

Washington-Hoyt Elementary

Cougar Tales



Issue #10, June 2010

End of School!

It's nearly summer vacation: Look inside to find **Fifth-Grader Farewells (p.7)**, an end-of-year letter from **Dr. Knight (p.2)**, information on **Camp Invention**, yearbooks, summer gardening and more. Happy Summer!

WA-Hoyt Uniform Sale

What: The PTA school uniform sale

When: 3:30-5:30 p.m. June 11

Where: Washington gym

How to do it: Donate used uniform clothing items to the large, labeled bin just inside the doors of Washington or send them in a labeled bag with your child to school. Help sort if you can, from 2:30 p.m. Then turn up at the sale and buy for next year!

Prices: jeans/uniform pants \$2, sweatshirts/jackets \$3, polo shirts \$1, jumpers/skorts/skirts/shorts \$2, long or short sleeve button-down shirts \$2

Please don't bring: Shoes, tights or other items of clothing, or garments with stains or tears

All proceeds will go to the PTA general fund which supports art, teacher supplies, emergency kits, Cat Tracks and more.

Questions? Email Alison Hoseth at awigstromhoseth@hotmail.com, Kelly Murphy at murphy1968@netzero.net, Shannon Rojecki at srojecki@msn.com or Laurie Hunger at lhunger@msn.com

Calendar at a Glance

6/1-4 Scholastic Book Fair

6/3 Celebration of Learning 5:30 p.m. Hoyt, 6:30 p.m. Wash., and 6 p.m. Ice Cream Social

6/4 Family BBQ 11:30 a.m. on playground

6/7 Field Day; Dress-Up Week begins; last PTA meeting 7 p.m. in library; final Scrip orders due

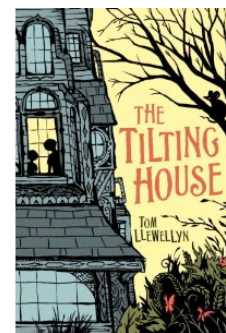
6/11 PTA Uniform Sale

6/15 Last day of school, Talent Show 9:30 a.m. , early release 12:15 p.m.

6/16 Summer Vacation; school begins Sept. 2

6/21-25 Camp Invention

New book from Tom Llewellyn



Wa-Hoyt parent Tom Llewellyn (dad to Bizayehu and Genet) has just published his first book, "The Tilting House" (Tricycle Press, 2010), which will be released on June 9. Telling the strange tale of a mysterious Tacoma house with tilting floors and the two boys that move into it, "The Tilting House" will appeal to middle-grade readers who love adventure and fantasy.

The book is available from amazon.com and in local stores, and the launch party is at 6:30 p.m. June 9 at Kings' Books. Congratulations, Tom!

From the Principal's Desk



Washington-Hoyt's mission is to create a partnership of students, staff, families and community members who are working to empower our students to meet the highest academic standards, to develop social and emotional maturity, and to acquire the skill to be lifelong learners and responsible citizens. To accomplish this we will: 1. Set high standards and expectations 2. Share knowledge and encourage individual growth 3. Embrace change and improvement 4. Develop a safe and collaborative environment for students, staff and families 5. Utilize data and best practices to direct instruction.

Dear Parents and Friends

The school year is almost over. It has gone by so quickly, so very quickly. My head and heart are filled to overflowing with images that will mellow into memories: happy kids in the hallways...loving parents on the playground...talented teachers doing their daily magic...busy classrooms vibrating with students at work...a gym that still echoes with assemblies and sock hops. The good ship Washington-Hoyt, flags proudly flying, sails on a sea of solid community support, its destination the future.

It is truly a privilege to serve as your principal. Thank you for a wonderful year!

Sincerely,

John Knight

Counselor's Corner

Happy spring! It's great to have warmer and sunnier days. Last month the counselors from the middle schools came to speak to the fifth graders. It was beneficial for students to ask questions about this upcoming transition, and I will be teaching a class on this and on drugs and alcohol use as well.

Not only is middle school a whole new arena for fifth graders, but it presents some new challenges to parents as well. In Dr. Susan M. Quattrociochi's article "Making the Jump to Middle School" (published in *A Call to Parents, A Family's guide to High School & College Success* and printed by Bellevue Community College Printing Service), the middle school years are a time for important developmental milestones for children and their parents: "These are critical years in terms of our children's academic and social development, and they need us to be involved more than ever." The most important task for parents is to continue their close involvement. As children grow older and become more independent, parents tend to allow them more latitude and withdraw from some of their involvement in school and other social activities. However, Dr. Quattrociochi notes that "research indicates that children are more successful throughout their education if their parents take an active part in it. The newest studies show that parent involvement makes a difference throughout middle school, high school *and* college."

