

Keeping You... *In the Loop*



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This issue of Keeping You...In The Loop is provided to keep you in touch with what is happening across our School District.

Listening sessions planned for staff

Recognizing that the past year has brought a few significant and unanticipated changes (e.g., Act 10) that affect our work lives, and recognizing that these changes –and the District's response to the changes –affect people differently, Jeff Gress, Director of Human Resources & Employee Relations, is offering employees the opportunity to discuss any concerns they may have related to employment with the WSD. Jeff has scheduled two listening sessions: February 2, at 3:45 PM, in Room 315 at Wausau West High School, and February 9, at 6:45 AM, in Room D110 at Wausau East High School. These informal listening sessions are open to all WSD employees.

The District says goodbye to a friend and colleague

Staff and students were saddened earlier this month by the news of the death of Diane Neumann, Custodian at John Muir Middle School. Each member of our Wausau School District family makes a difference in the lives of our students and our families. During this difficult time, our thoughts are with her family and her colleagues and friends at John Muir and throughout the District.

United Way campaign results are in

At the United Way Recognition Luncheon on January 11, 2012, several Wausau School District schools were honored for increasing their individual school giving by 40% or more in 2011. Those schools include:

- **Wausau West High School** went from 9% participation in 2010 to 26% participation this year and increased giving by \$2406 (total of \$3,789).
- **Stettin Elementary School** has maintained a 38-40% participation rate over the years, but this year increased giving from \$864 to \$1,934.
- **John Muir Middle School** had a participation rate of 12% in 2009 and 2010, but increased that percentage to 23% this year—a 68% increase in giving!)

Overall, the District increased its participation by 2% and increased its overall donations by \$4714 for a total of \$21,882.

United Way works collaboratively throughout the community to tackle Marathon County's greatest needs: Education, Health, and Income. Thank you for giving to United Way and demonstrating how you, too, **LIVE UNITED**.

WSD E-communications

There is still time to sign up for the District's electronic newsletter, **The WSD E-Dialogue**. All you need to do is go to the District's homepage and click on Sign up for our E-communications. That will take you to the registration form. Just provide your first and last name, as well as your e-mail address and you will receive the next edition. **The WSD E-Dialogue** will not be posted to the District's website, so you will have to register if you want to receive this electronic community newsletter. Take a few minutes and register today!

Tribute to a Soldier

Wausau East High School Athletic/Activities Director Greg Harvey shared this story with us. Now, we share it with you:

On Friday night (January 6, 2012) the Wausau East hockey team played Marshfield at Marathon Park Ice Arena. The captains of the team asked Coach Dan Bauer if they could honor Sgt. Altmann, the soldier from Marshfield who was killed in action on Christmas Day in Afghanistan. The players asked for a moment of silence prior to the game. They also re-taped their sticks with orange tape (Marshfield's school color).

What follows is an e-mail that Coach Bauer received from one of the Marshfield parents. It says a lot about what it means to be a Wausau East Hockey Player. Congratulations to Coach Dan Bauer and the entire Wausau East Lumberjack Family. Job well done! By the way, Wausau East lost the game 2-1, but, I think they were the winners in the end. –G.H.

Coach Bauer:

I have always enjoyed reading your blogs in WI Prep Hockey, and have respected you as a coach and educator offering your experience and advice in the USAH coaching clinics.

However, I have gained an even deeper respect for you during the recent game vs. our Tiger squad and your Lumberjack squad. The decision to tape your players' blades orange as a tribute to our fallen native son, Sgt. Altmann, was one of the classiest moves I have ever witnessed in the sporting arena. Even though we are rivals on the ice and a game was to be played between our schools, your compassion and willingness to pay tribute to an American hero who sacrificed his life for our country shows that you, Coach Bauer, are truly the class of the Wisconsin Valley conference.

I thank you for your compassion, and demonstrating to your players that a game is merely that...just a game, and that there are bigger and more important things in life than just a hockey game. Games will come and go, scores will be forgotten, but the memory of a soldier who gave his life protecting our country will remain forever. I hope that these young men absorb what you were trying to teach them, that a small gesture of compassion and respect can have an enormous impact on our society for the better.

Thank you again for being a positive role model for your players.

*Sincerely,
Pat Andreae*

Professional Library

The Wausau School District Professional Library is located in the Professional Development Center Computer Lab at the Longfellow Administration Center. You may request to have library items sent through interschool mail. Contact Jodi Gargulak, Education Department, via email and state the item # and title of the item(s) you are requesting.

INVENTORY LIST: The items on the list are sorted by type (audio, audio sets, binders, books, CD's, DVD's, DVD sets, Inquiry kits, VHS and VHS sets) and then alphabetical by title. The list is searchable by using CTRL + F and then search by key word.

RETURNS: Return items within 30 days. When returning, please address interschool envelope or box to **Jodi Gargulak @ Longfellow**. Or you may return the items in person.

QUESTIONS: If you have questions, please call Jodi Gargulak, 715-261-0525.

Please share with your families who may qualify

If any of the families in your school earn less than \$49,078, they may qualify for up \$5,751 in Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). But to receive this Tax Credit they must file a federal income tax return. The United Way of Marathon County and the Get SMART Wausau Coalition, in collaboration with the AARP Tax Aides Program, will be offering a special:

**EITC Saturday
February 11, 2012 from 8:00 AM - Noon
212 River Drive**

For more information or to register for an appointment for EITC Day, families can contact United Way's 2-1-1 or call 715-848-2255 weekdays from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. For additional information, log on to the United Way website at www.unitedwaymc.org to download the EITC Day flyer.

Introducing our newest WSD staff members

Staff members new to the District since December include:

Professional Staff

Leanna Oertel, English Teacher at Wausau West, 1.00 FTE.

Support Staff

Janel Cook, Building Paraprofessional at Wausau West; **Kelly Beese**, Special Education Paraprofessional at Rib Mountain; and **Nhia Vang**, ELL Translator at John Marshall.