



3rd Quarter Newsletter 2018



Julius A. Wendt Elementary John C. Thomas Middle School

Wahkiakum School District Mission Statement:

We believe that education is a partnership with responsibility shared by all: school, family, students and community. All individuals shall be provided a safe, positive environment where they may reach their fullest potential as responsible citizens.

Wahkiakum School District Vision Statement:

Learning is the mutual responsibility of the student, staff and the parents.

The goals of this vision are:

- *To provide and maintain a positive school environment that enhances the learning experience for students.*
- *To create, model and maintain a school climate that develops acceptable social interaction and behavior.*
- *To provide an equal education opportunity for all.*
- *To incorporate technology into the educational environment to assist in meeting educational goals.*

A Message from Mrs. Reese...

Dear JAW & JCT Families,

By the time you receive this newsletter, the first half of the school year will have passed. January, February and March are my favorite months of the school year, as they are what I like to call “the sweet spot” of teaching. These three months provide the least disruption to the daily routine of school with fewer early dismissals and days off than the fall and spring bring. Teachers are able to address a good portion of the key learning standards during this time and students tend to make the most academic growth. I enjoy regularly visiting classrooms, but there is something about the “learning buzz” during this time of year that is very exciting.

Many of you may have heard about a staffing change we are making at the elementary level next week. In August, our school district received additional Learning Assistance Program (LAP) funds from the state. At the elementary level, LAP funds are used to provide reading and math support for students below grade level. Overseeing academic interventions and monitoring student growth are critical actions that must occur in order to meet the individual learning needs of our students. I’m pleased to share that Ms. Janine Oman will be stepping into the

newly created LAP Coordinator position for the second half of this school year. Leaving her K/1 classroom was a difficult decision for Ms. Oman to make, but her commitment to closing the achievement gap of our students is a challenge she is ready to take on! Ms. Stephanie Johnson has been hired to teach Ms. Oman's K/1 class for the remainder of this year. Ms. Oman will support Ms. Johnson for a portion of the day over the next several weeks to help ensure a smooth transition for the students.

I'm looking forward to seeing what the second half of the school year brings. One thing I know is that the time will go by quickly! The K-8 staff and I have already started some preliminary planning for the 18-19 school year. We're excited to think outside of the box and see how many of our wishes and dreams we can make reality in service of our amazing students.

I hope to see middle school families at the Family Math Night on February 22nd and elementary families at our Family Literacy Night on March ! Staff is working hard to plan fun evenings and look forward to seeing you.

Thanks for all that you do to support your child/children's school success!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Reese



Important February Dates

Thursday, February 1st - Boys' Basketball Home vs. Toutle (2 Qtrs. C Team @ 4:30)

Monday, February 5th – Report Cards Mailed Home, JAW PTO Meeting @ 3:15 in the Library

Tuesday, February 6th – Boys' Basketball Pictures After-School

Wednesday, February 7th – K/1 Field Trip (Portland Children's Museum – "Pete the Cat")

Thursday, February 8th – JCT 2nd Quarter Awards Assembly (4th Period)

Monday, February 12th – JAW NED Assembly

Wednesday, February 14th – Valentine's Day, JCT Valentine's Ball (2-3:00)

Monday, February 19th – No School/President's Day

Thursday, February 22nd – JCT Family Math Night (6-7:30)

Wednesday, February 28th – 3rd Quarter Mid-Term, 11:30 Dismissal for Mid-Winter Break

February Information:

Middle School Math Night on February 22nd, 6-7:30 – The middle school teachers have planned a fun night for students and their families to play a variety of math games and enter a “Guess and Win” contest. Pizza and bottled water will be provided, so you don’t have to worry about dinner! The event will take place in the gym. An invitation to the event will be sent home in early February with an RSVP slip. Please be sure to send the RSVP slip to school with your child, so that we know how much pizza to order.

Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) – GEAR-UP provides grants to middle and high schools to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Wahkiakum’s grant application to include 7th – 12th grade students was approved! Parents of students eligible for the program will receive an invitation from Wahkiakum’s GEAR-UP Coordinator, Renea Freeman, to attend a parent meeting on February 22nd at 5:30 (just prior to Family Math Night).

GEAR UP’S THREE OBJECTIVES ARE:

1. Increase academic performance and preparation for postsecondary education.
2. Increase high school graduation and postsecondary participation rates.
3. Increase students’ and their families’ knowledge of postsecondary options, preparation, and finances.

3rd Quarter Mid-Term – The mid-term for 3rd quarter is on February 28th. 4th – 8th grade students will bring home copies of their mid-term report on Tuesday, March 6th. Parents are asked to sign and have their child return the slip attached to the mid-term by Friday, March 9th to confirm that they received a copy of the report. Please contact the office if you do not receive a copy of your child’s mid-term report.

Family Access – The majority of our families are now using Family Access to regularly check on their student’s grades, missing assignments, lunch accounts, attendance and to email teachers. If you have not set up an account please stop at the office and fill out the short form and you will have access in no time. This is a great tool that helps parents stay better connected to their child’s progress at school.

ELPA 21 – The window for the annual English Language Learners Assessment is February 1st – March 30th. Students with English as a Second Language will be tested during this window. This assessment tracks English Language acquisition and progress. If you have any questions please contact Nikki Reese at 795-3261.

Toys at School – We have seen an increase in students bringing toys to school. Please remind your child that we don’t allow toys at school unless they are related to a specific classroom activity. We’ve seen an increase in recess related issues due to students arguing over who can play with their toys, losing toys in the bark dust and items getting broken.



Important March Dates

Thursday, March 1st & Friday, March 2nd – Mid-Winter Break/No School

Monday, March 5th – MS Track Begins

Tuesday, March 6th – JAW PTO Meeting @ 3:15 in the Library, Mid-Term Reports Sent Home (4th – 8th Grade)

Tuesday, March 27th – Books for Kids Spring Distribution (Kindergarten – 3rd Grade)

Friday, March 30th – No School/Snow Make-Up Day

March Information:

Elementary Family Literacy Night – The elementary teachers and PTO group are busy planning a fun night for elementary students and families. Families will be invited to visit classrooms where staff will read a story, provide a fun activity and snack related the theme of the story. We hope to see you there!

Spring Testing – The annual state assessment window for the Smarter Balanced Assessment in ELA (English Language Arts) and Math opens March 5th and runs until June 8th. Staff is currently working on the assessment calendar and we will inform parents of exact testing dates when it is completed. Students in 3rd – 8th grades take both the ELA and Math test. This year will be the first year students in 5th and 8th grade take a science assessment based on the Next Generation Science Standards. That window opens April 16th and runs until June 8th.



Important April Dates

Monday, April 2nd – Friday, April 6th – Spring Break/No School

Monday, April 9th – No School/Local In-Service Day

Wednesday, April 11th – End of 3rd Quarter

Thursday, April 12th – JAW PTO Meeting @ 3:15 in the Library

Monday, April 16th – Middle School Mass Bands Event (Woodland)

Thursday, April 19th – 3rd Quarter Report Cards Mailed Home, JCT 3rd Quarter Awards Assembly (4th Period)

April Information:

Baseball Equipment at School – Baseball season is just around the corner. Please remind your child that we do not allow students to use regular bats at school. They may bring plastic bats for recess. We also do not allow hard balls, baseballs or softballs that are used in leagues. Students can bring mitts and play with the “softie” type balls or tennis balls. We also allow whiffle balls and bats for games. Please make sure your child has their name on their gear and that they understand these safety rules for school.