

Washington-Hoyt Elementary
Cougar Tales

Issue #1 September 2006

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3701 N. 26th Street, Tacoma WA 98407
<http://www.washingtonhoytcougars.org>

PTA President: Laurie Hunger 627-4582
Washington-Hoyt PTA: Unit 10.9.225
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**Congratulations
Historic Washington Elementary!**



Washington Elementary was recently named to the State and Local Registers of Historic Landmarks. In addition, the state has recommended Washington to be placed on the National Register, with designation expected this September.

Special **Thanks** to Jeff and Susan Ryan for their efforts in gaining this special recognition for our school!

Dates to Remember...

- 9/11 Coffee with the Principal
Washington cafeteria, 9-10 am
- 9/12 PTA Meeting 7pm Washington Library,
with childcare available!
- 9/15 to 9/22 School Book Fair
- 9/19 Back to School BBQ & Open House
- 10/4 International Walk to School Day
- 10/9-11 School Conferences, 11:30am release
- 10/12 No School--Staff Day
- 10/13 No School--State Inservice Day

**Back to School Night BBQ,
Open House, and Book Fair
Tuesday, September 19th,
5:30 to 8:00pm**



Mark your calendars for this fun family kick off to the school year!

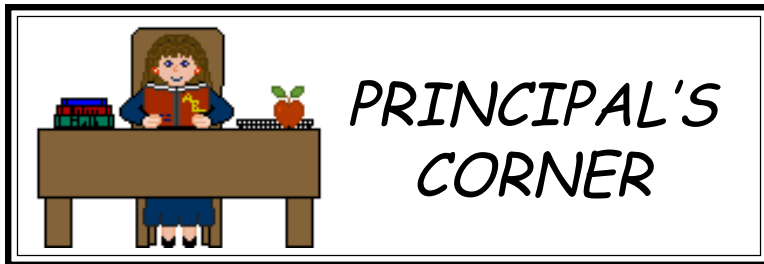
Enjoy a BBQ dinner, visit your child's classroom and meet their teachers, shop the book fair (there will be teacher "wish lists" out if you're interested), join PTA, buy some goodies at the bake sale, and have fun visiting with other school families.

The evening begins at 5:30pm with a PTA sponsored BBQ in the lunchroom. Cross your fingers - if our sunny weather holds we'll eat outside! Choose a hamburger, veggie burger, or hot dog, along with salad, fruit, chips, and a beverage. All this for only \$5 per adult, \$4 per school aged child, and \$3 per pre-schooler!

Classrooms will be open from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Detailed ticket information and volunteering forms will come home this week in your Friday Folder.

Tickets have sold out for this fun event 2 years in a row, so buy them early! We look forward to seeing you there! Questions? Call Laurie Hunger 627-4582.





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.**

It is with great pleasure I write this letter to welcome you to the 2006/2007 school year. Thanks to Vasiliy and Greg, the best and nicest custodians in the Tacoma School District, the classrooms and school look great and were ready for teachers to prepare and set up classrooms for students. Thanks to the Tacoma School District Small Capital projects, Hoyt has new windows and blinds.

We will have four new staff members joining the Washington-Hoyt faculty. First is **Betty Hansen**, who will teach the second extended day kindergarten class at Washington in room B-2. She has taught both kindergarten and first grade at Boze Elementary School. Also new to Washington is **Stephanie Lawrence**, who will teach the fourth/fifth split. She comes to us from Mary Lyon Elementary School. She also taught at Lowell Elementary prior to teaching in Germany and Italy at the Department of Defense Schools.

We are also pleased to welcome **Viren Lemmer** who will teach music at Washington-Hoyt for four days of the week. I had the good fortune of working with Viren at Geiger Elementary School where we teamed up and produced two excellent music programs!

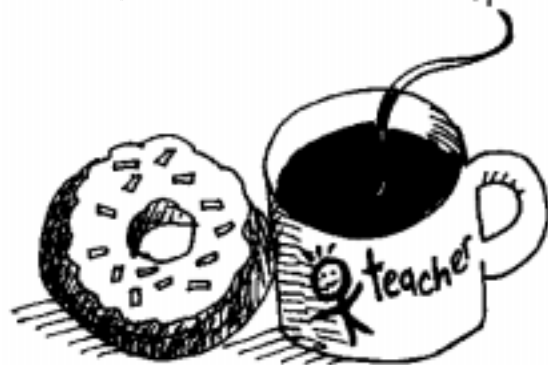
Jane Eichert will join the Washington-Hoyt faculty, teaching a fourth grade class in B-1. Mrs. Eichert completed her student teaching experience with Washington-Hoyt teacher, Debbie Sterbick, during the 2005/2006 school year.

