



INSIDE WENATCHEE SCHOOLS

Dentro de Wenatchee Escuelas Públicas está disponible en español.

Teachers Earn National Board Certification



Rocio Gonzalez,
Lincoln Elementary



Michael Lasater,
Wenatchee High School



Donna Limon,
Lewis & Clark



Kristina Mason,
Lincoln Elementary



Connie Siepman,
Columbia Elementary

IN EARLY DECEMBER THE NATIONAL BOARD for Professional Teaching Standards announced that five Wenatchee teachers earned their National Board Certification and three teachers renewed certification.

Rocio Gonzalez, bilingual kindergarten teacher at Lincoln Elementary; Michael Lasater, WHS science teacher; Donna Limon, Instructional Coach at Lewis & Clark; Kristina Mason, third grade teacher at Lincoln Elementary; and William White, counselor at WHS, completed the rigorous process to earn the certification.

Teachers renewing their certification are Connie Siepman, fourth grade teacher at Columbia Elementary; Mark Woolsey, technology facilitator; and Ann Young, intervention specialist at Columbia Elementary.

"We are very proud of our teachers and they are to be highly commended for their dedication and commitment in attaining the National Board certification," says Superintendent Brian Fones. "This process is rigorous and time intensive and these teachers have stepped up to the challenge to meet nationally recognized standards for instruction."

Recognized as the gold standard in teacher certification, the mission of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is to advance the quality of teaching and learning by maintaining high and rigorous standards.

Thoughts on the National Board Certification from the Newly Certified Teachers

Rocio Gonzales. National Boards helps you to look at current best practices in teaching and have an understanding of how best students learn. Having to videotape myself and analyze the lesson helped me to see my pacing and delivery of lessons.

Michael Lasater. Earning National Board Certification is simply the process of realizing that to become an effective educator, you must continue sharpening your teaching skills and practices so that students get the best educational experience. Board certification is not a final destination, it's just a stepping stone in the journey.

Donna Limon. Earning my national board certification has been one of the most difficult challenges I have ever faced as teacher. Yet, it has been one of the most rewarding accomplishments because the process allowed me to improve my teaching practices with intention and dedication to student achievement.

Kristina Mason: The process of achieving this was grueling, to say the least. The most important thing I learned through the entire process was to be a more reflective and flexible teacher. I will be more aware of different learning styles and the need to evaluate what I taught, what worked, and what I need to reteach.

Will White. I appreciated the opportunity to examine my practices. I believe it encouraged me to be more thoughtful about my interactions, and, hopefully, students will benefit from that.

INSIDE
WENATCHEE SCHOOLS

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ECRWSS
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William White,
Wenatchee High School



Mark Woolsey,
Wenatchee Public Schools



Ann Young,
Columbia Elementary

After School Program Increases Academic Achievement

AFTER SCHOOL'S OUT AT MISSION VIEW

Elementary you'll find over 70 kids sticking around. You might find them learning about water quality from Paula Salter of the City Public Works department, or practicing rocket science with Greg Maynard, or outside running with Columbia Valley Health's Girls on the Run. At Columbia Elementary you might see kids dancing hip-hop with Ignacio Fausto, or doing a science experiment with Americorp's Trinity Korcz.

It's all part of the After School Program, a federally funded program designed to provide enriching activities outside of the school day in order to improve academic performance. The program serves about 135 students at each school who are below grade level in math or reading. It provides an after-school meal—which may serve as dinner for some students—and it gives kids a safe place to stay after school gets out. Along with Mission View and Columbia, After School Programs are in place at Lincoln and Lewis and Clark Elementary Schools, and Orchard and Pioneer Middle Schools.

Community organizations like Camp Fire, Chelan County PUD, Wenatchee Valley Museum & Cultural Center and Chelan Douglas Land Trust, among many others, partner with schools to provide enrichment activities like science experiments, robot-building, creating a school newspaper, archery, ice-skating, swing dance, arts and crafts.

