

# Washington-Hoyt Elementary Cougar Tales



Welcome back to school!

Issue #1 September 2011

## Come to the PTA Fair!

You're invited – the very first Washington-Hoyt PTA fair is happening Monday Sept. 12. The fair will be held in the Washington cafeteria/gym at 6 p.m., and it's a fantastic way to find out all about the PTA's different committees and which one would be a perfect fit for YOU to support. Green Schools, Cougar Tales, the school garden, Cougar Cards and more will all have tables and sign-up sheets, with PTA parents keen to tell you all about how they (and you!) make this school such a great place for our kids and families.

You'll meet new people (including the PTA officers), and there will be prizes offered for all PTA members who join before Oct. 10.

The first PTA meeting of the year will follow at 7 p.m. School-age childcare will be provided then.

**See you there!**

## Welcome to Cougar Tales E-version only from October; please sign up

Welcome to Cougar Tales, the newsletter for Washington-Hoyt. Cougar Tales is produced by the PTA, and features detailed news, events and student work that expands on the information in the weekly e-bulletin and website.

We're printing this month's edition on paper to make sure everyone gets it, but from October onward Cougar Tales comes in e-version only, direct to your inbox. This not only saves the PTA and school \$500 every year on printing costs, it saves one and a half trees' worth of paper. Plus, you get it in color with links, and can easily share it with friends and family.

But you need to sign up for it. In your Friday folder this month is a form to give the school any email addresses you want on the PTA information list. Please fill out this form to get Cougar Tales from now on. Cougar Tales is also available on the PTA website, [www.wahoyt.org](http://www.wahoyt.org)

We welcome contributions! If you have news, stories or photos you'd like to see in the newsletter, please email them to editor Rosemary Ponnekanti at [rose\\_ponnekanti@yahoo.com](mailto:rose_ponnekanti@yahoo.com). Text should be in Word doc, pictures in jpg form, please.

**Deadline for the October issue: September 24**

### Save the Date

- 5 Sept. Labor Day - no school
- 12 Sept. 6 p.m. PTA fair and meeting;  
Cougar Cards (Scrip) orders due
- 14 Sept. Sweatshirt orders due
- 16 Sept. Scrip orders delivered
- 22 Sept. Back to School Night!
- 30 Sept. Entertainment Book sales end

### New Parents – Need Some Help?

New at Washington-Hoyt? Wondering how your child buys lunch? what happens at a PTA meeting? what kinds of things there are to do before and after school?

Here's some help! The Cougar Tales New Parents section is on page 8. You can also find information online at

[www.wahoyt.org](http://www.wahoyt.org)



*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.**

## **For parents – 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.
- Hoyt campus now has a cross-walk! Students and families can now cross Union Avenue safely on the north side of North 28th Street. Drivers, please look out for the orange cones nearby.
- Finally, remember to slow down whenever you're near any school.

## **And for kids – 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



## From the Presidents

On behalf of the PTA, we would like to welcome you to a great year at Washington-Hoyt! We have been fortunate to be a part of the Wa-Hoyt



community since 2005 and look forward to serving as your PTA presidents this next year. We look forward to meeting you. Please join us for our first PTA fair (6 p.m.) and meeting (7 p.m.) on **Monday Sept. 12** in the Washington cafeteria/library. Childcare is provided for school-age children.

If you have any questions, please call us. We'd love to hear from you!

Catherine Feeney 212-3182, Amy Mackey 627-6135  
Co-presidents

## Support the Wa-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 Cougar Cards:** Cougar Cards (aka 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 CC proceeds go towards new library books and AR materials.

**Attend school functions:** It takes a lot of work to put together events for 400 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, the Academic Triathlon, an in-house theater production, Read Across America Day, the Sock Hop and the Celebration of Learning Ice Cream Social and more.

**Read this newsletter and visit [wahoyt.org](http://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, 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!

## Your PTA Needs You!

Join Washington-Hoyt PTA today!

When you join the PTA, you join a community that encourages student achievement and enriches the learning environment. We believe in building partnerships between our families and school. A few of the many ways the Washington-Hoyt PTA has supported our school include the PTA website, Cougar Tales newsletter, Cat Tracks reading program, In Touch With Art program, theater performances, world language programs and classroom volunteers.

