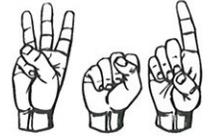




Between Us...



...a monthly communication newsletter with and for our parents.

January 29, 2010 Vol. 28, No. 03

Dates Of Special Interest

February

5	Student departure day
7	Students return PM
12	Student departure day
14	Students return PM
19	Mid-quarter
	Student departure day
21	Students return PM
26	Student departure day
28	Students return PM

March

5	Student departure day
7	Students return PM
12	Student departure day
14	Students return PM
19	End of 3 rd Quarter
	Student departure day
22-28	Spring Break
29	Students Return AM

April

2	Student departure day
5	Campus Closed
6	Students Return AM
9	Student departure day
11	Students return PM
16	Student departure day
18	Students return PM
23	Student departure day
25	Students return PM
26-30	Spring Drama
30	Parent Teacher Conferences
	Student departure day

WSD SUMMER PROGRAM REGISTRATION

This year WSD will be offering the following summer camps: Basketball, Outdoor Exploration, Driver Education (non-WSD students only), Transition (non-WSD students only) and Astrophysics

Registration information for summer camp is available on the website at: www.wsd.k12.wi.us

Brochures for the parents of current WSD students are enclosed with this issue of the newsletter.

Message from the Director

Alex H. Slappey



Decisions, Decisions, Decisions
The Art of Making Decisions
and Alienating People

Back when I was a teacher I sometimes wondered what superintendents did during their day. Back in those days there were no computers so a lot of business was conducted on the phone or face to face. Whenever I'd go to talk to my superintendent (not often) I'd often find him talking on the phone...or maybe it was just his way to avoid me...in any case I did figure out that superintendents spend a lot of their time talking to people...just not to me.

After 12 years as a principal and as I approach the midway point of my 14th year as superintendent/director I think I've finally figured out what educational administrators do...I'm a slow learner so it took a while. In its simplest form, the job of administrators is to make decisions.

"Decision making is
the specific executive task."
Peter F. Drucker

In my 28 years as an administrator I've found the authority to make decisions is a double edged sword. While it's nice to be the one who gets to make the call...on the flip side...even a good decision almost never satisfies everyone. You're always gonna make somebody's enemies list.

BETWEEN US...This is a newsletter for parents of the students of the Wisconsin School for the Deaf. Approximately eight issues are planned for the 2009-2010 school year. Parents are invited to send newsworthy items to the school office.

The Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, religion, age, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability.

Director's message cont.

What can you do? Actually the best thing you can do is get the information you need to make the decision and make it. Herein lies the catch, it's really a no win situation. Folks who are unhappy with the decision generally have one of two views. If you talked to them prior to the decision, then they think you don't respect their opinion. If you didn't talk to them, then the other view is you didn't care to get their input.

"Whenever I make a bum decision,
I go out and make another one."
Harry S. Truman

I don't make decisions in a vacuum, I talk to folks first, but I usually can't talk to everyone affected by a decision. And invariably some folks will take this to mean I don't value or care for their opinions.

That's just not true...mostly anyway. There are always a few people you avoid like the plague, not because they don't have viable views, but rather because it takes them 20 minutes to articulate a simple thought. As my mentor, the late John Shipman would say, "Keep it brief and concise."

Sometimes decisions need to be made in short order and there's not enough time to talk with everyone. In other cases I know the options are limited and further input would have no impact on the decision. Administrators are paid to make decisions with "the big picture" in mind and this is sometimes a factor overlooked by folks whose perceptions are more "local". While the big picture does not always overrule the local factor, it's a very powerful consideration and one that many folks overlook because it's not so obvious.

Decisions are often determined by the values you set to various factors. Administrators may have assigned higher values to certain factors than say a teacher. This does not belittle the teacher's opinion or values, it merely reflects the difference in perceptions and it can be influenced by the big picture.

