



WASHINGTON SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

November 10, 2016
HOME OF THE COUGARS



Our Mission Statement is to assist and empower students to reach their full potential in a safe environment.

November 7th –15th	Annual Book Fair in the Library
November 9th	Parent Teacher Conferences begin after early release at 1:40 pm
November 10th	Parent Teacher Conferences begin after early release at 1:40 pm
November 10th	Veteran’s Day Assembly in the Gym at 12:30 pm
November 10th	PTA Movie Night arrive at 5:30 ~ Movie starts at 6:00 pm
November 11th	Parent Teacher Conferences, Non-Student Day
November 17th	PRIDE Assembly for grades 4, 5, and 6 in the Gym at 2:00 pm
November 24th - 25th	Thanksgiving Break, No School
December 1st	PTA Relections Art/Multi-Media Entries Final Deadline
December 7th	PTA Meeting in the Library at 8:00 - 9:00 am
December 8th	PTA Papa Murphy’s fundraiser from 11:00 am - 8:00 pm

Book Fair News:

Our annual Book Fair is here and continuing through November 15th. There is always a great selection of books to encourage reading! Remember, this is also a wonderful time to fill those Christmas lists, while helping our library and classrooms earn funds for new books. For every \$10.00 spent, \$6.00 will come back to Washington School!

Our fair homepage web address is: <http://bookfairs.scholastic.com/homepage/washcoug>

November Book Fair Schedule

Students are able to shop during regular “open” times during the school day. Parents & the public are welcome anytime it is convenient for them, during school hours.

*Thursday Nov. 10th

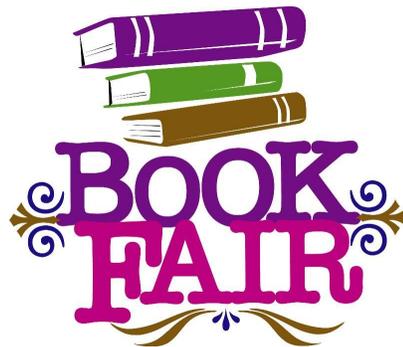
Open during Parent Teacher Conferences
CHILDREN (UNDER 2ND GR.) MUST BE
SUPERVISED BY AN ADULT
“PTA Movie Night” 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

*Monday Nov. 14th

Book Fair open 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

*Tuesday Nov. 15th

Book Fair open 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Last Chance to shop the Scholastic Book Fair



Sincerely,
Nancy Wehrle, Librarian
Dr. Maras, Principal
& all the Washington Staff

Buddy Bench

Kids play, socialize and laugh together at recess, but they can also feel lonely or experience bullying. We asked ourselves, what can be done to make every student feel included on the playground and during recess? Some of our students in the 6th and 4th grades, wanted to do something at our school. Together, we decided to purchase a Buddy Bench and add that to our playground.

Last Monday, these students made a video to teach the rest of the school how to use the Buddy Bench. Then later that day, it was unveiled. Here is how it works...

When you sit on the Buddy Bench

- “Before you sit on the Buddy Bench, think of something you would like to do. Ask someone else to play with you.”
- “The bench isn’t for socializing. Only sit there if you can’t find anyone to play with.”
- “While you’re sitting on the bench, look around for a game you can join.”
- “If you see something you want to do or a friend you want to talk to, get off the bench!”
- “If you’re sitting on the bench, play with the first classmate who invites you.”
- “Keep playing with your new friends!”



When you see someone sitting on the Buddy Bench

- Start by saying “hello”.
- If you don’t know the person, introduce yourself.
- Make conversation. What’s up? How are you? I like your shoes.
- Ask them to play with you or suggest an activity you can do together. Don’t make it the last time you hang out. Keep playing with your new friend.

*****PTA UPCOMING EVENTS*****

* November 10th, PTA Movie Night 6 pm - 8 pm (doors open at 5:30 pm):

Bring a picnic and chairs for a viewing of “The Little Rascals” with your friends at Washington school. Due to popularity and space, please bring chairs, rather than pillows and blankets.



*December 1st, Be a Part of PTA’s Reflections Program

PTA Reflections projects are due to your teacher or the office by Thursday, December 1st. We are so excited about all the student interest in this national Arts program and look forward to seeing the finished projects! Entries from all grades and abilities are welcome. Please contact Charis Uzabel at (828) 446-6570 with any questions. The 2016-2017 theme is *What Is Your Story?* If you want to learn more or get involved go to www.pta.org/reflections

*December 8th, PTA Papa Murphy’s fundraiser 11:00 am to 8:00 pm - Come and support our school!

