

WEST VALLEY SCHOOLS TOMORROW

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

A NEWSLETTER FOR WEST VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT RESIDENTS

OCTOBER 2009

Superintendent's Message



With the opening of the new West Valley High School, a new day has certainly dawned for the West Valley School District. I hope you all had the opportunity to take a tour of the new facility during the Dedication Ceremony on September 28th. If not, there are still pictures on the District's website. Also, with all of the activities that go along with a high school, there will be plenty of other opportunities to take a walk-

about in the new building. On behalf of the students and staff at the high school and the entire West Valley School District, thank you once again for providing the resources that made it all possible. I think you would be proud of your investment.

During the Dedication Ceremony, we took time to "honor our past" by recognizing the Board members who served the District when it was founded in 1954. The only surviving member of that Board, Hugh Hull, was on hand for the ceremony. Though the founding superintendent and principal are now deceased, we were able to recognize a number of former school board members and administrators who served the District and the high school over the past fifty-five years. A number of the staff from the previous West Valley High School were also in attendance.

We also took time to "celebrate the present." Representatives from the architectural firm that designed the building and the contractor who built the school were present to be recognized, as well as the District's project manager. Special recognition was given to Tom Fleming, our Assistant Superintendent for Business and Operations, who guided the project through the successful bond levy campaign, the design and

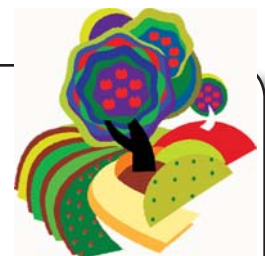
construction processes, and the eventual move-in over this past summer. This team, working together, brought the project in **under budget** and **ahead of schedule**. Again, I think you would be proud of your investment.

We ended our Dedication Ceremony focused on our "hope for the future." The District has come a long way in its fifty-five year history. We are well-known for providing our students a balanced education, grounded in a strong academic core and an equally strong program of athletics and activities. Our students continue to excel in both arenas. What makes that true are the many hands that have guided us over the years and those who have stepped forward from this "proud, caring community." Your investment has provided a "gem" that will provide a place for learning for many generations to come. Thank you again for that support.

Dr. Peter Ansingh

Inside This Issue....

Superintendent's Message
New High School Welcomes Seniors
District Priorities
New Staff in West Valley
09-10 Budget
Maintenance & Operations Levy
Assessment Scores
West Valley Schools Tomorrow



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



New High School Welcomes the Senior Class On Board!

“It’s big! I love it. It’s beautiful. The band room’s amazing!” gushed various incoming seniors whose eyes were shining bright as they surveyed the brand new West Valley High School.

Opening day of the new West Valley High School opened for just the incoming senior class of 2010 on August 25, 2009 and the excitement from students, teachers and staff was almost palpable.



School photos, lunch, tours and questions for the office staff all kept the large commons area a busy place. A long line waited in the foyer of the new and improved counseling office just off the main entrance and the school office had several lines waiting patiently to take care of the usual first day of school business. In spite of the controlled chaos, everyone seemed excited and ready for the school year to get underway.



Eva Lust and Kristin Johnson, Senior Ram Prep teachers, seemed pleased as well, especially the way the students were going about the first day with only a modicum of confusion. The student ASB leaders all wore crazy hats to show their school spirit and prob-

ably to get their pictures taken.

Fifty leadership students, many from the junior class, had been enlisted and trained to give tours of the school to the seniors. Dr. Jean Seibert held court in the new 500 seat auditorium to welcome students, quiz them on the location of different academic halls and remind them that no caps will be worn inside the school, all electronics must be turned off during the school day and no food or drink is allowed except in

the commons and the courtyard. She also had someone model the new hall pass that looks suspiciously like a neon crossing guard vest. In spite of a few groans from the students, everyone appeared upbeat about their beautiful new school.

Dr. Seibert’s parting words were to remind everyone that they must remember that West Valley citizens were responsible for the 60 million dollar facility being built and she charged them to become good stewards of this tremendous gift and show taxpayers that West Valley students are worthy of this beautiful facility.

The District held an open house for parents and families on September 24th, and an official dedication and open house for the public on September 28, 2009.

Like the 1955 first West Valley High School senior class, the incoming class of 2010 seniors share in the honor of being the first graduating class from their magnificent new high school, an honor that they surely will not forget. Citizens of West Valley should also give themselves a pat on the back for making this wonderful high school facility possible for our district students.

