

WHITE SALMON VALLEY SCHOOLS BEAR NEWS



September 2007

Vol. 8 No. 1

Welcome back to school!

The 2007-2008 school year has begun! I would like to welcome all of our students and their parents back to school!

At the time of this writing we have two new certificated staff and two new classified staff to introduce as well as 6 positions yet to fill.

Henkle Middle School will have two new certificated staff this school year. Mr. Gary McKinley will be teaching in a 5th/6th grade classroom. Mr. McKinley comes to us from the Finley School District in the Tri Cities area where he has taught 7th/8th grade mathematics. Ms. Ursala Kermani will be teaching 5th/6th grade art on a half-time basis. Ms. Kermani completed her student teaching this past spring at Henkle Middle School and served as Columbia High School's girl's volleyball junior varsity coach last season. We welcome these two fine educators to our educational family.

One other certificated position remains open as of this writing. That position is the Columbia High School Art/CTE (Career Technical Education) position. We have interviewed for this position, and having not found a replacement, have reopened the position. We are currently accepting applications

Bond Projects Update

Again, thank you voters for approving the \$1.7 million bond measure last February. This has been a busy summer keeping track of all the different projects taking place throughout the school district. Prior to the end of October, I hope to have a second edition of Bear News dedicated almost entirely to discussing these construction projects. By that time I hope we have final costs associated with many of the projects, and I can more accurately demonstrate final costs of each individual project as well as remaining dollars. This is important as the White Salmon Valley School District Board of Directors made the decision to place the parking lot repair project on hold while we determine the financial state of our capital projects fund. When remaining dollars are identified we will know to what extent the project can be advertised for next summer's work. I will now go over each project very briefly in the order in which they were listed in the bond brochure last winter.

Whitson Modular Classrooms. The foundation has been poured and water, sewer, and power has been trenched to the site. The building is scheduled to begin construction on Sep-

tember 6 with completion approximately one month later. The modular will be trucked to the site, cranes will lift each section onto the foundation, and the building will be assembled. Flooring will then be installed and furniture added. Hopefully the building can be occupied by the end of November.

and may be required to begin the school year with a long-term substitute teacher until a replacement can be found.

Other new hires include Mr. Tim Wilson who will be our new Columbia High School night time custodian replacing Mr. Ray Frazer who retired after 41 years in our school district. Congratulations on your retirement Ray! We also hired Mr. Jim Anderson (actually hired mid-year last year) to be Whitson Elementary School's Physical Activities After-School Program Coordinator.

Again, as of this writing we currently have 5 other positions remaining to be filled. Those positions include: Columbia High School instructional assistant, and, at Whitson Elementary School, the positions of Prevention/Intervention Specialist, Bilingual Instructional Assistant, playground aide, and crossing guard.

Included in this issue of Bear News you will find an article updating you on the construction projects that have taken place over the course of the summer, many little "boxed-in" articles with required information, and on the back page, a revised school calendar for the 2007-2008 school year.

Henkle Roof. As of this writing, gutters are being installed and the final touches being added to the roof. This project should be completed as you read this article.

Flooring throughout district. As you may have read this summer, we ran in to some problems with this project. Asbestos glue, remaining from the abatement that took place 17 years ago, was found underneath Whitson's existing carpet and tile flooring. There was never any danger to health as the asbestos glue was totally contained by these materials. However, the new Mondo rubberized flooring would not stick to this material and needed to be abated. This cost the district approximately \$23,000 that was not budgeted, as well as 10 lost working days for installation of the new flooring material. As a result, nine classrooms scheduled to receive Mondo flooring at Henkle

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ANNUAL NOTIFICATION OF DISTRICT'S PEST CONTROL PROCEDURES

This letter serves as annual notification of the District's pest control procedures as required by Chapter 17.21 RCW, The Pesticide Application Act. The district does have a formal policy and procedures regarding pesticide application and management. In this letter of notice you will be informed in general of our pest control practices, how to register for pre-notification of pesticide applications and posting at time of application.

In terms of current control practices, the District uses a limited number of pesticides as approved by the Department of Agriculture for broad leaf and weed control. These are applied as needed, approximately twice a year. This use is to address specific pest problems such as clover and dandelions on our playing fields. Pesticides White Salmon Valley School District uses on a regular basis include: Round Up, Weed N Feed, Escalade, Ortho Weed Be Gone, Lilly Miller Blackberry and Brush Killer and Caseron. Pesticide application is done by in-house personnel who are trained as certified applicators.

