



1st Quarter Newsletter 2018



Julius A. Wendt Elementary
John C. Thomas Middle School

WELCOME BACK!!!

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,

It's that time of year again! Summer is coming to a close and the start of a new school year is just around the corner. As always, the staff at J.A. Wendt and John C. Thomas are busy preparing for the start-up and anxiously awaiting the arrival of the students. It just doesn't feel like a school without the energy of the kids in the building!

Last spring, the school board approved the adoption of new math materials for kindergarten through eighth grade. The program is called "Ready Math" and is aligned to the Common Core State Standards. Staff are excited about implementing the program and utilizing the intervention component it offers for students needing enrichment and those performing below grade level. Staff had an initial training on the new materials before they left in June and will participate in a more in depth training on August 27th. Be on the look-out for parent letters your child will bring home throughout the year that provides an overview of the skills being taught at the start of each new unit.

K-5 staff are working on creating an even stronger school family at J.A. Wendt this year and will use a program called Conscious Discipline to help provide a safe and positive learning environment for students. Conscious Discipline will provide positive behavior support with structures to teach adults and students skills for self-regulation and how to positively interact during times of conflict. Last June, the staff at J.A. Wendt attended a two day training for the program. Additional staff trainings will be provided throughout the year as we move further into the implementation of the program. Monthly classroom newsletters will keep you updated on our progress!

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Like past years, **K-5 students will be released at 11:30 for the first four days of school (9/4-9/7)** so that parent/teacher conferences can take place in the afternoons. You should have received an invite in the mail specifying the date and time your conference has been scheduled with your child's teacher. Please call Cinnon at the main office if you didn't receive your invitation, or you need to reschedule your conference (360) 795-3261.

Late Start Thursdays

Thursdays will continue to be a one hour late start day. Staff uses this time to set goals for student growth, discuss instructional strategies and analyze student growth data. We are very grateful to have this uninterrupted time to collaborate with one another.

I'm very excited for what I know is going to be a great year at JAW/JCT and look forward to seeing everyone on August 30 for our "Meet the Teacher" event! K-5 students are asked to bring their school supplies with them on Aug 30 at 5pm. Then, Middle school students will receive their schedules and locker assignments at "Back to School Night" at 5:30 on Aug 30.

Enjoy the final days of summer!

Sincerely,
Mrs. Reese



Important August/September Dates:

Thursday, August 30th – Meet the Teacher Night, 5:00-6:00 (K-5 at 5:00 & MS/Grades 6-8 at 5:30).

Tuesday, September 4th – Welcome Back! Early Release K-5 at 11:30

Wednesday, September 5th – Early Release K-5 at 11:30, JCT Volleyball Home vs. Napavine (5 p.m.)

Thursday, September 6th – One Hour Late Start, Early Release K-5 at 11:30

Friday, September 7th – Early Release K-5 at 11:30

Monday, September 10th – JAW PTO Fan Cloth Fundraiser Kick-Off, JAW PTO Meeting at 3:30 in the Library, JCT Volleyball Home vs. Adna (5 p.m.)

Tuesday, September 11th – Picture Day

Wednesday, September 12th – JCT Volleyball at Winlock (5 p.m. – bus leaves at 2:55)

Thursday, September 13th – JCT Football Home vs. Kalama (6 p.m.)

Monday, September 17th – JCT Volleyball at Toutle Lake (5 p.m. – bus leaves at 3:05)

Tuesday, September 18th – Dream Dental Visits

Wednesday, September 19th – JCT Volleyball Home vs. Toledo (5 p.m.)

Thursday, September 20th – JCT Football at Toledo (6 p.m. – bus leaves at 3:35)

Monday, September 24th – JCT Volleyball at Mossyrock (5 p.m. – bus leaves at 2:35)

Wednesday, September 26th – JCT Volleyball Home vs. Rainier (5 p.m.)

