

INSIDE

Wenatchee Public Schools

Thank You, Voters!

On behalf of our school board, staff, and students, we give a HUGE thank-you to our community for your strong support in passing our capital improvement bond on February 11th. Our Citizens Facilities and Bond committees believed that if we presented our community with a facilities improvement proposal that was reasonable, a good economic investment, and clearly presented the basic needs in our schools, the community would support it. And support it you did, with a 68.84% passage rate!

We are excited to begin the planning and construction phases for the projects and plan to maximize the local dollars by seeking low construction bids, obtaining low interest rates, and pursuing state matching dollars for qualified projects. We also hope that these projects will employ many of our local construction and trades workers in the coming months and over the next two years. We will be providing you with planning and construction updates on each of the projects via our school district website and in future issues of *Inside*

Wenatchee Public Schools.

In this edition you will find that we are busy working on our community's vision to "Make Education Personal" and rewire local learning for a global future. We are very proud of the accomplishments of our students and our dedicated staff, and we thank you, once more, for your continued support to improve the future of learning in Wenatchee.

Brian Flones, Superintendent



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

Teachers Earn National Board Certification

Six Wenatchee teachers earned their National Board Certification from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. Certification is achieved through a performance-based assessment that typically takes one to three years to complete. While state licensing systems set basic requirements to teach in each state, national board certified teachers have successfully demonstrated advanced

teaching knowledge, skills and practices.

"It is an honor to congratulate our newest class of nationally certified teachers," says Wenatchee School District Superintendent Brian Flones. "The certification process is very rigorous and their accomplishment puts them among the best of our teaching profession."

"As a school district we now

have close to seventy-five teachers that have completed their National Board Certification. This year Washington State led the country in newly certified teachers. According to research provided by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards, board certified teachers outperform their peers in eleven of thirteen key teaching dimensions. They are also more adept at recognizing why students succeed or fail on academic

tasks, engaging students, and improvising when faced with unexpected occurrences. The NBCT program not only helps to improve the quality of our teachers, it benefits our students as teachers have a deeper knowledge of the learning process and have the tools they need to ensure success for all students."



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



Marta Guerrero, Lincoln Generalist/Middle Childhood



Sandra Lancaster, Pioneer Library Media/Early Childhood through Young Adulthood



Brian Lee, WHS Social Studies, History/Adolescence and Young Adulthood



Matt Pakinas, WHS Career and Technical Education/Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood.



Jake St. John, WHS English Language Arts/Adolescence and Young Adulthood



Erica Wilson, Pioneer Science/Early Adolescence

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Laura Jaecks, School Board President, on the Bond Election

Thank you to the Wenatchee voters for overwhelmingly approving our school bond on Feb. 11th. We are grateful to you. Our students and teachers will enjoy the benefit of your support for decades to come. The work of the Bond Committee was like none I've ever seen. Their innovative efforts and enthusiasm are unparalleled in any bond campaign I've been involved with in the last ten years. Congratulations on a job well done. A big thank you to all those who served on the Facilities Committee for the past several years. It took us a long time to get to this point but your efforts in identifying, studying and prioritizing projects helped tremendously in getting the right package at the right time. Let us not forget that this bond is the first in a series. The needed improvements at Wenatchee High School have not been forgotten. In due time we will address those as well. In the mean time let's celebrate this success! This means a lot to our district and our kids.

Q & A with New School Board Members

Edited from article by Kris Cameron in WenEA's Communiqué

Jennifer Talbot

Jennifer Talbot is a 17-year resident of Wenatchee, is 41 years old and has been married for 15 years to her husband, who works at Graybeal Signs. They have been active volunteers in their children's schools for many years. They have six children – an adult daughter, a son who graduated from WHS in 2010 and a 3rd, a 6th, and a 7th grader as well as a pre-schooler.



Jennifer Talbot

Why did you choose to be on the school board?

TALBOT: I did a lot of research prior to running, and met with Brian [Flones]. I served on a district behavior management committee and thought, what is the next thing for me to do? I served on the Lewis & Clark PTA.

SEALBY: Ali [Sealby's daughter] wanted me to be on the board and lots of people locally encouraged me to run, thinking maybe I could bring a different perspective because I have recent and a current student in school. I'm around the school a lot in one way or another. I have an inquisitive nature and am not afraid to ask questions. Change isn't always bad. You have to be flexible enough to not continue something if there is a different and better way to do it. Hopefully I can be a voice of reason and bring a fresh perspective.

What do you feel are the top challenges facing our school district?

TALBOT: With so many changes in education happening all at once I see that there is a lot on everyone's plate. It's difficult to sort out what we need to do at the state and national level but still make everyday right for the students and teachers. I see that there are lots of good things in the intention of these initiatives

that are coming out. How do we keep going and sort it out without feeling overwhelmed?

SEALBY: Facilities – we need room to grow and expand. We have good facilities but if teachers don't have a place to work in between classes and are getting frustrated and distressed it will eventually trickle down to the classroom. We also need to provide opportunities for kids who don't necessarily want or need to go to college. When I was in high school we built a real house, with support and assistance from local contractors. Some of my friends are still working in the building trades and my sister still changes her own oil because she learned how in auto mechanics class.