On as needed basis, the district also uses pesticides to address specific insect problems, including ants and bees nests. Pesticides White Salmon Valley School District uses on a regular basis include: Home Pest Control-Enforcer, Grant's Kills Ants and Ortho Wasp Killer.

For applications that are made to school grounds, the notice will be posted at the location of the application. Notification signs will remain in place for at least twenty-four hours from the time the application is completed. The notice will be no smaller than four inches by five inches and state "This landscape has been recently sprayed or treated with pesticides by your school". The notice will also include the name of a person to call for more information.

When we apply pesticides while school is in session we will place 8 1/2 by 11 inch "Notice: Pesticide Application" posters at the main entrance and the main office of the school building where pesticides are going to be applied. These posters will state the product being used, date and time of application, location of application, the pest to be controlled and a name and phone number of a contact person. These signs will be put up forty-eight hours before the pesticides will be applied.

Annual Notification to Parents of their right to request public records relating to school employee discipline:

Pursuant to Chapter 42.17 RCW, parents and other members of the public have the right to inspect and copy public records retained by the district, including records pertaining to employee discipline, unless the records are exempt from public disclosure under state law.

White Salmon Valley School District 405-17 Asbestos Management Plan

In its continuing efforts to safeguard students, staff, and public safety, the White Salmon School District 405-17 has adopted an Asbestos Management Plan. Such a plan includes any work that has been done in school facilities pertaining to surveillance, inspections, reinspections, response actions and post-response actions. The Management Plan is available to employees, parents, or others for inspection in the Superintendent's office or in any facility office. The district may charge a reasonable fee for copies of the Management Plan.

Jim Mansfield, PO Box 157
White Salmon, WA 98672

If you would like to be pre-notified in writing, please send written notification to: White Salmon Valley Schools, Administration Office, PO Box 157, White Salmon, WA 98672 or fax it to 509-493-2275. You will be pre-notified, in writing and by mail, a minimum of 48 hours prior to each application. This notice will state the location, intended date and time of the application, the pest to be controlled and the name and telephone number of the contact person at the school. Moreover, at the time a pesticide is applied, the school must post notice at the location(s).

The pre-notification requirements of the above paragraph do not apply to any emergency school facility application for control of any pest that poses an immediate human health or safety threat, such as an application to control stinging insects. When an emergency school facility application is made, notification consistent with our notification system will occur as soon as possible after the application. The notification will include information consistent with the normal pre-notification requirements. Notice will also be posted in the main office as soon as possible after an emergency application.

The school is also required to maintain an annual summary of all pesticide applications. This summary is a matter of public record and is readily available at the administration office for review by any interested person. Also available at the administration office is all records of all applications in the district should you want to view them.

In closing, with the implementation of these new requirements, the District is in compliance with Chapter 17.21 RCW, The Pesticide Application Act.

Parent's Right of Access to Student Records

White Salmon School District, in order to protect the privacy of parents and students and to comply with the requirements of Section 438 of the General Privacy act as amended, designates the following categories of personally identifiable information from student records as directory information: the student's name, photograph, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, dates of attendance, participation in officially recognized activities and sports, weight and height of members of athletic teams, dates of attendance, diplomas and awards received and the most recent previous school attended.

It is the right of the parent of a student or any student who has attained the age of 18 to refuse to permit the designation of any or all of the aforementioned categories of personally identifiable information with respect to that student as directory information. Any such student or parent must notify the school district of such refusal within ten days of the publication of this notice. Such written notice should be addressed to Dale F. Palmer, Superintendent, White Salmon School District, PO Box 157, White Salmon, WA 98672.

Notice of Parent right to Request Teacher and/or Paraprofessional Qualifications:

Parents have the right to request information on teacher's or para-professional's qualifications. If such a request is made, parents can receive information on whether teachers meet state certification requirements for the grade level and subjects they're teaching, whether they are teaching via provisional waiver or emergency permit, their degree major and field of discipline as well as any graduate certification they hold. If their child receives any services from a paraprofessional, parents should also be notified if the paraprofessional has met paraprofessional qualifications.