While changing classrooms and dealing with lockers are the most evident changes taking place for middle school students, there are other important developmental changes. Dr. Quattrociochi's article also lists A. Rae Simpson's "The Ten Tasks of Adolescents," as taken from *Raising Teens*. These tasks include:

1. Adjust to sexually maturing bodies.
2. Develop and apply abstract thinking to think about possibilities or test different ways of solving a problem.
3. Acquire the ability to understand human relationships – to put themselves in another person's shoes.
4. Develop new skills in decision making, problem solving, and conflict resolution.
5. Identify moral standards, values, and belief systems.
6. Understand and express more complicated emotions.
7. Form friendships that are close and supportive.
8. Establish key parts of their personal identity.
9. Take on increasingly mature roles and responsibilities.
10. Re-negotiate relationships with parents – balancing independence with ongoing connection.

Above all, remember that you made it through middle school and you have a lot of experience to offer to your child. Sharing some of this can certainly provide an avenue to deepen your relationship. Parenting may be the hardest job but it also provides the richest rewards.

Finally, friendship groups will finish in May. I hope you all have a wonderful and safe summer!

Mary McGlone, School Counsellor

Letter from the Presidents



It's hard to believe that our school year is almost over!

We want to give a big THANK YOU to the many parents we have at Washington-Hoyt who give selflessly of their time and energy to enrich our kids' school experience. We have over 30 committees led by parent volunteers! We are so lucky to work with so many devoted people. A big thank you to Dr. Knight, our teachers and our staff who value our kids and go above and beyond to make our school a wonderful place!

THANK YOU to our PTA Board: Laurie Hunger, Vice President; Alison Hoseth, Secretary; Jeanne Sacks and Krischell Sollars, Treasurers; and our Scrip ladies Cara Reese, Liz Walle and Ronda Eider-Jackson. You are all so great to work with! We so appreciate your support and dedication to our school community.

We will be finishing out the year with the annual Celebration of Learning event on June 3. This is a fantastic event including classroom visits, an ice cream social, book fair, art display and more. We look forward to seeing you there!

Please join us at our final PTA meeting of the year on June 7 at 7 p.m. in the library. We will be presenting the time-honored GOLDEN ACORN award and approving our new board for the 2010-11 school year. You don't want to miss this one!

Warmly,
PTA Co-Presidents:
Shannon Rojecki 761-2010
Hope Willy 761-0622

PTA Fundraiser Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who returned the PTA fundraiser survey. We received a lot of helpful feedback. You can check out the results on the PTA website at: http://www.wahoyt.org/forms_files/FundSurveyResults.pdf

The bar graph shows what percent of responses indicated low, moderate or high interest for each fundraiser surveyed.

So, what were the main findings? While most of our fundraisers are still quite popular, many of you are also ready for a change. A green fundraiser and plants for the garden generated a lot of interest. Many of you also commented that you'd like the option of making a donation straight to the school.

The PTA is using the survey feedback while investigating potential new fundraisers. An important consideration is that we pick something that will appeal to as many families as

possible while also raising at least as much as any fundraiser it replaces. If you have comments or suggestions, please email PTA co-chairs, Shannon Rojecki at srojecki@msn.com or Hope Willy at thewillys@net-venture.com.

\$24,000 from Scrip? Just imagine!

Imagine this: Parents at Washington-Hoyt raise \$24,000 next year just by buying things they would be buying anyhow, like food or gas. How do they do it? Scrip.



Remember: Scrip = gift cards.

Do you shop at a local grocery store, buy gas, eat out, etc.? With scrip you can do all these things and support our school at the same time. Our PTA purchases gift cards (or "scrip") from various retailers at a discounted price. Parents then buy the gift cards at face value. The difference in price is kept by the PTA. Parents then spend the scrip at the retailer, where it's worth the full face value. You're spending money you would already be spending anyway and supporting your child's school at the same time.

If every family used scrip cards for one year to buy groceries at \$250 per month (less than some of us spend, probably) the 4% earnings on all those scrip cards would earn the school \$24,000. Yes, that much, just by everyone doing what they would do anyway – buy groceries.

What could we do with \$24,000? Fund the fifth-grade camp (\$6,000.) Buy \$5,000 worth of books for the library. Pay for all staff grants (\$10,000.) Buy a wish-list item like new PA system or smart board (\$3,000.) And it would eliminate the need for fundraising by selling things like Sally Foster supplies.