What are your top objectives or priorities for the board?

TALBOT: I'm very supportive of the potential for Wenatchee Learns. I see value in involving our community and involving parents and doing parent education. All of those factors can support what our schools are doing and I want to continue that connection and expand it. I want to make sure in that sense that we can communicate out to our community and parents about all the good things going on in the WSD.

SEALBY: Facilities and making sure kids are getting the education they are entitled to. Wenatchee Learns, especially the job shadowing and mentoring programs, are good ways to make sure that there are opportunities for every student out there, whether they're interested college, trade school or finding a job out of school that they're qualified for. I spent several hours with a kid from Royal City who was interested in becoming an attorney. I did a job shadow with an engineer when I was in high school and learned that I didn't want to become an engineer. I think we've got enough community

Robert Sealby

Robert Sealby is 51-year old attorney who has lived in Wenatchee since 1991. He has been married to his wife, Nancy, for 24 years. His twin sons, Jacob and Lucas, were three-sport standouts at Wenatchee High School and are seniors at WSU. His daughter Ali is also a three-sport athlete and a junior at WHS. The Sealbys have also been active in their childrens' schools.



Robert Sealby

members in different fields who really seem committed to our local kids who would really be welcoming to students who have an interest in their area.

What is your position on current education reform efforts?

TALBOT: I think what I need to do is understand everything better. I need to be able to investigate it more and talk with more people who are impacted by it. I've read a lot and done research, but am not yet in a position to have a position on those reform efforts. I feel that it's very important for local school boards to make decisions about local schools. It's hard for those at the state and national level to know what's going on at the local level. Often intentions are honorable but we have to be able to evaluate and work with it at our local level. What it means for Wenatchee isn't necessarily what it means for Seattle or Spokane. We have to be careful.

SEALBY: It goes back to my earlier comments about who knows what's best for our students, those of us at the local level or those in Olympia or DC? There are different dynamics and needs in each community. I get the impression that some of the reforms are designed to make sure that students know the basics and that if they want to go beyond that we're leaving that to colleges. The dilemma is if you're in the minority you're going to be stuck with some decisions whether or not you like them. Unfortunately some financial interests are going to control what happens. I can see incentives for schools to have some kind of test to see how students do for funding purposes, but let us decide the way we get them from where they are to where we want them to be. Some kind of uniformity is helpful however the same curriculum nationwide

could be dull for teachers and students. Kids know when teachers have a passion for their subjects. Kids connect with teachers who have passion and personality, and having the same scripted lesson plans for everyone can be dull. Kids have to be taught to use their brains to go beyond what we're teaching to explore the gazillion interesting things out there. We need to let them know that we can't teach it all to them, and make them aware and encourage them to expand their horizons.

What roles & responsibilities do you feel parents, teachers and the district have in assuring student success?

TALBOT: It needs to be a collaboration. I'm really hoping through Wenatchee Learns that we can bring that forward a little more. **SEALBY:** It has to be a collaborative effort. Kids always have a different way of expressing themselves to different parts of the community. Students may tell teachers different things than their parents. Parents and teachers have to be able to discuss things respectfully and honestly and accept differences of opinion. Together we want the same thing and collectively we accomplish that. Communication is key.

Renner-Singer Selected State Civic Educator of the Year



State Senator **Linda Evans Parlette**, **Malia Renner-Singer**, and **Brad Hawkins** in Olympia, where **Renner-Singer** was presented with the State Civic Educator of the Year Award

Wenatchee High School teacher Malia Renner-Singer has been selected as Civic Educator of the Year by the Washington State Legislature in recognition of her outstanding work in education.

Renner-Singer was presented the award at the Capitol Campus in Olympia as part of Civic Education Day, when the Legislature honors the contributions of civic educators and civic education organizations on February 17th, 2014. She was nominated for the award by Representative Brad Hawkins.

Renner-Singer’s nomination highlighted her role in coordinating Project Citizen, the creative, hands-on program for high school seniors that teaches students

how to monitor and influence public policy. Renner-Singer, along with fellow civics teacher Scott Benner, invited local leaders and policymakers, including business owners, school administrators, council members, the mayor, chamber director, and all three 12th District legislators, to participate in the event.

For the project groups of students investigated a public policy problem, researched the issue, created policy alternatives, and presented them to the visiting leaders.

Hawkins wrote his nomination, “Malia Renner-Singer has gone above and beyond to ensure that her students truly experience public policy in a meaningful way.”

State & Local Dignitaries Turn Out for Civic Engagement Lesson

One high school team invited to testify in Olympia

State and local dignitaries volunteered their time to help Wenatchee High School students learn about civic engagement in an assignment called *Project Citizen*. Under the leadership of social studies teachers Malia Renner-Singer and Scott Benner, *Project Citizen* promotes competent and responsible participation in local and state government, and helps student learn how to monitor and influence public policy.

Renner-Singer came up with the idea of doing Project Citizen in place of a policy paper for seniors in Citizen Washington class, and Benner enthusiastically concurred.

