

Washington-Hoyt Elementary Cougar Tales



Issue #2, October 2008

Green Tips to Try at Home

The average school-age child throws away 67 pounds of packaging per year! Try packing lunches in a good, old-fashioned lunch box rather than paper bags. Also check out the new washable, reusable containers available to replace sandwich bags, foil and waxed paper. This will help Washington-Hoyt



meet its first goal as a Green School: to simply reduce our garbage.

One resource:

<http://www.reusablebags.com/>

Check out the Basura bags (made in the Philippines from recycled foil type juice boxes) and the Wrap-n-mat to wrap sandwiches.

Check this column every month to find a simple tip that can really add up to a big difference!

Students: would you like to have your green idea printed in Cougar Tales? Send in a simple thing that your family does to make the planet a little greener and we'll publish as many as we can. Email submissions to madeline@airs.com.

How much trash do we really generate?

Well, we have learned a lot about garbage since last year! Here are the results of some weighing and tallying we did, with the guidance of Enviro-Challenger last September:

10.5 large bags containing 120 pounds of trash with a volume of 160.5 gallons.

Over the course of the school year, that adds up to around 20,400 pounds of trash. That's 10 1/4 tons of materials we send off to the landfill!

The good news is that many of these materials are recyclable. and we learned about the types of paper, plastics, and cans we can recycle and the resources and energy we can save. For example, recycling one ton of paper saves 17 trees and 463 gallons of oil. And recycling just 23 aluminum cans saves 1 gallon of gasoline.

One of our first goals as a Green School is to increase our recycling rates. So let's get going—we can save a lot of resources and a lot of energy, not to mention landfill space!

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

Proctor Chocolate Festival

Chocolate Chip Pancake Breakfast

Washington-Hoyt, in conjunction with the PTA, will be hosting a Free (donation only) Chocolate Chip Pancake Breakfast on Saturday Oct. 11th, 8:30-11:00 in the school cafeteria. Over



the years the Business District and community has supported us by offering donations for special school events and gathered signatures for our SAVE OUR SCHOOL petition drive. PTA would like to show our thanks by hosting this event to coincide with the Chocolate Festival!

For more information or individuals interested in flipping pancakes and greeting guests or just helping in general, please contact: Laurie Hunger 627-4582.

PS: Electric griddles are needed!



Karen Fynboe

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 already October. Time moves quickly when we love what we do in this caring and supportive environment. The teachers, staff members and students at Washington-Hoyt are working diligently to meet the high standards and expectations for educational excellence. I love visiting classrooms, observing teachers teach and seeing students engaged in dynamic learning activities. Washington-Hoyt is a premier school and is chosen by our families for the excellent educational opportunities that are provided for children.

Student Behavior Expectations: The Washington-Hoyt teachers and staff set high standards for our students to be respectful, responsible and caring citizens of our community. We do realize students make mistakes at times; however, we use these times as teachable moments. In our effort to include families when your child breaks a rule that impacts the safety of other students, a student referral is sent home with the child. For the more serious infractions, the office referral is sent home on a half sheet of paper to be signed by the parent. A phone call home precedes the half-sheet written referral.

In an effort to recognize all students who follow school rules in the classroom and on the playground, who complete all homework and classroom assignments, and has less than two tardies for the month, Washington-Hoyt has a special recess, Cougar Recess, once a month to recognize those students.

Washington-Hoyt has implemented a Cougar Kindness Award. Teachers and staff members who observe a child showing an act of kindness to another student, may give that student an "act of kindness" coupon. At the end of each month, the principal draws the names of four students to go to the Round Table Pizza for lunch.

Uniforms: This is a reminder about our uniform policy. A few students are coming to school with incomplete uniforms. Students not in compliance with school policy will be sent to the office and asked to change to correct uniform attire. Your assistance in checking your child's uniform before leaving home will be very much appreciated. If you have any questions regarding the school uniform policy, please call the office at (253) 571-5700 for clarification.

