

# NEWSLETTER

November 2018



## From the Superintendent

Hello everyone, I hope this message finds all of you well. In the past month, we have had some exciting things take place that we would love to share with you. Our High School Seniors have all taken their first month of our “Bridge to College” Math and ELA courses. We calculated our first round of attendance data for the school year, and our Juniors and Seniors had the experience of taking the SAT. While these are just a small snapshot of events going on at Wishram School, we thought it would be important for our community to have the opportunity to obtain a birds eye view of some of the experiences our students are taking part in at our wonderful school.

The Bridge to College courses are being offered to all of our 12<sup>th</sup> grade students in the areas of English Language Arts, and Mathematics. These courses are extremely rigorous compared to their previous class work, and if students complete the classes earning a “B” or higher, they simultaneously meet their state testing requirement, and earn their way directly past entry level coursework at the post secondary level. This means that each of our graduating students wouldn’t need to take any remedial coursework in college as a result of taking these classes. This has been quite an experience for both our teachers and students, but so far the classes have been a smashing

success. Students are quickly finding out that there is a large difference between college level assignments and those in the high school, but they are working hard to meet the increased demands. Please help us support these young men and women as they tackle such rigorous content.

Our first round of attendance data was calculated for the 2018/2019 school year, and we are happy to report that 97% of students attended every single day for the month of September. Regular school attendance and punctuality are essential skills that students will need to take them to the next level once they leave our school, and we are very excited with the progress that we have been able to make over the last two school years. Please help us in our efforts, and encourage your students to attend as often as possible.



Our 12<sup>th</sup> grade students had the opportunity to participate in a site based SAT exam on Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. In the past, our students have been forced to seek an alternative placement to take the SAT exam, and that usually meant that we had to travel as far away as Moro, Oregon for our students to have the opportunity to take this test. Recently, new legislation allowed for individual sites to offer their own testing dates, and Wishram School District #94 happily accepted this responsibility. This means our students were able to take this exam in their own school, with familiar surroundings, from teachers that they already know. This creates an equitable situation for Wishram students, and we look forward to having the ability to do this on an annual basis.

Overall, there are tremendous things happening at Wishram School each and every

day. We are thankful to have such a caring and supportive community, and we are fortunate to conduct such important work with these amazing students. Thank you so much for all that you do to help make this the best school in the state of Washington. All my best.

-Mike Roberts

Superintendent/Principal

Wishram School District #94



It has been a wonderful start to the year and I am enjoying getting to know your students. I will continue to connect with several of them throughout the month to help students understand how school counselors can help them succeed here at school.

Thus far in Seniors Class students have completed personality inventories, conducted career research, created and presented presentations based on a desirable career, used class time to study for SATs, and have had ample opportunities to work on completing their FAFSAs, college applications, and searching for scholarships. We have a few activities and events coming up to also further their college and career readiness as well:

- October 30 - We will attend the College and Career Fair at Goldendale High School
- November 1 - The area admissions advisor for Eastern Washington University will visit Seniors Class

- November 8 - We will attend the Columbia Gorge Community College College Fair
- November 9 - The area admissions advisor for Washington State University will visit Seniors Class
- November 15 - University of Washington Visit

Our next unit of study will focus on citizenship and furthering the development of the leadership skills necessary to be effective role models within the school and positive members of their communities (including learning strategies, self-management skills and social skills).

Here are a few frequently asked questions about my role here as the school counselor:



### **What is the focus of a school counselor?**

The primary focus is to help students be ready to learn. I focus on the areas of academic development, personal/social development, and college/career readiness.

### **When is it important to contact you?**

Contact me with any questions or concerns regarding issues that may be affecting your student's academic progress. Such issues could include family changes, social difficulties or mental health problems.

### **How is a school counselor different from a therapist?**

I help students to be ready for learning by providing short-term assistance and interventions with particular issues they may be acting as roadblocks to the student's education.

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Therapists treat mental health disorders in an on-going, usually regularly scheduled basis. Although I do often help students with family problems or behavior at home, my primary role is to help the student be ready to learn. For issues beyond the scope of school counseling, I can provide community resources to parents.