“Our goal is to connect students to the processes of participatory democracy,” explains Benner. “To learn what it’s like to get involved, to get connected with people, events, and at the

same time become advocates for a solution.”

Student teams of four chose a civic problem at the state, local, county, city, or high school level. Topics ranged from homelessness and obesity, to skateboard parks and school safety. The students spent six weeks researching the problem, including current solutions, and came up with three alternative solutions. Students developed an action plan and created a visual display. Lastly, they presented their topic and solution to an authentic audience. Civic leaders were linked to a team with a relevant topic.

The team who took on the topic of obesity was later invited to Olympia by Representative Brad Hawkins. Katherine Robinson, Logan Brown, Carie Graves, and Jackie Bollinger testified to the



State Representative **Cary Condotta**, Instructor **Malia Renner-Singer**, Mayor **Frank Kuntz**, State Senator **Linda Evans Parlette**, Superintendent **Brian Fiones**, Instructor **Scott Benner**, School Board President **Laura Jaecks**, all turned out to participate in the Project Citizen Hearings Showcase.

House Committee on the Capital Budget on January 30th in support of a bill to enhance student nutrition at public schools.

Project Citizen required some extra funding, which Renner-Singer

secured through a local grant. “Once I got funding through a Classrooms Can! Grant from the Community Foundation to buy the supplies,” says Renner-Singer, “it became a reality.



Seniors **Katherine Robinson**, **Logan Brown**, **Carie Graves**, and **Jackie Bollinger** testifying in Olympia to the House Committee on the Capital Budget on January 30th in support of HB 2410, which aims to enhance student nutrition at public schools. They researched the topic of obesity for their civic engagement presentation. Representative Brad Hawkins invited them to testify in Olympia.

- Thank you to those who donated an evening to help students learn about civics, including . . .
- Washington State Legislature: State Senator, Linda Evans Parlette, State Representative Brad Hawkins, State Representative Cary Condotta
 - Wenatchee City Government: Mayor Frank Kuntz, City Council members Jim Bailey, Mark Kulaas, Keith Huffaker
 - Community members: Denise Sorom (Community Foundation), Shiloh Schauer (Wenatchee Chamber of Commerce Director), Amy Mccubbin (Drug and alcohol counselor)
 - Wenatchee School District Educators: Superintendent Brian Fiones, School Board members Laura Jaecks and Dr. Walter Newman, WHS Principal Bob Celebrezze, WHS Vice-Principals Donna Moser and Gracie Helm, and WSD Director of Safety and Security Bob King

Apple Leaf Editors on KOHO Radio

WL WENATCHEE LEARNS
rewiring local learning for a global future
Wenatchee Learns Strategy Two: Tap into the Power of our Whole Community
Key Objective: Partnerships with Businesses.

Two WHS Apple Leaf newspaper editors are reporting high school news on KOHO FM Radio.

“The Apple Leaf has been putting out some amazing stuff and they have some amazing writers, and two of them are right here,” says Dan Langager, KOHO Reporter and producer, indicating senior Bridget Dowd and junior Bryce Newberry who are sitting in KOHO’s conference room with Langager and KOHO News Director Clint Strand.

The partnership began when Bryce Newberry approached KOHO over the summer to see if he could do some type of internship with them. Newberry, who has known he wanted to be a television journalist since he was just a kid, took along some copies of the school newspaper, The Apple Leaf. As it turns out KOHO had already been tossing around the idea of working with high school

students.

“We really wanted to get involved with the high school in some way,” says Langager. “We started talks with [Apple Leaf advisor] Dave Riggs about getting together in some kind of partnership with students where they would put together stories for broadcast on KOHO,” says Langager. “We talked with Riggs about coming up with some potential students who he thought would fit in well and have the moxie and the know-how and the spirit to pull together something like this and go for it.”

And that’s where Dowd and Newberry came in. Dowd is Apple Leaf Editor-in-Chief and Newberry is Apple Leaf online editor. Langager says both students have a knack for broadcast and a desire to pursue careers in some time of journalism in the future.

News Director Clint Strand

says that having students broadcasting high school news brings a unique perspective to KOHO. “It’s a perspective that those of us who are grown ups don’t quite have,” says Strand. “And when you’re dealing with the type of training that they have at the Apple Leaf – there’s a reason why it’s been a nationally recognized newspaper for years running – it’s a killer combination. They’re great journalists and they have talents that from our standpoint are worth cultivating.”

“The whole idea is to take the most important and relevant stories from our issues and turn them into a broadcast version,” says Dowd.

Dowd and Newberry choose a story from each publication and rework it for radio. “We meet with them before school on Mondays,” says Dowd. “We go through our story assignments and they help us come up with people to talk to and angles we could take. The following week we meet again with our rough drafts and they give us their opinion, their advice and their input.”

When the story is ready Dowd and Newberry go into the KOHO studios to record. “When we went to record the first time, it was rather intimidating,” says Newberry. “But, each time that we’re in I get a little bit more comfortable behind the microphone.”