Besides starting to apply for colleges, West Valley seniors need to begin working on their senior projects, a requirement for high school graduation. Senior Renea Weedon, a West Valley cheerleader, has already started planning for her project. She loves musical theatre and in preparation for a senior project that will encompass this genre, she spent a great deal of time last winter shadowing the cast of the Warehouse Theatre Company musical “Nunsensation.” She’s decided to put on a talent show and follies for her senior project.



Weedon hopes to major in theatre and secondary education in college, and she’s convinced her senior project will be a first step in attaining that goal.



District Priorities

The West Valley School District is facing a number of challenges for the coming year. First and foremost is the prospective budget for the 2010-11 school year. The District adopted a \$44 million General Fund budget for the current school year. Included in that budget was \$2.6 million in federal stimulus monies and \$1.3 million of spending reductions. With the current State economy still in decline and with the decision by the 2009 Legislature to use the first year of federal stimulus dollars to fund the 2008-09 school year, the outlook for the coming school year is bleak at best. We are anticipating further State funding reductions and no stimulus monies available for the 2010-11 school year.

So starting \$2.6 million in the hole and not knowing what additional State reductions we may see, we will begin a conversation with the community about the District's options sometime this fall. On a positive note, the District will be placing a replacement operations levy on the ballot in February. There may be an opportunity to receive some additional revenue through the levy, but that will be decided by the voters. Given the current economic situation, the decision has been made to forego a bond levy anytime this year.

Classroom space or more specifically, the lack of classroom space, particularly in the District's elementary schools is a second challenge facing us in the coming school year. Our attempt to address the issue on a long-term basis failed last spring. The proposal to replace both Summitview (1957) and Apple Valley (1969) elementaries did not even receive 50% support from our voters. The District is taking two steps to address the challenge.

We have begun the process of remodeling the 1987 building at the old WVHS. When the work is completed this summer, we will move the 9th graders from the current junior high school to a 9th grade campus. Seventh graders will be moved from the middle school to the junior high school; fifth graders will be taken out of the elementary schools and housed with the sixth graders in the current middle school. This will give us at least two additional classrooms at each of the elementary schools, a short-term fix.

School Board Meetings

October 26	WVHS, Room 1245**
November 9	JHS Library*
November 23	WVHS, Room 1245**
December 14	Mountainview Library*
January 11	Cottonwood Library*

**Meetings Begin at 7:00 p.m.
*Meetings Begin at 6:30 p.m.

At the same time, the District will put together a facility committee to re-evaluate our current long-range capital projects plan. The current plan was developed in 1992 and updated in 1998, 2003 and 2007. During that time, Cottonwood Elementary was added, Ahtanum Valley and Mountainview Elementaries were remodeled, a practice gym was built at the old WVHS, the middle school was constructed, a bus maintenance facility was built and a central kitchen was added at the junior high school. We will be looking at the District's needs given the projected growth expected in the West Valley.

- If you are interested in participating in a **BUDGET COMMITTEE**,
- please contact us at 972.6003 or
- communityfeedback@wvsd208.org.

- If you are interested in participating in a **FACILITIES COMMITTEE**,
- please contact us at 972.6003 or
- communityfeedback@wvsd208.org.

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.



New Staff in West Valley



Jesse Golbek

Jesse Golbek earned her teaching degree from Central Washington University and taught for four years at Naches Primary School. Subsequently, she spent several years staying home to be with her small children and now has decided to return to her career as a teacher.

"I'm very excited to be a Mountainview Elementary teacher and work with families in my community," Jesse stated.

Golbek has been married fourteen years and has two children. She loves to read, garden and just be a mom!

Erika Kabrich

"Volunteering in my oldest child's kindergarten class prompted me to get a teaching degree," said Erika Kabrich, Summitview Elementary School's new kindergarten teacher. "His classroom was my favorite place to spend time and the experience helped shape my career goals."

Erika spent ten years as a stay-at-home mom. Her children attend West Valley schools, and her husband, Jim, teaches at A.C. Davis High School. In 2008, she decided to go back to school, earning a teaching certificate from Central Washington University with an endorsement in reading. She spent last year substitute teaching and later took a half-day position at Wide Hollow Elementary. She is thrilled to be hired full-time at Summitview and looks forward to many years with the District.

