

Nathan Hale PTSA
10750 30th Avenue NE
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Leanne Hawkins, Editor

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Raider Reader

The Nathan Hale High School PTSA Newsletter

Principal's Message

Lisa Hechtman, Nathan Hale Principal



We applaud the efforts of the Class of 2009 as they have prepared to meet or exceed standards on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). We know people may feel anxious about this assessment and its standing as a graduation requirement. Anticipating this, and because it is part of our "best practices," we have:

- * **Intentionally aligned and embedded skills** in our curriculum;
- * Employed the **Five Habits of Mind** for pursuit of rigorous thinking skills;
- * Required **inquiry-based science** so students synthesize and apply knowledge;
- * **Structured writing prompts and document-based questions** in Social Studies and Language Arts classes;
- * Adopted the **Interactive Math Program, a curriculum strongly aligned with state standards**, that provides a variety of students accessibility to complex math knowledge and analysis;
- * **Sustained silent reading daily** and outside reading, providing more opportunities for students to gain reading experience.

We believe this intentionality assists your students to meet or exceed standards and also gain knowledge and skills that will open opportunities post-high school.

To support our students we need you to know the following:

- * The legislature decided that in order for parents to receive their student's test scores before the end of school, the eight testing days would be split:
 1. **March 13-20**, reading and writing.
 2. **April 17-20**, math and science.

While family time is important, if students return late from Spring Break, they and the school receive a "zero" on those exams until they are taken during the August make-up testing window (site and time of make-up exams are TBD by the district). Missing the testing window can impact courses taken in the 2007-08 school year.

- * Students from all four grade levels are sitting for WASL exams, requiring change to our daily schedule. Because 10th graders are "blocked" in periods 2-3-4, during the testing window we will begin our day at 8:30 am with 2nd period, followed by 3rd, then 4th. We'll then have 1st period, go to lunch, and return for 5th and 6th periods. This schedule:
 - ◇ Allows us to meet the mandate of having the test first thing in the morning and give uninterrupted exam time.
 - ◇ Provides the most meaningful and supportive assessment situation enabling our students to perform as strongly as possible.
 - ◇ Minimizes the number of students missing regular classes, and thus their assignments and learning opportunities.

Lastly, we know you support your students as they exhibit their knowledge. We ask your assistance in helping them make wise choices about a full night's sleep, eating appropriately, and even taking a snack or bottled water with them. Know, too, our commitment to maintaining a climate of "*unanxious expectations*" (CES Principle 7) extends to the WASL experience so our students may do their best.

PTSA NEWS AND INFORMATION

Letter from the PTSA President

Melissa Larson, Hale PTSA President

WASL time is around the corner and soon it will seem that we hear, read, and talk about nothing else! It is hard not to get caught up in all the discussion about how effective the assessment is (or isn't), what it means (or doesn't). The first year we faced the WASL we felt some panic from the constant barrage of WASL information, suggestions and speculation. We knew if we let our son feel that panic, his chances of doing well on the test would diminish. So we listened, read, talked to other parents and to teacher friends, absorbed what we could, then talked with our son about WASL week. We told him the test was a check-up to see how well our schools were teaching students reading, writing and math. We talked about what we would NOT be doing for WASL week — no special studying or tutoring or sending him to WASL prep classes. We talked about what we WOULD do during WASL week — making sure he was in bed on time so he was well rested; we would be sure he ate a good breakfast and lunch, and we would donate healthy WASL snacks to his classroom. Then we talked about what he could do. We noted that while this was not a good week to be “goofy” in class, we advised him to listen well, read carefully, do the best he could, and RELAX. Because our son's first “WASL week” was fairly stress-free, we did the same things for 7th grade WASL week. We plan to do them this year for 10th grade WASL — help him (or remind him) to get good sleep, eat well, pay attention, and RELAX (but don't be “goofy”).