And that's just using scrip for groceries. Imagine everyone using it for gas, coffee, eating out, gifts, movies...

Washington-Hoyt offers many local area merchants as well as hundreds of national retailers in our program – they're all listed on the order form which goes home in Friday folders, and at www.glscrip.com/retailerlist.

Scrip does take planning: You budget for the month, buy your cards, and remember to use them. So start planning now for the new school year. If we all work together, we can achieve great things for our school.

May Scrip Winner

Congratulations to Mrs. Harkness! She won the May Scrip drawing, and received a \$25 gift card to the Ram. Thanks to all families who order Scrip.

Don't forget – the final Scrip order of the year is due June 7!

More PTA News

Foreign Language Survey

A big “gracias” to everyone who participated in our Language Interest Survey. We appreciate your feedback and look forward to another year of language learning and fun in 2010-2011.

We are thrilled to announce that our Spanish classes will continue and will be taught by former Washington-Hoyt teacher, Senora Rita Tyler! Sra. Tyler is very excited to be back at Wa-Hoyt and is passionate about teaching Spanish. She plans to have a beginners’ session (Mondays/ Wednesdays) and a more advanced session (Tuesdays/Thursdays). It’s going to be great, and we’ll even be able to offer some scholarships!

We had quite a few families interested in French and Chinese classes as well. Unfortunately, our potential Chinese teacher fell through (moved to Lynnwood) and we have yet to find another French teacher. If anyone knows of someone who would be interested in teaching either (or even a different language) please have them contact Hope Willy at 761-0622.

In the Garden

Like to pick stuff? Like to eat stuff?

Then the garden needs your help over summer! Whether it’s spring or summer crops in the beds (at this stage, we’re not sure which it’ll be!) the Wa-Hoyt gardens need volunteers to take a week each for watering, weeding and picking stuff! One hour twice a week is the most you’ll have to do.

If you can help, please contact garden coordinator Rosemary Ponnekanti on 761-8324 or rose_ponnekanti@yahoo.com



Camp Invention

Camp Invention has a few spots left for our summer camp. We even have a few spots at a reduced rate if you would like to VOLUNTEER! Please pick up a brochure in the office at Washington-Hoyt to reserve your spot at the June 21-25 summer camp extravaganza!!

Questions? Call Stephanie Lawrence at 571-5736



Cougar Tales

E-Tales alert! Beginning September 2010, Cougar Tales will be SENT TO ALL FAMILIES VIA EMAIL. If you still want a print copy, you must request it from the editor (email below.) Why are we doing this? To save money, trees and the environment. You’ll also get it in color, with Web links!

Cougar Tales is published once a month during the school year as a joint effort of the Washington-Hoyt PTA and school. Contributions and suggestions can be emailed to editor Rosemary Ponnekanti at rose_ponnekanti@yahoo.com

Deadline for September edition: August 28

Get the latest info at www.wahoyt.org

Wahoyt.org, our official PTA website, is regularly updated with the latest news about school and PTA related activities – but it doesn’t stop in June. Check the website over the summer, we’ll post updates as we get them and keep you informed on any back-to-school news. If you are a committee chairperson and need to get the news out about an event or fundraiser, or you need volunteers, send an email to webmaster@wahoyt.org and we’ll post it on the website for you!



School News

Green Schools Litter Pick-Up

On May 22 Washington-Hoyt students made the world a better place, as 56 volunteers turned up for the Green Schools Litter Pick-Up. Encouraged by Pirate Peggy and her trash-treasure map (plus yummy goodies afterward!) the volunteers picked up 6 huge bags of trash.

Weirdest item? A mousetrap, found by Dr. Knight. And the winner of the “trash map”? Jaron Bradford, who guessed that the pirate had hidden his trash near the waterfall. Thanks to all who helped out! Litter doesn’t just look bad – it pollutes our soils and waterways, choking animals and leaching chemicals.

Way to go, Wa-Hoyt!

Right: Trash volunteers Karen Bagley (yummy cupcakes, Karen!) and Dr. Knight. Photo: Kathy Spurrell.



Miss Peggy Day!

It’s so fun to dress like Miss Peggy! Photo: Krischel Sollars.

Way to Go!