Absences: We ask for your cooperation in seeing that your child attends school every day that he or she is able. Absence from school creates a hardship for both the teacher and student. Please call (253) 571-5700 before 9:00 A.M. if your student is going to be absent from school. According to law, the school is required to have a written excuse by the parent or guardian when a student is absent for any reason. The note should explain the purpose of the absence and dates of the absence. All students who are absent less than five days during the entire school year will receive an Excellent Attendance Award at the Awards Assembly during the last week of school.

Tardiness: We also need your help in seeing that your children arrive at school on time. School begins at 9:00 A.M. Learning begins the moment students walk through the classroom door with an opening activity while teachers take attendance and lunch counts. **Not only is your student negatively impacted by tardiness, but the entire class at these times of interruption often needs to adjust for late arriving students.**

After School Pick-Up: Parents, grandparents and guardians and their preschool age children may wait on the playground for school to be dismissed. After dismissal all students must have a parent or adult on the playground before they are allowed on the big toy or to play any kind of ball game. Students who have not been picked up by 3:45 P.M. will need to be picked up in the Washington school office.

Middle school students, high school students and home-school students who pick up younger siblings at Washington-Hoyt with parent permission need to remain outside the playground fence until the 3:30 P.M. bell rings.

Students who are older than our kindergarten through fifth grade students who are not picking up younger siblings should go home.

Parents who believe that their middle school students are safe and being monitored by Washington-Hoyt personnel need to know that the last two weeks there have been problems with these students littering, wrestling, smoking, using vulgar language, blocking the sidewalks and intimidating others around our school grounds. Our first priority is, and must be, the safety of our Washington-Hoyt students before, during and after school. Tacoma School District Security officers and the Tacoma Police Department have been notified of our concerns and will be making rounds of school facilities on a regular basis.

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(continued from page 2)

Please keep reading with and to your children every night. 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 will continue to make Washington-Hoyt the very best place for excellence in teaching and learning!

Sincerely,
Karen Fynboe, Principal

Walk to School Day October 8th, 2008

Are you ready to walk? Are you ready to have fun?

Washington-Hoyt is participating in the International Walk-to-School day for the 8th consecutive year.

Leave your cars at home, and put your sneakers on. We will be meeting across the street from Washington at Wheelock Library at 8:30, walk across the street to school, and enjoy some wonderful treats!!

Safety Reminders

from the Tacoma School District Public Information Office

Personal Safety Tips

- Do not talk to strangers
- Do not walk alone and walk in groups of two or more
- Never get into a vehicle with a stranger—fight, shout, scream, kick, bite, run and tell
- Never take anything a stranger offers you—do not accept candy, food or money from a stranger
- Do not walk alone in the dark

- Stay away from lonely places—do not go alone into deserted buildings, empty parking lots or places where there are few people around
- Remain on school grounds during school hours
- Immediately tell responsible adults about any suspicious activities or people encountered to or from school and give as many details as possible

Walking Safety Tips

- Look left, right and left again before crossing the street
- Always cross at a crosswalk or intersection
- Obey traffic signals
- Children younger than 10 years old should be supervised by an adult when around motor vehicles
- Make sure drivers see you when they're backing out of a driveway
- Determine the safest route with parents

Bicycle Riding Safety Tips

- Wear a helmet
- Do not ride with headphones
- Obey traffic signs and signals
- Follow lane markings
- Never ride against traffic
- Cross at a crosswalk or intersection
- Make sure drivers see you



Counselor's Corner

Wow, the beginning of this school year is flying by! As fall fast approaches and students settle into the routine of school, I will begin teaching in classrooms. This year the third graders will learn about taunting, bullying and gossiping, and

appropriate ways to handle these difficulties. I will also be teaching the Get Real About Violence (GRAV) program. GRAV teaches students how to identify violence (emotional, physical, etc.) and it gives a variety of non-violent tools students can use in response to name calling, teasing or bullying. GRAV also provides effective plans students can implement to help those who cannot defend themselves in such situations. This program also stresses the importance of safety and turning to an adult for help when a situation appears to be getting out of hand. I have

received several requests from parents asking that students be taught how to use appropriate and safe behaviors in reacting to teasing or bullying. The Get Real About Violence program is an effective tool for teaching these ideas and I use materials from it in the other grades as well. My hope is that this material will be an extension of what you are already teaching your child(ren).

