

Juvenile Detention Services

Education Goes Beyond Core Subjects

At the Martin Hall Juvenile Detention School, education goes beyond just teaching the core subject areas such as language arts and social studies. Lead teacher, **Barbara Thompson**, and instructional paraprofessional, **Darla Hall** (pictured), know their students also need education in how to live independently through employment and financial responsibility. Yes, the students at Martin Hall do spend the first part of the school day working on the standard school curriculum, but in the afternoon, students are learning the importance of preparing for life.

Vocationally, students work on the Washington Occupational Index System online program. Students can take an interest inventory to determine possible vocational paths that fit their interests. In addition, they can explore training and the job outlook for vocations that are of high interest.

In class, students learn how to complete employment applications accurately, build resumes and proper interview techniques. Last month, Barb asked a few of the Martin Hall office staff to play the part of interviewer as students participated in mock interviews.

They had spent time in class learning about interviewing etiquette, such as appropriate dress, punctuality, handshake if the interviewer offers, standing until asked to be seated, good eye contact, asking good questions, and “thank you” at the conclusion of the interview.

Along with building a personal career path, students are also taught how to live independently through financial responsibility. Barb has used Dave Ramsey’s *Foundations in Personal Finance* curriculum the past several years. Not only does this curriculum teach students the importance of money management (budgets and financial decisions), but also about credit and debt - avoiding overspending on credit cards and high interest loans.

Most of the students who are incarcerated come from impoverished environments. Barb and Darla hope that by providing education on achieving employment and the importance of financial responsibility, maybe the cycle can be broken with at least some of the students. Of course, students are reminded daily that finishing high school or getting a GED is the most important step to working in a job they desire and to living independently.



Hagan Foundation Grant Award

Congratulations to the Spokane Detention School, Martin Hall School and the SAC School on being awarded a grant from the Hagan Foundation in December. Each school will receive 10 HP Chromebook laptops for student use.

An internet filtering system was purchased last spring and installed by NEWESD techs, **Eddie Laux** and **April Bylsma**. With internet accessibility, students will now have access to comparable educational resources as most public schools. With the addition of the new Chromebooks, more students will be able to take advantage of the many online programs used to supplement classroom instruction in the Juvenile Detention School Programs.

The Hagan Foundation is named after a Spokane physician who passed away in 2012 at the age of 101. Dr. Cornelius E. Hagan, Jr., created the foundation to give back a little of what Spokane had given to him. He placed high priority on projects expanding educational access, innovation and opportunity.



Teaching and Learning

The Center for Teaching and Learning is always bustling with activity. They are preparing to host the Cris Tovani presentation, *Comprehending Content*, on Saturday, February 20, at Center-place for the BEST grant participants. This training is also open to anyone of interest.

The shortage of teacher substitutes has become a serious issue in Washington. One avenue that the department is exploring to better serve our districts is to provide professional development during after-school hours and on Saturdays.

Participants of the lab districts, funded by the WSAC Smarter Balanced Interim Assessment grant, will be looking at ELA Smarter Balanced Interim Block Assessment data (IBA) to guide their instructional decisions to help close the achievement gap for all students. This grant, a partnership with Gonzaga University and North Central ESD, will help teachers implement the SBAC interim assessments to close opportunity gaps for students. Labs are scheduled as follows:
 Mary Walker—February 24
 Creston—March 2
 Moses Lake—March 8

Tammie Schrader is currently organizing a Game Jam/Hackathon for late February that will include teams of students coming together to learn relevant science standards through the lens of gaming. This is being promoted and supported by the White House and local businesses. Be watching for event information.

A Stanford University Affiliate program, *Jo Boaler & youcubed*, will kick off a series of math workshops beginning March 11-12. The workshops focus on equitable math education, content and practice standards.

YouthBuild

YouthBuild will be working in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, NewTech Skills Center and Associated General Contractors on Project Restoration as part of the overall “The Zone” project.

