

Washington-Hoyt Elementary Cougar Tales



Happy Holidays Edition

Issue #4, December 2007

Green Tips to Try at Home

by Sara Sledge



Daylight Savings Time is finished and darkness creeps up awfully early. That means a lot more lights on in our homes. Conserve energy by replacing standard

incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs. Fluorescents use only 13 watts to produce the same light that a 60 watt bulb does; that's 75% less energy! In addition to energy savings, each bulb lasts ten times longer than a standard bulb thereby reducing material consumption and also the number of times that you need to get out a stool and change a light bulb. A ten-pack box of compact fluorescents states that over the lifetime of the bulbs in the package, the consumer will save 4,700 kWh of electricity (enough to light the average home for over two years) and \$564 (as compared to using a 60 watt bulb at 12¢ per kWh)! So save money, save time, save resources and save energy with those twisty, compact bulbs. One important detail: compact fluorescents contain mercury so be sure to dispose of them properly.

On a related note, LED holiday light strings can save up to 90% in energy costs!

Reader Submission

from Susan Ryan

Do you have a front porch? Do you sometimes like to put a small decorative pillow in a chair? Instead of buying poly-fill try using plastic grocery bags. Stuff it full and fluff it up. Won't get moldy inside and you are re-using something. You can use this indoors too; it just sounds a little crunchy. Try this with some seasonal

fabric or dish towels and brighten your front porch for the holidays!

Washington-Hoyt Elects New ASB Officers!

Hello, we are Bennett F. and Yina F. and we are your new liaisons for the 2007-2008 school year. This will be our first of many articles we will write to let you know about everything going on in ASB.

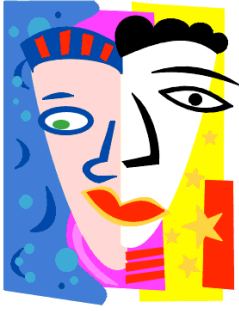
We would like to introduce everyone voted into ASB this year. Our school president is Harrison M. and our vice president position is Jordan S. Next, our class representatives for 5th grade include Tyler S. and Joyce J. for Miss Ruud's class, Jack R. and Clara M. for Mrs. Fitzgerald's class. We had a three way tie in Ms. Ridenour's class so representing them will be Jevne M., Gabi N., and Adam A. For the 4th grade Frank W. and Rylan S. will represent Mr. Allegro's class while Lillie W. and Greer B. will be representing Ms. Lawrence's class. In 3rd grade, Cassidy R. and Aidan G. hold the positions in Mrs. Gibson's class. James B. and Austin M. will represent Mrs. Seberson's class, and to finish off Amaya F. and Isabelle D. were elected from Mrs. Eichner's room.

Congrats to all those voted in as well as everyone brave enough to run for an ASB position this year!

We got to work right away, and have already completed our first ASB community service project, THE FOOD DRIVE! It was a super success with an amazing 2,062 cans brought in by the whole school. That's an average of about 5 cans per student. The 3rd-5th grade winning class was Miss Ruud's room with 258 cans while in the K-2nd grades Miss Daniel's class brought 174 cans. Thanks to everyone who helped out, a lot of needy people will benefit from you!

Bring More Art to Our School!

Parents Launching New After School Program: Give Us Your Input



Painting. Puppetry. Paper maché. And more. We are in the planning stages of an after school art program open to our students. Right now we are asking for volunteers who may have an interest or expertise in some form of art. This program would run once a week for two hours after

school. Each month we would focus on a different medium or technique. There are lesson plans available for each grade level as well. To make this happen, we need people to teach specific lessons, which may run one class to every week in the month. Roughly, the categories would include painting, drawing, multimedia art, sculpture/clay, paper, mosaics, etc.

If you have ideas or interest, please contact Kristina Young at 212-1517, momto3young@comcast.net, or by returning the form on the back page to the front office. We plan to begin in January.

Testing for 2nd Graders

A Message from the Tacoma School District

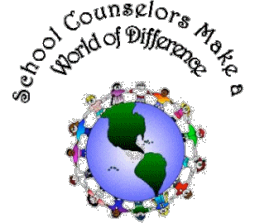
The Cognitive Abilities Test Form 6 Level 2 (CogAT) will be given to all second grade students between January 7 and January 18, 2008 during the regular school day. This is a regular part of the district assessment program. The results of the assessment are used, in part, to identify students who might be eligible for the Challenge Programs for Highly Capable Students.

