

UPDATE

Lake Washington Education Association

November 3, 2010

Tragic events call attention to the need for preventing bullying in schools

In September alone, nine teens in the United States reportedly killed themselves after being harassed and bullied by other students. At least eight of them were victims of anti-gay bullying. Here are just a few of their stories:

- Billy Lucas, age 15, hung himself in his grandmother's barn in Greensburg, Indiana, after being tormented for years because other kids thought he was gay.
- 13-year-old Seth Walsh of Tehachapi, California, hung himself from a tree in the family's back yard after suffering years of relentless bullying due to his sexual orientation.
- New Jersey college student Tyler Clementi, 18, killed himself by jumping off a bridge after his roommate secretly broadcast live images over the Internet of him having a sexual encounter with another man.
- Asher Brown of Houston, 13, shot himself after constant harassment from four other students at his middle school. Asher told his parents that morning he was gay.
- Cody Barker, an openly gay 17-year-old, took his life in Shiocton, Wisconsin on September 13 after being targeted for his sexual orientation.

Surveys of middle and high school students show that a significant amount of bullying, both verbal and physical, is directed at students who are, or perceived to be, lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered (LGBT). The Gay, Lesbian, Straight Education Network (GLSEN) reports in its latest survey of LGBT students that:

- 88.9% of students hear "gay" used in a negative way frequently or often at school (e.g. "That's so gay!").
- 72.4% hear other homophobic remarks, such as "faggot" or "dyke" frequently or often.
- 61.1% feel unsafe at school because of their sexual orientation and 39.9% because of how they express their gender.
- 84.6% were verbally harassed at school because of their sexual orientation.
- 40.1% were physically harassed (pushed or shoved)

at school in the past year because of their sexual orientation, and 27.2% because of their gender expression.

- 18.8% were physically assaulted (punched, kicked, hit, injured with a weapon) because of their sexual orientation, and 12.5% because of their gender expression.
- 52.9% of LGBT students were cyberbullied by their peers through text messages, e-mails, instant messages, and/or postings on Internet sites such as Facebook.

This high incidence of harassment and assault is exacerbated when school staff members do not intervene on behalf of LGBT students. 62.4% of students who were harassed or assaulted in school did not report the incident to staff members, believing little to no action would be taken, or the situation would become worse if reported. 33.8% of the students who did report an incident said that school staff did nothing in response.

So, what can teachers in LWSD do to help prevent harassment and bullying of LGBT and other students?

- Prominently display the LWSD's Human Dignity Policy and Harassment Policy in your classroom. Those policies specifically state that harassment on sexual orientation is prohibited.
- Remind your students about the policy and the consequences for violating it. Tell your students you will not tolerate any harassment of any kind, including harassment based on actual or perceived sexual orientation.
- Tell your students that using terms such as "faggot," "dyke," or other derogatory names will not be tolerated, including statements such as "That's so gay!"
- When you hear inappropriate comments from students, step in and state that such language is not acceptable. It's not only important for the offending students to hear you, but for the victim as well.
- Report any incidents of harassment, bullying, and/or assault to your administration, and then follow up to find out what the result was.

Information & News for Members

Bad weather can affect schools



When the wind, rain, flooding, and snow arrive, it's important to fully understand the intent of contract language that we have related to inclement weather and reporting to work.

You are expected to report to work on time; however, the District and the Association are concerned that individuals get to work safely. If the cars driving in front of your house are sliding into ditches or trees are falling across your road, common sense says to wait until conditions improve. However, you must arrive at work no later than 30 minutes before students are due to arrive.

If you don't get to work because of inclement weather conditions, you may use annual leave (after calling in).

Staff who report to work on a day when school closures are announced late (after 5:30 AM for secondary staff and 6:30 AM for elementary staff) shall be paid 2 hours at their hourly per diem rate. This is intended to compensate those individuals who have already left for work before the school closure announcement was made. "Announced" means the time at which the District notifies the media, not the time the media makes the announcement, nor the time you are actually notified.

In addition to staff phone trees and TV or radio announcements, you can always check the LWSD website for up-to-date announcements relating to weather-caused delays or cancellations.