- The tremendous support from our school’s families enriches every Washington-Hoyt school year.
- The PTA wants to thank all those who supported our 393 students this year through PTA donations and fundraisers. Thanks to your efforts we raised approximately \$2,000 for fifth grade camp, \$8,000 for academic enrichment assemblies, \$5,000 for classroom grants to our teachers
- \$5,000 for library materials and AR support and much more, including Field Day, Back to School Night, Celebration of Learning, In Touch with Art, Cat Tracks, and Cougar Tales.



- Love and knowledge are the two most meaningful gifts you can pass on. The following have generously given both. Thank you, Miss Boitano, Miss Murphy, Mrs. Sebersson, Mrs. Hoover, Mrs. Fitzgerald, Mrs. Harkness, Mr. Allegro, Miss Ridenour, Miss Burkhart-Kiss, Mr. Lemmer, Mrs. Norling, Mr. Burns, Ms. Fynboe, Dr. Knight, Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Halloway, Mrs. McGlone, Mrs. Fortune, Mrs. Mojean, Mrs. Wendt, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Boberg, Miss Peggy, Mrs. Lipscomb, Mrs. Green, Mrs. MacKinen, Mrs. Williams, Mr. Dimov, Mr. Metcalf, and all the great families that make up this wonderful world known as Washington-Hoyt .We’ve all become better people for knowing you.

- The Blanchard Family (Paul, Megan, George and James)

- A big thank-you to Felicity Devlin and her Green Schools team for leading the Litter Pick-Up on May 22.

Student Page



Washington-Hoyt is all about kids - and this is our Cougar Tales page! What will you find here? Student reporting, creative writing, drawing, jokes...you name it, we've got it! And we want your submissions. Give them to your teacher, put them in the tan in-box on the office windowsill, or email them to rose_ponnekanti@yahoo.com.

Deadline for September Cougar Tales: August 28

The fifth-grade classes wrote essays on why plastic water bottles are harmful. Here are the two best entries.

Plastic Disaster

Should Bottled Water be banned?

By Amaya Fox

Imagine the crashing, blue waves of the Pacific Ocean being filled with mucky, bottled water, ruining its beauty, preventing its gracefulness, halting its aliveness. Should that be stopped? Well, according to health specialists and environmentalists bottles water should be banned. But, on the other hand, businesses clearly disagree with environmentalists and health specialists as you will soon see why. I confer with the health specialists and environmentalists on their stand with bottled water.

First of all, environmentalists have a decent point to state their opinion about banning bottled water. One of their supporting facts is that by drinking bottled water, you can risk polluting the Aquifer, and underground clean water source. Also, did you know that about 1,500 water bottles end up being in the garbage EVERY SECOND? Not being reused and polluting the ocean. Along with that, how about the fact that bottled water leach chemicals into the air, well it's true. And that is why environmentalists think that bottled water should be banned.

Secondly, health specialists agree with environmentalists, but for some different reasons like the fact that toxic chemicals including one called Bisphenol-A (BPA) can leach from bottled water and can cause Cancerous Cells in your body. Another reason is that for a fraction of the 100 billion dollars made every year from bottled water, every on earth can have safe drinking water and proper sanitation so people don't get really thirsty or dirty and die. Lastly, bottled water left in the car can become warm and lead to cancer like Breast Cancer, which can kill you. Imagine if that was you!

Next in line comes the businesses point of view. Businesses think that bottled water is okay to keep. One reason is that businesses make a lot of money off of bottled water. Businesses make about 100 billion dollars per a year. Bottled water is about 1,900 times the price of tap water. All this earns businesses a lot of money, so that is probably the reason they don't want it to be banned.

If you asked me about this public issue, I would say that bottled water should be banned because it can cause cancer and pollute the earth and ocean. And if we stopped buying bottled water, that money could provide all the less-fortunate people on this planet with water and sanitation. So, to help this cause we should all stop buying bottled water and/or drinking it. Spread the word! We can all do our little things to help the cause.

To conclude this paper, I end with this simple question, Should Bottled Water be banned? In my opinion it should be. Now, thinking of bottled water, I think of once beautiful oceans being destroyed, people getting cancer and lying in hospital beds, and piles of plastic bottles in the garbage. This is a serious issue that we, as the people of the United States of America can help to resolve! Please help us and the environment!

Liquid Poison or Convenient Drink?

You Choose

By Jacob Rainbolt

Should the government ban bottled water? Bottled water was introduced about 20 years ago and is very convenient. But is it dangerous to your health and the environment? The answer to that question will be revealed in this essay. The stakeholders are Environmentalists, Health Care workers, and companies that produce bottled water.