Dowd and Newberry perform their KOHO duties outside of the regular school day and earn an



Bridget Dowd, Apple Leaf Editor-in-Chief. Along with her work with KOHO, Dowd is doing a summer internship at The Wenatchee World.

elective credit through the Directed Study program with Apple Leaf Advisor Dave Riggs as their mentor.

The situation seems ideal to all involved. “If I hadn’t pursued broadcasting I wanted to become an educator,” says Strand, “so for me it’s kind of having my cake and eating it, too.”

“I think they’re just as happy to have us as we are happy to do it,” says Dowd. “They wanted an inside voice in the high school because they can’t really do that themselves. It’s a way for the community to know what’s going on in the high school from a student’s perspective.

“It goes along with Wenatchee Learns,” adds Newberry. “It’s hands on learning. I think it’s the ideal relationships between a school and community business. It really is an honor to be able to learn this skill from such professionals.”

“It’s an amazing opportunity,” says Dowd. “I don’t think a lot of kids our age have the opportunity to do this.”



Dan Langager, KOHO Reporter and producer, students Bridget Dowd, Bryce Newberry, and KOHO News Director Clint Strand at the KOHO studio.

Honors

Dave Carlson Awarded National Coaching Honor

Debate coach Dave Carlson was awarded the Diamond Coach Award by The National Speech & Debate Association’s speech and debate honor society. He received his second diamond award after earning 3,022 points on January 12, 2014. A



diamond award recognizes a professional career that combines excellence and longevity. The Association provides diamond awards based on coach points received.

Dale Blair Named 2014 Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer

Dale Blair, Certified Athletic Trainer and Director of WHS’s Sports Medicine / Fitness Program, has been selected to receive the 2014 Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award by the National Athletic Trainers’ Association (NATA). This prestigious national award recognizes exceptional and



unique contributions to the athletic training profession. It reflects a lifetime of dedication to the association and the field of athletic training at the national and district levels, and represents Blair’s many accomplishments and dedication to service. Blair will be recognized at the National NATA Convention in Indianapolis in June.

Sport Med Student Dan Poulson Presents Case Study at Nationals

Daniel Poulson, a senior in the Wenatchee High School Sports Medicine Program, has been honored with the selection of his medical case study at the national



level. He will present his study, Idiopathic Thrombocytopenic Purpura in a Female High School Swimmer, at the National Athletic Trainers Association Annual Meeting and Clinical Symposia, June 26-28 in Indianapolis, Indiana. His case study was chosen in a blind review among those submitted by college undergraduate/graduate students and university professors. Daniel is the only high school student in the nation to have a case study accepted for this prestigious conference.

WestSide Awarded Civil Rights Recognition

WestSide High School won the award for best organization at the Civil Rights and Social Justice Awards at the Multicultural Festival at the Wenatchee Valley Museum on Saturday, January 18. WestSide Principal Kory Kalahar accepted the award along with staff representatives Elizabeth Golie and Sandra Ward. WestSide was recognized for the dedicated staff who go above and beyond to provide students with numerous challenges a second chance at achieving their educational goals and dreams.



Kory Kalahar



Elizabeth Golie



Sandra Ward

WENATCHEE LEARNS
rewiring local learning for a global future

Wenatchee Learns Strategy Three: Design the personalized learning system of the future

Key Objective: Students exploring career paths

Wenatchee High School has a news station run by a group of student volunteers who put together newscasts after school on their own time. The idea for a news station came to senior Ryan Harris. “I was trying to figure out a way to get students excited about media,” says Harris. “I thought that this would be a more relevant and trendy way of getting information out to students.”

WHSN all-volunteer crew includes Co-Anchors Eduardo Ramos and Devyn Blakney, reporters Christa Dietrich, Casey Garrison, Savannah Brass, Kenison Maher, Directors/Producers Maddie Steitz, Amanda Brown and Executive Producer/



Ryan Harris, WHSN Founder, Executive Producer, Director, Cameraman, Editor

Director/Cameraman/Editor/Founder Ryan Harris. German teacher Carrie Christensen is the group advisor, also a volunteer position.

The news covers activities, sports, clubs and events around WHS. “We highlight people who are new in the school, like Mr. Celebrezze for instance,” says Ryan Harris. “We also try to get people interested in what’s going on in the school.”

WHSN is published on the high school website and broadcast in many classrooms during morning announcement time when a new segment becomes available. The news features five to eight minute episodes with

reporters and camera crew in the field conducting interviews and reporting on events. For the news broadcast itself the set, lights and cameras are set up in the hallway outside of Christensen’s classroom using equipment purchased with ASB funds.

“We film mostly on location



Eduardo Ramos and Casey Garrison

or set up our shop in the hallway.” says Harris. “We use DSLR cameras. We have a T3I Rebel and a tripod and a couple microphones and some lighting, and we take that wherever the story is and set it up.”

Then comes the editing. “For all the footage we have we maybe take ten percent and put in the final product. It takes several days of nonstop editing.”

Why do these students devote so much of their own time to the project?

“This is purely personal interest,” says Ryan Harris. “I’m already doing

Running Start full time and there really isn’t any room for an extra class period for me.”