We also welcome the return of **Diane Burkhart-Kiss** from Lagos. She is returning as the Washington-Hoyt librarian.

Thank you for choosing Washington-Hoyt and for your support in making Washington-Hoyt a positive and productive learning community. Please keep reading with and to your children every night. It is important to set a time and quiet place each day for your child to do his or her homework and continue to send them to school well nourished and rested. Together we can work to make Washington-Hoyt the very best place for excellence in teaching and learning!

Sincerely,
Karen Fynboe
Principal

The first Coffee with the Principal is on Monday, September 11th, 9 - 10am, in the cafeteria.



Tacoma School District and Washington-Hoyt Goals

Dr. Milligan and the Tacoma School Board adopted the following goals for the Tacoma School District at the School Board Retreat in August 2006. I will write my *Cougar Tales* articles outlining for you how our school plans to meet these goals each month throughout the 2006/2007 school year.

Goal 1: Learning For All Students

The Washington-Hoyt faculty met in grade level teams to plan reading instruction for all students at their instructional reading level using assessment data in developing the appropriate instructional level groups. Students in grades two through five will take a mathematics assessment every six weeks to identify areas of strength and weaknesses in order to individualize instruction for students. We will use the available assessment data on individual students to individualize instruction for each student and provide intervention strategies for those students who are not working at their grade level expectations in reading, writing and mathematics.

Goal 2: Safe, Positive, Well-Maintained Schools

An "All School Assembly" was held on the first day of school to welcome students and to discuss the expected student behaviors in and about the school. We reviewed the student discipline guidelines and school rules as well as the weapons and harassment policies. The Hoyt campus has new windows and blinds for energy efficiency and student safety. The new windows and blinds were funded by a Tacoma School District Small Capital Improvement Grant. Vasiliy Dimov and Greg Metcalf, Washington-Hoyt custodians, had the school "spic and span" clean for teachers to ready their classrooms for their students!

Goal 3: Quality Staff Providing Quality Service

All teachers have received professional development instruction and training in the new Saxon Mathematics curriculum materials adopted to supplement the current mathematics program, Investigations. Teachers will spend staff meetings and the October Waiver Day for study and planning in integrating instruction using the two curriculums. As a faculty we will spend teacher in-service time on expository writing and developing writing prompts for scoring and grading student work prior to each of the student reporting periods this school year.

Goal 4: School/Family/Community and Communication

Washington-Hoyt will continue to send home Friday packets each week with every student. All school and district information will be included in these packets as well as teacher communications to our families. Our PTA sends home *Cougar Tales*, a PTA and Washington-Hoyt staff joint newsletter, the first Friday of every month with school information and dates of activities. This newsletter is also posted on the Washington-Hoyt website.

I will continue to have my monthly **Coffee with the Principal** the first or second Monday of each month. Congratulations to our Washington-Hoyt students who had the highest participation in the Tacoma Library Summer Reading Program and will be awarded and rewarded with the visit of **George Shannon**, author and storyteller, for a school assembly in October.

Goal 5: Acquisition and Allocation of Resources

This fall we will receive Saxon mathematics materials for each of our classrooms. Last winter we received Step Up to Writing curriculum materials for all second through fifth grade classrooms and First Hand Writing materials for kindergarten and first grades. This year all of our faculty will receive professional development in the third FOSS science kit in order that all of our students may receive science instruction throughout the school-year. The Washington-Hoyt PTA has generously over the years provided additional funding to support our academic programs. Last year the PTA donated \$5000 to buy books and classroom sets of literature sets for our library. The PTA also purchased Read Naturally and computer software for individualized non-fiction reading practice to improve reading fluency and comprehension at each student's instructional level. The PTA also purchased Read Well Plus for our first grade reading program.

Our **School Improvement Plan** (SIP) Goals are aligned with the Tacoma School District Goals. It is going to be an exciting and productive year for Washington-Hoyt and the Tacoma School District.