When not at school, she enjoys being at home with her husband and children. The Kabrich family loves to travel, camp, relax and catch up with their extended family.

Ashley Jaeger

Born and raised in Anacortes, Washington, Ashley Jaeger attended Eastern Washington University and earned her bachelor degree in Communication Studies. She moved to Yakima with her husband Luke Jaeger in the fall of 2006, when he was hired to teach special education at West Valley High School.

Also interested in teaching, Ashley decided to enroll in the Master in Teaching program at Heritage University in the summer of 2007 to begin working on her certification in Elementary Education. Happily, Ashley was hired by Summitview Elementary School this fall to teach first grade and is currently learning the ropes as a first year teacher!

"Outside of school, I am busy being involved with our church, West Valley Foursquare, and am the worship leader for the DEFINE Ministries," she said. "I look forward to a wonderful school year."

Cheryl Perry-Bach

A 2006 graduate of Central Washington University with a BA degree in Family and Consumer Studies, Cheryl went on for a fifth year to earn her teaching certification in Early Childhood Education and Elementary Education in 2007 from the same university.

Cheryl was hired this fall to teacher a kindergarten self-contained classroom at Cottonwood Elementary School.

"My background is rooted in the Kittitas Valley where I was born, raised and have lived all of my life. My husband, Chris Bach, and I married in 1993." The couple has one child, Braidon, who attends Kittitas Elementary School.

Cheryl and her family love to go cart Braidon's miniature horses. This is her son's first year in 4-H. The Bachs also enjoy being together outdoors and frequently go kayaking, camping and flying kites on the beach.



Jeff Kalles

Born in Spokane, Jeff Kalles is one of the new self-contained special education teacher at Cottonwood Elementary.

"I began working with children with disabilities at the age of sixteen as a substitute in an after-school childcare program. When I turned nineteen, I was hired as a one-on-one aide for a student with severe disabilities," Jeff explained. "After starting the job, I decided to become a special needs educator."

Jeff graduated from Eastern Washington University in June 2009 and moved to Yakima to teach at Cottonwood. When not in the classroom, he enjoys spending time with his two dogs, black and white labradors.

"I'm training both to retrieve birds as I enjoy hunting very much. I also like trail and bike riding, plus skiing and camping." Jeff admits that he prefers outdoor activities; however he did divulge that he occasionally plays some Xbox 360 and indoor soccer.



Tami Guz

A native Nebraskan, Tami Guz, Ahtanum Elementary School's new music specialist, just arrived in the Yakima Valley.

An accomplished violist, Tami has performed with the Tampa Bay Opera, Orlando Philharmonic, Palm Beach Pops, Atlantic Classical Orchestra, Flagler Symphony, Cedar

Rapids Symphony and the Huntington and Hastings Symphonys. She has also performed with touring groups such as the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Il Divo, Mannheim Steamroller, Rockstar Supernova and Peter Cetera. She will be joining the Yakima Symphony Orchestra this fall.

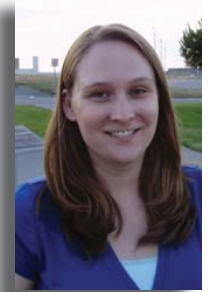
She played with the Huntington symphony while attaining her bachelor of fine arts degree in viola performance and a minor in piano from Marshall University. While earning a master of arts degree in viola performance at the University of Iowa, she performed as the principal violist with the Cedar Rapids Symphony. In solo competition Tami placed first in the Pelzer Competition and the Lucy P. Weed String Competition.

Growing up playing viola, violin and piano since the age of eight, Tami developed a passion for teaching and has recently branched outside the private studio into the public schools. She's taught a variety of instruments

including all strings and piano and has directed numerous string concerts and musicals in West Virginia and Florida. As a private instructor, she previously taught at the Cedar Rapids Symphony School, where she enjoyed one-on-one with her string students and taught an outreach program to the 3rd graders in Cedar Rapids.

Tami moved to Yakima when her husband transferred to Yakima Regional Hospital as their Chief Operating Officer. "I am really enjoying Yakima, and all of the people here are so nice."

Katrina King



Katrina grew up in Puyallup, Washington, and moved to Ellensburg six years ago. She graduated from Central Washington University with her teaching degree in special education in 2005. Last year she earned her master in education degree and spent a year interning to be a school psychologist at Mountainview Elementary School. Katrina also subbed for the Mountainview school psychologist when that person went on leave. Katrina is thrilled to be working as a school psychologist at the same school this year.