I think we shouldn't use as much bottled water because it pollutes our environment. Bottled water companies pollute the air and water. We have the right to live in a clean environment.

Bottled water is harmful to the environment because bottled water companies sell 28,000,000,000 bottles each year. 86 percent of that ends up as trash! That's like throwing away 20 billion water bottles! Did you know that 1,500 water bottles end up as trash every second! BOOM!!! 1,500 water bottles in the trash! Can you believe that! I hope you now see that bottled water is horrible to the environment!

Bottled water is dangerous to your health. It usually contains toxic chemicals such as BPA (Bisphenol-A) that leached into the water from plastic in the process of delivery. There's no fluoride in bottled water unlike tap water. Bottled water companies pollute rivers and streams that both humans and animals alike use for water causing water poisoning

Companies that produce bottled water are fine with it because they make about 100,000,000,000 dollars a year. This makes the federal bailout amount look small! Bottled water companies sell about 28, 000,000,000 bottles a year. An average American citizen spends 400 dollars on bottled water! Companies make a lot of money on bottled water. They have the right to produce what they think will make money and bottled water makes a lot of money.

To conclude, many Health Care workers and Environmentalists want bottled water banned while bottled water companies want to keep producing it. I think we shouldn't use as much bottled water as we do. We have the responsibility to clean our environment.

FAREWELLS FROM FIFTH GRADERS

Mrs. Fitzgerald's Class

Lauren Veiga – I will miss all my new friends, Mrs. Fitzgerald, and getting two recesses a day.

Katherina Mead – My favorite memories at Washington-Hoyt were playing in Mrs. Boitano's sandbox with Ella in kindergarten and walking after school with Emily and Mallory in fifth grade! I will miss everything so much, especially my teachers and friends like Mrs. Lawrence and her colorful sunglasses that always matched her very cool outfits. And the cool field trips that she always arranged. I am so sad to not be able to help in Mrs. King's class with Mallory anymore but I have many memories from it. I will miss absolutely all of it!

Jack Bardi – The things I liked best about Washington-Hoyt were the Sock Hops and all the theme dress days, and especially Miss Peggy. The things I will miss are the science fair and the recesses. I will also miss the talent show very much. I loved Washington-Hoyt and I will miss it a lot.

Brandon Dougherty – My favorite teachers were Mrs. Eichner and Mrs. Fitzgerald. I loved fifth grade camp. Very cool! I have made a lot of friends that I'm sure I will keep as I move on into my teenage years. I have grown a lot as a student here at Washington-Hoyt and will carry life lessons with me for many years to come. Thank you to all of the staff for being so great!

Jacob Rainbolt – I will miss this school, my friends, and my teacher. I'm looking forward to middle school.

Mack Willy – I will miss all my teachers and Camp Seymour. It was really fun when we went to the Science Center and spent the night.

Ella Munizza – I have lots of memories. A few stand out. One is when I met Katherina in kindergarten. She is now one of my best friends. Mrs. Boitano was my favorite teacher. She was also my kindergarten teacher. She had a pig and it sometimes stayed in the classroom. I also will miss Young Ambassadors along with Mrs. Norling. Mrs. Lawrence was also fun with all her outfits and art projects. Last I will miss the Sock Hop and one of my favorite groups that I had: Hayden, Emily, Hannah N., and me. I wish the best of luck to the second grade.

Logan Scriba – This year was a great experience, but it was the best when I went to Camp Seymour. To all who read this, I hope you had as much fun as I did. In the future, deal with bullies or it will wreck your year. I know from experience.

Isabelle Eiffert – I came here in second grade and made so many friends. I will miss all the parties we had. I loved my teachers and will miss them all.

Hannah Nelson – I'll miss all of my friends and getting recess twice a day! I'll also miss all of the teachers at Washington.

Miranda Milton – My favorite memories are my great friends and going to Camp Seymour and BizTown. I will miss all my teachers.

Hannah Dawson – In all the five years I've been here I have made many memories, including friends, teachers, and field trips.

Henry Winnert – I'll miss all my teachers and the place I've spent so much time in.

Mallory Bomcamp – Even though I've only been here one year, it's a year I'll never forget. I've made some great friends and have some memories that I won't forget, like walking with Katherina and Emily. I will miss this class, but I am excited for middle school.

Emily Hutchinson – I have so many fun memories! In third grade Hayden came and made up Chuck and Bugawugas. Chuck was his hand with a face on it. Bugawugas were little paper dots with different colors. I will also miss walking with Katherina and Mallory. And I will never forget meeting two of my best friends, Katherina and Ella. I will never forget my six fun years at this school – I will miss them so much!

