

Washington-Hoyt Elementary Cougar Tales



Issue #10, June 2011

End of School!

It's nearly summer vacation: Look inside to find **Fifth-Grader Farewells** (p.5), information on **summer gardening** (p.3) and more. Happy Summer!

WA-Hoyt Uniform Sale

What: The PTA school uniform sale

When: 3:30-5:30 p.m. June 10

Where: Washington gym

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

Prices: last year's prices ranged from \$1-\$2

Please don't donate: 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



Calendar at a Glance

6/1-3 Scholastic Book Fair

6/1 Family BBQ 11:30 a.m. on playground

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

**6/6 Scrip orders due; last PTA meeting 7
p.m. in library; talent show tryouts (also
6/7)**

**6/10 Field Day; PTA Uniform Sale; scrip
delivered**

6/14 Talent Show 2 p.m.

**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. 1**

6/21-25 Camp Invention

Talent Show!!

Want to be in the talent show? Mrs. O'Morlen and Mrs. Norling will be screening talent show acts on June 6 and 7 at both 8-8:50 a.m. and 3:40-5 p.m.

Return permission notes **to the office** by June 1. Late forms will NOT be accepted.

The talent show will be held on June 14 at 2 p.m. and June 15 at 9:30 a.m. Notices will be sent home by June 10 notifying each student as to which day they will perform.

Due to the overwhelming talent here at our school and in order to keep the talent show to a reasonable length of time we have had to set the following criteria:

- Each participant in a group must turn in their own separate permission slip.
- All acts must be organized, planned and prepared before June 6 or 7, with music, props, costumes, etc.
- All skits must have a script turned in to Mrs. Norling or Mrs. O'Morlen by June 3.
- Acts can be no longer than 2 1/2 minutes.
- No "lip-sync" acts - we want to hear your talent.
-

Mrs. Norling 571-5718, Mrs. O'Morlen 571-5708

Letter from the Presidents



It's hard to believe that our school year is almost over and our final weeks of serving as your PTA Presidents are upon us! 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 very 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!

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to our PTA Board! Courtenay Chamberlin, VP of fundraising, Alison Hoseth, secretary; Jeanne Sacks and Shannon Podgorski, 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 6 at 7 p.m. in the library. We will be presenting the time-honored GOLDEN ACORN award and approving our new board for the 2011/12 school year. You don't want to miss this one!

Warmly,
Shannon Rojecki, Hope Willy
PTA Presidents

Success for Washington-Hoyt Chess Players

On April 16, Washington-Hoyt held our annual chess tournament. Placing in the fifth grade division were Jesse Marks (4th place) and Christopher Mackey (3rd place). In the fourth grade division Collin Bagley placed 4th. For third grade, Dylan Robinson placed 4th and Cameron Showalter placed 3rd. In first grade Nicolo Ponnekanti placed 4th and Henry Flynn-Simon placed 6th. Thank you to Theresa Robinson, Amy Mackey, Deb

Pearson, Jena Marks and Tracey Koon for their help at the tournament. A huge thank you to the Allshouse, Mackey and Koon families for your donations.

On April 30th the Washington State Elementary State Chess Tournament took place at the Tacoma Convention Center. Attending were Jesse Marks, Peter Allegro, Jonathan and Cameron Showalter, Kevin Dinicola and Jonah Gaimster. Congratulations to Cameron Showalter who won three games in the third grade division, and Kevin Dinicola who won three games in the "I Love Chess" division.

If you are interested in learning and playing chess come join the fun in the fall.

Ann Allegro

Fun and a win at the Rainiers

The sun came out and so did many Washington-Hoyt families for the Rainiers Game against the Memphis Redbirds. We had great seats behind home plate, enjoyed the company of our friends and had fun running the bases at the end of the game. To top it all off the Rainiers won the game 5-2 after hitting several very exciting home runs!

Megan Boly



Two Wa-Hoyt fans at the Rainiers game. Photo: Megan Boly

More PTA News

In the Garden

Like to pick food? Like to eat food?

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, and instruction is given for total newbies.

This is a great way of reconnecting your kids with the earth without having to look after a garden full-time.



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

Way to Go!

