

Washington-Hoyt Elementary Cougar Tales



Issue #2. October 2009

Skate Night Skate Night Skate Night



BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY FOR A NIGHT OF SKATING FUN!

For a night of fun with your school friends and family, our PTA has organized another Family Skate Night! We have the whole place reserved just for our school from 6-8 p.m. Oct. 5 at Wheelz Skate Arena at 2101 Mildred Street, Fircrest (Sunrise Center). Students should be accompanied by a parent or chaperone. Parents who do not skate do not have to pay admission, and may walk out on the floor to assist beginning skaters. Wheelz Skate Arena has a snack bar - Pizza&Pop \$5, Hot Dog&Pop \$4.50.

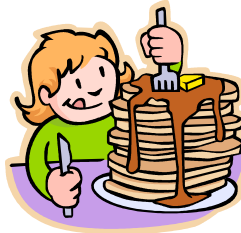
Admission is \$4 plus \$2 rental, or bring your own skates.

Any questions? Contact Megan Boly 759-2626 or email megan@mcboly.org

Walk to School Day

Washington-Hoyt will be participating in the annual International Walk to School event for the eighth time on **Wednesday, October 7.**

Walking to school promotes good health and a pollution-free neighborhood, and reduces global warming. Find out more at www.iwalktoschool.org.



Who says chocolate isn't for breakfast?

As part of the annual Proctor Chocolate Festival, Washington-Hoyt is holding its third Chocolate Chip Pancake Breakfast. This event, open to the public but run entirely by our terrific parent volunteers, was a huge success last year. As well as current students and families, we had visitors who had attended Wa-Hoyt as kids and shared their memories.

Be a part of this community event on October 10 from 9-11 a.m. in the school cafeteria. The pancakes are by donation. Volunteers are welcome – contact Laurie Hunger at 627-4582.

The Proctor Chocolate Festival runs Oct. 7-10 in the Proctor Business District, and includes free events like a fondue party at Metropolitan Market (Saturday 11 a.m.-5 p.m.) and a community chocolate bake-off contest at Knapps Restaurant (Saturday 3-5 p.m.) For more information, see www.proctorbusinessdistrict.org.

This Month at Wa-Hoyt

- 2 Oct. Picture Day
- 5 Oct. Family Skate Night at Wheelz, 6pm
- 6-8 Oct. School Conferences
- 7 Oct. National Walk To School Day
- 9 Oct. No School-Waiver Day
- 10 Oct. School Pancake Breakfast~ part of the Proctor Chocolate Festival!
- 19 Oct. Scrip Order Due



Dr. John Knight

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,

I want to thank you for your support as we spruce up procedures on the playground. You have been very understanding and cooperative in keeping your dogs behind the last white line. I think I have met most of your dogs now, and they are remarkably well mannered and calm around the chaos of children gushing from the building at days' end. I also want to thank you for leaving clear the immediate areas around the steps at each doorway. This gives all of our children the opportunity to stream out of the building and safely spread out on the playground in search of their parents.

I also appreciate your support as we help our students develop safe lineup behavior. My concern is that students who are running about, swinging backpacks or playfully pushing each other could injure themselves or a bystander. When I talk to students about the need to

act safely, they have been very cooperative and respectful. It's simply a matter of reminding them occasionally.

Lastly, I want to say "Thank you" to any middle school students who might read this newsletter. You and I had a discussion several weeks ago about proper behavior on the school grounds. I gave you a week to come up with a plan, and you did. In accordance with your plan you are invited as guests on our school grounds at days' end as long as you do not hang around the base of the steps as children are coming out, stay off of the big toy equipment (which is reserved for little kids and Washington-Hoyt students) and police your own language and loudness. You have honored your plan. I am proud of you!

Sincerely,
John Knight

Teacher News

Thanks to a few new enrolments, Mrs. Barabe's third/fourth grade split class was reassigned last month into two separate classes: a third grade taught by Mrs. Eichner and a fourth grade taught by Mrs. Barabe. Washington-Hoyt now has three classes in every grade except the fifth. Way to go!