COUNELOR'S CORNER

From the desk of Mary McGlone

Welcome back to school! I hope all of you have had a relaxing and refreshing summer! We certainly had great weather! For those of you who are new to our school this year, let me introduce myself, I am Mary McGlone, the school counselor. I write the Counselor's Corner monthly to inform you about the activities I am planning for your child. With assistance from the district Guidance Office and in compliance with the state curriculum requirements, I have developed a comprehensive guidance program that includes, but is not limited to, classroom presentations, small groups, and individual consultations. Be assured that I will contact you if your child is to be included in a small group activity. Additionally, I will let you know either through this newsletter or a note home, the room in which I will be teaching and the dates and the topics I plan to cover. I am also available to conference with you about your child, your concerns, and/or to offer referral and resource assistance to other programs and services within our community.

I work at two schools this year. I am at Lowell Elementary on Tuesday, Wednesday and every other Friday, at 571-7196. I am at Washington-Hoyt on Thursdays and every other Friday at 571-5727. If you need assistance, please feel free to call me. If you have called once and I have not returned your call, please call again. I try to return all telephone calls, but as I learned last year, occasionally I may misplace a name or a number in my shuffle between the two schools. I apologize in advance if this happens and I encourage you to call me again as your concerns and questions are important and I want to help in whatever way I can.

At the start of every school, I generally hear from a few parents who are having difficulties getting their child to school. While most students experience some minor fears about returning to school, about 5% experience anxiety levels that require further assistance from a physician or a qualified mental health counselor. Interestingly, some studies suggest that there are predictable stages of anxiety that are dependent upon the child's age (www.medicalnewstoday.com).

Children who tend to be perfectionists also have a higher incidence of school anxiety (www.collegenews.org).

Children exhibit anxiety in a variety of ways. Some may verbalize their feelings; others have somatic complaints, or are unable to sleep. Separation anxiety may increase in younger children, while a few may even develop panic over the new school year. Handling this concern, like so many other parenting responses, is a balancing act. Parents do not want to over-react because this may increase the child's fear of school. However, it is important to normalize these fears and children should be encouraged to talk about their feelings. According to psychologist Dr. Aureen Pinto Wagner, "reassurance and nurturing," "repetition and familiarity" often help alleviate some of these problems. Telling the child what to expect, providing predictable routines, role-playing situations and setting a positive example will help your child overcome anxiety. (See "Back-to-School Anxiety, From 'butterflies in the tummy' to panic," www.clubmom.com).

Some experts suggest that a child should not be kept home from school due to anxiety as this often validates his/her fears (Lego, Val. "Recognizing Back to School Anxiety in your Child," www.WZZM13.com). It is important to discover the reasons behind the anxiety, whether it is due to frustration of having a new teacher or fear of the unknown. Talking to your child about his/her concern is a good way to provide emotional support. Remember, some anxiety is a normal part of the schooling process and it usually passes in a week or two. If problems persist, consult with your child's teacher, the principal, the school counselor or your child's pediatrician. The above web sites are helpful in addressing this issue. Copies of several of the articles listed will be provided upon request.

I hope you and your child experience minimal stress this school year. May the 2006-07 school year be filled with excitement and positive learning experiences for you and your child. Should you have any concerns about this or other parenting dilemmas please call.



Proctor Arts Fest 2006

The day was hot, cloudless, and perfect for making poetry with several Washington-Hoyt families and a few passersby. **Special Thanks to Kristina Young** for organizing our poetry booth!

Karen Fynboe, Susan Ryan, Jen McDonald and Christine Pickering helped supervise, while Abbie and Rachel helped make samples and signs. Thanks also to Kristina's students, Rachael and Katrina, of Tacoma Community College, for help with preparation and participation throughout the day.

Here are two of the poems created that day.

The Crossing Guard

by Christine Pickering

On the corner she does stand
With her orange flag in hand
Upon the cars she casts a spell
To keep little children well.

"Hello!"

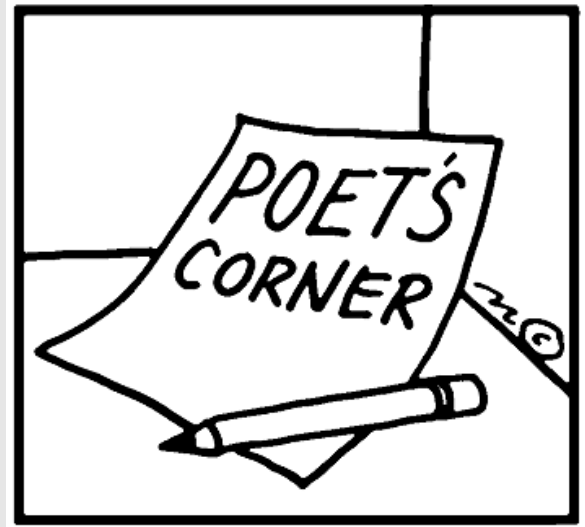
"Slow down!"

