



Paw Prints

The Monthly PTSA Newsletter of Washington Middle School

<http://www.seattleschools.org/schools/washingtonms>

MARCH 2007

Health and Safety

Mid-winter break arrived not a moment too soon. Yes, for some it was a chance to get away and warm the toes on a beach, or slide a fresh track on some distant slope. However, for many of our students and staff, this break was a chance to catch up on rest, and to clear some of the “crud” that has been sickening so many throughout the city these past few weeks.

Before I go any further, our deepest sympathy goes out to the Laurelhurst Elementary community. The loss of a student, of a daughter, cannot be expressed in words. February 15th was truly a terrible day in the community of Seattle Schools.

Flu and cold season has hit all of us very hard this year. At Washington, we’ve had a couple of days where fifty or more students were out. While that is still well below the 10% that would trigger a notification to the Health Department, it is a significant number of students. Because this season’s run is taking place at the same time as visits to high schools, knowing how many students have been out due to illness, rather than a visit to Garfield, has been a bit foggy. We do know that the Wellness Center, and **Nurse Hopp**, have been very busy, especially early in the mornings, when students who looked well enough to get to school find that they really should have stayed home instead. At the same time, the teaching staff has also been hit extremely hard. Every morning has been a bit of an adventure as **Ms. Maldonado**, the Head Secretary at Washington, posts the list of staff that are out due to either their own illness, or the health of a child in their family. When students are out, the difficulty is in catching them up, but when staff is out, especially for extended days, the impact is magnified. And while the substitute corps does a great job of filling in for absent staff, in all honesty there is an impact to student learning.

Keeping a building the size of Washington healthy and safe takes lots of effort and planning. The Safety Team, made up of our nurse, security officer, custodian, various classroom staff, and Assistant Principal **Mr. Powell**, meet on a monthly basis to target health and safety concerns. While physical health and safety issues are one element of those meetings, they also discuss drills and evacuation procedures, building safety concerns, transportation and load-zone safety, and other areas of the building where safety issues may have popped up.

At their February meeting, I asked them to discuss a topic that parents have asked about: security cameras. I’ve also asked the PTSA and our Building Leadership Team (BLT) to discuss this same topic. While some of you may cringe at the thought of cameras in schools, they are a reality in most of the high schools in Seattle, as well as many of the schools in other parts of the country. My discussion with the Safety Team, with PTSA, and with BLT centered on installing cameras in the hallways, stairwells, and outside by the portables and parking areas. While we do a fantastic job securing a campus as large as ours, my wonder is if cameras in strategic places wouldn’t help us do that much better? Beyond the groups mentioned above, I would love to

have feedback from the WMS family. What do you think about the idea of mounting safety cameras in the non-classroom areas of the building? Please email me at johalfaker@seattleschools.org, or you can call and leave a message at the school’s main line, 252-2600. If you do email, please put “Cameras” in the subject line so that I can sort and store them easily.

I hope all of you got some deserved rest and improved health during the brief mid-winter break. March is now here, and with it a crucial chunk of the third quarter of school. Stay connected, stay in touch, and, if you need our assistance, please contact us right away.

Jon Halfaker, Principal

P.S. A special thank you to the PTSA, who recently funded part of our purchase of new walkie-talkies. They work great! Thank you!

From the WMS PTSA Co-Presidents

The auction has happened. I am writing this to you 2 ½ weeks before the event and yet by the time you receive this, the PTSA’s biggest fundraiser of the year will have happened. I need to thank everyone now, for the months of work that went into planning it and also to our entire community, for procuring fabulous items, preparing invitations, designing an amazing dinner, serving, decorating, coordinating volunteers and especially to all of you who came to the event and bid heartily to raise money for our kids.

Sometimes it feels like the biggest job we do as a PTSA is raise much-needed funds to enhance our kids experience at Washington Middle School. I know the PTSA wasn’t formed to be a primarily fundraising organization, and it says something about the state of our districts funding that many PTSA’s have morphed into organizations that augment, through fundraising efforts, the basic needs of our kids. I have no answers as to how to remedy the situation, I’m just aware of it. And it makes me pause. And I wonder.

What other functions could we as a PTSA be fulfilling if we weren’t so concerned with fundraising? Could we support one another more with the extra time? I am in my fifth and final year at Washington Middle School and I’m still yearning for a way to capitalize on the peer group we are as parents of middle school kids—I’m sad that I don’t know enough of my fellow parents. I’m sad that I don’t personally know enough of your kids. We’re challenged by geography, program distinctions and of course, time.