**Are you available to assist students with grief or trauma?**

Absolutely. Grief and trauma both present roadblocks to the brain's readiness to learn and I can work with your student to process grief, provide short term counseling if needed, and provide resources for families should the nature of the grief/trauma need further attention.

**What is your role in reducing/preventing bullying?**

School counselors generally work with the school population through classroom lessons and/or assemblies to raise awareness of the students regarding strategies to reduce bullying, identification of the roles played in a bullying situation, and appropriate responses. I can also work with students in small groups or individually to help them recognize their roles in a particular situation and discover ways to relate to others more positively.

**In what ways do counselors support academic achievement?**

I work with teachers to review progress of students and help identify strategies to help students to be successful in school. I also meet with students individually to provide guidance regarding study skills, completion of work and organizational strategies. I can also serve as an advocate for students during team meetings.

**How do school counselors address career readiness?**

So far I have been instructing the Seniors Class, which is primarily focusing on college and career

readiness. For the school as a whole, I am here to help students recognize their strengths and interests and how those fit into the world of work and how they can make informed decisions regarding their post-secondary plans.

Please feel free to give me a call or stop by with any questions, concerns, or to just learn more about how a school counselor can help you and your student.

-Ms. Ashley

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## Pre-K/Kindergarten

Hello Fall-

Our preschoolers finished up their study of "Friends and Family" and are currently moving into a unit called "Orchard Harvest." This was perfect as we just went on our first field trip to the Renken Farms Pumpkin Patch in The Dalles. Many preschoolers were able to join us and the weather was sunny and crisp. In this unit we will study about a tree's life cycle, fruit trees, animals in the orchard and seeds and skins. You might be able to add to this by taking a walk in an orchard or as you drive by one just talk about different aspects of fruit orchards in our area.

All the preschoolers are writing some portion of their names and learning how to ask the kindergarteners to "please write their date" on their journal page for the day. The kinders are getting more independent writing their own journal pages with the 4 components-date, picture, color and words.

The kinders are learning to blend two sounds to make simple consonant vowel consonant (CVC) words in their reading program. In just 20 more lessons they will be reading 3 word sentences.

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Already Halloween and soon November. Our Halloween celebration is right around the corner. Also, please watch for information about our Veteran's Day celebration and the Cultural event in November. You won't want to miss any of these events.

Till next time.

Judy

Preschool/Kindergarten

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## First/Second Grade

The first and second grade class has been working hard in our daily lessons. Here are some highlights. The first grade students have been working on increasing their sight word vocabulary so they can read more smoothly and accurately. They are also working on reading with expression to show they understand what's going on in the story. The second grade students are working on their comprehension by discussing the connections between different events in the stories, making predictions and inferences about the stories, and using details from the stories to support their answers. In math, both grades have been working at their own level on using addition or subtraction to solve word problems and showing their thinking using a picture, model, diagram, or written math notes. We have found that there is more than one way to get to the correct answer. In another area of math, we have been learning about data graphs and how to read, understand, and create them. In science, we are learning how sound moves in waves that vibrate. Ask a first or second grader about the ruler or tuning fork experiments and they will have a lot to tell you.

Katrina Guthrie

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## Third/Fourth Grade

The end of September and beginning October have been filled with lots of learning and a bunch of fun. We completed i-Ready Math and Reading Assessments in the middle of September and students were placed in Reading and Math groups that match their abilities and will allow them optimal growth throughout the year. Starting October 15 students were Growth Monitored, and students are already showing very good growth in both reading and math. YAY!

Students are working on an argument/opinion paper. The topic is, "Should we play tag on the playground?" Students have to make an intriguing introductory paragraph, a paragraph why they should be allowed to, and a paragraph why they should not be allowed to. They will sum it all up with a conclusion that clearly states what they think should actually happen. Students will be writing three argument/opinion papers this school year. We will be having lessons on the different components throughout the year.

Third and Fourth Graders have also been learning about energy and magnetism in science. They have been studying all the different power sources and how they work. They have been having a fantastic time with lots of hands on activities. Remember to ask them what they have been learning.



We all enjoyed the trip to Renken Farms Pumpkin Patch and Dirt Huggers field trip. Did you know that it takes a full year for yard debris to break down? Dirt Huggers has figured out through Science to make it happen in 90 days. That is super cool and the dirt and mulch was gorgeous!

