

Wishram School **NEWSLETTER**

January 2020



New Year, New Opportunities!

2020 has lots of excitement in store for students, staff, and our Wishram School community.

From the Superintendent:

Hello everyone, and thank you for taking the time to read our monthly newsletter. This is a fabulous opportunity to hear about the great things going on at Wishram School District #94, and stay current on upcoming events. This submission is going to be based entirely upon our upcoming school levy initiative. In February of 2018, the community of Wishram approved the first school levy in recent memory. With the funds obtained from that initiative, we have been able to hire a full-time counselor, full-time CTE instructor, and have continued to support our athletic programming. These crucial funds help ensure that we can continue to provide a comprehensive educational experience for our students at Wishram.

With the social emotional needs of students reaching limits never before seen in public education, the hiring of a full-time school counselor was a blessing for our district. Since her hiring, Ms. Ashley Blodgett has provided many necessary services for our students. Ms. Ashley has taken on the role of testing coordinator for the PSAT/SAT/ASVAB assessments, and has worked tirelessly to prepare our students for those crucial examinations. She assists students in filling out the FAFSA, and applying for and enrolling within post secondary institutions, and as a result, our post secondary enrollment numbers have increased dramatically! She teaches our Seniors course, in which all 12th grade students learn essential skills like perseverance, career exploration, money management, and much more. The levy funds obtained by the generous taxpayers of the community of Wishram support her position, and the passage of our levy would help ensure that her position is retained for the foreseeable future.

This year, our secondary students have had the opportunity to participate in CTE (Career and Technical Education) programming for the first time in quite a few years. Wishram School District #94 had the pleasure of retaining the services of Mr. Dave DeVoe, who is a certificated CTE instructor with years of experience to come and share his expertise with our Wishram students. To date students have created birdhouses, cutting boards, shelving, and coffee tables (to name a few). He has also written several grants aimed at increasing our course offerings to include welding, plasma cutting, and small engines in the near future. With a renovation of our shop facility coming in the near future, our district is poised to provide essential programming in the trades that will help our students succeed on levels not possible before hiring Mr. DeVoe. This is another area that levy funds help support, and those resources are essential to the continued success of the CTE program.

Athletic participation has long been a source of pride for Wishram School District. A recent study reported that over 80% of our secondary students participate in at least one sport, with over 60% participating in three sports. Athletics are a foundational component to providing a comprehensive K-12 experience to our students, and we believe that sports participation helps students obtain skills that are very difficult to develop otherwise. The funds approved by the Wishram community help support our transportation efforts to and from Lyle, and without those resources, we would be very limited in what we could provide to our student athletes.

While the three areas mentioned previously aren't an exhaustive list of what our levy helps support, they are the most crucial for our districts continued success. With the ballots set to come out in early February, we just wanted to reach out and explain in detail what your support means to our school. As a brief reminder, the initiative on your ballot is asking that you approve or deny the same amount as our previous levy, meaning that your property taxes will receive no additional increase if the levy is passed, and this levy would be approved for the next four (4) school years. Thank you so much for all that you do for our students, staff, and greater community, none of our success could be possible without you. If you have questions please don't hesitate to contact me directly. The best is yet to come!

*- Mr. Mike Roberts
Superintendent/Principal
Wishram School District #94*

Athletics & Operations


Hello Wishram friends and family,

Happy New Year to all! Can you believe that it is already January and we now have to remember to write the year 2020? This year is flying by!

We are currently working very hard on future changes at Wishram School. In May or June, you will start to notice a ton of activity happening here. There will be lots of construction going on with the expansion of our CTE building and the removal and replacement of the north wall. I'm currently working with architects, engineers, contractors, and surveyors in an attempt to make these projects go as smoothly as possible. There will be multiple interruptions to our school days once these projects start but I promise we will do everything in our power to minimize the interruption to the education of your children. The north field will be closed to all traffic during the construction. Our kitchen will be shut down and we will be using our lunchroom to prepare food. Our English classroom will be closed and English will be taught in a neighboring room. Our gymnasium/stage and weight room will be closed as well. We will even have to pick a different place to host our graduation. We are currently working on what that might look like. During the summer, we will also be working to shore up the hillside behind the lunchroom. Please prepare to bear with us during all of this as Wishram School will be a better place once it's all done.