5QL classes available now

[IT]² Communicator Series (secondary only)

Staff who received their Communicator introduction on 10/1 are encouraged to sign up for this 4-part class now posted on Inform. Learn how to communicate using the new teacher website tool called Communicator. Topics will include posting announcements, creating a class calendar, attaching documents, and using the new Web 2.0 tools currently available. Successful completion of this series ends in check off for the 2010-2011 [IT]² stipend.

[IT]² Skyward Series (elementary grading staff only)

Dates and times are now posted in Inform for this three part series for all elementary staff who grade using Skyward. This course will assist in meeting the criteria for 2010-2011 [IT]² check off for elementary grading staff.

Communicator for Non-Graders (elementary only)

For non-grading elementary staff eager to get started using the new websites, get your introduction to Communicator right now. This class will show you how to use this tool to communicate. Receive instruction on basic setup of your site and learn about your options for further training.

ActivInspire

If you find yourself wanting more information and assistance with using the Promethean software upgrade, expert trainers will guide you during 5QL classes hosted throughout the district. PLEASE NOTE: Elementary staff should not sign up for this class prior to your building's ActivInspire training date as the software needed to run this program may not yet be available in your building.

LWEA Executive Committee

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LWWEA

Pool amounts set

Each year upon the closure of the open enrollment period for health benefits, the Business Office calculates the amount of the insurance pool. This year the Legislature has allocated \$768 per FTE employee to be used for benefits. State law requires that after everyone has made their basic benefits selections, any leftover money must go into an insurance pool. This pool is used to help full-time employees who have to pay part of the medical premiums out-of-pocket due to insuring their dependents. (The pool is not available to part-time employees.)

The amount available from the pool been calculated. Teachers will be able to spend up to \$671 per month (\$717 if you are on Willamette Dental instead of WDS) for their medical insurance after all their other benefits have been paid. Selection of medical coverage in excess of this amount will result in a deduction from the employee's paycheck. These changes will be effective with the October payroll.

Read Across America 2011



Read Across America 2011 is scheduled for March 2, and planning is already underway. You can get free resource kits and calendars (while supplies last) to help with your school's activities. Go to the Read Across America page of the NEA [website](#) for a wide variety of ideas and resources.

We have winners!

In our last Prize Puzzle, we asked which of the statements about unpaid leave were correct. We received quite a number of responses – and from those, we drew these three names to receive a \$10 Starbucks card.

Our winners are:

Julie Banchemo (Bell Elementary)
Ilsa Birmingham (Finn Hill Jr High)
Ross McCullough (Rose Hill Elementary)

By the way, that puzzle contained a trick question – all of the statements were correct!

Appreciation night

Join educators from throughout the region for an exciting hockey game on Saturday, November 20 at the new ShoWare Center in Kent. For a discounted ticket price, you and your family can watch the Seattle Thunderbirds take on the Everett Silvertips.

To order tickets online, [click here](#) to get the information and promotional code for your discount.

LW Schools Foundation awards grants

Thirty LWSD schools received up to \$1,500 for school or classroom grants that extend and enhance learning. Elementary school projects included books for all reading levels, English language tutoring for ELL students, science enrichment for 1st graders, and a math program that promotes family math nights and math clubs.

Secondary projects included peer mentoring at LWHS, a study of comparative government at ICS, a model UN program at JHS, and robotics at RHS.

In addition, 10 secondary schools also received a total of \$10,500 in grants from the Foundation's Access Fund, which provides funding for students with financial needs. Schools use the funds to cover the costs of individual students (class fees and supplies, test fees, activity cards and fees, field trips, and musical instruments).

For a complete list of the grants, see www.lwsf.org.

Calendar

Nov. 7	Daylight Savings Time Ends
Nov. 8	School Board Meeting
Nov. 9	Executive Committee
Nov. 11	Veterans Day



Next Rep Assembly – Nov. 16

Marketplace

WANTED

Wooden rocker, adult size, for classroom distressing. I'll pick up. Sonja Kastner (Transition Academy) 425-861-3452.