PTA members receive e-mail updates of all school happenings and have the opportunity to volunteer in various ways. Be part of the Washington-Hoyt PTA and make our school an even better place!

To become a member, return the form below in your child's Friday Folder or visit [wahoyt.org](http://wahoyt.org) to download a form. Sign up prior to Oct. 10 and you will be eligible for prizes...

\_\_\_ **YES!** I want to join \_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child(ren) \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's teacher(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

My membership fees\*\* enclosed with this form:

\_\_\_ \$10 Individual member

\_\_\_ \$8 Additional family member

\_\_\_ Additional donation \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ check

\_\_\_\_\_ cash

\*\*Approximately \$2.00 of this fee stays at school level, the remainder goes to National, State and City PTA for insurance and other supporting roles.

# PTA Fundraising

## What are Cougar Cards?

Cougar Cards (formerly known as scrip) are the easiest fundraiser ever!

Imagine: You make your usual weekly visits to the grocery store, gas station, book store, coffee shop or many other retailers and make money for Washington-Hoyt at the same time!

How is this possible? Welcome to COUGAR CARDS fundraising. Our PTA purchases gift cards, or COUGAR CARDS, from popular retailers and grocery stores at a discount. WA-Hoyt families then buy the gift cards from the PTA at face value. The difference in price – listed as a percentage next to each retailer on the order form – is kept by the PTA. Families can then spend the COUGAR CARDS at the retailer or give as gifts. You haven't spent an extra dime and you've made money to help our school.

Last year COUGAR CARDS made over \$6,500 to contribute to great programs at our school!



**COUGAR CARDS order forms will come home with your child one or two Fridays a month** in their Friday Folders. **Please return the completed order form on the following**

**Monday** to your child's teacher, with a check made out to "WA-Hoyt PTA". The COUGAR CARDS will be delivered to your child on Friday. It is very important to indicate on your order form who is allowed to pick up your COUGAR CARDS order. Because the gift cards are the equivalent of cash, we will only release the cards to persons indicated by you.

### **Order Dates for 2011-2012 School Year:**

Sept. 12, Oct. 3 and 24, Nov. 14, Dec. 5,  
Jan. 9, Feb. 6, Mar. 5 and 26, Apr. 16, May 7, June 4

Cara Reese 752-0200, [dcreese@harbornet.com](mailto:dcreese@harbornet.com)

## Entertainment Book sale on now

One Entertainment coupon book will come home with each student on Friday Sept. 16. You can:

- keep the book and send in \$25 to purchase it
- not buy the book, but PLEASE return it with your child so we can sell it to someone else
- purchase as many copies as you wish. There will be an order form included with each book

- order online at [www.entertainment.com](http://www.entertainment.com) with the school code, 64465. Orders close Sept. 30.

Kathy Spurrell 761-8983

## School Sweatshirt Sale

Show your school spirit with Washington-Hoyt sweatshirts and polar fleece vests, available in navy or red! Sweatshirts are allowed by the school uniform policy with a collared shirt underneath. Look for the order form in the Friday folder, or pick one up outside the school office or at Hoyt. Sweatshirt orders received in the office by Sept. 14 will be delivered in early October. Orders received by Oct. 12 will be delivered in early November. (A final sale will be held in the beginning of November – orders received by Nov. 16 will be delivered before winter break.)

Sizes run small, so if in doubt, order big! **ALL SALES ARE FINAL**. No exceptions, no refunds! Please note that 1/4 zip and denim shirts are available for adults only and CANNOT be worn by students as part of the school uniform. This sale is not intended as a fundraiser; however, a small profit may incur.

Kelly Devlin 752-4880, [info@kellydevlin.com](mailto:info@kellydevlin.com)

## Donate to Support Students and Teachers

Help PTA Raise \$6,000

Washington-Hoyt Elementary School's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) provides much needed support to our teachers and students. This year we are able to increase teacher grants thanks to your generosity.



Help us do more – Please Donate TODAY.