Thursday, September 27th – JCT Football at Toutle Lake (6 p.m. – bus leaves at 3:50)

Friday, September 28th – JAW Popcorn Day, PTO Fan Cloth Fundraiser Ends



Important October Dates:

Wednesday, October 3rd – 1st Quarter Mid-Term (grades 4-8), JCT Volleyball at Kalama (6 p.m. – bus leaves at 3:15)

Thursday, October 4th – JCT Football Home vs. Winlock (6 p.m.)

Monday, October 8th – JCT Volleyball at MWP (5 p.m. – bus time TBD), JAW PTO Meeting @ 3:30 in the Library

Wednesday, October 10th – JCT Volleyball Home vs. Onalaska (5 p.m.)

Thursday, October 11 – JCT Football Home vs. Napavine (6 p.m.)

Friday, October 12th – JAW Popcorn Day

Monday, October 15th – JCT Girls' Basketball Begins

Wednesday, October 17th – Picture Retakes

Thursday, October 18th – JCT Football Crossover Game (Location and Time TBD)

Wednesday, October 31st – Patriot's Pen Essays Due Grades 3-8



Important November Dates:

Monday, November 5th – End of 1st Quarter, No School (Local In-Service)

Friday, November 9th – JAW Popcorn Day

Monday, November 12th – No School (Veteran's Day)

Thursday, November 15th – Fall Book Fair Begins

Friday, November 16th – Early Release K-8 at 11:30 (Fall Conferences), Book Fair Continues

Monday, November 19th – Early Release K-8 at 11:30 (Fall Conferences), Book Fair Continues

Tuesday, November 20th – Early Release K-8 at 11:30 (Fall Conferences), Final Day of Book Fair

Wednesday, November 21st – Early Release at 11:30 K-12 (Thanksgiving Holiday Break)

Thursday, November 22nd - No School (Thanksgiving Holiday)

Friday, November 23rd – No School (Thanksgiving Holiday)

*Note: Girls' Basketball games and Wrestling start date/meet Schedule TBD (will be shared as soon as published by league)

*November PTO Meeting Date and Time TBD

For You to Know:

LOST and FOUND – Please mark your child’s belongings with their first and last name so that we can return them if left outside or somewhere else in the school. We are really trying to keep our lost and found to a minimum. Thanks for your help.

Spirit Wear! – The J.A. Wendt PTO will be running a fundraiser through Fan Cloth September 10th through September 28th. There are several great designs to choose from, as well as different types of active wear. Show your spirit and support our PTO by participating in the fundraiser! Handouts will be available at back to school night and students will also bring packets home on the 10th.

Student Handbook – Each family should receive a student handbook each school year so please make sure to review the handbook with your child/children and help them to understand the importance of following handbook procedures and rules. The handbooks should be sent home by the second week of school.

ASB Officers – Our ASB officers for John C. Thomas Middle School are: President – Malia Ana Silva, Vice-President - Reigha Niemeyer , Secretary – Alli Grangroth, Treasurer – Kleyton Scuito
Please encourage your child to run for class representative or join ASB by attending meetings. The more kids involved the better!

Meal Prices – Meal prices will have a small increase for the 2018-2019 school year. Breakfast will cost \$1.75 for students K-12 and \$2.25 for adults. Lunch will be \$3.00 for students K-5 and \$3.25 for 6-12 and \$4.50 for adults. Entrée only meals are \$1.75. Reduced prices are \$0 for breakfast, \$0 for K-3 and \$.40 for 4-12 for lunch. Milk only is \$.40

Please remember the best time to put money on your child’s account is via [Skyward](#) or in person before school between 8:00 and 8:30 in the cafeteria. We do send reminders with students when their account is getting low and you can also check [Skyward Family Access](#) to see your lunch account activity and balance.

If you have not been given a form to see if your family qualifies for free/reduced breakfast and lunch please let the office know and we will get that paperwork to you or [download the application for fee/reduced meals here](#). If you need assistance please call Krista Fritzie in the kitchen at 360-795-3261.

