

# Panther Paws



WENATCHEE HIGH SCHOOL

<http://whs.wsd.wednet.edu>

Dec., 2005/Jan., 2006

## Principal's Message Gangs and Student Safety

*This school year has been a challenging one regarding activities that have occurred with gangs from our community. Because of this, in an effort to keep school safe for all, we have had more suspensions and expulsions than usual. The general student body usually feels safe because these incidents occur with two consenting fighters, but we have added to our security and safety procedures and will continue to work for the best of all students.*

*In an effort to improve communications regarding this safety issue and others, our Director of Security, Bob King, will be presenting at the Principal's Cabinet on **Tuesday, December 6th @ 7PM** in the new Commons. There will be plenty of time for questions following the presentation.*

*We do not accept behaviors that interfere with your child's safety or the safety of others. If students or parents have concerns about school behavior, please talk to one of our administrators or counselors. Security questions may be directed to Bob King @ 663-1248.*

*Michele Wadeikis*



## Music Department Winter Gala



The All-Music Department winter gala concert will happen twice this year: December 19 and 20 at 7:30 pm. Admission is free! All music groups will be featured both nights – something that hasn't happened in over 20 years.



### Sign-Out Procedure:

Many students are leaving campus without signing out through the attendance office. Please remind your students that they **MUST** report to the attendance office prior to leaving the building during the school day. The procedure, which can be found on page 8 of the student planner, is as follows:

*"A student who needs to leave school prior to the end of the day is required to check out at the Attendance Office. A written parent/guardian request or phone call must be included stating the reason for leaving and when the student will be returning. (This applies to teacher requests for students to go off campus.)"*

Thank you for your assistance as we work toward maintaining a safe and secure learning environment for your child.



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## WHS Parent Connection

Parent Connection is a new parent volunteer group at WHS designed to facilitate a partnership between parents, school administration and staff, and school activity groups. Research has shown that these kinds of partnerships produce positive results for students, parents, teachers and overall school quality.

We cannot look at the school and home as being isolated from one another. We must see that the school, community and the home are interconnected with each other. The Parent Connection will serve as a liaison between WHS and parents concerning pertinent parent information, identifying ways for parents to meet the school's needs for volunteers, and to offer parents an avenue for providing feedback to the school.

Communication is the essential foundation upon which all other partnership standards are based, so that is where the Parent Connection will begin. The group will be an arm of the currently existing Principal's Cabinet. Meetings will be held directly after the Principal's Cabinet meetings, which are at 7 PM on the first Tuesday of each month. **The next meeting will be on December 6th.** Our goal is to have a specific task planned to complete each month, to keep the meetings short, while allowing some time for feedback from parents.

November's meeting resulted in the creation of a list of priorities that parents would like to see; weekly e-mail updates, a parent handbook, a parent mentor program, to name a few. In order to start on these projects we feel it is first necessary to set up a group of parents, each of whom would serve as a connection to one of the various groups in the school, thus making it easier to collect information, which could then be shared with everyone through the new projects. For example, we will be looking for a parent representative for each grade level, one who would be our connection to the band, the choir, Mariachi, sports, etc. Please think about where you might fit into this exciting new organization. The more parents that get involved the stronger our "connection " will be! We look forward to seeing you on December 6th. For more information, contact Kim Ferguson at 662-1989 or Paige Thompson at 663-1335



### Report Cards

Report cards for 1st quarter were mailed during the week of November 14, 2005. If you did not receive your child's report card, please contact the Counseling Office at 665-7618 for a copy.



### Tutoring Support

Evening Study is offered on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the library. Social Studies, Math and Science will be represented on Tuesdays; English will be available on Thursdays. Computers are available during the evening study time.

After school study will be in the library from 3:10 - 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday. Mike Wilson, Academic Intervention Specialist, will be available for students who need help. Peer tutors are also available during this time. All students are encouraged to attend either session.

### Culminating Project Lesson December 8

Freshman will compare their district, state and national assessment results with minimum scores required for future WASL success; identify areas of success and those requiring a more detailed focus using their Student Learning Plans; and explore their Pathway Planners (a career planning tool).

Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors will complete an annotated transcript (reflective writing); update their records of credits toward graduation; and explore their Pathway Planners.

Students involved in the Running Start and Skills Center programs may access their Culminating Project coursework online at:

<http://whs.wsd.wednet.edu/whsinfo.html>

**NEXT CULMINATING PROJECT  
LESSON IS FEBRUARY 14**

### WHS Mariachi

Our Wenatchee High School Mariachi Program will be having three big events in the month of December -- all free to the community.

The Wenatchee Valley Winter Mariachi Concert Series is a celebration of all types of Mexican music from Mariachi to Folklorico. There will be over 100 performers taking the stage celebrating Feliz Navidad. The best Mariachi holiday songs and traditional music will be played at the concert. There will also be a special appearance by Santa Claus. All directed by Ramon Rivera, Wenatchee School District Mariachi Program Director. You can see the latest WHS Mariachi Information at:

[www.northwestmariachi.org](http://www.northwestmariachi.org).

Come and see our award winning Mariachi Program.

Wenatchee Valley Winter Mariachi Concert Series:

December 2, 2005 - Friday 7pm

Winter Mariachi Fiesta  
 Mariachi Huenachi, WHS Ballet Folklorico,  
 Mariachi Wenatchee Valley College  
 Wenatchee Valley College Mariachi Show  
 Wenatchee Valley College Campus Theater



December 9, 2005 - Friday 7pm

Wenatchee School District Winter Mariachi Festival  
 Featuring: All WSD Mariachi Students  
 Fiesta Navidad  
 Wenatchee High School Auditorium

December 16, 2005 - Friday 6-8 pm

WHS Winter Fiesta  
 Mariachi Show and Food Fair  
 Wenatchee High School Commons

For More Information on WHS Mariachi Program, Please Contact:

Ramon Rivera  
 Laura Mendoza  
 WHS Mariachi: 509-663-8117 ext: 744



### WHS Student Journalists Top in Nation Again



Student journalists at Wenatchee High School have earned high national honors at the national high school journalism convention held in Chicago Nov. 10-13.

The Apple Leaf newspaper earned its second consecutive National Pacemaker, one of just 24 awarded. The honor is sometimes referred to as the Pulitzer Prize of high school journalism.

The Wa Wa yearbook placed fifth in the Best of Show contest for books with 225-324 pages for its 2005 edition. The Apple Leaf placed 10th in the Best of Show contest for newsmagazines.

Three students took home individual awards in onsite contests. Adam Jasinek earned a superior award for newspaper sports photography for three photos published in The Apple Leaf, where he is the photo editor. Erin Kiick, the paper's arts and entertainment editor, earned honorable mention in review writing, and Nick Feldman, editor in chief, earned honorable mention in news writing.

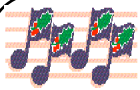
Publications adviser Logan Aimone also accepted his award as a Distinguished Adviser from the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund.

Eight students and Aimone attended the convention and its break-out learning sessions sponsored by the National Scholastic Press Association and the Journalism Education Association.



### Student Poll Workers

On Election Day, November 8, 2005, Wenatchee High School seniors served as poll worker volunteers at the mega-precinct at the performing arts center downtown. In its fourteenth year, this cooperative program between Wenatchee High School and the Chelan County Auditor's Office makes it possible for interested students to observe the election process firsthand by working as official poll workers. These students put in a long day starting at 6:00 a.m. and ending by 9:00 p.m. Thanks to Evelyn Arnold, Chelan County Auditor and her staff, these young men and women had the opportunity to serve their community and see our political process in action.



### **Yuletide Joy A Concert for the Community by WHS Chamber Singers**

The award-winning Wenatchee High School Chamber Singers Choir will offer a sparkling 1-hour program for the greater Wenatchee community on Sunday evening, December 18, 2005, 7:00-8:00 PM at the Wenatchee High School Auditorium. The concert titled, "Yuletide Joy: Seasonal Songs and Carol Sing-a-Long," will feature the 55-member select choir under the direction of Dan Jackson. The ensemble will perform a variety of holiday pieces, including several 16th century yuletide selections prepared for their early December Madrigal Feast. As part of the concert, the audience will be encouraged to join in a carol sing-along. Families and people of all ages are invited come to enjoy an hour of wonderful music in celebration of the season. Student ushers will be available at the curb to escort concertgoers into the auditorium.