"Stop!"

"Now go!"

Her costumes make it quite a show.

In the rain and in the sun
She stays until the job is done.



Community Poem

by our volunteers and passersby

Our school is cool.
It's like a jewel.
That distinct aroma
is native to Tacoma.
Let's go play,
It's a nice day!
The sun is here!
Let's all cheer!
Sharing our couplets, our rhymes and our names
is one of our favorite Proctor Arts Fest games.
We all come together
In all kinds of weather.
Poems can be fun
When you share them with everyone.

Executive Board Members PTA 2006-2007

President:	Laurie Hunger	627-4582
VP Fundraiser:	Deb Llewellyn	752-1494
Secretary:	Heather Lindboe	661-0462
Treasurer:	Erin Behnke	761-9682
VP Scrip:	Amy Mackey	627-6135
	Susan Ryan	759-7022
	Liz Walle	752-0835
	Athena Heimer	759-7165

Moms In Touch

"Moms in Touch" is a group of moms who meet for one hour to pray for our school, teachers, and students. We would love to have you join us, twice a month, at Laurie's house, at 514 S. Sheridan Ave. Small children are welcome. For more information call Laurie Hunger at 627-4582 or visit www.momsintouch.org

NEW Nutrition Guidelines!

To help establish a healthy school environment, the Tacoma School District has developed the Health, Nutrition, and Physical Fitness Regulation (6700R).

The following nutrition standards have been established for all food and beverages sold, served and offered during the school day. These nutritional standards are encouraged for all groups utilizing district facilities.



Foods of minimal nutritional value are not allowed during the school day. Sugar-sweetened drinks (soda pop, sports drinks, flavored drinks, and caffeinated drinks) will not be sold or offered to students during the school day.

Below are the nutritional standards outlined within the regulation. (To clarify, a portion is the total amount contained in a package or container.)

- Serving sizes for a la carte items sold or served shall meet or exceed the current USDA guidelines and not exceed 250 calories per portion.
- Total fat grams per a la carte item (portion) may not exceed 9 grams of fat, except nuts and seeds.
- Total sugar grams per a la carte item (portion) may not exceed 15 grams unless the product contains fruit.



Outside food brought into the school or classrooms shall be unopened, commercially processed and commercially pre-packaged, requiring no preparation. If the food item requires refrigeration, it must be consumed within two hours.

Food used as a classroom reward or incentive must comply with the nutritional standards in the regulation.

Parents and teachers shall encourage use of food and/or beverages that comply with the nutritional standards in this regulation for school and classroom parties. They will be encouraged to offer no more than one food or beverage that does not meet the nutrition standard for parties.

To review the entire Health, Nutrition, and Physical Fitness regulation, please visit the district website at www.tacoma.k12.wa.us and click on "School Board and Policies."



Don't forget to submit a Volunteer Form

For the safety of all our students, every adult (parent, grandparent, aunt, or uncle) who would like to volunteer at Washington-Hoyt should submit a Volunteer Form to the school. This includes anyone who chaperones field trips, wants to help out during recess or lunchtime, and all high-school and college tutors who work in the classroom.

Please take the time to fill out the Volunteer Form in your **Friday Folder**. After it is returned to Washington-Hoyt, it will be sent to Central Administration and the State Patrol for a background check.

Once the approval is returned to Washington-Hoyt, you then become an official volunteer for our school. It can take up to a month for the approval to be completed, but the approved file is good for two years.

No one will be able to chaperone field trips or help in classrooms without this form on file in the office. Every teacher will receive a list of parents and adults who have received verification and have been approved to volunteer at Washington-Hoyt. The list of parents wishing to participate will be checked with the Washington State Patrol prior to all field trips.

Those of you who have a Volunteer Form on file, please call Stacy MacKinen in the office, at 571-2250, to inquire if your volunteer status is still in effect.

Thank you,

Principal Karen Fynboe



A Note from our Crossing Guard...

Hello, all you wonderful families of Washington-Hoyt--the best elementary school in the U.S!

As we approach the hustle and bustle of a new school year, please don't forget about the safety of all our children. Can we slow down enough to drop the children off a block or so from the school and let them walk that little way to class? I am always there to see that they cross the street safely. They will not melt in the rain, and they enjoy playing, running, or walking outside in cold weather, even in snow!

Sometimes there is such a huge crowd of cars stopping in the street in front of the school that it is actually dangerous to drop them off there. Please take care to pull over to the curb before letting your child leave the car.

