Between Us...

...a monthly communication newsletter with and for our parents. March 5, 2010 Vol. 28, No. 04

Dates Of Special Interest

March	
5	Student departure day
7	Students return PM
12	Student departure day
14	Students return PM
19	End of 3rd 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
May	
1	**Prom**
2	Students return PM
7	Student departure day
10	**Students return AM**
14	Student departure day
16	Students return PM
21	Student departure day
23	Students return PM
28	Student departure day
31	**Memorial Day**
	Students return PM

Message from the Director

Alex H. Slappey

Adversity
Fair or Unfair?

Back when I was knee high to a snail I went crying to my dad for some minor reason. I can't remember the specifics of that incident...heck, at my age I'm lucky if I can remember what I did yesterday, but anyway my dad took me on his knee and told me to buck up and not let the little things get in the way of doing what I wanted to do. He also told me life was neither easy nor fair and I'd have to make the best of it. He then proceeded to tell me a Br'er Rabbit fools Br'er Fox story which had absolutely nothing to do with anything, but had me in stitches and I completely forgot my problems.

"Every path has its puddle."
English Proverb

We know all too well that life is full of difficult times and sometimes it's just not fair. As educators and parents part of our job is to teach this to our children, to impart in them the will to overcome these obstacles and to teach them the skills they need to do so.

Of course, it's not easy for children to incorporate the will to overcome in their character. Some kids are born with this, a determination and stubbornness that, if directed, will serve them well. But many are not and we have an obligation to try to instill this in them.

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.

There are lots of ways to accomplish this and at WSD this is accomplished by challenging the students academically and in the after school programs.

"You have to erect a fence and say,
"Okay, scale this."
Linda Ronstad

Academics are supposed to challenge students, it should not be too easy and it should not be too hard. Unfortunately finding that line between too easy and too hard is a very difficult task when you consider that no two children in a class are the same. Different children have different frustration levels and respond differently to challenges. The trick for a good teacher is to find a variety of approaches and techniques that will cover the entire class. Easy...no, but teaching never is. Done correctly it's a difficult and challenging job.

"I wanted to be scared again...
I wanted to feel unsure again.
That's the only way I learn,
the only way I feel challenged."
Connie Chung

The unfairness of life is well known to most of us. But sometimes when I hear people complaining about something as unfair I wonder if it's really so. What appears unfair to one person can be perfectly fair to another. I've watched games where the losing team complains it's unfair because the winning team had better players. Well how is this unfair? Unless the losing team was expressly forbidden to have better kids on their team, it's not unfair. It just means that the winning team has done a better job of working with their players.

Of course there is some luck involved in most things. Both good and bad luck happens to all of us. Those of us who are more successful usually find ways to minimize the bad luck and maximize the good luck. That's what it takes to overcome adversity.

But the perception of unfair exists and it's important that we teach our children to keep that perception in control. Children who grow up thinking that the unfairness controls their life will never be successful. A lot of times unfairness is in the perception. We teach children this by teaching them to check out the facts first. And we teach them to consider the various factors that could be involved. But at the end of the day, it's true, life is unfair in many ways. We have to accept that and either work harder to overcome that or move on. Complaining about it doesn't really do anything. And if we dwell on it we become prisoners to it, unable to move on.

"There is always inequality in life.
Some men are killed in a war
and some men are wounded
and some men never leave the country.
Life is unfair."
John F. Kennedy

WSD's whole child approach is designed to teach our students about the inherit unfairness of life and to develop the fortitude to handle adversity. Academics are important at WSD, but so are the non-academic areas such as self-esteem, confidence, a sense of responsibility, empathy, and leadership. Without the development of these areas, the brightest child in the world would not reach his or her potential.

This is one of the strengths of a residential school like WSD. The ease of communication and the "level playing field" give WSD students opportunities they do not get in most other educational environments. These are the opportunities that make our students such well rounded and capable individuals.

"The greatest achievement of the human spirit is
to live up to one's opportunities
and make the most of one's resources."
Marquis De Vauvenargues

WSD Birthdays

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

April

1 Dylan Laux
5 Ian Breaker
11 Nicholas Johnson
Ellie Lister
13 Madison Bongard
15 Lennon Morrissey
20 Jose Zepeda-Amador
21 Halina Kangas

Events of Interest

Tournament Time for Special Olympics

All the hard work at practice and in games will be needed as the Special Olympic teams start their tournament runs. The skills team competed Saturday, February 27th at Badger High School in Lake Geneva. They competed in three events. They earned points for passing, dribbling, and shooting.

The WSD Battalion and the Shooting Stars will compete Saturday, March 6th at Wilmot High School in Wilmot. Each team will play two games and depending on winning or losing they will advance to the regional tournament on March 28th at Homestead High School in Mequon. Good luck to the Battalion and the Shooting Stars. Try your best and make WSD proud!

Teen Getaway News

Dear Parents,

Don't let your high school student miss this spring's **Teen Getaway Weekend** - for ALL high school students who are hard of hearing or deaf, May 14-16, 2010 at Mt. Morris Camp and Retreat Center in Wautoma, WI. Transportation to the event will be provided from many locations!

It's a chance to meet new friends who also have hearing loss, learn from adult role models, and have fun!

For more information, go to:
http://www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov/wesp/out_teengaw.cfm

or contact Dan Houlihan, TGW Coordinator - daniel.houlihan@wesp-dhh.wi.gov.