Four homes, owned by Habitat, and in The Zone area, will be remodeled between now and June. The interagency cooperation is part of The Zone’s mission and will be helpful in their Promise Zone application. The homes will provide a great work and training site for our students and will be wonderful for the families who will occupy the homes later this spring.

Recently, KHQ TV aired a story about Gordon Zehm and *Rebuilding Together*, starring **Mark Altmar!** It was very exciting that the Rebuilding Together team was able to put together such a helpful build.



Below is the link to the post with the news segment on the Spokane Service Team Facebook page. Feel free to give it a “like.”

<https://www.facebook.com/spokaneserviceteam>

YouthBuild is holding a necktie drive as their closet is running low on professional dress attire for the new cohort, which began this month. This is an opportunity to help these young adults get off to a good start when entering the job market. If you have some ties that you feel would look more stylish on someone else, please drop off your donation at NEWESD or at SST/YouthBuild, 2424 E. Riverside Avenue.



(Pictured L to R)
 Alex Anderson, AmeriCorps Tutor
 Jason Overdorff, Construction Trainer
 Tamara Conger, Program Assistant

Special Education

Fran and **Glenda** continue work with the State-Identified Measurable Result for Students with Disabilities.

A Phase I outcome of the work is the development of a Consistency Index. A fundamental premise for the application of the index is the greater the consistency between three elements, i.e., sufficient evaluation, properly formulated IEPs and delivery of specially designed instruction, the greater the likelihood that coordinated and intentional instructional efforts will positively influence outcomes for students with disabilities. Usability testing of the Consistency Index is beginning this month within our region.

Phase II outcomes focus on alignment of early literacy performance of entering kindergartners with disabilities with the State K-4 Literacy work in order to reduce the performance gap for those students. Community partners in this work include Thrive Washington, Head Start State Liaison, ECEAP administered under the Department of Early Learning, and WEA.

Upcoming Workshops

Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports (PBIS), Cohort 6 with Dr. Flint Simonsen
January 19—Day 1
January 22—Day 2

Right Response Elements Certification
January 20—Co-op districts
January 26—Non co-op districts

Right Response Advanced Certification
January 21—Co-op districts
January 27—Non co-op districts

PBIS Tier 3 with Amy Austin-Radach
January 29

Early Childhood

The Early Childhood Department has been focused on several projects this year.

Within the ECEAP program, we continue to move toward full enrollment. Currently, three out of 227 slots are still vacant, however with continued recruitment, the remaining slots will be filled. The 18 ECEAP lead teachers have all received training in the Creative Curriculum and the family advocates received training and are piloting the Family Development Matrix, which assesses family strengths, needs and goals. The pilot targets families who have children enrolled in full and extended day ECEAP classrooms, which total 67 families. It has been very positively received by families and advocates.

The department and programs have grown and are now fully staffed with 30 NEWESD employees and 16 staff members who work within various programs through our subcontractors.

WaKIDS

Throughout the state, the WaKIDS assessment consistently has shown low scores in early mathematics as children enter kindergarten. To target this skill deficit, early mathematics modules were developed through a partnership between OSPI and ESDs. Not only are we excited to have participated in the development of the modules, we are looking forward to partnering with the Teaching and Learning department to roll-out regional training on the early mathematics modules to support school districts and early learning professionals.

School Nurse Corps

As with all other departments in the division, the work never stops for **Julie** and **Alma**. They have put hundreds of miles on their vehicles traveling to schools all over the NEWESD region, checking in with each School Nurse Corps RN. Contacts have also been made with superintendents to discuss the SNC program and the health services they are receiving.

They have also been working closely with the other eight ESDs and OSPI in revising several manuals for school districts statewide:

- ✓ Staff Model for Delivery of School Services
- ✓ Guidelines for the Care of Students with Diabetes
- ✓ Illness and Injuries in Schools Guide

Health room assistant guidance and training materials are also being developed.

