

# West Salem School District

February 2011



Newsletter

## **The State of Our Schools....**

Troy M. Gunderson, Superintendent

In preparation for the strategic planning exercise, the recent compilation of data combined with the annual planning process will provide an opportunity to share a snapshot or “state of our schools” report for the upcoming school year. After reviewing the information, I thought it best to offer a glimpse at our stakeholder survey data followed by a brief discussion regarding some of the more prominent themes.

### **Stakeholder Feedback:**

We received a rich supply of feedback from the many stakeholder surveys. The general results for the four basic questions indicate our stakeholders:

- Believe the most pressing challenges are continuing to provide high quality programming for each student, with high-quality staff members, current technology, and great facilities all within our means.
- Believe the most important learning outcomes to be the core areas of mathematics, reading, science, and language arts followed by the workplace and life skills associated with technology, finance, and citizenship.
- Most commonly evaluate our district performance by examining test scores, by making comparisons with other districts, and through social factors like trust, engagement, and personal experiences.
- Indicate our top financial priorities to be providing appropriate facilities, remaining current with technology, applying sound fiscal practices, maintaining low class size, and retaining high-quality staffing.

The school board will apply this general information, the literally hundreds of thoughtful comments, along with internal data (work process, climate, and student performance) to forge a mission, vision, and strategic plan for our school district. As a next step in the process of developing a strategic plan, please note the following summaries of prominent themes. Thank you for your generous participation. We will keep you informed as to the progress of our planning.

### **Curriculum and Assessment:**

In the spring of 2010, the school board committed to the process of evaluating, updating, and improving upon our curriculum by enlisting the full-time services of a district level Director of Instruction. The combination of our growing district and the evermore complex nature of standards and assessment have made this position indispensable. Our new director is currently leading the process of evaluating and updating our approach to curriculum, instruction, and assessment.

As noted in the results of our stakeholder survey, a critical measure of over-all school district quality is the performance of our students on various large-scale external assessments. From state mandated testing to voluntary college entrance exams, our student academic performance has been respectable. The brutal reality we must confront is that respectable is no longer acceptable. If our school district is to progress from “Good to Great” then our performance must progress from respectable to exceptional. Our focus in this area cannot waiver.

### **District Finances:**

At a recent presentation to our school board, the firm in charge of our external financial audit provided a very favorable report concerning the district’s financial performance including fund balance, debt load, budgeting, and internal practices. The auditor praised the district for making continued improvements to its accounting practices and cited the district’s good fortune in experiencing steady growth in student numbers and in property values. The auditor referred to West Salem as a high performing, financially sound district.

In regards to building an annual budget for 2011 - 2012, much will depend upon the proceedings in Madison. The substantial change in the balance of power in our state government brought on by the election last November promises to bring forth a new approach to school funding and contract negotiations. The upcoming budget cycle will require a level head, patience, and the ability to prioritize.

(continued on the next page)

## WSHS Staff Make SEP Presentation

### Human Resources:

We are blessed with a wonderful staff of caring and dedicated employees who serve our children, families, and community on a daily basis. The area of human resources is a complex and dynamic area that dominates our industry. We are a service industry where our commerce occurs during the interaction between a staff member and a student. Our success is completely dependent upon this interaction being positive, strategic and productive. When combined with the fact that more than 80% of our budget is devoted to the cost of our employees, selecting, supporting and developing our team is critical to our success.

### Enrollment Data and Facilities:

In the late 1990's, immediately following the opening the current elementary school, the school board conducted an enrollment study, formed a long-range facility planning group, assessed current facilities, and offered a road map for the future. The process was completed in 1997 and offered a series of recommendations. In the 10 years that followed, all of the recommendations were accomplished. Well done!

One of our tasks in 2011 will be to repeat the study process completed in 1997 and to generate an updated plan for moving forward. In preparation for this process, the board commissioned an updated district enrollment study. The enrollment study can be accessed from our school district website. Given all that has been accomplished, our district is in a far more favorable place regarding facilities than it was in 1997. It is now simply time to formulate a plan for moving forward.

### Technology:

Like the world around us, technology has become integral to every function of the school industry. From administrative computing, instructional computing and direct student use, we are completely dependent upon all forms of technology for our daily work. If our computer network is down, our operation literally ceases to function. We currently have an infrastructure network connecting all of our facilities and more than 800 computers serving 1800 students and nearly 300 employees.

As I alluded to in the January newsletter, the area of instructional technology is on the verge of a "game-changing" shift from technology attached to the school to technology attached to the student. This change will require a complete re-evaluation of instruction, training, staffing, and equipment. As noted in the stakeholder survey, technology is a valuable and critical part of our programming. It will require careful planning and action if we are to remain current in the dynamic area of technology.



WSHS Teachers Jeff Maves, Nicole Johnson, Kim Volden along with Principal Mark Carlson presented at the "Every Child a Graduate" Conference in Madison on January 14, which was sponsored by the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction.