Admission to the concert is by donation. Choir members and their families are in the final phase of fund-raising to send the choir on a tour of Eastern Europe planned for early April, 2006. The Choir will travel over 10 days in Poland, Czech Republic, and Austria. Each day, they plan to perform both scheduled and impromptu concerts in small rural churches, city cathedrals, and in public spaces. Travels will include a visit to the Auschwitz memorial World War II concentration camp. The trip concludes in Vienna, the center of 16th and 17th Century classical music, where students will attend professional performances at the city's world-renowned venues. To make the trip affordable to all singers, choir parents have joined together to do significant fund-raising and this concert serves as the final effort. At the concert, donations will gladly be accepted and encouraged.

For more information, contact the parent coordinator: Susan Ballinger  
(664-8955) [skylinebal@charter.net](mailto:skylinebal@charter.net)



### **Christmas Baskets**

The Christmas Basket Project has been an annual activity at WHS for a number of years. The project is actually an extension of the Salvation Army's yearly drive for adopting needy families for the holidays.

At the high school, first period classes are given the opportunity to sign up for a family; the project is entirely optional. They have a choice of family size and are given a family that has applied to the Salvation Army for holiday assistance.

The class receives the ages, gender and clothing sizes of the members of the family, as well as their needs and requests. The class then brings in canned goods, gift items and clothing, along with donating money for buying further gifts. Donations from businesses are very welcome to help the classes along.

The employees of Chelan and Douglas County PUD and IBEW Local 77 donate turkeys for every family that the high school sponsors. The community and the high school work together on this project to make the holiday season great all around Wenatchee.



### **Local FFA Members Attend National FFA Convention**

The 78th National FFA Convention was held in Louisville, Kentucky during the last week of October. Six members from the Wenatchee FFA Chapter attended the convention, participating in leadership workshops, career fairs, an agricultural trade show, and regional tours. Members in attendance included seniors Brook Jaspers, Lexi Jaspers, Madi Williams, Hannah Virnig; and juniors Chris Couch and Denice Ferguson. FFA members were accompanied by Advisor Beth Hammerberg.

The Wenatchee FFA Chapter received a 2-Star National Chapter Award for the past year's program of activities, including member, community, and chapter development activities. FFA chapters receiving this recognition fall within the top 10 percent of the National FFA Organization. Hannah Virnig also received a bronze National Proficiency Award for her Small Animal Entrepreneurship project.

The National FFA Organization is made up of approximately a half million high school agriculture students from all 50 states and Puerto Rico. FFA makes a positive difference in the lives of students by developing their potential for premier leadership, personal growth, and career success through agricultural education.



## Panther Prevention Corner

### Talk to your kids about marijuana

Time and again kids say their parents are the single most important influence when it comes to drugs. So this message needs to start with you. Kids need to hear you say how risky drug use is. Don't wait until your child has a problem. The earlier you talk to your kids about marijuana and other drugs, the less likely they will be to use it.

#### Marijuana Facts:

- Many more kids use marijuana than any other illicit drug by far.
- Young teens are trying marijuana at a time when their bodies and brains are still developing, causing irreparable damage.
- In the past decade, the number of 8th graders who have used marijuana has doubled.
- Marijuana can lead to a host of health, social and behavioral problems at a crucial time in kids' lives.
- Marijuana today is up to 24% more potent than it was 25 years ago, making it much more addictive.
- More kids enter drug treatment for marijuana than for all other illicit drugs combined.
- Adolescent marijuana users show lower academic achievement compared to nonusers.
- Even short-term marijuana use has been linked to memory loss and difficulty with problem solving.
- Smoking marijuana is at least as dangerous as smoking cigarettes.