We came back after the break to the delivery of a brand new TableSaw provided by one of the grants that our CTE teacher wrote. It was an amazing SawStop table saw. This is such an awesome addition to our brand new shop program. If you haven't seen the SawStop in action, check out this Youtube video at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fq3o0VGUj50>. This table saw is guaranteed to not cut any limbs off any of our students! I am absolutely ecstatic about the changes made here at Wishram School over the last couple of years, with the addition of our counselor and our new CTE teacher. Again, none of this would have been possible without this amazing community's support of our levy.

Speaking of the levy, I know it's crazy to believe it's that time of year, but we will once again be asking all you wonderful community members to support your Wishram School students with a 'Yes' vote. We've been able to do amazing things with the money provided by your last 'Yes' vote that would have never happened without it. The CTE program and our counseling program were created solely with the funds provided by the levy. Both of these programs have been a major asset to your students. Wishram School is a better place because of you!

School closures due to weather can become a reality this time of year. Here at Wishram School, we have many different ways to keep our friends and families informed of school closures and or delays, from a messenger system that I will send out once the decision has been made to close or delay, along with also using FlashAlert which will not only send you a Push Notification but will automatically send the information to all local TV and radio stations. To download the FlashAlert App , just go to your Play Store or Apple store and download the app on to your phone. We also put delays and/or closure information on the Wishram School Facebook page (Facebook.com/WishramSchoolRocks) and the Wishram School Website (www.wishramschool.org). We also send out voice messages to your phone, and if you would like to sign up to receive these messages just give Mrs. Back a call at the school office.

Athletics:

High School basketball has been in full swing since the start of December. JH basketball is winding down and only has one more game left which will be played on January 16th in Lyle starting at 4:00 pm. If you get a chance to show your support please come on out and watch these fine young athletes.

All of our athletic schedules are on our webpage for your viewing. Visit www.wishramschool.org for athletic schedules. You can also take a look at our Facebook page on Mondays for weekly sports schedules.

*- Mr. Tye Churchwell
Director of Operations & Athletics*

Classroom & Beyond

Snapshots from the Shop

Thanks to community levy support in 2018 which allowed for the addition of a Career & Technical Education (CTE) teacher to our staff, our students are able to get hands-on experience in using tools and building/creating the projects seen below. Your 'YES' vote this February will help to sustain this and other vital programming!



Science Briefs from Mr. Cameron

Earth Science (8th grade): We have just learned about the 3 types of rocks and are now studying Earth's interior and plate tectonics.

Life Science (6th and 7th grades): We are studying all the different habitats and ecosystems that organisms live in and will soon dissect frogs to learn about their internal organs

Physical Science (10th grade): Here, we just learned about Newton's 3 laws of motion and are now studying different forms of energy and how energy is transformed from one form to another

Chemistry (11th grade) students are learning how to write and name different chemical compounds

Biology (9th grade): students are getting ready to learn all the bones in the body. Students will assemble a skeleton and then memorize the bones.

Mrs. Shinn's Classroom Update

Hello January!

I trust everyone had a relaxing break. I have heard the kids' stories of how they spent their time. I have read in their journals of their favorite things about the winter break and some of them included not having to get up for school if you can imagine!!!

But here we are back into routines, and lessons, and playing with friends.

In 2nd grade, the Ready Math curriculum is teaching different ways to subtract. Different than the adults in the classroom and we are learning right along with the students. It's very fun and exciting to see their little light bulbs switch on. My light bulb came on, too, a few times. In their reading, they are learning about taking notes and finding evidence in their reading passages. They use the evidence to then write a short response or "essay".

Third graders are learning/memorizing their times tables (please help with flashcards and drills with them at home), gaining a deeper understanding of multiplication and division and how they are connected and beginning to look at patterns in numbers. Their reading curriculum is similar to 2nd grade in that they are looking at informational text and finding evidence to be used to write a short response or essay. They are also doing a great deal with vocabulary.

Our science lessons this term will be around weather and climate and we will be looking at a school and the students in Northern Alaska. It will be interesting to see the difference in their weather and ours.

The students came back ready to continue their learning and get back into the routines of the day. We finished with our read-aloud of *The Secret Garden* and I started reading *Treasure Island* just before the break began. The children seem to be enjoying the adventures of the pirates and the others and the prospect of finding buried treasure.

Here we go into 2020. In a few months, I will be asking you to be sure your students get good sleep at night and a nutritious breakfast as they will be taking the state test (SBAC) for the first time. But for now-Happy Winter!