Thank you, all those terrific room parents who run class parties, organize Teacher Appreciation Week, remember birthdays and generally round up the rest of us – well done! Here they are:

Mrs. Hansen: Erin Smith, Tiffany Place. **Mrs. Keppler:** Amy Fahland. **Ms. Pedee:** Cheryl Collins, Marni Hamburg. **Mrs. Harkness:** Catherine Feeney. **Mrs. Moore:** Molly Baker. **Mrs. King:** Alison Hoseth, Kelly Murphy. **Mrs. Sterbick:** Margie Skreen-Dickerson, Brooke Brown, Charmaine Norton, Julie Cooper. **Mrs. Murphy:** Marni Hamburg, Justine Russo. **Mrs. O'Morlen:** Deb Llewellyn, Cheryl Collins. **Mrs. Gibson:** Betsy Pepper, Lisa Swanson. **Mrs. Eichner:** Shannon Clemenson. **Mrs. Seberson:** Molly Baker, Bonnie LaCrosse, Yvonne Rhoades, Ana Zanoletti. **Mr. Allegro:** Alison Hoseth, Jenny Graupensberger, Cara Reese. **Mrs. Lawrence:** Lucia Elliott, Julie Vindivich. **Mrs. Barabe:** Ronda Eider-Jackson, Krischell Sollars, Kathy Spurrell. **Mrs. Fitzgerald:** Arica Valona, Ann Allegro, Kathy Spurrell. **Ms. Ridenour:** Liz Walle, Erin Behnke, Catherine Feeney, Kuljinder Kour



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

Finally, many many thanks to our super PTA officers and committee members for another great year at Washington-Hoyt.

Cougar Tales

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

Deadline for September edition: August 25

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



School News

Washington-Hoyt Math Olympiad Teams



The Washington State Math Olympiad is a state math competition on fifth through eighth grade math. The competition is in a team-format with each team consisting of four students. The problems are very challenging and require students to think outside the box. Twenty-one Washington-Hoyt fourth and fifth graders participated in more than three months of weekly trainings and competed in the contest on May 7. Among the 21 students, nine were girls and seven were fourth graders. The students worked very hard and took the challenge seriously. On the contest day, the students showed great commitment to their teams and to solving the math problems together. They had a very positive and cheerful attitude throughout the six-hour long event. Although they did not win a top 20% award, two of our teams were next in line to win such an award. All

teams achieved at level of “Excellent”, “Very Good” or “Good” in each of six components: a long session problem, and five short session problems in the content areas Number Sense, Probability and Statistics, Measurement, Geometric Sense, and Algebraic Sense. Overall, they did quite well as compare to other schools. Their courage and collegiality were highly appraised by site volunteers.

Congratulations to team members Savannah Baker, Addie Bjornson, Diedrick Cheeks, Shay Clark, Cade Cochran, Maddie Cook, Maggie Denman, Aidan Dickerson, Michael Finch, William Foley, Elliot Jackson, Thomas Ke, Westley Linden, Paris Markley, Adam Maxon, Ben Meyerson, Rachel Piatok, Aaron Rosner, Malikah Singh, Ashlan Speir, and Hope Springer. Well Done!

A special thank you to Elena Meyerson and Daisa Hudson, the seventh grader helpers, for helping and cheering up each student during the entire three months of training; to Mrs. Barabe and all her students for letting us use their classroom; and to Dr. Knight, other teachers and parents for their inputs and help on the contest day. Finally a big Thank You to PTA for all the support!

Mei Zhu and Debra Meyerson

From the Liaisons...

This month in ASB we had a book sale. Out of that book sale we raised \$207.25. Also in ASB we are still having the on-going food drive. We haven't met our goal, so please bring in more food. On Spirit Week, which is June 13-15, we are having theme dress days:

Monday (6/13) – Fancy Day
Tuesday (6/14) -- Opposite Day
Wednesday (6/15) – Pick Your Own Theme Dress Day

Annabelle Walle and Jillian Cripe, Liaisons

School News

Green Schools Litter Pick-Up FAQ

When did it all happen?

Saturday May 14.

How was the weather?

Warm and dry—perfect for picking up litter!

How many volunteers helped out?

Sixty-three!

How much litter did you pick-up?

Check out the photo.

What were the weirdest items found?

Part of a cell phone, a brand new washcloth, sliced ham floating in a puddle, and fake vampire teeth.