Casey Garrison says, “I want people to know what’s going on inside our school. Sometimes the morning announcements aren’t very detailed and they don’t go into what’s actually going on. We get a bit more detailed about what’s going on.

“For me,” says Eduardo Ramos, “it’s my personal passion for journalism. I really like how professionally we like to be. It’s just good practice for someone like me that hopes to go into broadcast journalism.”

McKinney’s Lincoln Inspires Kids, Creates Scholarships

Leon McKinney taught music for twenty-five years before leaving education for the business world where he found success in the insurance business, but his thoughts and ambitions never strayed far from helping kids. About ten years ago McKinney founded H.O.P.E., a non-profit program dedicated to helping kids pursue education through community-supported scholarships for Wenatchee Valley College. H.O.P.E. was funded primarily by educators, business people, and community members. “Many of the teachers donated five dollars each month, the equivalent of one latte per month, some of whom have done that the entire ten years of the program,” says McKinney.

Over the years those donations raised \$256,000 that has been given away to 256 financially challenged students in Wenatchee and East Wenatchee in \$1,000 scholarships to Wenatchee Valley College.

McKinney got the idea to include kids in the giving and created the Frugal Philanthropist, a charitable program administered by the North Central Educational Service District Foundation.

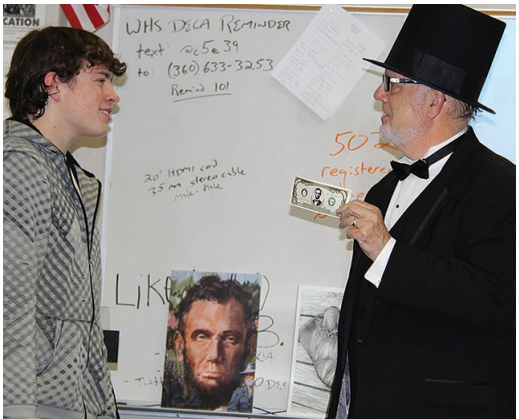
“There’s a lot of caring people who don’t have a lot of money but would be willing to donate ten cents a day and lock arms with others in the community to make the dream of going to college possible,” says McKinney. And some of those people are kids. McKinney is teaching students

to raise money to help other kids. “It’s an effort to raise funds for kids to begin their first year of college,” says McKinney, “but also to inspire them to stay in school and graduate and to help themselves by raising money that will make different in their community.”

In the last couple of years McKinney has taken on the persona of Abraham Lincoln to inspire students to read, to keep trying, and to understand the principles of success, as exemplified by Lincoln.

“It’s an avenue for me to inspire kids to stay in

school and consider attending college,” says McKinney. “To teach them about the struggles of America’s greatest leader, showing them that they, too, can persevere.”



DECA sophomore Max Valderrama with McKinney’s Lincoln. WHS DECA students are asking kids to donate ten cents a day. Twenty percent of those funds will go to the H.O.P.E. scholarship, twenty percent will help those of greatest need in Wenatchee, and sixty percent will be used by DECA to attend regional, state and national DECA programs. DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs for careers in marketing, finance, hospitality and management.

Interested in becoming a Frugal Philanthropist?

The Frugal Philanthropist program is administered through the NCESD Educational Foundation. Contact Leon McKinney at 663-2561 Email: hope4k@charter.net, or Jan Cetto, NCESD Foundation President jancetto@nwi.net, or NCESD’s Eldene Wall eldenew@ncesd.org, P.O. Box 1847, Wenatchee, WA 98807. Telephone 509.665.2629

Wenatchee Learns Connecting with Community

by Diana Haglund, Wenatchee Learns Coordinator

Being unique and doing things differently are qualities that make us individuals. In business we call this a competitive advantage. In education we call it innovation. Whatever you call it, our district's strategic vision of personalized learning is a departure from mainstream thinking. I like to call it business unusual.

A lot of unusual things have been taking place over the last six months in an effort to build resources that personalize learning. While Wenatchee Learns is a marathon and not sprint we have made significant progress toward two of the four Wenatchee Learns objectives. Personalized learning through career exploration and tapping into the power of the whole community.

Business unusual means taking what we learned from the Wenatchee Learns community campaign and applying it to our schools by

- Providing a more personal approach to the learning experience.
- Expanding "teacher" to include parents, volunteers and other partners in our community who can mentor and support learning.
- Using technology as a bridge to connect the components of personalized learning.

Business Unusual Requires Bold Moves

By creating a community outreach office known as Wenatchee Learns Connect in downtown Wenatchee, we are stepping out of our comfort zone and stepping into a world of opportunity for greater connections with our community.

Located in the heart of downtown Wenatchee at 2 S. Mission Street, the goal

of the WLConnect is to enhance volunteer and parent engagement and enhance business partnerships. The Wenatchee Learns team will be moving into the new space February 2014. The official launch of the WLConnect will be Fall 2014.

Creating Raving Fans

We are undertaking a revolution in how we engage our community. We've listened to what our "customers" really want, and are instituting effective systems that use technology to bridge the gap, and make Raving Fan Service a constant feature—not just another program of the month.