Notification of Rights Under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) for Elementary and Secondary Institutions

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) affords parents and students over 18 years of age ("eligible students") certain rights with respect to the student's education records. These rights are:

1. The right to inspect and review the student's education records within 45 days of the day the School receives a request for access. Parents or eligible students should submit to the School principal [or appropriate school official] a written request that identifies the record(s) they wish to inspect. The School official will make arrangements for access and notify the parent or eligible student of the time and place where the records may be inspected.
2. The right to request the amendment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading. Parents or eligible students may ask the School to amend a record that they believe is inaccurate or misleading. They should write the School principal [or appropriate official], clearly identify the part of the record they want changed, and specify why it is inaccurate or misleading. If the School decides not to amend the record as requested by the parent or eligible student, the School will notify the parent or eligible student of the decision and advise them of their right to a hearing regarding the request for amendment. Additional information regarding the hearing procedures will be provided to the parent or eligible student when notified of the right to a hearing.
3. The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's education records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent. One

exception, which permits disclosure without consent, is disclosure to school officials with legitimate educational interests. A school official is a person employed by the School as an administrator, supervisor, instructor, or support staff member (including health or medical staff and law enforcement unit personnel); a person serving on the School Board; a person or company with whom the School has contracted to perform a special task (such as an attorney, auditor, medical consultant, or therapist); or a parent or student serving on an official committee, such as a disciplinary or grievance committee, or assisting another school official in performing his or her tasks. A school official has a legitimate educational interest if the official needs to review an education record in order to fulfill his or her professional responsibility.

4. The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the School to comply with the requirements of FERPA. The name and address of the Office that administers FERPA are:

**Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Dept. of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202-4605**

ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS (AYP)

The federal "No Child Left Behind" law requires all schools that receive Title I funding to report their "Adequate Yearly Progress" (AYP) status. A school determines its AYP by comparing the achievement level of its students with yearly state targets. By the year 2014, the law mandates that 100 percent of all students in all schools reach grade-level proficiency in reading and mathematics.

In order to attain AYP, every sub-group of students in every grade of the school, as well as the overall student population, must achieve the state's proficiency targets. If even one sub-group of students does not attain AYP, then the entire school is labeled as not having achieved AYP, no matter how well all the other students fared. AYP does not recognize how much the students grow from year to year, nor what achievement level the students start before the school year begins.

Below are the results for the White Salmon Valley School District, based on results from the state's Washington Assessment of Student Learning:

Whitson Elementary School: Attained AYP

Henkle Middle School: Overall student population achieved state targets; of 64 sub-groups across four grades, Henkle M.S. sub-groups achieved learning targets in 60 but not in 4 of those sub-groups. Hence, Henkle M.S. was labeled as not having attained AYP.

Columbia H.S.: Attained AYP

The Washington State "uniform bar" targets will increase for the 2008 WASL test, up to proficiency rates of 76.1 in reading and 64.9 in mathematics for grades 3-5, and 65.1 in reading and 58.7 in mathematics for grades 6-8. The state, following a mandate from the federal government, changed its methodology of calculating AYP last school year, resulting in many more schools throughout the state receiving the label of not achieving AYP. It is expected that even more schools will receive that same level in 2008 as the standards increase.

White Salmon Valley School District Non-Discrimination Announcement

The White Salmon Valley School District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, sexual orientation including gender identity, or disability.

This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX/RCW 28A.640 officer and/or Section 504/ADA coordinator. Title IX/Chapter 28A.640 RCW Officer and Section 504/ADA Coordinator:

**Howard Kreps
PO Box 157, White Salmon, WA 98672**

Compulsory Attendance Law

All parents in the State of Washington of any child eight years of age and under 18 years of age shall cause such child to attend public schools and such child shall have the responsibility to attend full time when such school may be in session unless he/she qualifies as an exception under the law. Such exceptions include private and home school options and other special circumstances.

In an effort to encourage all students and their families to comply with the compulsory attendance law, new requirements have been added which include notifications of parents of non-attendance, scheduling of conferences, and other steps to eliminate or reduce a student's absences. District truancy procedures are available at school offices; and attendance exceptions are listed in the Compulsory School Attendance and Admission law, Chapter 28A.255, available at the district administration office or the public library.

Title I Schoolwide Eligibility

All of the White Salmon Valley School District's buildings are eligible for Schoolwide Title I Programs. Currently, Whitson Elementary is a Title I Schoolwide building. Henkle Middle School has a Title I and a Learning Assistance Program (LAP). Columbia High School has a Learning Assistance Program. These programs are available to serve students who are at risk of not meeting state standards.

