



WASHINGTON'S KNIGHT WRITER

December 17, 2009

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Inspiring in everyone a passion to excel

Our mission is to inspire, educate, challenge and support all students to reach their highest level of learning and personal development.

Calendar Events

Dec. 18: Kdg AM Holiday Party @ 9:45

Holiday Sing K-5 @ 1:45
Holiday Parties @ 2:30

Dec. 19 – Jan. 3: Winter Break-
No School

Jan. 4: School Resumes

Jan. 5: PTA Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Jan. 8: January Birthday Table @ 12:00 p.m.

Jan. 11-15: Food Drive

Jan. 18: Martin Luther King Day-No School

January 19: Teacher Work Day –No School

Jan. 22: Report Cards Distributed

Jan. 30: Pancake Breakfast from 8:30-11:00 a.m.

Please see January calendar for more events.

A Principal's Viewpoint

Happy Holidays! No matter what holiday you celebrate, this is indeed a magical time of the year. It is a time for spending time with family and friends, a time to relax and to enjoy the sights and sounds of the season! 2009 is quickly drawing to a close and another new calendar year will begin. For many it means reflecting on the accomplishments and challenges



of the last year and then making resolutions for the New Year. As we enter 2010, the Washington Staff continues our resolve to help every child learn and grow, academically, socially, and emotionally. We hope that you will join us in this resolve because working together we can accomplish anything!

Kindergarten Extended Day Program.

Washington
Elementary
School has been

awarded a grant that will enable us to offer an extended day program to kindergarten students identified as at risk. This program will allow us to provide additional academic opportunities in reading and mathematics. We are looking forward to starting this program at the end of our winter holiday break.

Smart Board Updates. We have recently completed two fundraisers dedicated to raising money for Smart Boards. The proceeds from these two fundraisers will allow us to purchase at least 3 more Smart Boards for our classrooms.

Here is what one of our teachers says about the importance of Smart Boards in her classroom:

Ms. Evenson: I have been using the SMART Board for several years but this is my first year having the privilege of a permanent board up in our second grade classroom. The students and I have been so excited to incorporate this SMART board into our school day in various



ways. It has greatly enhanced my teaching capabilities and the students' experience. As for the students, they are able to interact with me in a way that is not only more meaningful, but they enjoy doing so this way, too, which in turn makes for a better learning environment for all. For example, students can see closely what I'm demonstrating. It has been a very interactive tool. I often will use live video feed and stream it up on the SMART board and it allows for a lot of discussion and also we can take notes up on the SMART board afterward, so there is an immediate connection. This year has been a learning experience for me as well. As I take time to learn how to utilize the SMART board there have been a few times that the kids have witnessed me trying to troubleshoot a problem during a lesson. They are always quick to want to help and a few times they



have actually helped me solve the problem. I always remind them that especially this first year with our SMART board we are learning together and the students really feel proud about this.

Our SMART board engages students in the learning process by enabling them to share their work with the rest of the class. They are focused, on task and aware that we are actively involved in their learning. We use it to dig deeper about a topic (such as the solar system) and we also use it for review at the end of a unit. It's another tool we use to gain a deeper understanding of our

learning. As a teacher, I've been challenged to think about another avenue of deepening my students' understanding through the use of technology. I am teaching 21st century learners and I feel that this is one way of showing them how to get creative and resourceful with technology to learn about new topics. As I plan my lessons, I will often think of how I can choose a subject to incorporate the SMART board for the day. There are some great websites/blogs that I've found that help me get inspired and give some helpful tips or lessons that have been previously tried.

It's been a great experience so far with our SMART board and I know both the students and I would agree we are so very grateful to have one in our classroom!

If you are interested in donating money toward our Smart Board campaign you can make checks payable to Washington Elementary School.

Thank you. Thanks to Mrs. Robin Ryan and Mr. Dan DuPree for their leadership in band and chorus. We truly enjoyed our wonderful holiday concert.

Winter Flow Zone Reminders.

