

Wishram School

NEWSLETTER

October 2018

Welcome Back!



From the Superintendent

Welcome back to another fantastic year at Wishram School District #94. For those of you that don't know me, my name is Mike Roberts, and I am honored to serve as the Superintendent/Principal for our superb district. This year, we are looking forward to continuing our progress in overall assignment completion, improved attendance, and an increase in post secondary placements for our graduating Seniors. It is a privilege to be able to come here and work with the finest students, teachers, staff, and community in the entire state of Washington.

Our ICU program for missing assignments has been paying off huge dividends since its implementation in the Spring of the 2015/2016 school year. Since then, we haven't had a single student fail a course, and we've increased our honor roll numbers from 32% to 78%. That means that 78% of our students have a 3.0 GPA or higher! We have collected every assignment from every student since the 2016/2017 school year, and this year we are looking to continue that positive momentum. Please continue to support your students efforts by letting them know that you are

proud of their progress, and encourage them to keep up the good work.

Last school year, our goals surrounded increasing student attendance. In the 2016/2017 school year alone, our students missed over 1000 days of school K-12. We have gone to great lengths to improve this number, and last year, we were able to drop that number considerably. We were also able to decrease the amount of tardies for the year by nearly half of the previous years' number. We believe that regular student attendance is crucial to your students success, so please help us continue our efforts as we attempt to shrink the number of missed days to the lowest possible amount. Together, we are making a massive difference in the lives of our students.

As a result of passing our first levy in the last 40 years (thank you voters!!!!) we were able to hire a new school counselor who will be assisting with many aspects of our building. Please help me welcome Ms. Ashley Blodgett to our Wishram family. She is going to be working with your students in a variety of different capacities, but one area that we are very excited to see her jump into is post secondary planning with our Seniors. She is going to teach our Seniors course, and work with your students every step of the way as they navigate the FASFA, college applications, applications to trade schools and the military, and even coordinating site visits. We are hoping that this extra time and detail will increase the number of students who leave our building and seek out additional training, which will provide them the best possible opportunities while entering the workforce.

Overall, as always, there is a lot to be excited about at Wishram School. Thank you for all of the support and enthusiasm we've received from the community, it really does take all of us to make this school an amazing place to be. The best has yet to come.

-Mike Roberts

Superintendent/Principal

Wishram School District #94



Counselor's Corner

Hello everyone! As Mr. Roberts mentioned above, I am Ms. Ashley Blodgett and am the new school counselor. This is a big change in careers for me but the staff and students have been so welcoming and I am very excited about making this move.

Prior to returning to Washington, I spent the last 25+ years as a resident of Central Oregon. I graduated from Portland State University in 2013 with a Master of Social Work degree and spent the last five years working for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. The various roles I served included being a child and family therapist, a Medical Social Worker, a Behavioral Health Consultant, and a Forensic Interviewer. I specialize in working with children, adolescents, families, trauma, child welfare issues, and behavioral issues.

I am an enrolled member of the Yakama Nation, and was actually born here in Washington, spending the first seven years of my life on the Yakama Reservation. It feels great to be closer to home and I am so lucky to be working with such a great group of students. I look forward to getting to know all of you! Please feel free to give me a call or stop by my office with any questions or concerns.

-Ashley Blodgett

School Counselor

Pre-K/Kindergarten

All the preschoolers are coming to school. Great to see all the returning students and the kinders have begun their reading and math lessons. Everyone is doing the "daily mile" everyday. This is actually just walking/running around the upper field every day for 15 minutes. The purpose is to get some movement into every day. This movement is not only good for physical health but mental health improves with movement as well as cognitive health. Kids come back to class ready to focus on their work the rest of the morning.

Our class will be preparing to go on a Pumpkin Patch field trip in October. Stay tuned for details.

First/Second Grade

The new school year has begun and the first and second graders are working hard. Our goal is to learn as much as we can this year. To achieve our goal, we have to improve our listening skills and be willing to think deeply. Miss Guthrie is always asking us to show proof of listening such as following directions, staying caught up with the lesson, and being ready to answer questions. We hope we can show what great students we are this year.

Third/Fourth Grade

It has been a whirlwind beginning to the 2018-2019 school year. We have started the school year with three new students putting us at a total of nine: one third grade student and eight fourth grade students.

We are beginning our second year with our Ready Math curriculum and the students are engaged and enjoying it.

We have started a new writing curriculum and our class is learning to be researchers and investigators. It is very exciting! Fourth graders are researching different types of energy, and the pros and cons of each. We are beginning with coal. Our third grader is researching Sacagawea and her kind qualities and heroic actions that made her invaluable to the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

Keep your eyes open for your students “Week-at-a-Glance.” It comes home Monday – Thursday and will contain homework, what we are doing, and any comments. Make sure you sign it each night so your student will earn a sticker, instead of spending time with me to finish their homework.

HOMEWORK: I have students read for 15 minutes each night, and will be sending home flashcards for students to run through to become more fluent/learn their basic facts.

Thank you for being the wonderful parents you are, and let me know what I can do to support you and your child’s learning opportunities.