Jacob Brown – I am very glad that I went to Camp Seymour and remained at this school.

Anita Carroll – I am so glad that my little brother is still here, so whenever I come here I will think of all my friends and teachers that I will miss.

Mackenzi West – My favorite memories at Washington-Hoyt were when in first grade, Mrs. King’s class, we made leprechaun traps and when I looked into my trap I got Coca Cola cans. In Mrs. Gibson’s class we made pictures of ourselves on the first day of school. Then in Mr. Allegro’s fourth grade we went to the Pacific Science Center. It was so much fun! I just wanted to say thanks to Mrs. Pearson. You helped me a lot this year. I really appreciate it. I will remember you all and the memories including my friends and teachers I had including Mrs. Fitzgerald. She got me ready for middle school. I appreciate it! I will miss you!

Olivia Whitesell – I will miss Washington-Hoyt so much, all the friends I have made from year to year, the ones that stuck up for me. I have been here since kindergarten and I love this school. I will be really sad when I leave. I will miss all the teachers I have had: Ms. Boitano, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. Murphy, Mrs. Seberson, Mr. Allegro, and Mrs. Fitzgerald. Thank you for being my teachers. I have made so many friends that I would also like to thank Avalon, Indi, Larin, and Sydney. I will really miss Washington-Hoyt, and all of its great memories, like going to Camp Seymour and being in a cabin with my friends. Most of the people I know are going to Mason like me, but for those who I won’t see again, goodbye. I hope you have long happy lives.

Jack Blair – I’m going to miss the school. I hope I can see my teachers again. I’ll miss my friends that I am leaving behind.

Larin Tuttle – I will miss this school so much. I have had the best years of school here! I made great friends, had amazing teachers, and had an awesome year! I am excited to have a fresh start at a new school, but I will miss all the kind people that have been there for me. I will miss all my friends going to a different school than I am. I will miss all the teachers and volunteers. I will miss everything here. I have a note to all current students of Washington-Hoyt: You may complain about going to school, but always think positive! Thinking negative will get you nowhere! Just think of all the kind teachers and students that are here and treasure each moment.

Marcello Russo – Students, it’s been a long year. It’s been a tough year. You have learned bravely, proudly for your school. You are a special group that existed only in the classroom. We met new people, shared text books, and laughed and enjoyed each other greatly. I am proud to have served with each and every one of you. You deserve long and happy lives in peace.

Kyle Mills – I’ll miss my school because of all the friends I’ll leave behind and all the field trips I went on.

Ms. Ridenour’s Class

Alex Cook – My memories at Washington-Hoyt were great. My favorite teacher was Mrs. Willy, my kindergarten teacher but now she substitutes for teachers. It’s been awesome here except for the food, which is horrible.

James Blanchard – From kindergarten to fifth grade I have been at Washington-Hoyt Elementary. And throughout my years at Washington, I have had lots of fun, like all of the fun parties with all my classmates and the great things I’ve learned about and even my amazing teachers and friends who have been very fun and awesome. So to you Washington-Hoyt, I say thank you for all the good times.

Caleb Singh – My favorite memory was in third grade when me and Elliot Loe built an awesome K’nex master truck that actually had wheels with a motor that worked and it even had a role cage!

Cassidy Rojecki – At Washington-Hoyt, I will always remember all the friends that I made. I will also remember all the great teachers. They always made sure that what they were teaching made sense to everyone. Every teacher I had was wonderful but one of my favorites was Mrs. Jepsen. She was very kind and generous. Another thing I will always remember is the field trip to Camp Seymour. I had so much fun dissecting squids and the “engineering” class. I would like to thank everyone who made my years at Washington-Hoyt great!

Angel Walker – What did I like about my years at Washington-Hoyt? Well, I mostly liked making friends. I made a lot of friends but I'd always play with one and she's my cousin, Paris. She goes here too. She's my best friend and best cousin ever! And I know it'll stay that way. My favorite field trip would probably be Camp Seymour. It felt like a big sleep over. My favorite part was the night hike. One of the boy cabins threw pine cones at ours. The funniest part of this year would have to be when Ms. Ridenour played P.I.G. with Dr. Knight and he won! I love all the teachers I've had. I'd like to say thanks to all the teachers I've had. I loved having different people in my class every year. That way, I could make new friends. What I'm really looking forward to is this year's talent show. I've been in it since second grade. I don't want to leave. I'm scared to go to Middle School. I'm really going to miss my classmates and teachers.