The bottom line is we have to make these decisions. While not making a decision is a

valid practice in some cases (you hope it will go away), mostly you need to pull the trigger, because, if you don't, nothing happens.

"Indecision is like a stepchild:
If he does not wash his hands,
he is called dirty, if he does
he is wasting water."

African Proverb

WSD Birthdays



February

- 1 Maydee VandeHey
Dakota Kangas
- 2 Eli Breaker
- 4 Casey Muth
- 6 Janessa Guza
Elizabeth Besaw
- 7 Elisabeth Breaker
- 19 Olivia Percifield
- 20 Kalu Cha
- 23 Sierra Weinfurtner
- 25 Justin Toles
- 26 Thomas Steinbach
- 28 Ashley Wagner
Alexandria Rodriguez

March

- 1 Andrew Coppola
- 12 Tristan Bollig
- 14 Tyler Evans
- 17 Tiffany Besaw-Benz
- 21 Devon Krajcik
- 25 Jose Castillo
- 26 Dequan Carter
Toni Lovrek
- 29 Zominique Walker

Events Of Interest

Little Caesar's Fund Raiser

The student life residents and staff had a fundraiser to earn funds for the dorm. Students and staff alike sold Little Caesar's "Pizza Kits", bread kits, cookie dough, salad items and much, much more. The incentive for students was a "really nice gift" for the top seller in High School, Middle School, and Elementary. With that in mind, students did their best and we are very pleased with the results. The three winners of a gift certificate value at \$50 dollar were: High School – Justin Toles, Middle School – Katelyn Miller, and for Elementary – Wyatt Stroller. We'd like to thank all of the participants for their hard work in making this sale such a success.

Statewide Family Conference

REGISTER NOW!

for more information and registration please see the website at:

http://www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov/wesp/out_famcon.cfm

The 8th Annual Statewide Family Conference will be held March 12-14, 2010 at the Concourse Hotel & Governor's Club in Madison. We are proud of this event as it is offered specifically FOR families of children with hearing loss and is planned BY family members.

Our theme this year is "Empowering 21st Century Leaders & Learners" with Susan Elliott as our keynote presenter. In addition to being "Colorado Teacher of the Year 2009," she was also one of the four finalists for the National Teacher of the Year award. Born with a progressive hearing loss, Susan became profoundly deaf as a teenager. She holds Master's degrees in Deaf Education from Gallaudet University and Educational Administration and Supervision from the CSUN National Leadership Training Program. Susan's keynote will address "Parenting 21st Century Learners." Every aspect of our world is rapidly evolving and this impacts how today's children will be prepared for tomorrow's workplace. Generations Y and Z are in school now. How is their educational experience different from their parents and grandparents? How are schools changing and what does it mean for children with hearing loss? Are IEP services changing too? Come and learn about why the world is 'flat' and how the future belongs to a different kind of mind.

Beginning and advanced level breakout sessions and discussion groups on practical topics are scheduled and tentatively include:

- Getting to Know You Discussion Groups
- ABCs of Audiology
- Hearing Loss, Babies and Their Parents: What do we do?
- Tips & Techniques for Toddler Tantrums

- Visual IEPs
- Intentional Communication About a Child
- Current & Emerging Assistive Technologies for People Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing
- Ensuring Success for Deaf Children: ASL as a Foundation for English
- Benefits of Dialogue Journals
- Listening for Words that Matter
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse: What is the Impact on Our Deaf/Hard of Hearing Community
- How to Talk to Your Child About Relationship and Sex
- Sizing Up the Spectrum of Communication Needs: What, Why and Who Needs These?
- Internet Safety
- Technology Room with Hands-on Demonstrations, Exhibitors and Resources
- Parent Panel Discussion: Supporting Independence in Our Youth: Parents' Perspectives
- Kids Discussions Groups – Hearing Siblings, Deaf/Hard of Hearing Role Models

This affordable conference offers families (including grandparents and extended family)....

