

December 2018



## From the Superintendent

Hello again everyone, and welcome to another edition of the Wishram School Newsletter. There has been so much going on recently that it is going to be difficult to select only a few events to spotlight. First and foremost, our high school students have had a tremendous amount of post secondary exposure over the past month. Also, we had the opportunity to honor our veterans during our Veterans Day assembly. Finally, we were able to participate in our annual Cultural Exchange, which is one of our most valued community events.

Being a small rural (and remote) district places our students at a distinct disadvantage when considering post secondary opportunities. With the hiring of our new Counselor (Ms. Ashley Blodgett), and the initiation of our college

visit coordinator (Detmar McCullough), the two were able to team up to schedule a campus visit to the University of Washington. This was a fantastic opportunity for our 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students to get a taste of campus life on one of the most prestigious universities in Washington State. Ms. Blodgett has also coordinated visits to two local college and career fairs, and has invited two separate college counselors to come and speak to her classes. Mr. Weaver has also invited speakers from different branches of the military to come and speak to his Occupational Education course. All of these efforts are being made to ensure that our students have every opportunity to gain access to post secondary opportunities, and it takes a school wide effort to provide this element of our educational programming at Wishram School.

Our Veterans Day assembly was carried out, and it was a carefully orchestrated event. Mr. Pickette, our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher, took the lead on scheduling and preparing for the assembly, and his hard work and efforts paid off. This experience is essential for our students as it provides an element of pride and reflection in our great country, and all the benefits we have gained from the sacrifices of our men and women in the armed forces. We had a fantastic turnout, and we will continue to place specific emphasis on this event in the future.

Last but certainly not least, we had the pleasure of holding our 18<sup>th</sup> annual Cultural Exchange. This long held Wishram tradition allows our students, staff, and community members to experience the true value and rich history of our beloved area. This is such a tremendous opportunity to share and learn together, and the efforts of Ms. Ronni Orton, Mrs. Kristen Ringer, the entire Wishram staff, the students, and the community members were essential and heart-warming.

Overall this was a very busy, and enriching month at Wishram School. We are so fortunate to work with such dedicated professionals, and such impressive students. Together, we are making a difference each and every day. The best is yet to come.

-Mike Roberts

Superintendent/Principal

Wishram School District #94

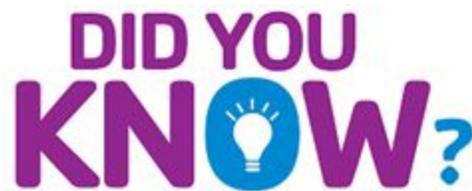


I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving break! It was a pleasure to meet more families at the Cultural Exchange. My door continues to be always open to answer any of your questions or concerns.

Seniors Class began a leadership unit in which they will develop the skills necessary to be career and college ready. Ask your students about their self-directed Service Project they are currently planning. They had an eventful November with a visit from A Eastern Washington University Admissions Counselor, the first annual College Fair at Columbia Gorge Community College, a visit from a Washington State University Admissions Counselor, and a college visit to the University of Washington. Stay tuned for more important dates and college visits!



As many parents of Seniors already know, the FAFSA became available to complete October 1. The easiest and quickest way to submit is online, and there are computers available at the school if you would like to complete it here. Or you can request a paper copy as well. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance in helping complete and submit your student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid.



Facts about Deep Breathing:

- 70% of toxins are released simply by breathing properly. If you aren't breathing properly, the toxins do not get released.
- Releases tension. When you are afraid, stressed or nervous, your breathing pattern changes. Breathe slowly, purposefully and deeply to feel relaxed instantly.

- Relieves emotional distress. Clear out negative or confused feelings with a deep breath.
- Eases your pain. If you hold your breath, you will feel the pain, by breathing deeply, you can release pain.
- Improves your blood. Deep breaths releases carbon dioxide and increases oxygen supply improving blood quality.
- Elevates your mood. Breathing increases pleasure-inducing chemicals in your body.

### *How?*

1. Inhale through your nose, expand your belly and fill your chest. Count to five.
2. Hold and count to three. Feel all your body being filled with a healing energy.
3. Exhale completely with a slightly open mouth. Experience the toxins and negativities leaving your body. Count to five...
4. Repeat until satisfied.

Have a wonderful December!

Ashley Blodgett

School Counselor

## Pre-K/Kindergarten

It's almost December!!! Your littles are writing names independently and some of the 4yos are beginning to write their own date in their journals. We are seeing real stories written by kindergartners and these older students have the jobs of writing dates for those youngers that ask them. So much growth in this short time.