WSHS had been asked to present on its Senior Exit Project and describe the National Certification process. Approximately 25 educators from across the state attended the presentation. There was great interest shown as many questions were asked both during and following the presentation. Some of the questions related to inquiring if this team would be willing to visit their schools to do a one-on-one consultation.



NOTICE OF SPRING ELECTION OF SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS  
§120.06(8)(C), Wis. Stats.

Notice is hereby given to the qualified electors of the West Salem School District that on Tuesday, April 5, 2011, Spring Election of school board members will be held. Candidates for the school board are as follows:

Linda Brown  
Tom Ward

Electors will vote in their regular polling places. Polls will be open and time may be obtained by contacting appropriate town and village clerks.

*WSES IMPACT Rally*



*Santa made an appearance at the elementary school IMPACT rally to help celebrate our achievement- students brought in non-perishable food items for the food pantry. He then visited with "Mrs. Beehive's" (Mrs. Wizner's) class to congratulate them on a job well done. What a treat to see Mrs. Beehive dressed for the holidays – she's such a hoot!*



*Thank you to everyone involved in the elementary IMPACT food drive... what a success. A special thank you goes to the Council of Kids (and other 5th graders) for helping to haul all of that food and stocking the shelves of our local food pantry!*



## Child Development Days

The West Salem Elementary School, community and various Coulee Region agencies will be hosting Child Development Days on Friday, February 11th and Saturday, February 12th. This joint program will offer information about your child's development and the various services available to the families of West Salem.

**If you have a child who will be four years old by September 1, 2011, please call the elementary office at 786-1662 to set up an appointment.**

Your child will be participating in a variety of activities through a pre-arranged play area. Social, communication, motor and early learning skills will be observed. Growth and health information will be shared by various health personnel. Handouts and brochures from various community services will also be available to families. The total time needed for the various activities will be approximately one hour.

## Kindergarten Registration

Now that West Salem has a 4-Year-Old Kindergarten program in place, we will no longer be hosting a kindergarten registration. If you have a student who will be five years old by September 1, 2011 and your child does not attend our 4K program, please contact the elementary office at 786-1662 to pre-register. All current 4K students will automatically receive a kindergarten packet.

## Wisconsin Adult School Crossing Guard

Recognition Week—January 11-15, 2011

*THANK YOU TO OUR SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS.*

Lisa Stello  
Nancy Eckelberg  
Nell Martell  
Clive McBain  
Elizabeth McBain

## 6th Annual Mayfair Arts Festival

Sunday, May 1, 2011 — 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The 6th annual Mayfair Arts Festival, a major Heider Center Arts Board fundraiser, will take place on Sunday May 1 from 10AM-3PM at the West High School. Activities will include a Fine Arts and Fine Crafts Fair, Chicken-Q., Silent Auction of donations by local Businesses and Artists, Free Children's Art Activities, Entertainment by local youth, WSHS Jazz Ensemble, and Concessions. Chicken-Q Tickets will go on sale in March.

Artists interested in participating in the art fair can call Jane at 786-2388 or e-mail [mayfairart@hotmail.com](mailto:mayfairart@hotmail.com). Applications are also available at the Heider Center Box Office.

## Emergency Radio/TV Stations

These are the radio and TV stations we use for school delays and closings. *Please listen to these stations when inclement weather arises or check their websites.* The decision to delay or close school is made as soon as possible and the stations are notified promptly. Please refrain from calling the radio stations and the schools as it ties up the phone for necessary calls.

*Please discuss with your children what to do if school is unexpectedly dismissed early.* Any preparations made in advance will make a hectic time run a little smoother.

*Your cooperation is much appreciated.*

WIZM - 1410 A.M.	WQCC - 106.3 F.M.
Z-93 - 93.3 F.M.	WLFN - 1490 A.M.
WRQT - 95.7 F.M.	WKBH - 100.1 F.M.
WKTY - 580 A.M.	WFBZ - 105.5 F.M.
KCLH - 94.7 F.M.	WCOW - 97.1 F.M.
KQYB - 98.3 F.M.	WKLJ - 1290 A.M.
KQEG - 102.7 F.M.	WXOW - TV-19
WLXR - 104.9 F.M.	WKBT - TV-8

Students and parents can check school closings and delays on the following websites:

[www.wlxr.com](http://www.wlxr.com)  
[www.lacrosserradiogroup.net](http://www.lacrosserradiogroup.net)  
[www.cc1063.com](http://www.cc1063.com)  
[www.1410wizm.com](http://www.1410wizm.com)  
[www.mwfbroadcasting.com](http://www.mwfbroadcasting.com)  
[www.classicrock1001.com](http://www.classicrock1001.com)  
[www.wkbt.com](http://www.wkbt.com)



## School Board Members

Tom Ward	397-9873
Errol Kindschy	786-1675
Scott Scafe	786-0969
Linda Brown	786-3027
Ken Spraetz	786-0017
Thomas Helgeson	612-0018
Jason Falck	397-3972

Board meetings are held the second and fourth Monday of each month.



