

# WEST VALLEY SCHOOLS TODAY

8902 Zier Road • Yakima, WA 98908-9299 • (509)972-6000

A NEWSLETTER FOR WEST VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS

WINTER 2011 VOLUME 28 NO. 2

## ***SADD Students Anti-Bullying Campaign***

Twenty-seven students at the Freshman Campus have joined Students Against Destructive Decisions, (SADD). The semester long class focuses on good nutrition, bad eating habits, tobacco and alcohol, and bullying.

In the past SADD was called Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU) which started in 2001 and was offered as an elective course in 2005. This is the first year the Freshman Campus has offered SADD, in hopes to cover more of the pressures and issues which today's youth face.

Julie Smith, Freshman Campus Family and Consumer science teacher, has her students preparing 50-60 minute presentations for first through ninth grade on topics related to bullying, peer pressure, refusal skills, eating habits, drug, tobacco and alcohol use.

In the spring groups of four students will present hour long presentations at different elementary schools. Students will get the attention of the youngsters with activities, power point presentations, lots of visuals and *I Movies* created by the 9<sup>th</sup> graders in the SADD classroom.

"These students had to apply to be in the class last spring as an 8th grader," Smith said. "They had to have three confidential teacher recommendations, a three paragraph typed essay, and filled out an application. SADD is an elite group of students and considered an honor to be selected to be a part of this program," Smith said.



Currently students attend SADD as a class because it is aligned as a leadership component with the required health class needed for credit to graduate. Next semester they will participate as a club and students will go to elementary schools to give their presentations.

### *Inside This Issue....*

SADD Students Anti-Bullying Campaign  
Mountainview Awarded State Achievement  
West Valley Hosts WASC Conference 2011  
Superintendent's Message  
WV Junior High Robotics Makes News  
Eagle Project Benefits Mountainview  
WVSD Earns Environmental Stewardship Award  
Winter Concert Schedule



Front Page  
Page 2  
Page 3  
Page 4  
Page 5  
Page 6  
Page 7  
Back Page



# Mountainview Awarded State Achievement



Credit where credit is due! Kudos go to Mountainview Elementary School for receiving the Washington Achievement Award for 2010 last spring from the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education.

The highly selective award, based on an individual Washington public school's performance according to the Washington Achievement Index, measures

how a school is performing over a period of time. The Washington Achievement Award is presented to elementary, middle, high and comprehensive schools in seven different categories: overall excellence, language arts, math, science, high/comprehensive school's extended graduation rate, and closing achievement gaps.

Mountainview Elementary received the award for "Closing the Achievement Gap." The Washington Achievement Awards, sponsored by the Washington State Board of Education and the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, celebrates the state's top performing schools for different accomplishments.

"This is an extraordinary accomplishment and is a direct reflection of the hard work of our students, the dedication of our teachers, and the support and guidance of our parents. Mountainview's award is well deserved. In the past years Mountainview has implemented several improvements that have impacted our students' success," Mountainview Principal Georgia Bonari said.

West Valley School District extends its congratulations to the faculty, administration, staff, students and parents who worked hard to improve school achievement and ultimately make this award a reality.



## West Valley School District #208

8902 Zier Road • Yakima WA 98908

(509) 972-6000

### Board of Directors

Sasha Kinloch, President

Jim Roberts, Vice-President

Mike Meyer

Mike Carey

Staci Verbrugge

Maggie Parobek, Student Representative

Carley Schmidt, Student Representative

Dr. Michael Brophy, Secretary

### West Valley Schools TODAY

Melissa Labberton, Editor

Laurie Alderman, Design & Layout

### West Valley Schools Home Page

<http://www.wvsd208.org>



# West Valley Hosts WASC Conference 2011

*“What everyone in the astronaut corps shares in common is not gender or ethnic background, but motivation, perseverance and desire...the desire to participate in a voyage of discovery.”*

*Ellen Ochoa, first Hispanic female astronaut*

These were just a few of the bold words leadership students heard at the Washington Association of Student Councils Conference held October 14-16, at West Valley High School. Nearly 780 student leaders representing 81 different high schools from across the state came to the three day conference to learn more about being a leader in their school as well as their community.

“Leadership students from West Valley High School along with Eisenhower, Ellensburg, East Valley and Toppenish worked for a year on the many details of the conference so that students could explore and learn about being positive role models and contributing members of society. West Valley HS, Eisenhower HS, Ellensburg HS and East Valley HS leadership students and teachers spent hours organizing the state wide conference that welcomed over 800 students from all around Washington State for an inspiring and fun filled weekend at West Valley High,” Craig Lacy, WV High’s Activities Director said.