Research shows that many parents today are ambivalent about marijuana. Two-thirds of kids say that losing their parent's respect is one of the main reasons they don't use drugs. **It's up to you!**

**If you're not talking to your kids about the risks of marijuana,  
they might be getting the wrong message.**

## Parent Talk



The recent "Foodball" controversy at WHS makes us wonder how knowledgeable our teens are when it comes to important issues at the local, regional, and national levels. Do they have a basic understanding of constitutional rights and how to apply them in various situations that occur in our culture? Certainly, one of the trademarks of maturity is to become interested in and able to talk about issues that affect us all. The real danger if they don't, of course, is that young people can be misled by the media which preys on the ignorance of the general public. Both sides of important issues need to be heard in order to make wise decisions. Well, how do we get our teens to think beyond their normally self-focused lives? It takes time, but here are some starting points:

1. Become knowledgeable yourselves (very important).
2. Start with issues that may be of interest to them such as "foodball".
3. Set aside some time either at the dinner table or in casual conversation to discuss these issues.
4. Begin by asking simple questions, "What do you think about . . .".
5. After listening, provide some information or an opposing viewpoint.
6. Slip a newspaper or magazine article on their desk and ask them to read it and then discuss it later.
7. Draw them into adult conversations on controversial issues.

If you are persistent, it is very possible that a well-informed teen or young adult will enter society. Combined with a strong set of standards or morals this young person can see through the agendas of college professors, peers, and misinformation in the media.

Ron Zielinski

### Safety and Security Survey

To help provide the safest learning environment for our students at Wenatchee High School, The Safety and Security Department of the Wenatchee School District and the Security Department of Wenatchee High School would like the parents and students of Wenatchee High School to participate in an opinion survey that will help us better understand how you feel. Please take a look at the survey below and together with your student, talk about the question and answer each question. Your answers and comments will greatly affect our efforts in making Wenatchee High School a safer place for all.

1. **My school is a safe place for students and staff:**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. **I think photo ID's worn by all staff is important for school safety and security.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. **I think photo ID's worn by high school students is important for school safety and security.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. **I think staff vehicle registration and visible permits are important for school safety and security.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. **I think vehicle registration and permits for students that drive to school are important for school safety and security.**

Strongly Agree      Agree      Disagree      Strongly Disagree

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions or concerns about any safety or security related issues at Wenatchee High School or anywhere in the Wenatchee School District, please contact Bob King, Director of Security at 509-663-1248.

*Please return form to the Wenatchee High School Administration Office (your student may drop it off), or mail to:*  
**Wenatchee High School, Attn: Survey Response**  
**1101 Millerdale Ave.**  
**Wenatchee, WA 98801.**

## Parent Information Night

WHS Parent Information Night is Tuesday, January 10, 2006, at WHS. There will be two sessions, one starting at 6:45 p.m. and the other at 7:15. Each topic will be offered during both sessions. The Topics are as follows:

Seniors: "How to Prepare your application for financial aid -- Free Application for Federal Student Aid" (FAFSA form).

Seniors: Financial Aid Information in Spanish.

Freshmen, Sophomore and Juniors: The new SAT.

Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors: Skills Center.

## Freshman Conferences

Beginning in February, the counselors will be meeting individually with each freshman to create a high school plan. This meeting will be scheduled during the school day, and it will take approximately 30 minutes. **We would especially like to have parents attend, along with the student.**

If you contact Tami Walters in the counseling office and give her the days and times you, as parents, would be available to come in, we will make sure to schedule your student's conference at a time that is convenient for you. You can reach Tami Walters at 665-7618.

## Library News



Is "listening" the new "reading"? According to The New York Times, the sale of audio books has soared, appealing to multi-taskers who like to "read" while commuting, doing chores or working out. While audio books still represent only 3 percent of all books sold, libraries note that the circulation of audio books is growing at a faster rate than overall circulation. Adding to this trend is the accessibility of digital audio, which allows audio books to be downloaded onto MP3 players.

When it comes to the case of the audio book fan, publishers have it solved: audiophiles can't seem to get enough of mysteries. According to the Audio Publishers Association 2001 Consumer Survey (the most recent available), 28% of listeners rank Mystery/Horror/Suspense as their favorite audio genre, by far the most preferred category.