To register, go to:

http://www.wesp-dhh.wi.gov/events/outreach/TGW_Reg_Packet.pdf

We hope to see you there!

CONGRATULATIONS – GPSD BOYS BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS!

Varsity Basketball Teams:
We attended the Central States Schools for the Deaf (CSSD) at the Indiana School for the Deaf in late January and Great Plains Schools for the Deaf (GPSD) Basketball Tournament at the Iowa School for the Deaf in early February. We had blast at both these tournaments and our athletes enjoyed meeting deaf athletes from other schools. Someday, they will meet again at Gallaudet University or NTID.

The highlights of CSSD and GPSD Basketball Tournaments are:

CSSD Awards:
Wisconsin Boys – 4th Place
Wisconsin Girls - Consolation and Free Throw Contest Champions
CSSD All-Tournament Player: Tony Davis

1st Round	Semifinals	Finals
WSD Boys 62	WSD Boys 37	WSD Boys 39
Colorado 37	Indiana 60	Illinois 61
WSD Girls 23	WSD Girls 31	WSD Girls 35(wins consolation)
Colorado 39	Michigan 25	Ohio 25

GPSD Awards
Wisconsin Boys – Champion, 3-point and Free Throw Contest Champions
Wisconsin Girls - Consolation Champion
GPSD All-Tournament players: Patrick Jennison, Tony Davis, Ashley Wagner, and Lori Eldred.
Cheerleader All-Tournament Medal – Shaniquia Felton

1st Round		Semifinals		Finals	
WSD Boys	78	WSD Boys	52	WSD Boys	53 (wins champion)
Missouri	28	New Mexico	31	Iowa	35

1st Round		Semifinals		Finals	
WSD Girls	17	WSD Girls	37	WSD Girls	42 (wins consolation)
New Mexico	33	Arkansas	15	Kansas	37

Spring Sports:

You will find the schedules of both Varsity and MS Track on the website, http://www.wsd.k12.wi.us/athl_main or in the First Class/Sports Info folder. Boys' Varsity Track coaches are **Steven Fuerst and Michael Eldred** while Girls' Varsity Track coaches are **Steven Williams and Therese Pohl-Markowitz.** The first day of Varsity track practice will be on Monday, March 8.

MS Track coaches are **Tom Armato and Zuhair Alsaegh** while Special Olympics Track coaches are **Ron Corrigan and Sheryl Aleksinski.** They will begin practice on Monday, March 29 right after Spring Break week.

FIREBIRD BASKETBALL CAMP – JULY 2010

We are proud to host the 6th Annual Firebirds' Basketball Camp again this summer 2010. Parents of WSD students, we sent out summer camp application letters in the mail a few weeks ago. If you have any questions re: Firebird Basketball Camp, please feel free to email **Steven Fuerst** at steven.fuerst@wsd.k12.wi.us.

DATE
July 11-16, 9th – 12th graders (High School students)
July 18-23, 6th – 8th graders (Middle School students)

*The grade levels listed above are based on the coming school year (2010-11)

WISCONSIN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
2010
GIRLS AND BOYS
VARSITY TRACK SCHEDULE

Monday	**March 8**	**Practice begins**		
		****Spring Break** (March 22-26)**		
Tuesday	**March 30**	**Clinton**	**Away**	**4:30 pm**
Tuesday	**April 6**	**Elkhorn Triangular**	**Away**	**4:00 pm**
Thursday	**April 8**	**Cambridge Invitational**	**Away**	**4:00 pm**
Tuesday	**April 13**	**DDHS**	**Away**	**3:30 pm**
Fri-Sat	**April 16-17**	**Berg-Seeger Classic**	**Gallaudet**	**TBA**
Monday	**April 19**	**Deerfield Invitational**	**Away**	**4:30 pm**
Saturday	**April 24**	**GPSD**	**Minnesota**	**TBA**
Tuesday	**May 4**	**ITC Track Meet @ DDHS**	**Home**	**3:30 pm**
Thursday	**May 6**	**St. John - Boys Invitational**	**Away**	**3:30 pm**
Tuesday	**May 11**	**St. John Relays**	**Away**	**4:00 pm**
Tuesday	**May 18**	**D.A.S.H/Trinity Academy @ DDHS Norris**	**Home**	**3:30 pm**
Monday	**May 24**	**WIAA – Deerfield Regional**	**Away**	**TBA**
Thursday	**May 27**	**WIAA – Princeton Sectional**	**Away**	**TBA**
Fri/Sat	**June 4/5**	**WIAA – State @ La Crosse**	**Away**	**TBA**

For details, contact Steven Fuerst, Athletic Director at steven.fuerst@wsd.k12.wi.us

WISCONSIN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF
GIRLS AND BOYS
MIDDLE SCHOOL TRACK SCHEDULE
2010

Monday	**March 29**	**Practice begins**		
Monday	**April 19**	**Delavan Christian**	**Home**	**3:30 pm**
Monday	**April 26**	**Clinton**	**Away**	**4:00 pm**
Monday	**May 3**	**Delavan**	**Away**	**3:45 pm**
Thursday	**May 6**	**Whitewater**	**Away**	**4:00 pm**
Thursday	**May 13**	**Elkhorn**	**Away**	**3:45 pm**
Monday	**May 17**	**Delavan**	**Away**	**4:00 pm**

For details, contact Steven Fuerst, Athletic Director at steven.fuerst@wsd.k12.wi.us