



WSD

EXCHANGE

February 2014

*Sharing staff news & information in
Wenatchee School District*

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Welcome to this New Staff Newsletter

This new eNewsletter, called **WSD Exchange**, is a tool for information sharing throughout the school district.

Results from a survey of staff regarding district communications sent out in November 2013 showed that there is interest in internal communications. The survey results showed the most popular types of in-house communication are district email blast and eNewsletters.

This eNewsletter will be sent to all staff in PDF form through district email.

Survey results also showed that most people are interested in employee professional development (58.1%), HR & Payroll information (57%), district wide events (55.3%), Teaching and Learning news (49.7%), and Technology Information (48.2%) among other topics. It's the goal of this newsletter to address those information categories and other news from throughout the district.

Contribute news & events to newsletter editor Teri Fink at:
fink.t@mail.wsd.wednet.edu

**I often quote myself.
It adds spice to my
conversation.**

George Bernard Shaw

Kudos

Dave Carlson Receives National Coaching Award

The National Speech & Debate Association, the Speech and Debate Honor Society, announced Dave Carlson as its newest diamond coach. Carlson received a second Diamond Award after earning 3,022 points on January 12, 2014. A diamond award recognizes a professional career that combines excellence and longevity. On June 19, 2014, Carlson will receive special recognition at the National Speech & Debate Tournament in Overland Park, Kansas. Congratulations!



Curriculum Aligned to New Standards in Math and Science

By Jodi Smith Payne, Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning

The Challenge

High quality curriculum aligned to Math Common Core State Standards and Next Generation Science Standards is not yet available. Because publishers have to consider significant instructional changes, they are in the process of creating new curriculum rather than moving existing curriculum from one grade level to another. This takes time. Once quality materials are available, we plan to conduct a thorough process to determine which programs best meet the needs of the students in our district. We have begun to collect sample materials, and we intend to spend next year comparing programs so we can train staff and begin implementation in the near future.

Changes in the Standards

Cathy Reasor, Newbery Instructional Coach and Washington State Mathematical Fellow, believes the changes in the new standards can be described in three words: focus, coherence, and rigor. Rigor includes

conceptual understanding, fluency, and application. Patrick Kjack, Secondary Math Coach and Washington State Mathematical Fellow, goes on to explain another significant change in the standards - the addition of “practice standards” in both math and science. Practice standards describe what it means to “do” math and science **across all grade levels**, whereas the content standards outline what students are expected to understand and do **at each grade level**.

Interim Solutions

Regional, state, and national experts are telling us to deepen our understanding of the standards while we wait for quality materials. We are studying scales, using released Smarter Balanced Assessment items, and trying out Open Educational Resources (OER) in order to apply our knowledge of the new math standards. Open Educational Resources are digital curriculums that exist in the public domain or have been released under an open license. They can be used free of charge and distributed

widely.

As a district, we are supporting the use of select OER materials developed by states that received grants for this purpose. Some of our elementary math teams applied and received permission to replace the district-adopted curriculum with **Georgia Math**. For grades 6-8 and Algebra 1, we are providing math units from **Engage New York**. These programs were selected because of their alignment to **both** the content **and** the practice standards. Due to their digital format, we printed notebooks locally, and we are offering limited professional development. We believe initial use of these early programs will serve as a strong introduction to a new generation of math instruction and assessment.

Middle school science teachers are also looking at temporary curricular solutions, while our elementary science team is working to determine whether our current science kits can be adapted to meet the expectations of new science standards at K-5.

Patience Required

So, while we patiently wait for high quality curriculum to be published, we will continue to use open source materials that are aligned to both content and practice standards.



Jodi Smith Payne



Cathy Reasor
Elementary Coach



Patrick Kjack
Secondary Math Coach

Thank You!

Everywhere we look, teachers are working hard to understand the impact of the new standards and to fill the gaps they see in our current curriculum. Thank you! Your efforts are truly appreciated.

Science Updates Field Experience for 5th Graders

Fifth graders will be heading to Saddlerock April 15-17, 2014 for the annual Shrub-steppe 'n Up Saddlerock science field experience, but their experience will change from the station model of past years, where students rotated to different stations for instruction and practice. Starting this year the experience will be inquiry based, using an "Adopt a Plot" model, and will be done in

conjunction with Chelan/Douglas Land Trust.

"Each school will get a plot at Saddlerock," explains Jill Fineis, Science Field Coordinator. "Each classroom will have their own 60' x 40' plot." Classes will record the longitude and latitude of that spot, and fifth grade teachers will return to that same plot with their students every year.

Students will work in groups of four, assisted by

a Chelan/Douglas Land Trust volunteer. Fineis says that students will practice what scientists do — observe, record, and draw — collecting information that will be used by the Land Trust to determine how Saddlerock is changing over time.

