



WILLAPA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Message from the Superintendent – Dr. Paula Akerlund

As we begin the 2006-2007 school year, I want to thank the citizens of Willapa Valley for their commitment to the students of Willapa Valley School District. Your support and encouragement make this a great place for education. This is a very exciting time for all of us. The following is an update on our school construction project:

Sale of Bonds

On July 17th the District's bonds were sold and the funds were deposited with the Pacific County Treasurer. At the time of the sale, interest rates were more favorable than anticipated, so the projected bond tax rate will be approximately \$2.78 per thousand, rather than the \$2.96 per thousand that was originally proposed. This is very good news!

State Matching Funds

The District has submitted its application for state matching funds for new construction and modernization to the Office for the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) in Olympia. Final approval for matching funds should be received in July 2007.

Architect Selection

A committee of community representatives and staff met in July and interviewed four architectural firms. Based on their recommendation, we checked the references of the top three candidates. We are happy to announce that JFC Architects, with John Crook as the primary architect, was recommended to the Board. The Board approved the hiring of JFC Architects at their meeting on August 28th.

During September and October John will work with the staff, community, and Facilities Design Committee to develop the educational specifications and schematic design for our construction project.

Grant Funds Awarded

The Office for the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has awarded the District a High Performance School Buildings Program Volunteer Project Grant in the amount of \$256,000. This grant will help us fund our efforts to build a high school that is energy efficient and makes the best use of resources. It will be used to re-cycle portions of the old high school (like the beams and floor joists) if appropriate and grind up the concrete for fill, along with other energy saving measures.



PO BOX 128
MENLO, WA 98561

Phone:
942-5855

Fax:
942-3216

E-Mail:
paulaa@willapa.wednet.edu

Project Timeline

Our proposed timeline calls for the design process to take place from September 2006 through January 2007. The project would go to bid during the summer of 2007, with construction tentatively scheduled to begin in late August or early September of 2007. This timeline may be adjusted as the project progresses.

Updates

We will provide facilities project updates in the District newsletter. The updates will also be available on our website at <http://www.willapa.wednet.edu>. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact Superintendent Paula Akerlund at 942-5855.

Childfind

Free Developmental Screening for Children Ages Birth to 6

The Willapa Valley School District will sponsor a free developmental screening at Willapa Valley Junior High School on Tuesday, October 10th and at Willapa Elementary on Wednesday, October 11th, 2005, starting at 9:00 a.m.

The screening is open to all children, ages birth to 6, who reside in the Willapa Valley School District. The purpose of the screening is to help parents who have concerns about their child's development, as well as to identify potentially advanced children. It is a great way to help your child prepare for entering school. National percentages indicate that 10% to 15% of children have difficulties that could interfere with their future learning.

Children will be screened in the following areas: vision, hearing, speech and language, motor coordination, concept development, social-emotional development, and behavior.

Throughout the school year, we provide screening for any students, ages birth through 21, regarding factors that may affect learning. If you have questions about your student's development, please do not hesitate to contact us at 942-5855.

To take advantage of this free developmental screening, parents are encouraged to schedule an appointment through the Childfind secretary at 942-5855. Please call between 7:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.



THE LAST BLAST!

WILLAPA VALLEY HOMECOMING

Alumni and voters of Willapa Valley are invited to celebrate "The Last Blast."

Festivities will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, September 29th. Past and present members of the military are asked to line up and pass the flag to our new flagpole. The football game with Naselle will begin at 7:00 p.m. The Homecoming Parade, featuring class floats, and Alumni Band are scheduled for halftime. Bring your instruments and join in for "Leader Man Rag" and "Here's to Willapa Valley High School." After the game, the Homecoming King and Queen will be crowned.

On Saturday, September 30th, there will be several opportunities to look around the old school. Plan on sitting down in Tenoski Gym at noon to enjoy an alumni basketball game with "old" referees. There will be an Open House in the high school from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Tours and refreshments will be provided. This is your chance to walk the halls, look into the classrooms, find your graduation picture, and reminisce with old classmates and friends.

The junior class of Willapa Valley High School will be offering a steak dinner from 3:00 to 6:30 p.m. Contact Pam Chapman at Willapa Valley High School (942-2006) for steak dinner tickets.

On Saturday evening we will be gathering at the Swiss Hall in Frances for hors d'oeuvres and dancing. The party will start at 7:00 p.m. with a short program. John Peterson and Rob Friese will act as Masters of Ceremony. Don Newbold, class of 1941, will present a painting of Bob Bush, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, to Willapa Valley High School. Charles Waterhouse, a well-known military artist, did the painting. For Swiss Hall party reservations, please contact Norma Poppe, 1631 Wheaton Road, Raymond, WA 98577.

We hope to see you there!

News from the Athletic Department

John Peterson, Athletic Director, reported on participation in athletics this fall. According to John, we have 32 high school football players, 29 high school volleyball players, and 8 to 10 high school cross country athletes. John stated, "I am very pleased with the number of kids involved in all of our programs. I think it speaks very highly of our coaching staff and the strong belief of our community that extracurricular activities are a huge part of our overall educational program."

