

# PAW PRINTS

## WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSA NEWSLETTER



### 8TH GRADE PROMOTION - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

### ... FROM YOUR PTSA CO-PRESIDENTS

June 21, 2010 is 8th Grade Promotion beginning with student breakfast. Ceremony begins at 7:30 p.m. with reception following. We really appreciate 6th and 7th grade parents stepping up to free up 8th grade parents attending the event. Please grab a friend and volunteer for some of the many opportunities - it takes a village!

- Need Lead to coordinate reception (6th or 7th grade parents so 8th grade parents can attend reception)
- Need Lead to coordinate breakfast
- Arranging for floral decorations for stage
- Floral decorations for reception
- Arranging for corsages & boutonnieres for VIP
- Arranging for balloons for day of the event
- Picking up food/drinks/ice/paper goods for reception
- Picking up food/drinks/ice/paper goods for breakfast
- Donating cut fruit for morning breakfast
- Setting up, serving & clean up of breakfast
- Assistance with preparation of scrolls (roll & wrap with ribbon) - you can help from home!
- On-site volunteers - miscellaneous tasks on June 21st (reception, set-up & break down of gym)
- Assistance with preparing for invitation mailing on June 7, 2010

If there is a particular area you could help with or sign up as a general volunteer (details for all jobs forthcoming), contact Paula Wieber: [home@dbrlaw.com](mailto:home@dbrlaw.com)

We are counting down our last days of the school year, but as always, in the Washington Middle School (WMS) PTSA community, there are events ahead! We hope to see a lot of you at the spring concerts, end-of year celebrations and, of course, our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion. Check out the flyer (see page 5) for the June 26<sup>th</sup> "School's Out" Wine Fest at 12<sup>th</sup> and Olive – this is a buy-in opportunity left over from our auction, and it is not too late to join us in celebrating another great year at WMS!

This has been a year of new faces and new opportunities, and we could not have made it through without an incredible and ever-growing team of parent volunteers, who have worked with PTSA and Friends of Washington Music (FOWM) and WMS staff to make a lot of things happen! Many thanks to everyone who has donated planning time, volunteer service, tasks big and small, listening ears, willingness to take a job and run with it, participation in events, and all the other activities that help keep our parent community a vital and active part of WMS. Please continue to connect and find your niche – we are eager to get to know you!

We are looking forward to a whole lot of new energy on our 2010-2011 PTA board, thanks to the dedicated work of our nominating team, Laurie Pike, Kerry Cooley-Stroum, and Kirk Wohlers – Welcome Co-Presidents: Stephanie Jones (returning, and rising 7<sup>th</sup> grade mom), Solynn McCurdy, an incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade dad from Leschi Elementary, and Ellen Chestnut, a rising 7<sup>th</sup> grade mom); Rounding out the executive board are more enthusiastic rising 7<sup>th</sup> grade parents:

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## FRIENDS OF WASHINGTON MUSIC (FOWM) CORNER

Wow! I can't believe it's the end of the year already. This was an outstanding year that saw families really step up to the plate to continue the tradition of great and inspirational music at Washington Middle School (WMS) even though we lost a significant number of families with the APP split. It was exciting to see and be a part of the energy that continued to make music great at WMS.

Much kudos goes out to the fabulous co-chairs, Margaret Sandvig and Asha Wadhwa. Despite their own busy schedules, they worked tirelessly on behalf of all our kids in music, from organizing the senior trip, to fitting kids for uniforms, to planning all the events for the music program.

Many, many hands make light work and thanks go to all the FOWM board and members for all their hard work and contributions.



Of course, the program would not be what it is without the incredible talent of our music directors: Beth Fortune (orchestra and choir) and Kelly Barr-Clingan (band). Their hard work, dedication, and commitment to our children are what make WMS music great! You are an inspiration.

Many thanks to Seattle Music Partners (SMP) for their fantastic support of our young musicians! This non-profit pairs talented high school musicians with our students for whom private lessons are not otherwise possible. This effective after school program has potential to grow with increased FOWM support. FOWM member and parent Tom Wolken has done a fabulous job coordinating this program. Thanks you, Tom! To find out more about SMP or if you would like to coordinate this program next year, contact current FOWM liaison Tom Wolken at 206.725.9960.

