

Washington-Hoyt Elementary Cougar Tales

“Love is in the Air” Edition

Issue #6, February 2008

Assessment Data

The first half of the school year is completed, and we are looking forward to the second half of this school year with the same enthusiastic spirit of success. Teacher instruction and student learning have gained momentum as we look at the successes in student achievement thus far. The following assessments along with weekly classroom checks provide valuable information that assists all of our students in reaching their optimum potential for learning.

The following assessments were administered in the month of January:

CogAT – The Cognitive Abilities Test is administered to all second grade students. It is one of the tests used to identify students for the Tacoma School District’s Highly Capable student program.

DRP – Degrees in Reading Power is a test given to fifth grade students in January. The results are used as a placement tool for reading classes when entering middle school.

BSMA - Basic Skills Mathematics Assessment is administered to students in second through fifth grade every six weeks. **(continued on page 2...)**

Academic Triathlon

by Heather Lindboe

We are looking for Volunteers in March!!! It’s that time of year again!! On March 28th we will be having the annual Washington-Hoyt Triathlon.

For those of you who are new, it is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year and it is VERY simple. The children will obtain pledges the week prior and on Friday, March 28th all students will read, do math and walk outside on the playground for 20 minutes each. The PTA will be providing a healthy snack for all students after the walk and each student will earn a prize for their efforts. The top fund raiser in each grade will win a limo ride and Round Table Pizza lunch with Ms. Fynboe and Miss Peggy usually the week following the Triathlon.

All the money raised goes toward Academic Enrichment programs such as guest authors, poets, artists, new reading programs, etc. Please be watching for flyers and pledge materials to come home in early March. What we need from you at this time is to be checking your schedule to see if you can help by volunteering a few hours of your time on Triathlon Friday. We usually begin the walk at around 9:30 am and the reading and math are coordinated by the teachers and done in class during the school day. We will need people to help set up outside, obtain the pledge folders from classrooms, count money, hand out snacks and hand out the prizes to each classroom. It is a very short time, yet it is very profitable for wonderful programs for our kids!! We need as many volunteers as we can get. If you are interested or need more information please call or e-mail me at (253) 507-5301 or hlindboe@aol.com. Thank you for your time!!



(...continued from page 1)

DIBELS – Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills is a reading diagnostic assessment given to kindergarten, first, second, third, fourth and fifth grade students in September, January, and June. It measures letter sounds, reading fluency, and comprehension. The assessment results are used to determine reading growth and identify students who need additional support in reading instruction.

DIBELS is one of many assessments Washington-Hoyt utilizes to measure student achievement growth and to determine if students need additional assistance and instruction in order to meet high academic standards and rigor. The DIBELS assessment this January demonstrated growth in five of the six grade levels.

DIBELS Scores for Reading in September 2007:

57% of all kindergarten students assessed were at benchmark
83% of all first grade students assessed were at benchmark
80% of all second grade students assessed were at benchmark
82% of all third grade students assessed were at benchmark
74% of all fourth grade students assessed were at benchmark
79% of all fifth grade students assessed were at benchmark

DIBELS Scores for Reading in January 2008:

64% of all kindergarten students assessed were at benchmark
77% of all first grade students assessed were at benchmark
87% of all second grade students assessed were at benchmark
88% of all third grade students assessed were at benchmark
79% of all fourth grade students assessed were at benchmark
83% of all fifth grade students assessed were at benchmark

Of the seventy students needing strategic and intensive interventions based on the September 2007 DIBELS testing, twenty-eight of those students received benchmark level scores in reading during the January 2008 testing. Ten students improved from needing intensive interventions in reading to needing strategic interventions.

Some our fourth and fifth grade students may not have met the DIBELS reading fluency benchmark in January, however, they are strong readers and have done well on other reading assessments. Of the fourteen (21%) students in the fourth grade students not meeting the DIBELS reading benchmark, nine of those students passed the fourth grade WASL reading benchmark. Of the eleven (18%) fifth grade students not meeting the DIBELS reading benchmark, five of those students met the fifth grade reading benchmark on the WASL.