What about WASL results? They've been mixed and we are glad we discussed what we could do if he didn't pass a section. He passed all sections in 4th grade; I have to admit we breathed a sigh of relief. In middle school, our son didn't quite pass one section. We saw this as an opportunity: we talked to him about the area where he had scored lower than needed. We made an appointment with his teacher in that subject and asked how our son could strengthen his skills. His teacher was fantastic and helped him focus on areas for improvement — though his grades were very good, the WASL results indicated some things he could work on.

What if that's repeated this year? We'll do the same thing — use the WASL as an indicator that our son has opportunities to strengthen skills. Because he needs to pass all the sections before graduating, if he misses one this year, we'll take advantage of the classes available to help students build skills and then have him re-take that section. Of course, I admit we'll breathe another sigh of relief if he passes all the sections and we can move on to the SATs, the ACTs, college essays....

February PTSA Meeting Recap

Judy Reed, Hale PTSA Secretary



After giving people the month of December off, then having to cancel January's meeting due to weather, we finally had a PTSA meeting February 14. The main topic was **Navigating Nathan Hale**. Everyone who attended, including students, parents and administrators, shared techniques for getting the information they needed and feeling connected to the school.

Information-gathering tips: *Sandi Mann, admin. Secretary, “knows all” *Yahoo groups *Daily Bulletin *The Source *School newspaper, *The Sentinel* *PTSA newsletter, *Raider Reader* *Nathan Hale website

Staying-connected tips: *Find a “niche,” like being part of something your kids are interested in, e.g., sports or music boosters *Come to Senate meetings *Respond to requests for volunteers to e.g., fold report cards, stuff parent packets, serve refreshments at events, etc.

All participants agreed that more can be done to help people feel connected. Ideas are percolating on all fronts: we'll keep you posted!

Next PTSA Meeting is Wednesday, March 14. Topics: Information/timeline for upcoming Hale renovation (BEX III); mentorship; culminating projects. Hope to see you there!

PTSA /SCHOOL NEWS AND INFORMATION

PTSA Membership— “Many Faces, One Vision”

Janet Thompson, PTSA Membership Chair

The school year is flying by! I am pleased to announce our current membership is 401 Nathan Hale parents and students and we are only halfway through the year! Parents, Teachers and Students, you are to be congratulated! Your membership in the Hale PTSA is important because without your involvement, Hale would not have as rich and diverse a program as it does. Your dues provide funding for our PTSA, Washington State PTA (WSPTA), and the National PTA. We make the money stretch until it squeaks. What do your dues and donations provide for our students? Here is the list:

- Staff appreciation events
- Monthly newsletter delivered to your home (the *Raider Reader*)
- Monthly meetings addressing topics of interest to parents and students
- Publication of the *Student Directory* every other year, with yearly supplement
- Enrichment grants for classroom use
- Monetary support of Homework Help Center
- Administration of *Reflections*, a national art competition
- Volunteer administration and oversight

What does WSPTA provide? When you explore the website at <http://www.wastatepta.org> you will find a wealth of information and resources. Additionally, WSPTA collaborates with other organizations to provide discounted products, services, and other benefits exclusively for PTA members. A few examples: Did you know the Seattle Supersonics present “*Washington State PTA Nights*” and provide PTA members with discounted tickets for select games? The State PTA website has a flyer and order form which can be downloaded. Many of you have heard about “Pay Pal.” A similar service is “Acceptiva.” The WSPTA has joined with Acceptiva to provide its members with the benefits of Acceptiva’s on-line payment services at a discounted price. As a Washington State PTA member you receive 25% off the standard Acceptiva sign-up fee, a discounted monthly fee, and reduced transaction processing fees! See http://www.wastatepta.org/member_benefits.htm. The National PTA also has special benefits for members, such as Barnes & Noble, Liberty Mutual, and S&S Worldwide. Please check its website for details on discounts negotiated for PTA members: http://www.pta.org/jp_membership_benefits.html.



How Can You Help Your Children Become Effective Researchers?