Who guessed where the pirates had buried their trash on Trashure Island?

Vera Rousseff, who's volunteered at the pick-up for four years running!

Who would you like to thank?

All our volunteers who gave up a Saturday morning to help clean our neighborhood. A special thanks to Thomas Ke and his family for tackling the Safeway ditch again; to Ms. Murphy and Miss Peggy for ensuring the event ran smoothly; and to Kathy Spurrell, Tammy Piatok and Karen Bagley who helped set everything up and take it all down again!



The Ponnekanti family (from left: Rosemary, Nicolò and Bianca) pick-up along North Washington Street. Photo: Kathy Spurrell



And what about the plant sale?

Thank you so much to everyone who donated plants for the plant sale. We were able to provide a beautiful range of herbs, ornamental grasses, and perennials. And we raised \$120 for the PTA!



What a lot of trash! (With basketball for size comparison). Photo: Kathy Spurrell

FAREWELLS FROM FIFTH GRADERS

Mrs. Barabe's Class Remembers

"I remember in Mrs. King's first grade class in the corner there was a deer family and on some days they would come out and stare at us through the window wondering what we were doing in the classroom. One day our substitute let us look out the window at the deer and write about them instead of what we were assigned to do. All the teachers here are really great and they have helped me learn and get ready for Mason." –Will F.

"My favorite memories are all of my teachers and the field trips we went on. In Mrs. Boitano's class we got to take care of baby chicks and I had the best time at fifth grade camp!" –Michael F.

"I loved going to fifth grade camp and the Slater museum while at Washington-Hoyt. I would like to thank Mrs. Pearson for helping me and my teachers who taught me everything I need to know for middle school." –Casey B.

"My favorite part of Washington-Hoyt is hard to say because I enjoyed everything. I will always remember how Miss Peggy dressed and how I was in Mrs. Barabe's class two years in a row and had an awesome time. In Mrs. Eichner's class I learned how to find the area of a triangle. I am going to miss Washington-Hoyt." –Elliot J.

"My favorite thing I did at Washington-Hoyt was going to Biztown. I also really liked 5th grade camp. At 5th grade camp we learned about lots of animals and ways to recycle. At Biztown we learned how to work in businesses. I worked for Q13 Fox News. I had a great time at Washington-Hoyt." –Johanna S.

"I think my favorite memory of elementary school was Camp Seymour. It was a really fun experience that I probably won't get to do again. Mrs. Eichner's class was really nice because she taught me everything about multiplication in just two weeks." –Keyna F.

"My favorite memory was when we had a field trip to JA Biztown. We got to experience what our parents do all day." –Paris M.

"One of my favorite memories is when I first came to Mrs. Eichner's class it took me weeks to understand long division and now I am an ace at it. I also loved going to Camp Seymour just waking up surrounded by my cabin friends and smelling the fresh forest air. And most of all my favorite part of being at Washington-Hoyt was that I got to have my favorite teacher for both 4th and 5th grade. I am going to miss Washington-Hoyt very much!" –Maggie D.

"My favorite memory is definitely Camp Seymour because it was our longest field trip and it was very fun. There were lots of activities and you got to know people in your class better. Miss Peggy was also lots of fun and I liked most of the drama that happened because you don't know what is going to happen so it keeps things interesting." –Riley B.

"I really enjoyed Washington-Hoyt and going to 5th grade camp. I also enjoyed going to Pioneer Farm. I thank Mrs. Pearson, Mrs. Lawrence, and Mrs. Barabe for getting me all ready for middle school." –Diego C.

"Ever since I was young I never really understood Camp Seymour and thought it was going to be boring even though everyone else said it was good. But, when I went it was one of the funnest times of my life so you should be excited for it. I'd like to thank all they helpers at Camp Seymour and my teachers." –Liam F.

"I have lots of great memories from Washington-Hoyt. Some of them include 5th grade camp, Biztown, the Washington State History Museum trip, the Slater Museum, and Emerald Downs. I will remember all my teachers, and the friends I made here." –Jackson S.

"I have a lot of great memories at Washington-Hoyt and some of them are; 5th grade camp, reading buddies, and all the nice teachers." –Jaynee D.

"I will never forget walking into kindergarten on the first day of school and seeing Washington-Hoyt for the first time." – Sarah S.