The winter weather is upon us and there are some Flow Zone reminders that need to be made. Please remember the following:

Cars are only to enter our flow zone by traveling eastbound on Bridle Lane. **No car is to turn right into our lot.**



All cars are to stay in a single line along the sidewalk.

Drivers are to remain in their cars. Students should always enter their cars from the passenger side of the vehicle.

All students should load in their cars from the designated loading area.

If you are walking to pick up your child, you must use the designated

cross walks. Parents and children are not to cross through the line of traffic to get to a parked car.

Make sure to pull up as far as possible before stopping your car to load students.

Please refrain from cell phone use while in the flow zone.

I am confident that if we follow these guidelines we can continue to have safe and secure dismissals.

Entering and Exiting our Parking Lot. Remember to enter the parking lot/flow zone area at the East end and to exit at the west end of the parking lot/flow zone. This is to be followed at all times of the day.



Mileage Club

Volunteer Needed. Are you athletic? We are looking for a volunteer to run our Mileage Club this spring during 1 or 2 recesses each week. This is a great opportunity for you to get to know the children and help them stay fit. Please call Jenifer Shimmel if you are interested @ 630-668-9517.

Reflection Projects Advance.

Congratulations to the following students who had their projects advance to the District Level:

Visual Arts:

Katie Ellingsen, 2nd Grade, project untitled

Anna Lise Melody, Kindergarten, project titled: Space

Colton Crochet, 2nd Grade, project titled: My Reflection

Grace Bertsch, 5th Grade, project titled: Colorful

Zach Zander 5th Grade, project titled: Beauty is My Family

Matthew Noble, 5th Grade, project titled: The Human Splatter

Literature:

Taylor Zboril, 5th Grade, Reading is a Beautiful Thing

Jack Langan, 5th Grade, The Four

Seasons

Music:

Tate Moorhouse, 3rd Grade, Tate's Composition

Kelly Goonan 5th Grade, The Beauty of Falling Leaves

Eva Barg, 5th Grade, Beautiful Day

Photography:



Jack Langan 5th Grade, The Four Seasons

Christina Crochet, 5th Grade, Beauty in the Sky

Rachel Pettersen, 5th Grade, Beauty in Nature

The following students have also advanced from the District Level to the Regional Level (Region 36)

Jack Langan: Photography

Tate Moorhouse: Music

Kelly Goonan: Music

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Jack Langan: Photography

Tate Moorhouse: Music

Kelly Goonan: Music



The District 200 recognition for Reflections will be held on Monday, January, 25, 2010.

Extreme Weather Dismissal and Arrival. Several parents have asked me about our practices for extreme cold weather so I thought I would outline it in this newsletter:

Recess: In general, we encourage our students to be outside as much as possible. During the winter months, we typically will have students outside when the temperatures (windchill) is 10° or more. Occasionally, we will go outside for recess if it is a bit lower as long as the sun is shining and

there is little or no wind.

Arrival and Dismissal:

During those days when the wind chill or actually temperature is 0 or below we will have indoor arrival and dismissal. During those days students who arrive in cars should exit their cars and enter the nearest door. Typically this will be door 1, 2, or 3. Teachers/staff will be available to help students out of cars and get them into the building. During dismissal teachers/staff will be outside asking drivers for the names of students they are transporting. We will then call these students via our radios. Our goal is to minimize the time your children are exposed to these dangerous temperatures. If you have any questions, please give me a call.



Elementary Testing for the Program of Accelerated Curriculum and Enrichment (PACE).

In March 2010, the PACE Office will host testing for currently enrolled 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. This testing will qualify elementary students for participation in one of the following 2010-2011 classes:

- 3rd, 4th & 5th gr. PACE Math
- 3rd, 4th & 5th gr. PACE Reading
- 6th gr. Fast Paced Mathematics
- 6th gr. Fast Paced Language Arts



Please Note – Students currently in PACE Program Classes do not need to re-test for 2010-2011.

