



## *WFIS eMemo*



*January 2008*

### *And They're Off.....*

On Monday, January 14, the Washington State Legislature began its first day of the new session. Since this year is not a budget year, this will be a short session ending on March 13, if all goes according to schedule. Even with an abbreviated session, this session promises to be as lively as last year with an incredible number of bills already written, numbered and just waiting for their turn to be heard in each house.

The over arching thrust of this legislature appears to be transportation, with health care and paid family leave close behind. That does not mean that education will not have its share of issues. In meeting with Senator Rosemary McAuliffe, Chair of the Senate Education Committee, she stated priorities for this session include bills to teach reading in high schools, to retain fine arts programs, to provide for libraries in all schools and to strengthen technical education.

As your representative from WFIS, I was able to share with her our priorities as they have been given to me from our fall Sound-Off meetings and constituency leaders from across the state. These included:

- the surprise change in the WAC to allow equipment, materials or personnel to service special education students in sectarian schools only;
- the discrepancy in the completion of school mapping from county to county in the state;
- the potential financial impact for private schools to complete the new Department of Health regulations;
- and the K-20 Network's solitary exclusion of private K-12 schools from the state's education network.

I also shared our support for a proposed bill from one of our member schools (St. John of Kronstadt - Yakima) to eliminate any type of sex-related business from areas surrounding any public or private school within the state.

Undoubtedly, other issues will surface as the legislative session unfolds. WFIS will do its very best to keep you informed regarding the latest issues through our legislative updates. **WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PROTECT AND FURTHER OUR PRIVATE SCHOOLS' AGENDA?**

1. Forward any received legislative updates to your staff and parents. Encourage their response to their local legislators if necessary.
2. YOU, please be available to testify, if called upon. Legislators respond well to personal stories and we all have great ones to share with them.

Stay tuned.....

*Judy Jennings*

*WFIS Executive Director*

## *Winter Dinner and Best of Washington Awards*

Join us in honoring this year's **Best of Washington** winners at the **WFIS Winter Dinner** on Tuesday evening, February 12<sup>th</sup> at the Museum of Flight in Seattle!

*View the winners at:*

<http://wfis.org/BestofWAAnnouncement08.pdf>

*Please note, there are two additional Spring Valley parents who will be honored.  
They are Paula and Simon Stobart.*

Invitations are in the mail. If you have not received yours, contact Jan Morrison at [jmorrison@wfis.org](mailto:jmorrison@wfis.org) or 425-228-9347.

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

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The Washington Federation of Independent Schools (WFIS) is the umbrella organization for private education in Washington State. With seventy percent of the independent student population enrolled in member schools, WFIS is the only statewide vehicle for regular communication and strategic development between the many different constituencies. WFIS schools are affiliates of the Catholic dioceses in the state; the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI); the Christian Schools International (CSI); Lutheran Schools; Montessori schools; the Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools (PNAIS); the Seventh-day Adventist Schools (SDA); and numerous other religious and independent institutions, including the Waldorf Schools, Hutterian Brethren, and those institutions with sponsorship within the Jewish and Islamic communities. The WFIS Board of Directors consists of eighteen school heads representing the major constituencies chosen regionally by their respective bodies. WFIS is networked with similar organizations in other states through the Council for American Private Education (CAPE).