"One of my fondest memories is when I was in kindergarten Skylar's mom thought that me and Zane were brother and sister." –Shay C.

TRIBUTES FROM PARENTS

Riley,

You are such an amazing young man, and I am so proud of the person you've become. You have so much potential. Always remember to follow your heart. The possibilities are endless....and you can achieve greatness! (This is my wish for you.) Love, Mom

Keyna Bean,

You are smart and beautiful, but what amazes me the most is how kind you are. I look forward to watching you grow as you continue on to the next big step. I love you and I'm so proud of you! Love, Mom xoxoxoxo

To Nikole Nelson:

Nikole, I couldn't be more proud of who you are! Time has gone by too fast, and you're growing up too quickly. Still, you'll always be my baby! 6th grade... Here you come! Love, Mom

Lilly is my miracle baby. She came into this world against all odds and has proven to be a sweet, beautiful person on a daily basis. Thank you for making my world a better place! Mamma

Congratulations, Joey, on completing six great years at WA-Hoyt! You have sure grown into an amazing son, great brother and a super friend! We are so excited for you to enjoy new opportunities and meet lots of new people at Mason! We Love You! Mom, Jimmy, and Dad

For Rowan:

For Sweet Pea...never forget the Viking Princess inside! Best regards, Lee Ann

Sloane Perkins!!! You are a super, awesome, terrific young lady and I am so proud of you. Thanks for making me laugh everyday! Onward and upward... I love you, Mom

Jake, you are sweet, kind, loving, and so smart. We are so proud of you. You have done an amazing job at Wa-Hoyt and will do even better at Mason. Love, Mom, Dad and Molly.

Hannah - The sky's the limit. All you need to do is want it, then reach out and take it. We love you. Mom, Dad, Owen, and The Zoo.

Lena, you have grown into an amazing person and we are so proud of you. You are a determined person who can achieve anything you set your mind to. Dream on!! We love you! Mom and Eddie

Congratulations, Lena. You have just graduated from the greatest elementary school in Tacoma, and we are so proud of the work you did there. We love you! Grandma and Grandpa

Way to go, Lena! You were such a great elementary school student, and we can't wait to see

**what you can accomplish in middle school. Keep up the good work! We love you!
Mom, Dad & Ian**

For Christopher Mackey:

We feel proud watching our little man grow up. He is smart, funny, nice and silly. Now we can ruin the second one. We love you, Mom and Dad

Congratulations, Will! it's been so exciting to see your progress. We're so proud of what you've achieved. And, now, on to the next adventure! Love, Mum and Dad

Taylor, You continue to surprise me and dad everyday with your intelligence, humor and beautiful soul. We know that you will do great things in life! Stay true to who you are. We love you always, Mom & Dad

Samantha, you're amazing! So creative and bright! Keep your beautiful smile into middle school! We are so proud of all your accomplishments! We love you, Mom and Dad

Hey Alex, I am so proud at how hard you have worked this year. With determination and a belief in yourself, you will climb many mountains. I Love You! Mom

Dear Maddie

We love you and believe in you. We hope that you will have as much confidence in yourself as we have in you. Always have dreams. Always try to make them a reality. You are a great person! We are blessed to have you as our daughter. Love always, Mom and Dad

Congratulations, Quinn, on your fine accomplishment! Great job, we are proud of you. Now, Onward and Upward!
Love, Mom, Dad and Kenley

**Alex, you are an amazing young lady, and I'm proud of you beyond words.
Reach for the stars, sweetie! love, mom**

To Annabelle: We are extremely proud of the kind, intelligent and beautiful young lady you've become. Anything you imagine can be yours if you put your mind and heart into it. Love, Mom and Dad

Elliot Jackson, we are so proud of you! You are such a sweet and kind boy, always helping others. We know you will do well in your next stepping stone in life "Middle School" You have made so many great friends at Wa-Hoyt. We look forward to seeing you grow with them over the years to come. Love you lots, Mom, Dad and Trenton

Savannah Mae Baker, we are so very proud of you and know this to be the first of many accomplishments! Kudos, kid!
Love, Mom, Dad and Cami

Addie,

You've learned and played from K to fifth. You've studied well and taken tests. You've followed rules and made some, too. You rock, you roll, you rule the school! We love you! Mom and Dad