

Washington-Hoyt Elementary Cougar Tales



Back to School Edition

September 2008

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 warm and bountiful pleasure I welcome you to the 2008/2009 school year. We have had a terrific beginning. This year we added 30 minutes to the school day. The new school hours for student are 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Both students and teachers are adjusting well to the lengthened day.

Linda Boitano has decided to conclude her 37 years of outstanding service and teaching kindergarten children in the Tacoma School District. It is with sadness for the Washington-Hoyt community and for me personally as principal to announce that she is retiring. However, it is also a time to celebrate and thank, Linda, for the wonderful years she has given to our children and families.

We welcome to some new faces this school year. Robert Clements is teaching third grade, replacing Megan Gibson who will be spending the year on leave with her new baby. Mr. Clements is a University of Puget Sound graduate. He student taught in third grade and completed his first year of teaching a fourth/fifth split at Point Defiance. He also coaches football at UPS.

Also, new to Washington-Hoyt is Heather Stewart is teaching kindergarten at Hoyt for Hope Willy who will also be on leave for the 2008/2009 school year. Ms. Stewart began her career as a para-educator at Crescent Heights prior to completing her teaching certificate. She taught all-day kindergarten at Mary Lyon for the past two years.

Finally, welcome Michelle Pedee as a new kindergarten teacher at Washington-Hoyt. Mrs. Pedee completed two teaching internships at Washington-Hoyt as well as completing her student teaching experience in Mr. Allegro's fourth grade classroom. Mrs. Pedee worked at the Pearl Street Family YMCA prior to completing her public school teachers' certification requirements for teachers in the state of Washington. Many of the Washington-Hoyt students have had Mrs. Pedee as a swim instructor at the Tacoma YMCA.

Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) Results

Washington-Hoyt's Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) scores demonstrated substantial gains in third grade reading and math, fourth grade writing and fifth grade reading. Other scores were within three percentage points of the 2007 results.

	Reading	Mathematics	Writing	Science
3rd Grade	95%	88%		
4th Grade	83%	65%	88%	
5th Grade	89%	72%		64%

Thank you for all you do every day, every week and all through the year for our students, faculty, staff and community. Washington-Hoyt is a wonderful place to teach and learn.

Sincerely,
Karen Fynboe, Principal

The next Coffee with the Principal is Friday, October 3 from 9 – 10 AM. Thank you to all of you who attended the first Coffee with the Principal this year - thirty parents and grandparents attended. It is wonderful to meet all of you parents as well as getting to know all of the students at Washington-Hoyt.

Washington-Hoyt is Greener than Ever!

This school year, Washington-Hoyt is continuing a Green Schools program. Last year, with the help of EnviroChallenger John Inch and Bill Smith, senior environmental specialist for the City of Tacoma, we expanded our recycling efforts, decreasing the amount of paper we use, and reducing the amount of waste we send to the landfill. We are looking forward to further expanding our



GREEN SCHOOLS

Green Schools programs are already established across the country. There's a Green Schools program in neighboring King County. But we were 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 continue our efforts on solid waste reduction. As first steps, we needed to know exactly how much waste we were producing! We counted and weighed the bags of trash we produced on each of those days. The results gave us a starting point against which we will continue to measure our progress.

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 30th
5:30-8:00 p.m.**

Come to an evening of fun and meet Washington-Hoyt families and teachers at the back to school **BBQ**. we're holding on to summer as long as we can! Mark your calendars for this fun family kickoff of the school year.

Enjoy a **BBQ dinner**, visit your child's classroom and meet their teachers, join PTA, buy some goodies at the **Bake Sale**, and have fun visiting with other school families. And buy some books at the book fair and support our school and reading!

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

Meet the PTA

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



From the Presidents

Hello, we hope you had a wonderful summer! Of course it's hard to believe that it went by so quickly and that here we are again!

