

# CONNECTIONS

## WEA-Sammamish UniServ Council

### President's Message: *Why We Care*

While I don't always agree with CBS's Andy Rooney of *60 Minutes* fame, I do like his comment about teachers and school employees. "Most of us end up with no more than five or six people who remember us. Educators have thousands of people who remember them for the rest of their lives."



And maybe that is why we care so much not only about the schools children will enter next week, but also the conditions in those schools in ten or twenty years.

That is why we are energized by the **Take the Lead** campaign. And why we waited anxiously to see the direction *Washington Learns* would take.

*Washington Learns*, the Governor's task force charged with finding ways to improve the education system and school funding, released its report several weeks ago. It points the way for increased investment in education and addresses critical issues, including class size, increases in personnel compensation, all-day kindergarten and access and affordability to higher education.

We can support much of the direction *Washington Learns* takes, particularly in calling for a comparison of Washington to the Global Challenge States. These states are identified as well-positioned to compete in today's

world economy. Any comparison will show we need more money in our schools.

Unfortunately, the report maps out a decade-long timeline. So students now in primary grades could graduate before the report's recommendations are fully implemented. That's not good enough. Educators and the children of this state will need to see a significant down payment in a few weeks when the Governor releases her budget proposal.

And while we may be remembered by the students whose lives we have touched, we also remember those students. And because of them, we will have a presence in Olympia this winter, working to improve education funding. Education needs more than it has received in the last several sessions.

If you want to help move our agenda in Olympia, contact WEA-Sammamish, or your local Association.

You will be remembered for what you do.



Mary Lindquist  
Council President

**GEARING UP FOR THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

You may have heard the fairly optimistic revenue projections for the state of Washington. Before you start spending that money, it might be useful to look at the price tag of some of the things we want.

- Lower ratio to 17 students per classroom in grades K-3, other grades to 25 students per classroom over the next six years: \$241 million in 2007-2009 and over \$700 million for 2009-2011
- Raise salaries 2.5% above the cost-of-living: \$289 million in 2007-2009



**Take the lead.**

*Restoring Washington's Commitment to Great Public Schools*

**WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER?**

*Washington ranks 42nd in the nation in education spending.*

*There are 20 teachers and education staff in my immediate family who either have or currently are working in schools that are inadequately funded by our state of Washington. 20 DEDICATED INDIVIDUALS who do this out of love for kids but also struggle because of it.*

*Scott Mitchell  
Shadow Lake Elementary, Tahoma*

**ESEA + WASL = ACCOUNTABILITY WOES**

WEA-Sammamish members Mike Radow (MIEA), Ann Passer (MIEA), Sarah Cooper (LWEA), Gary Arthur (IEA), and Neva Luke (IEA) recently were updated on new wrinkles in the ESEA and proposed alternatives for the WASL.

OSPI's proposed collection of evidence is fraught with problems. Samples of work submitted cannot have any teacher comments or scores, but must be originals. Teachers must sign an affidavit saying the work is that of the student. Math samples have to incorporate content and process strands. Collections will be

rejected if too long, too short, or for a variety of other bureaucratic reasons.

Meanwhile, of the roughly 40,000 student who failed the WASL last spring, only 3,000 passed after taking a second test in August.

The WEA Board at its November meet voted unanimously to develop a statewide response plan with other education groups to oppose the inappropriate implementation of the collection of evidence. The Board also voted to form an exploratory committee to find a candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction in 2008.

<b>December 2006</b>	<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
						1 Retirement Seminar	2 Retirement Seminar
	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
	17	18	19	20	21 Office Closed until 1/2/07	22	23
24	31	25	26	27	28	29	30

**WEA-SAMMAMISH**

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