

Washington-Hoyt Elementary Cougar Tales



Back to School Edition

September 2007

Washington-Hoyt is Going Green!

This school year, Washington-Hoyt is launching a Green Schools program. With the help of EnviroChallenger John Inch and Bill Smith, senior environmental specialist for the City of Tacoma, we'll be expanding our recycling efforts, decreasing the amount of paper we use, and reducing the amount of waste we send to the landfill.



Green Schools programs are already established across the country. There's a Green Schools program in neighboring King County. But we'll be the first school in Tacoma to "go green." A Green Schools Program helps a school implement effective practices to

expand conservation efforts and improve the quality of the environment. The programs focus on reducing solid waste, cutting energy use, decreasing water use, and improving the outdoor environment through such measures as litter pick-ups and reduced use of pesticides. Besides conserving precious resources, a Green Schools program can help school districts cut costs. And because students are instrumental in running the programs, they provide great opportunities for hands-on learning.

We'll start by focusing our efforts on solid waste reduction. But as a first step we need to know exactly how much waste we're producing! To find out, Bill and John will help volunteers conduct a whole school waste audit on September 26th and 27th. We'll count and weigh the bags of trash we produce on each of those days. The results will give us a starting point against which we can measure our progress. The kick-off assembly to launch the Green Schools program will follow on September 28th.

For more information on the Green Schools program or for volunteer opportunities to help make our program a success, please email Felicity at felicitydevlin@yahoo.com

Reduce :: Reuse :: Recycle

Back to School Night



BBQ, Open House & Book Fair Tuesday, September 25th 5:30-8:00 p.m.

ALOHA! Dust off your brightest Hawaiian shirt or hula skirt... we're holding on to summer as long as we can! Mark your calendars for this fun family kickoff 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 in buying a book for your child's teacher), join PTA, buy some goodies at the **Bake Sale**, and have fun visiting with other school families.

The evening begins at 5:30 p.m. with a PTA sponsored BBQ in the lunchroom. Classrooms will be open from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Cross your fingers - if our sunny weather holds, we'll eat outside! Choose a hamburger, hot dog, or veggie burger, along with salad, fruit, chips, and a beverage. All for only \$5 per adult, \$4 per school-age child, and \$3 per preschooler! Detailed ticket and volunteering information will come home the 2nd week of school. Tickets have sold out before for the BBQ portion of the event so buy them early! We look forward to seeing you there!

Questions? Call Laurie Hunger 627-4582





Welcome Back to School!

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 pleasure that I write my first Cougar Tales article for the 2007-2008 school year. I am very excited to be entering my third year as the principal of Washington-Hoyt Elementary School. Walking into this lovely old building each day and around this through the hallways and classrooms is like walking into an older home - rich in tradition, warmth and built for stability and success. All of our students, staff and parents simply love their school!

Way to Go Washington-Hoyt students and teachers and parents! The 2007 Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) results are in and the percentage of students meeting the WASL standards in reading, writing and mathematics reflect your dedication and hard work in reaching for excellence for all students. The 2007 WASL scores:

Third Grade	
Reading	91% met the standard
Mathematics	79% met the standard
Fourth Grade	
Reading	88% met the standard
Mathematics	67% met the standard
Writing	78% met the standard
Fifth Grade	
Reading	78% met the standard
Mathematics	73% met the standard
Science	66% met the standard

We welcome the return of **Maria Ridenour** from Lagos. She is returning as the fourth/fifth split classroom teacher. We also welcome two guest teachers to start the 2007 school year in first and third grades. **Jane Eichner** will teach third grade, and **Jillian Daniels** will teach a class of first graders. Both are familiar faces at Washington-Hoyt, Mrs. Eichner taught fourth grade last year, and Ms. Daniels completed her student teaching in a third grade classroom.

We are truly a community of learners at Washington-Hoyt. Teachers have been attending FOSS Science, Writing workshops, Reading Street and Read Well Training. **Emmy Murphy** will begin her Administrative Internship this fall. She has been attending classes all summer and will continue her educational leadership classes during the 2007/2008 school year. **Stephanie Seberson** completed and submitted her work and portfolio to the National Teacher Certification Board and will begin work on her Master of Education degree at the University of Washington-Tacoma. **Toni Moore, Erin O'Donnell, Megan Gibson, and Heidi Ruud** will begin their preparing to receive their National Board Teaching Certification this school year.

We have more students enrolled at Washington-Hoyt than anyone here can remember - including more kindergarten students than anticipated. Three hundred and ninety six (396) precious students are enrolled so far for the 2007/2008 school year.

