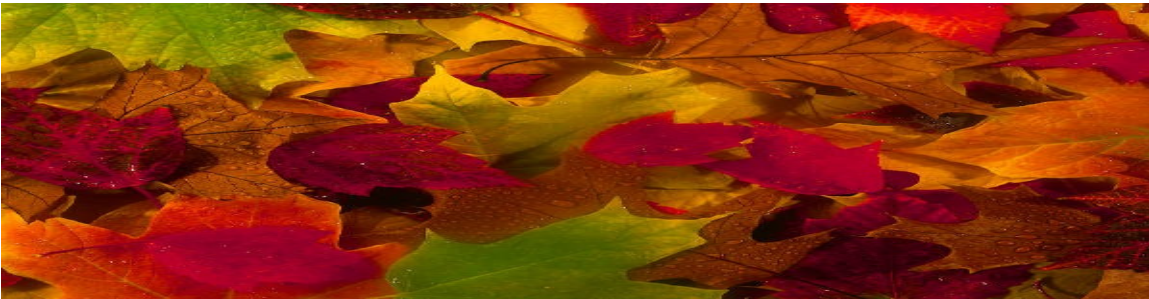




eMemo

September 2007



Welcome Back !

It seems that just moments ago administrators and teachers were saying goodbye to their students in June, and here we are welcoming them back to a brand new school year. Your staff and Executive Board at WFIS want to wish each of you your most successful school year ever. While each of you has been busy hiring new staff and interviewing new students, we at WFIS have been preparing for the upcoming year as well.

At our May, 2007 Board meeting, the board reaffirmed our strategic direction. Our organization will continue to focus on three fronts we believe to be crucial to private schools in Washington. Our first strategic front is our legislative advocacy and representation on behalf of private schools in Olympia and in Washington, D.C. This past legislative session produced an exponential number of educationally related bills that had definite implications for private education. WFIS was able to provide influence and testimony to keep our schools out of the mandatory sex education act and the HPV act. We were also able to gain representation on the new Early Learning Council and obtain a partial victory in the Charitable Solicitations Act for church sponsored schools. As rules and regulations are being written and implemented, we will continue to be at the table to voice our schools' views and positions on all applicable issues. We are also monitoring which bills will be re-introduced and new legislation that may affect our autonomy as independent schools.

Our second strategic initiative is to continue to expand and improve our services to member schools. Over the past three years, we have vetted and implemented new

providers for employee benefits and background checks. We continue to search for and negotiate with providers that will give our schools the best possible prices for their product. We are also committed to providing as many services and as much information as we can on our website. We are working with a new site manager to upgrade and improve our information and user friendliness. Another service we provide is professional in-service, both on-line through 24/7 Educational Services and on-site with our annual WFIS Workshop in November, Puget Sound ESD Private Schools Day and other partnerships as we are able to schedule.

Our third strategic initiative is simply to improve and expand our communication and marketing abilities statewide. Our board is committed to increasing our school membership, continuing to look for alternate revenue streams to keep dues at a manageable rate for our schools. We will also be emphasizing pre-school representation and membership this year. In order to continue to improve our statewide communication, we will again be holding our annual “Sound Off” meetings around the state as well as attending constituency meetings this fall.

Thank you for partnering WF-us (sorry, I couldn’t resist). We are looking forward to our best year yet to serve you.

Judy Jennings
Executive Director

“Do the Puyallup – Happy is Good!”

Do the Puyallup Fair with private schools this Friday, September 14th and Saturday, September 15th, where more than twenty Western Washington private schools will greet you in the Education Pavilion and on the Education Stage. Hope to see you there!

Fall WFIS Soundoff

Plan now to attend one of our regional meetings to hear the latest news about private education in Washington and to voice your opinion on current issues. The dates we have scheduled so far are:

Thursday, October 11, 2007 (10 a.m. – Noon)
PEMCO Financial Services, Seattle

Thursday, October 25, 2007 (10 a.m. – Noon)
Riverside Christian School, Yakima

Thursday, November 8, 2007 (10 a.m. – Noon)
Bellarmine Preparatory School, Tacoma

*If you would like to host a gathering of private school leaders
in your area, please contact
Jan Morrison at jmorrison@wfis.org or 425-228-WFIS (9347).*

Save the Date!
WFIS Fall Workshop Day
November 15, 2007
Spring Valley Montessori School, Federal Way

Workshops will include:

Federal Programs
(U. S. Dept. of Ed. And OSPI)

IAQ Walkthroughs
(Office of Environmental Health & Safety)

Early Learning
(Newly Established Dept. of Early Learning)

Charitable Solicitations Act
(Clark Nuber)

Employment Handbooks and Contracts
(Ellis, Li & McKinstry)

Teacher Certification
(Professional Certification, OSPI)

Private Schools in New Orleans

The article linked below describes the key role that private schools played in rebuilding New Orleans after Katrina and explains how various schools -- including Newman, Metairie Park Country Day, Trinity Episcopal School, John Curtis Christian School, and St. Paul's Episcopal School -- were helped by the Hurricane Education Recovery Act.