Our first PTA meeting was September 9th at 7pm in the Washington Library. And for future meetings, we even provide child care for school age children. We truly hope as many people as possible can come and support our PTA. Even if you only come to one meeting, please feel free. You can support the PTA in many ways, and if you aren't able to come to meetings, you can still join (just fill out the membership form with \$10) and be supportive in whatever ways work for you. We know there are a lot of talented parents and teachers out there, and we look forward to your ideas and enthusiasm!!

As usual we kick off the year with the Back To School BBQ/Open House on September 30th. This is a fun event, always enjoyed by everyone, so don't miss it!! Also, The Sally Foster Fall fundraiser began September 5th; you should already have the information. This is a great fundraiser that benefits the whole school and provides high quality products. Sweatshirts with the school logo are on sale for the whole month; order forms have come home, too, and also are available in the hallway at the main entrance. As always, **PTA minutes** are available to review on our website.

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

- Back to School BBQ (9/30)
- Washington-Hoyt Pancake Breakfast (October)
- The famous Washington-Hoyt Sock Hop (April)
- Celebration of Learning (May)
- The Missoula Children's Theater (February or March)
- The Academic Triathlon

Our Two Main Fundraisers are:

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

Other On-going Fundraisers are:

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

Questions? Please call us. As your **PTA Co-Presidents**
We'd love to hear from you.

Deb Llewellyn 752-1494 or 306-3765
Juli Norris 756-9166

Calendar at a Glance . . .

- 9/26 School Pictures!**
- 9/30 Back to School BBQ & Open House**
- 10/7-9 School Conferences**
- 10/6 No School/Staff Day**
- 10/10 No School/State Inservice**



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

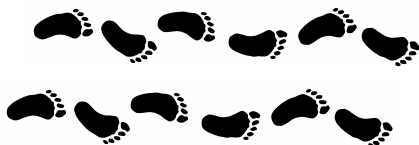
year, let me introduce myself, I am Mary McGlone, the school counselor. I write the **Counselor's Corner** monthly to inform you about the activities I am planning for your child. With assistance from the district Guidance Office and in compliance with the state curriculum requirements, I have developed 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 2008-09 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



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 eighth year. This year, the date will be **Wednesday, October 8th**.

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!

INTERNATIONAL



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 "big" school Cat Tracks lady, you know her as Aunty Deb, or the "little" school Cat Tracks lady, you know her as Miss Ellen, 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 This!



Book Fair

Get ready kids for the Book Fair Safari! We'll be open Monday, September 29th, to Friday, October 3rd, during lunch and after school. Bring your nickels, dimes, quarters AND dollar bills.

On Tuesday, September 30th, 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



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) have brought 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 \$5,400 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 5th-22nd.

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)**. 

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 2008-09 will be another successful year for scrip!

Our first order will be due September 15th. 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. You will see that Shell is just one of the many new retailers on the list. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have.

Liz Walle
752-0835 or wallefam5@comcast.com

2 0 0 9 Entertainment Books



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

Our sale started, **September 5th**. Your child should have received a 2009 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 22th** -- 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!
Kathy Spurrell 253-761-8983 or kspurrell@wamail.net

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 September 26th, 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.

Classroom Parents are Needed!

We are in need of Classroom Parents. Being a classroom parent gives you the opportunity to have first hand fun in planning various classroom events. Classroom Parents are an invaluable resource for the teachers. Interested? Please contact Laurie Wilcox at 253-620-5678 or mswilcox@hotmail.com

Cougar Website

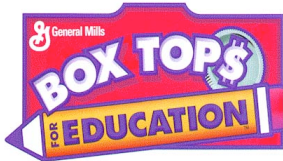


The PTA has a fresh, new look! Check it out at www.wahoyt.org. We are working hard to make this PTA website your user-friendly headquarters for the latest information. We are just beginning, but we will be adding fresh, informative features throughout the

year. We even have added some historical photos of the school, but it doesn't stop there! There's lots so far, so please check it out and be amazed! Our new website coordinator, Megan McHugh Boly would love your input about ideas. Megan@mcboly.org.