I am so proud of this PTSA’s ability to raise money and to thoughtfully distribute it. Our Auction co-chairs, **Harriet Bakken** and **Jenni Gottshalk**, should be idolized by the rest of us. My hope, for those of you continuing at WMS, is that you will discover ways we can actively engage and support one another during our time together

continued next page

Worlds Apart HeARTS Together

The entire 8th grade class at Washington Middle School will be once again participating in the *Worlds Apart HeARTS Together* exciting global exchange program. The project is a collaborative effort to provide an opportunity for the Washington Middle School students to interact with visiting South African students from the Hector Peterson Secondary School.

The partners include Bridges To Understanding, Book-It Repertory Theater, Comparative History of Ideas (CHID) program at the University of Washington, College of Education at the University of Washington and Washington Middle School faculty. The program will explore literature, history, politics, conflict resolution, public dialogue and artistic expression.

Some of the Related Events

South African movie night, Car Wash, Panel Discussions, Culminating event on May 4th, South African students and principal visit



Our Mission Statement

To engage Washington Middle School students in artistic workshops and civic dialogue promoting literacy and creative learning through authentic interactions focusing on cross cultural understanding and community building.

We would love for you to get involved and invite you to join us as a host family. Six students and the Deputy Principal from the informal settlement school of Hector Peterson of Wallace Dean outside of Cape Town, South Africa will be staying in Seattle for approximately three weeks. We're looking for host families to house the students during their stay in Seattle.

Your responsibilities would include:

- Housing the student for the entire duration of their stay
- Meals at home
- Transportation to WMS while shadowing your student• Providing TLC (tender love and care)

I know from my own experience that hosting foreign students is an amazing experience for your family and can be transformative for your children.

We are thrilled to have our guests this spring, and see it as a catalyst for our program's growth in looking at how education is the civil rights issue of our era.

If interested, please contact me no later than March 15th.

Lori Markowitz (925-5306, lori@bridgesweb.org)
Bridges To Understanding www.bridgesweb.org
8th Grade Representative, PTSA

From the PTSA *Continued from page 1*

as middle school parents. We are each other's secret resource. I really believe, as a group, we hold all the answers to successful parenting and parent/teen relationships—surely, between us all, we've been through it all—we are a think tank.

Please let us know if you have ideas on how we can better develop our peer group, and thank you for being such a great group of people to go through Middle School with.

Stephanie Shine, PTSA Co-President, mother of 8th grade Cally John Eickelberg, PTSA Co-President, father of 6th grade Brendan

From the Legislative Chair

Everyone take a deep sigh of relief: both the *School Operations Levy* and *Capital Improvement Bond* passed in the February 6th election. In the end, both ballot measures passed by comfortable margins. Seattle voters can be counted on to do the right thing for the public schools.

Please take a few minutes to call or send an email to your State Legislators this month. Hearing from constituents makes a huge difference to your representatives; they represent YOU. Your message can be as simple as, "Fully fund education" to your heartfelt description of an issue that's important to you to researched facts and figures.

The Legislative session ends in April. Education is at the forefront of the Governor's budget, and there's an opportunity to make progress this session on key issues for Simple Majority for school bonds and levies (no more nail biting over elections!).

Here's how to get contact information (toll free message line or email) for your Legislative District representatives: <http://www.leg.wa.gov/LIC/hotline.htm>. If you're not sure which Legislative District you reside in, find out here: <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx>.

Janis Traven



What are you reading?

We all know Washington Middle School is a community of readers—but don't you wish you could find out WHAT everyone is reading? Check out the new display in the lunchroom showcasing books read by students and staff. Students can pick up a form in the library, write a short summary, and return to **Ms. Amster-Burton** in the library (picking up a small treat at the same time). Please encourage your students to share what they are reading. Check out the bulletin board the next time you're at Washington, and keep an eye out for "What Are You Reading?" examples in future *Pawprints* and online. Questions? Please contact **Melanie Olson**, reading specialist, or **Laurie Amster-Burton**, librarian.

New in the library:

The Green Glass Sea by Ellen Klages. Historical fiction (2007). Eleven-year-old Dewey Kerrigan is apprehensive as she travels to her new home in New Mexico, where her father is engaged in top-secret wartime work. The desolate landscape and armed guards around aren't exactly welcoming, but as Dewey befriends the scientists busy working on "the gadget" she comes to love her life in Los Alamos. Dewey's story gives a fascinating and unusual glimpse into life in the 1940s.

