

# Fox Tales

See a Difference, Be the Difference, Join PTA

## Dorothy Fox Elementary School

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[www.camas.wednet.edu/fox](http://www.camas.wednet.edu/fox)



## October News from the Desk of the Top Fox

Dear Fox Parents and Guardians –

Dorothy Fox is off to a wonderful start for the 2009-10 school year. Our enrollment is up slightly over last year, and we have an experienced and talented staff across the board working with our students.

Dorothy Fox has some celebrations and some surprises in last year's WASL results. The WASL changed its format slightly in 2008-09, yet our school continues to see strong results in reading. Our math scores continue to be above the state average; however, with the adoption of our new district math curriculum this year, we expect to see increased achievement in math in the coming years.

	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Writing</u>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	76.1%	70.7%	
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	81.7%	59.3%	51.9%
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	88.6%	77.3%	76.1%

Dorothy Fox has been honored for three years in a row for outstanding achievement in writing instruction from the Wash. State Office of Education. For this reason, the drop that occurred in our writing scores last Spring is puzzling and concerning. Lastly, Dorothy Fox has soared in science, posting WASL scores above and beyond most schools in SW Washington. School Improvement Planning for this year is already underway to help us increase our future scores in all areas.

A continued focus for this school year is school safety and Anti-Bullying. Dorothy Fox will continue its focus on student awareness and preventative training to make sure that each and every student feels safe at school. In addition to curriculum delivered this fall to every classroom by Mr. Baxter, our counselor, every grade level has additional follow up materials in their planner so we can continue to address these messages with students in the Spring.

I am extremely proud of and impressed by the level of involvement of our Fox PTA organization. Dorothy Fox is able to provide many opportunities to our student learners thanks to the fund raising efforts of the PTA. This year that includes covering the cost of field trip buses that were cut in the district school budget this year. I greatly encourage all parents to become a member. In addition, classroom and school-wide volunteers are an integral part of the high level of education that we provide to our students and we invite parents and community members to get involved. Thank you to all the caring adults that dedicate their time year after year!

I especially want to thank our PTA leadership and parent volunteers for their help with getting the school off to a good start with the Back-To-School Night, Curriculum Night, fundraising efforts, and the "Surf's Up" annual Carnival. With one month behind us, we are already on our way to a fantastic school year. Thank you for all you do as parents to support Fox students and staff. Fox Continues to ROCK!

Cathy Sork, Principal

Hi Fox Families,

Welcome back! Starting off a new school year is always hectic but exciting. Hopefully, routines are back into swing and our lives are beginning to seem more "normal". Summer is a lot of work for parents and this transition back to school can be stressful. During the summer months, our Dorothy Fox PTA has been carefully planning a year full of mind building and curriculum enriching activities and programs for our Fox students.

This year our PTA will be funding many basics, as well as bringing in new Artists for our Artist in Residence program. PTA will be sponsoring the buses for all field trips, as well as for the 5<sup>th</sup> grade track meet, kindergarten round up, and other activities. Without this funding from the PTA, the trips and activity participation would not be possible. The PTA has also donated Scholastic News or National Geographic for all grade levels to use to enhance students' curriculum. Our PTA is looking at ways we can support student achievement at all grade levels. Please send your ideas our way.

The new playground addition is a real hit with our kids. Many years of savings allowed our Dorothy Fox PTA the ability to make such a purchase and gift it to the school. We really appreciated all of the volunteers who participated in spreading the yards and yards of playground chips. Thank you to all Fox Families who have so generously donated your time and dollars over the years to make this addition to our school possible.

This past weekend was our annual fall carnival. The children and parents enjoyed a night out interacting with their classmates and their families. I would like to say a special thank you to Shannon Turk who chaired this event. Shannon gives so much to our school even with a busy schedule. Thank you, as well to all of our parents, siblings and friends who helped make this community building event so successful.

The Dorothy Fox PTA has an interactive website that is continually updated to bring you the most current information about PTA events and school activities. You will find Friday Flyers, forms (SCRIP), our PTA meeting dates and times and weekly PTA email here. We are working on ways to help our busy parents stay connected so visit <http://teacherweb.com/WA/DorothyFoxElementary/PTA/NewsFlash.stm> regularly to stay updated on all that is happening at Fox.

I would like to invite all families to attend our PTA General Meetings. Our meetings are a great way to meet other parents and teachers, stay informed, and make your voice heard. Our annual membership drive was a huge success and over 200 members have signed up since September 1<sup>st</sup>. Remember, our strength lies in our members. PTA does really help form that working bond between families, educators and administrators. This is one of the most important things a parent can do to help their child achieve their full potential. Join today and make that connection! Your ideas, comments, and feedback are appreciated. Fox Rocks!

Tammy Lochner, [tammylochner@mac.com](mailto:tammylochner@mac.com)/360.607.2396

**More than 200 of you said you preferred to stay connected electronically. So ... here's what you need to do:**

- Watch for Weekly Newsflash Email Updating you on News and Events
- Check for Friday Flyers, Forms & Information on the PTA website
- Stop Counting on Paper Coming Home - Bookmark this Website and Check Often  
<http://teacherweb.com/WA/DorothyFoxElementary/PTA/NewsFlash.stm>

## Upcoming Events

### October 2

Spirit Day, WEAR RED!

### October 5

Box Top Contest Begins

### October 6

Hot Lunch Orders due for "Take a Grown-Up to Lunch Day"

PTA Board Meeting, 6 pm

### October 9

NO SCHOOL

### October 10

CEF Auction

### October 13

PTA General Meeting, 6 pm at Fox Library  
Childcare provided

### October 14

Take a Grown-up to Lunch Day

Dinners Out (All Day) – Panda Express

### October 16

Spirit Day – Superhero Day!

