

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Washington Elementary teachers encourage parents to be involved in their classrooms by reading with students and assisting in special planned learning activities. We also send bi-monthly newsletters with classroom information. Many of our teachers send home weekly academic reports for each student. We also invite parents to attend our monthly Washington assemblies.

Our parents at Washington Elementary are highly supportive of the school and our programs as reflected by their active involvement and attendance at our Title I parent nights and Partners in Print luncheons. We are also optimistic about a group of parents who have recently re-established a PTA at Washington Elementary after many years of its absence. The district PTA Council was supportive by providing resources and personnel during an initial meeting to revive a long absent parental support base. We now have a current slate of officers, scheduled monthly board meetings and goals have been set for PTA events for the remainder of the 2006-2007 school year.

We are happy to announce that Title I has provided a full time Parent Involvement Coordinator who works closely with the Title I teachers and parents to support programs such as “I CARE” for Kindergarten, T-1, first, second, third, fourth, and fifth grade students and parents and “Food 4 Kids” take home food bags. Our parent involvement coordinator disseminates surveys to parents and teachers to assess the needs for parent involvement. These survey results are compiled and documented to provide a source for communication with parents through written and oral means which allow the coordinator to arrange activities to keep parents involved in our school.

One of our newest parent involvement ideas consist of Parent Connections – Connecting our Washington Parents Together. This is a monthly meeting held at the school and usually is the last Friday of the month following the assembly. These meetings are designed to educate parents on several topics, for example, behavioral problems in kids, gang awareness, etc.

Washington School Title I planned educational activities include an Annual Fall Meeting in August, a Family Reading Night in **December** and

February, a Family Math Facts Night in September, Partners' in Print Luncheons, Test Taking Tips and Math Bingo in March. These meetings are designed to meet identified interests and needs of our school families.

Our counselor has established a program for military families, Washington Military Family Collaboration (WMFC) meetings. It is designed to help collaboration between parents, students and teachers become more effective as they all work together to give emotional and informational support. We have found that our families are very appreciative of this new organization and we think it will be another outstanding parental involvement initiative.

Faculty members will continue to provide interesting opportunities for parents to be involved in school activities such as Student of the Month, Jump Rope for Heart in October, a Christmas Program in December, the Diabetes Walk in December, Hoops for Heart in March, Field Day in April, Rotary Track Meet, and Super Kids Day in May.