One of the School Nurse Corps RNs at Riverside SD will be welcoming a school nursing student from London, England. This student will be shadowing **Julianne Begley**, who will provide her with first-hand experience in the hectic day-to-day activities of a school nurse.



The Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is an employee benefit which provides short term, confidential counseling, consultation resources and referrals on a variety of issues that may impact your work or personal life. Services are available at no cost to employees and their family members. EAP counselors are available 24/7.

www.apshelplink.com
(company code: EAPNOW)
800-999-1077

Next Generation Zone

So far this program year, the Spokane Area Workforce Development Council (SAWDC) has been awarded nearly \$250,000 in non-Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding to support students at the Next Generation Zone. These funds have expanded services to the extent that all youth, 16-24 years old, can access education, training and employment opportunities. In previous years, we were limited to capacity within the GED classroom and approximately 350 WIOA youth per year.

Some highlights...

- ✓ \$133,000 (over two years) - for GED reading and math paraprofessional to work with Open Doors youth. This also includes work experience, on-the-job training funds and enhanced technology for students with disabilities.
- ✓ \$43,995 - JPMorgan Chase. Using funds to launch a Fast-Track GED option for 20 Open Doors youth.
- ✓ \$38,350 (over two years) - United Way for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) professional development training and AmeriCorps salary subsidy. A partnership with WSU Research and Development department.
- ✓ \$1500 - NEWEC for bus passes.
- ✓ \$1000 - Spherion for GED tests.
- ✓ \$25 - STCU for financial literacy prizes.

The Next Generation Zone GED classroom is the most successful in Spokane County!

- ✓ 64 students, including YouthBuild, Open Doors and SCC students, have completed their GED since January 2014.
- ✓ Over 40% of all GEDs completed in Spokane County have come from the Next Generation Zone GED classroom. Students are passing GED test rates at 77%, compared to 71% in the county.
- ✓ The largest difference is in math tests with 70% of Next Generation Zone students passing math GEDs vs 54% in other centers.

Welcome to....

Pedro Diaz, student assistant specialist, serving Tekoa and Oakesdale school districts.

Cindi Estelle, family resource coordinator, serving all districts in the Tri-County region.

Edilsa Mendoza, classified instructional specialist, at JDC.

Heather Stiles, mental health family therapist, serving West Valley SD.

Prevention

The Center for Prevention met as a group on January 11 to talk about cultural competency. Dr. Raymond Reyes, Gonzaga University, facilitated the session addressing culturally inclusive practices and educational equity.

Pictured below are the three groups of professionals who make up the Center for Prevention.

Student Assistance Specialists (L-R): Pedro Diaz, Jill Royston, Chris Evers, Melinda Brown, Barbara Fincher, Alex Low



Mental Health Therapists (L-R): Gary Frost, Ashley Sorensen, Tiffany Cannon-Keiser, Sally Anderson, Sarah Kaiser, Joeleen Wilkinson, Eric Ecklund

A Note From Mick

Happy 2016 and best wishes for a wonderful year!

This is an apropos beginning for the second quarterly Student Learning and Support Services (SLSS) newsletter. The coming of the new year always brings about excitement and resolution, as well as positive thoughts about what will happen in the new year. In our division, so many exciting things are happening for the students we serve directly and for our districts. On behalf of those students and districts, thank you for all your good work.

The turning of the calendar also marks the beginning of a year in which we will see a presidential election, gubernatorial election and the election of a new Superintendent of Public Instruction. 2016 will see a summer Olympiad, the WSU Cougars will be ranked in the top 25 college football rankings next August, and the 50th Super Bowl. In Roman numerals, it will be *MMXVI*. In 2016, the final American troops are scheduled to leave Afghanistan. The new year is going to be thrilling, challenging and filled with highs and lows.

I believe 2016 is going to be an outstanding year and I am so fortunate to be working with an incredible group of people.

Again, have a wonderful 2016.

Mick



Elementary Counselors (L-R): Jenna Brown, Jaclyn Holien, Carrie Hubert