Nicole Winard, Hale Staff

Critical thinking is a skill that must be taught and practiced. At Hale, we use the Five Habits of Mind. This strategy encourages readers to examine information from the following angles: **viewpoint, evidence, significance, connections, and supposing conclusions**. For a more complete picture of the Five Habits, visit http://www.seattleschools.org/schools/hale/library/inf_skil.htm. It is easy for young researchers to be led astray by what they read on the Internet. To help students seek more authoritative resources, many teachers are encouraging their students to rely on databases and trusted online resources. As one of my professors recently put it, “It’s not just about Google any more!”



I wanted to share a launch site with you. From this site you and your children can access many valuable resources. If you use this launch page you will probably not be prompted for a password — but if you are asked for one, the link at the top of the page will provide the necessary information: <http://www.seattleschools.org/area/library/stuindex.xml>. While you are there be sure to check out the library of the **Digital Learning Commons** — they provide many valuable databases that Hale students are able to use at school or at home — free!

SCHOOL NEWS AND INFORMATION



You Put The “A” In “Academics” At Nathan Hale—Please Donate Today To The Annual Campaign
The Annual Campaign is the only fundraiser dedicated solely to supporting academic excellence for ALL students at Nathan Hale — your generous donation is greatly appreciated.

2007-2008 Annual Campaign Goal: \$120,000

\$105,000 — Teacher salaries and education tools \$ 5,000 — Technology upgrades for classroom computers
\$10,000 — Homework Help Center

Choose the Pledge Option That Works Best For You

- Any size gift is valuable
- Consider small monthly pledges — they add up!
- Double your pledge with your employer’s Match Program — ask about it at your office
- Pledge online at www.nathanhale.org
- Download a pledge form from www.nathanhale.org and mail it in
- Pick up a pledge form at the Nathan Hale school office

Your Pledge Means The Most If You Can Give Before March 12

Principal Hechtman must submit our school’s budget to the district by March 12. *At that time, Ms. Hechtman must show she has enough money to pay for all our teachers, or some might have to be laid off.* Please help ensure our students can keep all our current teachers and staff and still pay for the educational tools we need by pledging before that date.

We’re Off To A Great Start

A big “THANK YOU” to families who donated in January and February.

2007-2008 Annual Campaign Pledge Total: \$51,000

Amount still needing to be raised: \$69,000

Working together, the 967 families at Hale can achieve that goal!



Nowhere Men Concert Had Them “Dancing in the aisles”

Over 300 community members of all ages attended the February 10 Annual Campaign kick-off event at the Performing Arts Center. The *Nowhere Men*, led by Hale parent George Myers, had audience members tapping their feet and singing to the music of *The Beatles* almost immediately. But you know a concert is going really well when the dancing starts! That happened toward the end of the first set, when two brave couples went to the front of the PAC and started dancing. Their enthusiasm was contagious. By evening’s end, people were dancing all around the PAC, while those still seated waved their cell phones in time to the music.

“I think *The Beatles* would have been pleased,” smiled Annual Campaign Co-Chair Carol Driver. “It was really heart-warming to see the way people responded, not only to the *Nowhere Men*, but to our request for pledges. So many people contributed that night. This concert really got the campaign off to a fabulous start.”

Open-House Dinners Brought Families Together

Dinner and conversation was shared before the *Nowhere Men* concert by over 70 people who attended open-house gatherings at Nathan Hale homes. “There just aren’t enough chances for parents to talk to each other in a casual, intimate setting,” pointed out Marsha McGillivray, Annual Campaign Co-Chair. “I hope this type of gathering happens more often for school families.” Thank you to the families who opened their homes that night: Amy and David Breiger; Caryn and Chuck Hopkins; Maria and Stuart Kahn; Caroline Becker and Mike Pierson; Bill and Nanette Zook; Steve and Laurie Lippold-Gelb.