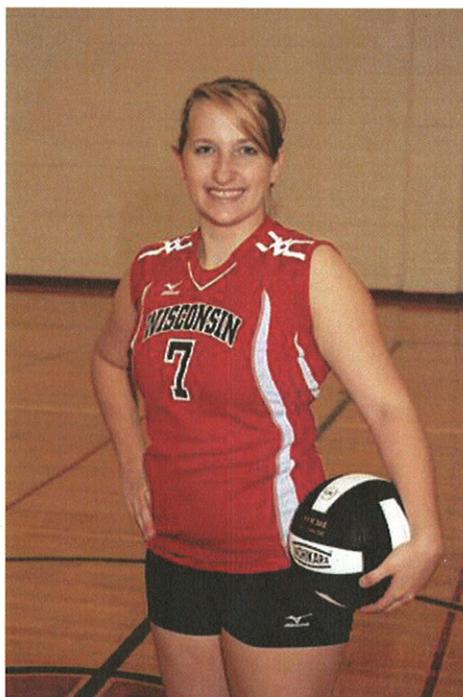
- Well-supervised and fun-filled children's activities while parents are in workshops
- Opportunities to meet other families around the state
- Opportunities to meet and learn from Hard of Hearing and Deaf adult role models
- Silent Auction to raise money for scholarships
- Workshops which are accessible to Deaf, Hmong and Spanish-speaking families.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Partial Scholarships for families are available through Wisconsin Families for Hands & Voices, www.handsandvoiceswi.org. All families with children who are hard of hearing, deaf, have combined vision and hearing loss, or are deaf with additional disabilities are encouraged to attend!

~ Home of the Firebirds ~
National Deaf Interscholastic Athletics Association's Announcement



Back to Back - National Deaf Prep 8-Man Football Champions



Ashley Wagner - National Deaf Prep Volleyball Division II

Player of the Year

Varsity Boys/Girls Basketball



The photo was taken at the California School for the Deaf (Clerc Classic)

Clerc Classic @ CSD Fremont

The Boys basketball team was invited to the 10th annual Clerc Classic Basketball Tournament in Fremont, CA during the MLK weekend. It was a new and big challenging experience for our boys to participate at the national level basketball tournament against big schools. Our junior Tony Davis was selected on the All-Tournament Team while the Sportsmanship plaque was awarded to our Boys basketball team. Congratulations!

CSSD @ Indiana & GPSD @ Iowa

Our boys and girls teams and cheer squad have been looking forward to attending two regional basketball tournaments @ Central State Schools for the Deaf – Indianapolis, IN and @ Great Plains Schools for the Deaf – Council Bluffs, IA. The participants of CSSD Basketball Tournament are Indiana, North Star (MN), Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Colorado, Illinois, and Maryland while GPSD Basketball Tournament participants will be Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and New Mexico. It is always an exciting time for our varsity teams and the cheerleaders.

Varsity Boys Schedule

Date:	Opponent/Location	Time/Score	Record
Mon ~ Nov 30	Keith @ WSD	32 - 29	1 - 0
Tue~ Dec 8	@ Union Grove Christian – rescheduled to Feb 8	Canceled	-
Thur ~ Dec 10	Trinity Academy @ WSD	53 - 45	2 - 0
Tue ~ Dec 15	@ Mountain Top	75 - 43	3 - 0
Thur ~ Jan 7	@ Grace Christian Academy - rescheduled to Feb 2	CANCELED	-
Mon ~ Jan 11	Rock County Christian @ WSD	48 - 55	3 - 1
Thur - Sat ~ Jan 14 - 16	Cleric Classic @ Fremont School for the Deaf WSD vs Fremont	34 - 51	3 - 2
Thur - Sat ~ Jan 14 - 16	Cleric Classic @ Fremont School for the Deaf WSD vs MSSD	34 - 45	3 - 3
Thur - Sat ~ Jan 14 - 16	Cleric Classic @ Fremont School for the Deaf WSD vs Riverside	37 - 64	3 - 4
Tue ~ Jan 19	@ Keith	60 - 68	3 - 5
Thur - Sat ~ Jan 28 - 30	CSSD @ Indiana	TBA	-
Tue ~ Feb 2	@ Grace Christian Academy	7:30pm	-
Mon ~ Feb 8	@ Union Grove Christian	6:00pm	-
Tue ~ Feb 9	@ Trinity Academy	6:00pm	-
Thur - Sat ~ Feb 11 - 13	GPSD @ Iowa	TBA	-
Tue ~ Feb 16	Mountain Top @ WSD	6:00pm	-
Thur ~ Feb 18	@ Rock County Christian	4:30pm	-
Tue ~ Feb 23	Union Grove Christian @ WSD	6:00pm	
Thur ~ Feb 25	Grace Christian Academy @ WSD	6:00pm	