Sack lunches will be offered on all early release days and will be eaten before students go home at 11:30. Students will order a lunch just like any other school day if that is their routine. If a student orders a sack lunch, they will be charged the regular price of a lunch. Students that qualify for free or reduced lunch will receive their lunch for no charge or the reduced price. Please discuss what your child’s plan for lunch is each early release day to ensure your child receives a lunch if needed, or doesn’t order a lunch when they don’t need one to avoid an unnecessary charge to their account.

Updating Records – It is very important for us to have the most current information to communicate with you so please update any address/phone or email information as soon as possible with the office. We need to know how to contact parents/guardians in case of emergencies or to share things about your student. If you have [Skyward Family Access](#) your information will be shown there and you can call or send a note with the changes needed.

Medications at School – There are state laws regarding medications at school. Any medications, **prescription or over the counter**, when taken at school **must** be stored in the office in its original container and **must** be accompanied by an “Authorization for Administration of Medication” form. If your child needs to take medication of any kind at school please pick up and complete the form. A physician’s signature is required for all medications on this form. These forms need to be updated every school year. **Some students who use inhalers can carry them with them, but still need to have the paperwork on file in the office.**

Restraining Orders/ Parenting Plans – If you possess a current restraining order against another person or if you have a parenting plan, it is very important that you provide the office with the most current documents bearing the signature or stamp of the judge. We are legally unable to deny parent contact with a child unless the proper documents are on file at school.

Pay to Participate – Once again to offset the program costs the district will be charging a “pay to participate” fee to all athletes. The cost for middle school athletes is \$30 per sport. This fee must be paid no later than one day prior to the first contest in which an athlete is eligible. Low income students who request assistance may tap the “donation pool” for 50% of their fee as long as there are monies available in that pool.

Donations are welcome and should be delivered to the District Office. If desired, your donation can be earmarked to assist a specific extracurricular program; otherwise they will go to a general fund for pay to participate. If you would like to make a 100% donation for a specific athlete we will certainly honor your request.

Sports Eligibility at the Middle School – Students at the middle school level that participate in sports have their grades checked every Friday. If a student is failing a class or classes the student will be notified on Friday. They may work on assignments over the weekend and turn in their work before school on Monday to see if they can become eligible. At times there is no make-up work to be turned in (ex. PE) so it is a good idea to keep your grades passing at all times. Please be aware that at the beginning of the quarter when only a few assignments are in the grade book one missing assignment or poor score can really affect the overall grade.

It is the athlete’s responsibility to make up the work and return it to the teacher before school on Monday. If they are passing after the work is graded they get to participate that week, if they are not passing they practice with the team but do not travel to away contests or participate in any contests. If a student is not eligible for three weeks, they will no longer be a part of the team.

Family Access and Website – Please remember to get signed up for [Family Access](#) so that you can easily monitor your child’s grades, attendance and lunch account. You can also email teachers through this site. Every parent is automatically enrolled for [Family Access](#) when they have students in the school. Your login should be first.last name and your password should be password. Please call the office if it does not work.

There is a huge amount of valuable information about Wahkiakum School District on the website – www.wahksd.k12.wa.us. Check it out!

Student Accident and Sickness Coverage Available - All student athletes are required to have health insurance coverage. For those who do not have it, the school district makes available to parents a relatively low-cost student accident and sickness coverage for their children. Families without student athletes are also allowed to purchase this coverage if they are so inclined. There is however, no requirement on the District’s part for student non-athletes to have this coverage. Forms are available through our [student registration process](#), as well as in both school offices. Feel free to contact your student’s school office for more information and/or the form.

Title/LAP Programs: Our elementary and middle schools qualify to receive federal funds under the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Title I, Part A*. [Title I, Part A funding](#) requires that schools create a positive and supportive learning environment that results in high levels of achievement for all students. Funds are available for academic programs, staff development, materials and supplies, and parent trainings. Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) provides financial assistance to states and school districts to meet the needs of educationally at-risk students. The goal of Title I is to provide extra instructional services and activities which support students identified as failing or most at risk of failing the state's challenging performance standards in mathematics, reading, and writing.