Small groups will also be starting this month. Parents will be notified and their approval sought before their child is placed in a group. Please remember that I do ask some children to be in groups as models of appropriate behavior or good social skills so students can learn from one another.

If you have any questions about these or any other programs I teach, please feel free to call me at 571-5726. I am at Washington-Hoyt on Tuesday and every other Friday. I look forward to meeting and working with you and your child(ren) this year.

Mary McGlone

PTA News

Scrip

We're off to a running start with the Washington-Hoyt scrip program. Thank you to the 31 families who ordered from our first order! We've had a few new retailers join our program this month, including Subway, Arby's and Michaels. Our upcoming order dates are November 3rd and 17th. The November 3rd order date will most likely be your last chance to order all the grocery store cards you need for Thanksgiving dinner!

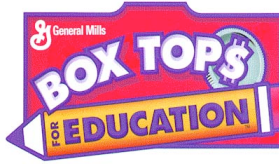


When you send your scrip orders in with your students, please remind them to give it to their teacher. Teachers do not go through backpacks, so if your child forgets to turn in the order by Monday afternoon we may not be able to fill your order in time. There is a scrip box in the office where orders may be dropped off also.

Liz Walle
752-0835 or Wallefam5@comcast.net

Box Tops

Box tops will be collected on Thursday, October 9th. Be sure to send in any you have with your child by that date. Thank you, Ann Allegro, Box Tops Coordinator



useful paperless tool in our ongoing green efforts. Come visit us online!

Teaching Toys

Teaching Toys annual School Fundraiser is October 15th, from 6 PM to 9 PM. If you tell the cashier that you are from Washington-Hoyt Elementary, 15% of the sale will come back to our school! Do some holiday shopping early and earn funds for our school. Use scrip and maximize our profits, while supporting a wonderful store in our community!

PTA Officers

Presidents:	Deb Llewellyn	752-1494
	Juli Norris	756-9166
VP:	Laurie Hunger	627-4582
Secretary:	Alison Hoseth	761-9730
Treasurer:	Amy Mackey	627-6135
	Shannon Rojecki	761-2010
Scrip:	Liz Walle	752-0835
	Pam Munizza	761-8919

Our Next Meeting

Our next PTA meeting is on October 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Washington library. Childcare for school-age children is available!

New PTA Website www.wahoyt.org

Our website has changed! The PTA has a brand new site for your use and information headquarters. Our old address (www.washingtonhoytcougars.org) will automatically redirect you to the school's district-sponsored pages, but this new domain is exclusively for the PTA. Our Website Coordinator, Megan Boly is working to make it user-friendly and full of helpful information. E-mail Megan at megan@mcboly.org if you have ideas or suggestions for the site.

Please bookmark this address in your favorite browser! One of its best features is the **calendar**. Every event at school is posted here, and it is updated almost instantly if ever something is added to the schedule. You can view an entire month at a time to see what's coming up . . . stay in the know!

You can also go to www.wahoyt.org to apply for PTA membership and sign up for the weekly eBulletin. Our website is a great resource for families, and we hope it will become a



Message from the Presidents...

What a great 1st month of school we have had! We just want to thank everyone who has given so many volunteer hours this month! We have had several events and all of them have been well attended and well staffed. We have had our first PTA meeting with a bunch of new attendees. Our membership enrollment has been awesome! If you haven't joined already, simply download a membership form from our website and send it to school with your child. September closed with us having our main fundraiser, the sweatshirt sale, coffee with the principal; chess club starting, our fall book fair and back to school night. We saw so many smiles this month. The children have really enjoyed all of these activities.