Varsity Girls Schedule

Date:	Opponent/Location	Time/Score	Record
Mon ~ Nov 30	Keith @ WSD	34 - 60	0 - 1
Tue~ Dec 8	@ Union Grove Christian – rescheduled to Feb 8	Canceled	-
Thur ~ Dec 10	Trinity Academy @ WSD	33 - 49	0 - 2
Tue ~ Dec 15	@ Mountain Top	20 - 67	0 - 3
Thur ~ Jan 7	@ Grace Christian Academy - rescheduled to Feb 2	CANCELED	-
Tue ~ Jan 12	Maranatha Baptist Academy @ WSD	40 - 39	1 - 3
Tue ~ Jan 19	@ Keith	17 - 46	1 - 4
Thur ~ Jan 21	@ Maranatha Baptist Academy	29 - 41	1 - 5
Thur - Sat ~ Jan 28 - 30	CSSD @ Indiana	TBA	-
Tue ~ Feb 2	@ Grace Christian Academy	6:00pm	-
Mon ~ Feb 8	@ Union Grove Christian	4:30pm	-
Tue ~ Feb 9	@ Trinity Academy	4:30pm	-
Thur - Sat ~ Feb 11 - 13	GPSD @ Iowa	TBA	-
Tue ~ Feb 16	Mountain Top @ WSD	4:30pm	-
Tue ~ Feb 23	Union Grove Christian @ WSD	4:30pm	
Thur ~ Feb 25	Grace Christian Academy @ WSD	4:30pm	

Middle School Team A Boys Schedule

Date	Opponent/Location	Time/Score	Record
Mon ~ Nov 23	Boys' Tip-off Tournament @ WSD WSD vs Faith	35 - 7	1 - 0
Mon ~ Nov 23	Boys' Tip-off Tournament @ WSD WSD vs DCS	14 - 41	1 - 1
Mon ~ Nov 30	@ Woods	22 - 47	1 - 2
Tue ~ Dec 1	Williams Bay @ WSD	28 - 27	2 - 2
Thur ~ Dec 3	@ Faith Christian	35 - 18	3 - 2
Mon ~ Dec 7	Our Redeemer Lutheran School @ WSD	31 - 51	3 - 3
Mon ~ Dec 14	Woods @ WSD	22 - 38	3 - 4
Tue ~ Dec 15	@ Williams Bay	26 - 43	3 - 5
Thur ~ Jan 5	St Andrew's @ WSD	26 - 45	3 - 6
Mon ~ Jan 11	@ St Andrew's	18 - 38	3 - 7
Tue ~ Jan 19	Faith Christian School @ WSD	41 - 27	4 - 7