We are moving into a VERY BUSY time of the year and energy levels are heightened by television and decorations in stores and Christmas traditions in your own homes. It is the time of year that I need to have extra patience and be able to put myself in their shoes and

remember what it was like to be a child filled with anticipation of Christmas. Try to take some quiet time with your child and remember they NEED to move to help them spend some of their energy.

Our annual Winter program will happen in December and our class will perform 2-3 songs. The appropriate attire will just be something they would wear to go to a special occasion or get their pictures taken. I will be sending the words home soon so that you can practice them with your child.

Thanks for entrusting your children with us here at school. It is a joy to watch their growth.

Happy holidays and Merry Christmas.

Judy

Preschool/Kindergarten

## First/Second Grade

It doesn't seem possible that we are at the end of November already and the first quarter of the school year is done. This school year has been passing so quickly.

Our first and second grade class continues to work hard in strengthening our reading skills with our daily lessons. We daily practice reading with expression. Reading with expression is comprehension on the go. You have to understand the story and what is happening to be able to make your voice match the meaning behind the words. We also daily work on vocabulary and finding what we need in a book so we can answer comprehension questions.

In writing lessons, our first graders are starting to take more responsibility for their own writing. At the beginning of the year, the first

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graders worked with the teacher to write a group sentence that went with their daily reading story. Now they are writing their own individual sentences to go with their reading story. The second graders are currently learning to write an informational paragraph about how the Powhatan people used natural resources in their daily lives.

In math, both grades have been working in geometry. The first graders have been learning the names and attributes of the basic shapes. They have also learned that larger shapes can be made from putting together smaller shapes. Now they are moving on to partitioning shapes into halves and quarters. The second graders are working on analyzing shapes to determine if they have certain attributes. Our lessons focus on the name of the shape and its number of sides and angles and how to draw that shape. The second graders are learning that even though two shapes are in the same group, they can look differently and still have the correct attributes. One of the second graders' new vocabulary words is quadrilateral.

Katrina Guthrie

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## Third/Fourth Grade

Third and fourth graders are working hard on becoming fluent in their basic multiplication problems. They spend time building arrays with cubes, for example building a 3X3 and finding out that there are 9 cubes.

Students are also working hard at writing; they begin writing their second research paper this week. They will be focusing on their introduction and getting a good "hook". The hook will be something that will get readers hooked and want to keep reading it.

Students are looking forward to Winter Program and look forward to performing for their loved ones.

Kristen Kornegay Ringer

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## Fifth/Sixth Grade

### Cultural Exchange



The Fifth and Sixth Graders joined in with the rest of the school to assist in the annual feast with our Native friends. We were in charge of setting the table with salt and pepper shakers, butter, and water. They went the extra step of filling each glass with water. That meant filling over two hundred cups!



After enjoying the delicious meal, our class joined in the various dances with the

Native Americans. They have enjoyed this very much every year.



Mr. Pickette

Fifth and Sixth Grade Teacher



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## Secondary Social Studies

We have finished another busy month in Social Studies. The 7/8th grade Geography class has just finished studying South America and are now moving on to Europe. They will look at issues like demography, pollution and cooperation in the EU zone. The 9th grade Civics class has just finished the legislative branch and now will study the executive branch. The 11th grade U.S. History class is finishing up with World War 1. The 12th grade Current World Problems class has looked at the U.S. political system. We will now be looking at the

issue of terrorism. In addition, my Occupational Education class visited Columbia Gorge College for a College and Career Fair. They were able to talk to many regional colleges as well as select career fields in the area. The US Navy recruiter will be visiting November 30th. Other military branches will be invited in the future.

-Mr. Weaver

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## Secondary Math

Math Students discover DESMOS – by

Ms. Barnhart

Students in my math classes have been using a computer program called DESMOS to help them learn about graphs and their equations, as well as proportional relationships. These are computer activities that students work through in order to help them learn specific math content, but are designed to work a little like a game. They are led through a number of slides that let them experiment with various ideas to help them understand the specific concept being addressed. For example, one activity helps students understand graphs and the equations that create those graphs by letting them see what happens to a graph when they change certain numbers in the equations. For the students it's a fun way to learn. For me (Ms. Barnhart) there's a "dashboard" that I can watch that shows each student's progress as they are working, so I know right away if I need to address any misunderstandings. DESMOS is a hit with all of us.



This picture shows a couple of 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students working on a Desmos activity about proportions. They guess how many times they can click the mouse in 10 seconds on one slide. They get to do a trial run for 5 seconds to see how many times they can actually click the mouse on the next slide. On the slide after that, they get to revise their original guess using the trial run information with a chance to see if they predicted correctly on the next slide. In this particular picture students are trying to decide which robot will be clicking at a faster rate. Of course on the slide that comes after this one, they will actually get to see the robots clicking to see if they were correct.