"In the new changes with the next generation science standards, there is more emphasis on science practices, not just the memorization of facts,"

says Fineis. The science program goal is to reflect Next Generation practices and meet Common Core standards.

Fineis and Ariaahna Jones, the new Science Resource Center Specialist, will be spending about 40 minutes in each fifth grade classroom preparing students and teachers for the new field experience.

Questions: Email Jill Fineis at fineis.j@mail.wsd.wednet.edu

Jill Fineis: K-8 Science Coordinator

Science Field Coordinator since 2012, Jill Fineis recently stepped into the role of K-8 Science Coordinator and will help with the WSD's transition to the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). As a STEM steering committee member she is writing curriculum for new field experiences, which will align with STEM and NGSS. Previously, Jill was the **Dean of Students and faculty in Outdoor Education at Sterling College in Vermont**. She taught coursework in ecology, and developed new curriculum for the courses, "Education and Culture" and "Small Group Dynamics." At Sterling, as well as Prescott College in Arizona, Jill taught adventure education and developed backcountry ski and avalanche programs. **Her masters research, at Montana State University, focused on the efficacy of Teton Science School's residential High School Field Ecology program--** a place she spent living, working, and studying for a year. **A certified teacher, Jill brings experience in not only teaching at the middle and high school level in biology,** but also the experience of classroom management and **standards based curriculum development.** Jill is a passionate educator concerned about equity in STEM and project based learning in addition to a student's connection to place.



Ariaahna Jones: Science Resource Center Specialist

Ariaahna Jones has combined her passions of experiential education, outdoor adventure and environmental conservation in various positions over the past ten years. She grew up in Eastern Washington and moved to Bellingham, WA to attend Western Washington University, Huxley College of the Environment.

Her undergraduate was focused on Environmental Resource Management, Environmental Education and GIS (Geographic Information Systems). She then continued her education and obtained her **M.Sc.**

in Integrated Water Resource Management from McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. Throughout her time in and out of school, she has also worked as a river raft guide and an outdoor wilderness therapy field instructor. She is passionate about Experiential and Outdoor Education and continues to lead summer trips for international high school service learning programs. Ariaahna has also worked as an **Outreach Coordinator for environmental consulting companies and for the Department of Ecology as an Environmental Conservation Specialist.** She has traveled extensively and through all of her adventures she has brought an enthusiasm for mutual learning & growth between individuals, different cultures and the natural world around us.

LETRS Training

LETRS, Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling, is a professional development program for teachers. It's not an instructional

increase understanding of how children learn to read across all of our elementary grades. The knowledge will help teachers address the needs of students as

as part of the Reading Initiative. Teachers will be compensated for this required training, which will be offered through the Teacher Academy. Specific



Susan Miller teaching LETRS

program for students. The LETRS curriculum includes theoretical and research bases for teaching student how to read, write and use language.

LETRS training for classroom teachers will

identified through DIBELS testing.

Over the next two years all elementary classroom teachers and intervention specialists will be trained on LETRS (Module 1)

training dates and times will be announced soon.

Questions? Contact Susan Miller:
miller.s@mail.wsd.wednet.edu

New Briefs

NEW ROLE FOR MELISSA HERNANDEZ

Melissa Hernández is the Wenatchee Learns Volunteer and Parent Involvement Coordinator, a new position

created to support parent and volunteer initiatives as part of Wenatchee Learns. Melissa will continue her current role until the end of the school year.

NEW WEB SOFTWARE

New web software for every website in the school district will be implemented over the summer in order to create a professional appearance, consistency between buildings, and ease of use for teachers and staff who use the web to communicate with the public and students.

COUNSELORS

Jan Albin-Bullock, Foothills & WestSide

Jim Bowen, Lincoln

Ronda Brender, Orchard

Kristen Callison, WestSide

Deborah Carlson, Sunnyslope

Bethany Fink, Mission View

Jay Higgins, Newbery

Mary Howie, WHS

Gioconda Jackson, Lewis & Clark

Tonya Luinstra, WHS

Aaron MacKenzie, Washington

Sara McManus, WHS

Marc Miller, Foothills

Kelli Ottley, Columbia

Nancy Snyder, WestSide

Doug Taylor, WHS

Thomas Tilton, Orchard & Pioneer

Tim Trainor, Pioneer

William White, WHS

National School Counseling Week



WHS counselors Doug Taylor, Will White, Sara McManus, Tonya Luinstra, Mary Howie with principal Bob Celebrezze. "Their hard work, passion and dedication is evident in all they do," says Vice Principal Gracie Helm. The WHS Counselors were serenaded by the Chamber Singers as part of counselor's week.

It's National School Counseling Week, a recognition of the tremendous impact school counselors have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career. Thanks to all school counselors for your unique contribution to students and public education. You are appreciated!