Tools for Making Connections Happen

Wenatchee Learns Connect will become an online and face-to-face portal for volunteers and business partners to connect with our students and staff.

- Simple Online volunteer application and background checking process
- Volunteer opportunity matchmaker tool. Connecting volunteers with an opportunity that matches their time and talents including online career coaching opportunities
- Business and community organizations can post information about their businesses and available experiential learning opportunities for students, like job shadows and internships.
- Tools and resources for educators to find community volunteers, project-based learning opportunities and support for student career exploration

- Parent programs that are relevant and create an encouraging, supportive home environment that supports learning.

Student Career Discovery Starts Here

Our online career exploration system, powered by Career Cruising will help students ignite a passion for their futures through in depth career discovery that bridges technology and real-life learning. Our web-based system will help students plan their futures. Students can use assessment tools to determine which career is the best fit for them, then explore detailed occupation profiles and examine



real-time student information and statistics needed to track and assist students' with making dreams a reality.

For today's students to become tomorrow's successful workforce, they need to relate what they are learning in the classroom to the real world. By expanding the role of school-based educator to our citizen and business partners we can enrich the learning experience. Encouraging students to test drive careers by connecting them with mentors, career coaches and work based learning experience like



Melissa Hernández, Diana Haglund, and Mike Wilson at the new Wenatchee Learns Connect center. The center will open for business in September, 2014. Hernández is the Volunteer and Parent Involvement Coordinator, Haglund is the Wenatchee Learns Coordinator, and Wilson is the Service Specialist.

comprehensive post-secondary education and training information. Students can move seamlessly through the career exploration and planning process, while building a comprehensive career and fifth year plan portfolio. At the same time, counselors and advisors have access to the

internships, job shadows and company tours will help them build the 21st Century skills critical in today's workplace.

Big things are happening so hold on folks. Things are about to get more unusual in a really good way.

Choice Enrollment

Parents who want their child to attend a school other than their neighborhood school must do the following:

- Enroll their child/children in their neighborhood school.
- Complete a Choice form and turn it into the District Office at 235 Sunset Avenue. The forms are available at each school or the District Office.

Important Dates:

Important information regarding Choice enrollment: Choice will be accepted between February 1st and June 1st. Choice is limited to one request per academic year.

Approval is determined by several criteria, including: Whether space is available in the grade level, program or building in which the student desires to be enrolled; attendance/discipline history; academic progress; and program availability.

Other Important Choice Information

- Parents of Choice students are responsible for providing transportation to and from school.
- Choice status can and will be revoked at any time if a student shows a pattern of attendance, discipline or academic problems.

- The district tries to accommodate everyone's wishes, but can't guarantee Choice status until the number of students enrolled at each school is known.

- Due to the fact that many residential area parents do not register their kindergarten student until just before school begins, kindergarten Choice enrollment is not typically decided until one week prior and up to one week after the start of school.

- Discovery of falsification of an address, residence or conditions of living to obtain a school admission will result in the withdrawal of the student and forfeiture of any future transfer rights through the highest grade level of that school (Board Policy 3131).



Shout Outs

Sheena Zacherle & Ali Guerrero

WestSide High School sends a Shout Out to our Gear Up Coordinator, Sheena Zacherle, and student, Ali Guerrero, for their work developing a Leadership Club. What began as an idea to create a club that could do more to give back to our school and our community has grown into a program to help explore and develop leadership skills from within the student body. The students in the club have taken on various projects such as our Veterans Day Assembly, partnering with the Salvation Army to generate gifts for children for the Christmas Holiday, and taking a trip to Cherry Blossom Retirement Home to paint finger nails and play BINGO. The club recently applied for a grant from the Central Lions Club and were awarded \$1,000 to continue in their efforts and goals.



Sheena Zacherle



Ali Guerrero

**Kory Kalahar, Principal
WestSide High School**

Caitlin Velazquez

Caitlin Velazquez, Lewis and Clark librarian, goes above and beyond her librarian duties. She works countless hours after school to make sure she is offering high quality instruction for all students. She teams up with all staff members to create projects or to bring assemblies for our school students. Caiti leads the K-Kids program in our building for which she graciously donates her time. She often helps with after school events. Thank you Caiti! —



**Alfonso López, Principal
Lewis & Clark Elementary**

Cathie Reasor

I would like to give a shout out to Cathy Reasor, the Instructional Coach at John Newbery. Over my first year and half at JNB, Cathy has been an invaluable resource, not only for the staff, but to me as well. During the past month alone, she has helped in establishing a new teacher into her classroom, supported the office



Jim Kovach Inducted into Music Educators’ Hall of Fame



Jim Kovach, music teacher at Wenatchee High School, was inducted into the Washington Music Educators Association’s Hall of Fame on February 13th, in Yakima. The award is given to recognize music teachers for exceptional support, inspiration and outstanding contribution to the growth and development of music education, both public and private, in the state of Washington. Kovach currently teaches Jazz Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Wind Ensemble, Guitar, and the award winning Golden Apple Band. He is pictured here at a GA Band performance at Pybus Market.

