

April 2015

SCREAMING

EAGLES



TEACHERS AND BUILDING LEADERS...

Teachers make the difference at WestSide High School. Our teachers are content experts in their respective fields, but our students would say they care for them first and foremost. For our young people today who struggle with school and academics, we need more compassionate role models. We need to take the time to get to know these students at a deeper level in order for them to have enough trust to try – enough trust to take a risk. Often students need the hope of future success re-instilled in them and being a content expert doesn't always get the job done. Our teachers today at WestSide are more patient, more caring, and more willing to do whatever it takes for ALL students to learn.

We want our young people to be strong enough to overcome challenges and obstacles placed in front of them. We want our young people to take charge of their education and push themselves to excel in their academics and extra-curricular activities enough to become well rounded young adults. We want them to learn the curriculum and master the standards. Whew! We also want them to raise their heads proudly as they walk across the stage in June and receive the diploma they have worked so hard to earn and our teachers have worked so hard to ensure that they have, in fact, earned it. But the reality is that these things are not enough anymore. Our students need something else in their high school experience...our students need to be fulfilled in other ways during their education in high school as well. They need opportunities to be given true responsibilities, they need to be able to embrace challenges that seem insurmountable but real, and they also need a chance to give back even when they do not necessarily have anything to give. Our students are able to achieve these additional learning opportunities through our Leadership Club at WestSide – this club gives them responsibilities, ability to

give back to their school, community and the world, and it is building young adults that have a real purpose.

Many of the students that find their way to WestSide have had experiences that have led them away from the traditional high school path. Many are behind in credits due to struggling in content areas, ill effects of poverty, suffering from Adverse Childhood Experiences, social anxiety, autism, and the list goes on and on. Many have never experienced any true leadership opportunities and many have not been given adequate responsibilities to build any sort of trust. This is why it is so important that we are able to provide these experiences for our students at WestSide and how they have been able to overcome so many different obstacles to rise above their life scenarios.

One of the things that I like to share with folks is the concept Alternative Education – its not the students who are alternative, its our instructional delivery model that is different. Our clientele changes each and every year and we have to find new and different ways of engaging them in the classroom. The amount of distractions that are at the finger tips of our students these days are incredible as they can twitter, pinterest, instagram, snapchat, and of course the evil of all evil the facebook.

Graduation requirements are now at an all time high as well with 22 credits – Fifth year plans – state assessments in Reading, Writing, Algebra, Geometry, and Biology for the class of 2015. Our current 8th graders will have to have a new set of graduation requirements that bumps the number of credits to 24 as part of the Core 24 legislation. All the more reason to engage our students in giving back through Leadership responsibilities.

Third Annual Super Bowl Fundraiser!

For the third year in a row, the Wenatchee Downtown Rotary Club and WestSide High School teamed up to support the science program at WestSide and raise donations for the WestSide Fund through the NCW Community Foundation. This year, Maynard Man took a different spin on the event and decided to have a Pre-Game Rally. This proved to be an excellent idea and he joined forces with Norma Gallegos and her team of tamale makers to develop a pre-game tamale sale.

Between Norma's team of seasoned tamale making veterans, many Rotary members, a variety of WestSide staff members, and lots of students from our Leadership Club, we made and sold over 1200 tamales and raised \$2,000 for the WestSide Fund. A HUGE thank you to Maynard and Norma as well as the Pybus Market for allowing us to occupy the community kitchen for the entire Super Bowl weekend. Next year will be an even larger event. Go Hawks!

Poetry Out Loud

The Poetry Out Loud competition takes place in 4 stages. Rod Molzahn and Mike Hartley organized a school competition in January and 2 participants advance to regionals in Yakima. The winner and runner up at regionals advance

to state and the winner of state advances to nationals. The national winner is awarded a sizable scholarship.

Star Medina- Star was our school champion! She recited two very complex poems brilliantly. Star was several months pregnant during the school competition and inspired all of us with her commitment to the program. Due to her advanced pregnancy, Star was unable to make the trip to Yakima, but she won a \$25 gift certificate for winning the school event. A few weeks after regionals, Star gave birth to a beautiful daughter.