## School Nutrition News

We were fortunate to have been the recipient of a portion of the La Crosse County Farm to School grant this year. In addition to including fresh produce from the school garden on our menu and "Garden Bars", we have worked closely with the La Crosse Co. Farm to School Coordinator to purchase produce that is grown in the surrounding area, and minimally processed in Wisconsin. Each month a different locally grown vegetable is featured, sampled and offered on our menu. A recent favorite was squash from the school garden! The kids said it tasted like pumpkin pie! Grant funds have also been used for garden and greenhouse equipment, instructional material, Family and Consumer Ed. Class and food service equipment. We look forward to working with more area growers for next school year.

Squash- 8, 1/4c servings  
 2 c. cooked squash  
 1T butter  
 1 T brown sugar  
 1/2t cinnamon  
 Dash of all spice, cloves and salt

If you have any questions or concerns about our school meals, please contact me.

Michelle Kloser, School Nutrition Director  
 786-3078 - [kloser.michelle@wsalem.k12.wi.us](mailto:kloser.michelle@wsalem.k12.wi.us)

## Open Enrollment

You may apply for open enrollment from  
February 7-25, 2011, on-line at  
<https://www2.dpi.state.wi.us/OpenEnrollApp>

For more information, visit the DPI website: <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/psctoc.html>

### Who may participate in open enrollment?

- Students in 5-year-old kindergarten to grade 12 may apply to participate in open enrollment.
- Open enrollment for prekindergarten, 4-year-old kindergarten and early childhood education is limited. Parents should call their resident school districts to find out if their preschool-aged children qualify for open enrollment.

### How and when may parents apply?

The open enrollment application period for the 2011-12 school year is February 7-25, 2011. The application period closes at 4:00 p.m. on February 25, 2011. Late applications will not be accepted for any reason.

*Parents may apply in one of two ways:*

- On-line (recommended) at <https://www2.dpi.state.wi.us/OpenEnrollApp>.
- Although on-line application is recommended, paper applications may be obtained from the Department of Public Instruction or any school district after January 3, 2011, and must be delivered (hand-delivery is recommended) to the nonresident school district during the application period.

Public School Open Enrollment Program  
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction  
P.O. Box 7841, Madison, WI 53707-7841  
Toll-free: 888-245-2732

Email: [DPIopenenrollment@dpi.wi.gov](mailto:DPIopenenrollment@dpi.wi.gov)  
Web site: <http://dpi.wi.gov/sms/psctoc.html>

FAQ: *Can an open enrolled student participate in sports and other extra-curricular activities in the nonresident school district?*

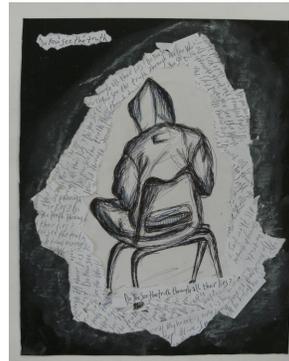
Open enrolled students have the same rights and responsibilities as resident students.

Inter-scholastic athletics are governed by the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA), which has recently adopted new rules concerning transfer students. Parents should check with the WIAA or the school district's athletic director about eligibility.



## Johnny Ray Hansen West Salem High School's February Art Student of the Month

Her work bridges the gap between realism and surrealism--between the real and dream-like state of human consciousness. A field of subtle color is often broken by allusions to the human experience. Hands, feathers, figures dance inside the picture plane creating a world within the flat plane that is paper or canvas. Often, fragments of phrases creep into the picture plane, intended as either some sort of reminder to the artist, or a way to 'mark' a specific event (and the feelings associated with it).



Miss Hansen's recent work finds her working with pen, ink, pastels, paints and colored pencils on paper. These mixed media pieces appear joyful at first glance, but a closer look reveals an intertwining of imagery and phrases that suggest something deeper to the viewer.

## Looking For Used Cell Phones

**The Knights of Columbus is collecting used cell phones. There is a box located in the District office to drop off any used cell phones. Proceeds from the collection of the phones will be used for Special Olympics. Thank You.**

# Heider Center Events

Marie W. Heider Center for the Arts

**A Closer Walk With Patsy Cline**  
Saturday, February 19, 2011 7:30 p.m.

**Paul Halter "The Juggling Poet"**  
Saturday, February 12, 2011 2:00 p.m.

**Barrage - Animado!**  
Thursday, April 7, 2011 7:30 p.m.

**Bottom Line Duo**  
Friday, April 15, 2011 7:30 p.m.



## BOX OFFICE

405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, WI  
(608) 786-1220 ext. 4  
Monday ~ Noon - 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday & Friday - Noon - 4:00 p.m.  
\*Hours will vary during the summer\*