Tiffany Mathison

Tiffany Mathison, Mission View’s PTO representative, that was very instrumental in our playground redesign project. Thank you, Tiffany.



**Jeff Jaeger, Principal,
Mission View Elementary**

during my absence, led the staff in an excellent Professional Development, was active in our data review and much more; and this was done only spending 2 days a week in the school. Cathy’s work in our building is having a direct impact on the success of our students by giving our staff quality instructional strategies and current student academic data. Cathy’s commitment to our students, our staff and our district is commendable and greatly appreciated! Thanks for all you do!

**Kevin Loomis, Principal,
John Newbery Elementary School**

Assessment News

Spring is time for statewide testing in all public schools. Students in Washington are regularly tested by the state to assess their progress as they move through school, and high school students must pass specific exit exams or state-approved alternatives in order to be eligible to earn a certificate of academic achievement/high school diploma. Following is a summary of upcoming assessment activities by grade level.

Elementary and Middle School

With our state’s adoption of Common Core State Standards (CCSS) in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics, we are transitioning to a new, computerized adaptive test called the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA). Beginning in the spring of 2015, SBA will enable schools across the nation to uniformly measure student learning in English language arts and math. This is a large transition for states, districts, students and teachers.

Washington’s Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has invited school districts to

participate in this year’s SBA field test as a soft launch instead of our current state test. Wenatchee School District has moved forward with this opportunity to “test the test” in most elementary and all middle schools. Information from the field test experience will be used to evaluate the testing software, ensure the quality of the test questions, and to evaluate the effectiveness of the administration and training materials. Our students will be trying out new, online testing software and innovative question types. This will prepare us prior to it becoming our state-mandated test. We will learn how to best support our students as we transition from our former state test to the new SBA test.

SBA Practice Tests are available to everyone with Internet access at <http://sbac.portal.airast.org/practice-test>. No sign-up is needed and there is nothing to download. Please take a few minutes to check it out at home or at any North Central Regional Library, where a link has been provided from the desktop. Look for the big, green icon at the bottom of the page called, “Student Interface Practice and Training Tests”.

SBA tests will take three or four

hours over multiple days, which includes dynamic in-class work, performance tasks and computer testing. Each school has a unique testing schedule. Please stay tuned, as SBA participating schools will provide further information via a school communication.

Science will continue to be tested in 5th and 8th grade. End-Of-Course Algebra I and Geometry exams will be offered June 3-5.

Grades Two Through Eight

Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) are a series of computerized adaptive tests that measure general knowledge in about an hour. MAP scores provide valuable information about a student’s current understanding and teachers use the score data to tailor instruction to the individual’s need. To assist students’ learning, this data is used immediately to fine-tune instruction. Students in grades two through eight will test both reading and mathematics this spring. Students in grade eight will be tested March 24-28, the week before spring break, with the remaining grades

(two through seven) to be tested after April 7.

High School

The High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) is scheduled March 18-20 for all grade 10 students, and students in grade 11 and 12 who missed previous exams or have not yet met standard in reading and writing.

The next HSPE exam opportunity is August 12-14. If your child misses the March 18-20 exam, please plan for them to take the August assessment.

End-Of-Course (EOC) Algebra I, Geometry and Biology exams will be offered June 3-5. Students currently taking one of these courses will be scheduled to test in June. If your child is absent from testing, please plan for them to test at the next opportunity, January 2015.

High school students must attempt state assessments at least once before accessing alternate methods for meeting state assessment requirements for graduation. Please contact your school counselor for more information.

Events Calendar

MARCH

- March 5: Spring Conference Day
- March 10-14: Classified Employees Recognition Week
- March 10 - 27: WAASI-DAPE Assessments
- March 18-20: HSPE Assessments
- March 19: * WHS Drama Presents *The Miracle Worker* (details below)
- March 31 - April 4: Spring Break

APRIL

- April 21 - 25: Kindergarten Registration
- April 23 - May 30: MSP for grades 3 - 8

MAY

- May 5 - 11: Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 15: * Educational Technology Showcase (details below)
- May 26: Memorial Day holiday (no school)
- May 28: District-Wide Arts Festival at Wenatchee High School

- May 27-29: Biology End of Course Exams

JUNE

- June 3-5: Math End of Course Exams
- June 6: WHS Graduation
- June 10: WestSide Graduation

* The Educational Technology Showcase will be held May 15 from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. in the WHS Commons. The event will highlight classroom innovation grant winners, iPad pilot teachers, STEM projects, and more. The public is invited.

From Washington Elementary to Washington’s State Capitol

by Representative Brad Hawkins

The Wenatchee Valley is an amazing place to live and to raise a family. Part of what makes our area so special is our high-quality schools and the dedicated staff, students and parents that make them successful. As a graduate of Washington Elementary, Orchard Middle School, and Wenatchee High, I could not be more proud and appreciative of the education I received in the Wenatchee School District.