Steven Hughes – I've been here at Washington-Hoyt since kindergarten. I liked the Mt. St. Helens trip in fourth grade and Camp Seymour in fifth grade. My favorite teacher was Mr. Allegro because he would always go to my baseball games and he was my only male teacher.

Isabella Davis – My favorite memory of Washington-Hoyt was being able to be friends with Sydney and many others.

Philip Schmidt – My favorite memory of Washington-Hoyt was just being here and doing all the field trips and fun things.

Indi Williams – What I like about this school was Camp Seymour, the teachers and all the love that radiates in this school!

Matt Hillis – Some great memories of Washington: In second grade I had many basketball games with my BFFs. Those have been fun memories in fourth grade too, when I had Mrs. Lawrence. She was my favorite teacher. Anyways, in that class we went to Mt. St. Helens which was my favorite field trip. It was so amazing. Now, here in fifth grade with also another favorite teacher, Ms. Ridenour, I have loved this year and this school.

Quinn Vicars – I enjoyed my three years at Washington-Hoyt but what I enjoyed most was my second year here in Mr. Allegro's class and all the fun things we learned to do like how to shade a color in picture and turn it into a work of art. Another thing I enjoyed was having Mrs. Seberson and how she let us come in on rainy day recess to take apart old computer parts and draw. Finally, my fifth grade teacher is Ms. Ridenour. She is my most challenging teacher so far and I like it that she challenges me. My very last memory I want to share is how chess club changed my school experience and home life. It was the second best thing at Washington-Hoyt.

Ben Carswell – I liked Mrs. Eichner's class and Mrs. Lawrence's class.

Louis Dummitt – My favorite memories of elementary are on the last day of school because it's so fun because you know that you have the summer to await you and no homework!

Aidan Gaffney – I've been at Washington-Hoyt since kindergarten and I've always loved track, Camp Seymour and Mt. St. Helens. I know I will remember Washington-Hoyt as the greatest school in THE WORLD!

Maggie Fredricks – I will never forget Camp Seymour. It was sooo fun! I love it. I could do it again and again.

Avalon Mattila – My favorite memory of Washington-Hoyt is everyone's shoes, this school has amazing shoes.

Emily Roy – My years at Washington-Hoyt were great because of people like Mrs. Moore who always made Math fun and Mrs. Seberson who pushed me past my limits and Mr. Allegro who made working fun. Some of my favorite activities though are the Sock Hop because it was like going back in time, and Field Day where we got to do a bubble gum chewing contest and I won last year. I am going to miss it here because of all the joy this school has brought me.

Patrick Robinson – My greatest memory at Washington-Hoyt is my teachers I got, all of the teachers I wanted and they were great!

Maddi Larson – I have been at Washington-Hoyt since last year, fourth grade. I mostly loved finding my friends at Washington-Hoyt and I love the teachers. All of them are so nice, they treated me as if I had been here since kindergarten. What I mostly found at Washington was great people and lots of great memories. I will always miss Washington-Hoyt.

Amaya Fox – I've had a great experience at Washington-Hoyt. From the lost teeth wall in Mrs. Willy's kindergarten class to Writer's Workshop in Mr. Allegro's fourth grade class, to finally going to Camp Seymour in Ms. Ridenour's fifth grade class and in between. All my wonderful teachers were unique, like Mrs. Jepsen's soft, calming voice and Mrs. Eichner's silly voice, Mrs. King's joyful laughter and Ms. Ridenour's ways of peace. I will truly miss Washington-Hoyt.

Lauren Kunnanz – I love going on field trips with my classes like to Mt. St. Helens and Camp Seymour. I like to meet new people like Indi, Seth, Channing, Hannah N., Lauren V. I like having different people in my class every year. I love all of my teachers like Ms. Boitano, Mrs. Moore, Mrs. O., Mrs. Seberson, Mrs. Lawrence and my teacher now, Ms. Ridenour. I've had a wonderful time at Washington-Hoyt Elementary!

Eric Graupensperger – I loved Camp Seymour because we got to do stuff there that I couldn't do at home like dissecting a squid.

Seth Bernard – I have only been at Washington-Hoyt for one year, though it's been life-changing for me. I have many friends. They help me with everything. All the teachers are really nice. The parents are really caring. My grades are doing a lot better than at my other elementary school. So, Washington-Hoyt has been life-changing for me.

Noah McDonald – My favorite memory at Washington-Hoyt was all the friends I met.

