



# Wishram School

April Newsletter

THEY'RE IN!

Two students are headed to the University of Washington in the fall



A huge shout out to our wonderful Senior students, **Samuel McCullough** and **Gerry Kindrick**, who both have been accepted to the University of Washington in Seattle. Both have eagerly awaited this news for months now, and we could not be prouder! Sam has also been accepted into the school's STARS program, which provides an additional pathway to a UW engineering or computer science degree. While these degree options

are very competitive, STARS scholars have so far shown a 98% success rate in getting into their first choice-major. Congratulations Sam and Gerry!

THIS MONTH'S TOP STORIES



## From the Superintendent

by **Mike Roberts**

Hello everyone, I'm hoping that you are all enjoying the spring weather as much as I am. After a pretty miserable February, a little sunshine is just what the doctor ordered. We have many new developments going on at Wishram School, and we are thrilled to have the opportunity to share those with you. We have great news pertaining to our North facing gymnasium wall, and our shop facility. We also have a prominent staff member retirement approaching, and some changes coming to our staffing alignment that we want to bring to your attention. With each new change brings opportunity, and we are very excited about what the future is going to bring to Wishram School District.

As many of you may know, our exterior gymnasium wall recently had some testing completed to assess its structural integrity. While the test didn't uncover any immediate danger, the results indicated that something needed to be done within the foreseeable future to avoid becoming a safety hazard. Mr. Churchwell and I spent a lot of time with state level officials, structural

engineers, and architects. We also carried out a fair amount of grant writing in hopes of finding a solution, and we were blown over when we received \$3.6 million from the states small school modernization program. This will cover the vast majority of the cost to replace the wall. We also received a \$150,000 grant to renovate our existing shop to carry out more career and technical education programming for our students. These two developments mean tremendous things for the future of Wishram School.

One of our beloved staff members has decided that this will be their last year as a certificated instructor at our school. For those who haven't heard, Mr. Pickette, our longtime 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher has decided to retire after roughly 3 decades of service to our students. While this is difficult news, we certainly wish him well in his future endeavors, and thank him for all that he has done for students, staff, and community.



With Mr. Pickette's departure, an opportunity has presented itself that will change the way we operate, while we continue our efforts to provide our students with increased access and equity when compared to other schools throughout the state. We are going to be moving our 6<sup>th</sup> grade students into the middle school, and creating a full-time Career and Technical Education teacher position. This change required serious sacrifice on behalf of all of our staff members here at Wishram, but we found that increasing our instructional capacities for our learners is a priority worthy of making these alterations. Beginning next year, our elementary staffing will be coordinated as follows: K/1<sup>st</sup> grade- Ms. Guthrie, 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade- Mrs. Shinn, and 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade will be taught by Mrs. Ringer. The secondary team has added 6<sup>th</sup> grade to their course load, so they will also be making some pretty significant changes to their instruction,

curriculum, and schedule. Pre-School will still be offered, and we are currently searching for a caring and creative classified employee who will meet our students' needs. While these changes present some challenges, our students, and their futures are worth the potential hardship. Our CTE program will focus on vocational skills such as woodshop, computer programming, small engines, and much more. We are currently looking for a talented, outgoing, dedicated instructor to head this program, so if you know of anyone, please inform them of this crucial open position.

As you can likely see, we have some very exciting things happening at Wishram School District #94, and we are already busy planning for the 2019/2020 school year. We would like to thank our parents, and community members for everything that you do to help our students attain success. As always, it is an honor and a privilege to serve as your district leader, and please don't hesitate to reach out to me directly if you have any questions. The best has yet to come.



by [Ashley Blodgett](#)

I cannot believe we have just a few short months of school left! I hope everyone enjoyed their spring break and is ready to get back into the swing of things.

We have several events to look forward to this month, including a visit from Abigail Thompson of Clark College's Running Start Program. She will be here Wednesday, April 10th at 1:00pm to visit prospective Juniors and Seniors interested in taking college courses through Clark College. Through this program, some students can earn their High School Diploma as well as an Associate's Degree all upon the completion of their Senior year!

Families are invited as well to learn more about this amazing opportunity.

On April 11 at 11:45am, Reggie Diaz of the Job Corps will be here to discuss available programs. Job Corps is the largest free residential education and job training program for young adults ages 16–24. If you would like to learn more about what Job Corps has to offer, this will be the perfect opportunity.

In Seniors class, students are beginning to work on their Senior Presentations, which will take place next month on May 14, 15 and 16th. They look forward to sharing their future plans with their friends and families!

## PreSchool/ Kindergarten

by [Judy Shinn](#)

I love snow and loved every moment of the snow we had in February, however, I love it more in the months of December and January. The snow this year was much later than normal and now I am so glad it is gone. I've checked in Crawford's Grove for the normal wildflowers and they are late, late, late! It is a beautiful place to check out the Gorge wildflowers, though. Maybe you will take the time to take your children there.