Also new in the library:

Colorful Optical Illusions by Aki Nurosi and *Now You See It, Now You Don't* by Seymour Simon (student request); *On Food and Cooking* by Harold McGee (classic cook's resource, with some great information for science projects); more copies of the very popular *The Lightning Thief* by Rick Riordan (look for the third book, *The Titan's Curse*, coming in May).

WMS PTSA Annual Fund Update

We have raised 80% of our goal of \$70,000. We thank those of you who have contributed so far, and if you haven't contributed yet we urge you to send your contribution as soon as possible. Remember, a gift of any amount is very much appreciated and critical to this special fund for our school. Also, all gifts are tax deductible, and we will send you a receipt so that you can declare it on your income taxes next year.

The Annual Fund was started many years ago as a way to provide our kids with more resources and opportunities. If we don't reach our goal, your student's opportunities will be at risk.

We are inching closer to our goal. With your help we can reach that goal, and provide the resources our kids are depending on.

Please send your donation to:

WMS Annual Fund, 528 34th Ave., Seattle, WA 98122

Annual Fund Donors

Ronald & Judith Ablow, Cindy Hao & Daniel Abramson, Vincent & Estela Alabastro, Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. Albern, Carl & Mollie Albrecht, Richard & Constance Albrecht, Anne Albro, Jean Anderson, Bill Lynch & Cindy Osborn, Pam & Don Ashbaugh, Jack Baker, Jon & Harriet Bakken, Hideko Bannai, Teri & Len Bariquit, Betty Barker, Robert Barley, Susan Barley & Jim Greenfield, Peter Baum & Mayumi Yagi, Loki & Tony Bedalov, Don & Mary Bender, Kathlyn Black, Jane Blodgett, Arthur Boelter, Liz & Jeff Bottman, Hannah Bradley, Heidi Mathisen & Klaus Brauer, Monica Fawthrop & Ed Bronsdon, Sally Brown, Donna & Glenn Brown, Patreese & Josh Brown, Celia Brown, Rick & Melinda Burch, Charles & Patti Burgess, Judd & Lee Burrow, Gillian Dutton & Robert Butler, Max & Mindy Cameron, Jeff Cantor & Michelle Doyle, Darlene Carlstrom & Shawna Wortman, Sylvia & Craig Chambers, Guy & Patricia Chan, Jack & Sue Christiansen, John & Annette Chunn, Joe & Marlys Chutich, Robert & Helen Clark, Phyllis Clurman, Beth Cockcroft, Gilda & Dick Cohen, Susan & Tom Colligan, Cheryl Clark & Stephan Coonrod, Floyd & Carol Cooper, Ellen Aagaard & Matt Corwin, Scott & Lisa Coughlin, June Eisenman & Louis Cuevas, Mary Curiel & Pat Dailey, Joan & Greg Dash, Beverly & Graham Davis, Cathy & Phil Davis, Morris Deckelbaum, Delene Deforest-Dale, Steve & Laurie deKoch, Don Dick, Don & Donna Dick, Lisa Jacobs & Paul Drachler, Sol & Leah Drachler, Richard Dutton & Susan Swain, Signe & Richard Ealy, Kris Easterday, Eric Edgerton & Denise Takahashi, Jane Howard & Charles Eldridge, Cris & Marc Elliott, Jeanne & Thom Emrich, Anne Eskridge & Melissa Cochran, Harlow & Betty Evenson, Christine Evenson, Dave & Beth Evenson, Richard Farr & Kerry Fitz-Gerald, Jim Feldman & Liz Fitzhugh, Mr. Leonard Feldman, Kevin & Sarah Finney, Richard & Christine Fischman, Jayn & Hugh Foy, Stephanie Franklin, Stephanie Bower & Rich Franko, Jim & Nell Froning, Yung-Yu Fu & Min Zhang, Roger & Kristine Garratt, Rob Gertler & Marge Murray, Shelly Hanson & Brian Gix, Ahoua Kone & Steve Gloyd, Pascal Golay & Jody Hendrickson, Tziviah & Mark Goldberg, Sunnie Gordon, David & Kim-Terry Gordon, Meredith Bibber & Chris Goss, Peter & Vanessa Greaves, Dana Harrison, Joel Hayflick & Louise Band, David Herber, Kim Herber, Ruth & Karl Hergenrother, W.B. Herrmannsfeldt, Edith Herskovits, Melissa Huther & Gordon Hof, Carol Howell, Julie Howell, John & Joan Howell, James & Colleen Huntley, John & Catherine Huther, Fiona & Jim Jackson, James Jackson, Rick & Judy Jackson, Alice & Lloyd Jensen, Mark J. Johnson, Lee & Sharlene Jones, David & Margaret Juenke, Patricia Kalafus, Mas & Amy Kato, Joel Kaufman & Anna Wald, Sean & Barbara Kelly, Lucy Khuu, Mr. & Mrs. John B. Kiefer, John & Katy Killory, Stephen King & Sheryl Kipnis, Tricia Kissel-Ogle, Joyce & Daniel Klein, Eileen & Howard Klein, John & Kristen Klein, Elaine Ko, Hildy & Dave Ko, James Krieger & Kimberly Wicklund, Maxine & Lenny Kwatinetz, Michael & Deanna Lane, Sam Lau, Jean Layzer, Martha & Jon Layzer, Martha Ways & Timothy Lee, Katherine Lee, Hyland & Alycia Lee, Dan Lessler & Kathy Bradley, Gad Levy & Felice Tiu, Tom Linde & Mary Weiss, Janis Traven & Mark Linsey, Martha Hyde & Patrick Long, Daisy Mar, Christine Marshall, Randi & Ole Mathisen, Julie Nikaitani & Michael McCarthy, Stuart McFeely, Dennis McLean & Bonnie Berk, Joe & Lyta McNabb, Mark McPherson, Mona Miller, Patricia Mroczek, Melanie Nalbandian, Dorothy & Howard