Catalog/Cookie Sale Begins

### October 28

October Birthday Table

### October 30

Catalog/Cookie Sale Ends

### November 3

Picture Retakes

## Direct Drive

Make your donation today to our annual direct drive and you directly impact your children's experience at Fox. If each Fox family made a gift of \$100 we would raise over \$40,000 for our school. Your tax deductible donation will directly fund curriculum enrichment programs like Artist-in Residence, Field Trips, Science Fair, Classroom Grants, and so much more. Please consider making a gift today and give what you can! You can even make your direct drive donations with a credit card by going to our PTA website at: <http://teacherweb.com/WA/DorothyFoxElementary/PTA/>.

If you have questions, please contact Sheri at [Sherijsd@yahoo.com](mailto:Sherijsd@yahoo.com) or 607-0424. Thank you for your support!

## Dinners Out

**Panda Express on 192<sup>nd</sup>** is hosting our first Dinners Out event of the year. Present the Dinners Out flyer (coming home in the Friday folders or available for downloading at the PTA website) anytime on WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 14<sup>th</sup> and we will receive a generous 20% back. Don't recycle that flyer ... you're going to need it.

## Take a Grown-up to Lunch Day

Don't miss your chance to have lunch with your student on Wednesday, October 14. Watch the Friday folder for details and sign-up information.

## Time to Collect Box Tops

The Box Tops Contest Starts Friday, October 2.  
How does the program work?

1. Buy the products you would normally buy such as cereal and Ziploc baggies and look for the Box Top label. For a list of eligible items, visit <http://www.boxtops4education.com/Image.aspx?id=2164>.
2. Clip the Box Top labels and send them to school with your child.
3. The PTA then collects these and sends them in for \$\$\$'s!

## Spirit Days

Don't miss the fun of Friday Spirit Days! Be sure to remind your student to dress the part on these scheduled spirit days:

Friday October 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Wear RED!
Friday October 16 <sup>th</sup>	Superhero Day
Friday November 6 <sup>th</sup>	Wear RED!

## Ride the Bus Week - October 12-16

The Camas School District will count district transported students during the week of **October 12th**. The number of students riding school buses during this week will give us the State Revenues for transportation. If the Camas School District regularly transports your child, encourage them to ride the bus **to** school during the week of student ridership. Thank you.

## Scrip is EASY ...

Participating in the Scrip program is FREE money for our school. Just look what would happen if each family in our school purchased Scrip for their monthly groceries ...

Average Monthly Grocery Bill	\$400
Fred Meyer % Back to Fox	4%
Fox Families	402
Total Raised in 1 Month	\$6,432
Total Raised in 1 Year	\$77,184

Wow – if each of us used Scrip for just our groceries, we'd make a huge impact on our school. Take the challenge and commit to buying grocery gift cards each month and watch the dollars grow! Here's how to do it:

1. Go to the Fox PTA website and download the Scrip form located under the "What is Scrip?" link.
2. Print out an order form & fill it out.
3. Send your order and payment to school with your student on an "Order Monday."
4. Receive your Scrip on Friday!
5. A popular inventory of Scrip is also available for purchase before and after school every Monday and Friday, 8:55-9:20 am and 3:10-3:30 pm.

Questions contact:

Kristen Danis:

210.8222 or danismk5@comcast.net

Catherine Bush:

954.5404 or cathnw@comcast.net.



## **Around School and Town**

### **Fox Library News**

Welcome back to school! I am so excited to be the Dorothy Fox Elementary Librarian again this year. I'm looking forward to enjoying and sharing many books with your children. Please let me know how I can help you or your students with their library needs. Now that school is in full swing, here are a few reminders for the library:

1. All students in grades K-1 may check out one book and keep it for one week. Then, when it is their regularly scheduled library day, they return the book to the "black bin" in the classroom. The classroom teacher will send the bin to the library that morning for book check in.
2. All students in grades 2-5 may check out two books and will also need to follow the same guideline of bringing their books back on their library day.

I know we are going to have a great year in the library. Happy Reading! Mrs. Culverwell

### **The Jack, Will, and Rob Girls and Boys Club**

JWR Center is back again, offering fun and exciting programs and activities for the 09-10 school year. More info available by going to the JWR Center website at

<http://www.bgcportland.org/programs-and-services/clubs-map/jack-will-and-rob-club>.

### **The Camas Library**

The 2nd Annual Spaghetti Feed and Silent Auction in support of the Camas Library is taking place Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Liberty Middle School Cafeteria. 100% of the proceeds go to our local Camas Library. Get your tickets at [www.camas.typepad.com/friends](http://www.camas.typepad.com/friends).

### **Join in the Fun at Camas Parks and Recreation**

Camas Parks and Recreation has a multitude of programs for your kids, including a Youth Basketball League. More information and to register, visit the Parks and recreation website at

<http://www.ci.cameras.wa.us/parks/index.htm> or call 360.834.5307.

### **Camas Educational Foundation Auction is Coming**

"Imagine the Possibilities" is the theme of the Camas Educational Foundation (CEF) Auction that will be held October 10, 2009 at the Vancouver Hilton. This year marks the auction's 11th year.

Tickets are on sale now. It would be nice to have a strong showing of Fox Supporters at this event. Tickets are available by going to <http://www.cefcamas.org/annual-auction/>.