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

## Visual Arts Series

**"The Strands of Life"**  
Becky Herlitzke & Deloras Vind  
February 1 - February 28  
No Reception

**K-12 District Honors Show**  
March 1 - March 31  
Reception: Thursday, March 24, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

**"Bon Appetite"**  
Marti Schwem & Martina Scobic  
April 1 - April 30  
Reception: Thursday, April 14, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

**W.S.H.S Senior Art Show**  
May 1 - May 31  
Reception: Thursday, May 19, 6:00-7:30 p.m.



## What Is "Brent - The Musical"?

Brent is a middle-aged man who can't make up his mind. Should he retire from playing softball for The Bar or should he play for the enemy team, The Stadium View? Slow pitch softball can be so demanding. Brent is the best slowpitch pitcher in Green Bay, and his friends Chunky and Frankie Bag-A-Long Johns try to help him make the right choice and not worry about the newbie pitcher on The Bar's roster. In no way is this story associated with any other famous sports figure with the first name starting with B. It's just a coincidence.

## Paul Halter the Juggling Poet

Saturday, February 12, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

**KID'S ACTIVITIES AT 3:00 P.M.**

in the Heider Center Lobby  
Activities include: Juggling lesson with Paul Halter, cookie decorating, and a variety of Valentine crafts.

Tickets are all \$6.00 and are general admission.



**Cotton Patch Gospel** is a musical based on the book *The Cotton Patch Version of Matthew and John* by Clarence Jordan. The story retells the life of Jesus as if in modern day, rural Georgia. The original Coulee Region cast of Dave Maxwell, Dan Schneider, Steve Dotz and Dennis Kuhn will be back on the Heider Center stage before taking the show on tour to Florida.



Performance Dates:  
Friday March 11, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. &  
Saturday March 12, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

Tickets on sale now — \$18.00 reserved seating

**West Salem Athletic Booster Club Fun Night  
Saturday, February 12, 2011  
Fox Hollow Banquet Hall**

*Something New...* Live music by the band Hwy 16 playing from 8:00-midnight

Beverages, hot and cold appetizers, and sandwiches at end of night

Games of chance

Raffle for Fox Hollow Golf Membership, multiple gift cards and a 2-night stay at Jellystone's Three Bears Lodge.

Silent Auction items include Wisconsin Badgers football tickets, Packers football, and many other items.

Cost: \$15.00

Doors open at 7:00.

Contact Brian Babiash at 792-9330 or Terri Martinson, martinson.terri@wsalem.k12.wi.us, or any booster club member for tickets by February 1.



**Dallas Brass**

West Salem Middle School students, along with students from the WSHS Band, were treated to a wonderful clinic and performance back on Friday, December 17th. The world renowned "Dallas Brass" made their second visit to West Salem in 2010. The one-hour clinic featured music performances from classical music to "The Nutcracker Suite" to music by "The Black Eyed Peas." The band members consisted of a traditional brass quintet and a percussionist, whose presentation focused on the essential attitude of giving everything in life your best effort. Whether, it is academics, athletics, relationships, music, or hobbies, these 6 men were fantastic in expressing the values of dedication, commitment, and diligent, hard work. Their performance was a great balance of fun and precision. The staff and students of WSMS, the WSHS Band Students, and the band department staff wish to thank the members of the Heider Center Board for providing this tremendous educational opportunity for us.

**Link Crew's Annual Cocoa & Cram**

Freshman this is an event for you! Study for your finals, plan a study schedule, EAT COOKIES, DRINK COCOA!



WHO: Freshman & Link Crew  
WHEN: January 12<sup>th</sup> 3:30-5:30  
WHERE: High School LMC

The WSHS Link Crew has met during homeroom to plan *Cocoa and Cram* – a social/academic event for freshman. The idea is to have cocoa and cookies in an environment where freshman can study for finals, pick up review sheets, and plan their study schedule. The event held on January 12 had approximately 30 freshman who worked with the Link Crew on provided review packets. Link Crew advisor Justin Jehn said "This was our best attendance in the 8 year history."



6th Grade Choir and Band Concert performed in the Heider Center under the direction of Elle Nimm and Ryan Waldhart.



## 2011 Summer School Program

It's that time of year again to start thinking about summer school. The West Salem School District is conducting a summer school program for pre-kindergarten through eleventh grade students who reside within the school boundaries. A variety of enrichment activities are planned in math, language arts, science, art, music, physical education, swimming, computer education and drama. Summer school has terms and sessions. The majority of the classes will be held at the elementary and middle schools. Sessions are the times of classes. Session 1 is 9:00 – 10:20 and Session 2 is 10:40 – 12:00.