Austin McDonald – I have always liked Washington-Hoyt because all of the teachers are very nice. And everyone at the school is nice and polite. Also, one of my favorite field trips was Camp Seymour. I liked Camp Seymour because you learn a lot at camp. My favorite thing at camp was the archery range, even though I'm not a good shot.

Kylee Wehmer – I've been at Washington-Hoyt ever since kindergarten. And it's my favorite. I have to say that because this is the only school I've ever gone too. All of my teachers inspired me and are very, very nice. Every year our class goes on fun field trips. I think that that's cool because the whole class gets together and has a fun time. Every kid that goes to Washington-Hoyt is nice and are all full of pure hearts. If had a choice, I would stay here and not go to Middle School.

Sydney Modica – I've enjoyed every moment here at Washington-Hoyt and I wish I could stay longer. I've loved all my teachers including Ms. Ridenour. My all time favorite field trips were Camp Seymour and the night in fourth grade when we spent the night at the Pacific Science Center. Everyone at the school is kind and polite. Also a big thanks to the PTA for setting up all the fundraisers and activities to help raise money for the school and other things. I have made so many friends here and some of them won't be with me during Middle School but I'm sure many will. I will miss Washington-Hoyt.

CONGRATULATIONS, FIFTH GRADERS! WE'LL MISS YOU, TOO!

TRIBUTES FROM PARENTS

FOR JACOB BROWN

As a family we would like to thank all of the wonderful teachers that have supported Jacob in his elementary education. He has had a wonderful experience at Washington-Hoyt. As parents we would like to wish Jacob all the best as you continue to grow into the fine young man that you are becoming. We are very proud of all that you have accomplished and looking forward to all that is to come. We would also like to wish all of the fifth graders good luck and best wishes as a new chapter begins in your lives.

Jackie Gross (Mom) and Craig Brown (Dad)

FOR CASSIDY ROJECKI

We are so very proud of you, Cass. It seems like just the other day when you were so excited and nervous to be starting kindergarten! You have blossomed into such an amazing person over your years here at Washington-Hoyt. You are such a strong, dedicated student, leader and friend. Take all you have learned on to middle school with you and you will create a whole new chapter of life-long memories, Sis.

Thank you to especially to Mrs. Willy, Mrs. Harkness, Mrs. Jepsen, Mrs. Gibson, Mr. Allegro and Ms. Ridenour for their tremendous guidance and the wonderful education they provided you with. Washington Hoyt is an amazing community that our family is so proud and thankful to be a part of.

Love,
Mom and Dad, Carter and Lucy

FOR ELLA MUNIZZA

Ella, we are very proud of you in so many ways. Congratulations on all you have accomplished over the past six years.

With lots of love,
Mom and Dad

FOR MACK WILLY

We have been so excited to watch as you have changed and grown over the years into a young man. Seeing you moving into middle school brings back so many memories of you at Washington-Hoyt, from well before you were old enough to start school there. When you were a baby you used to nap on the floor of mommy's classroom at Hoyt, snuggled up under a blanket on the warm heated floors. As time went on, you learned to walk, talk, run, read, write and climb. On your first day of kindergarten, you were almost instantly surrounded by new friends, no doubt because you knew your way around so well. Looking back now, it is hard to imagine you without a ball or stick in your hand. But in reality, for your first seven years you were more likely to be found drawing for hours on end or reading about trucks and diggers! In sports you were always the first one to pass the ball to a better shooter or the last kiddo chasing the soccer ball. It wasn't until you started hockey that you really to came into your own. Seeing you play over the last four years, you have grown so much in stature and maturity. You have a quiet confidence and strength that most boys your age won't have for years. You seem to flow easily into each new adventure, from playing the recorder to lacrosse and everything in between. Through it all, you have always been surrounded by lots of great friends.

As you move on to middle school it seems as though nothing will faze you. I'm sure from your perspective things are probably a little different. You will be leaving the school where you've spent most of your life for one with lots of new faces. But what you have always had is a wonderful ability to make friends. I don't know that there was ever a day when you were little that we went to the park or the playground when you didn't leave with a few more friends. It didn't even matter if we were in Tacoma, Denver or somewhere else, you would always be the first kid to ask the other kids' names and you would remember every one of them!

So we hope you are excited to move on to Mason. Not only will you have lots of friends there, but best of all, you will have a building full of new friends to be made, new things to learn and new adventures to be had. We are so very proud of you and we are excited as always to see you grow!

Love,
Mom and Dad