Finally, thank you to the parents who so graciously stuffed Friday packets on September 4 in order that all parents and families would receive pertinent information for the first week of school.

Sincerely,

Karen Fynboe
Principal

P.S. I will make a presentation regarding the Washington-Hoyt Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) data and how our students performed on the individual sections of the WASL at the first Coffee (and donuts) with the Principal on Monday, September 10 at 9 AM in the Washington-Hoyt cafeteria.

Meet the PTA

Presidents: Deb Llewellyn 752-1494
Juli Norris 756-9166
VP: Susan Ryan 759-7022
Secretary: Tonya Johnson 572-6301
Treasurer: Teresa Schmidt 759-4851
Shannon Rojecki 761-2010
Scrip: Liz Walle 752-0835
Pam Munizza 761-8919



Our First Meeting

Our first PTA meeting is on
September 11th at 7:00pm
in the Washington library.
Childcare for school-age children is available!

From the Presidents

On behalf of the PTA, we would like to welcome you back! Washington-Hoyt is a great school because of our committed teachers, staff, and parents like you. One of our goals this year as presidents is to get **you** involved. We have so many talented people at our school and we 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 11th, at 7pm in the Washington library. (We provide childcare for school-age children).

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

Back to School BBQ (9/25)
Sock Hop (4/11)
Celebration of Learning & Ice Cream Social (May)

Our Two Main Fundraisers are:

Sally Foster Gift Wrap (September)
Academic Triathlon (March)

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 us! We are looking forward to a great year! Let us know if you have any great ideas!

Your PTA Prez's,
Deb Llewellyn 752-1494 or 306-3765
Juli Norris 756-9166

Calendar at a Glance . . .

9/10	Coffee with the Principal Washington cafeteria, 9-10 am
9/11	PTA Meeting, with childcare available Washington Library, 7 pm
9/21	School Pictures!
9/24-28	School Book Fair
9/25	Back to School BBQ & Open House
9/28	Green Schools Assembly
10/8-10	School Conferences
10/11	No School--Staff Day
10/12	No School--State Inservice Day



Counselor's Corner

Welcome back to school! I hope all of you have had a relaxing and refreshing summer! The summer went by very quickly! 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 again this year. I am at Lowell Elementary on Wednesdays, Thursdays and every other Friday, at 571-7196. I am at Washington-Hoyt on Tuesdays and every other Friday, at 571-5726. 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 encourage you to call me again as your concerns and questions are important and I want to help in whatever way I can.

I know that the 2007-08 school-year be filled with excitement and positive learning experiences for you and your child. I look forward to meeting all of you and working with you and your child(ren). Should you have any concerns about school, your child, parenting, resources, or other concerns, please feel free to call me.

Walk to School Day



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 3rd.**

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 milk on the playground before school begins.

The kids love this! See you there!



Cat Tracks

GRRRRR! Calling all readers . . . Take the Cat Tracks Challenge!

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 geared up for a great year of reading.

Thanks PTA, for sponsoring Cat Tracks!



Book Fair

Get ready kids for the Book Fair Blizzard! We'll be open Monday, September 24th, to Friday, September 28th, during lunch and after school. Bring your nickels, dimes, quarters AND dollar bills.

On Tuesday, September 25th, 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:

Shannon Rojecki @ 761-2010
or Deb Llewellyn @ 752-1494



Fundraising & Other PTA News

Sally Foster Gift Wrap

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

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 over \$7,600 from this fundraiser alone!**

This great fundraiser has allowed the PTA to pay for teacher grants, student enrichment, playground equipment, garden planters, media products and other school improvement projects. The sale will run from September 7th-24th.

New this year, each family that turns in an order form with at least one completed order will have their name placed in a drawing for a gift basket. The gift basket will be on display at the open house BBQ.

Watch your child's backpack and Friday folders for more information. If you have any questions about the sale, please call **Jeanne Sacks (761-8474)** or **Shirley Phillips (759-9429)**.

Sally Foster

Scrip

Welcome to a new year of Washington-Hoyt scrip program. For those of you new to the scrip program, "Scrip" is a fancy word for "Gift Cards." Our PTA is able to purchase the gift cards from many retailers at a discount. WA-Hoyt families purchase and spend the gift cards at face value. This way, you are able to help earn money for our school without spending an extra dime!



Last year our profit for the scrip program was over \$7,000. We were able to purchase the new Accelerated Reader software for our school as well as many new science and other books for our library. We hope 2007-08 will be another successful year for scrip!