Kids are eager to come to the program each day because it's fun, but it's the academic benefits that are stunning. Kids attending the program are attaining significant growth in math and reading scores—two to four times higher than their peers not in an After School program.



Carolyn Griffin-Bugert



Congressman Dave Reichert visits Mission View Elementary's After School program. The Congressman left with a promise to support the federal program to Congressional leadership and other delegates. "From my past experience in law enforcement, you invest in kids initiatives for obvious reasons," said Congressman Reichert. "It's a true investment, and it's working."

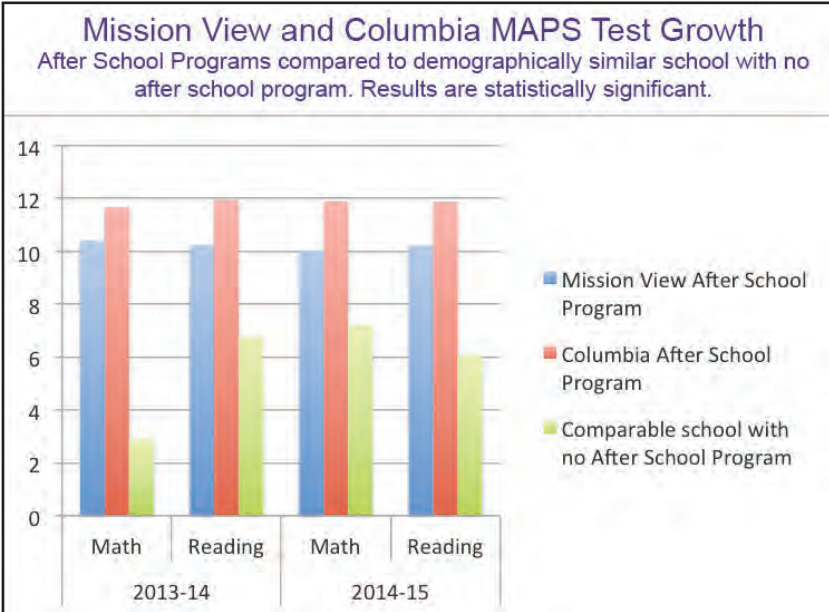
"We've really ramped up our analysis of the impact of the program. We use a statistician to look at our data," says Carolyn Griffin-Bugert who writes the grants that provide the funding and provides program oversight.

In the first year of the program Mission View after-school students' math scores nearly quadrupled compared to a demographically similar school without the program.

Griffin-Bugert attributes the academic growth to a couple of factors. "I think that it engages the brain in a whole different way. It's project-based, hands-on learning. This works better for kids who struggle in a sit down environment."

Additionally, kids are working with the After School staff, who are positive role models. "Our staff is pretty young," says Griffin-Bugert. "We hire a lot of college students. They might come from similar backgrounds. I think it helps students see school in a different light."

The data shows that the After School Program promotes verifiable academic achievement. "If you walked into the school and saw hip hop dance it might not look like an academic program," says Griffin-Bugert. "It doesn't look like school, but it's school in a different way, and it shows in the academic outcomes."



I think that it engages the brain in a whole different way. It's project-based, hands-on learning. This works better for kids who struggle in a sit down environment.

Community Partners:

- Camp Fire
- City of Wenatchee Public Works
- Chelan PUD
- Wenatchee Valley College Adult Basic Education Department
- Wenatchee Valley College Continuing Education Department
- Community Foundation of NCW
- Town Toyota Center
- Community Valley Health
- Wenatchee Valley Museum

- Woods Family Art and Music Grant
- Seattle Opera
- Chelan Douglas Land Trust
- Wenatchee River Institute
- City of Wenatchee Library
- Americorps
- Central Washington University SOAR grant
- WSU Cooperative Extension
- Cascade Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group

Site Coordinators at each school:

- Orchard: Wendy Endaya
- Pioneer: Maura Danforth
- Mission View: Ellen Smith
- Columbia: Mayra Giles
- Lincoln: Courtney Obermeyer
- Lewis and Clark: Marya Madsen

WHS ASB President Christian Brandt-Sims Connects the Dots



EVERY SUMMER BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS, Wenatchee High School's ASB meets to decide on a theme for the school year. The theme goes beyond a simple idea or concept, it's something emphasized and exuded in everything done, big or small. A commitment is made to a high standard in which the theme is upheld and actual change can be seen.

