

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



JMS students dominate at Japanese Speech Contest, see page 2

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Washougal School District Patron,



THE last several months have provided many opportunities to appreciate the support of the Washougal community as the work of preparing for the construction of three new schools occupies my work hours. Soon after this school year ends, the Construction Manager, Facilities Director and architectural firms will proceed with the work of designing safer front entries for each district school, preparing for roof and HVAC repair, and laying out the design of a new K-5 elementary school and Jemtegaard Middle School. Preparing the design for a new building for Excelsior High School and an efficient transportation facility is also underway. I would like to invite you to attend a Design Symposium on Thursday, June 4, 5:00 – 9:00 p.m. in the JMS Commons. The event will provide the opportunity for the community to give input into the design of the three new schools and how the buildings will support our students' learning for years to come. Childcare and a light dinner will be provided by the district. Please RSVP your attendance at 954-3005 or to kori.kelly@washougal.org.

Even as the end of the school year approaches and our students commit their best efforts to the Smarter Balanced State Assessments, the district is preparing for the start of the 2015 Summer School Program. Starting on July 13 children ages 4 - grade three will be heading back to school to continue their learning and to participate in fun activities designed to develop good



Left: Student Kalenia Shepherd shows off her masterpiece. Above: Artist Elida Field works with students in Mrs. Kramer's class at Hathaway Elementary.

Creativity blooms through art program

STUDENTS at both Gause and Hathaway Elementary Schools are learning art techniques from professional local artist Elida Field. As part of the Artist in Residence program, Elida visits K-5 classrooms at both schools to lead hands-on art lessons. Students learned the elements of shape and then got to practice what they learned with Fields' chalk pastels as they created their

own masterpieces.

"Look at my hands!" said a student demonstrating his chalk-covered fingers. "Yes, but your picture is awesome!" answered Elida. "I can tell you like art!"

Elida has been visiting different classrooms at the schools weekly for several months. The Artist in Residence Program is funded by the schools' Booster programs.

Students show their tech savvy at Internet safety event

PARENTS of Jemtegaard Middle School students attended an evening of learning about iPads and ways to help students be safe online on April 23. JMS teachers Kelli Dizmang, Cherise Marshall, and Rebecca Bohlin worked with students who served as "experts" to develop the lessons taught to parents.

Parents and students visited stations to learn about the apps that students use in class, projects that are done on the iPads,

and how to access WESPaC from a mobile device. Stations were run by JMS students, who created a mini-lesson on an iPad to share with parents and other students. The parents who attended said that they were amazed at how much the students have learned, and the variety of skills they have with the iPads.

Parents also attended a session on Internet Safety and building students' skills to make wise choices and be safe online.

BRAG BULLETIN

We're so proud of our students' and staff members' achievements!

JMS students win Japanese Speech Contest

THREE Jemtegaard Middle School students were winners in the 27th Annual Japanese Speech Contest held April 18 in Portland. Winners of Middle School Division 1 were: first place, Imagen Huey; second place, Brandon MacArthur; and third place, Monty Scott.

The competition is organized by the Consular Office of Japan for students studying Japanese language in high school, middle school and immersion programs in Oregon and SW Washington. Twenty-two students from 10 schools participated in the contest. Awards were presented by Consul General Hiroshi Furusawa.

WHS offers varsity letter program for community service efforts

FIVE Washougal High School students who demonstrated commitment to their school and community through documented volunteer service work have earned a varsity letter for their efforts. Letters were earned by senior Bryce Samwell; juniors Nick Costa-Stange and Deni Ortiz; and freshmen Michael Stevens and Bridgette McCarthy. The community service varsity letter program was launched in June 2013. Last year, a single student, Nicole Gamble, earned the distinction.

"It is wonderful to provide recognition that is very meaningful to students for the time and energy they put forth volunteering," said Marsha Spencer, WHS Career and Technical Education Director. "We believe this program helps to support positive interaction between Washougal students and the community and help to inspire a habit of service that these students will have for a lifetime."

To earn a varsity letter, students must complete and document at least 150 hours of qualifying community service hours. That requirement is based on an estimate of hours needed for practice to participate in a varsity high school sport.

iPads make big impact on small group learning for elementary students

STUDENTS in teacher Chung Savoie's classes are having great success using iPads independently and in small groups as they practice reading, learn to type, and use technology to gain English language skills. Savoie works with English language learners at Gause and Hathaway, helping them improve language skills in small group settings.

Students can listen to and repeat perfect English, practice typing and spelling words, and access interactive apps that allow them to be creative as they learn.