- 100% of your donation directly supports PTA activities and events
  - Your gift is tax deductible
- Help us raise an average of \$50 from each Cougar family this fall. Here's how:
- Look for donation information in your Friday Folder
  - Send checks to WA-Hoyt PTA, 3701 N 26 Street, Tacoma, WA 98407
  - Donate online at [www.wahoyt.org](http://www.wahoyt.org)

# PTA Fundraising

## eScrip: Buy groceries, support your school!

What's eScrip? A fundraiser based on registration of your Safeway club card with [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com). This program is NOT the Cougar Card, but allows Washington-Hoyt to receive a vendor's rebate percentage directly based on your regular purchases. IT IS EASY TO DO AND IMMEDIATELY BENEFITS WASHINGTON-HOYT!

### Here's How it Works

You register any one or all of your existing grocery loyalty, debit and credit cards for use in the program.

**Washington-Hoyt only asks that you register your Safeway Club Card.**

Participating merchants will make contributions to your chosen group, based on purchases made by you, just by using the cards you have registered. Your purchases are tracked and available to you online, allowing you to see just how much you are earning on your child's behalf!

### How do I sign up?

Go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and create an account as a supporter. When you create an account, just type Washington-Hoyt under GROUP NAME in the search box, OR type the WH Group Number 8567772. Washington-Hoyt is registered and will pop up for your acceptance.

**Will participation in the eScrip program prevent me from getting my usual club card discount at the cash register- even if I pay with a check or cash?**

No, all club card discounts remain in place and run in conjunction with the program.

**Can I have family members register their cards?**

Yes, merchants include participants from across the United States. You simply send a registration form to extended family/friends for their participation with the eScrip program. You may either register online or download registration forms from the web site.

### What's the fundraising potential?

Based on expenditures of \$400 per month, at participating merchants, the chart below illustrates the extraordinary fundraising power of the eScrip program. Expenditures can be for food, clothing, travel and entertainment, as well as miscellaneous family purchases. AND, keep in mind that with the eScrip program, extended family and friends who live in and out of town can also participate, supporting your worthwhile programs.

Number of Supporters	Average Amount Spent Monthly	Total Contribution per Year
50	\$400	\$12000
100	\$400	\$24000
200	\$400	\$48000
500	\$400	\$120000

• Based on 5% average merchant donation.  
• Does not reflect 15% administration fee.  
• These numbers are for illustrative purposes only.  
• Merchant contribution percentages vary by merchant, please check eScrip merchant contributions in your area.

## Volunteers – Remember to log your hours!

Please be sure to log in your hours when you volunteer. At Washington the log is in the front office near the sign-in sheet. At Hoyt the log is located on the counter in the middle of the hall. Sign your name and the number of hours you volunteer each day. Volunteers are such an important part of WA-Hoyt. We thank you for all the things you do to enrich the learning environment for our students. Thank you!

# PTA News

## Green Schools: Think Lunch

The eco-friendly Goodbyn lunchboxes are currently on sale with a discount code.

What's a Goodbyn? A three- or four-compartment lunchbox made in the USA from safe plastic (no phthalates or BPA). They're dishwasher safe, have their own drink bottle and fully recyclable. Yay!!

And kids will love the new cool colors: green apple, strawberry, raspberry, blueberry, pineapple and pepper! Just enter the code BTS11 to get 15 per cent discount.

[www.goodbyn.com](http://www.goodbyn.com)

materials and supplies are provided. There is a folder with a complete explanation regarding this event.

Litter Pick-up/Plant Sale: Organizing this event. Event takes place in May. Advertise event, set-up and clean-up. All materials and supplies are provided. There is a folder with a complete explanation regarding this event.

Room Parent Coordinator: Serves as a resource for room parents.

Please contact Amy Mackey, [mack12stock@yahoo.com](mailto:mack12stock@yahoo.com), 627-6135, if you are interested.

## PTA Positions Open

We have a few open positions on the PTA this year.

Disaster Preparedness: obtaining items for the school in case of natural disaster.

Requires picking up certain supplies for the school. School will reimburse for purchases.

Fifth Grade Camp fundraiser: A parent and/or other parents from this year's fourth grade class to organize fundraising opportunities towards fifth grade camp for the following year.