After much brainstorming and deliberation this year, we chose 'Connect the Dots'. Community, Support, Comfort, Understanding, and Unity are all words that we decided were important for this year, and we felt that "connecting the dots" encompasses our vision. To us, this means doing the best we can to integrate all groups of our student body without making anything feel forced. This also means enabling students to feel as if they are a part of something and that each individual matters, because they do. We hope to create an environment where students thrive and look to each other for support and inspiration.

There is no denying the fact that in a school the size of ours, creating change can be difficult, especially for a small group of student leaders. That's why this year we are making a great effort to utilize the many other capable and willing students

in our school. We are getting students involved in a way we never have before. Sports teams and clubs are working together, supporting each other. Students are beginning to notice the potential in their peers and that together so much more can be accomplished. Students are beginning to Connect the Dots.

Wenatchee High School is a very exciting place to be. The diversity is astonishing; every single student has something amazing to offer. We have worked hard and done a lot to make things happen this year. At times it can feel as though we are shooting for the moon but we never lose sight of our goal. Fortunately, we have someone as insightful and encouraging as Mr. Grothe, our advisor, standing along side us.

This year so far has been like no other. The decision to run for ASB President was the best one I've ever made. Serving the student body has made me some amazing relationships and some great memories. My fellow ASB members are some of my closest friends and I wouldn't want to be working with any other group of people. I have learned so much about life and myself. I can't wait to see how the rest of the year unfolds.



Construction Trades instructor Terry Fike teaches students on the job.
Photo by Joseph Grimes.

JOSH MCPHERSON AND HIS WIFE SHARON HAVE FOUR children. Ella May is 10, Levi is 8, Amelia is 5 and Gideon is 3. "Our oldest and our youngest were both born with spina bifida," says Josh. "It's been a challenge, but also a blessing. What we anticipated to be a burden has turned into just a great blessing. They're incredible, but it changes how you have to go through life."

The McPhersons have been living in a small home with narrow hallways and stairs. Wheelchairs couldn't get through doors and down hallways. Ella May couldn't use the bathroom or take a shower. She couldn't fix a sandwich or set the table. And their home couldn't accommodate the addition of a wheelchair when Gideon grew old enough to need one. Josh and Sharon knew they needed to build a home where the children could thrive.

They weighed their options and decided the most cost effective route was to build a new home designed to accommodate two wheelchairs. "ADA [Americans with Disabilities Act] houses are very expensive," says Josh. "Bathrooms and kitchens, everything's custom."

Construction Trades Class Helps Build Home for Family with Special Needs



Josh and Sharon McPherson. Second row: Ella Mae (10), Levi (9). Third row: Amelia Claire (5), Gideon (3)

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F O C U S

on Sunnyslope Elementary



Photograph by John Marshall

Meet Sunnyslope Principal Dave Perkins

DAVE PERKINS GREW UP IN SEATTLE AND GRADUATED FROM WASHINGTON

State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Studies. After graduation he and his wife, Amber, moved to Phoenix, Arizona where he taught middle school social studies and she taught second grade and kindergarten. David went on to earn his Masters Degree from Northern Arizona University in Educational Leadership. Next, he took a position as a Dean of Students at a K-8 school. He came to Wenatchee in 2014 when he accepted the assistant principal position at Wenatchee High School. Dave and Amber have a four-year-old son, Grant.

Fun Principal Fact: Dave appeared on the television show Jeopardy in March 2015. "I'm a big fan of the show and I've watched it for most of my life," Dave says. "It was a goal I wanted to accomplish for a long time, a goal I honestly never expected to achieve," says Dave. He also says he has lots of useless knowledge—like geography, dates, presidents, and sports facts—that came in handy on Jeopardy.