Results of the CogAT will be available in the spring. To review the results, parents should contact the school.

The Challenge Programs for Highly Capable Students will invite parents of the highest scoring students to nominate their children for possible inclusion in the program.

Counselor's Corner

with Mary McGlone



The weather certainly reminds us that winter is close by as the temperatures seem to drop with each passing week. I continue to teach the "Get Real About Violence" curriculum in the third grades and will then begin teaching the fourth graders after the start of the new year. Please ask your children to share this information with you. Friendship groups are also in full swing.

This is a busy season for everyone and I want to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Fynboe, the staff, teachers, parents and ASB for the contributions you've made towards helping those in our community who need that extra lift during this season. The ASB's Giving Tree offers another chance to give to those in need. Such generous responses are testimony to the sincere commitment the Washington-Hoyt's family has to one another. Thank you from all of the families you have helped and thank you too, for your assistance and support of the Guidance program at Washington-Hoyt. I wish all of you a relaxing and safe holiday season.

PTA[®]
everychild. onevoice.

PTA Minutes

To keep you better informed, we're working on getting our PTA meeting minutes added to the PTA website (www.wahoyt.org) and included in the eBulletin!

From the Principal's Desk



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.

Tacoma School District Interim Superintendent, Dr. Art Jarvis, hosted his first Superintendent Parent Advisory Meeting on Monday, November 26, 2007. Deb Llewellyn, PTA President, and parent Pam Munizza attended the meeting with me. Two questions posed to us to discuss were: "Do we have true parent participation in our schools?" and "What would a true parent partnership look like?"

With confidence the three of us responded with a resounding "YES" to true parent participation in our schools. The partnership is clearly articulated in the first sentence of our mission statement. The three of us at our table began to clarify "what true parent participation" looks like and sounds like at Washington-Hoyt in our classrooms and the surrounding community.

Each day parents and grandparents volunteer to listen to children read. Every day I am pleased to hear children reading aloud to volunteers in the hallways and classrooms. One classroom has multiple parents each day to assist with writing for a 45 minute period. Children experience famous artists and art lessons with our parent "In Touch with Art" docents.

Our PTA and other parents support placing great literature into the hands of our students by sponsoring two Scholastic Book Fairs during the academic year. Through bi-monthly SCRIP sales, \$5000 is given to each year to our school library to purchase books and classroom literature sets.

The Washington-Hoyt PTA also supports and provides funding for the academic enrichment activities of our students. Our school is in a five-year cycle of working with visual artist, Meredith Essex. Students have studied the great artists and received standards based instruction in line, color, shape (aligned with grade level standards in mathematics) and this year will study texture (aligned with the grade level science curriculum). With each concept, students create a work of art that will be displayed in May at our Celebration of Learning event. The PTA co-sponsored a science assembly with a scientist and toy maker. Students in each grade then made toys that were related to that grade level science curriculum. The experience for children was hands on and engaging.

All fifth graders attended Science Camp at Camp Seymour. Again, PTA assisted with a major fundraiser (Cookie Dough) last spring, provided scholarship assistance and snacks. Sixteen parents volunteered two and a half days from their work to chaperone and be cabin leaders.

Our PTA and families sponsor and provide family fun activities after school and in the evening to build our school community into a closely knit, supportive family. Times for laughter and sharing for children and adults create relationships that extend beyond school hours.

The majority of our parents reach above and beyond each and every day. We appreciate the manner in which parents and families at home are involved daily in listening to their children read orally, assisting with homework, providing nourishing meals and making sure that their children have proper rest at night. It is that diligence and dedication from our parents that contribute to the high percentage of our students meeting the state and district assessment standards.

Washington-Hoyt is the best! Our dedicated faculty and staff will continue to do what we do especially well in striving to improve student learning and academic excellence.

As we approach this wonderful Holiday Season, all of us at Washington-Hoyt want to express our thankfulness and gratitude for all of you who make up this caring school family. We wish for each student and his or her family the continuous joy and blessings of living in a community that shares its resources to bring the best possible educational programs for every child and family.

Finally, thank you our parents and our faculty, for seeing that our Washington-Hoyt students are active, prepared and dynamic learners. Students, you continue to amaze your teachers and me each and every day.