Holiday Card Party/Workshop: Organizing the Green Schools Holiday Card Workshop in December, this includes: Advertise event, set-up and clean-up. All

## Bookmark the PTA website

Washington-Hoyt's PTA website, [wahoyt.org](http://wahoyt.org), is loaded with great information! The front page blog has the latest info on upcoming PTA and school activities.

The Calendar is kept up to date with PTA meeting dates, after-school activities, PTA sponsored events and more. If you're a parent new to the school, check out the New Parents link which has a few

helpful tidbits related to our fabulous school. For more information or to have something added to the website contact the PTA

Website Coordinator Megan Boly at [megan@mcboly.org](mailto:megan@mcboly.org)



## Way to Go!

A very warm welcome to new second-grade teacher Mrs. Kirchner – we're glad to have you! And all the best to Mrs. O'Morlen, Mrs. Seberson and Mrs. Barabe, all teaching new grades.

A big **thank you** to:

Cara Reese and Kelly Murphy for hosting the Cougar Cards table at Open House, Megan Boly for organizing the emails for the new e-bulletin, Sugar, A Candy Store in Proctor for donating to our PTA membership drive, Ken Spurrell, Courtenay Chamberlin and Shannon Rojecki for all your help hammering out the budget for next year, Stacie Krabill and Sara Sledge for attending the fall PTA workshops, Kelly Devlin for organizing the sweatshirt sale, Rosemary Ponnekanti for our beautiful newsletter, Megan Boly for being so organized getting things on the PTA website, Fizz Devlin for her continued work with the Green Schools program, Kathy Spurrell for helping continue the Green Schools program, Paul Blanchard and Sara Sledge for setting up the new art room this summer, Ellen Sherman for taking care of the laminating supplies, and all the past PTA committee/board members who have helped ease the transition of the new members into their role.

Know someone you'd like to see in Way to Go? Email details to the editor at [rose\\_ponnekanti@yahoo.com](mailto:rose_ponnekanti@yahoo.com)



# PTA News

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## **In Touch with Art – another successful year ahead**

### **What is it?**

In Touch with Art is a program sponsored by the PTA as part of academic enrichment. The program introduces children to art history or art from around the world and gives them a chance to work with new materials and techniques. The kids love it! They impress themselves with what they create and can't wait until the next lesson. We have a well-equipped art room with lots of space to spread out. As the program coordinator, it is my responsibility to keep the art room stocked with high-quality supplies and help the classroom volunteers find lesson plans or whatever else they need to put together a successful lesson.

### **Volunteers needed!**

What makes In Touch with Art successful year after year is its committed volunteers. Every classroom needs one or more volunteers. Volunteers prepare a brief art lesson and pair it with an engaging project as often as once a month. If you love art and love working with the kids, this program might be a perfect fit for you. Remember, you don't have to go it alone: Pick a friend to work with, alternate with another volunteer and take advantage of the help I am happy to provide. I have great books with lesson plans to loan out, we have a large collection of prints and I am happy to let you shadow me any time I present a lesson until you get the hang of it! If you want to volunteer or just want more information, send me a message or give me a call.

### **What's new:**

Firstly, Washington-Hoyt needed our old art room as a classroom this year so Paul Blanchard (the coordinator of WHAM) and I created a new space in the end of the basement. We have lots of tables and counter areas and are working to organize the supplies in a way that makes the space easy to work in. We think it will be great! Because it isn't in a room with a locking door, most of the supplies will be in locking cabinets. Paul and I have keys so just track us down if you need something.

And last spring, our first ever Evening of the Arts auction was very successful. That gave our program a very healthy budget for this school year so I can buy really great supplies and keep our program growing.

Sara Sledge, In Touch with Art coordinator: 761-5174, [saralaurence@hotmail.com](mailto:saralaurence@hotmail.com)

## **Farewell to Hope Willy...**

Cougar Tales just received this letter to Washington-Hoyt students, families and staff from Hope Willy, who has been involved at the school as either parent, teacher or PTA co-president for 13 years. She has just taken a job teaching a combined 1st-3rd grade class at Bryant Montessori.

