

# Washtucna Tigercat Newsletter

Washtucna School District • May - June 2015

## ***Superintendent's Message***

### ***From Mr. Wing***

It's an amazing thing to watch when the days, weeks and months move so quickly from winter to spring. In the field of education, spring is the time frame set for the taking of our state assessments. The time where our students have the opportunity to show what they know and understand from the current school year's lessons. It is also a time to recognize those in our Washtucna community who have, over time, shown a commitment to our school district in the present and the past, as well as a commitment to providing opportunity for our kids and those around us. It is with great appreciation from our school district that we have nominated Ms. Karen Kinch for receipt of the Washington Association of School Administrators "Community Leader Award" for her 34 years of selfless service to our kids through Dance! Karen, accompanied by her good friend and fellow teacher Janet Camp, was recognized for her work with kids at a ceremony in Spokane April 24<sup>th</sup>. Understanding the great contribution that she has made to our kids over the years, it would be appropriate to congratulate and thank her for this work the next time your paths cross. She is a blessing to many within all of our communities.

In regard to our spring assessments as most of you know, the state has introduced a new state assessment called the SBAC or the new "Smarter Balanced" assessment in Math, Science and English/Language Arts. These assess the new "Common Core State Standards" which are much more challenging than the former standards that they have replaced. Many of the students who showed proficiency using the former standards will find the new assessment much more difficult and challenging using the new standards. The results from these new assessments will give a more accurate picture of whether our students are on track to be "college ready" or "career ready" after they have completed their high school years.

With that said, it is extremely important that our students prepare themselves and their schedule for these rigorous assessments that we will be

providing during the month of May. Please avoid scheduling appointments during testing days or during the hours that our testing will be provided. Your child's focus should be on the assessments and demonstrating their knowledge the day it occurs. A good night's sleep and hearty breakfast will help your child perform at their best as well. We thank you for your continued work with us in making sure your child has the best chance to succeed. Please let our administration know if there is anything we can do to better support your child in this and any other endeavors in which they participate. We want your child to complete their education within the Washtucna School District with a solid foundation of skills and a future filled with many opportunities.

If you have not yet received the schedule for our upcoming "Smarter Balanced" assessment, please contact our Office Manager, Shauna Miller for that information. Detailed information about the SBAC as well as a link where you and your student can attempt some practice problems yourself, can be found at the following site: [www.k12.wa.us/smarter](http://www.k12.wa.us/smarter). If you are more interested in information about the Common Core than the SBAC, this information is available at [www.k12.wa.us/corestandards](http://www.k12.wa.us/corestandards). Thank you again for all you do to make our school district one that our students, staff and community can be proud of!

Vance Alan Wing, "For the Kids!"

## ***Principal's Message from Mr. Seedall***

The 2014-2015 school year is winding down and soon will be over. I would like to take this opportunity to "thank" all of you for supporting your child at Washtucna Schools. Whether it's getting your son/daughter to school on time, attending a school function or activity, or even encouraging your son/daughter to get their homework done, your involvement at our school plays an integral role in their success. We are grateful for the time and effort you as parents put in to help make our school a wonderful place of learning, growing and having fun.

A friendly reminder that are students are involved in state testing until the end of May. EOC Exams are May 26-27 and the Smarter Balanced Assessment Testing will go up until May 29. Also, the 5th and 8th graders will take the Science MSP test on May 6 (8<sup>th</sup> grade) and May 20 (5<sup>th</sup> grade). Please remember that these assessments are very rigorous, difficult, challenging and demanding. These tests are important and parents can help their child prepare for the state testing by making sure students get adequate rest. Eating healthy foods and having nutritious meals provided for them is also important. Students should do their best and try their hardest on their state tests. Parents are encouraged to make or schedule all doctor, dentist and other appointments (if possible) after school and not during the morning time during the testing windows because this will interfere with state testing.

May 4-8 is “*Staff Appreciation Week*”. We do appreciate the work our staff does for our school and our community, not only during regular work hours, but also "beyond the call of duty" for the many hours that are dedicated outside of work time volunteering for the betterment of our education program and our students. Please take the time to join us in thanking them for their work.