Our first order will be due September 17th. Please return your order to your child's teacher that Monday or deliver it to the scrip box in the office, no later than 3:00 p.m. The order will be delivered the next Friday, September 21st. To thank the families who participate in this first order, we will be having a random drawing with the prize being a \$25.00 gift certificate to Shell Oil. You will see that Shell is just one of the many new retailers on the list this year. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Liz Walle
752-0835 or wallefam5@msn.com

2008 Entertainment Books

Just \$20, what a deal! Support WA-Hoyt PTA and save up to 50% on Family Fun!

Our sale starts today, **September 7th**. Your child should have received a 2008 South Puget Sound Entertainment Book for you to peruse. Please show this sample book to family, friends and neighbors.



If you would like to purchase the book that came home with your child, please feel free to keep that copy at home and just send in your money to school in the order envelope. Make checks payable to WA-Hoyt PTA.

To order more books for yourself, friends or family, please fill out the envelope and I will get the books to you within a week of the sale end date.

The sale ends on **Monday, September 24th** -- please return your un-sold book and/or order envelope (along with payments) to school by this date.

Entertainment books have cost \$30 in the past. This year they are offering the same great book for just \$20. Perhaps you'd like to order a North Puget Sound Entertainment book for \$20 as well! Keep in mind that the school/group pricing for Entertainment books is always \$5 less than market value, including out-of-town books.

Last year we earned just over \$3,000 from this sale. This has helped the WA-Hoyt PTA to support arts and education enrichment projects (along with Sally Foster proceeds) for our kids.

If you have ANY questions, *please* feel free to contact me!
Tonya Johnson tnj318@yahoo.com or 572-6301

School Sweatshirts

Look for an order form coming home soon for school sweatshirts. We'll have some on display at Back to School Night, so you can check out designs and sizes. The deadline for ordering is Friday, September 28th, which allows for shirts to be delivered by the end of October. If you miss the first order, there is one additional sale in November, with delivery before winter break.

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



Chess Club



Chess Club is seeking a volunteer chess coach for the 2007-08 school year. Our previous coach, Scott MacDonald, needs to plan ahead and is focusing his attention on getting chess up and going at Mason for his oldest son. We will miss his leadership and appreciate all of his efforts. The remaining chess club

helpers will still be around to keep the sessions running smoothly, however we can not offer Chess Club without a coach. Help!!!!

If you know of anyone, such as, a grandparent, uncle, or college student that loves chess and teaching, please send them our way. For more information contact: Scott MacDonald 761-0369 or Susan Ryan 759-7022 sryan@harbornet.com

Cub Scouts



All boys grades 1 - 5 invited to join Cub Scout Pack 219! We meet a couple of times a month and do fun activities, games, and learning about our world. Our first Pack Meeting is Thursday, September 20th, 6:30-7:30pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church. We are having a "Welcome

to Scouting Carnival" and welcome any potential new scouts, but we are especially looking for 1st, 2nd and 3rd graders who are interested in camping, building, and trying new things. Flyers will be sent home with information, or you can call Scott MacDonald at 253-761-0369.

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

Cougar Website



I am looking forward to maintaining the Washington/Hoyt website for the new school year. The address for the PTA website is:

www.washingtonhoytcougars.org

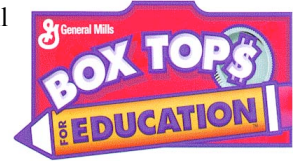
If you have any thoughts on how we can improve the site, please send me an email at rockybay@centurytel.net

Ron Yaden (Katie and Quentin's grandpa)
Website Coordinator

Box Tops

Hello everyone. I hope you have all had a great summer and have been clipping those box tops. Our first collection date of the year will be October 8th.

Thank you,
Ann Allegro
Box Tops Coordinator



Foreign Language Classes

The PTA offers a world language enrichment program before school. Recently we have offered classes in Spanish and French, and are considering expanding our program to include Chinese. But we need your help! If you are interested in working with the PTA on our language offerings, please contact Bridget Yaden at yadenlbe@plu.edu or 756-6755, or Deb Llewellyn at pie.alamode@yahoo.com. You don't need to know any Spanish, French, or Chinese - we just need people willing to help plan and volunteer to help coordinate the program! With your input and support, we can strengthen our unique program and help our students become even more globally minded and interested in other languages and cultures.

In Touch with Art, Call for Volunteers

In Touch with Art is a program sponsored by the PTA as part of academic enrichment. Parent volunteers prepare a brief art lesson and pair it with an engaging project. The kids impress themselves with what they create and can't wait until the next lesson. The program enhances the classroom art curriculum, introduces children to art history or art from around the world and gives them a chance to work with new materials and techniques. If you had the good fortune to tour the basement gallery during the Ice Cream Social last spring, you would have seen children's work done in the style of Claude Monet, Georges Seurat, Wassily Kandinsky, Andy Warhol and others.