*Dear Washington-Hoyt Family,*

*It's with mixed emotions that I say goodbye to Washington-Hoyt as a teacher. The last 13 years have been amazing. Our community of dedicated students, parents and staff has been the backbone of the Willy family in so many ways. Although I have huge opportunity for growth at Bryant Montessori, I will miss my identity as a WA-Hoyt teacher and I will miss you. I am grateful to be still be a Washington-Hoyt parent for 2 more years. . . and . . . who knows what the future brings?*

*Thank you all. My world is a better place because of you.*

*Hope Willy*

**We'll miss you, Mrs. Willy!**

# New Parents

New at Washington-Hoyt? Wondering what the heck is going on with lunch, or don't know your Cat Tracks from your Forest Fox? Cougar Tales can help! This is a section for new parents (or even some old ones!) explaining all the details that make up life at our terrific school: Wa-Hoyt 101, if you like.

Still have questions? Most parents are willing to help if they can: Feel free to ask us, and we'll do our best!

## Drop-off and Pick-up

Students line up at Washington on the playground circles near the basketball hoops. Please don't arrive before 8:45 a.m. The first bell rings at 8:55 a.m. If you miss the second bell at 9 a.m., take your child in through the office for a tardy slip. At Hoyt, classes line up behind their class's green pole; please stay with your child until the bell rings.

School ends at 3:30 p.m. Please wait for your child at Washington behind the first white line, and keep dogs near the back fence. At Hoyt, give teachers enough space to bring all the children out along the windows. If you know you will be late, please call the school.

## Lunchtime

Lunchtime varies for each class; ask your child's teacher. Parents can join children in the cafeteria but please sign in at the office. If you wish your child to buy lunch, you can put money on their lunchcard either in the cafeteria before school or online at [www.tacoma.k12.wa.us](http://www.tacoma.k12.wa.us) (find 'Lunch Money Now') You'll need to ask the office staff for the ID number.

## Dress

Washington-Hoyt has a uniform policy (see the PTA website, [www.wahoyt.org](http://www.wahoyt.org)) but every Friday is Free Dress Day. Look for theme dress days later in the year. And please, label all clothes. If you lose something, look in the locker, in the cafeteria (stage and west wall) or in the Nurse's Office.

## Cat Tracks

Cat Tracks is Washington-Hoyt's monthly reading incentive program. Put your calendar in a safe place, and mark on your calendar each night that your child read for at least 15 minutes. Sign the calendar and bring it back to class. "Aunty" Deb Llewellyn visits classrooms with treats for everyone who participates.

## Forest Fox?

Who's the fox? He's the mascot for Wa-Hoyt's Green Schools program, which does awesome things like recycling milk containers, composting lunch waste, making recycled holiday cards and encouraging us all to save energy. Look out for him on the Washington noticeboard (on the right as you walk down to the gym) and in Cougar Tales.



## The PTA

The Parent Teacher Association supports teachers and students with all kinds of activities (see page 3). Please join it! Please volunteer! And if you go to a meeting, expect about an hour of information from officers and members, decisions on school activities and fundraising, visiting speakers and a cup of coffee and cookies! It's a great way to find out more about the school and meet people.

## Miss Peggy

Miss Peggy is our school crossing guard, and a community institution. Not only does she make sure everyone's safe at crosswalks, she gets on TV, hands out candy on Friday afternoons and cheers us up with her amazing wardrobe!

## Before, After School

Wa-Hoyt has a number of exciting before- and after-school programs organized by the PTA and teachers. Look out for tumbling and unicycling and world languages before school; and theater, art, chess and robotics after school. Check your Friday folders, the PTA website or Cougar Tales for details on upcoming classes.

Wa-Hoyt doesn't have an after-school sports program. To find a sports team for your child, look at the Sports, Recreation and Art Links on the website ([www.wahoyt.org/sports.html](http://www.wahoyt.org/sports.html)) or ask fellow parents.

## Class time

Want to find out more about what actually happens in your child's class? Our school has an open-room policy: Parents can observe classes quietly from the back if prearranged with the teacher. Make sure you sign in at the office.

Another good way to get to know the class is to volunteer with reading, stuffing folders, art projects or the like. Ask your teacher what they need – but remember, don't be disruptive.