October brings many more fun events. We will be having our 2nd PTA meeting, Walk to School Day, The 2nd annual Chocolate Chip Pancake Breakfast to help celebrate with the Proctor district in their Chocolate Festival. All are welcome! There are Spanish and French language classes starting and the after school art program. Please visit our website for detailed information about these programs. You will be surprised and excited to see what is being offered! We will also have our annual Chalet Bowl Takeover. Look for more information coming soon!

Our next meeting is in the Washington library, Tuesday, October 14th, from 7-8 p.m. (free supervised childcare is provided). However, if you're not the meeting type, or if your schedule cannot accommodate even one more activity, there are other ways to support the PTA's work:

Here Are Some Ways You Can Support the Washington-Hoyt PTA

Join PTA: Your membership dues (\$10) help us out a great deal. A portion of your dues supports leadership training and a legal voice at the local, regional, and state, and even national levels. The other part stays here at Washington-Hoyt primarily to support our teacher grant program.

Buy Scrip: Scrip is a pretty painless way to support PTA--you can buy gift certificates for your groceries, renting movies, home improvement projects, clothes shopping, or an evening out. You pay nothing additional--it's just a matter of thinking ahead! Scrip Forms come home in the Friday Folder twice a month. Try it out! The majority of Scrip proceeds goes towards new library books and AR materials (\$5000 each year!).

Attend school functions: It takes a lot of work to put together events for over 390 kids and their parents. If you can't volunteer your time to plan or help out, please show your school support by coming! This year we are sponsoring: Back to School Night Open House & BBQ, Round Table Pizza takeovers in the fall and spring, The Academic Triathlon in March, Missoula Children's Theater in February, Read Across America Day, the Sock Hop and the Celebration of Learning Ice Cream Social. We are also bringing in several academic enrichment programs paid for by the Triathlon proceeds!

Read this! Yes, by reading Cougar Tales every month, you're supporting our PTA! To be informed is to be involved- and there just may be something you would just love to be a part of!

Thank a PTA volunteer: Those folks who are always at school or that know your child's name--chances are they're PTA volunteers. When someone sells you cookies at a bake sale, packages your wrapping paper order, emails you weekly school updates, serves you pizza or a burger, or takes your money at the book fair--show

them you appreciate their efforts. We don't want volunteering at our school to be a thankless job!

If you have any great ideas or questions please give us a call. We forward to seeing you on Tuesday PTA Meeting!

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



l o o k
at the

Cat Tracks Begins!

The Cat Tracks reading program began October 1st. This PTA sponsored program encourages all students to read for a minimum of 15 minutes a day for at least 25 days out of each month. Students will receive a Cat Tracks calendar each month from their teacher. Please mark off one day or block as the child completes a reading session. Remember, only one box per day may be marked off even if the reading time exceeds 15 minutes. After completing the required number of reading days in a month, send the completed calendar by the due date and the student will receive a Cat Track incentive prize. The calendar **MUST** be signed for it to be valid. Students will receive another calendar for the next month.

P.S. You may notice that your calendar is smaller this year. In an effort to support our Green Schools campaign, we reduced the size of the calendar....Therefore..we reduced our waste! Yeah!
If you have any questions, please call..DEB@752-1494

5th Grade Camp

Fifth grade camp at Camp Seymour is November 12-14. If you have not received the blue note with camp and payment info please see the front office. We will be having a parent informational meeting on Tuesday, October 21st from 6-7 in the cafeteria. If you would like to be a parent cabin leader, please let us know at the meeting. Please come with your questions!





Ella Munizza, Katherina Mead and Mack Willy, three students from Washington-Hoyt, organized a Yard Sale for Peace in August to raise money for the Soldier and Family Assistance Center at Fort Lewis.