Term 1 June 13 – June 24

Term 2 June 27 – July 8 (no classes on Monday, July 4)

Term 3 July 11 – July 22 (swimming only and no busses)

Term 4 August 8 – August 11 & August 15 – August 18

(Academic Literacy, Developmental Reading and Jump Start to 1<sup>st</sup> Grade classes only and teacher referral is required)

### Please mark the following important dates on your calendar:

Friday, February 25 - Summer School registration packets sent home.

•Please note classes are filled in the order that the registration forms are turned in. Classes fill so return as soon as possible.

•Home-schooled students may request a packet by calling the Middle School.

Friday, March 18 - Summer School registration sheets are due.

Friday, April 29 - Summer School schedules will be sent home.

Friday, May 27 - Final copy of Summer School schedule will be sent home.

\*\*No changes will be made to the Summer School schedules after Friday, May 27.\*\*

\*\*If you register for Summer School and later find that your student will be unable to attend Summer School for any reason, please call the Middle School office as soon as possible; as we have waiting lists.\*\*

\*\*Skippers (for 4 & 5 year olds/Pre-5K) swim classes will be July 25 – July 29. Registration for Skippers is done thru the pool on or after June 15.

If you have any Summer School questions, call Janel at the West Salem Middle School at 786-2090 between 9:00-11:00 a.m. or e-mail [lochen.janel@wsalem.k12.wi.us](mailto:lochen.janel@wsalem.k12.wi.us).

Please check out our summer school page on our website [www.wsalem.k12.wi.us](http://www.wsalem.k12.wi.us).

If you need an enrollment packet you can view it and print out the registration/sign up form after 2/25 (remember it is 2 pages) and you can either mail, fax or e-mail it back to Janel at the Middle School 450 N. Mark St. West Salem, WI 54669. Our fax number is 608-786-1081.

A cool way for people with warm hearts to support the *Special Olympics*.

### *Coulee Region Polar Plunge*

Saturday

March 5, 2011



Online Registration



Plunge at Pettibone

Beach,

La Crosse, WI

For more information, call (608) 789-7596.

CHECK WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION

<[http://www.specialolympicswisconsin.org/plunge\\_a6-2.asp](http://www.specialolympicswisconsin.org/plunge_a6-2.asp)>  
Special Olympics WI - South Central Area, Kerry Gloede -  
[gloedek@cityoflacrosse.org](mailto:gloedek@cityoflacrosse.org), 400 La Crosse Street,  
1st Floor City Hall, La Crosse, WI 54601



Freezin' For A Reason

The West Salem School District does not discriminate against pupils on the basis of sex, race, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, religion, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disabilities or handicap in its education programs or activities. Federal law prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of age, race, color, national origin, sex, or handicap.

## West Salem Lions Club *Super Bowl Pancake Breakfast & Raffle*

Sunday, February 6, 2011

7:00 a.m.—noon

West Salem Elementary School  
Cafeteria

SERVING FAMILY STYLE  
PANCAKES & SAUSAGE

Tickets at the door.

Cost: \$5.00 Adults & \$3.00 12 and under

**Raffle drawing at Noon. Cash prizes.**

# Calendar of Events

## FEBRUARY

- 1 Basketball-Girls C/JV/V (H) Holmen - 6:00/7:30  
Hockey-V at Sparta vs. Central/Logan  
Hockey-JV at Winona - 5:30
- 2 Ski - Conference SL
- 3 Basketball-Boys C/JV/V at BRF - 6:00/7:30  
Hockey-V at Tomah - 7:00  
Hockey-JV at Tomah - 5:00  
Grade 1 PE Night - 7:00
- 4 Basketball-Girls C/JV/V at GET - 6:00/7:30
- 5 Gymnastics-V at GET Invite  
Wrestling-JV/V Conference (H) 10:00
- 5-6 Hockey-JV at Bangor vs. Baraboo
- 7 Wrestling-JV at GET JV Invite - 6:30  
Ski - Quillins Cup Invite at Mt. La Crosse  
FFA meeting - 7:00
- 8 Basketball-Boys C/JV/V 9H) Viroqua - 6:00/7:30  
Hockey-V at Sparta vs. Onalaska - 7:0  
Hockey-JV at Chippewa Falls - 5:00
- 9 Ski - Conference Super G - Parents' Night
- 10 Gymnastics-JV/V (H) Caledonia - 7:00
- 11-12 Hockey-JV at WI Rapids
- 12 Basketball-Girls C/JV/V at Richland Center -  
1:30/3:00  
Wrestling WIAA Regionals at Adams-Friendship
- 15 Basketball-Boys C/JV/V (H) Prairie du Chien -  
6:00/7:30  
Basketball-Boys C/JV/V at Viroqua - 6:00/7:30  
Wrestling Team Sectionals
- 16 Conference Final, Slalom - BIB Collection
- 17 Basketball-Boys C/JV/V (H) Arcadia - 6:00/7:30
- 18 Basketball-Girls C/JV/V (H) BRF - 6:00/7:30  
Gymnastics Conference at Viroqua - 6:00
- 17-18 FFA Farm Forum - WI Rapids
- 19 Wrestling Sectionals
- 20-21 Ski - State Meet
- 20-26 National FFA Week
- 22 Basketball-Boys C/JV/V at Adams-Friendship -  
5:50/7:30
- 23 **Early Release - Dismissal at 12:30**
- 24 Basketball-Girls C/JV/V at Arcadia - 6:00/7:30
- 24-26 Wrestling State at Madison
- 26 Middle school solo/ensemble festival at Mel-Min.
- 25 Basketball-Boys C/JV/V at Onalaska Luther -  
6:00/7:30