Strategic and intensive interventions in reading happen outside of the reading block whereby each student works with a tutor, either a para-educator or parent volunteer, and receives extra assistance nearly every day. Students at risk in reading who require intensive intervention receive this additional instruction a minimum of two times a day and on some days receive reading instruction three times each day. Some of those who need more intensive interventions receive instruction from the special education teacher in the Learning Resource Room. Student growth in reading is measured weekly for all students who need strategic and intensive interventions. This process is called Progress Monitoring.

By May, the DIBELS assessment goals for each grade level are:

- **Kindergarten** – 40 letter names/minute, 35 phonemes/minute and 25 nonsense words/minute
- **First Grade** – 35 phonemes/minute, 50 nonsense words/minute and 40 words read correctly/minute on a first grade passage
- **Second Grade** – 90 words read correctly/minute on a second grade reading passage
- **Third Grade** – 110 words read correctly/minute on a third grade passage
- **Fourth Grade** – 118 words read correctly/minute on a fourth grade passage
- **Fifth Grade** – 124 words read correctly/minute on a fifth grade passage

Our school accomplishments in reading skills and ability are a direct reflection of your dedication and partnership with the excellence in the teaching abilities of our Washington-Hoyt teachers and staff. I believe that some of the best parenting support you give and continue to do is reading to your child/children and listening to him or her read each and everyday. The Wheelock Library directly across the street from Washington-Hoyt is just one more excellent resource in our community to find books that you and your child/children can enjoy reading together. All of us together, parents, school and community, provide a strong partnership in the reading and academic success for all of our students at Washington-Hoyt.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Sincerely,

Karen Fynboe, Principal

Cougar ASB Report

by your ASB Liaisons

Hi everyone, it's Bennet and Yina here and we would like to give you a heads up on what has been going on with ASB! Our last theme dress day was Pajama Day and we had lots of fun. There were so many different kinds of PJ's. Thanks to everyone for showing their school spirit.

We have been talking about our upcoming WASL fundraiser to take the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders to the Blue Mouse for a totally awesome movie. In the past we have sold bracelets, but are thinking about doing something different this year. If you have a great idea, tell one of us, or your class representative. (No erasers!!!!)

We will keep you updated on our next theme dress day. We have had a lot of requests for sports day and Dane G. though we should have a hat day. We are also looking forward to another community service project. It is cool to have Washington-Hoyt set a good reputation by helping out.



Mrs. Harkness' Class on Pajama Day!

Writer's Workshop in Allegro's Class

Mr. Allegro and Mr. Fred Hamel, a professor from the University of Puget Sound, have teamed together for a Writer's Workshop in Mr. Allegro's fourth grade class. This ongoing workshop gives students the opportunity to learn about the creative writing process, from brainstorming to completing a finished product. Students, with encouragement from Mr. Allegro, Mr. Hamel, and a handful of enthusiastic parent volunteers, will be working these next few weeks to express their own ideas in



whatever literary form they choose, be it a story, a play, poetry or a report. They may work independently on their project, or join forces with another student. At the end of each workshop period, students share with the rest of the class what they have been working on that day. Hopefully we will get to see some of the finished products at the Celebration of Learning at the end of the year!!!

Green Tips to Try at Home

by Sara Sledge

Green Cleaning

Look for cleaning products made from plant sources rather than petroleum and that are free of irritants like chlorine and pollutants like phosphate. Even more fun, mix up some easy formulas with your kids. Here are some great ones:



Soft Scrub: add enough soap to 1/8 cup baking soda to make a creamy mixture. Apply with a sponge and scrub. Rinse well.

Furniture polish: mix ½ cup lemon juice with 1 cup olive oil and apply with a rag

Drains: pour 1 or 2 Tablespoons into the drain, pour in 1 cup of white vinegar and immediately pour in boiling water. Kids love watching the foaming chemical reaction when the vinegar hits the baking soda!