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## Secondary ELA

December marks the beginning of new novel study units for 7th-11th graders in English/Language Arts class. This quarter's novel studies all fall under the genre of historical fiction. The 7th/8th grade class are reading Newbery Honor novel *The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle* by Avi. In this adventure on the high seas set in 1832, 13-year-old Charlotte must use her wits and courage to survive a manipulative captain and a mutinous crew if she hopes to make it home to her family in America. The 9th/10th grade class are reading George

Orwell's classic fable, *Animal Farm* - an allegorical tale of the communist revolution in Russia. The 11th grade class are reading Willa Cather's *O Pioneers!*, a very personal account of European immigrant life on the unforgiving Nebraska prairie in the late 1800s/early 1900s. The 12th grade Bridge to College class are continuing through George Orwell's dystopian nightmare of a novel, *1984*, and will look to wrap this unit up with an analytical essay shortly after Winter Break. Here's wishing you and yours a joyful holiday season! I recommend spending it curled up in front of a roaring fire, reading a good book (ideally, with a mug of cocoa in your hand and a kitty purring on your lap ☺). Cheers!

-Mrs. Roberts

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## Secondary Science

Mr. Cameron's science classes are studying cells. They are learning what each part of the cell does to keep organisms alive. They will be looking at different cells such as skin cells, cheek cells, and living single-celled organisms that live in water. Later this year, the students will dissect small animals to see how cells, tissues and organs work together to enable the organism to function in the world.

Mr. Cameron

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## Facilities/Athletic Director

Hello Wishram Community:

Happy December. It's hard to believe that the Christmas break and the holiday is right around the corner. It's that time of year when the stress can get to us the most. Take time out of your busy days for yourself. Take time to talk to the people you love the most and make sure you tell

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them how much you love them. Take the time to be a good person. Kindness is the one thing that each and everyone of us has the ability to give.

😊 I hope you all have an amazing Christmas and an absolutely amazing New Year.

#### Facilities:

John Heinley, the Eastern WA Regional Coordinator for the school construction assistance program stopped by and visited our school on November 26, 2018. John works directly for OSPI. He stopped by to take a look at our North wall and to discuss ways to fund the 3.1 million dollars to fix the wall. What we found out is; there's not magical funding opportunities out there to fund this project, but there are possible funds to fund different phases of the project. We will now start contacting all our local legislators to see if they can find funding opportunities for us.

#### Transportation:

Winter is here, 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 had their play-in game for post-season on October the 22nd at 4:30 in Waitsburg. They played White Swan. We did not pull out a victory but over all the season was a great success.

On November 10th our Lyle/Wishram HS FB team traveled to Wenatchee and played the Entiat Tigers at the Apple Bowl for a chance to go on to the WA State Quarterfinals. The HS football team looked amazing and proved to the entire state that they deserved to play in postseason with a crushing 77-to-22 victory over the Entiat Tigers. With this victory over the Tigers, the WIAA ranking committee ranked our Cougars as 6th place in the state which set us up to play the Naselle Comets, (ranked 3rd place) the following Saturday in Woodland, WA at the Woodland High School. This game did not go quite as well as the week before, but was still a good game. The Cougars held their own through the entire first half which was an absolute brawl. In the end the Cougars ended up losing this game 68-to-38 but they have absolutely nothing to be ashamed about. This was the 2nd year in a row that the Lyle/Wishram Cougars made it to the state playoffs in two different classifications. A big shout out to the coaches, Antoine Montoya and Detmar McCullough for all their dedication to this team.

Spring sports are now over and winter sports have begun. JH and HS Basketball started practicing on November 12th. See schedules for games and game times.

Tye Churchwell

Facilities/Athletic Director

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## REACH

We have been having a lot of fun and learning happening in REACH. We studied about

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nutrition in partnership with the local 4-H/WSU Extension Agent Abby Brandt. We learned about the food groups, important nutrients, healthy snack options, and portion size.

We also made decorations for the Cultural Exchange. We had so much food, learning, and fun at the Cultural Exchange, we can hardly wait for next year.

December will bring the Winter Program on Wednesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. We will be performing a song and hope to see you there.



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

***December 19, 2018***

***@ 5:00 P.M.***

***School Gymnasium***

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**Important Dates:**

- **December 19** - Winter Program at 6:00P.M.

- **December 20** - Early Release (12:00P.M.)
  - **December 21** - No School, Teacher Work Day
  - **December 23-January 5** - No School, Winter Break!
  - **January 7** - Return to school from 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**

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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, audiotape, 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.