Bond project update

—continued from page one

Middle School did not get completed. We will complete these rooms as we can throughout the school year, and certainly no later than next summer. The flooring material is on site and the installation crew could complete their work within one week's period of time. However, this work cannot be completed while class is in session, and the work may not, in all reality, be completed until next summer.

High School Lockers. This project is completed and the lockers are very nice. Our students will be able to store their backpacks in these lockers as we installed lockers large enough to do so.

Resurface Track. As I am writing this article, the last coat of rubberized material is being spread on the track. The track will be allowed to cure for a couple of days and then the striping will take place. By the time this edition of Bear News goes to print the track should be totally completed and patrons will have been walking again on the new surface.

Parking Lot Repair. As mentioned earlier in this article,

this project has been placed on hold while the district completes all other projects and then reevaluates its resources. Hopefully this project, too, will be completed in the summer of 2008.

Physical Fitness Room at CHS. This project, the smallest of all the projects, although not placed on hold nor forgotten, has not yet begun. We are still in the design phase and the project will be under construction in the very near future.

Grandstand Restrooms. This project, as of this writing, is awaiting the final inspection and then will be useable by the public. Again, by the time you are reading this article, the restrooms will have already been used at our first home football game of the season on Friday, August 31.

Once again, thank you voters for your support of this bond measure. Your school district is looking great and is very inviting for our students. Each building will soon have an Open House and I encourage you to look at our new, improved facilities.

2007-2008 Updated School Calendar

AUGUST						
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30	31					

JANUARY						
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FEBRUARY						
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APRIL						
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JUNE						
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29	30					

- ~ Aug. 24 - New Teachers Report
- ~ Aug. 27 - Curriculum Planning Learning Improvement Day
- ~ Aug. 28 - Teachers Report
- ~ Aug. 29 - School Starts
- ~ Sept. 3 - Labor Day
- ~ Nov. 12 - Veteran's Day
- ~ Nov. 21-23 - Thanksgiving Break
- ~ Dec 17-Jan. 1 - Christmas Vacation
- ~ Jan. 2 - School Resumes
- ~ Jan. 21 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- ~ Jan. 25 - Semester Break Day
- ~ Feb. 18 - President's Day
- ~ Apr. 7-11 - Spring Break
- ~ May 7 - Learning Improvement Day
- ~ May 26 - Memorial Day
- ~ June 7 - CHS Graduation
- ~ June 13 - Last Day of School

- No School Days
- Half Days of School 12:05 Release
- End of Quarters-snow days will advance these days
- Early Release 1:00 dismissal Staff Development
- No School - Built-in Snow Day System. Actual snow day closures will cancel these days in calendar order.
- * June 7 CHS Graduation
- 12:05 Release--Parent/Teacher Conferences: HMS/CHS: Oct. 10-12
WES: Dec. 3-6
CHS: Feb. 19-22
WES/HMS: Mar. 17-20

Hot Lunch Prices

Prices for hot lunch for the 2007-08 school year have been increased. Breakfast is available to all students. It will be served at Whitson Elementary and Henkle Middle School. Breakfast is available to high school students at Henkle Middle School. The prices are as follows:

	Lunch	Brkfst.
High School	\$2.25	\$1.25
Middle School	\$2.25	\$1.25
Elementary School	\$1.85	\$1.10
Reduced Price (4th-12th)	\$0.40	FREE
Reduced Price (K-3rd)	FREE	FREE
Adult	\$3.75	\$1.75
Milk	\$0.35	\$0.35

The program for free and reduced price meals will be offered to students as in the past. Application forms will be sent in a letter to parents of all children in the district. Copies will be available at the principal's office in each school, and applications may be submitted at any time during the year.

The information provided on the application form is confidential and will be used only for the purpose of determining eligibility. Under the provisions of the program, school secretaries will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent is dissatisfied with the ruling, he/she may wish to discuss the decision with the principal on an informal basis.

If he/she wishes to make a formal appeal, he/she may make a request either orally or in writing to Dale F. Palmer, Superintendent, School Administration Office, PO Box 157, White Salmon, WA 98672, telephone 493-1500. White Salmon School District is an equal opportunity provider.

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