Ella had been talking for some time about helping out the troops, and was quite concerned about the soldiers that have courageously served our country. She was especially concerned about Katherina's father, who was working in Iraq, but is now safely at home.

Ella's eventual idea to help the troops was to have a yard sale. She spearheaded the efforts and asked Katherina Mead and Mack Willy if they would be interested in helping. They both agreed and a date was set in August. Ella made fliers asking for donations and passed them out to many of the families of her peers. Over the weekend of the sale, they were able to raise over \$900.

All of the profits were donated to the Soldier and Family Assistance Center (SFAC) at Fort Lewis. The Soldier and Family Assistance Center is in partnership with the Warrior Transition Battalion (WTB) and supports wounded soldiers and their families.

The SFAC at Fort Lewis has been providing support to soldiers since September 2007. SFAC is where Warriors in Transition can meet and get assistance to help heal physical, mental, and spiritual wounds.

First Sergeant Clark and Command Sergeant Major Jim Davis invited Ella, Katherina, and Mack out to a lunch BBQ where they presented the WTB a check. For their efforts and to show their appreciation, First Sergeant Clark and Command Sergeant Major Jim Davis thanked Ella, Katherina, and Mack with certificates of appreciation while hundreds of participants applauded their generous offer.

Washington-Hoyt can be proud to have such young philanthropists representing them and their community.



Would you like to see the name of a teacher, staff member, student, parent, volunteer, etc. in our **Way to Go!** column? Send us your submissions for folks who deserve some recognition and we'll publish it here. E-mail the editor at Madeline@airs.com.

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.

Currently, the newsletter will be distributed electronically via email to those who have signed up. In addition, it is posted online each month as a PDF file, so **you can read it as well if you check online!**

Did you know that one ream of copy paper (500 sheets) uses 6% of a tree?*

This year's first edition of the Washington-Hoyt Cougar Tales reduced our paper usage by over 800 sheets of paper just by shortening its length. But we are excited to know that because we are going all electronic with the distribution of **Cougar Tales**, we will be saving hundreds of trees each year, not to mention the ink, staples, and time it takes to distribute the letter.

If you are interested in receiving the PDF file directly, via e-mail, please send an e-mail to madeline@airs.com requesting your own electronic copy. Many trees will thank you!

Thank you,

Green Newsletters
Requested: 85

Madeline Ross, Cougar Tales Editor

(*recycling facts: <http://www.oberlin.edu/recycle/facts.html>)

Do you have an idea about improving our 'going green' efforts? We would love to hear them. Please email your submissions to our editor at Madeline@airs.com

Next submission deadline will be October 25, 2008

PTA-Sponsored World Language Program at Washington-Hoyt!

We are making plans for our first 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 October 10th to the Washington-Hoyt PTA. We will group students up by grade and language background for each class.

The 9-week session will begin **MONDAY, OCTOBER 13 (Spanish), and TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14 (French)**. Please fill out the enrollment form below and return it to school with your child as soon as you can, but no later than October 10. 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.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Hope Willy 761-0622 or thewillys@net-venture.com

**LANGUAGE PROGRAM ENROLLMENT FORM - WASHINGTON-HOYT PTA Fall 2008
PREREGISTRATION REQUIRED - DEADLINE OCTOBER 7, 2008**

Child's name: _____ Grade: _____

Child's teacher: _____

Parent/Guardian Name & Phone Number: _____

_____ Spanish: Monday-Wednesday, 8:00am-8:45 am in the Washington library \$70 (Beginning Monday, OCTOBER 13, 2007 and ending Monday, December 15, 2007)

_____ French: Tuesday-Thursday, 8:00am-8:45am in the Washington library \$70 (Beginning Tuesday, OCTOBER 14, 2007 and ending Tuesday, December 16, 2007)

___Yes, I can volunteer! Your name & phone # _____

(if you can volunteer for the entire 9-weeks, your child can attend for free - one-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.