College Check-In: Jazmyne LeFaye Morgan

Part of the graduating class of 2019, Jazmyne LeFaye Morgan is currently attending Columbia Gorge Community College in The Dalles. She stopped by to pay us a visit back in November, and was eager to pass on her early impressions of college life to her former classmates here at Wishram School.



When asked what her biggest challenge has been so far, Jazmyne noted that learning computer skills, particularly Microsoft Office, has been her top hurdle. She commented that “When it comes to college your computer is your best friend. You need to know how to work on a computer and also your way around it.” It took her a good three weeks of dedicated work before she felt comfortable using Office and Moodle (an online class portal used by many colleges and universities for both online and in-person classes).

When asked about the major differences between high school and college work, Jazmyne pointed to the expectations regarding late work and second chances. She said, “In college, you’re lucky if your instructor allows one late assignment during the term. Late work is not tolerated and neither is being late/absent from class. They will tell you to leave if [you come in after] class has already begun, and tell you how you failed your essay because it was an hour late. If you’re absent from class, they don’t catch you up; it’s your responsibility to figure out from someone else in the class what we did that day. Also, if you’re absent from class more than once, you don’t pass automatically. So, when you go to college, turn your work in on time and show up!”

In regards to how her experiences at Wishram School helped to prepare her for the rigors of college coursework, Jazmyne cited the Bridge the College courses in math and English as being especially helpful in preparing her for the type of workload she has experienced so far in college. In particular, the Bridge to College English class introduced Jazmyne to MLA style rules and citation techniques which allowed her to hit the ground running in her first college composition class. She also noted that the missing assignment list was helpful in preparing her for college, as it “drill[ed] in the fact that late work is not okay.”

Finally, Jazmyne had this to offer to Wishram students with college ambitions: “My advice to current Wishram students is to start practicing organization and time management skills. These are a must-have in college! I find having a planner really helps, and making a to-do list to check off helps as well. I also highly suggest you learn all about Microsoft Office and not just Microsoft Word and PowerPoint. You need to know how to use Microsoft Excel as well for making charts and fitness logs. I highly suggest you learn this skill before you have an assignment due your first week of college. Last but not least, start practicing striving for excellence and not perfection. You can only do your best work, but always do your best. Take my advice or leave it, but these are just some of the things I wish I had known starting my first week of college.”

Meet Wishram’s Newest “Student”: Mr. Taylor Groetzinger

Taylor Groetzinger began his student teaching internship in Mrs. Roberts’ ELA classroom at the beginning of January. This is the final step in his master’s degree program to become a certified English teacher, and he will be part of our Wishram School community through early April. Here’s a little introduction to who Mr. Groetzinger is, in his own words:

My name is Taylor Groetzinger and I am the new ELA student teacher at Wishram High. I was born in Massachusetts and graduated from Hamilton College in upstate New York with a degree in European History. After living in New Mexico and Colorado for a few years, I moved to Eastern Europe to become an English language teacher. I taught all ages of students, from 6



to 60. I lived in The Czech Republic and Latvia for several years, having also spent a half year in Morocco. As a teacher, I spent my summers traveling abroad, most notably in Southeast Asia, sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America. However, I've also traveled extensively in the US.

Upon returning home, I moved to Oregon and became a wine grape farmer and winemaker in The Dalles. After three years, I realized that I liked making beer more than wine. I took a job at Full Sail in Hood River and was a senior brewer until a few weeks ago, when I quit to work at Wishram. I'm currently working at night to get my Master's degree in teaching while working during the day with Mrs. Roberts. I'm excited to get to know the students of Wishram!

Counselor's Corner

I hope everyone had a nice and relaxing winter break! Our students are continuing to work on developing the character traits necessary to be successful students using the Character Strong curriculum. The following information has been adapted from Character Strong's PurposeFull People Character Education for Grades 3 through 5:



This month in our Character Strong Lessons we're talking about the character trait of Respect. The dictionary defines it as the value of admiring another person for who they are and what they do. The definition we are using in class is: seeing good in people and things (and treating them with care). Respect is both a perspective and a practice. What does it mean to "see good" in people? Oftentimes this requires us to learn more about who they are, where they come from, and why they believe and act the way they do.

Respect is about understanding people! Respect is also about action; how we speak to and treat one another (and ourselves) respectfully is a constant practice.