## MARCH

- 1 Basketball-Boys Regional Quarter-Finals
- 3 Basketball-Girls C/JV/V (H) Onalaska Luther -  
6:00/7:30
- 4 Basketball Boys Regional Semi-Finals
- 4-5 Gymnastics State at Wisconsin Rapids



## 2011 Relay for Life



The Relay for Life of West Salem has set a date for 2011. It will be April 1 & 2 and will be held at the West Salem High School. The first Team Captains' Kickoff Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 9 at 5:30 in the elementary school assembly room. This first meeting will give you all the information you need about forming a team and being a part of this wonderful and inspiring event. There will be food, refreshments and fun so don't miss it! For more information, please contact Jane Macdonald at 608-488-4010 or 786-1662.

### West Salem Community Fitness Center

Annie Labus, Interim Fitness Director

If you're starting to feel cabin fever set in this winter it's time to head over to the fitness center. The walking track is free and open to the West Salem community. Walking is one of the easiest ways to stay healthy. Just 30 minutes a day can help lower your blood pressure, reduce stress and help you maintain a healthy weight. Depending on your weight and the intensity you put into your walking you can burn up to 300 calories an hour!

If you need some motivation to get out of the house we offer yogalates and zumba during the week. Both are a fun way to work out and stay healthy. You don't need to be a fitness guru to take these classes. All levels of fitness are welcome!

The fitness center is very affordable and you can pay daily if you don't want to purchase a monthly or yearly membership. Just \$2.00 will give you access to the fitness center's cardio theater, free weights, and cable weight machines. Don't let the machines intimidate you. Let our knowledgeable staff show you how to use them.

#### Current fitness center hours:

Monday-Friday mornings 5:00-8:00 a.m.

Monday-Thursday evenings 3:00-9:00 p.m.

Fridays 3:00-7:00 p.m., Sunday 4:00-7:00 p.m.

Clean shoes are required to enter the fitness center and indoor track. Current fitness center hours and class schedules are specified on the school website [www.wsalem.k12.wi.us](http://www.wsalem.k12.wi.us). Click on the fitness center icon to get the latest information about your community fitness center. You may call 786-1220 extension 2275.

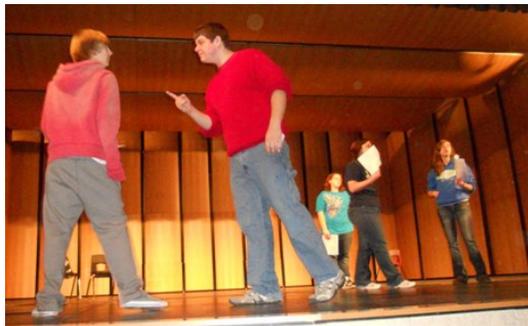
We hope to see you soon!

## WSHS Student SEP Project



The program is called “cap it forward” and The Ultimate Salon and Spa of Onalaska is hosting this program in conjunction with Brook Wall’s SEP (Senior Exit Project). For every 2 one-gallon Zip-loc bags that are filled, a free haircut will be donated to someone in need/financially struggling. The haircuts will be going to students within our school district and some will be going to students at the Boys’ and Girls’ Club as well.

There was a total of about 100 bags collected from the elementary school, middle school, high school, and the community. This means that 50 haircuts will be donated to West Salem area students!



## Photo Friday at WSHS



## New Finals Week Installed for 2011

By: Elizabeth Reschke, special correspondent

A New Year, a new schedule; and for the high school that is exactly what the concluding week of the first semester brings. After years of final assessments, the staff is implementing semester examinations. In the past, they believe this will help to transition from the philosophy of “what is taught” to “what is learned” for several years now they have put it finally to the practice.

As Principal Mark Carlson explains, students will now be given the chance to demonstrate skills and knowledge they have learned over the semester and have the opportunity to experience taking a semester exam much like many of them will when attending higher education. This will give them an extra edge when they continue their studies in college. An extended semester exam schedule also provides necessary to giving the grading that is required. Finally, semester finals emphasize the importance of the last few days of school.