Sincerely,

Karen Fynboe

In the Community

Children's Museum of Tacoma

Special Events

Saturday Mornings, 9:30 – 10:30 am

Ni Hao! Passport to Play

Session 3 January 5, 12, 19, 26

Sign-up for your passport to play and discover Chinese culture and language. Children 2½ and older, along with their grown-ups, explore Mandarin language and Chinese customs through music, traditional stories, games and art.

Cost: \$50.00 per four-week session. Members receive a 10% discount! Pre registration and payment are required; call 253.627.6031.



Saturday, January 12, 10:45 am

Learning Chinese through Stories and Activities

Children's author University of Washington Tacoma professor Dr. Belinda Louie will bring Mandarin culture and language to life through traditional crafts and stories from her recently published book Learning Chinese through Stories and Activities. The bilingual text introduces readers to authentic Chinese children's short stories and beautiful paper-cut illustrations by artist Aki Sogabe.

Cost: FREE with admission.

Thursday, December 20, 9:00 am – noon

Winter Break Escape: Holiday Capers

Roll up your sleeves for some crafty holiday fun, sing and dance and stir up a tasty treat perfect for this festive season! For children ages 3-8.

Cost: \$38.50 per child. Members receive a 10% discount!

Pre registration is required; call 253.627.6031.

Thursday, December 27, 9:00 am – noon

Winter Break Escape: Winter Wonders

Create cool art, sing some frosty tunes, and prepare a toasty snack to warm away those winter chills! For children ages 3-8

Cost: \$38.50 per child. Members receive a 10% discount!

Pre registration is required; call 253.627.6031

Way to Go!

I would like to give a big **Way To Go!** to the wonderful **PTA** for the purchase of our new white boards and the SMART board. The teachers are extremely happy to have such support from a wonderful group of people.

Thank you,
Mrs. Sterbick

Merci! ¡Gracias!

The PTA would like to thank parents **Megan Boly** and **Rosemary Ponnekanti** for volunteering their time in the French and Spanish classes. These parents help walk students to and from Hoyt, which allows our students in the Champions before-school program to participate, as well as allowing Kindergartners and first-graders to be in the class too. Megan also is a big help during the Spanish class as well. Thanks Megan and Rosemary!

Congratulations to Cougar Award Drawing Winners for the month of October: **Cheyenne** (Kindergarten), **Jillian** (First Grade), **Chase** (Fourth Grade), and **Jacob** (Fifth Grade). They were treated to all-you-can-eat pizza with Ms. Fynboe at Round Table. Thanks you to Round Table for providing lunch.

Thank you to **Deb Llewellyn** for decorating the Staff Room in festive holiday décor.

Thank you to the **PTA Board and PTA members** for your never ending support of our students, teachers and school!



PTA News

Scrip

Tired of busy malls...long lines... crabby clerks?!? Have we got the shopping solution for you -- **SCRIP!** Gift cards make



excellent holiday gifts. We have hundreds of merchants and denominations available. If you don't see what you want on our list, go to www.glscrip.com/retailerlist/index.aspx to see all of the available merchants.

There is one more order date before Christmas, due December 10th. We have decided not to hold a direct sale; however if you do need a last-minute gift idea, please feel free to give me a call or e-mail to see if we have what you need available in our inventory.

Thank you to the 12 families who ordered from our Thanksgiving direct sale. Congratulations to the Ryan Family, who won the drawing for an El Toro gift certificate. We will be raffling off a Barnes and Noble \$25 gift card to the families who order from the December 10 order.

Liz Walle
752-0835 or wallefam5@msn.com

Cub Scouts Pack 219

In October the Pack created care kits for a local community clinic to distribute to the homeless, and in November was uniform inspection: what a great looking group! Upcoming events include Christmas party, Blue and Gold Dinner and Pinewood Derby. Anytime is a good time to sign up for Cub Scouts. The boys earn rewards for learning and achieving goals, ultimately leading to the cross-over ceremony into Boy Scouts. Den meetings are usually once a week and focus on a variety of activities and projects including building bird houses, learning how to fix a flat on a bicycle, keeping fit and healthy and taking nature walks. Call Scott MacDonald at 253-761-0369 or Shawn Madison at 759-1474 to join.



