



Washington Elementary September 2015

1401 Washington Street, Wenatchee, WA 98801 509.662.5504
<http://www.wenatcheeschools.org/wa/>



From the Principal's Desk

Dear Washington Elementary School Families,

It is my honor to welcome you to Washington Elementary and the 2015-2016 school year. This promises to be a year of growth and excitement for all connected with our school.

Our staff is committed to providing a quality educational experience for all our students. This will be accomplished by a team effort with parents, teachers and other school staff along with eager hard working learners. Together we will develop an educational environment that nurtures each of our children while working to ensure success at high levels. I urge you to become involved in the school and its activities so that together we can demonstrate to your child the importance and significance of a successful school experience. Schools that have proven to be most effective in helping students achieve have strong relationships between home and school.

As you know, we are faced with the challenge of construction on our campus this year. While this is a wonderful event that is much needed, it will test our flexibility and resolve. In particular, when addressing the issue of student drop-off and pick-up all of us must do our part for the safety of students. Earlier this summer, I sent home a letter that outlined the guidelines for drop-off, pick-up and parking. Please know that we do not have parking on campus unless you have a disabled parking permit. Parent parking is available at Grace Lutheran Church in the front lot – the back lot is reserved for Washington Elementary staff and requires a parking permit. Student drop-off and pick-up will take place with southbound traffic next to the curb on Elliott Street. If at all possible, we ask that you avoid Elliott Street. If you choose to drive on Elliott Street just before or after school, expect slower than usual traffic. Bus drop-off and pick-up remains in the same location in front of the Special Education building. I urge all those transporting students to please use your best judgment by following all traffic laws and increasing your awareness of children at crosswalks and sidewalks.

The staff and I are extremely proud of our school, our students and our community. Thank you for your commitment to working together for the benefit of children.

In Partnership,

Keith Collins,
Principal

Dates To Remember

September 16 th	PTSA Meeting 5:15pm
September 18 th	3 rd Grade Salmon Festival Field Trip
September 23 rd	5 th Grade Beauty of the Bronze Field Trip
September 24 th	Author Visit
September 29 th	Kindergarten Curriculum Night 6:00pm



Reminders to Parents

Attendance - Please call the Washington School office when students are absent (662-5504). To help ensure the safety of all our students, parents need to call any time their child is home ill or not in school. You may leave a message on our answering machine before 7:30 a.m. A call before 8:30 a.m. will save time for both the school and home. We will consider a student unexcused unless we receive a call from you. Students must check into the office upon return to school and must have a note to excuse their absence if a parent has not called. Salad bar is available for lunch for those students who are late to school, as the hot lunch count goes to Food Services at 8:20 each morning.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT FOR SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Wenatchee School District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained guide dog or service animal by a person with a disability, in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. This holds true for all staff and for students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. Inquiries may be directed to RCW Officer/ADA Coordinator and Executive Director of Human Resources, Lisa Turner. Issues related to 504 and Title IX directed to Mark Helm, Executive Director of Student Services.

PTSA Podium

Your PTSA is a collaborative of Parents, Teachers and Students whose goals include:

- To provide enriching activities for the entire student body of Washington Elementary School
- To inform parents about and involve them in their child's education
- To advocate for effective policies

We have some great activities lined up for the year: WE CARE assembly and Family Night, Pacific Science Center, Missoula Children's Theatre, Family Math Night, Family Craft Night and STEAM Activities.

These & other activities are provided by the PTSA via fundraising activities including Box Tops, Labels for Education and our fall coupon book fundraiser.

First meeting of the year is on Wednesday, September 16th at 5:15pm at the school. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Come and find out what we're up to!!

Please feel free to contact us at wapsa@gmail.com or sararolfs@nwi.net. Welcome to the new year!



School Volunteers

We love our volunteers at Washington. However, before you begin volunteering in our classrooms you will need to submit a volunteer application and photo ID at the **Wenatchee Learns Connect Center**. If you completed the volunteer process last school year, you do not need to do anything this school year.

Please plan ahead as you cannot volunteer until the application has been received by Wenatchee Learns and your clearance has been processed. Questions? Please contact Wenatchee Learns Connect at 888-2828.

Counselors Corner

Back to school time is here! This exciting time of year is full of changes; new classrooms, new teachers, new pencils...etc. As fun and thrilling as starting school is, it can be a stressful time for both kids and their families. Transitioning back to school is a challenging task for many of our kids. Summer tends to be a very unstructured time for many children. Bed time, wake up time, meal & snack times are all pretty flexible which leads kids to just going with the flow. School is just

the opposite. There's a very specific schedule and a lot of expectations. This takes a huge amount of energy and engagement. That can be a tough transition if you've had the summer off living on your own schedule.

Being tired makes school even more challenging. Tired kids are more irritated, sensitive, and have difficulty focusing. In order to help students be prepared for school they need to start getting to bed early enough so they can get 10 or more hours of sleep. Does your child spring out of bed in the morning or do they need more time to wake up slowly? Do they need their own alarm or does a parent waking up work best? These are a few things to consider when setting the wake up time so mornings run smoothly.

Arriving to school late is stressful for everyone. Teachers start teaching as the bell rings, students coming in late miss the teacher's welcome and first set of directions. Plan ahead so your child has plenty of time to get out the door on time. If you drive your child, make sure you consider all the other school traffic and allow to drop off in the designated areas. If you pick up your child, this is a great time to have a designated pick up spot so there's less confusion after school.

For my family there are just too many of us to have much go wrong before it's chaos in the morning. How many times have we been tardy to school due to the single lost shoe of one of the kids? We have to have a lot ready the night before. Backpacks, outfits and shoes need to be laid out and ready to go. If we're really on our game, we have lunches packed the night before. Determining if it's easiest to have children bathe or shower in the morning or the night before also helps. Preparation the night before give us a little more cushion in the morning and takes away most of the nonstop reminders and countdown to departure to school.

The goal is to work towards a routine that gives your family the smoothest mornings possible. Decrease everyone's stress by getting enough sleep, being organized the night before, and leaving for school on time.

If you're worried current life circumstances may impact your child at school or your child is really struggling with returning to school, consider talking with someone at school who can help. Sharing your concerns with a teacher, counselor or principal helps the staff support your child more effectively at school.

Aaron MacKenzie
Counselor