Dylan Yant- Dylan was our runner up in the school competition and advanced to regionals in Yakima. Dylan performed "A Blind Fisherman" and "Song". While at the regionals, Dylan was one of the first performers and set the tone for a strong competition. Dylan was the first student to commit to the competition and for 6-8 months was our only participant and primary recruiter. (Continued on page 5)



Poetry Out Loud
Participants: Dobby Day,
Dylan Yant, Thea Stender,
and Star Medina

Important Dates:

April and May:
Smarter Balance
Testing - 10th and
11th
May 25: Memorial
Day - No School!
May 27: Biology End
of Course Exam
(EOC)
June 2: Algebra EoC
June 3: Geometry
EoC
June 11: Graduation
and the last day of
SCHOOL

Go Eagles!



Staff, students, and
Rotarians come together for
tamale making fun for Super
Bowl 2015!

Visit our website at
wshs.wsd.wednet.edu

SCREAMING EAGLE TIDBITS

Email Message:

Mr. Lynch I just want to thank you, WestSide, Mr. Kalahar, and the entire staff for making it possible for me to graduate, I'm living a dream right now and it was all made possible because of WestSide and everyone at WestSide! I'll never forget what WestSide did for me and means to me! If you ever have any students or anyone talking trash about WestSide tell them to contact me! I'm going to data school, fit training and enrolling in more college classes when I'm done with data in the next 3 months and it's all because WestSide gave me a home and extra chance! Big Thank you!!!!

OOOOORRRRAAAHHH!!!!!!

Mike St Clair

Good job, everybody. Another satisfied customer.

Memorial Scholarship:

We are calling for donations for a new scholarship this year in honor of our beloved Science teacher Stephen Niccum, longtime WestSide staffer who recently passed after a prolonged battle with cancer.

We will award the first annual Stephen Niccum "Eye of the Eagle" Memorial Scholarship this year to a deserving graduating senior who plans to further his or her education, and who most importantly, possesses those qualities that Mr. Niccum had in abundance: Compassion, Courage and Commitment. Please donate generously so we may make this dream of honoring Steve a reality, and help continue his

legacy by supporting students who emulate these same values.

Send your donations to WestSide High School at 1510 Ninth Street in Wenatchee, or drop your check by WestSide's main office, with a notation that it is to go to the Stephen Niccum Memorial Scholarship fund. If you are able to drop your donation off, we can happily issue you a receipt to use for tax purposes.

Message from Ana: Why I Love WestSide...

I love WestSide because of the way the school operates. We come to our classes and are able to work on the curriculum offered by our teachers. We do not have anyone actually lecture to us, only help when we need it. We are able to work at our own pace and not everyone is doing the same thing as everyone else. When we need help all we have to do is ask and they explain it



to us. Also, the school is more chill and the teachers are absolutely the best. Not only that, but we have a child care center across the street which helps me concentrate during school knowing that my daughter is safe and cared for and only across the street.

Ana Ventura - 2014



**Our Jobs for
Washington's Graduates with
their medals!**

Please contact us...

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SCREAMING EAGLES

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**Principal Kalahar -
keynote speaker for
Wohelo Luncheon.
By: Teri Fink**

Kory Kalahar, principal of WestSide High School, delivered the keynote speech at the 2015 Camp Fire Wohelo Luncheon, a well-attended fund raising event held at the Wenatchee Convention Center.

Kalahar talked the importance of educators as compassionate role models, particularly at WestSide, an alternative school, where many of the students come from high poverty (70%) and challenging backgrounds. Yet you'll find, said Kalahar, students who are much like any student walking the halls of a high school in the United States.

Kalahar said WestSide offers a traditional daytime program, an afternoon/evening program and a Bridges program (for school re-entry). He talked about hands-on learning opportunities, including the No Child Left Inside, where students learn science experientially with a WSU-affiliated program that takes kids outside to experience real science in action.

Kalahar told about a two-year-old Leadership Program at WestSide, an extracurricular club that provides opportunities for kids to take responsibility and give back to the community. Kalahar invited two Leadership Club members, Ken Alcombrack and JesúsTorres, to the podium, and each young man eloquently told of their experiences at WestSide, particularly how the Leadership Club has helped create personal success and change their attitudes toward school and community. They each said club advisor, Sheena Zacherle, is a driving force behind the club and its member's successes.

The luncheon, a primary fund-raising event for NCW Camp Fire USA, included the presentation of the Trailblazer Award, which went to Wenatchee City Counsel-woman Karen Rutherford. Biology educator Susan Ballinger recognized Rutherford for her many years of work and dedication to youth, with an emphasis on math and science. Rutherford said she is ending her role with the city in December, 2015, and taking up a new cause—the creation of a Maker Space and Maker opportunities in Wenatchee.