Now is the time to sign up to volunteer for this noteworthy program! If you have an art background or a love of art, the ambition to prepare a lesson and love to work with kids, then you have the makings of a perfect volunteer for this program. We need one In Touch with Art volunteer for each classroom. A lesson once a month has always been the ideal, but this year we are aiming to accomplish a realistic goal of no less than two lessons in each class per year.

If you would like to be the volunteer for your child's class this year, please let me know! I will host a meeting the last week of September to help everyone get all the information needed. You can send me an email at saralaurence@hotmail.com or call me at 253-761-5174

Sara Sledge, In Touch with Art Coordinator

Library News

Hello and welcome back! I hope everyone had a great summer.



On a personal note I became a grandmother for the first time on June 15th. I have a wonderful little grandson named Michael. He has been the highlight of my summer. I have also been reading the new Harry Potter book. For those Harry Potter fans who haven't read it yet, it is a must read. Recommending good books is one feature that I would like to present in my newsletter this year. If you or your child has a great book that they would like to recommend I would love to present it in a recommended reading list each month in my newsletter. We could have a recommended section for adults, upper and lower elementary. So please send me your recommendations either through my "Swift" website which is a link on our school website or you can email me at mburkha@tacoma.k12.wa.us.

We have a new Library system this year. I will be teaching students to use the new catalog online, which they can also access from home, to search for books that they might want or need.

I am looking forward to another great year of learning and growth. Please contact me if you have any questions about the Library Program.

Sincerely,
Diane Burkhart-Kiss
Teacher Librarian

Miss Peggy Speaks

Safety first!

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 from 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.

I'm here to help you and your children--let's all work together for the safety of everyone!

Sincerely,
Miss Peggy

Volunteer at School

For the safety of all our students, every adult (parent, grandparent, aunt, or uncle) who would like to volunteer at Washington-Hoyt needs to submit a Volunteer Form. This includes anyone who chaperones field trips, volunteers in the classroom, or assists during recess and lunchtime activities. All high-school and college tutors who work in classrooms also need a volunteer form on file.

Every teacher will receive a list of parents and adults who have been approved to volunteer at Washington-Hoyt. If your name is not on that list, teachers will not allow you to volunteer in the classroom or chaperone field trips.

Volunteer Forms, which are good for two years, are available in the front office. The office has a list of names of people who are current volunteers. Please call Sandy Green in the front office at 571-2250 to clarify your status.



Thank you, Principal Karen Fynboe

Cougar Tales Joins the Green Effort

Cougar Tales is published once a month during the school year as a joint effort of the Washington-Hoyt PTA and school staff. Normally, to save paper, it is distributed to the eldest child in each family. Unfortunately, the newsletter deadline came before we had final published class lists, so everyone is getting one this first month. However . . .

During this first year of the Green Schools initiative, the Washington-Hoyt PTA is looking at ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle paper. To that end, we are working toward distributing the school newsletter **electronically** to as many families as possible. Currently, the newsletter is posted online each month as a PDF file. You may download the file from our site, www.washingtonhoytcougars.org, or if you are interested in receiving the PDF file directly, via e-mail, please send an e-mail to hollylara@mac.com requesting your own electronic copy. When you choose to receive the newsletter via e-mail, your child's name will be removed from the total copy count. Eventually, we hope to print as few copies as possible.

In the meantime, we are working on ways to make our website more user friendly and up-to-date so you can get current information without using more paper. Until then, stay informed the paper-free way by signing up for the e-Bulletin on the next page. Go Green with us!

Thank you,

Holly Lara, Cougar Tales Editor

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

Washington-Hoyt PTA Needs You!

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

(Return in your Friday Folder, or bring it to the front office)

Get Washington-Hoyt Info in your email inbox!

- Do you want up-to-date information about what is going on at Wa-Hoyt?
- Would you like the latest news, schedules, and activities delivered right to your email inbox?
- Then Washington-Hoyt has an e-bulletin available for you!

Please fill in your email address and return it to your child's teacher, or drop it off in the office or just drop a quick email to Anne below.

If you have any questions, please call Anne Tolland at 253.381.6811 or (preferably) annetolland@msn.com

If your email address has changed, please use this form to inform us of your new info.

**Sign me up for the
Washington-Hoyt
School e-Bulletin!**

(253)

Parent's Name and Phone #
(VERY IMPORTANT in case of email address problems)

Students Names and Grades

Parent's email-legibly please