We invite all parents in our District to become involved in their child's education and the [Wahkiakum School District's Parental Involvement Policy \(4130\)](#) describes our Title 1 Community Relations Policies and Procedures in detail. It is posted on our website, <http://www.wahksd.k12.wa.us>, and available in the office.

“Parent’s Right to Know” Regarding Teacher and Paraprofessional’s Qualifications - Parents can request information regarding the professional qualifications of the classroom staff working with their child. Parents also have the right to request information regarding the qualifications of the paraprofessional assisting their child’s teacher (if they are receiving Title I, Part A services from a paraprofessional). All of our teachers meet the certification requirements of the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. If you would like more information or have questions please contact me by email or phone (nreese@wahksd.k12.wa.us or 360-795-3261).

For more detailed information about the Title I, Part A federal program, visit the [Title I, Part A and Learning Assistance Program \(LAP\)](#) on the Washington State OSPI website or contact Nikki Reese or Janine Oman, our Title I/LAP Coordinators, by email or by phone at 360-795-3261.

Bus Notes - It takes a large amount of office staff’s time and effort to write and deliver bus notes. Our office staff often deals with an average of 30 to 40 notes a day because of parent phone calls. We are concerned that students may not get to the correct place because the number of changes and notes create a greater chance of error. We are trying to reduce the number of changes to after school plans in order to keep better track of where students are going when they leave us. Your help with this is appreciated. Ideally if your child is going somewhere other than home or daycare (their regular route) it would be great if they could just be picked up.

Procedure for Bus Notes –

1. **Students must bring a note to school in the morning if they are going somewhere other than home or their regular drop off site (i.e. daycare).**
2. **Teachers will collect parent notes in the morning and send them to the office. All bus notes for the day will then be written.**
3. **If plans change and you need to pick your child up, please come to the foyer area of the office at 3:00 so you can meet your child as he/she is dismissed at 3:05.**
4. **Please, only call the office if an unexpected emergency arises.**
5. **We appreciate your cooperation!**

Student Information – Periodically we put student pictures in our local paper or list students who have earned awards. If for some reason you do not want your child’s name or picture used in school publications, programs, or area newspapers let us know. It is best to put your request in writing so that we can keep it in your child’s permanent file. We will control all that we can but cannot guarantee that an outside photographer may be at an event taking photos.

Smarter Balanced Assessment and Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science – Your child’s assessment results for last spring’s Smarter Balanced Assessment in ELA (English/Language Arts) and Math will be mailed out in late September. If your child was in 5th or 8th grade last year, you should also receive results for the Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science. If you do not receive results or have questions about your child’s progress please contact Nikki Reese at 795-3261.

8th Graders and High School Classes – Once again, our 8th grade students have the opportunity to take some high school level classes. A parent may request that their child receive high school credit for these classes. The requirements for Algebra, Weight Training and Ag Mechanics are the same for 8th graders as for the high school students in the class but the Band requirements are a little different. You will need to contact Darla Mead at dmead@wahksd.k12.wa.us to find out if your child is up to high school standards in Band.

Book Fair – The Scholastic Book fair will run from November 15th – November 20th. Please stop by the school library and look at some of the great deals! It will be open before school and during parent/teacher conferences!

Electives and Advisory – This year, students will continue to take elective courses Monday through Thursday. Students got to choose their electives unless they qualified for Title Math or Reading help. If they are in the Title program, they know the requirements to test out. On Fridays, students will attend an Advisory class. Advisory classes will be grade level specific and students will stay with the same Advisory teacher for the entire school year. Teachers will begin to address High School and Beyond planning, use lessons from [Career Guidance Washington](#) to meet college/career standards and conduct weekly grade checks during the Friday advisory class. We are excited about this new opportunity being offered for our students!