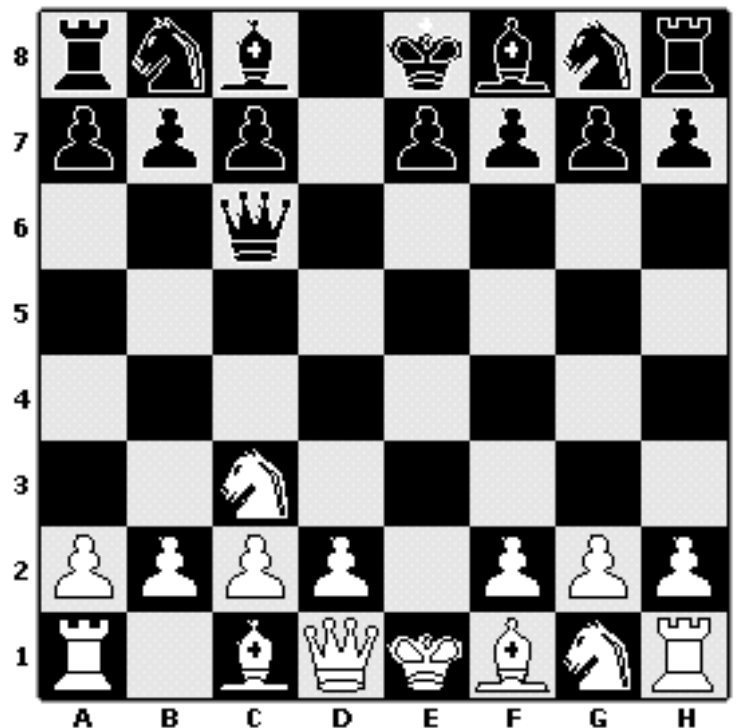
Chess Club

We are a month into chess club and have about 30 students participating. Thank you to the "new" parent's who have stepped



up to help, and thanks to the "old" parents who are still pitching in to help! About half of the chess club are beginning chess players. We could still use parents to sit down with the beginners helping them play - you do not have to be an expert - most of the kids will beat me when we play. Parents can reinforce what is learned during the hour at chess club each week by playing chess at home. About half of the chess team is ready to play in the two local tournaments in December: the 1st and the 15th. Go to the Washington Hoyt PTA website and go to the chess link for registration forms if you and your child will be attending. Remember, a very basic skills test needs to be passed to ensure etiquette and basic chess play knowledge before you can register for a tournament as a Washington Hoyt team member.

Try this puzzle: It's White to move and win the Black Queen with a pin. Can you see the move? Have fun!



Message from the Presidents...

Dear Washington-Hoyt Families, we sincerely hope you all enjoyed your Thanksgiving celebration with family and friends. Just before the break we had our traditional pre-Thanksgiving Round Table Pizza Take-over, which all the kids seemed to enjoy and was, as usual, wildly successful.

As we head into the holiday season, we would like to take a moment to express our gratitude for so many things: We are grateful that we have such a wonderful school, full of children who are kind and are unsurpassed in their efforts. We are grateful to have such a fantastically involved parent community. We are grateful for everyone who gives time to serve on the PTA Board or comes to PTA meetings. We are grateful that we have the most dedicated faculty and staff an elementary school could have. And we are grateful that our new “Green School” program is taking off and seems to be doing very well and that in doing so we provide a great example to our community at large.

From both of us, and from the entire PTA, we wish you all Happy Holidays and a bright and happy New Year.

Juli Norris@756-9166
Deb Llewellyn@752-1494
PTA Co-Presidents

Academic Enrichment

by Susan Ryan

Our Science Guy Assembly and Workshops were great. One of the best we have ever had. A big thank you to all the parents that came out to help. We could not have done it without all your helping hands. The two-day event filled the cafeteria with the sounds of homemade hammers, little mini-saws and kids busily building their toys. We were lucky to have Rick The Toy Inventor, aka “The Science Guy,” share his love of teaching and science with us. Besides appearing at Washington-Hoyt he has even appeared on The Tonight Show and The Discovery Channel, wow.