Have a wonderful, safe and fun summer. We are always looking to make things better at Washtucna Schools and welcome your feedback, input, ideas or suggestions. Please feel free to contact me if you have items you would like to talk about at 646-3211 ext.123 or email me at [bseedall@tucna.wednet.edu](mailto:bseedall@tucna.wednet.edu). We “**thank you**” once again for your help and assistance in making Washtucna Schools an excellent place to educate your child.

Brent Seedall

**Upcoming Events**

**May**

- 1-29.....Smarter Balanced Testing
- 4.....Mid-Quarter for 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter
- 4-13.....ASB Campaign Week/Elections
- 6.....4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Progress Reports Sent Home
- 6.....MSP Science Test---8<sup>th</sup> Grade
- 10.....Mother’s Day BBQ @ 12:00 noon
- 13.....Early Release Day 11:30am
- 14.....Pre-School Round-Up 8:00am – 10:00am
- 14-16 .....State FFA in Pullman

- 17.....Baccalaureate at Washtucna Community Church 11:00am
- 21.....Spring Music Concert and Art Show 6:30pm
- 25.....Memorial Day: No School
- 26.....Biology EOC Exam for 10<sup>th</sup> Grade
- 26.....School Board Meeting 7:00pm
- 26-28.....2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Finals Exams for Seniors
- 27.....Math EOC Exam for 10<sup>th</sup> Grade
- 28.....Sports Physicals 9:00am
- 29.....Elementary Track Meet in St. John 12:30pm
- 29.....Senior Graduation Practice
- 30.....Washtucna Graduation 11:00am

**June**

- 2-4 .....2<sup>nd</sup> Semester Final Exams for 7<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> Grade
- 4.....Secondary Awards Assembly & 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Recognition 12:00 – 12:45pm
- 4.....Field Day 1:00pm
- 5.....Elementary Awards 8:15am
- 5.....Last Day of School Early Release 11:00am
- 23.....School Board Meeting 7:00pm

**Meal Fee Changes for 2015-2016**

During our winter/spring review of our programs, it has come to our attention from the state that it would be prudent to review our General Fund Fees, specifically in the area of “Meal Fees” for the upcoming school year 2015-2016. These “Meal Fees” were well out of proportion to those in our surrounding area. With that said, the Washtucna School District has just completed our review and proposed to our School Board an increase of twenty-five cents across the board from primary through grade twelve as well as adult breakfasts and lunches. The proposal was accepted and the new prices below will go into effect the first day of school on August 27<sup>th</sup> of this coming school year. Below are the changes for 2015-2016 no changes have been made to the reduced pricing:

Primary – 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lunch	\$1.75
7 <sup>th</sup> Grade – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Lunch	\$2.00
Primary – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reduced Lunch	\$0.40
Adult Lunch	\$3.25
Primary – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Breakfast	\$1.00
Primary – 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reduced Breakfast	\$0.30
Adult Breakfast	\$1.50

If you have any questions regarding the price changes above, please contact Mr. Wing,

Washtucna Superintendent at 509-646-3237 or 509-438-3951.

### ***First & Second Grade News From Mrs. Sitton***

Did you know that dragonflies breathe through holes in their abdomens? That almost all grasshoppers have two pairs of wings? Or that the largest butterfly can have a wingspan up to 12.5 inches? These are just a few of the interesting facts we learned in our insect unit. We also were able to watch caterpillars become butterflies and ladybug larvae turn into ladybugs. We even had a praying mantis egg case in our class. Lots of fun learning going on. The month of May brings us to the study of matter which is everywhere and in everything. We will learn about the 3 states of matter. Can you name them? We will be working on reading the novel "The Boxcar Children". Lots of reading and writing activities will accompany the book. Have a great summer and thank you so much for entrusting me with your precious children this year.

### ***Third and Fourth Grade News from Ms. Whipple***

This has been a terrific school year! I have seen so much progress and couldn't be more proud of the four great boys in the 3rd and 4th grade classes. I see each of these students working hard and showing kindness to others. I am so thankful I had the opportunity to work with them this year. Over the year, these students have learned how to discuss books in a thoughtful way, write stories, research papers, and opinion papers, as well as how to use their knowledge about erosion to build a dam in a simulation where they had to save a model town from flooding. I have seen these students think in creative ways to solve problems and cooperate throughout the year. The 3rd and 4th graders have shown a lot of progress in math and have learned many skills including, adding and subtracting fractions, comparing angles, and skills for solving a multi-step word problem. They have learned how to write a topic sentence and cite evidence from their text when they answer a question. Overall, this is a kind-hearted group of boys that are hard-working and positive role models to their peers. I look forward to seeing what they accomplish in the future.