“One of the most daunting tasks was to find homes to host the 750+ delegates. The WASC Conference has been using “homestays” to house visiting students, rather than sending them to hotels because it is the philosophy of the conference that students will learn more about themselves and the community they are visiting if they have a chance to interact with a family from that area. Over 70 West Valley families stepped up and hosted 3 to as many as 10 students for the weekend,” Lacy added.

The organizers labeled each conference day using a space exploration theme: Friday-Lift Off, Saturday-Exploration and Sunday-Mission Accomplished. Keith Hawkins, relationship advocate, Michael Hingson, a blind 9-11 survivor, and Patrick George, motivational expert, all nationally recognized speakers, inspired the assembled students with keynote addresses.

Keith Hingson turned out to be a crowd favorite, especially because he brought along his guide dog to help tell his story of how the two made their way to safety from the Twin Tower’s 78th floor during the 9/11 tragedy. He has recently written a book entitled, “Thunderdog,” which was on sale during the conference. He gave the crowd many words to live by including: “Work harder...others are depending on you!” and “Don’t let your sight get in the way of your vision!”

“We also brought in the group, “Every Monday Matters” to teach students about finding ways to make a difference in their lives, schools and communities. The speakers along with student-led workshops gave the delegates ideas and tools to take back to their schools to make leadership more than just planning dances and making posters,” Lacy said. “Standing Up for Others,” a workshop all about ways to stop bullying, and “Mr. Heartthrob,” concerning how to host an annual male beauty pageant, were just a couple of the workshop titles geared for teens.

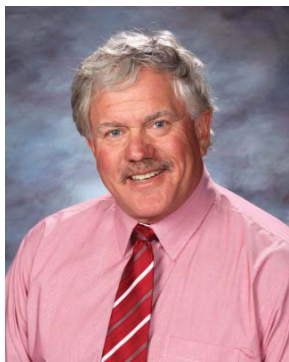
Conference participants also took part in several service projects this year. Students collected over five boxes of used eye glasses, cases and hearing aids for Lions Club International to distribute to third world countries.

“The second service project was to promote the new partnership between WASC and Special Olympics Washington. “Project Unify” had teams made up of Special Olympians, as well as, regular athletes competing together in basketball, soccer, softball and other sports. The goal of the conference this year was to teach students about these athletes and encourage them to treat them like any other team in their school.” Lacy went on to say, “We celebrated with both a basketball game and a soccer match, while student leaders cheered and chanted for the athletes as if it were the Final Four or the World Cup. The second goal of our project was to get students to pledge to do what they could to end the use of the “r” word (retard) in their schools. Special Olympics Washington came with pledge sheets, shirts and lots of enthusiasm to kick this off.”

At the end of the conference, West Valley received the “School of Distinction Award” from the WASC Board, based on what the leadership program at West Valley does to go above and beyond dances and pep assemblies. Congratulations on a job well done!



## Superintendent's Message



*Dr. Michael Brophy*

It was an amazing weekend watching our West Valley Volleyball Team capture the 2011 Girls 3A State Volleyball Championship. I was impressed with the number of folks from the West Valley Community that made the trip to St. Martin's University near

Olympia to cheer on the girls throughout the Veteran's Day weekend. Congratulations to all of the coaches and players for completing a truly remarkable undefeated season of 35-0! Also this past weekend, we had the WVHS Dance Team and WVHS Swim Teams competing successfully at the state level of their competitions and representing West Valley proudly. I would like to thank the coaches and participants of these teams as well for representing West Valley School District in such an outstanding fashion.

With this, I would like to take a few moments to review what I believe are a couple of critical components to an outstanding school district, around what I have personally witnessed as superintendent of schools. First and foremost it is critical for parental involvement in the education of their children. From the school open houses that I attended in September throughout the exciting events of this past weekend, I have been impressed with the active engagement our parents play in supporting our programs. From conferencing with teachers, coming to open houses, or supporting our students in co and extracurricular activities, West Valley can be proud of the level of

community support from parents and patrons. It is as fine as any community support that I have ever seen in my career as a teacher/coach, principal, and district-level administrator. This level of support also tells us that you have high expectations for the quality of programs we deliver. Outstanding districts are driven by a culture of high expectations. I want you to know that it is our goal to consistently meet and or exceed any expectations you have in the delivery of your child's education.