(Continued on page 5)



Students win prizes as part of the weekly Paw ticket drawing. "When students do one of our three traits—show respect, solve problems, make good decisions—paw tickets are awarded," explains principal Dave Perkins. All tickets are put into a drawing. Each Friday at lunch tickets are drawn and winners select a prize and get their photo posted on a bulletin board. It's all part of PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports) behavior management framework.

A 1958 architectural drawing of the new Sunnyslope Elementary School.



Principal Dave Perkins
Office Manager Deanne Erickson

Date founded: 1914

Sunnyslope was its own school district until it joined Wenatchee School District in 1958. The school was completely renovated in 2004.

Demographics

311 students; 20 teachers; 39 total staff.

Mascot

Wolf. In the 1940's there were two mascots, the Cougars and the Panthers, but the wolf was adopted in later years.

Colors

Red and White

What Makes Sunnyslope unique in the district?

It's small in size, a "country school" with a highly experienced staff.

School Culture

Friendly, welcoming, inviting, and respectful. Supportive of each child's education. "We meet them where they are and help them grow to where they need to be," says principal Dave Perkins, who says there's a high level of involvement by everybody with high expectations for self and others. "Learning to care; caring to learn."

What are Sunnyslope Traditions and Celebrations?

Fun Night, Root Beer Social, Music Programs, Missoula Children's Theatre, Field Day, strong year-end BBQ, abundant enrichment activities and classroom celebrations.

How is your PTSA contributing to your school?

Members of Sunnyslope Elementary's Parent, Teacher, Student Association (PTSA) are very active. One big event they created was the Super Hero Scramble. They wanted to conduct a fundraiser that was fun and healthy. Parents Marnie Kocher, Amy Kiesz, Jena Bolles, Robyn Demirian, Sarah Knoop and Meilyn Ivey are just some of the PTSA volunteers who created the event where kids dress up as super heroes, and run an obstacle course. It's not a competition—kids are encouraged to do it just for the fun of it. Local companies, including Biosports and CrosSport Performance, donated equipment for the course. The funds raised are used for technology, an art program for kindergartners, and to spruce up some outdoor big toys. You'll find PTSA members at school every day helping teachers and working with student activities before and after school.

SUNNYSLOPE

(Continued from page 4)

Q&A with Dave Perkins

Q. What made you want to be principal of Sunnyslope?

DP. I love the idea of the small size of the school and its reputation for high academic performance. The staff is a group of highly skilled teachers and educators. It is the best job on the planet.

Q. What have you found about Sunnyslope so far that is outstanding?

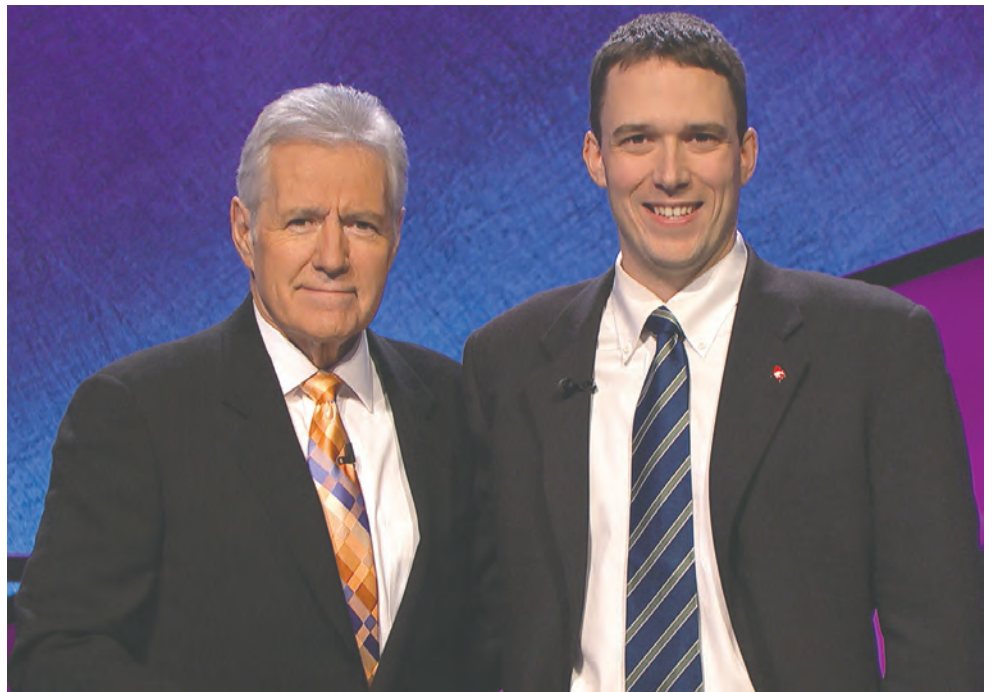
DP. The students are collectively the nicest group of young people that I've ever met. The staff members are very self-motivated, hard working, and committed to the craft of teaching; they create a truly positive learning environment where children have the ability to reach their maximum potential. The amount of parent involvement is outstanding in terms of time, effort, energy, and quality.