*December 9th, PTA “Shop and Drop” Babysitting Night at Washington Elementary from 5:00 - 8:30 pm. It will be a night of supervised Christmas games, entertainment, and a movie for the kids so parents can escape to do some last-minute shopping! (flyers with more information to come home at a later date)

*December 1st - March 3rd, PTA Fundraiser \$10 lift tickets for Twilight Night Skiing at Schweitzer Mountain from 3-7 pm Friday and Saturday nights (more information to come)

Sixth Grade Fundraiser:

Next Wednesday, November 16th, from 5 - 7 pm the 6th grade class will be holding a fundraiser at Burger Express. Teachers and students will be working in the restaurant as greeters, clean up crew, etc. If you want to support the 6th grade, come by and pick up something for dinner. The 6th graders have created their own burger, the "6th Grade Special". One hundred percent of the profits made during those two hours will go to the Washington 6th grade Lutherhaven fund.

Bonner County Coats 4 Kids Update:

*1002 Child and Adult Coats!
84 Winter Hats, 52 Pairs of Gloves/Mittens,
47 Winter Scarves, 43 Pairs of Snow Pants, and 4 pairs of Winter Boots.*

We had many sweaters that were donated too, that are not included in the count. We also received \$765.00 in Donations that purchased New Coats!

Coats can be picked up at the Bonner Mall until November 15, during regular mall hours. We have already distributed many, but there are many left! Spread the Word, Spread the Warmth!

Thanks to each and everyone of you for your generous contributions! We appreciate all of our community partners for making this a success! Great Team Work!

Thank you for Sharing the Warmth 2016!



Memoirs of a Playground Aide....

written by Rachel Kleinpaste of Spokane, Washington (a friend of Dr. Maras')

1. Absolutely advocate (read: work with, not demand) for your children regarding their grades, any social issues, etc. There is only one exception to that: unless you are advocating for stricter consequences, leave it alone because chances are, nine times out of ten, they deserve whatever they received.
2. You can use a tetherball to come in like a wrecking ball (however you shouldn't).
3. Your children are very different at school than they are at home, even the most well behaved child is still a child. They make mistakes, it's ok.
4. If you are a parent who tells your kid they have the right to defend yourself against a bully make sure you explain what self-defense actually is. This is always NOT understood by children. When you punch someone 20 minutes after they push you, it's no longer self defense. If you punch someone for punching your friend, this is assault. If your kid accidentally gets run into and they use their sweatshirt to whip the person in the face, it's not self defense - that's called retaliation. If you are a parent who is telling their children it is okay to fight back, then you are a part of the problem. I guarantee that out of 100 times, only twice have I seen a situation where the child actually needs to "defend" and generally they move out of harm's way and towards help.... Because it's scary.... So do your child a favor and be clear.
5. Thank the teacher teaching your child every way you can. You may not agree with them but they are living in a hellish environment dealing with kids who are not as nice as yours.
6. Do not, I repeat DO NOT, come spy on your child at recess without first checking into the office. We will think you are a creeper and we will report you as one.
7. Do your child, your self, your community a favor... teach them to accept personal responsibility in all things. This is a key, and I'm not kidding, a key component to helping children understand how the world works. If they cannot accept responsibility and they continue to make excuses for their behavior/actions, they will struggle their entire lives. If you are a parent who does not practice taking responsibility I suggest a self-help book or perhaps a Google search on how to do so... if you just said to yourself "that's not an issue..." you are part of the problem; fix it.
8. Your children will use the playground as a parkour course, they will run with food in their mouth, they will run with pencils in their hands, they will get physical with other children, they will loose the toy/cellphone/etc. they bring to the playground, their feelings will get hurt, they will not listen to directions, they will be cold without the sweatshirt that is in their classroom, if they bring it out they will leave their sweatshirt on the playground. There is nothing that I can do to stop that. Please don't ask employees to watch specific children (unless there is potential harm) as your child isn't held by the hand... personal responsibility, natural consequences.... They are what they are... stop the helicopter/hover parenting.
9. Kickball balls to the face sting, tripping on the blacktop burns like fire and mis-landed cartwheels hurt. It's why the schools have safety rules..... it seems over done until you have 500 kids going to the office and arguing over why it whatever was done on purpose by so and so.
10. 10 out of 500 students are issues, the others are fantastically fun with great personalities. They always make my day. Give them a hug help them learn and grow up. Enjoy the time you have with them because it's precious.