Microwave: add lemon juice to a dish of water, put dish in microwave and cook on high for 1 minute. Allow dish to remain in microwave for 10 minutes. The lemon and steam will soften the food residue and it will easily wipe out with a sponge or rag.

Mildew: make a paste of vinegar and salt and apply to built-up area

Toilets: sprinkle bowl with ¼ cup baking soda. Drizzle with ¼ cup vinegar then scour with a toilet brush.

How can we improve the school?

Chats with Students at Washington-Hoyt Elementary

By Quentin L. and Tower B.

- “Get a roof over the playground.” ☺
- “Get more homework.” ☺
- “Make the school more fun.” ☺
- “Get grass on the playground.” ☺
- “Longer specialist time.” ☺
- “Longer recess.” ☺
- “Longer school time.” ☺

Speak Up!

So, this is what some of the students from Washington-Hoyt Elementary school think we should do to improve our school.

Miss Ruud’s Classroom

In Miss Ruud’s classroom, we are doing a lot of different things. I will give you a couple of things that we are doing.

In writing, we are doing a writing piece about the end of a story called Star of Fear, Star of Hope. It is a story of a girl named Lydia. She spent the night over at her friend’s house. Then, she goes home because she is Jewish, and the Nazis are capturing all the Jewish people. It never tells if Lydia got captured or not, so we have to write the ending to it. Some people are done, such as Quentin and Evan.



In science, we are working on swingers. They are these devices that we spin on a pencil. We are trying to find out what will make it spin more than 13 times. But we are still working on it. If you have any questions or comments, please tell Tower B. or Quentin L.

A Note from the Teachers

Students and Parents:

Please do not allow your student(s) to bring toys of any kind to school. This includes Webkinz and football trading cards. Washington-Hoyt Teachers

Coffee with the Principal on February 4, 2008 from 9 – 10 AM: Dr. Michael Power, Assistant Superintendent, Program and Learning Support, will be our guest. He will speak with us about Curriculum and the new Washington State Mathematic Standards.



Way to Go!



Mrs. Sterbick’s class says CONGRATULATIONS to **Sam B.** for making it to the League Championship for Pierce County Junior Wrestling Association. This is a big accomplishment for a first year wrestler. Great Job Sam!

Thank you **Miss Peggy** for delivering all the scrip orders last month! We appreciate you!

Congratulations Washington-Hoyt Families – student tardies decreased from 151 in November to 79 in December with five classrooms without any tardies (**Boitano, Willy, Harkness, O’Donnell** and **Ruud**). That is 72 less classroom disruptions at the beginning of the day! Thank you parents and students for your diligence to be at school on time!

Responsible Citizen Recess for December was held January 18, 2008. Congratulations to all of the students, who made good and responsible choices in and out of their classrooms, turned in all class work and homework on time, had less than two tardies and had zero office referrals during the month of December. They were treated to a fifteen-minute recess and cookies.

Thank you to **Deb Llewellyn and the PTA** for decorating the Staff Room for Valentines’ Day.

Way to Go! submissions can be made by ANYONE! If you know a student, teacher, paraprofessional, parent, or volunteer that deserves some recognition, please submit your nomination to the editor at whcougartales@gmail.com.

Green Newsletters:

Last month: 29

This month: 32

Thank you!



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Academic Enrichment

by Susan Ryan

What a fun day we had on January 9th! For those of us old enough to remember the 60's group Paul Revere and the Raiders, former guitarist Jim Valley spent the day at Washington-Hoyt. His children's program [Rainbow Planet](#) entertained us by turning classroom poems that our children wrote honoring Martin Luther King Jr. (next page), into songs set to his guitar playing. He entertained with old classics and new songs intermingled with sign language and humor. His energy and enthusiasm maintained throughout the day culminating in an all school assembly featuring our Washington-Hoyt teachers on stage acting out "Splish Splash". What a hoot! I didn't see a frown in the room.