SCHOOL NEWS AND INFORMATION

Spotlight: ASNH 2006-07

*Christa Knutson, ASNH Rep.
provided information*

The Associated Student Body of Nathan Hale High School (ASNH) elects representatives every year “to promote representative and democratic government, outstanding sportsmanship, student activities, and the general welfare for the Nathan Hale High School.” Representatives are elected or appointed for one-year terms and meet regularly to discharge their duties, which include:

1. Grant charters to clubs and organizations;
2. Investigate and report on matters referred by the student body or faculty;
3. Approve all student body financing and spending;
4. Duties necessary for student voice at Nathan Hale High School.

Also, a representative from each mentorship is selected to further increase student representation.

Student Leadership Council (SLC)

*Kine Camara—ASNH President
Sean George—ASNH Vice President
Kaite Talbot—ASNH Secretary
Emily Gewax—ASNH Treasurer*

Class of 2007 Officers

*Tricia Logan—President
Harry Howell— Vice President
Mikaela Louie—Secretary/Treasurer
Kailey Wolf—Site Council Rep
Zach Hing—Senate Rep*

Class of 2008 Officers

*Minn Stockdale—President
Jake Coate— Vice President
Alex Oleszko— Secretary
Christa Knutson—Treasurer
Kayla Hendrickson— Site Council Rep
Harpreet Sandhu— Senate Rep*

Class of 2009 Officers

*Olivia Armstrong—President
Lindsay Kelley -Vice President
Hailey Thomassen—Secretary
Jenny Wooten—Site Council
Shirley Dullum—Senate Rep*

Class of 2010 Officers

*Riley King—President
Zoe Nurmia —Vice President
Sulli Hope-Wight—Secretary/
Treasurer
Anton Leitner—Site Council
Keano Martinez—Senate Rep*

Commissioners/Representatives

*Kyle Dean—Comm. of Athletics
Sol Rosenborg—Technical Comm.
Emily VanOss—Communications/
Public Affairs Comm.
Allan Laviolette—Comm. of Clubs
Nebiat Tekla—Comm. of Social
Activities
Babu Parhar—Comm. of Assemblies
& Events
Elle Kerkhoff—Comm. of Fundraising
Kaiser Poppa—GSA Rep.
Cole Welch—Comm. of Visual/
Performing Arts
Elizabeth Arakaki—EarthCorps Rep.
Zina Hurd—’08 Rep.*

Mike Linett is the Hale staff liaison for the student leaders. He can be contacted at mflinett@seattleschools.org.



Hale Foundation Seeks Help

Steve Reynolds, Hale Foundation

The Nathan Hale Foundation needs a few volunteers.



First, planning for the Fall Reception starts soon and we need help. This event has raised over \$15,000 for classroom books and other needs. It’s a great event—please join in.

Second, we need outreach and management help for our engraving project. The May engraving date for the courtyard in front of the PAC approaches and we could use your help. If you are interested in helping with either or both of these initiatives, contact Steve Reynolds at 206-784-0625 or stever@u.washington.edu. Thanks!

Making College Financial Planning Count

Save the Date: March 22, 6:30 pm, Hale LRC

Originally scheduled for January and cancelled due to snow, “*Making College Financial Planning Count*” comes to Hale on March 22. This **free**, one-hour presentation is for parents of students in grades 9-12. Through the workshop, parents gain an understanding of how the college financing process works, including options for developing a college funding strategy, how to plan for and manage **all** college costs, and the types of financial aid available. Parents will learn how to send their child to college without risking their financial future. The program is presented by *Making It Count* and *Bank of America*. The contact for Nathan Hale is Leanne Hawkins at 206-364-2095 or Hawkins1022@msn.com. Everyone is welcome.

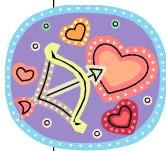
Thank you to the FedEx/Kinko’s on Sandpoint Way for our discounted copying!!