Respectfully,

Kristen Kornegay Ringer

Fifth/Sixth Grade

Outdoor School Article:

Mrs. Shinn led all the students in some yoga exercises in the morning before we all set off for the days activities. Some activities included: leather crafts, gps mapping, search and rescue, water safety, invertebrate aquatic life, conservation (planting tree), and studying watersheds.



Secondary Social Studies

In Social Studies we are looking forward to another great year! Our 7/8th graders will be studying World Geography this year. 9th graders will begin the year with a semester of Civics, where we will study our government, its structure and our Constitution. The 11th graders will be studying U.S. History where we will focus on the events between the 1890's until present day. And of course our Seniors will be taking Current World Problems where we are currently looking at the situation in North Korea. We will explore many other topics this year as well.

Mr. Weaver

Secondary Math

Secondary math classes are off to a great start this year. The new Bridge to College class for seniors enjoyed creating marshmallow towers for the marshmallow challenge, the juniors are just learning about stopping distances for a car while the 9th/10th grade class spent some time talking about how to tile a floor with colored tiles and looking for patterns. Our Pre-Algebra class - 8th

grade, has been exploring “splat math” (ask your eighth grader what that is all about), and the 7th and 8th grade combined class is just beginning to work on scale drawings.



Photo: The winning tower by Zayne and Rudy

Secondary English

Secondary English/Language Arts classes are in full swing for the 2018-2019 school year! Seniors are getting a handle on the increased rigor of Bridge to College English, a class we are proud to offer for the first time this year, and which can satisfy state graduation requirements for English competency, as well as requirements of remedial college-level English courses. Students who pass BtCE with a ‘B’ or better are eligible for enrollment in English 101 at the college/university level, without having to test in or take any remedial coursework. The content of this course is relevant as well as rigorous, and a great preparatory step for all of our seniors as they look ahead to entering the real world after high school, by challenging them to

read, write, and think rhetorically. ELA 11 students are working through a unit of short stories and poetry selected from the Dark Romantic or American Gothic era (1840-1860). Works by Washington Irving, Edgar Allan Poe, and Nathaniel Hawthorne are used as exemplars for the establishment of the horror genre in America. ELA 9/10 have begun their first novel study of William Golding’s classic tale of the dark side of human nature and the beast that lives within us all: *Lord of the Flies*. ELA 7/8 have begun their first novel study, as well - the young adult dystopian classic, *Among the Hidden*. The 9/10 Speech class is working to build their confidence in public speaking through planning, rehearsing, and presenting on a variety of topics based around student interest. All classes are working on completing assignments as directed using assignment completion checklists, in order to ensure quality of work and meeting of all assignment objectives. We are well on our way to another great year! To keep up with happenings in the English department, follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WishramELA.

Secondary Science

5-8 grades attended “Outdoor School” on September 12-14 at Brooks State Park north of Goldendale. They participated in many outdoor activities including outdoor cooking, camping, hiking, leather crafts, fly tying and casting, using a GPS and much more.

SAT test for seniors is on October 10 (this is the test colleges use as an admission exam).

PSAT (practice test for SAT) will be given to sophomores on October 24.



Athletic Director/Transportation Director/Maintenance Coordinator

Hello Wishram Community:

It has been a great Summer, but my favorite day of the year is the first time I have the ability to welcome all your young men and women back to school at the door in the morning. It just amazes me how much your young men and women grow during the summer. Thank you so much for allowing us to be part of their lives.

Facilities:

The summer crew did an amazing job this summer with all their projects. This school is an oldy, but a goody, and it would not be possible without people Like Antoine Montoya and Jason Coopers' hard work over the summer. They were also very fortunate this summer to be able to have their own boys working for them, as they were the only 2 young people who applied for the open positions we had. Zac Cooper and Brandon Montoya did a great job this summer working for the school as our student helpers.

Transportation:

Just a reminder that with school in full swing, the little ones will be walking back and forth, and the busses will be on the road. Your children are the most precious cargo this country has, so it is highly important that we are always watching out for them as we drive back and forth through our tiny community.

Athletics:

We have started the year fairly strong, with twenty three players from Wishram signed up for football and volleyball. We have a total of 35 kids attending our JH and HS. This means that at this time 66% of them are playing a sport. I could be wrong, but I do not believe any other school out there could make the claim that they have 66% of their kids participating in athletics. My hat goes off to these young men and women for all their hard work and dedication.

HS football started practicing on August 15th with daily doubles. The great news this year is we're back at 8-man with post season eligibility. We have 13 young men playing on the LWK football team. Their first game was canceled, but since then, they've played two games and won them both.

HS VB started practicing on August 20th. We currently have 3 HS girls playing on the LW HS volleyball team. They've played in multiple games at this time, and they have been winning!

JH football started practicing on August 30th. We have 4 young men on the team. Their first game will be September 25th at home against Arlington/Condon/Wheeler (ACW). Kickoff will be at 5:00 pm.

JH VB started practicing on September 5th. We have 3 young ladies on the JH VB team. Their first game will be Wednesday September 26th in Glenwood starting at 5:30.

I hope to see lots of people at home games supporting these kids. Remember, sports keeps the kids off of the streets, and out of trouble. Schedules are attached in this newsletter.. If any of your kids our interested in joining one of these programs please don't hesitate to call me @ 748 2551.

Tye Churchwell

Facilities/Athletic Director