Q. What are your goals as principal?

DP. Learn every student's name and something about them as individuals, support staff by being a good listener and problem solver, approach each day with enthusiasm and positivity.

Q. Tell us something about you that know one knows.

DP. I am ambidextrous.



Jeopardy's Alex Trebek with Sunnyslope principal Dave Perkins. Dave appeared on the television show Jeopardy in March 2015. "It was a goal I wanted to accomplish for a long time – a goal I honestly never expected to achieve," says Dave. He also says he has lots of useless knowledge – like geography, dates, presidents, and sports facts – that came in handy on Jeopardy.



An old-fashioned potato sack race was one of the events in the Super Hero Scramble. Members of Sunnyslope's PTSA decided they wanted to conduct a fundraiser that was fun and healthy. "We wanted to get rid of the cookie dough sales," says PTSA member Marnie Kocher. Kids dress up as super heroes, and run an obstacle course, just for the fun of it. The money raised is used for technology, an art program for kindergartners, and to spruce up some outdoor big toys.



Singers in the Christmas program. Photo by Joseph Grimes.



Sunnyslope celebrated its 100th Anniversary in February 2014. Former teachers and staff joined in the celebration.

College and Career Expo

OVER 2,100 HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE region attended the NCW College and Career Expo on November 4 at Wenatchee Valley College.

Representatives from businesses, vocational training, military, colleges and universities talked with students about future careers and educational opportunities. Over one hundred organizations, including twenty colleges and universities, participated. The Expo is a community effort to connect students with employers and training programs.

“While career and college fairs are important for students as they explore career paths, they are equally important for businesses and the broader community,” says Diana Haglund, Wenatchee Learns Coordinator who co-organized the event. “It’s critical for business to introduce their professions and industries to students that may not otherwise know about them.”

High School students came from all across North Central Washington, including Wenatchee, Eastmont, Chelan, Cascade, River Academy, Waluke, Wilson Creek, Moses Lake and Brewster.

The NCW College and Career Expo was organized under the leadership of Diana Haglund and Dennis Conger, Wenatchee School District Career and Technical Education Director, in partnership with Wenatchee Valley College.

The NCW College and Career Expo is supported by a Stronger Schools grant from the Community Foundation of North Central Washington.

“Teachers can help students develop the academic skills needed to be successful but the business community can help students connect those skills to a career,” says Haglund. “The NCW College and Career Expo provides students with an opportunity to connect the dots.”



Pat Tracy of Wenatchee Valley College's Medical Laboratory Technician program shows students parasites and diseased blood using microscopes.

Choice Changes

CHOICE IS A PROGRAM THAT MANAGES students who wish to transfer from one school to another within our District or from outside the District. The Wenatchee School District School Board has recently approved changes to policy No. 3131 (In-District Transfers) & 3141 (Non-Resident Students) regarding school Choice. These changes will help with major issues the district has been experiencing such as, buildings becoming full, large class sizes, and requests being denied yet parents appealing those denials.