Another fabulous addition to WMS music is the African Steel drums after school program. Parent and FOWM member Amma Anang went to town in obtaining a grant from the City of Seattle to fund this exciting option for musicians. They played recently at the Triple Door.

Contact Amma Anang for more info or if you would like to volunteer next year.

The Senior trip to San Francisco was a huge success. The kids had a blast in the city, at the festival, and took away gold at all levels.

### HAPPENINGS & EVENTS SPRING CONCERTS

#### JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> 7:00 P.M.

Junior, Intermediate, Beginning Orchestra and Band, Choir, Drumline, Steel and African Drumming, and Junior Jazz. WMS gymnasium.

#### JUNE 17<sup>TH</sup> 7:00 P.M.

Senior Orchestra and Band. Garfield High School Quincy Jones Auditorium.

Congratulations to graduating Seniors and to all the student musicians at WMS!!

### PTSA CONTINUED

VP at-large, Ann Henrie (who also has a graduating 8<sup>th</sup> grader); Secretary, Kristen Sycamore, and Co-Treasurers, Kirk Wohlers and Vanessa Bowker (both returning), as well as rising 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> grade moms and Co-Legislative Chairs, Melinda Mann and Kerry Cooley Stroum (also both returning). A complete list of grade level VPs, additional PTA board members and contact information will be posted on our [wmsptsa.com](http://wmsptsa.com)

And there are still some slots to fill – if fundraising is in your blood (or even if it isn't), we are looking for trainees for the Annual Fund and Auction, as well as grant writers and procurers. The old/new board transition meeting is slated for Tuesday evening, June 15<sup>th</sup>, at Stephanie Jones' home (Capitol Hill). Grab a friend and join our team – contact Stephanie at [jonesiifam@gmail.com](mailto:jonesiifam@gmail.com) for more information.

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## A MIGHTY THANK YOU TO OUR TUTORS

Anyone raising a child can readily come up with a list of many things they could accomplish, given a free hour in the day. Yet there is a number of parents and guardians who have regularly given that much time and more, over this school year, to work with kids who are not their own but who need extra support, academic and otherwise, to succeed here at Washington. I want to express thanks, on behalf of all the school staff, for the dedicated efforts of the following tutors (\* after the name means this is at least the second year this person has volunteered):

Joe Brown, Stacy Andersen\*, Harriet Bakken\*,  
Fleur Bryant, Ellen Chestnut, Jen Cole,  
Maggie Fisher\*, Jeff Floor\*, Jann Hatrup, Sandy Hirsch,  
Jeanne Hoppe, Janet Jones\*, Mishelle Maas\*,  
Bonnie Mills, Daphne Minkoff, Beth Oswald,  
Kim Seater, Olga Sukhover, Shannon Wheeler,  
Leslie Stocker, Jessica Dixon, John Cross\*,  
Libby Cunningham

It is common at Washington to see these people first thing in the morning, helping out in math classes, taking turns reading with a group of students in the library, or concentrating over a science, health or writing project at a computer terminal. One of my favorite parts of being a tutor coordinator is meeting with the volunteers before or after the session, checking Source, brainstorming how to unlock the child's inner motivation and direction, and forging connections between tutor and counselors, teachers and other adults in the child's life.

As we hurtle toward another year's end and I'm already thinking ahead to September 2010, I am hoping more of Paw Prints' readers will consider joining this group next year, for an hour a week or maybe two. Take it from one of my parent volunteers who recently said it better than I could:

"In the beginning of the year, my student acted as though he did not care about his grades. As the year progressed he showed me little by little that his grades are tremendously important to him and affect how he feels about himself. Tutoring allows us a little opportunity to help another accomplish and learn, directly impacting their self esteem. That's an enormous opportunity for us as community members."