The objective is to provide a structure to this time and use it efficiently to understand what college will hold. This scheduling will also eliminate having too many tests on one day, setting the maximum at three.

The three assessment periods will be held on the last three days of the semester. There will be three testing periods the first two days and two testing periods on the third day, which will also be used for make-ups. Each period is 90 minutes long with an hour-long lunch break after the second exam period.

School District of West Salem  
Regular Board Meeting Minutes  
December 13, 2010  
Marie Heider Meeting Room – 7:00 p.m.

**Convene**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Tom Ward. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee News, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe Country Market, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on December 9, 2010.

*Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag*

Tom Ward led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Kolton Christenson recited the District Mission Statement.

*Roll Call*

Present: Ken Spraetz, Jason Falck, Tom Ward, Errol Kindschy, Scott Scafe, and Linda Brown. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Mark Carlson, John Smalley, and Lisa Gerke; Student representatives: Christina Locante and Kolton Christenson. Finance Director: Davita Molling, Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Dean Buchanan, Michael St. Pierre, Eric Jensen, Barb Buswell, and Thomas Helgeson.

*Approval of Agenda*

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve the agenda as amended by removing item IV. A. Curriculum Director 8th Grade Technology Assessment. Motion carried unanimously.

**Connection with the Community**

*Christina Locante reported on:*

1. The SEP paper is due this Friday.
2. There was a two hour delay today, which caused a little confusion on where the students should start their day at the high school.

*Kolton Christenson reported on:*

1. The high school choirs, Singsations, and Glee Club all performed last Sunday and the choirs performed again the following day at Viterbo.
2. The high school band concert scheduled for last night is in the process of being rescheduled due to the weather.
3. Tonight, the seventh grade band and choir performed in the auditorium. Tuesday night is the 8th grade band and choir concert.

4. Many students art work from Art Explorations and 3-D Foundations is on display around the high school.
5. Practice for the upcoming play, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* begins tomorrow.
6. All the winter sports have begun, with many games and meets this week.

*Correspondence*

A thank you note from the family of Jean Johnson was read. Jean was a paraprofessional in the '70's and '80's.

*Public comments on non-agenda items* – None.

*Written and Oral Reports*

CESA #4 – Mr. Kindschy reported that the group met and had their annual Christmas Party. Instead of exchanging gifts, they collected money to give to a school. The group also approved some grants.

Policy Committee – Mr. Ward reported that the committee has met twice since the last board meeting to go through the 100's. A few policies are on the agenda for tonight and a few will come before the board at the next meeting.

Administrator reports were reviewed. Superintendent Gunderson presented information on understanding property taxes. He has been working with individuals from the County and Director of Finance for Onalaska School District Larry Dalton to help explain the calculation of property taxes. Superintendent Gunderson also reported that an insurance consultant was in to meet with staff to educate them on insurance to help find a solution.

**Consent Agenda**

Mr. Spraetz moved, Mrs. Brown seconded to approve the regular board meeting minutes of November 22, 2010, as amended, and the invoices to be paid. Motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion/Action Items:**

Mr. Ward asked the other Board members to complete and mail the superintendent evaluation to him by January 1, 2011. The evaluation will be compiled and then reviewed in closed session on January 10, 2011.

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Spraetz seconded to accept 2010-2011 middle and high school co-curricular recommendations and approve contracts.

1. middle school: drama director, Amy Hanson; tech supervisor, Amy Hanson; and stage manager, Elle Nimm.

- high school: head girls' softball, Brian Babiash; JV girls' softball, Julie Kamla; head baseball, Charles Ihle; JV baseball, Jamie Ihle; head girls' soccer, Marc Anderson; head boys' track & field, Corey Peterson; head girls' track & field, LeRoy Krall; assistant track & field, Bret Miller; assistant track & field, Chris Carley; assistant track & field, Stacy Mitchell, and volunteer gymnastics assistant coach, Kelly Schams.

Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Brown moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to accept the following donations: from the West Salem High School Sunshine Club in Memory of Jean Johnson for the special education program; from the West Salem High School Sunshine Club in memory of Elmer Beste for the OEC; from the Chaseburg Rod and Gun Club books for the elementary LMC; and from Bob Arceo books for the elementary LMC. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Scafe moved, Mr. Kindschy seconded to approve for the first reading of policy #823 Access to Public Records, #824 Records Retention and #131 School Board Elections. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve for the second reading of policy #112 Harassment. Motion carried unanimously.

West Salem Police Chief Charles Ashbeck reviewed with the Board what is included in the COPS Grant and how the police department and the district will benefit from the grant.

#### **Adjournment**

Mr. Falck moved, Mr. Spraez seconded to adjourn at 7:59 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda A. Brown, Clerk

School District of West Salem  
Special Board Meeting Minutes  
December 16, 2010

Marie Heider Meeting Room – 6:00 p.m.