Thank you,  
Kristen Kornegay Ringer

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## Fifth/Sixth Grade

FIFTH/SIXTH GRADE  
OCTOBER FIELD TRIP



On Friday, October 19th our class joined the K-4 grades in traveling to the Renken Farms Pumpkin Patch and petting zoo.



The students were given a wagon ride, driven by a tractor to the pumpkin patch. There, they were allowed to pick a pumpkin for themselves and enjoy slide rides before returning to the farm house back yard where various farm animals were kept. The students viewed baby chicks, goats and pigs.



Following the farm visit, we all took the school bus to The Dalles City Park for a sack lunch. The weather was a wonderful sunny day and we all enjoy our time together.



On the way back to Wishram, we stopped by the Dirt Hugger's facility in Dallesport. The head of the facility showed us around and taught our group all about composting our trash. He commented that our group had the best questions of any group he has led.



Written by Paul Pickette



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## Secondary Social Studies

The students are working hard in their courses. In 7/8th grade Geography we are looking at Latin America. In 9th grade Civics we have just completed the Constitution and the Bill of Rights and are now beginning to look at the legislative branch. Our 11th graders are currently studying Imperialism and will soon be on to World War 1. We will have a guest speaker who impersonates a British soldier from a Scottish regiment. He dresses in the full kit and gives a great presentation. Our seniors have begun the process of their classroom based assessment and we have been looking at issues involving North Korea and China. We are now beginning a unit on American politics and the Congressional elections. Our 11th grade Occupational Education class will have its first guest speaker, State Park Ranger Andrew Kallinen to talk about career opportunities with Washington State Parks.

-Mr. Weaver

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## Secondary Math

Focus on the Bridge to College class

This year Wishram is offering a new math class for seniors. It is called Bridge to College. The class was created so that students could graduate from high school and go directly into a credit bearing math class in College. Sadly, this has not always been the case. Students entering college would have to take a placement test, and if they didn't score well enough, they would have to enroll in math 95 or lower. Students would still have to pay tuition for the class, but would not get credit toward college graduation from these classes. These classes are intended as prerequisites for higher level, credit bearing college math classes. Now, if a student passes our Bridge to College class with a grade of B or better, they will be able to enroll directly into Math 107 when they go to college. This will satisfy the basic math credit they need for any two year degree.

So far it's been a fun class to teach and I do believe the students are enjoying many of the activities they have done. This class is more "hands on" and "activity oriented" than many traditional math classes (I highlighted the Marshmallow Challenge in the last newsletter). Just recently the students created sets of cards to use as a matching activity. They were given algebraic equations from which they needed to create a story problem. I know, it's usually the other way around. There are worksheets with story problems and students write equations to solve those story problems. This activity gave the students the chance to write their own story problems. I was pleasantly surprised by the fabulous stories that the students wrote, not to mention the fact that they actually fit the equations perfectly! These seniors were especially creative. If you get a chance to stop by the school, check out the secondary math bulletin board where you will find some of the

student work that was created through this activity. I'm glad we as a school decided to try out this new curriculum. It seems to be paying off so far and I'm hoping it will help our seniors that are college bound.



Working in groups writing stories



Students sharing their work on the board

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## Secondary ELA

As we move into the second quarter of the school year, students have become familiar and more comfortable with our ELA class routines and assignment expectations. The senior Bridge ELA class completed their first unit on the Rhetoric of the Op-Ed Page by writing letters to

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the editor in response to their choice of articles from the unit readings. We have now moved into our second unit of study, reading George Orwell's classic dystopian tale, *1984*. ELA 11 students are wrapping up the first literature study unit on the American Gothic/Dark Romantic period by writing a modern retelling of one of the short stories we have read. ELA 9/10 students are in the home stretch of *Lord of the Flies*, and will cap off the unit with a literary analysis essay. ELA 7/8 students have finished their first novel study of *Among the Hidden*, and are working on persuasive proposals in response to the Population Law which exists in the dystopian world of the novel. The 9/10 Speech class students are working on honing their rhetorical skills through persuasive and argumentative speeches. Stay curious, keep asking questions, and READ EVERY DAY!

-Mrs. Roberts

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## Secondary Science

Mr. Cameron's science classes will be studying the health of local water sources. They will be checking the pH of the water as well as the oxygen content. Water sources to be checked include: Dump Lake and the Columbia River and other local streams.