I apply this education each day in representing North Central Washington at the state Capitol. One of my policy areas of interest is education. Fortunately, my past school board experience and interest in this area earned me an appointment on the House Education Committee. This committee – and the Legislature as a whole – has been busy working to help address the McCleary State Supreme Court decision from 2012 regarding funding for basic education. In the McCleary case, the Supreme Court reaffirmed that it is our state’s paramount duty to adequately and equally fund public schools across Washington.

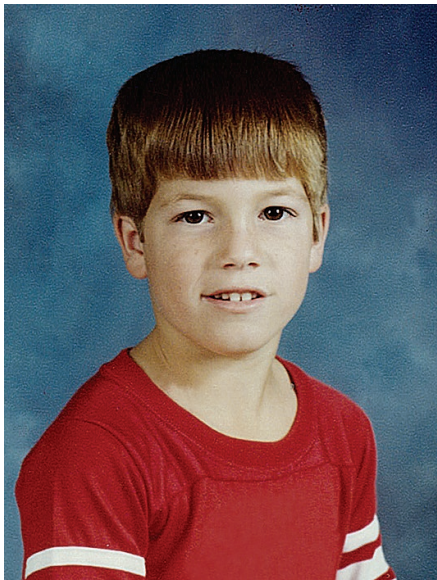
Last year, Washington state extended its legislative session to reach a bipartisan, two-year budget compromise for 2013-15. Legislators agreed to invest an additional \$1 billion in K-12 education toward meeting the McCleary ruling. Our local school districts are now beginning to see the benefits from the state’s education enhancements.

In the Wenatchee School District, John Newbery Elementary was able to fund

full-day kindergarten from state dollars rather than local levy dollars. Those dollars are now freed up for other local needs. The funding enhancements also provided funding for increased instructional hours for 7-12 grades, student transportation, bilingual education and more. In the past, school districts have been forced to depend on levies for basic materials, supplies and operating costs – last year the state began paying its fair share with \$374 million statewide. Prioritizing education funding will continue to be a key topic for the Legislature in the years ahead.

As a Wenatchee School District graduate, I am very thankful that the state and community stepped up to help provide me a high-quality education. We must continue to do this in order to prepare future generations to succeed and to serve. As a product of the Wenatchee Valley and its public schools, I am very thankful to put my local education to good use and to serve you in Olympia. Please contact me anytime at (360)786-7832, by email at brad.hawkins@leg.wa.gov, or on the web at www.RepresentativeBradHawkins.com.

Brad Hawkins (R-East Wenatchee) is a State Representative serving North Central Washington in Olympia. He received his K-12 education in the Wenatchee School District and holds a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from George Washington University in Washington, DC. He has served on the North Central ESD and Eastmont School Boards. He is the first representative from the 12th District since 1978 to serve on the House Education Committee.



Brad’s first grade photo at Washington Elementary School



Representative Brad Hawkins Official Legislative Photo

Pioneer Student Serves as Page in House of Representatives

Jack Yount, an 8th-grade student from Pioneer Middle School, recently served as a page in the House of Representatives in Olympia. He was sponsored by 12th District Rep. Brad Hawkins, R-East Wenatchee. Jack attended page school every day during his time in Olympia to better understand the operations and actions of the Legislature. He and Representative Hawkins discussed the legislative process in the House chambers, met with a group of constituents who visited and attended a committee hearing together.

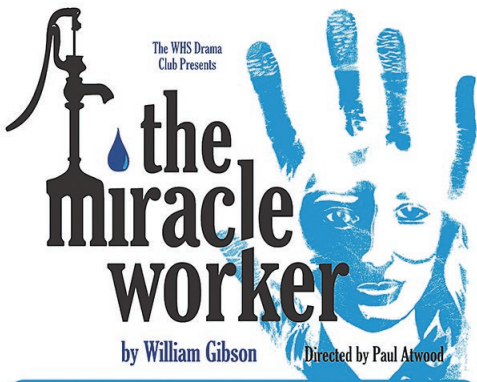


Jack also had the opportunity to present a mock bill to fellow students at the end of the week. As part of his page duties, Jack learned to navigate the many buildings on campus and delivered messages and documents to legislators and staff.

“Jack personally contacted my office last summer about coming to page this year,” Hawkins said. I’m glad he was able to come over for the week to learn how our state government operates. He is an outgoing and bright young man with a great future.”



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



March 19-22, 2014
Evening performances at 7:30 p.m.
Matinee on March 22, 2:00 p.m.
WHS Auditorium
Ticket info 888-0780
Available at Pak-it-Rite • 126 N. Wenatchee Ave.
The Miracle Worker is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French, Inc.

Inside Wenatchee Schools is a newspaper published quarterly by the Wenatchee School District Communications Office, Teri Fink, Editor (509) 663-8161. The Wenatchee School District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and 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. This holds true for all staff and for students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. Inquiries may be directed to RCW Officer, Title IX and ADA Coordinator Lisa Turner. Issues related to 504 should be directed to Chet Harum, Executive Director of Student & Support Services.
“Dentro las Escuelas de Wenatchee” está disponible en español en las escuelas de Wenatchee o en la oficina del distrito o llame (509) 663-4598.