The kindergartners are reading up a storm! Many are actually beginning to see themselves as readers and have the confidence to pick up library books and give them a try. They are finding books in the classroom that they can read independently and with others, find words they know. It's an exciting time for me and them. Almost all the preschoolers are writing their own dates in their journals and some are writing their stories.

We have had a lot of sickness and many absences since the snows hit us in February. We are hoping that with a little disinfectant, dry days, and no school all the germs will dissipate and we can have our full class again.

During February we marked the 100th day of school with a few special activities. From the 100th day till the end of the year, the days sail by so quickly. It feels like just a few weeks ago we were just beginning the school year. As of March 29, (Friday before spring break), we have 56 days of school left. The flowers are blooming in our little classroom garden and when we come back to school in April our redbud trees will be leafing out and covered with their beautiful purple flowers. When we come back we are hoping to get some vegetables planted in our garden.

Here's hoping everyone has a relaxing break, gets 100% well from any illness, and comes back to school ready to dive into finishing out the year strong. See you in a week.

## First/Second Grade

by [Katrina Guthrie](#)



Another month has passed and the first and second graders are still hard at work expanding their learning. One program we use is the Accelerated Reader. The children are first given a reading test to find their zone of independent reading that spreads from the easiest books they should be reading to the hardest book they should be reading at this time. Then they get to choose a library book that interests them in their own personal reading zone. After they have finished reading the book, they take a comprehension quiz on the computer about the book. They immediately get the results from their quiz and enjoy watching their progress flower grow on the computer as they work toward their reading goal. Some of the children have read an amazing list of books so far. Some second graders are challenging themselves with chapter books that take several days to

read. On Fridays, I check each child's progress. The top readers for the week get to select a soft Beanie Baby animal as a trophy to set on their desk for a week. It warms this teacher's heart to see my students move from teacher-dependent readers to independent readers. GO READERS GO!!

## Fifth/Sixth Grade

by [Paul Pickette](#)

The fifth and sixth grade went on a couple of field trips recently. One was to the Discovery Center after observing eagles at The Dalles Dam. They were presented a viewing of predator birds at the Discovery Center including the resident male and female adult Bald Eagles.

Our class also traveled to The Dalles to watch Congressman Greg Waldon from The Dalles 2nd congressional district. The congressman was holding a town hall meeting. The students saw how regular citizens could ask their representative questions about any issue.

The class is practicing for the upcoming Lip Sync where the complete class (Mr. Pickette included) will perform as a rock band.

The annual chess tournament is underway. Kindergarten through sixth grade will compete for the chess trophy and bragging rights.

We just completed the state language arts and mathematics testing.

## Secondary Math

by [Betsy Barnhart](#)

A small group of Wishram secondary students recently competed in the Columbia Gorge Wind Challenge. This is an event put on by the Gorge Technology Alliance along with Google and the Columbia Gorge Community College.

During this event, students learn about wind turbine technology and design. They apply their engineering skills in creating a turbine that will not only produce electricity, but lift a weight in a mechanical engineering test as well. This is an all-day competition. They arrive at 8:30 and start building right away. With the help of college student mentors, they build and test their turbines. At 11:30 all turbines are set aside and the competition begins. They are tested to see how much voltage they can produce and how quickly they can lift the weight. After the first competition, students are allowed to re-engineer their turbines to see if they can improve on their design in any way. They are then put through a second round of competition. Their best results are used for a final score. While the Wishram Gust Busters didn't make it in the top three, we did end up in the top 10 high school teams that were entered. Our team consisted of both junior high and high school students. The team was successful in both endeavors, generating a little over .55V of power and lifting the weight in 7.00 seconds. Congratulations goes out to the Wishram Gust Busters for a job well done!

Other news:

Junior High students in my Navigation 101 class recently completed their "Student-led Conferences." All 7th & 8th graders (but one) presented a slide show along with samples of their best work during conference week (March 26 - March 28). These presentations were given in front of their parents as well as quite a number of teachers (and administration in some cases). Great job Jaeden, Kayla, Quinten, Blake, Ethan, Airik, Katelyn, Bridgitte, Faith, and Keegan!

Upcoming events:

Monday April 8: A trip to see a ventriloquist at The Dalles High School. This event is brought to us by Columbia Gorge Community Concert Association along with Patti Bragg and the Monday Pinochle group.

Friday April 12: A visit to the STEM career fair for 7th & 8th graders. This event is brought to us by the Gorge Technology Alliance and Columbia Gorge Community College.

Both of these events will be covered in the next newsletter.

## Secondary Science

by Brent Cameron

The science classes will be dissecting owl pellets soon. Also, a pair of horned owls have laid 2 eggs in Mr. Cameron's barn and we will be setting up a camera to catch pictures of the eggs hatching and the chicks growing. We hope to also get pictures of the adults feeding the young. Young horned owls only stay with their parents for about 5 weeks before they are on their own. We hope the parents are keeping the eggs warm.



