



BIGHORN TRACKS

Billingshurst Middle School



January 2012

Home of Academic Teaming and the Bighorn Attitude!

Principal's Corner

Dear Parents:

- ❖ WCSD is launching Signature Academies across the district this summer to provide students with additional academic opportunities at the high school level. These career- and industry-based programs will provide specific academic pathways that focus on areas of future job growth, provide opportunities for students to earn college credit or industry-recognized certifications, and learn transferable skills that are important to the workforce they will enter later in life. The goal is to have at least one Signature Academy at each of our high schools, which truly will help us prepare our children for college and highly-skilled careers. These programs give our children a jumpstart on the knowledge they will need to be prepared for future careers.

The Signature Academies will be magnet academies (variance rules apply). Academies will be available in Media Arts & Communications, IT, Digital Technologies, Performing Arts, Sustainable Resources and Health & Human Services. These will build on the successes of Wooster's International Baccalaureate program, AACT and TMCC High schools. These new academies will open August 2012 (applications will be available in January, with a February deadline to apply). There are however, sneak previews available now at Robert McQueen (Global Studies Academy) and Edward Reed (H.O.P.E. Medical Academy) high schools.

Teaming Words of the Month: Core & Encore

All students have core and encore teachers. The core teachers are a student's English, science, and history teachers. They are the "core" of our teaming model because they teach the same students (for two years in 7th and 8th grades), and they are able to plan interdisciplinary units together. The Encore teachers are all the math and elective teachers (art, pe, music, Spanish, French, technology, etc.). Encore teachers belong on a "teacher team" with other core teachers and they meet monthly to discuss team and school items. Encore teachers may not see all students on their team, but they play a vital role in supporting teaming via advisory, the arts, etc.

Additional information about the High School Signature Academies program can be found here <<http://www.washoecountyschools.org/staff/high-school-signature-academy>>. WCSD will also be hosting a Parent Presentation Night January 12th, 6:30 pm at Billingshurst in the Dining Commons. We hope that you will join us at this event to learn about these new opportunities for your children.

- ❖ Clio Brady, 8th grade, won the Reno Philharmonic Youth Orchestra Concerto Competition performing the Concerto in E Major by J.S. Bach. Clio competed against students in 5th through 12th grade and won a \$500 scholarship in addition to performing her concerto with the Reno Philharmonic Youth Symphony in May 2012.
- ❖ Max Neidhold, 7th grade, auditioned for and was accepted into the Suzuki Youth Orchestra of the Americas on string bass. Max will travel to Minneapolis, Minnesota in May of 2012 to perform with students from across North and South America. (See article on page 2)
- ❖ Twenty-seven Billingshurst Orchestra students made the WCSD Junior Honor Orchestra. BDB students comprise over 30% of the ensemble. (See article on page 2)
- ❖ Billingshurst Orchestra students are very active in the Reno Philharmonic Youth Symphony Program. These are honor orchestras with the highest performance expectations. Fourteen students perform in the Youth String Symphonia, four students perform in the Youth Concert Orchestra, and two students perform in the Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Cervantes

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 WASHOE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
BILLINGHURST MIDDLE SCHOOL
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Remember Your
Big Horn Attitude!

Student Makes Prestigious Youth Orchestra

Congratulations to Max Neidhold for auditioning and being accepted into the bass section of the Suzuki Youth Orchestra of America. This is an ensemble comprised of students from across America, including Canada and Mexico. Max will travel to Minneapolis over Memorial Day weekend and rehearse for three days before performing a concert in front of Suzuki teachers and parents from across the Americas. Congratulations Max, Mrs. Neidhold, and Mr. Neidhold!

Billinghurst Students Selected for Washoe County Junior Orchestra

Congratulations to the following students for being selected to the Washoe County Junior Honor Orchestra:

Violin: Nica Kent, Allison Lundgren, Samuel Webster, Taylor Davis, Nolan Dalpe, Jesse Allison, Ashlea Kammann, Sheridyn Math, Karly Campbell, Michelle Vasquez, Valeria Nava, Vanessa Jacinto, Carlos DeLeon

Viola: Nathan Ly, Aidan Sutherland, Callie Alasua, Sherman Lee, Libby Schipper, Samantha De Leon, Matt Archibald

Cello: Josh Plateros, Kelly Eslit, Joseph Kozubowski

Bass: Matthew McKinley, Tyler Prince



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Gifted and Talented Meeting Dates and Classes

January GT meetings

7th grade: Thursday, January, 12th

6th grade: Thursday, January, 19th

8th grade: Wednesday, January 25th

7th grade: Tuesday, January 31st

WCSD Parent University is offering the following classes in support of gifted learners:

Discovering a Gifted and Talented (GT) Child

Date: February 09, 2012 Time: 6:00pm - 7:30pm

Address: Beck Elementary -1900 Sharon Way, Reno 89509

Organization / Instructor: Gifted and Talented Program (GATE)

Perfectionism and the Gifted Child

Date: February 15, 2012 Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Address: Gomm Elementary - 4000 Mayberry Drive Reno 89519

Organization / Instructor: Gifted and Talented Program (GATE)

You can register for the free classes three ways:

1. Phone - (775) 325-2000
2. Fax – (the registration form on p. 11) to 333-5372
3. Website -Sign up online at www.wcsdparentu.com

More Newsworthy Items...

- * Congratulations to **Nathan Knowles!** His art work submission was chosen as the winner for the WCSD holiday card design competition. His work will represent the WCSD this holiday season.
- * **Teens Who Care**, a community service club at Billinghurst led by **Kathryn Sewell and Raina Kaller**, signed over 100 cards with best wishes and hopes for peace and sent them to service members. They did this during a 1/2 hour lunch break. Teens Who Care also conducted a pet supply drive for the Reno shelters during the month of December. Plans for next semester include a glove and scarf drive for the homeless, creating blankets for infants, and making table decorations for Senior Citizens homes.
- * Students on team Legacy researched a variety of global issues such as global warming, viruses, genocide, human rights, war technology, etc., for an interdisciplinary unit. They presented the topics, problems, and solutions to their teammates with skits and PowerPoint. In addition, students collectively or individually volunteered to do something positive for their cause or the world. Some students gave money, time, or food to local charities, some sent letters to elected officials and the news, some created posters to educate people, etc. Mrs. Martin, Mrs. Gorham, and Mrs. Nyberg and so proud of their hard work!