Also, beginning with 2016-17 school year, district elementary class size limits will be reduced, resulting in less room for Choice acceptance. Below are some of the key changes parents need to know for the upcoming year.

1. The open window for submitting Choice

applications for the 2016-2017 school year is February 1 through March 31. Any in-district applications that are received after this period will be put on a “waitlist” and will not be considered during the choice acceptance meeting. Out-of-District choice requests received after the open period will be denied with the option of being placed on a waitlist if the parent desires.

2. For grades 1 through 8, parents will be notified of Choice request decisions (approval/denials) by mid-May. Choice decisions for Kindergarten students will not happen until the end of August. Late notice is necessary to ensure that students who reside within the school boundaries have registered and Choice acceptance does not create class overloads.

3. Because class size limits cannot be

exceeded, appeals will not be heard if a student’s Choice application is denied due to lack of space availability. To put it simply, we cannot make a class “less full” in order to accept more kids.

4. Daycare location will not be considered a “special hardship” when determining Choice acceptance.

5. Finally, on the District website, on the Choice webpage, there will be a grid showing which schools/grade levels will be accepting Choice applications and which are already full. If requests are submitted for a school/grade that is marked as full, those applications will be automatically placed on a “waitlist.”

For complete details, please go to the WSD website at www.wenatcheeschools.org. Choose “For Parents” and under WSD Parent Links choose “Choice Enrollment.”

Rod Koski Recognized for Excellence



Gathering to honor Rod Koski were Scott Stanford of Chelan County PUD, Jon DeJong, Deputy Superintendent, Rod Koski, Greg Thompson, Director of Mainenance and Operation, Shiloh Schauer, Executive Director of Wenatchee Chamber of Commerce, and Diana Haglund, Wenatchee Learns Coordinator.

ROD KOSKI, SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTRICIAN, WAS recognized by the district for his initiative in saving money through energy conservation and for overall excellence.

“Rod will take the steps to save the district money and find ways to complete a project within his budget,” Greg Thompson, Director of Maintenance and Operations, wrote in his nomination. “Most recently Rod worked with the PUD to receive thousands of dollars in lighting rebates.”

Koski worked with Scott Stanford, commercial energy efficiency advisor for Chelan County PUD, to replace outdated lighting at a cost savings.

To honor Rod’s excellence, he was named Operational Division Employee of the Quarter, a new award in the district. Along with Rod’s colleagues and district staff, guests at the award presentation included Scott Stanford of Chelan County PUD and Shiloh Schauer, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce. Shiloh presented Rod with gifts from the Chamber, including Wenatchee Wild tickets and wine tasting vouchers.

Shout Outs

Here's a great, big shout out to my fellow Intervention and ELL Specialists at Columbia Elementary; **Kim Cuevas, Shelley Henry**, and **Ann Young!** We've faced and conquered more challenges than ever this year. Through everything, you've shown amazing professionalism, grace, humor, empathy, and integrity. I am so happy to be able to call each of you my teammate and friend. The A-Team is unstoppable!

● Lorenda Tangen, Intervention Specialist, Columbia Elementary

I would like to send a Shout Out to **Theresa Berger** in Food Service. She has been our hero over the years at Newbery. Whenever we need any kind of catering, she is always so willing and cheerful and works very hard to meet our needs. She always goes the extra mile to make sure everyone is happy. I just want her to know how appreciative we are for all she does for us!

● Kathy Fulkerson, Office Manager, John Newbery Elementary

One of my manager's computers recently crashed and **Craig Stewart** was set on the task of attempting to recover important data from the hard drive. When we discussed his progress, he reported that things were not looking good for the data to be recovered. I just assumed the data was lost. A couple of days later Craig came by to say he had tried a new approach and recovered all the data. This was such a pleasant surprise! Craig doesn't give up. I appreciate his mad skills and his top-notch customer service!