BULLETIN BOARD: ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS, RECOGNITION**Senior Spree News***Lynn Wolf and Nina Wolsk, SPREE '07*

Tickets We have 25 tickets left for \$85; the next 30 will be \$100. The FULL ticket price is \$130 but due to three years of fundraising we can offer these historically low prices! Scholarships are available; forms are in the counseling office. You can buy your tickets two ways: a) from the Spree treat table during lunch by the office/PAC on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or b) send your check to Barbara Brotherton, 1245 NE 88th St., Seattle, WA 98115.

Fundraising Safeway abruptly cancelled all the high school coupon fundraisers in the area. To make up for lost income we are selling pizza, salad, drinks and baked goods at the **March 2 Sports Booster Bingo**. We are also requesting donations from local businesses. Please bring brownies, Rice Krispies treats, and cookies to the main office on Friday, March 2, or directly to Bingo that night. Thank you!

Spree Treat Table We need additional people to help sell snacks during lunch on Tuesdays (12:25; 12:10 on 8:30 am start days) and Thursdays (12:25). Please contact Ann Cochrane, acochrane@hpretire.com, if you can help. It's fun to sit in the hall and watch the action!

Beyond Puppy Love...? Dr. Jeff Lindenbaum—Group Health Adolescent Center*Excerpt from Nikki Thomas, Hale Teen Health Center*

It's easy for a relationship between teens to get "too serious" because teens can easily fall in love head over heels. How can you help your teen from falling too hard, too fast? First, don't react too negatively to the relationship. You may force a struggle for independence and cause your teen to withdraw further, out of spite. If you treat the relationship as a non-issue, your teen may realize he doesn't feel as strongly about it. Instead of vetoing the relationship, set up ground rules. For example, your teen can spend more or less time with her significant other depending on grades. Be clear about your expectations regarding curfews and the number of nights a week your teen can go out. But only set up reasonable, enforceable rules you will follow through upon.

Be sure your teen knows he always has the right to say "No" in a romantic relationship. If your teen is being coerced by statements such as, "If you really loved me, you'd..." you need to give her the tools to handle these situations. Your teen must be willing to lose a boy/girlfriend who may be more interested in how far he or she can get than in having a good relationship. Expressing intimacy doesn't have to be all or nothing — handholding and kissing don't have to lead to more intimate activities.

Don't dismiss your teen's feelings as not being real. He might not be mature enough to be truly in love, but the feeling of infatuation is real. Teach your teen that, generally, love takes years to develop, that love can only be honest when each person is strong enough to stand alone as well as together. True love allows for individual growth. Infatuation is based on need and fantasy and usually takes over all areas of life. Consider that you may bring your own baggage to the way you view your teen's relationship. Did you have a young love that broke your heart? Perhaps you feel the same thing may happen to your teen and are being overprotective. Instead of teaching your teen avoidance, teach coping skills that will allow her to learn from the experience.

Finally, if your teen is saying "together forever" about his latest sweetheart, you can feel pretty confident you won't be hearing wedding bells soon. Teen marriages are fairly rare. With today's realities, your time is probably better spent teaching abstinence and birth control.

BINGO NIGHT!

Friday, March 2, 2007 6:30—9:30 pm in the Hale Cafeteria. Bingo cards are only \$1.00 per game! Cash prizes of \$25.00 and \$50.00 to the winners. Hosted by All Sports Boosters. Food and beverages by Spree 2007. Watch your favorite coaches and staffers call out the numbers. Bring a friend; bring your family. ALL AGES WELCOME.

BULLETIN BOARD: ANNOUNCEMENTS, EVENTS, RECOGNITION

Hale's Musical Family—Boosters, Performing Arts, Music Department



Swing Into Spring—March 17, 6:30 pm, Hale Cafeteria Bring your dancing shoes to this Music Department benefit, complete with swing dance lesson and live music! We will enjoy music by the West Seattle Big Band as well as short sets by Hale music groups. You will have a chance to bid on a Gourmet Dinner for Six with our music teachers and performances by our amazing Vocal Jazz Ensemble and a fabulous small Jazz Combo in a live auction; and you can bid on scrumptious desserts in a silent auction. This promises to be a fun evening! Please join us, bring your friends, and support Hale's Music Department. Ticket prices are low because we feel everyone should be able to attend. If you can afford it, consider making a tax-deductible donation. Tickets at the door are \$15/person. Or pre-order tickets by **March 9** for \$10/adult and \$5/student or Nathan Hale staff. Order forms are in the office or download from the school's home page.

