located in downtown Wenatchee and the center will have an online platform to connect volunteers and businesses with students and school volunteer opportunities.

Implementation begins for the grant-funded Career Cruising student career exploration system at Wenatchee High Schools, WestSide High School and SkillSource Learning Center.



Grand Opening of Wenatchee Learns Connect downtown office, August 28, 2014.
2 South Mission Street
509.888.2828
wlconnect@wenatcheeschools.org



Summer 2013 Autumn 2013 Winter 2014 Fall 2014

Hiring of Diana Haglund, Wenatchee Learns Coordinator, to oversee the development and operation of the newly formed center. Hiring Mike Wilson, Wenatchee Learns Services Specialist, who will provide technology and service support.



Complete Staffing: Addition of Melissa Hernandez as the Wenatchee Learns Volunteer and Parent Involvement Coordinator.

Introduction of Wenatchee Learns Connect website:
wenatcheelearns.com



The Seasons of STEM science • technology • engineering • math

Wilson's Winter Olympics

Pioneer science teacher Erica Wilson was watching the Sochi Winter Olympics when she realized how much science was integrated into sports: the physics of aerial skiing; air lift in the ski jump; the science of motion in figure skating, and the huge role of friction in curling. Wilson knew that Olympic science was soon to find it's way into her seventh grade classroom.

Wilson discovered a resource called NBC Learn that offered free resources for teachers about the science of the Olympic Winter Games and she was off and running with her own classroom Olympics.

The sport — bobsledding. The materials — glass test tubes, dirt, cotton, waxed paper, iron filings, wood chips. The challenge — create the fastest bobsled and go for the gold.

"I told the kids this was their STEM challenge. They had to be able to create a bobsled that could go down a chute and they have to be the fastest."

Seventh grader Annie Porter explains the rules. "All the bobsleds can weigh 75 grams or less. They go down this track. It's a competition and the fastest time wins gold,

speed because of its slick surface.

Seventh grader Matthew Khan talked about all the factors that go into winning the race. "There's friction, drag, resistance, if you hit the wall your speed will slow down. Wind can drag down a sled very, very fast."

Then came the competition. Every run was observed, timed by two timers, and results recorded.

Wilson's students discovered that the weight of fill material mattered. Korben Bryan said, "Ours was too light. We added wood chips and iron. We got a faster time the second time because we made it heavier in the back and lighter in the front." His team took bronze.

Silver medalist Emily Buak said "We kept pushing it hard but it didn't get the speed we wanted, so we added more iron filings and then we pushed it even harder and we got a better time."

Miranda Burns' team took the Gold. "We learned that it went a lot faster when it didn't have any friction, when it didn't have anything wrapped around it," said Burns, "when it was just the glass. We made it heavy and we pushed it hard when we pushed it off."



Students time the test tube bobsled run while Matthew Kahn, Ean Howard, Olivia Lancaster, Annie Porter and Arroyo Sosa watch.

bronze and silver medals."

The track was made of 3 inch PVC pipe cut in half. The bobsleds were glass test tubes. The variables included different fill materials, like iron filings or sand. Other materials could be wrapped around the on the outside, such as waxed paper, which seemed like it might add

Along with physics and science, students in Erica Wilson's class learned something about perseverance. "My goal in doing this was for kids to see that you're not going to get it right the first time and that we're going to have to try and try again." Just like Olympic competitors.

Knipfer's River Institute

Sally Knipfer's seventh graders from Pioneer explored nature and science at the Wenatchee River Institute located at the Barn Beach Reserve in Leavenworth. Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) came together as students used iPads, GPS's, compasses and other tools to study the ecosystem.

specific locations on earth using a process called trilateration. After discussing longitude and latitude and coordinates, the students were given a GPS and sent off with a set of coordinates to find their own plot of land.

When it came to plot logistics, some groups were luckier than others. One group had a flat grassy



Andrea Ries, Intermountain AmeriCorps volunteer shares GPS data with Eric Mendoza, who enters the data into an iPad.

Five knowledgeable Barn Beach volunteers (Andrea, Tim, Mark, Gro, and Betsy) worked with the kids and Youth Education Director Dee Early provided direction and instruction throughout the day. Dee taught GPS technology, illustrating technical concepts with globes and cones and hula hoops. Kids learned about satellites circling the earth (about 30 of them right now), sending signals or waves to the earth, and that data from three satellites can pinpoint

spot with two small pine trees. Another group found themselves on a slight incline of thick weeds, having to climb over an old downed tree (which was also home to some very large black ants). The third group's GPS coordinates led them to a steep, prickly-vine covered hillside.

At their plots each group used the GPS to determine their elevation (about 1,100 feet), and a compass to determine north (declination north, not magnetic north). Next came

continued next page



Yovanni Villegas, Diego Navarro, Sally Knipfer, Mark Weick, a Wenatchee River Institute board member, examine the results of soil testing.



Wenatchee Learns Strategy One: Design the personalized learning system of the future
Key Objective: STEM/Project based learning

The Seasons of STEM science • technology • engineering • math



Wenatchee Learns Strategy One: Design the personalized learning system of the future
Key Objective: STEM/Project based learning

Knipfer continued

the tape measure, and the plots were measured out into a five-foot square area. Data was observed and collected, then entered into the iPad, including types of organic and inorganic material observed at specific points in the plot. Using old-fashioned pencil and paper each student drew a detailed map of his/her plot.

Teacher Sally Knipfer explained using the language of science. “The methods the students are using is a very common ecological data collection method called the circle plat method,” said Knipfer. “The students are doing a descriptive analysis of the organisms and the abiotic or nonliving factors, the climate data, the elevation data for their plot.”