● Kent Getzin, Director Food Services

I have the privilege of working with an incredible team of para educators working at Ninth Street Preschool in a classroom specifically designed for 3, 4, and 5 year olds with autism. These women provide very specific individualized direct instruction and take comprehensive data every day. They are organized, efficient, kind, enthusiastic, intelligent women and it shows in the progress their students make each and every day. Each one of them is an exceptional employee in and of themselves, but, collectively, they are a dynamite team making a true difference in the lives of the students they teach!! Way to go **Katie Hupp, Deana Oudeans, Kara Babst, Beth Lockwood, Kim Drolet, Holli Brown, Gladys Garibay, Pam Harrison** and **Lila Carta**.

● Heidi Schroeder, Special Education Teacher

A huge shout out to the life skills paraeducators at Wenatchee High School: **Roberta Solomou, Carolyn Paule, Ryan Boone, Amanda Brouse, Christine Amadio, Frank Fabian**, and **Tammy Houtchens**. Your combined flexibility, patience, and genuine care for our students is amazing. I am very fortunate to get to work with such a great group of people. Also, thank you **Judy Milliette** for your physical therapy expertise with our students. We look forward to seeing you each week!

● Kelly Wennerberg, Life Skills Teacher, Wenatchee High School

My shout out goes to **Tina Nicpan-Brown**, 5th Grade teacher at Abraham Lincoln Elementary. Tina got a grant and organized the Hour of Code at her school. Students from all over the district and private schools were invited to two nights of coding along with fun and games, including \$500 in prizes. The turnout was tremendous and Tina's hard work was apparent in how smooth things went. A handful of community members, school board members, administrators, teachers and many, many parents and students were in attendance learning to be coding literate. Great job Tina!

● Ray Birks, Instructional Technology Facilitator

Steve Morris is an extremely diligent and hardworking employee. He is very efficient in completing all of the custodial procedures required during his service hours. Steve will also come early to remove snow, so that all staff and students have clear walkways. Steve enjoys interacting with students, encouraging positive behaviors, and hardly misses a day (even with a broken finger!) Steve is an outstanding employee! He deserves recognition.

● Johnette Hessburg, Teacher, John Newbery Elementary

Shout out to WHS Teachers **Jackie Andrewjeski, Paula Fendley, Rudy Joya, Patrick Loftus, Diane Owen, Denise Permin**. They are reaching students in need of extra support by implementing our new Intensified Algebra program, which combines numerous strategies, resources, and powerful tools to support efficient learning of mathematical concepts and skills. WHS Associate Principal **Ricardo Iniguez** and Math Facilitator **James Swanson** have done a great job of leading this work.

● Sarah Hanchey, Director of Curriculum & Instruction

Greg Thompson [Director of M&O] and his crew went above and beyond to ensure a successful grounds prep and installation for Columbia's new toy. Greg personally worked with his crew to ensure proper site preparation. The extra effort and personal involvement was greatly appreciated.

● Bill Eagle, Principal, Columbia Elementary School

Shout out to the **Maintenance Carpenters and crew** for beginning the drive in storage area of the warehouse for storage of the Sand Truck and other essential items! Brrr... it's cold out there and they are working in inclement weather!

● Kathryn Toftness, Warehouse Materials Manager

I would like to give a HUGE shout out for our Recess Teachers! **Ana Najera, Doretha Aguilar, Diana Zamudio** and **Matt Bromley**. Our students are so blessed by the support they offer while at recess every day. I love having them at our school: They are proactive to prevent behavior to escalate, team players when interventions need to be placed outside with a "YES! let's try something else" attitude and kind hearted when approaching our students if need be. They are one of the best teams I have had the pleasure to work with. I am so proud of you all!

● Gioconda Jackson, School Counselor, Lewis & Clark

Ed Richards has done an amazing job assisting administration with the safety changes at lunch. His positive leadership and willingness to make connections with students is very much appreciated. Thanks, Ed.