<http://www.neworleanscitybusiness.com/viewStory.cfm?recID=19687>

No Child Left Behind

July 30, 2007
Joe McTighe, Council for American Private Education

Representative George Miller (D-CA), chairman of the House Education and Labor Committee, offered his blueprint for the reauthorization of the No Child Left Behind Act

in a speech today at the National Press Club. Excerpts are printed below. The full text is available at:

http://www.house.gov/apps/list/speech/edlabor_dem/RelJul30NCLBSpeech.html

EXCERPTS FROM MILLER SPEECH

“It is my intention as chairman of the Education and Labor Committee to pass a bill in September, both in committee and on the floor of the House.”

“We want a bill that is fair and flexible -- that maintains the integrity of the law through accountability while responding to the legitimate concerns that have been raised.”

“I have always said that I am proud to be one of the original coauthors of the No Child Left Behind Act. But what I really want is to be the proud coauthor of a law that works.”

“The process by which this bill is being developed is open, transparent, and bipartisan.”

“My vision for this next bill is to take America’s education policy in a new direction by doing six key things: First, the legislation will provide much-needed fairness and flexibility. Second, the legislation will encourage a rich and challenging learning environment, and it will promote best practices and innovation taking place in schools throughout the country. Third, the legislation will support teachers and principals. Fourth, the legislation will continue to hold schools accountable for students’ progress. Fifth, the legislation will join the effort to improve America’s high schools. And sixth the legislation will invest in our schools.”

“The legislation I will introduce will contain a growth model that gives credit to states and schools for the progress that their students make over time.”

“In addition, many Americans do not believe that the success of our students or our schools can be measured by one test administered on one day. I agree with them. This is not fair.”

“We will allow the use of additional valid and reliable measures to assess student learning and school performance more fairly, comprehensively, and accurately. One such measure for high schools must be graduation rates.”

“These measures can no longer reflect just basic skills and memorization. Rather, they must reflect critical thinking skills and the ability to apply knowledge to new and challenging contexts. These are the skills that today’s students will need to meet the complex demands of the American economy and society in a globalized world.”

“[T]he legislation I will introduce will provide for performance pay for principals and teachers based on fair and proven models, teacher mentoring, teacher career ladders, and improved working conditions.”

“[T]he legislation will join the effort to improve America’s high schools.”

“I am as excited and hopeful today as I have been at any time in the more than 30 years that I have served in Congress about the prospects for finally realizing the vision of excellent educational opportunities for all children in America.”

Photography Scholarships Awarded

The Professional Photographers of Washington named **David Kasnic of Wenatchee High School (Wenatchee)** as the recipient of the **2007 Student Photographer of the Year Scholarship Award**. David was selected from applications submitted by student photographers representing schools throughout Washington State, and were seniors graduating in the year 2007. David will receive a **\$1000 Scholarship grant**, which will be used to further his study in the photographic arts. David plans to continue his studies at Shoreline Community College.

Students applied for this scholarship, presenting an application, which included a portfolio of their work, a personal essay and two recommendations from teachers or mentors in photography. Members of the Professional Photographers of Washington juried the applicants. In addition to David, the other finalists are **Lindsey Otta- Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart (Bellevue)**, and **Jaynie Lauren Hancock- LaConner High School (LaConner)**. These top finalists were singled out for their high achievement in the photographic field, scholastic studies, and the student’s wish to further their studies in the photographic arts.

The Professional Photographers of Washington applaud these schools for their quality teaching in the photographic arts and preparing their students for their future careers.

The Bulletin Board

Franz Family Bakeries is pleased to announce that we are offering FREE tours of our 6th Avenue South Bakery in Seattle. **We are currently booking tours on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays beginning September 5th and through the school year.** For information or to book a date for a tour, contact Sue Donohue at 206-682-2244 X 6352 or by e-mail at DONOHUES@usbakery.com.

This tour makes an excellent field trip or group activity for participants ages 7 and over and we can accommodate groups as small as 10 or as large as 60 for a scheduled tour.

Larger groups will be split into groups of twenty for the actual 30 minute walking tour but we have a tour room complete with learning activities, games, puzzles and art opportunities for the waiting tour participants. Total tour time for a group of 60 is approximately 2 hours.

Please keep us in mind when you are planning group activities. The Franz bakery tour is one of the few tours of food production facilities in the Seattle area that is FREE. Thank you for your attention and we look forward to hearing from you!

Sue Donohue
Tour Director
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WSAME Thirteenth Annual Fall Conference
Saturday, October 27, 2007 – 8:00 a.m to 4:00 p.m.
For information and registration, please go to www.wsame.org

The WFIS eMemo is a publication of the
Washington Federation of Independent Schools
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