**Kalahar, Jesus, and
Ken at the Wohelo
Luncheon!**



Visit us on Facebook sometime and subscribe to obtain automatic updates and news at <http://www.facebook.com/WestSideHighSchool>. Also, check us out online at... wshs.wsd.wednet.edu.



Please help WestSide earn more dollars through eScrip. Simply register your Safeway card through www.escrip.com and when you shop, WestSide earns money for school programs and improving student

Wenatchee Learns:

Please check the Wenatchee Learns website to find out how to partner with the school district as a partner!
www.wenatcheelearns.com/



Mock Trial Club:

The combined WestSide HS/Wenatchee HS mock trial team participated in the recent Washington State Mock Trial Championships on March 27-28 in Olympia. The Wenatchee/Westside High team, participating for the first time, finished with a 2-2 record and placed 15th overall.

Mock trial teaches students to think logically and respond articulately. Students learned about the justice system and how to simplify a complex case into something a jury can understand.

This year's team met at Westside HS on Sunday afternoons and in Judge Lesley Allen's courtroom Monday evenings for practice. Next year, the mock trial team will meet as a 0 period class at Wenatchee HS for first semester.

Nominations for the prestigious award of best attorney went to by Ali Brandt, Christian Brandt-Sims and Vivian Noyd. In addition, the team received nominations for best witnesses for Isabella Dahl, Arturo Diaz and Ethan Toth.



Poetry Out Loud

(Continued from page 2)

Dobby Day- In an extremely close school competition, Dobby was our second runner up. Dobby continued to work on her poems while Star's ability to travel was evaluated. Just a few days before the regional competition, the decision was made to take Dobby on the trip. Dobby performed her 2 poems flawlessly and showed tremendously improved stage presence and confidence in the regional event.

Thea Stender- Thea performed brilliantly in the school competition. Her strength is her calm and confident delivery. She is excellent at maintaining eye contact with the audience and really drew in the crowd during her performances.

All of the kids worked hard for several months to perfect their recitations. The improvement and dedication was evident every time the participants performed. The experience was rewarding for all involved and we are committed preparing for regionals again next year.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT FOR SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 John Waldren, Executive Director of Student & Support Services.

DECLARACIÓN DE NO DISCRIMINACIÓN PARA PUBLICACIONES ESCOLARES Y ANUNCIOS PÚBLICOS

El Distrito Escolar de Wenatchee cumple con todas las normas federales y estatales y no discrimina basado en sexo, raza, credo, religión, color, origen nacional,

edad, si ha sido dado de baja honorablemente como veterano o estado militar, orientación sexual incluyendo expresión de género u identidad, la presencia de cualquier incapacidad sensorial, mental o física, o el uso de un perro guía entrenado o un animal de servicio por una persona con una incapacidad en los programas y actividades y brinda igualdad de acceso a los Boy Scouts y a otro grupos de jóvenes designados. Esto es cierto para todo el personal y los estudiantes que estén interesados en participar en programas educativos o actividades extracurriculares de la escuela. Las consultas pueden ser dirigidas al Oficial de RCW, Título IX y coordinadora de ADA Lisa Turner. Asuntos relacionados con 504, deben ser dirigidos a Chet Harum, Director Ejecutivo de Servicios & Apoyo Estudiantil.

**Lisa Turner, Director of Human
Resources
RCW Officer Title IX and ADA
Coordinator**

**John Waldren, Administrator of
Student Services
504 Coordinator**

**Wenatchee School District No. 246
235 Sunset Avenue
Wenatchee, WA 98801**



Maynard, Mitchell, and
Itzy are tired from making
tamales!

ATTENDANCE COUNTS

Parents and students please be aware that attendance is the most important ingredient for student success at WestSide. There will be negative consequences to students with unexcused absences including lunch detention and after school detentions. Please help us by stressing the importance of attending school at home and increasing the likelihood of your student being successful in their academic pursuits.



Parent's Share...

Thank you so much for caring about my daughter's heart condition. She has been shown more respect, and had been treated with more compassion in the few days we have talked with Westside than she ever received the entire time she was at her last school. We are both very happy she has a safe, accommodating and nurturing environment to finish high school. You guys are awesome!