

THE COMPASS

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION BY

LATE FALL 2011



NORTHWEST SCHOOL OF INNOVATIVE LEARNING

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR, Rachael Ashbaugh

Wow! Time has sure flow by, hasn't it? We've navigated through the first day of school, Halloween, the end of daylight savings time and Veteran's Day-it all happened so fast! And now the winter Holiday celebrations are right around the corner. There is a distinct chill in the air and our kids are already asking us if it is going to snow soon!

Our first quarter went well, with the implementation of the Walk-To-Read groups in Tacoma and a first ever School-wide assembly about bullying in Kirkland. The majority of our students have completed academic testing and we continue to work on identifying areas in which we can improve our services.

Thank you to all of you who continue to support our program through your referrals, kind words and notes of appreciation. We love hearing from you!
HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL OF US AT THE NW SCHOOL OF INNOVATIVE LEARNING!!

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Nov. 24 & 25, No School, Thanksgiving Holiday
- Dec. 19 through Jan. 2, No School, Winter Break
- Jan. 16, No School
- Jan. 25, No School
- Feb. 17 through Feb. 21, No school, President's Break

CAMPUS NEWS

KIRKLAND— In October, our Kirkland campus held an all school assembly to address bullying. 'Community Building and Bullying Prevention' was an afternoon to remind students and staff of our commitment to a safe and civil educational environment-free from harassment, intimidation or bullying.

A new mural is in the process of being created in the front hallway. This will be a landscape and a wonderful way to beautify the school.

TACOMA— In Tacoma we have successfully implemented the 'Walk to Read' program. Each morning students begin their day in groups and work on skill building and reading fluency. The students and staff both put their hands together to create 3 new art pieces for the conference room. Using different color paints, each person place their handprints on canvasses. These are a colorful addition to the school!

BOTH CAMPUSES—Beginning in September, we have initiated new assessment tools at both campuses to be able to provide a trending of progress at the end of the school year:

- BERS: Geared to find the student's behavioral and emotional strengths
- CMAT: Comprehensive Math Abilities Test, which identifies students' grade equivalent when compared to same grade peers.
- TOWE: Test of Written Expression
- TORC: Test of Reading Comprehension

We've also added new curriculum in several subjects:

- Handwriting Without Tears
- SPIRE Reading Program
- AGS Biology
- AGS Basic Math

Inclement Weather

NWSOIL follows the same weather related school closure guidelines as nearby public school districts. In the event of inclement weather, NWSOIL Tacoma will operate under the same parameters of all Tacoma Public Schools and NWSOIL Kirkland will follow the same parameters at Lake Washington School District*. The school's normal start time is 9:00a.m.

****A message will be on the main office phone at NWSOIL with information regarding closures or late arrivals. Please call the main phone number the morning of suspected changes due to weather.****

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STAFF SPOTLIGHT

Ty Erbacher

Ty is one of our Behavior Intervention Specialists at the Tacoma campus. He has worked for NW School of Innovative Learning since March 2011. He is a Tacoma native, and enjoys video games, photography and spending time hiking with his family.

When asked what his favorite part of working here is, he replied "the kids, and getting to know their personalities. It is the greatest feeling to see how the students mature and begin to reach their potential here."

Recently, Ty spent 2 weeks working at our Kirkland campus to lend additional support. We appreciate all he does for us and our program.

Thank you, Ty!

THERAPIST'S CORNER

Info for Parents and Caregivers: Parent Partners

What is a Parent Partner? How would I find one if I need one?

Washington State has a unique outlook on children's mental health practice-involving the needs of both parents and youth.

'Parent Partners' is a state funded program to help assist families in navigating the complex systems and services providing children's mental health. If you are a parent or caregiver with a student at NW School, chances are you've had to interact with many systems already, such as Special Education, Juvenile justice, Outpatient Mental Health, Division of Developmental Disabilities, or regional support networks.

Have you ever found yourself in need of another parent to talk to about all of this? This is when a Parent Partner (also called Parent-to-Parent Coaches or Peer Mentors) can help. A requirement of becoming a Parent Partner is to have walked the same road that you may have, and they are prepared to be a listening ear, coach and support.

If you are interested in finding a Parent Partner to help you and your family, please contact the School Therapist at one of our campuses: Rachel Barrett, Kirkland or Alison Draisin, Tacoma.

Or check out the links here:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/healthServices/MentalHealth/Recovery/HavingAvoice/PeerSupport.aspx>

http://arcwa.org/getsupport/parent_to_parent_p2p_programs

100 YEARS FROM NOW
I WILL NOT
MATTER WHAT KIND OF HOUSE
YOU LIVED IN,
HOW MUCH MONEY YOU HAD,
OR WHAT YOUR
CLOTHES WERE LIKE.
BUT THE WORLD MAY BE A LITTLE
BETTER BECAUSE
YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE IN
THE LIFE
OF A CHILD.

COMING SOON...



OUR NEW,
RE-STRUCTURED WEBSITE WILL BE
AVAILABLE SOON!!!

Birthdays

Parents/guardians may supply refreshments for the class on their child's birthday. Any treats brought to school, must be store-bought, and unopened. Gift exchanges are not permitted.

***For questions or comments about our program, please contact
Melissa Carnahan, School Liaison, 253-272-8111***