● Donna Moser, WHS Assistant Principal

Shout out to **Lance Coleman** from M&O, HVAC Tech. For always being willing to help with our buildings' unique heating and cooling system. And following up to make sure all is good. Thanks Lance.

● Cynthia Truscott & 9th Street Preschool Staff

One of the routes I drive takes me past John Newberry Elementary. At approximately 7:40 AM every day the traffic is very hectic and there are little kids everywhere. One thing that stands out is the female crossing guard **Tamara Schneider** and her little helpers. She does an excellent job at keeping watch of all the cars, buses and kids, making sure that everything is going smoothly and safely as possible. She smiles once in a while but mostly there is intense positive concentration going on, and it is wonderful to watch a person take their job that seriously. I wish to have her actions acknowledged and approved in the form of 110% recommendation for a job well done. I understand safety very well and that crossing guard is spot-on.

● Russell Schwaberow, driver for Link Transit

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Wenatchee School Board

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Dates to Remember

- ➔ **February 15:** Presidents' Day
- ➔ **March 2:** Spring Conference Day
- ➔ **March 14-18:** Classified Employees Recognition Week
- ➔ **March - May:** Smarter Balance Assessment Grades 3-8
- ➔ **April 4-8:** Spring Break
- ➔ **April 18-22:** Kindergarten Registration
- ➔ **April - May:** Smarter Balance Assessment Grade 11
- ➔ **April - June:** MSP Assessment for Grades 5 & 8
- ➔ **May 2-6:** Teacher Appreciation Week
- ➔ **May 30:** Memorial Day
- ➔ **June 3:** Wenatchee High School Graduation
- ➔ **June 7:** WestSide High School Graduation
- ➔ **June 10:** Last Day of School

CONSTRUCTION CLASS BUILDS HOME

(Continued from page 3)

Josh, pastor of Grace City Church, took a sabbatical to build a larger house. Meanwhile the congregation undertook a secret fundraising effort, surprising the McPhersons with a gift of over \$200,000 to help build their home. People also stepped forward to donate the plumbing, cabinets, HVAC, and more. "It just went way beyond us in terms of how we were being blessed," says Josh.

Their new home will be 3,800 square feet and include five-foot hallways, three-foot doors, ADA counter tops, and a covered porch and patio all around the home for the kids in their wheelchairs. The house will be plumbed for dialysis so the children don't have to go to the Dialysis Center. "There are lots of things about the house that make it unique and work for them," says Josh.

Terry Fike is the Construction Trades teacher at the Wenatchee Valley Technical Skills Center, where he makes sure his students get hands-on building experience. Terry had known Josh for many years, and when he heard of the new house he offered to have his students work on the house. Josh agreed, and Terry's students have been working on the house ever since.

"They've saved us thousands and thousands of dollars and did a ton of great work," says Josh. "There's no way we could have afforded this home that works for our family without their help."

Josh has no doubts about having students work on his home. "I trust Terry implicitly. Terry said his students won't do everything right the first time, but he guarantees they'll get it done right when it's finished."

"It might take us a little longer," Terry told Josh, "but it will be done well."

"I thought if my house could be used as a training ground for these young men, then I'm all over it," says Josh. "If it takes us a few extra weeks, in the scheme of things, who cares? And they've just done exceptional work. No



"It makes me try to make everything I work on to the best that I can, to help people who really need it," says WHS sophomore Jeovani Espinoza. Photo by Joseph Grimes.

corners get cut. No shortcuts get taken. It's really, really good work, so I couldn't be happier."

Terry's students are setting the windows, installing exterior doors, putting on the siding, and hanging some sheet rock, and the kids feel a real sense of accomplishment working on the house.

"You feel good inside knowing it's going to go for a family like that," says WHS senior Oscar Sanchez. "It's really heartwarming."

"It makes me try to make everything I work on to the best that I can, to help people who really need it," says WHS sophomore Jeovani Espinoza.

"They're great guys," says Terry of his students. "I love working with these guys."

"We couldn't have done this without everyone's help, especially Terry's and the guys," says Josh. "We just feel grateful. Really grateful, really grateful"

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