Conversation Starters

- Respect is about resolving conflicts peacefully, without violence. It requires listening to each other. How do you make sure that you're really listening when you're talking to someone? Is that harder to do when you don't agree with them? Why? How can you get past not agreeing with their opinion, but still respecting who they are?
- Share about a time when you felt that someone was being disrespectful to you. Talk about how you wish the other person would have shown Respect to you. Can you think of a time in which YOU were disrespectful to someone? What do YOU wish you would have done differently?
- What are specific ways your home culture shows Respect when breaking bread, going to someone's home, resolving conflicts, etc.? How might these specific customs be different than other cultures?
- Respect can look and sound different depending on one's culture, but it feels consistent across communities. Discuss with your child what it feels like to be respected. How does your community show Respect? Be sure to be specific! You can reinforce respectful behaviors by naming them explicitly such as, "I see your Respect when you wait your turn to speak" or, "I feel respected when you ask me how I'm doing."

Questions You Could Ask

- How does Respect look, sound, and feel at school? How about at a sporting event? In a group or organization? At home? How about when you're angry? When you're frustrated? Struggling?
- Do you have to like a person in order to be respectful? Or, can you be respectful to someone even if you don't particularly care for or agree with them?

- Who is someone that you have a hard time with? What would help you model Respect for that person? How might that change your relationship?

*-Ms. Ashley Blodgett
School Counselor*

Food Service

January Breakfast & Lunch Menu:

January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 <i>Winter Break</i>	2	3	4
5	6 B- French Toast Sticks, fruit, milk L- Chicken Noodles, garlic bread, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	7 B- Omelet, toast, fruit, milk L- Chilli & Cornbread, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	8 B- English Muffin, fruit, milk L- Grilled Cheese, tomato soup, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	9 B- Cereal, toast, fruit, milk L- Beef Stroganoff, breadstick, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	10 B- Blueberry Muffins, fruit, milk L- Chef Salad, garlic bread, veggie, fruit, milk	11
12	13 B- Oatmeal, toast, fruit, milk L- Mac-N-Cheese, breadstick, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	14 B- Pancakes, fruit, milk L- Burritos, refried beans, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	15 B- Bagel, fruit, milk L- Tuna Noodles, roll, veggie salad, fruit, milk	16 B- Waffles, fruit, milk L- Sloppy Joe's, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	17 B- Cereal, toast, fruit, milk L- Meatball Subs, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	18
19	20 No School M.L King Day	21 B- French Toast Sticks, fruit, milk L- Spaghetti, breadstick, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	22 B- English Muffin, fruit, milk L- Chicken Gravy & Mashed Taters, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	23 B- Cereal, toast, fruit, milk L- Taco Salad, garlic bread, veggie, fruit, milk	24 B- Biscuits & Gravy, fruit, milk L- Chicken Nuggets, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	25
26	27 B- Oatmeal, toast, fruit, milk L- BBQ Chicken Sand, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	28 B- Pancakes, fruit, milk L- Quesadillas, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	29 B- Bagel, fruit, milk L- Tuna Sand, veggie, salad, fruit, milk *Noon Release	30 B- Waffles, fruit, milk L- Chef's Choice, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	31 B- Biscuit & Gravy, fruit, milk L- Meatloaf, mashed taters, veggie, salad, fruit, milk	

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Upcoming Events

Bookmobile

The Fort Vancouver Regional Library Bookmobile will be in the school parking lot on Tuesday, January 14th and Tuesday, January 28th from 9:30am-10:30am.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

There will be no school on Monday, January 20th in observance of the MLK holiday.

January School Board Meeting

The Wishram School District #94 Board of Directors will meet on Tuesday, January 28th, at 5:15pm in the Wishram School Gymnasium.

End of 2nd Quarter/End of 1st Semester

The 2nd quarter/the 1st semester of the school year will conclude on January 28th, with the 3rd quarter/2nd semester beginning on the 29th of January. **Awards ceremonies for the 1st semester will occur on Friday, February 7th, with Elementary awards at 10:00am, and Secondary awards at 1:30pm.**

Noon Release

Wishram School will release all students at 12 noon on Wednesday, January 29th for staff professional development.

Disclosures

CEP

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.

Local and Federal Non-Discrimination Statement/Policy

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.

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, 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.

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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.**

Live Tip! 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.