The continuing budget issues in Olympia remain a challenge for all of us in the K-12 arena. The past few years have been devastating to the public school budgets across the State of Washington. Although resources are not as plentiful, the expectations to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as determined by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) have continued to increase. You can be sure we will continue to have high expectations for our students and work to do whatever it takes to maximize their potential as learners.

The Citizen's Levy Committee has recommended to the Board of Directors that they place a Maintenance and Operations Levy on the ballot this February to replace the M & O Levy that will expire at the end of 2012. Liberty Andis has stepped forward to chair this committee on behalf of the West Valley Community. Thank you very much, Liberty, for all of your work on this already. If anyone is interested in learning more about this election or are interested in serving on an M & O Levy Committee, please call me at my office - 972-6005, and I will pass your name onto the Citizen's Levy Committee. Thank you.

### Statement of Compliance

The West Valley School District #208 complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities, and for district employment and opportunities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX (RCW 28A.640) Officer and Section 504/ADA Coordinator,  
John King, 8902 Zier Road, Yakima, WA 98908 (509) 972-6016.



## WV Jr. High Robotics Makes the News

When large boxes from Lego Education showed up at West Valley Junior High, the staff wondered if the school had decided to install a preschool class in the building. But the contents of these boxes weren't your average Legos, they were filled with parts, sensors, etc. to make a robot!

For the first time, WV Junior High School offers a Robotics class as an elective to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The class is part of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) program that is offering a variety of hands-on electives to encourage students to become interested at a young age in engineering and technology.

"I always was fascinated with electronics and liked fixing things," Robotics teacher Ron Compton said. He comes to the classroom with extensive experience working in the private sector with instrumentation and industrial electronics. He's convinced that using a hands-on approach to teaching Robotics can often reach students who have had trouble getting the concepts taught in traditional math and science classes.

"A robot is anything electronic that you can control. It doesn't necessarily have to be electronic, since the ancient Greeks built a flying mechanical dove that was steam-powered," Compton explained. "A robot is just a device that takes input from a human and performs functions based on that input automatically (without physical manipulation from the human)."

Compton likes to show "WALL-E," the Pixar movie about the last robot left on earth, to get his students excited about creating their own robots.

He also demonstrates his Lego robotic guitar that has an ultrasonic sensor and can actually play notes to tap into his students' curiosity.

He noted that many of his students "go wild," in a good way, when they finally are given the chance to use the Lego technology to build their own robot. During the process, Compton likes to slip in some math. When Vice Principal Rick Ferguson visited the class, he observed that the students were learning about wheels and distance. When he asked the students how they figured the answer to the distance their robots' traveled when the wheels turned one rotation, he was surprised to hear several students quickly reply, "PI times the diameter!"

Currently 122 boys and 28 girls are enrolled in the Robotics class. Compton hopes that word of mouth will help attract more young women to this fun, yet educational elective.

### School Board Meetings

December 12*	Mountainview Library
January 9*	Cottonwood Library
January 23**	WVHS, Room 1245
February 13*	Summitview Library
February 27**	WVHS, Room 1245
March 12*	Apple Valley Library
March 26**	WVHS, Room 1245
April 9*	Middle School Library
April 23**	WVHS, Room 1245
May 14*	High School Library
May 28**	WVHS, Room 1245

\* Meeting Starts at 6:30 p.m.  
\*\* Meeting Starts at 7:00 p.m.

*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.*



# Eagle Project Benefits Mountainview



**Gabe Valley**, a junior at West Valley High School, had a quandary to solve. After years of involvement in the Boy Scouts program, he was faced with deciding what to do for his Eagle Scout project. “Selecting a feasible idea was the most difficult part of the project,” Valley said. Ultimately he decided to paint a large-scale map of the United States on the Mountainview Elementary playground.

“I used numerous summer days to perfect my project proposal, enlisting the help of friends and family to revise my work,” Gabe said. Before he started painting the playground, he went to Standard Paint and received help with the materials he needed. “Standard Paint had the nicest managers and employees, and they were willing to cover all of the cost of the paint for my project.” Valley also received financial support from SunRidge Oral Surgery, Creekside Physical Therapy, Tyler E. Bauer DDS, Creekside Dental and two family friends.

The actual project began with pressure washing the playground. Then Valley enlisted ten volunteers to

lay out the stencil of the United States and help paint the map. A wonderful, yet educational map of the United States, complete with state capitols will hopefully grab the attention of Mountainview students every recess!