Susan Huntley, Tutoring Coordinator  
Room 134; 206.252.2644

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## PTSA CONTINUED

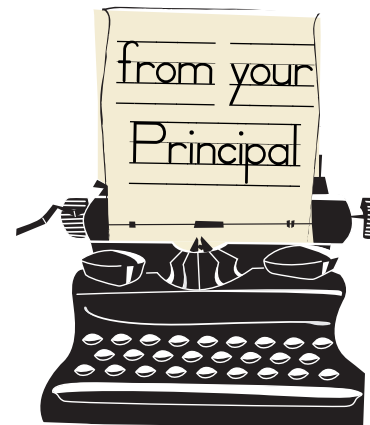
Finally, we couldn't be more appreciative of the leadership and vision of our out-going PTSA leaders – we wish them well as they move on to high school or simply to more behind-the-scenes volunteerism – Thanks to Co-Chair Chris Turner, VP at large John Eickelberg, Secretary Catherine Chu, 8<sup>th</sup> grade VPs Paula Wieber, Edna Sawyer, and Amma Anang, Annual Fund Co-Chairs Elizabeth Lowry and Margaret Sandvig, Membership Chair Mary Irwin, Staff Appreciation Chair Vineeta Siegel, FOWM Chair Margaret Sandvig, Student Directory Chair, Levecke Mas.

Thank you all!!!

*Stephanie and Chris*



April showers, May flowers, blah, blah, blah!!! June is here and the only word I can use to describe today's weather is, "ugh!" For those of you who have students who play "sticks and balls" (also known as softball and baseball,) I am truly sorry for what can only be described as a very frustrating spring season of rainouts and reschedules. Even our fledgling thespians, who worked so hard to prepare the library courtyard for an outdoor production of Shakespeare's "As You Like It," got rained out. Thankfully with some flexibility and creativity, the lunchroom assumed the role of the Globe Theatre and the curtain went up on a glorious evening of costumes and soliloquies. As day one of June draws to a close, we can only hope that by the time summer solstice hits and our students are emptying out their lockers for the final time, the summer weather we are all craving will arrive to start our collective break.



2009-2010 is ending with a frantic pace. There is so much that goes into finishing the school year. Students and teachers are completing their final projects and assessments for the year. Evenings are filled with family events, concerts, and other class presentations. The master schedule, staffing, and hiring are in a constant state of change as new numbers filter in from the central office and staff make final decisions regarding next year. Preparation for the 8<sup>th</sup> grade promotion ceremony is nearly complete, and the final grade-level trips of the year are just around the corner.

Amidst all of this hustle and bustle, please allow me a moment or two to thank some of the many people who have helped make the past year so successful. Within the PTSA, Chris Turner and Stephanie Jones have done a marvelous job sharing the leadership. Each has her own style and approach to the presidency, but combined, they have created a very successful level of leadership and collaborative work focused on the entire WMS community. I also want to thank John Eickelberg, who has served on the board either as a president or vice-president at large for the past four years, and whose attention to detail has created procedural safeguards that keep the PTSA open, transparent, and accessible to all. I also need to thank John's wife, Liz, who has taken on the role of volunteer coordinator, Jr. Husky Happenings publisher, and "Hey Liz, can you post the following ..." staffer. Her ability to actualize our requests in near live time is amazing! Another big thank you to the entire "un-Auction" committee for the fantastic job in pulling together this year's "Spring Fling!" Vineeta Siegel and Rebecca Keith also need a round of applause for the wonderful staff appreciations they have hosted this year. And to Connie Nakano, our *Paw Prints* editor, thank you. In spite of my many efforts to thwart her deadlines, she produces a stellar product each and every month. We also need to recognize the Friends of Washington Music (FOWM) Chairs, Margaret Sandvig and Asha Wadhwa and all the FOWM volunteers who helped our WMS music program negotiate this crucial transitional year. And finally, to the rest of the WMS community who volunteered five minutes, five days, five years (or longer) to the cause. That you took the time to volunteer in our school speaks loudly to your commitment to WMS and to public education. Thank you all!