And a big welcome to Miss Alicia Guy, who is our new kindergarten teacher, replacing Mrs. Eichner. Miss Guy comes to Wa-Hoyt from teaching third grade at Sherman Elementary, but before that she spent some time teaching English in China and at a home for abused and abandoned girls in Honduras. Her hobbies? "Right now, it's getting my room ready!" laughs Miss Guy. She likes anything active, especially tennis, walking and swimming. Says Miss Guy: "I feel blessed that I'm here. I'm really happy."

Safe Driving

We want our kids to be safe, so let's drive safely around our school. Here are some tips:

- Please don't stop right at the traffic circle on N. 27th and Washington Streets to let your children off near the staircase in the morning. It is a serious safety hazard for hurried parents trying to walk Hoyt students safely down to school.
- To negotiate traffic circles, always remember: Slow down to 15-20 mph. Use your indicator as for a regular intersection. Yield to traffic inside the circle. Yield to any pedestrians or bicyclists. Drive into the circle when there's a gap in traffic, and don't stop in the circle.
- Finally, remember to slow down whenever you're near any school.



Pesto, Potatoes and Pizza!



Mrs. Sebersson helps Mia Cook pick basil, while the rest of the class works hard digging another bed for winter.

The school garden is in full harvest mode this month. Already we've had three third-grade classes picking basil to make mouth-watering pesto in the classroom (enticing several other teachers to pay a visit!), and two second-grade classes picking patty pan squash which gardening parent Rosemary Ponnekanti made into squash pizza (yum!). This month we'll see the fifth graders dig up their potatoes for herbed fries, the fourth graders pick red cabbage and onion for coleslaw, and the first graders make tomato salsa. Thanks to all the awesome parent helpers!

All classes are helping weed beds, make compost and sow cover crops to dig in for added nitrogen in the spring. Students are learning about soil health, worms, seeds and healthy snacks they grow themselves.

Not much happens in the garden over winter. But come spring, we'll be sowing seeds in the classroom, planting out, and tidying up. Big thanks to Wendy Brown for offering her greenhouse, seeds and help!

If you'd like to help in your child's garden lessons or coordinate the garden at Hoyt, please contact Rosemary Ponnekanti on 761-8324 or rose_ponnekanti@yahoo.com

Counselor's Corner

Welcome back to school. I hope you had a fun and safe summer. My name is Mary McGlone, and I am the counselor at Washington-Hoyt. As a school guidance counselor, I am available to help you and your child have a successful academic year.

Over the summer I attended several BBQ's where I met numerous caring and friendly parents with their school aged children. Interestingly, several parents expressed the hope that their child would not need to see the school counselor because they feared that might mean their child was misbehaving or in some kind of trouble or distress. Let me reassure you that meeting with the school counselor does not necessarily indicate that your child is misbehaving. I meet with all of the students at Washington-Hoyt, even those who are



models of good behavior. A major portion of my job is proactive and preventative. I go into classrooms and teach students a variety of techniques for handling conflict, stress, friendship concerns, and bullying so students are prepared to handle problems before they arise. I also have friendship groups where I include students who can model good behavior and offer appropriate solutions to problems because experience has taught me that students will learn quickly when they see their peers engaged in appropriate social interactions.

At the start of every school year, after meeting with the principal, teachers, students, and many of you, I will develop a comprehensive guidance program that will deal with the behavioral, social and emotional issues that often impact academic success. As part of this program, I will teach classroom lessons, offer individual consultation, and lead small groups for students who have particular needs and whose parents want them to have additional assistance. Around conference time, sometimes I may meet with you and your child's teacher to develop a plan to foster and support your child's academic success. I am also available to conference throughout the year with you about your child and/or to offer referral and resource assistance to other programs and services within our community. My job is to support you, your child and your child's teacher so that your son/daughter will have a positive academic experience.