### ***Fifth and Sixth Grade News from Mrs. Camp***

We would like to thank those that are saving and turning in the Campbell's labels for our elementary. The labels were submitted and we were able to get \$175 in prepaid Visa cards. The money is going to be used to get new reading novels for the elementary classrooms to support our reading program. "Labels for Education" is a program that has labels on many products that you buy that count as points toward products or gift cards that can be used in schools. If you would like to have a list of those products, you can go online to [Labelsforeducation.com](http://Labelsforeducation.com) and you will be able to get a list of the many products that are considered a part of the points system. Again, thank you so much to those that turn in the labels that provide extra funds for our students!

### ***Elementary Reading Month: "Journey to a Good Book"***

"Journey to a Good Book" was an excellent theme for our Reading Month in March. This year we focused on the Oregon Trail or any kind of settling west which required a wagon train mode of transportation. The elementary students learned about the cost of the trip, how long it took to make the trip west, the choices of what you would take on the trip, as well as the perils along the way. We visited Blauert Farms to see the baby sheep (*thank you to Fred and Timmie*), made homemade bread and butter, had a guest who happened to be Mrs. Erickson's son Ellis, come in and talk about survival skills, and on April 2 we went on a field trip to Fort Walla Walla. At Fort Walla Walla, the students got to see some Civil War memorabilia, the stagecoach that traveled between Walla Walla and Lewiston, a covered wagon, a 32 mule team pulling a combine, wagons, clothes, and an Indian display of artifacts from the area. Below the actual museums, the students toured homestead cabins that were brought into the grounds for educational purposes. Also on the lower grounds, they have original buildings that were a jail, train station, barber shop, a garden from the homestead era and a blacksmith shop. We encourage others to go to Fort Walla Walla and truly learn so much about the heritage of the area. We want to thank Caring Neighbors and Wilbur Ellis for providing the grant money for our students' prizes and t-shirts.

## ***Come One, Come All for the Preschool Round -Up Day on May 14***

If you have a child that will be 3 or 4 years old by August 31, 2015 you are invited to come and visit the Washtucna Preschool classroom on Thursday, May 14th from 8:00am to 10:00am. We will also be offering early enrollment on that day so bring your child's current shot records and a copy of their birth certificate. If you have any questions please contact Kara Pavone at 646-3237 ext. 115. Hope to see you there!

## ***WASA 2015 Community Leader Award***

Karen Kinch was recently honored with the "2015 Community Leader Award" sponsored through the Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA) for being an exceptional community member with many exemplary attributes. She has taught dance for school age children K-12 for 34 years. Karen is dedicated to helping students gain self-esteem, confidence and discover the power of positive thinking. She is accepting of all types of students, which motivates them to fully participate.

Karen is a self-starter and helps children be the same. She cooperates with several different schools for recitals and coordinates the schedules with ease. She has had great success and has blessed the lives of many throughout five neighboring communities that support her dance program. *Congratulations to Karen and we appreciate all of her tireless efforts!*

## ***Artwork Donations for the Spring Art Show***

The art show is coming up on May 21, along with the Spring Concert. Any community members who have drawings or paintings they would like to exhibit are urged to do so. It is great for students to see the artworks that the community members produce. If anyone has questions about this, please call Mrs. Erikson at 629-2813. Artwork can be dropped off at the school library the day before the show and can be picked up on Friday May 22, or Mrs. Erikson can deliver it.

