



August 14, 2019

To: Board of Education
From: Cheri Wysong, Principal
Washington Elementary School

Enrollment: 299- more registering daily..... (currently down 16 overall)
PK= 70 K= 65 1= 80 Grade 2= 84

Registration was held at Pana High School on July 31st. Special Thank You goes out to Dorothy Murrell for her organizational skills in coordinating a smooth process for parents and staff alike. An additional Thank You goes out to Scott for his hard work building all of the forms and setting up the programs to ease the transition to online registration. We appreciate his leadership in this process.

Slightly smaller class sizes overall this year will allow for more individualized attention in these critical years for the acquisition of reading and math skills. They will also be helpful meeting the social/emotional goals of our PBIS building initiatives.

New Staff:

With the resignation of Mrs. Marty in PREP and the move of Shawn Collins to newly shared responsibilities between Washington and Lincoln, Washington School will welcome two new members to our PREP/EC staff! Amanda West joins us as a PREP classroom teacher. This is her 1st teaching assignment and we are excited to see the great ideas she has to offer. We are excited to work with this new Pre-K teacher and her assistant to prepare more children for entry into Kindergarten the following year! Additional changes include the addition of a new program coordinator. We welcome Lakin Puzey to the Pana PREP program.

After 18 years at PHS, Amanda Bowker will be joining us to fill the vacancy left with the retirement of Jody Hay. We are thrilled to have her as part of our team and look forward to utilizing her experience and input in the PBIS behavioral expectations areas.

Stephanie Blessman will be joining Washington and Lincoln Schools to fill the role of Student Services Coordinator (Elementary School Counselor). We are looking forward to her character education lessons with the students and her input as part of our PBIS team

NPT employee changes include: Emily Ade joining us in the Speech Language Pathologist role and Casey Matheson fulfilling the responsibilities of our School Psychologist. Additionally, Danielle Keller will be joining us as an NPT classroom assistant for the PREP program.

We would especially like to Thank Cindy, Patty, for their work in getting things cleaned, polished and moved back into place. Also thanks to Scott and Eli for getting computers hooked up and smart boards ready to go, and Sam and Randy for getting shelving assembled on the 3rd floor to assist with organization of materials. We feel very fortunate to have such great building, grounds and technology staff to help us be ready and to do our very best for our students!

You are invited to stop by and check out our sensory walk. This ‘trail’ has been added as part of our work to fulfill requirements of the social/emotional curriculum. It will be used as part of a “**sensory diet**” which include activities that provide the sensory input that many children need to stay focused and organized throughout the day. These proprioceptive activities are vital in helping activate all areas of the growing brain.

Student Service Projects:

- Washington School students have partnered with the Henson Robinson Zoo in Springfield to provide caps for a mural project to be displayed near the new frog exhibit. We can’t wait to see the finished work!
- Students have also continued to collect bottle caps and partner with Greentree Plastics in Evansville Indiana (in the ABC program) to teach students about responsible recycling. These recycled caps would end up in the landfill, but because of our efforts, they are used as a “stable base” to create outdoor benches and picnic tables for communities and businesses. Because of the success of this collection project, we have partnered with civic organizations to place earth friendly benches in communities and will include The Pana Tri-County fair board this year. They are interested in our help soon to begin replacing benches on the fair grounds.
- Mrs. Wysong has delivered our “pop tabs” to Ronald McDonald House Charities in Springfield. Students at Washington will continue to collect these tabs for donation. At Ronald McDonald house, these tabs will be recycled to help fund meals and housing for families with critically ill children who are staying at the Springfield facility.

These service projects help children understand the importance of helping others and thinking beyond themselves. We will continue these projects again next year. Thank you to everyone who was able to participate in the collection of these materials.

HUGE Thank you to Cindy Ashcraft and Patty Jones for getting the building polished and shining for the new school year. We hosted our annual “Meet the Teacher Night” on August 15th from 5:00-6:00 pm, and received *many* comments on how wonderful our building looks! We are all looking forward to all the excitement of a new year.

*“Working in partnership, PCUSD #8, students, parents
and community members will each do
his or her part to ensure
learning and success”*