Finally, I will continue to advise you as to what is happening with the Guidance program in the monthly Counselor's Corner in the school newspaper or in notes home throughout the school year. I will be at Washington-Hoyt every Tuesday and every other Friday. If you have any questions or wish to see me about your child, please call me at school (571-5725) or drop by my office in the morning before classes begin. I look forward to meeting you and working with you, your child, Dr. Knight and your child's teacher, in providing a safe and positive atmosphere within which your child can learn and grow.

Mary McGlone

PTA News

Scrip

Thank you, all those families who have ordered their Scrip already! Scrip is a fancy word for “gift cards” - the PRA gives the card at a discount, you buy it from the PTA at face value and use it to buy things you'd usually purchase anyway, like groceries or coffee. You don't spend any extra money, but the school gets a lot back – it's the PTA's biggest fundraiser. Scrip order forms will come home with your child every other Friday. Please return the forms on the following Monday to your child's teacher, with a check made out to Washington-Hoyt PTA SCRIP. The cards will be delivered to your child the next Friday.



Order dates for the 2009/10 year:
Oct. 19, Nov. 16, Dec. 7, Jan. 11, Feb. 1, Mar. 1 and 22, Apr. 19, May 17 and June 7.

More info: Cara Reese, 752-0200,
dcreese@harboret.com

Chess Club

NOTE CHANGE IN DAY: Chess club will meet Thursday afternoons this year.

Chess club begins on October 8, on Thursday afternoons from 3:40p.m. – 4:40p.m. in the gym. Anyone who is interested in joining can join. We teach chess from beginner basics to experienced levels. Our season runs from now through the end of April ending with the Washington State Elementary Chess Championship on April 24, 2010. There are several Saturday tournaments that chess players can attend and compete in as both an individual and as part of the Washington-Hoyt Team. All players must qualify to attend the Washington State Elementary Chess Championship by earning three points at one of the local qualifying tournaments. For the first time ever, the Elementary Chess Championship is going to be hosted in Tacoma at the Greater Tacoma Convention and Trade Center!! Chess players are not required to attend tournaments ... come and learn to play the fun game of chess!



For more information, contact: Shila McDonald at 761-0369.

Cat Tracks has started!

Cat Tracks is Washington-Hoyt's monthly reading incentive program. Put your calendar in a safe place, like on your fridge, or on a bulletin board! Mark on your calendar each night that you read for at least 15 minutes. At the end of the month, have your parent sign the calendar and bring it back to class. Miss Ellen and I will be coming to your classrooms to pass out a treat to everyone who participates.

Read-Read-Read!!



Love,

Aunty Deb

Sally Foster/Entertainment Book Sale Makes \$16,000

Thank you Washington-Hoyt Families!

Our biggest fundraiser of the year has concluded! We are happy to announce that our Sally Foster/ Entertainment Book sale has grossed over \$16,000! Our PTA will net between 40 and 50 per cent of the total. These funds are what we use to support our classes, buy laminator supplies, Cat Track rewards, Sunshine club and so much more! Again, thank you for participating and raising money for our wonderful school. The Sally Foster orders will be delivered October 15!

Deb Llewellyn

WHAM!

How do you make an impact with young artists? Simple – WHAM! That's Washington-Hoyt's Art Movement. The year-long after-school art program, taught by Alice Goodwin debuts October 13. WHAM will teach students about the Modern Art movement through a variety of art projects from Impressionism to Pop Art. For details about cost and scheduling, sign-up forms are available in the office or online at wahoyt.org. Registration for session #1 (October - December) is due Tuesday, October 6. Space is limited.

If you have any questions, call organizer Paul Blanchard at 759-9669, or email him at tacoma@harboret.com

Message from the Presidents...

What a great first month of school we have had! Sunny days, happy children, enthusiastic teachers and staff, the fall Book Fair, the sweatshirt sale, Sally Foster and Entertainment Books, and a great Back to School Night event! Thanks to all of those volunteers who helped make all of these events happen. A special thanks to Justine and Alfredo Russo of Europa Bistro who provided food and donated their time to serve our school community on Back to School Night.