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



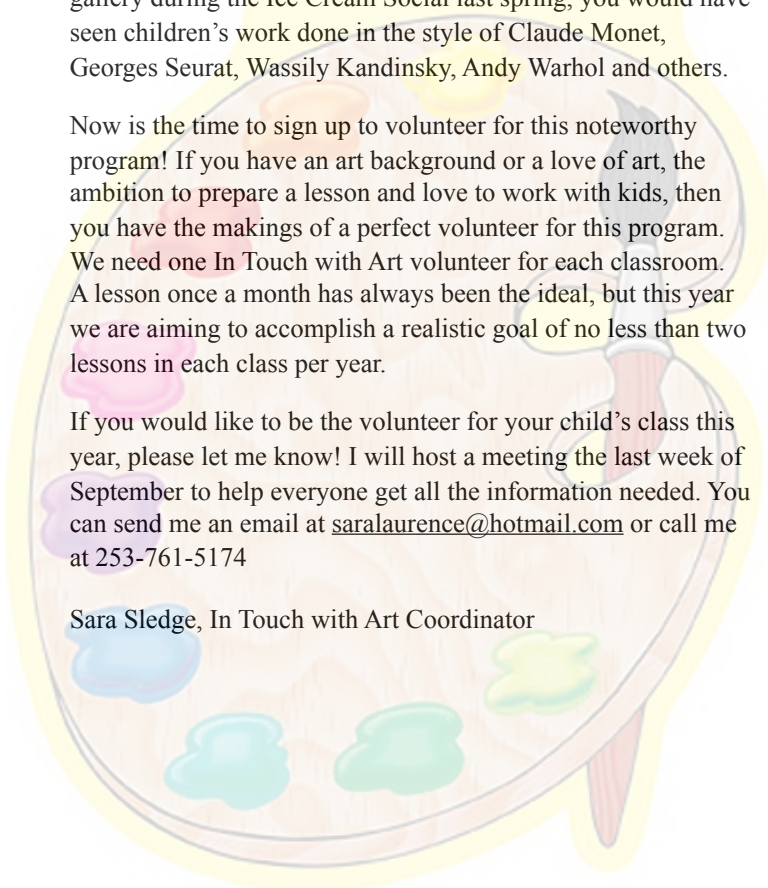
In Touch with Art, Call for Volunteers

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.

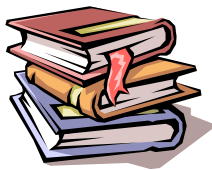
If you would like to be the volunteer for your child's class this year, please let me know! I will host a meeting the last week of September to help everyone get all the information needed. You can send me an email at saralaurence@hotmail.com or call me at 253-761-5174

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. In the past, it has been distributed as a hard copy to the eldest child in the family at school. BUT, this year things are going to be different!

Washington-Hoyt is part of the Green Schools initiative, and the Washington-Hoyt PTA has been looking at ways to reduce, reuse, and recycle paper. To that end, we are, for the first time, launching the school newsletter completely **electronically** for the remainder of the school year. Please look for an email sign up sheet at the end of this newsletter. In years past, and continuing on, the newsletter is also posted online each month as a PDF file. You may download the file from our site, www.wahoyt.org.

This is an exciting step for us at Washington-Hoyt, giving us the opportunity to reduce the amount of paper and other resources we use as a school, which ultimately decreases waste and what goes in our landfills. We are looking forward to making this step! You can email me directly to be put on the list of receiving Cougar Tales electronically, or you can sign up by filling out the last page of THIS newsletter and returning it to your child's teacher. Madeline@airs.com

Thank you,

Madeline Ross, Cougar Tales Editor

Contributions, suggestions or comments can be emailed to madeline@airs.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!

- ~Would you like 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?
- ~How about last minute changes or emergency info?

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 Deb Llewellyn at Pie.alamode@yahoo.com or call 253.752.1494

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

Sign me up!

_____ () _____

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

Students Names and Grades

Parent's email-legibly please