"The job brought me to Yakima; I love the area and my boyfriend is starting his master in history at CWU this fall," she explained. Katrina loves reading, hiking and crafting, such as knitting, beadwork and sewing.

2009-10 Budget Supplemented with Federal Stimulus Funds

The State budget cuts hit home last April when the State was trying to balance their budget. The State was able to balance their 2009-10 biennium budget through a combination of budget cuts and federal stimulus dollars. As a result, the State reduced their funding to the school district and offset some of their budget cuts with the federal stimulus dollars. The 2009-10 budget reflects a dramatic shift in state funding to federal funding. In prior years the District would receive about 6% of its revenues in federal funds. This school year the school district will be receiving about 15% of its revenues in federal funds. In dollar terms, the District will be receiving about \$2.6 million in one-time federal stimulus money.

The federal stimulus funds did not offset all of the state budget reductions so the school district had to make other reductions in programs to balance the budget. The final result was that the District was able to put together a budget that was balanced and would still support those activities which help our students meet state and district academic standards.

Some simple facts about the 2009-10 budget:

- Total budget is about \$43.3 million.
- Enrollment projection was 4,613 students. Student enrollment for September 2009 was 4,705; an increase of 92 students over projection.

- Federal stimulus funds budgeted = \$2,642,052
- Most importantly, the Projected Expenditures = Projected Revenues.

Budgeted revenues for 2009-10:

Local Taxes	\$6,136,884	14%
Local Non-Tax	1,448,000	3%
State General Purpose	24,726,574	57%
State Special Purpose	4,568,807	11%
Federal Funding	6,450,879	15%
Total Budgeted Revenues	\$43,331,144	

Budgeted expenditures for 2009-10:

Certificated Salaries	\$18,800,287	43%
Classified Salaries	6,987,646	16%
Employee Benefits	8,630,085	19%
Teaching Materials & Supplies	4,804,126	11%
Contracted Services	3,769,133	8%
Travel	98,797	1%
Capital Outlay	958,097	2%
Total Budgeted Expenditures	\$ 44,048,171*	

*Budgeted expenditures include \$717,027 in prior year carryover funds expected to be spent in 2009-10.



Maintenance & Operations Levies – Past, Present and Future

That time has come and it seems to have come too quickly. The time has come to prepare for the biennial maintenance and operations levy proposal for 2011 and 2012. As we plan for the financial future of the District, we must analyze and project the operational needs of the District through the end of the calendar year 2012. The 2011 and 2012 levy proposal involves the last half (Spring) of the 2010-2011 school year, all of the 2011-2012 school year, and the first half (Fall) of the 2012-2013 school year. Planning ahead for this period of time requires careful examination of what we have accomplished with current levy dollars, what remains to be accomplished currently, and defining the needs to meet our challenges in the future.

The levy for calendar year 2009 was in the amount of \$5,875,000. The current levy for calendar year 2010 is for \$6,345,000. Utilization of the levy dollars involves financial support for four general categories: instruction, operations, facilities and maintenance, and, finally, extra-curricular and co-curricular activities.

Levy dollars past, present, and future provide funds as follows:

Instruction

- Instructional Materials - textbooks, supplies and materials
- Staff Development – training, supplemental work days
- Full-Day Kindergarten
- Alternative Education – summer school
- Student Transition – RAM prep
- Program Support – highly capable, targeted assistance, technology, JROTC
- Class Size Reduction
- Field Trips
- Equipment – computers, copy machines, audio-visual equipment, furniture
- Special Education
- Neighborhood Schools – excess support costs
- Copy Center – print shop

Operations

- Custodial – staff, equipment, supplies, materials
- Utility Costs
- Insurance Premiums
- Maintenance of Equipment and Furniture
- Transportation – school buses, to & from

- trips, bus maintenance
- Security Systems
- Legal Assistance

Facilities & Maintenance

- Equipment - service trucks
- Grounds – sprinkling systems, asphaltting, fertilizing, mowing, playground repairs
- Building Maintenance – electrical, structural
- Child Nutrition – equipment, technology
- Technology – computers

Extra-curricular & Co-curricular

- Staff – stipends, supplemental contracts, athletic trainer
- Travel – transportation, meals, lodging
- Equipment - safety
- Registrations and fees
- Field maintenance and improvement – irrigation

The majority of costs supported by levy dollars are ongoing and fairly routine while others represent periodic or one-time expenditures.