Student may be recommended for testing by their Teacher and/or Parent. The deadline for a Parent to request PACE Testing is **January 29, 2010**. Students currently attending a private school


and/or home schooled, but reside in the District 200 Attendance Area, are also eligible for PACE Program Testing.


Testing will be scheduled at each elementary school between the dates of March 11-24, 2010.

Parent Testing Referral Forms can be found on the District 200 website www.cusd200.org under Educational Services > Special Programs > Gifted Education Program > Parent Referral Forms.

Please contact the District 200 PACE Office at (630) 682-2024 with any questions.

Twenty Ways to Become a Fitter Family

1. Eat more meals together. Kids who eat family meals are better nourished, do better in school, and even get into less trouble!
2. Overhaul your kitchen. Take a close look at pantry shelves, cupboards, the refrigerator and the freezer. Do you see mostly high calorie, low nutrition easy-grab foods or are there plenty of nutritious choices? Can you look around your kitchen and easily find the ingredients for four or five healthful meals?  Make a list of staple ingredients needed to stock a healthful kitchen and head to the store.
3. Not every activity needs to be fueled by food. Eat at home before heading off to a movie, sporting event or amusement park.
4. Make better choices when eating out. Start by saying “no” to super-sized portions.
5. Avoid telling your child to “take one more bite” or “clean your plate.”
6. Be the sports parent who speaks up about the “treats” typically served after games and practice. Offer to put together a list of nutritious snack and beverage choices.

7. Limit access to sweetened drinks. When thirsty, drink water.
8. Teach your child about agriculture by visiting local farms and farmer's markets. Choose locally grown produce when available. Plant a vegetable garden with your child.
9. For short errands, walk or bike with your child.
10. Limit total “screen time” (video games, computer, TV, etc) to a maximum of 2 hours daily.
11. Devise a healthy snack list with your child. Post on the refrigerator.
12. Teach your child to cook.
13. Involve your child at the supermarket by assigning a list of nutritious foods to find.
14. Start each day with a nutritious breakfast. Not only will your child pay attention at school, breakfast plays a role in healthy weight regulation. 

15. Encourage your child to play outside whenever feasible. Adults can play too! You're it!
16. On the weekend, live life instead of watching it on TV. Find a new place to hike, bike, cross-country ski or run.
17. Find an indoor swim center that you can use all year long.
18. Discuss food advertising with your child. Write letters to the advertisers that inundate children's programming with low-nutrition food and beverages ads.
19. Teach your child how to read and understand the information on food labels.



20. Be a role model! Show your child how much you enjoy nutritious foods and fun, physical activity.

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Dates to Remember!

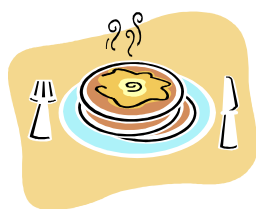
- Jan. 5th – PTA Meeting
- Jan. 8th – January Birthday Table
- Jan. 11-15 – Food Drive Week

* * * * *



Our next PTA meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday January 5th at 7:00 p.m.**, the first week back after Winter Break. Please pencil it in your calendar because we have **several guests** joining us including: John Henrikson (school social worker) and Amy Meron (school psychologist) who will be making a presentation on bullying and other social issues and Dr. Baker (our interim CUSD Superintendent) who will be available for questions about our district. We will continue to offer child care to children walking and up and a Spanish to English interpreter as well.

During the January meeting, we will be voting on the slate for our **2010 Nominating Committee**. This committee is charged with providing a slate for next year's PTA Executive Board. The following people are proposed for the Nominating Committee: Becky Cook, Lorri Zander, Anne-Marie Lemp, Beth Moorhouse, Kathy Craig and the alternates will be Susan Goonan and Tigi Dixon. If you have any questions, please contact Lisa Shine at lshine@ameritech.net or 630-668-6101.



PANCAKE BREAKFAST IS COMING.....