“We are so grateful that Gabe chose Mountainview for this outstanding project. When he presented his idea, I was so impressed with the amount of work and detail he had put into the plan. He shows all of the markings of a true leader!” Georgia Bonari, Mountainview Principal said. “The students at Mountainview love to play on this huge map and whether they know it or not, they are also learning the names and locations for our states in America. What a way to learn! We will treasure his map for years to come!”

After graduation next year, Valley, a 4.0 GPA student, plans to study some form of medical research or biotechnology development. He hopes to gain acceptance to Duke University, in Durham, North Carolina.





# West Valley School District Earns Environmental Stewardship Award

For saving enough energy in 27 months to effectively plant more than 50,871 trees, West Valley School District was presented with The Award for Energy Stewardship from Energy Education during their September 26<sup>th</sup> Board of Directors meeting. The Award for Energy Stewardship recognizes the organization's efforts to implement an innovative organizational behavior-based energy conservation and management program. The program is administered through a strategic alliance with Energy Education, a national company whose energy conservation programs have saved more than \$2.5 billion for educational and ministerial organizations since 1986.

"West Valley School District Superintendent Dr. Mike Brophy, the Board members and administration are demonstrating wise fiscal and environmental stewardship by implementing this unique organizational behavior-based energy conservation program," said Dr. William S. Spears, Chairman and Founder of Energy Education. "Using human resources to reduce energy use saves natural and financial resources for the organization and the community."

The program delivers an environmental benefit from reduced carbon footprint. Energy not used prevents the emission of carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. According to the PEA/EGrid figures, in the first 27 months of the program, West Valley School District saved 27,565 MMBTU, the equivalent of 1,989 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions being prevented, 357 cars removed from the road, or 50,871 pine trees grown for 10 years.

"This energy program is an excellent vehicle to assist our staff in practicing good stewardship of our resources. The willing participation of virtually every staff person - faculty, administrators, food service,

maintenance - adds to our success," said Dr. Mike Brophy, Superintendent.

Energy Education Specialist and WVSD teacher, Mr. Chance Dolezal, receives intensive training from Energy Education energy specialists to implement conservation procedures in all of the district's facilities. He conducts energy audits to ensure that students and faculty are comfortable during class times and scheduled activities, and that energy is used only as necessary. He works hard to motivate everyone in the organization to use energy wisely, keep classrooms comfortable and practice smart energy strategies.

Energy Education's innovative Transformational Energy Management process trains client personnel to implement behavioral and organizational change that substantially reduces energy consumption without the purchase of new equipment. The program is funded solely and rapidly by the savings it generates, allowing clients to redirect saved energy dollars to other priorities. In 25 years, Energy Education has worked with more than 1,100 educational and ministry organizations, helping clients save over \$2.5 billion in utility costs. Energy Education has been recognized by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the United States Department of Energy with their highest honor, the 2011 Energy Star Award for Sustained Excellence. This award follows the receipt of the Partner of the Year award in 2009 and 2010.

**Para ayuda en  
español, llame al  
972-5875**

West Valley School District #208  
8902 Zier Road  
Yakima, WA 98908

ECRWSS PRE-SORT  
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Non-Profit Organ.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Yakima, WA  
Permit No. 88

# Winter Concert Schedule

<u>School</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Name of Program</u>
Ahtanum	December 5 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 p.m.	JH Auditorium	K-2 <sup>nd</sup>	The 12 Days of Christmas
	December 6 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 p.m.	JH Auditorium	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup>	Forever Christmas
Mountainview	December 8 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 p.m.	JH Auditorium	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup>	
Summitview	December 8 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 p.m.	HS Auditorium	K-2 <sup>nd</sup>	The Littlest Reindeer
Freshman Campus/ High School	December 10 <sup>th</sup>	2:00 p.m.	HS Commons	Choir/Band	Holiday Magic
	December 10 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	HS Commons	Jazz Band	
Apple Valley	December 12 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m.	HS Auditorium	K-4 <sup>th</sup>	
Cottonwood	December 12 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	Cottonwood Gym	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup>	
Wide Hollow	December 13 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 p.m.	Wide Hollow Gym	Kindergarten	
	December 13 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	Wide Hollow Gym	1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	
Middle School/ Junior High	December 13 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	JH Auditorium	Choirs Only	
Middle School	December 15 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	Middle School Gym	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	Holiday Concert
	March 15 <sup>th</sup>	7:00 p.m.	Middle School Gym	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>	Winter Concert