Thank you Mr. Allegro for introducing us to Jim Valley. And thank you families for supporting the Academic Triathlon. Next up February 8th, children's author Linda Vieira. [Check out her recent book "Grand Canyon" on Amazon.com.](#)

Missoula Children's Theatre

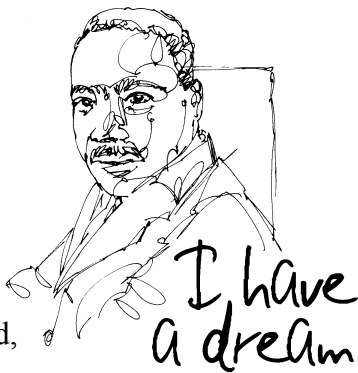
HELP! We still need housing for 1 of the 2 Missoula Children's Theatre touring directors for the upcoming PTA sponsored JACK AND THE BEANSTALK. The directors can be housed in the same location or different locations but must have a comfortable, private room. Providing meals is optional. Please contact Alison Hoseth 761-9730 or Liz Walle 752-0835 for more details or if you are interested in helping! **Auditions:** Auditions will be held for the Missoula Children's Theatre production of JACK AND THE BEANSTALK on February 25th. All grades are encouraged to audition. No advance preparation is necessary. Most students rehearse four hours each day, Monday through Friday. Performances are scheduled for Saturday March 1st! Permission slips for the auditions will be sent home in the Friday folders about 1 1/2 weeks prior. More details will be released as we get closer!

Our MLK Poems

Cindy Harkness First-Grade Class:

We are all different
in our own special way,
But we try to get along
each and every day.

Dr. King had a dream
that everyone should be free
And all the people of the world,
would live in harmony.



Today we honor Dr. King
by singing out his name.
He taught us all that in our hearts,
we are all the same.

Jill Daniels First-Grade Class:

Martin Luther King Jr. was very brave.
His goal was to save.
He peacefully fought.
And had great thoughts.
He had a dream.
White people acted mean.
He dreamed about love.
The earth needed help from above.
Martin Luther King Jr. was a great man
Throughout his troubles he never ran.

Toni Moore's First-Grade Class:

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
He was a Black man.
He was born January 15.
When he was 15 he won a speaking contest.
The white people were mean.
He made a speech in a church.
He got shot and died.



Emmy Murphy's Second-Grade Class:

We remember Dr. King
Because he led the way,

He worked to change the unfair laws
To give a better day.

He had a dream for everyone
That we would all be free,

Because of him there may be a time
We live in harmony.

Debbie Sterbick's Second-Grade Class:

I have a dream
That people will stay on the same team
With Martin Luther King
And the love bells will ring.

He read from the bible
And fought for survival.
People protested but he never gave up the fight.
He brought love and peace to the world to make it right.

He wanted people to come together.
And his legacy will live forever.

Megan Gibson's Third-Grade Class:

Martin Luther King was a man who wanted peace.
He talked to the west and to the east.

He was so brave and he gave his all
to stand tall.

Martin was very strong
and wanted everyone to get along.

He stood up for what he believed
and changed the world for you and for me.

Martin believed in freedom and justice for all
and had a big dream that all of his children can recall.

We honor Martin Luther King today and want to sing and
celebrate! Hooray!

Jane Eichner's Third-Grade Class:

There once was a hero named Martin.
He fought just as hard as a Spartan.
He battled using peace,
And accomplished his dream.
He changed the whole world—
Did great Martin!



Sam Allegro's Fourth-Grade Class:

Living Together

There once was a time when we didn't see
That we could live together in peace and harmony.

Martin said: You, you, you are as good as one another,
follow my dream, my sister, my brother.

They said we were different because of our skin
Yet it's on the outside you must look within.

Martin said: You, you, you are as good as one another,
follow my dream, my sister, my brother.