Cabaret Night—A Fun Night Out in the PAC! Please join us for this benefit for the Spring Musical on Saturday, **March 31** at 7 pm. Meet your friends and enjoy a smorgasbord of selected cheeses and crackers as well as elegant desserts. Enjoy Broadway show tunes performed by local Musical Theater professionals and Hale musical students. Enter a drawing for prizes, or bid for a chance to win a Wine Tasting for Eight, or a cameo role in the upcoming musical. If you've always wanted to be on stage, here's your chance! Last, but not least, see a sneak preview of *Urinetown, The Musical* performed by our talented students. Tickets are available at the door or download an order form at nathanhale.org/musical. Prices: \$25 adults, \$12 students/NH staff/seniors.

Vocal Jazz Swings in Bellevue—Dave Nolet, Hale Staff I am happy to report to you about January's Bellevue Vocal Jazz Festival. I wish you all could have been there to see and hear our Vocal Jazz Ensemble. They looked like they had a lot of fun, and they sounded simply amazing. The judges gave them very positive feedback: "Great interpretation." "This group has some serious, serious chops!" We are excited for senior *Elizabeth Arakaki*, who received an award for "Outstanding Soloist." We were one of only four schools winning an award. It is wonderful to see our students put their whole heart and soul into a performance. Be sure to see their full repertoire at our fundraiser at *The Triple Door* on **May 21**.

Life Smarts State Competition

Cindy Kegley, Hale Staff

Nathan Hale students *Trevor Robinson, Riley King, Alex Tam, and Bret Geary* participated in the Life Smarts state competition on February 12 in Wenatchee. Of the 13 competing teams, Hale was the only school representing Seattle. These freshmen were strong competitors, testing their knowledge in the areas of: Health and Safety; the Environment; Technology; Personal Finance; and Consumer Rights and Responsibilities. Life Smarts holds both a state and national competition yearly.



Raider Gear Update

Deanna Matsen, All Sports Boosters

Raider Gear is available in limited supply. Raider Bags may still be ordered for spring sports, birthday gifts, etc. Blankets for those cold spring sport games, sweatshirts, t-shirts, hats and more are a great way to show your Raider Pride. Don't miss out! Order forms are in the main office. Better yet, call 206-523-7051 or e-mail marc.matsen@comcast.net. Fast and easy!

Nathan Hale PTSA
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Nathan Hale High School

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Reasons NOT to give to the Annual Campaign...

1. The school doesn't really need our donation. It will just be used for "extras."

The Nathan Hale budget has been cut by \$600,00 over the past five years. There are no "extras" to cut. We need money from parents to fill the budget gap. Annual Campaign dollars literally help keep teachers on staff and pay for teaching tools. We need your help to pay for these essentials.

2. We already gave to the PTSA/ Sports Boosters/Music Boosters....

Your gifts of time and money help make Hale the great school it is. The PTSA serves as a vital link between the Hale community and the school, and your child's favorite school activities need and appreciate your support. But the Nathan Hale Foundation is the only group dedicated solely to helping pay for educational tools that provide the basis for academic excellence for all students. We hope you can find money to support this important cause.

3. We make all our donations in December/ June/September...

You can make a pledge now and pay us by December. **Since our school budget for 2007-2008 must be submitted by March 12,** we need to tell our Principal how much parents and community are contributing. She then uses this money to balance the budget with the school district and help pay for teacher salaries, essential classroom materials and equipment.

For the full scoop on the Nathan Hale Annual Campaign, see page 4.