During the 2008-2009 school year the levy provided 12.9% of total funding for the District. State-wide levy support for school districts on average accounts for about 15% of total funding. Currently the District is collecting 88% of the total levy authority it is able to ask the voters to support. Although the District could ask for much more than it is collecting, the School Board and staff are sensitive to other local, state, and federal taxation and make a concerted effort to restrict levy support to only those prioritized high needs and critical activities.

The School Board will be submitting the levy proposal for calendar year 2011 and 2012 to the voters on a ballot measure that will be voted on February 9, 2010. The District will be considering the levy needs of each building, program and department to be prioritized and submitted to the Board for consideration in December.

Citizens of the West Valley School District have been very supportive. The District will once again be very diligent and conservative with the preparation of a responsible levy proposal. The continued community support of future levies depends on our commitment to plan and spend wisely and to be accountable for levy utilization.



Student Assessment Scores

West Valley students continue to score well on state assessments. Last spring, students in Grades 3-8 and students at the high school took the state assessments. Students were tested in reading and math at every grade. In addition, students were tested in writing and science at benchmark grades. At nearly every grade level and content area, students from West Valley scored above the state averages.

Highlights from the assessment results include the writing scores at West Valley Middle School and science scores at Ahtanum Valley Elementary. At the middle school, 83% of the students in Grade 7 met the state standard for writing. At Ahtanum Valley Elementary, 71% of students in Grade 5 met the state standard for science. These are some of the highest scores in the state.

In addition, reading and writing achievement at the high school was outstanding. For Grade 10, 83% of the students met the state standard in reading and 93% of the students met the state standard in writing.

Washington Assessment of Student Learning Spring 2009 - Percent Meeting Standard

	Reading		Writing		Math	
	WV	State	WV	State	WV	State
Grade 4	79	74	71	60	62	52
Grade 7	65	59	83	70	55	52
Grade 10	83	81	93	86	42	45

Scores for all schools in Washington State, including all of the schools in the West Valley School District, can be accessed online at: <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>.

Math continues to be a challenging subject for students in West Valley as well as across the state. During the legislative session in 2007, the State legislature mandated a review of the state standards which resulted in new math standards which were adopted in 2008. As a result, new textbooks which are aligned with the new standards were adopted for use in West Valley. The new textbooks are being used this year at the elementary level and at the high school.

Since the instructional materials at the middle school are modular, teachers have been able to align the modules with the new state standards, moving modules to the appropriate grade level. For example, certain modules which were taught to eighth grade students in the past will be taught to seventh grade students this year. Teachers worked together last spring to develop the new curriculum alignment for this school year.

Schools in our region were awarded a grant from the Higher Education Coordinating Board to provide professional development for math teachers who teach students in Grades 6, 7, and 8. As a result of this grant, teachers will improve their knowledge about math content and effective instructional strategies.

Teachers in West Valley are committed to providing students with a quality education. Our staff continues to work together to improve the educational programs in the District to ensure that each student experiences success every day.

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, Richard Ferguson, 8902 Zier Road, Yakima, WA 98908 (509) 972-6016.

West Valley Schools Tomorrow

In 2006, the District renewed its strategic plan. There were four areas identified as priorities for the District. They included: learning opportunities, facilities, diversity and involvement/communication. Over the past three years we have made good progress following through on the recommendations made by the members of the strategic planning committees representing the community.

Highlights of recommendations from the *West Valley Schools Tomorrow* implemented over the past three years include:

- ✓ the expansion of our elementary program for highly capable students into the middle school;
- ✓ the addition of a third year of math and science to our requirements for graduation;
- ✓ the creation of a support system for teachers working on their National Board certification;
- ✓ the development of reference guide for school emergencies;
- ✓ the establishment of guidelines for safety in our school parking lots; and
- ✓ the purchase of scheduling software for both building maintenance and facility use.

Recommendations that will be investigated in the 2009-10 school year include the following:

- implementation of a Career Awareness curriculum;
- development of more effective academic interventions;

- setting up a parent computer station in each school office for parents without internet access at home; and
- the establishment of a Community Helpers program.

This third update of the *West Valley Schools Tomorrow* has provided the community a good opportunity to guide some of the work being done by the District. Along with the direction coming from the State and Federal governments, our strategic plan has helped move our District forward in the right direction.



West Valley School District #208

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