Nelson, Ted & Margaret Nelson, Ann Nelson & David Kaplan, Mr. & Mrs. David Nelson, Dung Kim Nguyen, Bill & Mary Noland, Oliver & Mary Norville, Tey & Skeets Oji, Millie & Gerry Oppenheimer, Kari Anderson & Jory Oppenheimer, David & Christine Owens, Greg Paley, Denise Paley, Janet & Archie Palpallatoc, Ru Chen & Sheng Pan, Jim & Arlene Phillips, Alice Pihoker, Bill & Betty Potter, Gary Prince & Meg Goldman, Rainier Investment Management, Inc., Mary Beth Cunningham & Ted Rasch, Jan Rahe, Kathy & Thierry Rautureau, Paul Ray & Dorothy Orzel, John Reed & Karen Overstreet, Irene Reed, Jay & Lisa Renehan, Evelyn & Ernie Robinson, Jane & Frank Roe, Terry & Robert Rosencrantz, Edith Rosencrantz, Debbie Robinson & Peter Rubenstein, Daniel & Annette Sabath, Melinda Moree & Elizabeth Sanders, Shira & David Sands, Ruth Sceva, Estelle Schecter, Mary DeLorme & Mark Schleck, Barbara Schwartz, Molly Seaverns, Glenn & Bill Sheffield, Audrey & John Sheffield, Stephanie Shine, Hugh Shipman & Michele Manber, Cindy Irwin & Bill Singer, Brian & Nancy Smith, Ruth Solnit & Dave Franklin, Catherine Staunton, Ellen Lackermann & Neal Stephenson, Cary Stone, Mimi Stone, Helen Stusser, James & Mary Suhr, Elizabeth Noll & Bill Suhr, Ann Summers, Susan Taketa & Brian McKinney, Jue Zhang & Weiliang Tang, Richard & Linda Tanner, Brian Arbogast & Valerie Tarico, Beverley Thomas, Hugh Thompson, Bergitta Trelstad, William & MaryAnne Trettenero, Karen Tsao, Allen & Andrea Tu, James Tully & Ann Costello, Joan Tupper, Tom & Chris Turner, Kerry & Ron VanderVeen, Cate Pihoker & Bill Vanderwilt, Mary Jane & Neil Vanderwilt, Liz Ablow & Dick Wall, Mark & Matina Wallace, Kathryn Elliott & Kent Wallner, Victor & Seraphine Wang, Kathy Feldman & Dana Warren, Jonathan Weinstein & Tamara Bailey, Lilia Widmayer, Kirk Wohlers & Karen Stewart, Fritz Wollett, Wing Kam Wong & Mei Ngor Wong-Lee, Donna Wortman, Clara Wu, Cong Xu, Roland & Paula Young, Ella Young, Lindsay Brown & David Zapolsky, Jean Zhou & Weiping Zeng, Yahua Yu & Benson Zhang, Ge Zhou,

Academic Saturday School

We have three dates scheduled for *Academic Saturday School* for March: **March 3, 10**, and the **31st**. Applications are still available in the main office, counseling office and downstairs with **Mrs. Jones** in room/office 4. This is open to all Washington Middle School students.