Teacher Chung Savoie works with Daniel Martinez using the iPad for language learning.

Savoie says the iPads are more efficient than paper and pencil and are changing classroom culture in a positive way. She notes that reading skills are increasing at a more rapid pace based on the Easy CBM and Readwell assessments. And students are more engaged with fewer behavior issues. "They are so eager to learn," said Savoie. "It really builds their confidence. It is the first time for them to be engaged in these kinds of activities and they love it!" said Savoie. "They keep saying how smart they are!"

According to Savoie, it takes an average of five to seven years to acquire "academic language". When students achieve this fluency, often in second or third grade, they no longer require extra instruction in English.

At Cape Horn-Skye Elementary, teacher Stephanie Closson uses text-to-speech for struggling readers. This gives students the ability to "type" even if they have difficulty with fine motor skills.

Closson says the iPads allow students to work at their own level, increase practice time with math facts, and engage with grade level appropriate texts that include audio and visuals.

"The iPads have allowed my students to have more independence and ownership of their learning in the classroom," said Closson. "I am looking forward to collaborating with other teachers and learning more ways to incorporate the iPads into my lessons for next year."

Welcoming new district staff

Dr. Mike Stromme, Superintendent

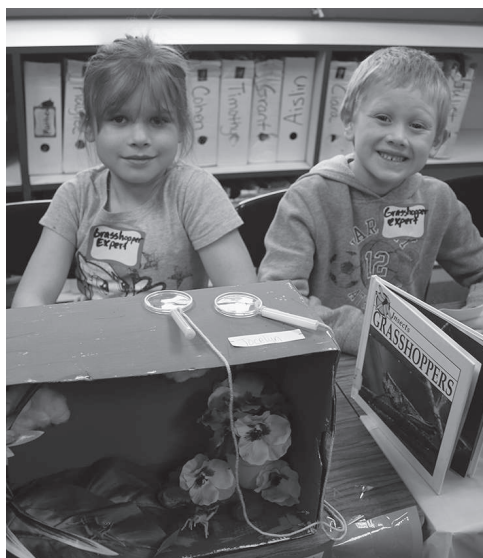
Dr. Stromme joins us from the Vancouver School District where he is currently Associate Superintendent for Teaching and Learning. Mike served as interim Superintendent of Green Mountain School District and Associate Superintendent for Educational Service District 112 in Vancouver. He also has experience as a principal, associate principal, athletic director, teacher and coach.



Sheree Gomez, Assistant Principal, Washougal High School

Sheree is currently completing her administrative internship at Jason Lee Middle School in the Vancouver School District. Previously, Sheree worked at Skyview High School in Vancouver as a paraeducator and a special education teacher. She has recently completed her National Board Certification.





Jocelyn Allworth and Ciaran Bell, Grasshopper Experts.

Gause first graders catch the learning bug

FIRST graders in Marvina Bugajski's class at Gause Elementary became experts on a wide variety of bugs this year and they demonstrated their knowledge at an Insect Showcase April 15.

After studying insects via FOSS science kits in the fall, students completed an informational writing lesson about insects and also created visual projects including posters and dioramas. A parent, Mr. Sneer, joined the students for an in-class field trip to enhance their research on insects, bringing insects (both alive and dead) for the students to view.

"The students have done a variety of informational writing which is a common core standard," said Bugajski. "They researched insects and writing at school and created a diorama as a family project. This was a

great way to wrap up the writing unit," she said. "The students got so excited about the insects and it was a great way for them to take ownership of their work and share it with their families."

"Did you know a grasshopper can grow to be six inches long?" asked first grader and "Grasshopper Expert" Matthew Chilson. "I wouldn't like to meet one of those in person!"

"Dragonflies have big strong jaws," said Hazel Soot, Dragonfly Expert. "But they don't bite people. I saw one at Odell Lake."

Grasshopper Experts Ciaran Bell and Jocelyn Allworth debated whether there were six million or six thousand types of grasshoppers but both agreed that they could travel quite far in just one hop!

"HANDS-ON ECONOMICS" CONTINUED FROM BACK PAGE

save their earnings or spend part it at the classroom store. "I have the job of store manager and I keep track of inventory and sell things," explained student Taylor Rhodig. "I also decide on how to price everything." The store features items such as pencils, stickers, games, markers and books, all provided by Booster funds.

"Some kids spend a lot of their money when they get it. Others like to save it for big things," Rhodig said. "There is a pizza party coming up, so I am saving my money for that."