October brings many more fun events. We will be having our second PTA meeting, Walk to School Day, and the third annual Chocolate Chip Pancake Breakfast to help celebrate with the Proctor district in their Chocolate Festival. All are welcome! Please watch your child's Friday folder for information regarding Foreign Language classes, Chess Club and After School Art classes. You can also check the PTA website at wahoyt.org on a regular basis for the latest information.

We were excited to see all of the new and smiling faces at our first PTA meeting of the year. Our membership enrollment is fantastic so far. If you haven't joined already, simply download a membership form from our website and send it to school with your child. Our next meeting will be held in the Washington library, Monday, October 12th, from 7-8p.m. (free supervised childcare is provided). If your schedule doesn't allow for you to make our meetings, there are other ways to support the PTA's work:

Here Are Some Ways You Can Support the Washington-Hoyt PTA

Join PTA: Your membership dues (\$10) help us out a great deal. A portion of your dues support leadership training and a legal voice at the local, regional, and state, and even national levels. The other part stays here at Washington-Hoyt, primarily to support our teacher grant program.

Buy SCRIP: Scrip is a pretty painless way to support PTA – you can buy gift certificates for your groceries, renting movies, home improvement projects, clothes shopping, or an evening out. You pay nothing additional – it's just a matter of thinking ahead! Scrip forms come home in the Friday Folders twice a month. Try it out! The majority of Scrip proceeds go towards new library books and AR materials.

Attend school functions: It takes a lot of work to put together events for over 390 kids and their families. If you can't volunteer your time to plan or help out, please show your school support by coming! This year we are sponsoring: Back to School Night Open House and Pasta Feed, a RAM takeover, the Academic Triathlon, Missoula Children's Theater, Read Across America Day, the Sock Hop and the Celebration of Learning Ice Cream Social. We are also bringing in several academic enrichment programs paid for by the Triathlon proceeds.

Read this newsletter and visit wahoyt.org: Yes, by reading Cougar Tales every month and frequently checking our website for updates you're supporting our PTA! To be informed is

to be involved – and there just maybe something you would just love to be a part of!

Thank a PTA volunteer: Those folks who are always at school or that know your child's name--chances are they're PTA volunteers. When someone sells you cookies at a bake sale, packages your wrapping paper order, emails you weekly school updates, serves you pizza or pasta, or takes your money at the book fair--show them you appreciate their efforts. We don't want volunteering at our school to be a thankless job!

If you have any great ideas or questions please give us a call. We look forward to seeing you on Monday October 12th at the next PTA meeting!

Shannon Rojecki 761-2010
Hope Willy 761-0622
PTA Co-Presidents

PTA Membership

Thanks to all new and returning PTA members who've already registered for the 2009-2010 school year. Our numbers look great and we're off to an impressive start. If you haven't registered, don't worry – there's still plenty of time and we're eager to have as many parents involved as possible. The more support we give our children, the better. It's sure to be a great year at Washington-Hoyt with so many committed students, parents and teachers. Join PTA if you haven't already, and volunteer for committees and events. We hope to see you there!

PTA Officers

Presidents:	Hope Willy	761-0622
	Shannon Rojecki	761-2010
VP:	Laurie Hunger	627-4582
Secretary:	Alison Hoseth	761-9730
Treasurer:	Krischell Sollars	272-1377
	Jeanne Sacks	761-8474
Scrip:	Cara Reese	752-0200
	Sandi Asidilla	566-0426
	Ronda Eider-Jackson	475-1310

Our Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held in the Washington library on Monday, October 12 from 7-8p.m. Childcare for school-age children is available!

PTA
everychild.onevoice.

Washington-Hoyt gets greener with new mascot Forest Fox

Hi! I'd like to introduce myself: I'm Forest Fox and I'm the new mascot for Washington-Hoyt's Green Schools program.

If you're not familiar with Green Schools, it's the program that helps our school become more environmentally-friendly. A small committee of teachers and parents coordinates the program, but we couldn't run our activities without a lot of help from students, teachers and the school community.