Mr. Cameron

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## Facilities/Athletic Director

Hello Wishram Community:

Hope everything is absolutely wonderful with all your lives. The holiday season can be very stressful time of the year for individuals and families. Remember to take time out of your busy days to focus on yourself and your families.

It's okay to take a few minutes everyday and really focus on the great things going on in your life. As Helen Keller once said, "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched, they must be felt with the heart". With winter approaching I thought I'd take a second to remind everyone to winterize their outside watering systems. Unhook all outside hoses from their faucets and turn off the water to those faucets if possible. If not, make sure you cover/wrap them up. If you have an automatic underground watering systems, it's a good idea to blow out your lines. If you don't know how or need some help please don't hesitate to give me a call.

### Facilities:

As many of you have heard, we have been doing some testing on the North wall of our school. Carlson Inc. came in and performed the tests. We are also working with an architect firm and a structural engineer. Due to the wall being underground without the proper drainage the wall has sustained some damage over time. The testing has determined that the wall needs to be renovated or rebuilt at a cost of over 3 million dollars. We are working feverishly with the state to find the money to complete these repairs. We have also written several grants and petitioned the state for some emergency funding. We want to make sure we ease everyone's mind who might be thinking that there is imminent danger with this wall. That is not the case, but just a situation where we have to start looking at fixing it.

### Transportation:

Winter is not far away so it's very important to remember that when the snow flies busses move along much slower than everyone else. Please be patient with the drivers as their only focus is the safety of all your children. Also for the parents of students riding busses, it's important to remember that busses can be



running a few minutes late if there's snow, ice or even fog in our neighborhoods.

### School Closures or Delays:

Please make sure you pay attention to either one of our local news stations, (KATU, ABC, NBC, CBS) or local radio stations. We also put any delays or closures on our website, [www.wishramschool.org](http://www.wishramschool.org), and our Facebook page. You also have the ability to download the FlashAlert Messenger App on your smart phones for updates on school closures and delays.



### Athletics:

HS volleyball has their play-in game for post-season on October the 22nd at 4:30 in Waitsburg. They will be playing White Swan. Loser Out! Winner will play Dayton/Waitsburg at 6:30.

Our HS football team has won 5 out their 7 games so far this year. The next game is scheduled at home on November 2nd with a 7:00 pm start time. We will be playing North Beach. At this time HS Football is scheduled to have a post-season play-in game sometime the week of November 5th. This is still being worked on.

JH football has a home game on Tuesday October 23rd against Dufur and a home game on Tuesday, October 30th against Ione. Both games start at 5:00 pm.

JH VB has their last two games this week. One on Monday, October 22nd at home starting at 5:00 pm. And the JH VB tournament will be on Wednesday, October 24 in Klickitat starting at 4:00 pm.

Tye Churchwell

Facilities/Athletic Director

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## REACH

Have you ever wondered why our after school program is called **REACH** and other times referred to as **WRC**? Well, there is a really good reason for this and it is not intended to confuse you at all. First off what do they stand for? REACH is an acronym for: **R**elationships **E**nrichment **A**cademics **C**ommunity **H**omework and WRC is short for **W**ashington **R**eadng **C**orps. But what are they?

REACH is a 21st Century grant that is federally funded. It allows us to pay for staff, transportation, supplies, summer activities, and, best of all, some pretty amazing field trips. We do not always have this grant. Wishram's REACH program is evaluated at the state level, and students need to be making progress towards their individual goals. These goals are generated by our students' classroom teachers and based on each student's assessment scores and behavioral needs. Our enrichment activities are created to meet those goals and needs.

On years that we do not have the REACH funding we still have a much smaller program and it is called WRC After School Program.

WRC is another federal grant that brings in volunteers for an entire school year. This grant enrolls members to the National AmeriCorps program. The easiest way to explain what

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WRC/AmeriCorps members are is to say they are stateside Peace Corps volunteers. These members work with students during the day on reading and writing. Members' goals are to get students that are not at grade level in reading up to grade level. WRC/AmeriCorps members are a vital part of our after school programming, we simply could not offer the programming we do without them.