"As a banker I get to take in time sheets and pay out money," said Harrison Tanner. According to Tanner, the banker job is an important one and there are a lot of details

he must take care of. "I cross off the amount we pay them on the time sheet and then write on it that it is paid," he said. "Then I file the time sheets in the red folders. I put the date on it and mark them as checked. This way I know how much is deposited and the account balances."

Fines are also handled through the bank. At the beginning of the school year, students worked together to make a set of expectations for positive and negative behavior. Fines are given out for negative behavior, but rewards are given out for good behavior.

"When we get older we need to keep track of our money and now we will know how," said Rhodig. "We should learn how to spend our money on things that are valuable. It is good to learn how to save and take care of your money now before it is real life."

"SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE" CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

health and nurture creativity. The summer program will focus on supporting pre-school students as they head for a full-day of Kindergarten next year and our primary grade children to keep their reading and mathematical problem-solving skills active through the summer months. There are opportunities for community members to volunteer their time in support of this program. Please contact Lisa Young at 954-3895 or lisa.young@washougalisd.org.

Speaking of community support, by the time you read this, hundreds of families and parents will have participated in the STRIDE for education, an amazing community event that provides direct support to classroom learning. Thank you to those who participated and to the sponsors who contributed to help make it such a success. What a great event!

The end of the year always brings retirements and this year is no exception. It will be hard to say good bye to staff members who have become so important to our families as they've seen generations of Washougal families come through our schools each year. Our human resources department has been working diligently to fill these big shoes. In this issue you will meet several of our newest staff members. I can't wait for you to get to know them, they will each make an excellent addition to the already outstanding Washougal team!

Sincerely,
Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent

Washougal School District has hired several new administrators for the 2015-16 school year. If you see them around our community, be sure to say 'hi!'

Laura Miltenberger, Curriculum Director

Laura joins us from the Pendleton School District in Oregon where she is Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Coordinator. She was previously an elementary principal for five years and an elementary teacher for many years in Pendleton. She previously served as a library media specialist in Pendleton as well.



Larry Mayfield, Business Manager

Larry is currently Executive Director of Finance for the Longview School District. He is no stranger to school finance in our state, having served as Business Manager for the Pasco and Prosser School District. Larry is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Certified Management Accountant (CMA).





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Thank you voters!

Construction planning gets underway

THANKS to voters who approved the district's bond measure in February, students in Washougal will soon benefit from increased safety, three new schools, and a new transportation office and bus garage. District staff have rolled up their sleeves to get to work developing a plan for what happens next.

The district is fortunate to have Facilities Director Joe Steinbrenner on staff. Joe has extensive experience in the fields of construction and facilities management and will oversee the projects from start to finish. He will work closely with the Construction Management firm, R & C Construction and owner Richard Yeo, whose contract was approved by the School Board April 28.

The district will solicit input as to the desired features and amenities of our new schools. Knowing that we have a fixed budget for the projects, the district will consider input from stakeholders to create safe and secure facilities that will serve our community for many years to come, while at the same time assuring that all of the projects identified for bond resources be completed.

Signs of construction will begin appearing this summer, when fencing will be placed around JMS to assure student and staff safety in the current building while the new facility is being built. Remodeling each school's front entrance to enhance security will be among the first construction work to get underway in Summer 2016. A master schedule of projects will be developed in June 2015.

Students learn economics hands-on



Bankers Shane Meyer and Harrison Tanner with customers Talon Ferguson and Taylor Rhodig.

CAPE Horn-Skye Elementary fifth graders in Mallory LeCount's classroom are getting some real world experience in having a job responsibility, earning pay and making spending decisions through their very own classroom economy.

LeCount established the classroom economy as a tool to help students understand the importance of working hard for something they want or need. "Students must apply for classroom jobs, provide letters of recommendation, maintain a timesheet, and be present to perform their job in order to receive classroom cash," she explained. "Not only does this teach students how to be responsible, but it also teaches students about money management and savings."

After each payday, students turn in their timesheet and either

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Join us for a Facilities Design Symposium!

Thurs., June 4 • 5-9 p.m. • JMS Commons

We want your input into the design of the new schools! Childcare and a light dinner provided.

**RSVP to 954-3005 or
kori.kelly@washougalisd.org**



Upcoming Washougal School Board Meetings

May 26, Canyon Creek Middle School

June 9, District Board Room

June 23, District Board Room

Meetings are held at 6:30 p.m. in the District Board Room, 4855 Evergreen Way, unless otherwise noted. All are invited!

WASHOUGAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
www.washougal.k12.wa.us

SUPERINTENDENT
Dawn Tarzian

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