This event was made possible by ASB and Academic Triathlon Funds

Foreign Language Program

by Bridget Yaden



There are various kinds of models for elementary school language programs. All have many benefits, but the benefits are



different depending on the model, goals, and needs of the particular schools. It's important that parents and teachers understand the goals of each particular model, because “if the program and its expectations are misunderstood, then the learning community can become disillusioned with the outcomes.” (Hoch p. 10)

Our PTA sponsored language program follows the FLEX model, which is an exploratory or experiential program. This kind of model works best for short sessions that only meet twice a week. Students learn a few phrases, but communication is not the goal per se. In essence, the students learn ABOUT language. The goals of FLEX include an introduction to language learning, awareness and appreciation of other cultures, appreciation of the value of communicating in another language, enhanced understanding of English, and motivation to further language study. (Hoch, p. 5)

Students participating in this program will not become native speakers overnight, ready and able to interpret for you on your next trip to Mexico! But after several years in the program, your children will have some functional proficiency, an understanding and appreciation of other cultures, unique insight about their native language, and an “ear” for acquiring more Spanish and/or other languages in the future.

Did you know that data from the Admissions Testing Program of the College Board show a positive correlation between SAT scores and the study of a foreign language? Verbal scores of students increased with each additional year of language study. Studies correlating language study with WASL scores have not yet been done, but one would guess that the results would be the same.

Reference:

Hoch, F. 1998. A View from the State level. in Critical Issues in Early Second Language Acquisition: Building for Our Children's Future. Edited by Myriam Met. Glenview, Illinois: Addison-Wesley Educational Publishers Inc. pp. 5-10.

Easy Recipe

This Month:
Cranberry-Orange Holiday
Chex Mix



2 cups Corn Chex
2 cups Wheat Chex
2 cups mini pretzels
1 cup whole almonds
¼ c. butter
½ c. frozen orange juice concentrate (thawed)
3 Tbs. packed brown sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon
¾ tsp. ginger
¼ tsp. nutmeg
2/3 c. dried cranberries

Spray 13x9 baking pan w/cooking spray
Combine Chex, pretzels, almonds in a large bowl
Melt butter & stir in orange juice conc., brown sugar & spices
Pour liquid over dry goods and mix, coating well
Spread into pan
Bake 50 minutes on 250 degrees turning every 10-15 minutes
Stir in cranberries, cool and store in airtight container.

While you're at it make a double batch! Ok to add more or less of dry goods. I like more cranberries!

Submit your easy recipe suggestion to the Cougar Tales Editor at whcougartales@gmail.com.

Round Table Pizza Takeover

Our Washington Hoyt PTA pizza takeover at Roundtable on Nov. 19 was a big success! We haven't yet heard how much we earned, but in the past we've made between \$650 and \$800. Ben, the manager at Roundtable, is always supportive of our school and we appreciate him and his staff. They worked especially hard to deal with a computer glitch that deleted orders in the middle of our takeover :)

We could not have made this happen without our volunteers. Although we had fewer volunteers than in the past, we appreciate all of you who helped out this time - and many of you stayed longer than your shift to bus tables, wash dishes, and deliver pizza! A big thanks to: **Susan Ryan, Bennett Fors, Liz Walle, Deb Llewellyn, Juli Norris, Miss Peggy, Ms. Ridenour, Ms. Fynboe, Alison and Karl Hoeseth, and Bridget Yaden.**



Cougar Tales

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

If you are interested in receiving the e-version directly, please send your request to hollylara@mac.com. When you choose to receive the newsletter via e-mail, your child's name will be removed from the total copy count.

Contributions, suggestions or comments can be emailed to whcougartales@gmail.com.

Next submission deadline: December 31st (YIKES! A holiday . . . we'll be flexible)

Green Newsletters:

Last month: 17

This month: 27 families

Thank you!

Principal: Ms. Karen Fynboe 571-5700
3701 N. 26th Street, Tacoma WA 98407
<http://www.wahoyt.org>

PTA Presidents: Deb Llewellyn & Juli Norris
Washington-Hoyt PTA: Unit 10.9.225
Editor: Holly Lara whcougartales@gmail.com

After School Art Program

Interest Form: Please complete the following form and return it the front office to the PTA box. Or you can contact contact Kristina Young directly at 212-1517 or momto3young@comcast.net Thank you!



Parent Name:	
# of children in our household interested:	
I want to lead a lesson/ series of lessons on:	
I am interested in helping run lessons in:	
I am willing to help facilitate/ supervise a series of lessons.	
Phone number:	
Email:	
Best time to call:	
Best days to come:	