As we start our third year, we'll continue to focus on reducing solid waste. The classroom recycling is already in full swing, and at the beginning of October we'll start up the milk carton recycling again. Each week, two fourth or fifth grade students will serve as the Green Partners to make sure the milk cartons get emptied out and dried for recycling. We've diverted almost 19,000 cartons from the landfill so far!

We're also planning for our big school events to be waste free. This means that we'll be collecting any cups and cutlery from the event and sending them to be recycled or washed for reuse. Paper plates, napkins and food scraps will be composted.

And the school will continue to cut down on paper use. The ConnectEd message system is a great way to get information to families without having to send home a sheet of paper. It also saves us money. Last school year, the 72 ConnectEd phone messages saved 28,000 sheets of paper and over \$800 in photocopying costs! The memos we do send home will be put on half instead of full sheets whenever possible.

Green Schools will be planning more events and activities for kids. So look for announcements in upcoming Cougar Tales. And if you'd like to volunteer for a Green Schools project or would just like to find out more, please contact Felicity Devlin at 761-8066 or felicitydevlin@yahoo.com. We have lots of volunteer opportunities, big and small.

One way you can help save our school money and paper right now is to receive Cougar Tales online. It's simple to do: Just send an email to editor Rosemary Ponnekanti at rose_ponnekanti@yahoo.com, and she'll sign you up.



Cougar Tales

Why sign up for the E-Cougar Tales?

- Saves money. Every time you get the Tales via email you free up resources for other things.
- Saves the environment. One ream of copy paper (500 sheets) uses 6% of a tree? Save our earth, read online.
- You hear the news first! PDFs of Cougar Tales are emailed before the print copy hits the classrooms.
- You get all the cool color graphics and Web links.

So email me with your child's name and grade to sign up now. You can also check out the Tales at www.wahoyt.org

Have something to say? The deadline for the November Cougar Tales is October 28. Please email submissions as a Word or Pages attachment to rose_ponnekanti@yahoo.com. You can also send me pictures in jpg format.

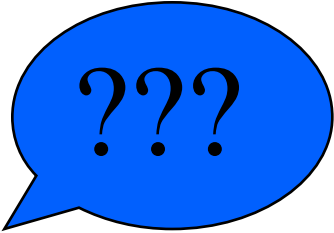
Cougar Tales is published once a month during the school year as a joint effort of the Washington-Hoyt PTA and school staff.

Rosemary Ponnekanti, Cougar Tales Editor



**families are signed up so far
for E-Cougar Tales! Join us!**

Kids' Page!



Why is this page empty?

It's waiting for your submissions. Kids, this part of the Cougar Tales is for you! Yes, we're looking for stories, jokes, artwork, news about your classroom (a new pet? new student? cool lesson?) and anything else you'd like to see in print for your friends and family to read.

Send submissions either via email to rose_ponnekanti@yahoo.com, or put the hard copy in the tan in-box on the windowsill in the school office. Deadline for the November issue is October 28.

In the meantime, here are some...



Safety Reminders

from the Tacoma School District Public Information Office

Personal Safety Tips

- Do not talk to strangers
- Do not walk alone and walk in groups of two or more
- Never get into a vehicle with a stranger—fight, shout, scream, kick, bite, run and tell
- Never take anything a stranger offers you—do not accept candy, food or money from a stranger
- Do not walk alone in the dark
- Stay away from lonely places—do not go alone into deserted buildings, empty parking lots or places where there are few people around
- Remain on school grounds during school hours
- Immediately tell responsible adults about any suspicious activities or people encountered to or from school and give as many details as possible

Walking Safety Tips

- Look left, right and left again before crossing the street
- Always cross at a crosswalk or intersection
- Obey traffic signals
- Children younger than 10 years old should be supervised by an adult when around motor vehicles
- Make sure drivers see you when they're backing out of a driveway
- Determine the safest route with parents

Bicycle Riding Safety Tips

- Wear a helmet
- Do not ride with headphones
- Obey traffic signs and signals
- Follow lane markings
- Never ride against traffic
- Cross at a crosswalk or intersection
- Make sure drivers see you