With all the concern these days about obesity and lack of exercise, think about letting them walk in the morning air--it will perk up their bodies and minds and prepare them to concentrate on their school work.

I'm here to help you and your children--let's all work together!

Sincerely,
Miss Peggy

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!!

Our PTA is in need of a willing volunteer to coordinate the annual **Halloween Bash!** We have everything needed to put on a terrific after school party before Proctor Treats but, without a committee chairperson for this event, the party will not happen.

Would you like to help? Call Laurie Hunger at 627-4582.

got sweatshirts?

Look for an order form coming home soon for school sweatshirts. We'll have them on display at *Back to School Night*, so you can check out designs and sizes. The deadline for ordering is Friday, September 29th, with all shirts being delivered in late October. There will also be one additional order in November, with delivery before winter break.

If you have questions, please call **Danielle Nease** at 752-8769.

A Note From Our Librarian...

Greetings Washington-Hoyt Families,

Some of you may remember me. My name is Diane Burkhart-Kiss and I was the Librarian at Washington-Hoyt two years ago. The last two years I have been in Lagos, Nigeria teaching at the American International School of Lagos. I had a wonderful experience at AISL but I am happy to be home and back at Washington-Hoyt. I look forward to meeting all of you and seeing old friends again. Please feel welcome to stop by and say Hello.

I am looking forward to a great year at Washington-Hoyt!

Best Regards,

Diane Burkhart-Kiss



WELCOME BACK WASHINGTON-HOYT FAMILIES!

We will be collecting BoxTops on **Friday,**

October 13th. This is a fun and easy way to earn money for your school. Ask your grandparents and neighbors to save them with you. The class with the highest participation will win a classroom party. Questions? Contact **Ronda Eider-Jackson** at 475-1310.



Mrs. Allen is moving to Geiger!

Dear Friends at Washington-Hoyt,

I am sorry to inform you that I will not be with you this year, but you will have Viren Lemmer for a music teacher. The district has traded the two of us, so I will be at his old school, Geiger, this year. I will miss all of you and your wonderful support of the arts, but I am finding Geiger to be a great school also. Thank you so much for your support.

Please greet everyone for me.

Louise Allen

WE'LL MISS YOU, MRS. ALLEN!

Cougar Tales is published once a month during the school year as a joint effort of the Washington-Hoyt PTA, Principal Karen Fynboe, and office staff members Susan Tistic and Stacey MacKinen. Edited by Lisa Hutchinson. Contributions, suggestions or comments can be emailed to whcougartales@gmail.com.

Next Submission Deadline: Monday, September 25th



You'll find the first
Scrip order of the year in your
child's Friday Folder, on September
15th.

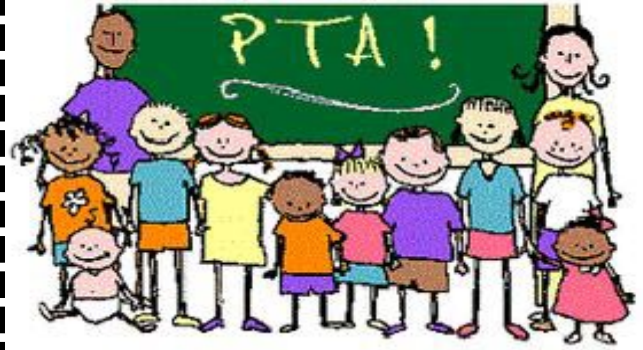
For those of you new to the Scrip program, we will also be sending home a "What is Scrip?" flyer explaining this wonderful fundraising program. The word "Scrip" is somewhat confusing...think "Gift Cards." Scrip is a year-round fundraiser that the WA-Hoyt PTA uses to benefit our school library and other enrichment programs. The basics are that you buy a gift card. We earn money because the stores sell them at a discount to the school. You will see from the order form that there are many retailers to choose from.

Our "Scrip Team" - Amy Mackey, Athena Heimer, Susan Ryan and Liz Walle-- are here to answer any questions you may have throughout the year. **Please note: your first scrip order must be turned in by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, September 18th.**

Thank you in advance for making this another successful Scrip year for Washington-Hoyt.

Amy, Athena, Susan and Liz

Amy Mackey, 627-6135, mack12stock@yahoo.com
Athena Heimer, 759-7165, athenaheimer@mac.com
Susan Ryan, 759-7022, sryan@harbornet.com
Liz Walle, 752-0835, wallefam5@msn.com



WASHINGTON-HOYT PTA NEEDS YOU!