WILLAPA VALLEY VETERANS' MEMORIAL PLANNED

The Twin Harbors Detachment - Marine Corps League, with the support of Willapa Valley Boosters, is seeking donations for the construction of a veteran's memorial in the new Willapa Valley High School.

The memorial is intended as a lasting tribute to those Willapa Valley students who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. The initial recognition will be for Robert Bush, Congressional Medal of Honor winner, and those veterans killed during time of war. Depending on funding and space available, future recognition and expansion of the memorial may include other veteran categories-eventually accounting for all student/veterans. This memorial will be unique. It is possibly the only one of its kind since most memorials only recognize those who lost their lives. Additions to the memorial will be done over an extended period of time. Adding one new category or group of names to the memorial annually is being considered.

The centerpiece of the memorial will be a portrait of Willapa Valley High School graduate and America's Hero, Robert Bush. Bush, answering America's call, joined the Navy in 1944 prior to graduating.

Young in years but with the heart of a hero, he participated in the invasion of [Okinawa](#). Bush was wounded during an attack on a rifle company when he was on patrol on [May 2, 1945](#). At 18 years of age, Mr. Bush received the Medal of Honor for his gallantry at Okinawa.

After the war Robert Bush returned to Willapa Valley to finish his high school education. Mr. Bush passed away in 2005, leaving behind a grateful community who loved and honored him.

We hope to receive enough donations to cover the cost of constructing the memorial and have some funds in reserve for expanding, maintaining, and keeping it up to date. The design and materials used have not yet been decided on. Those decisions will be dependent on available funding and what is best for the school.

At this time we are asking family or friends of any Willapa Valley student/veteran who lost his/her life while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces during time of war to submit that information now. The information submitted must be accurate and complete. Please keep in mind that we are seeking veteran information only for those men and women who attended the Willapa Valley Schools, no others! Our goal is to accurately account for everyone.

For additional information, please contact any of the following individuals: Irv Stephens (360) 942-3860, Ron Black (360) 934-6400, or Rex Hutchins (360) 942-3736.

Anyone – anywhere, is welcome to make a donation.

Let us all show our appreciation in remembrance of Robert Bush and those Willapa Valley students who gave so much in service to this nation and for the people they loved.

Make your donation payable to:
Willapa Valley Veterans' Memorial

Send payment to:
Willapa Valley Boosters
P.O. Box 29
Willapa Valley, WA 98577



A Big Thank You!!!

Congratulations to Ann Taylor, Business Education Teacher, and the Fitness for Fun Committee. They received a **\$40,000 grant from the Bishop Foundation for new playground equipment at Willapa Elementary** and new weight training equipment for the high school.

The Fitness for Fun (FUN) Committee was started by three seniors and Mrs. Taylor. The seniors: Kendra Stephens, Katie Adams and D-Anna Freeman have all been instrumental in organizing and pushing for better physical fitness equipment for our schools. The FUN committee achieved its goal of purchasing new playground equipment for the elementary and is presently working on revamping the fitness center for the high school and adult community. Thank you to Mrs. Taylor and the FUN committee members.

Mary Hanson, our elementary secretary, also obtained a grant from the Weyerhaeuser Company that enabled us to purchase a matching swing set, track ride, and the safety ground covering for the equipment. We have just received this additional equipment for the playground and will be installing it as soon as possible for the students and community to enjoy.

All of us at Willapa Elementary would like to extend our thanks to all of those who sought funding through grant writing to purchase this equipment. Thanks, also, to the volunteers from the community who helped install this equipment on the site. None of this would have been possible without the generosity of so many in the community who donate their time for children. As a result of this collaboration, the students at Willapa Elementary now have a playground that is fun, up to code and meets safety standards!

It truly promises to be an exciting and rewarding school year for 2006 – 2007! Please come and see our school setting and samples of your students' work during our Willapa Elementary Open House on Wednesday, October 4th, from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Future Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA)



Kimmi Coburn was elected Region 2 Vice President for Washington State in April of last year. Since then Kimmi has attended the Spring Executive Council meeting at Hyak Lodge and the FCCLA National Leadership meeting in Nashville, Tennessee. While at Nashville Kimmi walked in the survivors' lap of the Relay for Life event with other FCCLA cancer survivors. Over 5,000 teens and their advisors attended the event and throughout the year collected over \$214,000 for Relay for Life, FCCLA's outreach project for 2006.

Kimmi is now planning the fall regional meeting to be held in Toledo on October 18th for over 20 schools in southwest Washington. Members from each chapter kick off the new FCCLA year by learning about FCCLA and its' national programs. This year's community service project is called Premie Partners. FCCLA members are helping March of Dimes collect baby clothes for premature babies. Call the school if you would like to make or donate an item for this worthwhile project.

WILLAPA VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT
PO BOX 128
MENLO, WA 98561

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 1
Menlo, WA 98561

BOX HOLDER