During after school program and summer activities program both REACH staff and our WRC/AmeriCorps members provide enriching activities and learning experiences. If you have any questions please feel free to ask Kristen Ringer just give her a call at (509)748-2551.

By-the-way...This weekend we went on our REACH Kick-Off Event. We went on the Stern Wheeler and invited parents to come along with us. Fun was had by all. We are currently in week five of thirty of Wishram School's After School Program.



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**\*\*School Board Meeting\*\***

**November 27th,  
2018 @ 5:00 P.M.**

**School Gymnasium**

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**Important Dates:**

- **November 7** - Picture Retakes
- **November 9** - Veterans Day Assembly @ 9:00 A.M.
- **November 12** - No School, Veterans Day
- **November 20** - 18th Annual Cultural Exchange (see flyer)
- **November 21 to 23** - No School, Thanksgiving Break

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**Wishram School is currently operating under the CEP (Community Eligibility Program), which was created through the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids act of 2010, and allows qualifying high-poverty local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools to offer breakfast and lunch at no cost to all students without requiring families to complete an annual household application.**

**AVAILABLE STARTING JUNE 15TH**

**\* USDA Summer Meals Hotline at 1-866-348-6479. Families will receive assistance to find the location, meal times, and contact information based on their full address, city, and/or zip code.**

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Wishram School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employee has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Wishram School Superintendent, PO Box 8, Wishram, WA 98673, (509) 748-2551.

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*In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.*

*To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; fax: (202) 690-7442; or email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).*

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

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#### **SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT**

*Our surveillance equipment will be taking pictures of all the school grounds all of the time, north, south, east and west, as will the camera in the front hallway.*

*Wishram School videotapes teachers periodically as a tool to improve our teaching. We look at how we teach and how our students respond. These videos are for in-school use only. If you do not want your children to be a part of this process,*

***please call Mr. Churchwell at the school at 509-748-2551.***

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#### **LiveTip!**

### **Anonymous tip line for school safety**

**1-866-LIVE-TIP Ext. 940**

**(1-866-548-3847, ext 940)**

**Report anonymously 24 hours a day/365 days a year:**

- **School violence—weapons, bomb threats**
- **School damage—vandalism, theft**
- **Physical/sexual abuse or harassment**
- **Drug/alcohol issues**
- **Fights/gang activity**
- **Discrimination**

A recorded message will prompt the caller to either speak with a live operator or leave a recorded message. Messages are transcribed and emailed to the district contact. In case of emergency, district administrators are contacted immediately.

# NOVEMBER 2018

WISHRAM SCHOOL DIST #94

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1B- English muffin, fruit, milk L- Mexi-Mac, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	2B- Cereal, toast, fruit, milk L- Orange Chicken, rice, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	3
4	5B-Oatmeal, toast, fruit, milk L- Spaghetti, Garlic bread, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	6B-French toast sticks, fruit, milk L-Burritos, refried beans, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	7B-Yogurt&Granola, toast, fruit, milk L- Mac-N-Cheese, Garlic bread, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	8B-English Muffin, fruit, milk L-Sloppy Joe's, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	9B- Cereal, toast, fruit, milk L-Cheeseburgers, fries, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	10
11	12 <b>Veteran's Day</b> No School	13B- Oatmeal, toast, fruit, milk L-BBQ Chicken Sand, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	14B- Waffles, fruit, milk L-Tacos, roll, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	15B- Colby omelet, toast, fruit, milk L-Chicken Patty Sand, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	16B- Cereal, toast, fruit, milk L-Pizza, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	17
18	19B-Yogurt&Granola toast, fruit, milk L- Tuna Sandwich, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	20B- Cereal, toast, fruit, milk L-Turkey, Mashed taters, corn, fruit, salad, milk <b>Cultural Exchange</b>	21 No School	22 HAPPY TURKEY DAY!!! No School	23 No School	24
25	26B-Waffles, fruit, milk L-Chilli&Cornbread, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	27B- English muffin, fruit, milk L-Chicken A La King, rice, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	28B-Bagels, fruit, milk L- Taco Salad, garlic bread, fruit, milk	29B-Pancakes, fruit, milk L-Meatloaf, mashed taters, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	30B- Cereal, toast, fruit, milk L-Grilled Cheese, Tomato Soup, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.