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The WFIS Advocate (10.29.12)

A Publication of the Washington Federation of Independent Schools

The Election

This year's election is extremely important in Washington State. The Charter School Initiative, the competitive Gubernatorial Race and the Presidential Race could significantly change the education landscape in our state depending on the results.

Locally

In Washington State, the State Supreme Court held in **McCleary** that legislators are required to fully fund basic education. This mandate has caused legislators to try to secure funding in an already tight budget and grapple with other important education funding issues like how to support full-day Kindergarten and how to include early learning in the future of public school financial decisions.

The public votes this year on charter school Initiative Measure 1240 that allows for a maximum of 40 charter schools over the course of 5 years. Factors like the national increase in charter schools coupled with the State's current opportunity gap and failing schools, seem to be changing local opinion about whether or not charters are a viable solution for improving student outcomes. Gubernatorial candidate, Rob McKenna supports charter schools; Jay Inslee does not.

Leaders of Independent Schools are legitimately concerned that an increase in Charter schools will

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Calendar at a Glance

November 2, 2012
WFIS Soundoff!
Sunnyside Christian
School

November 6, 2012
WFIS Soundoff!
Lynden Christian
School

November 14, 2012
WFIS Soundoff!
Centralia Christian
School

December 7, 2012
WFIS Board Meeting

April 26, 2013

result in a reduction of students and a corresponding reduction in tuition and funding that may limit educational opportunities. However, Independent Schools differ from Charter Schools in important ways and these differences need to be emphasized.

Independent schools:

- Are free from the government mandates;
- Include faith-based missions;
- Have a long history of success;
- Are well established;
- Are well received in Washington State.

Nationally

On October 15, Phil Handy, Mitt Romney's educational advisor, and Jon Schnur, Barak Obama's educational advisor talked at Columbia University about the candidates' differences on education. Here is a brief recap of the discussion:

School Choice:

Mitt Romney's Team supports school choice initiatives.

Barak Obama's is more cautious.

Teacher Evaluations:

Both parties support using student achievement in evaluating teachers.

Funding:

Romney is not interested in investing more in education, unless it is on educational research. Obama says he will have to spend more.

The results of the election will significantly impact education in our state and our nation. We will report more on the implications of the election results after the election. Remember to VOTE!!

Suzie Hanson

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2012 Mock Election Starts Today

WFIS Board Meeting

WFIS is the umbrella organization for private education in Washington State.

WFIS is the only statewide vehicle for regular communication and strategic development between the many different constituencies.

WFIS affiliates:

Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)

Catholic Schools

Christian Schools International (CSI)

Hutterian Brethren Schools

Islamic Schools

Jewish Schools

Lutheran Schools (NSLA)

Montessori Schools (AMI, AMS, PNMA)

Pacific Northwest Association of Independent Schools (PNAIS)

Seventh-day Adventist Schools (SDA)

Waldorf Schools (AWSNA)

The WFIS Board of Directors consists of eighteen school heads representing the major constituencies, chosen regionally by their respective bodies.

OLYMPIA... Voting for the 2012 Mock Election is now open. The online voting process only takes about 10 minutes and is an excellent opportunity to foster open dialogue and discussion in the classroom.

This week, join the over 13,000 K-12 students who participated last year in the Mock Election. Voicing their views with the Mock Election encourages informed, active citizenship among Washington state students. The Office of the Secretary of State believes that voting is an important part of being a good citizen. Help your students become informed and make voting a habit.

Voting closes at 1 p.m. this Friday, November 2nd. Students can vote at: <http://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/mock/>. Thank you for your participation.

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Private Schools Day Bigger and Better Than Ever!

80+ educators participated in Private Schools Day at the Puget Sound ESD last Friday. A highlight of the morning session was Mark Siegel, Executive Director of the Oregon Federation of Independent Schools. Siegel's keynote address on the need for proficiency based education made a significant impression upon many. 16 sessions were offered by conference partners, WFIS and the ESD, with attendees from all affiliations of private education.

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CAPE Outlook October 2012

- Private School Students Surpass SAT Benchmarks
- Find out what Education Secretary Duncan told private school leaders last month
- See what schools were named National Blue Ribbon Schools
- Learn how private school students did on the NAEP writing assessment
- Discover what actress Viola Davis told Jay Leno about school

WFIS is networked with similar organizations in other states through the Council for American Private Education (CAPE).

choice

Download the October Outlook [here](#).

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The Department of Early Learning's Quality Rating and Improvement System, renamed Early Achievers, has been introduced across the State. If you are curious about the program, go to <http://www.del.wa.gov/care/qris/Default.aspx>.

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Important Dates to Note from OSPI:

Oct 1 through Nov 30 - Enrollment (P105B and P105HB) and Staff Reports

Mid-January through Early March - Private Participation in Federal Programs

April 30 through June 9 - Private Education Approval (renewal of approval)

End of School through August 15 - Weapons Report

All reports are done in the EDS system. Information will be sent to you prior to the start dates of the reporting periods.

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WFIS welcomes its partnership with PEMCO Insurance, a local company with a 63-year tradition of commitment to the education community. PEMCO seeks to collaborate with private schools in areas of mutual interest. Many of our schools have benefited from PEMCO's support. Could yours be next?

For over 10 years, PEMCO insurance has been supporting and sponsoring our teacher gathering events, for the Catholic Schools, of the Archdiocese of Seattle. The representative of the company attends the event with a display and materials offering information for individuals wishing to learn more about PEMCO insurance. Our experience has been with very friendly and helpful representatives, not aggressive "sales type", but helpful staff who offer a discount to all the school employees. PEMCO, a company that was founded by

a teacher in 1949, supports education and educators by sponsoring our treats and snacks which has helped us provide for welcomed breaks, and saves our budgets. We recommend their support to all schools and thank them for their help and positive messages!

Karen Tarabochia, Assistant Superintendent for Catholic Schools, Archdiocese of Seattle

WFIS encourages members to partner with PEMCO and benefit from the great products and support they offer.

Contact [Allison Leep](#) to explore the possibilities!

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The WFIS Advocate may include links to other websites. These links are offered for your convenience to provide further information. They do not signify that we endorse the website(s).

Remember to VOTE!



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