#### **Convene**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by President Tom Ward. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee News, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe Country Market, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West

Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on December 9, 2010. This meeting was at the request of a board member

#### *Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag*

Scott Scafe led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Tom Ward recited the District Mission Statement.

#### *Roll Call*

Present: Ken Spraez, Jason Falck, Tom Ward, Errol Kindschy, Scott Scafe, and Linda Brown. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Mark Carlson, Barb Buswell, Attorney Joanne Harmon Curry, and Recording secretary Patrick Bahr. Excused: Thomas Helgeson.

#### *Approval of Agenda*

Mrs. Brown moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ward welcomes the motion for closed session: Closed session, under exemption provided for in WI Statutes 19.85(1)(a) Deliberating concerning a case which was the subject of any judicial or quasi-judicial trial or hearing before that governmental body; and pursuant to WI Statutes 19.85(1)(f) Considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations; and pursuant to Wis. Stat. S. 120.13(1)(c) to discuss, consider and take action, if appropriate, regarding recommendation(s) for pupil expulsion.

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Falck seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 6:05 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mrs. Brown Aye, Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Spraez Aye, Mr. Ward Aye, and Mr. Kindschy Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

#### *Closed Session*

#### **Adjournment**

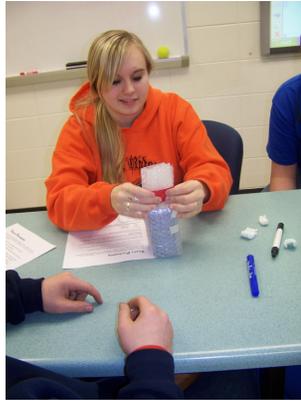
Mr. Falck moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to adjourn at 7:07 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda A. Brown, Clerk

# WSHS Vocational Education - Hard At Work



Entrepreneurship students creating packages for our packaging unit.



Metals and Welding students attend a field trip to River Steel, Mid-City Steel and Western Technical College

This picture shows our state of the art facilities in which we have a spray room and all the students are able to spray finish their projects with a lacquer that really brings out the woods finish.



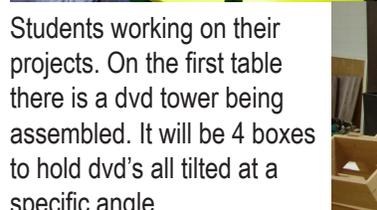
Power & Energy students working on a solar collector for the OEC.



Students in welding class are working on a trailer.



One student is putting together a side for a coffee table. Others are working on projects, which range from hunting racks to smaller tables to larger dressers. All these projects are the students' choice.



Students working on their projects. On the first table there is a dvd tower being assembled. It will be 4 boxes to hold dvd's all tilted at a specific angle.



Yearbook ADS FOR GRADS for seniors need to be turned in soon. Early February is the latest we can accept these ads. Support our yearbook and at the same time, personalize your own senior's yearbook a little bit more. Photos can be recent or from childhood. You may also choose multiple photos, but bear in mind the size of the space when choosing the number of photos and the message!

## Spring/Summer Sports Parent Meeting

The pre-season sports meeting for all spring sports and summer baseball will be held on Monday, February 28, 2011 in the Second Floor Conference Room of the high school beginning at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is for those athletes interested in participating in boys' or girls' track, girls' soccer, softball, golf, summer baseball, and their parents/guardians. The 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. general session is only for those parents and athletes who did not fulfill this obligation at the fall or winter pre-season meetings. At 8:00 p.m. all athletes and parents are expected to attend the break-out session with the coach(es) of their respective sport. The exception to this will be summer baseball which will not be having a break-out meeting at this time from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m., there will be a station set up in the cafeteria to check the necessary paperwork requirements of each athlete. All paperwork must be completed before beginning practice. If there are any questions, call athletic director LeRoy Krall at 786-1220, Ext. 2353.

Check  
It  
Out

From the Superintendent  
Vocational Education  
Nutrition News  
Ads for Grads - Last Chance  
Open Enrollment  
Art Student of the Month  
Relay for Life  
IMPACT Rally  
SEP  
Child Development Days  
Mayfair - 5/1/11 - call for Artists  
Sports Parent Meeting  
Heider Center Events & Gallery Display

IN  
THIS  
ISSUE

Lots  
of  
Pictures

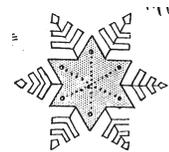
Student Articles  
Pancake Breakfast  
Polar Plunge  
Summer School  
Community Fitness Center  
Used Cell Phones Being Collected  
School Board Election Notice  
Calendar of Events  
Photo Friday  
School Board Minutes  
TV/Radio Stations  
Booster Club Fun Night



For a full-color version of this and past newsletters, check out the West Salem School District Website at <[www.wsaalem.k12.wi.us](http://www.wsaalem.k12.wi.us)>



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West Salem, WI 54669



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