Then came a man, a special man, his name was Dr. King
He preached that love and rights for all, will cause our
hearts to sing.

Martin said: You, you, you are as good as one another,
follow my dream, my sister, my brother.

Maria Ridenour's Class:

The Greatness of MLK

The greatness of MLK filled all, filled all
He helped the color, big and small.
He gave the gift of freedom to blacks
In hopes that they wouldn't fall between the cracks.

"Free at last, free at last," were famous words he said
He helped people sleep safely inside their beds.
MLK is the man who said, "I have a dream!"
About blacks and white that would unite as a team.

Heidi Ruud's Fifth-Grade Class:

Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. would fight
For what he believed was everyone's right.

He did his best to deploy,
A positive change for all to enjoy.

He wanted to break the rule,
So that every black or white child could go to the same
school.

King was nothing short of smart,
The speeches he gave were a beautiful art.

Unfortunately he died,
While fighting so hard for everyone's pride.

Holly Fitzgerald's Fifth-Grade Class:

Martin Luther King

People might hurt us
But we still fight

We will boycott the bus
To show that we have rights

Our protest will go on
Into the night

They bomb my house
But we still show our might

We're being treated this way
Because we're not white

Let Martin Luther King
Take you under his wing

I have a dream
Let freedom ring.



PTA News

Message from the Presidents...P²

Dear Washington-Hoyt Families,

This is such an exciting time of the year because we have so many activities and events planned for the remainder of the school year!! Check out the information, here in the Cougar Tales, about "Glow Bowling" at Chalet Bowl on Super Bowl Sunday.

Since we are about half way through the year, I want to take a moment to remind everyone about the importance of safety when we drop our kids off in the morning and pick them up again in the afternoon. The following are some important tips and reminders to help keep our kids safe:

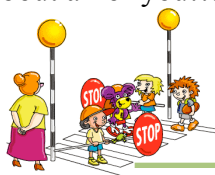
- Allow enough time to get to school, to find a place to pull over and let your child out, or park and walk them onto the playground. Leaving just 5 minutes earlier can make all the difference!!
- Teach your children to cross only at the designated crosswalks and be a good role model for them by following this rule yourself!
- Remember that the speed limit in posted school zones is 20 mph. (A ticket could be up to \$177)
- Do not stop in the middle of traffic to let your child out (on 26th in front of the school, at the rotary behind the school, or on Union in front of Hoyt). Not only is it very unsafe and illegal, but it disrupts traffic for everyone else, and not just other parents, but the rest of the community as well.
- Please have your kids exit the car on the sidewalk side of the car, not the traffic side.
- Be aware of kids outside of your car, as well as other moving cars, when you pull back in to traffic.
- Once your child has been dropped off, remember to still follow the posted speed limits.

Please be safe out there, we care about all of you!!!!

PTA Co-Presidents (P²)

Juli Norris 756-9166

Deb Llewellyn 752-1494

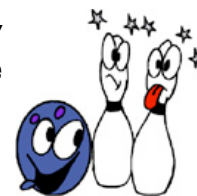


Super Bowl Glow Bowling!! Washington-Hoyt Chalet Bowl Takeover

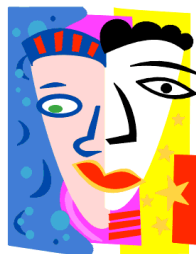
Sunday, February 3, 2008 from Noon to 2:00 p.m.

Call Chalet Bowl today and reserve your lane and spend two fun-filled hours bowling with friends from Washington-Hoyt. Chalet Bowl will donate a generous share of proceeds from the event directly to our school. Call early - lanes will fill up quickly. \$11.00 per person includes shoes, music and as much bowling as you can fit into 2 hours. Bring your family or go with friends!