Please don't forget that next month is our 21st Annual Pancake Breakfast here at Washington. It is on Saturday January 30th from 8:30 am -11:00am. Just like in years past if you

donate an hour of help, you get a free ticket for the event. Once again, we will be doing the book swap this year. Reading new books are a good way to make the time go by in the cold long winter. Flyers will be going out in January so keep your eyes open for them. If anyone would like to volunteer to help



with the breakfast or book swap, please contact me at jdgacek@yahoo.com. Have a safe holiday, Marlo Gacek

We are still looking for people to help with the monthly Birthday Lunches that occur the first Friday of each month. This is a great opportunity for you to join your child for their birthday month and help out at the same time. If you are able to assist, please contact Sandy Helm at 630-665-6252.



FOOD DRIVE SUCCESS!!!!

Jon & I would like to give a big **THANK YOU**, to all who donated to the food drive last month. With special thanks to the following: Ultra Foods who generously gave us the bags to fill with food. Girl Scout Troop 1321 for the drive up delivery service and all the signs. What a great idea & good way to help the community. To all the moms who helped bring the food to the pantry, Mary Lee, Julie Metz, Cassie Patterson, and Mary Phanthavong. Our next food drive will be January 11th-15th. I hope all will donate again. Have a safe holiday, Jon & Marlo Gacek



Need Help?

- District
- Jefferson
- Bower
- Emerson
- Hawthorne
- Johnson
- Lincoln
- Longfellow
- Lowell
- Madison
- Pleasant Hill
- Sandburg
- Washington
- Whittier
- Wiesbrook
- Edison
- Franklin
- Hubble
- Monroe
- North
- South

View Calendar

January 2010						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 • Winter Break- No School	2
3	4 • School Resumes 12:00 PM Battle of the Books	5 8:30 AM Chorus 7:00 PM PTA Meeting	6 12:00 PM Student Council Meeting 3:30 PM Band	7 8:15 AM Orchestra	8 12:00 PM January Birthday Table	9
10	11 • Food Drive Week • 5th gr. Candy Sales Begins 12:00 PM Battle of the Books	12 8:30 AM Chorus	13 3:30 PM Band 7:30 PM Board of Ed. Mtg	14 8:15 AM Orchestra	15 • PTA Newsletter distributed • Plant Sale Kick-off • 2nd quarter ends	16
17	18 • Martin Luther King Day-No School	19 • Teacher Work Day-No School	20 • Shift Day - Monday Schedule 12:00 PM Student Council Meeting 12:00 PM 1st/2nd gr. Spanish Lunch & Learn 3:30 PM Band	21 8:15 AM Orchestra 12:00 PM 3rd-5th gr. Spanish Lunch & Learn	22 • Report Cards Distributed	23
24	25 12:00 PM Battle of the Books	26 8:30 AM Chorus 12:00 PM 1st/2nd gr. Spanish Lunch & Learn	27 • No Band - after school 7:30 PM Board of Ed. Mtg	28 8:15 AM Orchestra 12:00 PM 3rd-5th gr. Spanish Lunch & Learn	29 • WKW distributed	30 8:30 AM Pancake Breakfast
31						

SPANISH LUNCH AND LEARN LANGUAGE REGISTRATION

Lunch and Learn Language is an excellent opportunity for 1st - 5th graders to effectively learn Spanish.

Your child will learn the language and culture through fun activities that include games, songs and parties.

The class is held one day per week during the lunch hour. Children must bring their sack lunch to eat during class.

The details:

- The winter session is 10 weeks.
- Classes will begin the week of January 18 and are scheduled to finish the week of March 22.
- The fee for the 10-week session is \$60 per child.
- Class size is limited to 18-20 students so registration is taken on a first come, first served basis.
- Registration forms with payment should be returned to the LALL Folder in the school office by Thursday, January 14.
- Questions? Contact Tricia Reinhard at 630/690-9610 or at triciareinhard@comcast.net

Please enroll my child in the Spanish Lunch and Learn Language Program. **IMPORTANT: Checks must be made payable to TRICIA REINHARD.**

Parent's Name _____ Date _____

Child's Name _____ Grade/Teacher _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please note any allergies or conditions that I should be aware of:

Session: Winter for \$60 _____