## Secondary Social Studies

by Ken Weaver

In Social Studies the students have been working very hard despite all of the weather related disruptions. The 7/8th grade class has finished its study of Africa and are beginning to study the Middle East. The 9th graders finish their Semester of Civics and are now studying Pacific Northwest History. They have learned about the geography and geology of our state and are now focusing on the native people of Washington.

Our 11th graders in U.S. History have finished World War II and now are completing the early Cold War era. And our Seniors are busily finishing up their last writing example in preparation for their classroom based assessment on a Constitutional issue.

## Facilities/Athletic Director

by Tye Churchwell

Spring is finally here and I bet most everyone is excited about that. We are finally able to get out and tend to all the outside chores we've been neglecting over the last 4 months. My guys will be working over the spring break beautifying the grounds and the inside of the building. If you need to use the school over the break, there's a good chance I will have someone in the building. Just let me know.

### Facilities:

I thought I'd leave this great news in this article. Great news has fell upon the little school of Wishram. In past newsletters I informed the community about the unfortunate situation with our North wall and how the cost to fix it was well over 3 million dollars. Mr. Roberts and I wrote a grant to the State of Washington requesting \$3,567,854 dollars. We were told by almost everyone at the state level that the chances of our little school receiving the grant were basically non-existent. Mr. Roberts and I pounded the pavement and made 100's of phone calls and to our surprise Wishram School was awarded \$3,567,854 dollars, yes that is three million, five hundred sixty seven thousand, eight hundred and fifty four dollars. We are so grateful to the State of Washington as we were 1 of 73 schools who applied for the grant funding, There was only \$15,349,000 to give and the amount requested by the 73 different schools was over \$120 Million Dollars and yet we were granted 30% of the 15 Million available. Now the real work will begin. We have an architect hired and are currently

weeding our way through the red tape. If everything works out, we will be going out to bid in the near future and construction will start this summer.

We are looking for a great candidate to fill our new CTE position. Wishram School desperately needs someone who can bring shop/welding/small engine repair/CAD, Etc to our little school. If you feel you are the correct candidate for this position, please do not hesitate to apply for this position.

### **School Closures or Delays:**

Please make sure you pay attention to either one of our local news stations, (KATU, ABC, NBC, CBS) or local radio stations. We also put any delays or closures on our website, [www.wishramschool.org](http://www.wishramschool.org), and our Facebook page. You also have the ability to download the FlashAlert Messenger App on your smart phones for updates on school closures and delays.



### **Athletics:**

Softball, Baseball and both HS and JH track are in full swing. If you get a chance, please make sure you go to one of the games or meets and support our Wishram athletes. Schedules are posted at [www.wishramschool.org](http://www.wishramschool.org).

## **School Board Meeting:**

**April 23, 2019**

**at 5:00 PM**

## **School Gymnasium**

## **Important Dates:**

**April 1-5:** No School, Spring Break

**April 6:** Trip to Abby's Closet in Portland

**April 10:** Running Start Information Session @1:00 PM

**April 11:** Job Corps Information Session @ 11:45 AM; End of 3rd Quarter

**April 12:** Lip Sync Silent Auction

## **CEP**

Wishram School is currently operating under the CEP (Community Eligibility Program), which was created through the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids act of 2010, and allows qualifying high-poverty local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools to offer breakfast and lunch at no cost to all students without requiring families to complete an annual household application.

AVAILABLE STARTING JUNE 15TH

\* USDA Summer Meals Hotline at 1-866-348-6479. Families will receive assistance to find the location, meal times, and contact information based on their full address, city, and/or zip code.

## **Local and Federal Nondiscriminatory Statement/Policy**

Wishram 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 employee has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Wishram School Superintendent, PO Box 8, Wishram, WA 98673, (509) 748-2551.

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; fax: (202) 690-7442; or email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## Surveillance Equipment

Our surveillance equipment will be taking pictures of all the school grounds all of the time, north, south, east and west, as will the camera in the front hallway.

Wishram School videotapes teachers periodically as a tool to improve our teaching. We look at how

we teach and how our students respond. These videos are for in-school use only. If you do not want your children to be a part of this process, **please call Mr. Churchwell at the school at 509-748-2551.**

## LiveTip!

Anonymous tip line for school safety:

**1-866-LIVE-TIP Ext. 940**

(1-866-548-3847, ext 940)

Report anonymously 24 hours a day/365 days a year:

- School violence—weapons, bomb threats
- School damage—vandalism, theft
- Physical/sexual abuse or harassment
- Drug/alcohol issues
- Fights/gang activity
- Discrimination

A recorded message will prompt the caller to either speak with a live operator or leave a recorded message. Messages are transcribed and emailed to the district contact. In case of emergency, district administrators are contacted immediately.

[READ MORE ON OUR WEBSITE](#)



**Wishram School District #94**  
**135 Bunn St., Wishram, WA. 98673**