**Call Michelle, Reggie or Billy
at Chalet Bowl to reserve
your spot: (253) 752-5200
3806 N. 26th Street**



After-School Art Program Begins



Our new After-School Art Program is off to a great start! At the end of January, 27 kids joined guest teacher Paul Blanchard in a two-week mask-making project. The fun continues with our first paid session this month: **Advanced Mask-Making** for 3rd-5th graders, and **Papier Mâché** for K-2nd graders.

March will be a **Drawing** session, April is **Sculpture**, and May is **Painting**. Your child may register for one month of particular interest, or sign up in advance for all sessions! Cost per month is \$15, and classes meet Thursdays from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the basement at Washington. Please look for the flyer in your Friday folder for more details, the full schedule, and to sign up. Class sizes are limited, so if you're interested, return your form as soon as possible via the Friday folder. Deadline for the February session in Wednesday, Feb. 6th.



**Fall RoundTable Pizza Takeover
We earned \$590!**

**3rd Annual Chess Tournament
Coming to Mason March 8th!**



PTA-Sponsored World Language Program at Washington-Hoyt!

We are making plans for our second session of before-school French and Spanish classes this year. We will have a **9-week session**, with classes twice a week. The fee for 18 classes is \$70, payable by February 15th to the Washington-Hoyt PTA. All students must pre-register by this date so that we can hire teachers and group students as best we can by grade and language experience.

The 9-week session will begin **MONDAY, February 25 (Spanish), and TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26 (French)**. NOTE THAT THERE WILL BE NO CLASSES MARCH 17th-21st nor MARCH 31st-APRIL 4, due to spring breaks for both students and teachers. Reminders will be sent home to all registered students.

Please fill out the enrollment form below and return it to school with your child as soon as you can, but no later than February 15. Make checks payable to the Wa-Hoyt PTA.

Volunteers: We need at least one parent volunteer in each of the classes, and you don't need to speak French or Spanish to help out! We need helping walking children to and from Hoyt and to be available to "lend a hand" during class activities. If you can volunteer for the entire 9-week session in your child's class, the class fee will be waived for your child. We cannot hold classes without at least one volunteer for each class!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Deb Llewellyn at 752-1494 or via email at PIE.ALAMODE@YAHOO.COM.

**LANGUAGE PROGRAM ENROLLMENT FORM - WASHINGTON-HOYT PTA SPRING 2008
PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED - DEADLINE FEBRUARY 15, 2008**

Child's name: _____ Grade: _____

Child's teacher: _____

Parent/Guardian Name & Phone Number: _____

_____ Spanish: Monday-Wednesday, 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. in the Washington library **\$70**
(Beginning Monday, FEBRUARY 25, 2008 and ending Wednesday, May 7, 2008)



_____ French: Tuesday-Thursday, 8:00 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. in the Washington library **\$70**
(Beginning Tuesday, FEBRUARY 26, 2008 and ending Thursday, May 8, 2008)

___ Yes, I can volunteer! Your name & phone # _____







(if you can volunteer for the entire 9-weeks, your child can attend for free - one or two volunteers per class, so sign up quick!)

___ Yes, my child attends morning Champions. I request help from the parent volunteer to walk my child from Champions to the Washington library.

February 2008

-  Tacoma School District
-  Washington-Hoyt



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Optional Enrollment Period	Optional Enrollment Period				Box Tops Due!	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Optional Enrollment Period 12:00 PM Chalet Bowl Takeover 	Scrip Order Due 9:00 AM Coffee w/ Principal 		Art Registration Due Sweatshirt Orders Due	3:00 PM Art Class	Highly Capable Due Writer Linda Viera	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	7:00 PM PTA Meeting 		Language Reg. Due	No School - Presidents Day Break 6:00 PM School Board 		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
No School - Presidents Day Break				3:00 PM Art Class		
						
24	25	26	27	28	29	1
	Missoula Children's Theatre Cougar Tales Deadline 8:00 AM Spanish	Missoula Children's Theatre 8:00 AM French	8:00 AM Spanish	8:00 AM French 3:00 PM Art Class 6:00 PM School Board	MCT Assembly 	MCT Productions
	