Wenatchee High School Library has approximately 160 fiction audio books and 90 nonfiction audio books available for check out. Let's hope the next time you see your WHS students with headphones on, they're listening to a book!

### Resources

Beth Bakkum. *The Writer*. Boston: Sep 2005.

Shannon Maughan. Publishers Weekly. New York: Apr 19, 2004.

## Academic Challenge Revisions

The Academic Challenge Committee has made some changes in the Occupational Education requirements. Two factors impacted this decision: the full implementation of the six period day and major revisions in the Business Department courses in the last two years. The recommended changes fit with the original goal of making sure Academic Challenge students are proficient in technology.

The Academic Challenge Committee has made the following revisions in the Occupational Education requirements effective November 9, 2005:

For the graduating class of 2006: No changes; Business Computer Applications 2 is required, but a proficiency test and letter of recommendation from a qualified teacher may waive the BCA 2 requirement.

Beginning with the graduating class of 2007: Business Computer Applications 1 is required. A proficiency test will NOT be accepted; however, students may apply for Competency Based Credit by completing the required forms, fulfilling requirements and paying the applicable fees. BIT 105 at Wenatchee Valley College also fulfills this requirement. If you have questions about this revision, please contact Ruth Lowe at 663-8117.

Seniors who have met the Academic Challenge requirements will receive a completion letter which allows them to include it on their list of accomplishments as they apply to colleges. A special designation will appear on their transcripts. Distinguished Scholar is only awarded at graduation, and students may not list this as an achievement unless it has been authorized by Mrs. Bawden. Please contact her at 662-9047 for verification.

Qualified freshmen will receive an invitation to an orientation meeting in February to learn about the benefits of the Academic Challenge and current requirements.



**WENATCHEE HIGH SCHOOL**  
 1101 Millerdale Ave  
 Wenatchee, WA 98801



NON-PROFIT ORG.  
 U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
 PERMIT NO. 1  
 WENATCHEE, WA

*Principal*..... *Michele Wadeikis*  
*Assistant Principal*..... *Gracie Helm*  
*Assistant Principal*..... *Mike Hill*  
*Assistant Principal*..... *Ricardo Iñiguez*  
*Activities Coordinator*..... *Brent Grothe*  
*Athletic Director*..... *BJ Kuntz*  
*Vocational Director*..... *Eleanor Sellers*

*Phone: 509-663-8117*  
*Fax: 509-663-2573*  
*Web: <http://whs.wsd.wednet.edu>*

The Wenatchee School District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, 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 related to Title IX/ and ADA should be directed to Dr. Joan B. Wright. Issues related to 504 should be directed to Dr. Jeanine Butler.

## Upcoming School Events

Dec. 1, 2, 3.....	Madrigal Feaste.....	First Presbyterian Church, 6:00 p.m. 1400 South Miller
Dec. 6.....	Principal's Cabinet.....	7:00 p.m., Commons
Dec. 6.....	Parent Connection.....	Immediately following Princ. Cabinet
Dec. 6.....	Senior Party Meeting.....	7:00 p.m., LGI
Dec. 8.....	Culminating Project Day	
Dec. 9.....	Mariachi Winter Festival.....	7:00 p.m., Auditorium
Dec. 10.....	Varsity Ball.....	9:00-12:00 p.m., Commons
Dec. 13, 14, 15...	Play Auditions.....	3:00-6:00 p.m., Auditorium
Dec. 16.....	Mariachi Winter Fiesta.....	6:00-8:00 p.m., Commons
Dec. 18.....	Chamber Singers "Yuletide Joy" Concert.....	7:00, Auditorium
Dec. 19, 20.....	Music Dept. Winter Gala.....	7:30 p.m., Auditorium
Dec. 20.....	Christmas Basket Assembly.....	Split a.m., Auditorium
Dec. 21-Jan 2....	Winter Break.....	<b>No School</b>
Jan. 3.....	Mariachi Booster Club.....	7:00 p.m., Green Room
Jan. 10.....	Parent Information Night.....	6:30 & 7:15 p.m.
Jan. 16.....	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.....	<b>No School</b>
Jan. 27.....	Records Day.....	<b>No Scool</b>