Middle School Team B Boys Schedule

Date	Opponent/Location	Time/Score	Record
Mon ~ Nov 30	@ Woods	24 - 31	0 - 1
Thur ~ Dec 3	@ Faith Christian	23 - 14	1 - 1
Mon ~ Dec 7	Our Redeemer Lutheran School @ WSD	27 - 35	1 - 2
Mon ~ Dec 14	Woods @ WSD	23 - 21	2 - 2
Thur ~ Jan 5	St Andrew's @ WSD	25 - 28	2 - 3
Mon ~ Jan 11	@ St Andrew's	31 - 32	2 - 4
Tue ~ Jan 19	Faith Christian School @ WSD	31 - 12	3 - 4

Middle School Girls Schedule

Date	Opponent/Location	Time/Score	Record
Tue ~ Nov 24	Girls' Tip-off Tournament @ WSD WSD vs Faith	14 - 31	0 - 1
Tue ~ Nov 24	Girls' Tip-off Tournament @ WSD WSD vs DCS	6 - 44	0 - 2
Tue ~ Dec 1	Williams Bay @ WSD	30 - 17	1 - 2
Thur ~ Dec 3	Faith Christian @ WSD	13 - 44	1 - 3
Mon ~ Dec 7	@ Our Redeemer Lutheran School	9 - 31	1 - 4
Mon ~ Dec 14	@ St Andrew's	10 - 40	1 - 5
Tue ~ Dec 15	@ Williams Bay	14 - 25	1 - 6
Mon ~ Jan 11	St Andrew's @ WSD	21 - 35	1 - 7
Tue ~ Jan 12	Woods @ WSD	25 - 52	1 - 8
Tue ~ Jan 19	Faith Christian School @ WSD	17 - 44	1 - 9

Special Olympic Schedule

Date	Opponent/Location	Time/Score	Record
Wed ~ Jan 20	Lakeland School @ WSD - Shooting Stars	12:45pm	-
Wed ~ Jan 20	Lakeland School @ WSD - Battalion	1:30pm	-
Wed ~ Jan 27	@ JI Case HS - Shooting Stars	6:30pm	-
Wed ~ Jan 27	@ JI Case HS - Battalion	7:30pm	-
Sun ~ Jan 31	Tournament in Fort Atkinson - Shooting Stars	TBA	-
Sun ~ Jan 31	Tournament in Fort Atkinson - Battalion	TBA	
Sun ~ Feb 7	Tournament in Mukwonago - Shooting Stars	TBA	-
Sun ~ Feb 7	Tournament in Mukwonago - Battalion	TBA	-
Wed ~ Feb 10	@ Burlington - Shooting Stars	6:00pm	-
Wed ~ Feb 10	@ Burlington - Battalion	7:00pm	-
Thur ~ Feb 11	@ Union Grove - Shooting Stars	6:00pm	-
Thur ~ Feb 11	@ Union Grove - Battalion	7:00pm	
Thur ~ Feb 18	Shedard's @ WSD - Shooting Stars	6:00pm	
Thur ~ Feb 18	Shepard's @ WSD - Battalion	7:00pm	
Wed ~ Feb 24	@ Lakeland School - Shooting Stars	12:30pm	
Wed ~ Feb 24	@ Lakeland School - Battalion	1:15pm	
Sat ~ Feb 27	Skills Tournament @ Lake Geneva - Skills Athletes	TBA	-
Sat ~ Mar 6	Area Tournament @ Wilmont - Both Teams	TBA	-
Sun ~ Mar 28	Regional Tournament @ Mequon - Both Teams depending on placing on Mar 6	TBA	-
Thur-Sat ~ April 9-11	State Trounament @ UW-Oshkosh - Both Teams depending on placing on Mar 28	TBA	-

The 2010 Special Olympic Basketball season has started with the first games being played at WSD on January 20th. The WSD Shooting Stars lost a close game, but showed improved skills and understanding of the game. The WSD Battalion used good ball handling and teamwork to win their opener convincingly. A strong showing by WSD staff and students helped encourage the athletes to play their best. The teams travel to Racine for their next game against the Western Racine County Special Olympic teams. Good luck to the WSD Shooting Stars and WSD Battalion!