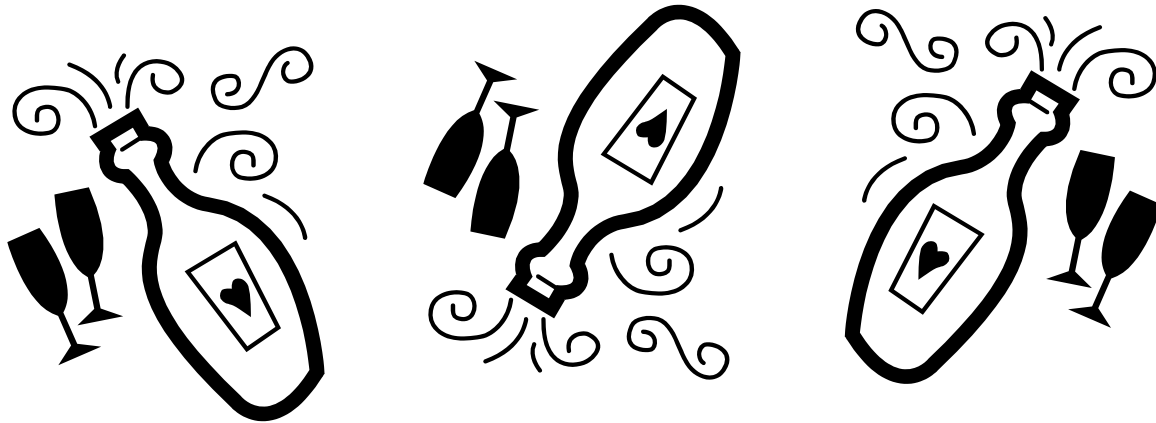
Within the building, a couple of additional thank you notes also need to be passed along. To Mr. Katz and Mr. Gruver, both of whom took over long-term classroom positions on very short notice, thank you. You kept the focus on learning and instruction when things could have gone in very different directions. To Mr. Glaser, Ms. Matter, and Mr. Ragsdale, Ms. Cohen and Ms. Dillard, thank you for all that you've brought to the classroom during your time at WMS. We will miss all of you and of course, we wish you all the best in whatever new adventure you are undertaking. To Mr. Goldstein, thank you for your tireless efforts in counseling and guiding the many students who have knocked on your door. Our firm belief is that you will be back with us by the time school starts again in September. To the returning staff, again, you have my thanks for your continued efforts towards making Washington the successful middle school we know and expect. Thank you!

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June 2010

# WASHINGTON MIDDLE SCHOOL PTSA

## WINE FEST 2010



**Saturday, June 26<sup>th</sup>**

**6:30-8:30 p.m.**

**12<sup>TH</sup> & Olive Wine Company**

School's going to be out, so it's time to let your mind relax and fill the spirits!

Our final gathering is an opportunity to bring parents, staff, & friends together. Let's raise funds for the students, while clicking glasses of joy, since the school year is over.

We really did it!

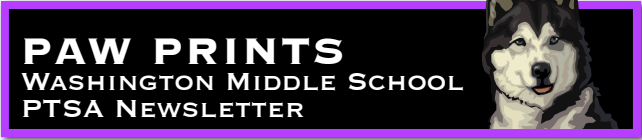
**Steven D. Brown C.S.W. owner of 12<sup>TH</sup> & Olive Wine Company, an artisan wine shop in Capitol Hill, will pull out his finest of wines.**

**Appetizers \* Raffle \* Surprises**

HOSTED BY: Darci Wyman & Brenda Nelson – WMS Auction

Contact Brenda @ [bnpta20023@yahoo.com](mailto:bnpta20023@yahoo.com) or Darci @ [dwyman@costco.com](mailto:dwyman@costco.com)

CHECKS PAYABLE TO: **WMS PTSA** 2101 So. Jackson Seattle 98144 or leave in PTSA Treasurers Box



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**PTSA Co-Presidents**  
Chris Turner  
Stephanie Jones

**Paw Prints Editor**  
Connie Nakano

**Paw Prints Mailing Coordinator**  
Barbara Staley

**PRINCIPAL CONTINUED**

With that, one final word to the class of 2010/2014. Of the five “graduating” classes of eight grade students I have had the pleasure to work with during my time as principal, yours was the most diverse, complex, and interesting. For the other half, you joined us for the final 180 days of middle school. While many of our steps in the fall involved “these kids or those kids,” you leave us now as one collective eighth grade class, as students of Washington Middle School, as the class of 2010. The experience of this past year will serve you well. You know how to become part of a larger community, to engage in student activities and events, and to seek out the help and assistance necessary to be successful in your new school. In just 720 short school days, the doors of college, work, and life will open to each of you. Every one of the days between now and then is crucial. Calling in sick, taking a day or two off, or just “hanging out” in class won’t cut it. You have to make the effort to make every day count if you are to achieve the success you dream of and that we know you are capable of. Congratulations to all of you as you begin your final steps to high school!

Enjoy the summer!

Jon Halfaker, Principal