## ***2014-2015 3rd Quarter Honor Roll for 7th-12th 3.25-3.49 Honor Roll***

Derek McKeen	10 <sup>th</sup>
Kaylee Pavone	10 <sup>th</sup>
Brittany Gordon	11 <sup>th</sup>
Chance Rice	12 <sup>th</sup>

### ***3.50-3.75 Principal Scholar***

Emma Hulett	7 <sup>th</sup>
Jazzmyn Gordon	9 <sup>th</sup>
Garrett Correll	10 <sup>th</sup>
Douglas McKeen	12 <sup>th</sup>
Kaese Ramos	12 <sup>th</sup>
Eric Wise	12 <sup>th</sup>

### ***3.76-3.99 Superintendent Scholar***

Madisyn Gallaher	8 <sup>th</sup>
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## ***3rd Quarter Perfect Attendance:***

### ***Elementary***

Gemini Correll  
Drake Gloyn  
Lucas Sitton  
Zack Crouse  
Nate Hille  
Josh Crouse

### ***Secondary***

Douglas McKeen  
Kaese Ramos  
Chance Rice

## ***Sports Physicals***

Washtucna School District & Dr. Sackmann of Hometown Family Medicine is offering parents and athletics the opportunity to get their sports physicals completed for the 2015-2016 school year. Here is the information:

Date: Thursday, May 28, 2015

Where: Washtucna Gym & Coaches Room

Time: 9:00am

Cost: \$25 (Cash or Check) Make checks payable to: "Hometown Family Medicine"

## ***Spring Music Events by Mrs. Hille***

The Spring Concert and Art Show will be held Thursday, May 21 at 6:30 p.m. in the Washtucna Gym and will feature grades K-12. The dress for elementary students is "dressy", whatever this means for you. Please try to avoid holes in clothes and writing/logos. Grades 7-12 will be wearing formal black and white, students should talk to me for more information. Grades 5-12 band students will also be performing at the Kahlotus Spring Concert on Tuesday, May 26 at 6:30 p.m.

The 7-12 grade band students will be performing at the Kahlotus Graduation on Friday May 29 at 7:00

p.m. and the Washtucna Graduation on Saturday May 30 at 11:00 a.m.

### ***ASB Roadside Clean-up Service Project***

The annual Junior High and High School Roadside Clean-up Service Project was held on Friday, April 24 in the afternoon for all of our secondary students. ASB members organized this event and students participated by cleaning up the walkways and areas around town and on Highway 272. Upon returning back to school, students were treated to some ice cream. This annual event is a great way for the students and staff to “give back” to the community. It is estimated that we picked up approximately 40 bags of trash during this afternoon cleanup.

### ***FFA News from Mrs. Draper***

#### *FFA District 9 Leadership Career Development Events*

This year our second round of District 9 FFA Leadership Speaking Events was hosted at Big Bend Community College on Friday March 20th, 2015. Jazzmyn Gordon competed in the Creed Contest. The Creed Contest is a contest for 7th, 8th and 9th grade students to help develop their public speaking skills and agricultural literacy. Jazzmyn had competed prior to this contest at a Sub Districts contest and made it to this round to display her skills once again. She did an amazing job and received 1st place overall and will represent our Community and FFA Chapter at State FFA in Pullman, Washington on May 15th.

#### *FFA State Agronomy Career Development Event in Pullman Washington*

Kaese Ramos, Chance Rice, Brittany Gordon, Derek McKeen and Jazzmyn Gordon all competed in the FFA State Agronomy Contest on March 25, 2015 in Pullman. Students did very well in grading and giving reasons for commodity evaluations and pure seed evaluation and in identifying machinery. This was a new contest this year for all students involved. It was awesome to see our students exposed to all 11 areas of this contest that is so closely related to what is going on agriculturally in our area.

### ***ASB Easter Egg Hunt***

The Washtucna ASB students were busy for the past month stuffing chocolate candies in plastic eggs in preparation for the annual Easter Egg Hunt that was held the first weekend in April at the Bassett Park. Lots of kids (between 70-85) turned out and had lots of fun. We would like to thank the whole Washtucna community for chipping in and donating to help make this Easter Egg Hunt a success. Without the generous community support of individuals this event would not happen each year. We appreciate your kindness and generosity. ***Kudos to LaRena Draper for organizing this event each year and making this a fun, exciting, worthwhile activity for our kids.***



## ***Yearbooks!***

\$35 each

Order March 1 – May 31

Payment *must* be received by June 5!

The Washtucna School District #109 complies with all federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation, including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provided equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries regarding compliance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX Officer Luke Glidden; Section 504 Coordinator Lacy Nichols; and Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator Brent Seedall @ 730 E. Booth Avenue, Washtucna, WA 99371; 509-646-3237 or 509-646-3401.