Each group collected soil samples and tested the soil for nutrients and pH, after discussing the effects of each on plant and animal life. They also used climate data amassed over a decade to study the climates of both Wenatchee and Leavenworth.

“They’ll take that information in the classroom we will apply math to it, because people communicate using math, pictures and diagrams,” said Knipfer. “The kids are going to make graphs of the organisms in their plot. They’ll do a percentage cover of the organisms using a quadrant method and align intercept method. Then they’ll build a nature map using ARC GIS, so they’ll use the GPS information and build a map of the organisms in the plot.”

The work Knipfer’s students produce will be used by future middle school visitors to Barn Beach Reserve, and Knipfer is planning to conduct a similar activity near Wenatchee and compare the ecosystems of Wenatchee and Leavenworth.

“I think we actually get to learn what scientists do out in the field,” said seventh grader Elie Toth, “not just learn from a textbook. We get to see what you would do if you were a scientist and so it’s really fun.”

Freshmen Study Impact of Projected Confluence Parkway

Wenatchee High School freshmen explored science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) concepts of the proposed Confluence Parkway at Confluence Park and the Horan Nature Area. Professionals from the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), Chelan County PUD, and the Audubon Society gave the students hands-on experience exploring issues related to the Confluence Parkway project currently being considered to improve traffic and transportation issues on North Wenatchee Avenue. The Confluence Parkway involves building a new road adjacent to the Horan Nature Area and constructing a new bridge across the Wenatchee River.

On April 29 biology teacher Mike Lasater and language arts teacher Brian Higgins took about sixty freshmen to the area that will be affected by the Confluence Parkway. Jeff Wilkens, Director of the Wenatchee Valley Transportation Council, met the students and together they walked the corridor for the proposed Parkway starting at Hawley Street and extending along the railroad tracks and Apple Capital Loop trail to the Wenatchee River.

Students visited a number of stations manned by professionals

and volunteers throughout the morning to learn about the environmental impact of the project.

Geoffrey Gray and Claton Belmont traveled from their Yakima WSDOT office to teach about the wetlands that would be impacted by the project. Students identified different soil types and learned

Chelan County PUD’s Wildlife Program Manager Von Pope and GIS Analyst Ben Pefferman gave the kids hands-on experience with GPS mapping systems. The students mapped the wetland boundaries in the Horan Nature Area.

Biologist Susan Ballinger and a team from the Audubon



Jalani Stevens and Judith Torres work with biologist Susan Ballinger on bird identification. Later in the day the kids transformed from students to documentary filmmakers. Jalani explains. “We’re also here making a documentary about the Confluence Parkway project. We’ve come out here to see the effects actually building it will have on the environment.”

about the important role that wetlands play in erosion control, water purification, and impact on plants and animals.

Biologist Matt Wisen of the WSDOT took the students out onto the pedestrian bridge over the Wenatchee River, pointing out fish habitat and talking about the effects bridge construction can have on waterways.

Society, including Penny and Larry Tobiska, Charles Sheard, and Dr. Mark Oswood, emeritus professor of aquatic biology at University of Alaska, taught bird identification.



Wenatchee Learns Strategy Two: Tap into the power of our whole community
Key Objective: Citizen-student mentoring



Biologist Matt Wisen of the WSDOT stands with freshmen on the pedestrian bridge over the Wenatchee River. Wisen showed the students where the new bridge might be built, and talked about the effects bridge construction could have on waterways and fish.

Celebrating Panther Sports

Photos by Brooks Davenport

ATHLETIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Girls Swim - League Champs,
District Champs, 2nd in State,
Highest team finish at state

Volleyball - 2nd league, 2nd
district - 4th consecutive state
appearance

Girls Soccer - 2nd league,
2nd district - 1st ever state
appearance - WIAA Academic
State Champions

Cross Country Boys - 2nd league,
2nd district - 10th state

Cross Country Girls - 2nd league,
2nd district - 16th state

Football - league champs - top 8
in state

Wrestling - 4th in league, athletes
competed in districts and
regionals

Girls Basketball - 4th in
league, district tournament
competitors

Girls Bowling - 4A Big 9 league
champs, district champs, 2nd
in state

Boys Basketball - 2nd league,
District Champs, Top 8 in state

Boys Swim - 2nd league,
district appearance and state
appearance

Volleyball - *Rachel Leiber* Player of the Year

Football - *Jakob Stoll* Defensive MVP

Football - *Isaiah Brandt-Sims*
Offensive MVP

Swimming - *Rachel Wilt* Swimmer of the year

Swimming - *Ali Brandt* Diver of the year

Bowling - *Bethany Symonds* Bowler of the year and
District medalist

Boys Swimming - *Jared Vargas* Swimmer of the meet
(Districts)

Girls Golfers 1st in Big Nine. *Carly Bozett* named league
player of the year; *Kadi Freund, Gabrielle Jones, &*
Ali Brandt place 1, 2, 3, 4 respectively in all Big Nine

Boys Tennis Big Nine Title and headed to 4A state

Girls Tennis *Jenae Bickford* headed to 4A state



COLE CHRISTMAN IN FRONT FOLLOWED BY SAM MARTIN — BOYS CROSS COUNTRY.
COLE FINISHED 17TH OVERALL AT THE 4A STATE MEET



KATE THIES — GIRLS SOCCER
KATIE LETTERED FOR 3 YEARS IN SOCCER

COACHES OF THE YEAR

Football - Scott Devereaux
Swimming - James Elwyn
Bowling - Jay Young
At time we went to press.

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