



Washington Elementary

May 2018



1401 Washington Street, Wenatchee, WA 98801 509.662.5504
<http://wash.wsd.wednet.edu>

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Washington Elementary School Families,

May 7-11 is Teacher Appreciation Week. This week is set aside to recognize those with whom we expect so much and who deliver even more – our teachers!

While I am sure we desire that our teachers feel appreciated each and every day, I would like to encourage our families to take a few moments to thank their teacher for their loyal and dedicated service to the students and community they serve.

Washington Elementary School is an exceptional place to work and learn because of those who work here. Teachers are important and integral members of our staff and we need to express how much we appreciate the work they do to provide the best for our children.

Each of the Washington teachers lead student achievement by encouraging, challenging, motivating and inspiring each student to learn at high levels. And, as parents, it must be a relief to know that when you send your children to Washington Elementary School, they will be provided with the best possible educational experiences.

As principal of this outstanding, award winning school, I am extremely proud to say that I work with such a wonderful group of professionals and I count it a privilege to serve as their principal.

Please join me in taking time to show your appreciation that teachers so richly deserve for the example they set for children of the value of a quality education, of showing respect, solving problems and making good and safe decisions – I believe they do it better than anyone!

In partnership,

Keith Collins
Principal

Dates To Remember

- May 2 First Grade Field Trip
- May 4 No School
- May 7-11 Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 9 PTSA Meeting 6:00pm
- May 15 Kinder Field Trip
- May 17 First & Second Grade Field Trip
- May 17 All District Track Meet
- May 18 Third Grade Field Trip
- May 22 Third Grade Field Trip
- May 23rd District Arts Festival
- May 24th First Grade Music Program 6:30pm
- May 25th PTSA Spirit Day–Hawaiian Day
- May 28 Memorial Day – No School
- May 31 Fourth Grade Field Trip

Reminder for Next Year



Are you moving over the summer or are you choosing to have your child attend a different school next year? If so, please let us know as soon as possible. We are working on next year's class scheduling at this time.

NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT FOR SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS AND PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Wenatchee School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: **Title IX Coordinator, Section 504/ADA Coordinator** Mark Helm, Executive Director of Student Services helm.m@wenatecheschools.org 235 Sunset Ave, Wenatchee WA, 98801 509.663.8161. **Civil Rights Compliance Coordinators** Mark Helm, Executive Director of Student Services (students) helm.m@wenatecheschools.org Lisa Turner, Executive Director of Human Resources (staff) turner.l@wenatecheschools.org 235 Sunset Ave, Wenatchee WA, 98801 509.663.8161

PTSA Podium

May 9th is our final General Membership meeting of the year! Please join us and give us your thoughts/ideas on projects for next year! We will also be voting in the new Board of Directors for the 2018/2019 school year. May 9th at 6:00pm in the Library.

Don't forget to give your Teachers some love for Teacher Appreciation Week May 7-11th. Your PTSA will be hosting a Taco Truck lunch for them on Thursday!

June 5th is the All School BBQ and we have a lot going on that day!

The BOGO Book Fair is from 8am-3pm in the Gym. Be sure to swing in and stock up!

We are looking for volunteers to help staff the book fair. Please email us at waptsa@gmail.com if you're interested in helping out!

Our Silent Auction will also be happening in the gym! Bid often and bid high! All money goes back to support programs in the school. Your teachers will be sending information home soon on how you can help us gather items for the baskets.

Field Day is BACK! Your PTSA will be putting on a super fun, classic Field Day for the kids on June 8th.

Motivating Kids to Read



Some kids *love* to read—in fact, it can be hard to tear a book out of their hands. But it can be difficult to motivate a child who *doesn't* love to read. It may even seem impossible. But it doesn't have to be.

Some kids hate to read ... especially struggling readers. For these reluctant readers, it may take a lot of extra cajoling and a bit of creativity to convince them to spend time reading. And it may take even more effort to help them enjoy reading.

- Set aside a regular read-aloud time with your children.
- Create a cozy reading nook for your child.
- Make sure the reading material isn't beyond your child's reading abilities.
- Exhibit a love of reading. When your kids observe that you love to read, they will likely develop a love of reading themselves.
- Provide access to books. Use your public library. Create a home library. Keep books accessible.

Counselors Corner

Help! Digital devices are taking over my family! With all the wifi devices it's easy for any of us to get lost. Unfortunately, researchers are discovering (as many have already suspected) that there is a cost to being plugged in so much.

I'm sure you've experienced, like I have, yourself saying, "How long have I been on my phone?!" when you suddenly realize how much time you've lost because you got caught up in surfing the web or social media apps. This happens to adults all the time and we are adults, with more developed brains. The impact on our children is even more significant.

Jean Twenge Ph.D., author of an amazing book called, "iGen Why Today's Super-Connected Kids Are Growing Up Less Rebellious, More Tolerant, Less Happy - and Completely Unprepared for Adulthood", has a lot to say about the impact of screens on our children. Their generation has been dubbed the iGen, which started with the invention of the iPhone. She and other researchers have uncovered some concerning trends in this group of kids who have had such easy access to screens.

Kids spending 2 or more hours a day interacting with "new media" - have a much higher rate of anxiety, depression and suicidal ideation. It turns out that when you spend large amounts of time on a screen you spend less face-to-face with others. This is a significant problem.

So what can we do to help unplug our kids?

- Delay getting a smartphone for your child.
- If you must get a phone start with a flip phone.
- Limit screen time to less than 90 minutes a day.
- Get a filter on your wifi or get apps on devices that regulate the amount of time spent
- Don't allow children to have wifi screens in kids' rooms when they are sleeping.
- Encourage kids to have face-to-face play time with peers.
- Spend time with your kids outside, being active, playing games, being creative and exploring.

You can learn more about iGen and other resources on my webpage, under Screen Time.