If you make the right choice to come to *Academic Saturday School*, please come prepared to work the entire 3 hours. The night before go through your planner and figure out what you need to work on. Let your teacher know you are coming; there might be something you should/could be working on. Go over assignments and make a check list of questions you have or did not understand. Make the most of your time here at *Saturday School*, be organized and prepared. If you arrive after 9:30 you will be sent home, after a call home has been made. We provide a light breakfast snack and lunch. Metro tokens are available to those who qualify.

Ms. Tolson and Mrs. Jones

Science, Art & More Supports WMS

The WMS Science Department wins when you shop at *Science, Art and More, Inc.* (6417 Roosevelt Way NE, 524-3795)! Every time you make a purchase at *Science, Art and More*, a percentage of the money you spend is credited to WMS Science Department: cash, check or debit card (they credit 4%), or credit card (they credit 1%).

Be sure to let them know you support WMS!

This account is used by WMS school to purchase educational items for WMS students.

Thank you for signing up for the Education Support Program at Science, Art and More!

Leslie Ashbaugh



Paw Prints

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage Paid
Seattle, WA
Permit No. 687

Washington Middle School PTSA

6.15.390

2101 South Jackson Street
Seattle, WA 98144, 252-2600
Attendance Office: 252-2604
www.seattleschools.org/schools/washingtonms

PTSA Co-Presidents

Stephanie Shine, 767-8005
stephs@seattleshakespeare.org

John Eickleberg, 329-1267
eibhlis@msn.com

Pawprints Editor

Elizabeth Sanders, 324-0222
elizsanders@yahoo.com

Pawprints Mailing Coordinator

Sara Schott

Next Pawprints Deadline
MARCH 15TH, 2006

Music News

Upcoming Music Events

March 3 WMS PTSA Spring Fling Auction 5:30–10pm at St. Demetrios Church. Senior Jazz Band and a Senior Orchestra quartet will be performing. Support our school and our music program by attending this fabulously fun event. Don't forget to bid high!

March 8 Seattle School District Middle School Jazz Festival 7pm at Eckstein Middle School. The evening will feature middle school bands from Seattle School District.

March 24 WMS Voices Fundraiser Concert

7pm at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Shoreline. Listen to our talented singers perform a variety of music from Vivaldi to traditional Afro-Cuban songs. Dance to the Afro-Cuban music of the featured special guest ensemble Orchestra Zarabanda (formerly Yerbabuena). Enjoy delicious food and wine, raffle and/or silent auction. Great fun all in support of *Voices* and the WMS music program! Tickets available from *Voices* director **Beth Fortune**.



March 27 Middle School Band Festival 7pm at WMS Gym. The evening will feature middle school concert bands from the south end of the Seattle School District.

April 20 Family Night with *The Young Eight* 7pm at Rainier Beach High School. Join us for an incredible evening of music with

the professional classical ensemble *The Young Eight* and the talents of WMS Junior and Senior Orchestras, as well as Meany Middle School Orchestra and the string students of T.T. Minor Elementary.



April 27 Gypsy Jazz 7pm at Town Hall. Don't miss one of our most highly acclaimed annual musical events featuring our award winning Senior Orchestra and the professional talents of cellist, **Natalie Haas** and multi-instrumentalist and percussionist, **Joe Craven**.

Attend a Friends of Washington Music Meeting

All parents are encouraged to attend our next *FOWM* board meeting on Tuesday, March 6 at 6:30pm in the band room (rm 8). Your participation can help make this a great year!

Laurie de Koch, FOWM Chair

March Calendar

- Mar 3 **WMS AUCTION**, St. Demetrious Church, 5pm
- Mar 6 *Friends of Washington Music*, Room 8, 7–8:30pm
- Mar 7 Early Release, 1:15pm
- Mar 15 APP Advisory Committee Meeting, Garfield H.S.
- Mar 16 **Make-up Day for Snow—SCHOOL IN SESSION**