Join today and show your support for our school, your child, and our fantastic PTA!

Sign up before October 5th and you'll be eligible for a drawing in which one lucky member will receive one free ticket to all PTA functions for this year, including our Sock Hop and Ice Cream Social.

Meeting attendance is not required to show your support for all the good things our PTA does for our school.

YES! I want to join!

Name: _____

Name: _____

Child(ren): _____

Child's teacher(s): _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

- \$10.00 Individual Member
- \$8.00 Additional Family Member
- Additional Donation

Total amount enclosed: _____



SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

Go Bananas for Books!

Get ready kids, to visit the Reading Rainforest Book Fair! We'll be open Monday, September 18th, to Friday, September 22nd, during lunch and after school!

Bring your nickels, dimes, quarters AND dollar bills. On Tuesday, September 23rd, we'll be open during *Back to School Night* from 5:30 to 8:00.

We'll have a guessing contest, so don't forget to make your guess on Tuesday evening!

If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please call **Deb Llewellyn @ 752-1494**

Our first PTA meeting is on September 12th at 7:00pm in the Washington library.

Childcare is available!

THANK YOU DEREK and ERIN BEHNKE for donating equipment and time, once again, to install the traffic safety signs in front of the school.



International Walk to School

Mark your calendars, set your clocks a little early, and leave the car at home!

Washington-Hoyt will be participating in the annual International Walk to School event for the seventh year, on **Wednesday, October 4th.**

Meet us across the road at the Wheelock Library parking lot at 8:30 am, and we'll walk across together and enjoy donut holes, coffee, and juice on the playground before school begins.

The kids love this! See you there!



GRRRRR! It's CAT TRACKS time again!

Calling all readers! Take the Cat Tracks Challenge!

It's time for another great CAT TRACKS year! Cat Tracks is Washington-Hoyt's rewarding reading program.

Each month our students will receive a Cat Tracks calendar. **During the month, the students read, or are read to, for 15 minutes each day, for 20 days of the month.** At the end of the month, he or she will be eligible for a **PRIZE** when the Cat Tracks lady--you know her as "Aunty Deb"-- comes to his or her class.

The Cat Tracks kick-off month is **October**, so calendars will be coming home at the end of September. Get all your crazy hats geared up for a great year of reading!

Thanks PTA, for sponsoring Cat Tracks!



Message from the Prez...

On behalf of the PTA, I'd like to welcome you back! Washington-Hoyt is a great school because of our committed teachers, staff, and parents like you.

One of my goals this year as president is to get **you** involved. We have so many talented people at our school and I know we can find the perfect fit for you! You can start by joining the PTA (**just fill out the membership form with \$10**) and come to our first PTA meeting on Tuesday September 12th, at 7pm at the Washington library (we provide childcare).

We have a lot of fun family activities planned this year including:

- Back to School BBQ (9/19)
- Halloween Bash (10/31)
- Sock Hop (3/16)
- Celebration of Learning Ice Cream Social (5/17)

Our Two Main Fundraisers are:

- Sally Foster Gift Wrap (September)
- Triathlon (January) for Academic Enrichment.

Other On-going Fundraisers are:

- Scrip (for library materials)
- Box Tops
- Safeway/Albertsons
- Book Fair (Cat Tracks Reading Program prizes & books)

When you volunteer you share your time and talents with the students, and show our children that you care about our school and education. Parents are that "extra something" that makes our school so special! If you have concerns call me! I'm looking forward to a great year! Let me know if you have any great ideas!

Laurie Hunger 627-4582
PTA President



Our PTA's first and largest fundraiser of the year begins next week!

It's that time again!

Yes, this reminds us that the school year is beginning, and that the holidays are just around the corner. Every year, the PTA has its first and biggest fundraiser during the first weeks of school. It reminds us of the holidays because your order is typically delivered by the end of October, and you can order all sorts of wonderful holiday gifts and wrapping paper!

Your student(s) will bring home an order form for Sally Foster wrap and gifts — please order some for yourself and allow your child to make sales to your friends and family. **The Washington-Hoyt PTA earns 50 percent of every purchase — last year, we earned almost \$8,000 from this fundraiser alone!**

This is a great fundraiser for us, too, because it comes at the beginning of the year and allows the PTA to plan for teacher grants, student enrichment, and school improvement projects. The sale will run from September 15th-29th. Watch your child's backpack and Friday Folders for more information.

If you have questions about the sale, please call **Heather Moss** at 307-0959.