VACATIONS

Studio Villa in Maui – Starwood Westin Kaanapali Ocean Resort North, 11/5-12 (7 nights). Sleeps 4, king size bed + pull-out sleeper, full kitchen, W/D. Great resort for families w/ pools & excellent swimming/snorkeling beach just steps away. \$1,500 for week (rents for over \$350/night on Expedia). Anna Jaross (McAuliffe) 425-829-2266.

Hawaii oceanfront condos on Oahu's west coast at Makaha. 1 bedroom = \$949/week (available 11/24-12/1); 2 bedroom = \$1,099/week (11/21-28). Call Bob Pedersen at 425-822-3336. (Sylvia Ledesma, Muir).

**Don't forget to "fall back!"
Daylight Savings time ends Sunday, November 7!**

SERVICES

Home improvements, repairs, remodels: skilled carpenter/handyman, specializing in siding, windows, doors, trim, crown, decks, wall repair, bath & kitchen remodels. Pics & references available. Free estimates. Get your home ready for winter. Awarded Angieslist 2009 Super Service Award. Affordable, high quality, licensed. NW by NE Carpentry Services at 425-691-7000 or nwbyne@comcast.net. (Kathy Kier, RC).

Home remodels & Repairs: bath/kitchen remodels, trim, crown & doors, precise tile setting, interior & exterior painting, changing outdated hardware, large & small repairs. Background at Montgomery Homes, Inc building multi-million \$\$ homes – quality workmanship – fair prices. Experienced, licensed, bonded, insured. Pictures & references available. Call Ryan at RH Renovations, 206-954-0311. (Jennifer Harris, RHS).

Winter is coming – prepare your yard, landscape, irrigation – have your sprinkler system winterized. Yard cleanup, get rid of those fallen leaves. No job too big or too small. Licensed & bonded. Call David at 206-963-2068. (Janette Cimburek, RC)

FOR SALE

Cream couch & loveseat, very comfortable. \$150 OBO for set. Cash only. Call Jen at 425-483-3190. (Julie Madsen, LWHS).

Cashmere sports coat – final offer of this beautiful jacket. Loden green, size 38 regular, like new. Perfect for holidays. Similar jackets at Mens Wearhouse are over \$400, asking \$50. Jeanne Brown (Retired) 425-836-0172.

Power pole for temp construction site, 6"x6"x9' long w/ gray electrical panel 29"x14"x5", has 4 electrical attachments & 4 breakers. 30x30 on/off switch. 2.5" conduit from box 48: long to 90 degree curve & 5' conduit to another 90 degree curve. 4 outlets in covered box. New cost \$495, sell for \$300 OBO. Gene Van (Transportation) 425-483-6485.

5-piece bedroom set: includes queen size headboard w/ mirror & roll-away cubbies, tall dresser, large vanity w/ detachable mirror top, & 2 end tables. Wood set w/ yellow marble & gold finish. Well cared for, great shape. Pictures available. Need to sell ASAP. \$600 OBO. Tiffany Nygren (Audubon) tiffannyngren@gmail.com or 253-988-2533.

Oak entertainment center, 72"Hx60"Wx17"D, doors on bottom sections, other sections open, very good condition. Old Zenith TV, 27", works fine, good for children's playroom, playing DVDs, etc. Whole set - \$100 OBO. Sue Epeneter (EHS) 425-417-0285.

Ethan Allen bunk bed, natural wood, w/ bunkie boards & mattresses. \$400. Chris Robison (RC) 425-822-7844.

FOR RENT

House, 2 bedroom, 1 bath, on 5 acres, very private. Perfect for horse owners. Close to EHS in Sammamish. \$1,050/month, available 1/1 (or before). Petra Hansen (Retired) 425-894-9206.

Kirkland downtown apartment, 2 bedroom. New carpet & paint. Modern kitchen, W/D, lots of closets, private parking, small yard. Good location, near lake, town, coffee shops, etc. Cats ok. \$1,050/mth + \$500 deposit, \$35 application fee. Mackie Jurcan (Substitute) 425-746-3995 or jurcan@msn.com.

**Pending available space, ads are run in the Update on a first come, first served basis.
Ads are accepted only in written form – send directly to Sheila Hagerman – shhagerman@lwsd.org.
Ads are subject to approval by the Executive Committee and may be edited for length.**