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The WFIS Advocate (12.19.12)

A Publication of the Washington Federation of Independent Schools

Dear WFIS Members,

Thank you for all that you do on behalf of all of the children, preKindergarten through twelfth grade, in Washington State.



Every day your teachers, administrators and staff care for the lives of their students and families. The skill, patience, dedication, and emotion that goes into work every day is different in a school than most anywhere else.

It is the little things, and the big, that happen in a school that make the people who work there heroes--every day.

This last week was a tough one, as we reflect on all that was lost. We will hold our children and students a little bit closer this holiday season, and pay tribute to all of the teachers we know who care for the lives and well-being of children everywhere.

Have a peaceful new year.

Warmly,
Suzie

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The U.S. Department of Education offered resources to help schools and families across the nation deal with the senseless shootings in Newtown. Links to the resources are available on <http://www.capenet.org/>.

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[School Resources](#)

[CAPE](#)

[State Board of Education](#)

[OSPI, Private Schools](#)

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[WA State Legislature](#)

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Calendar at a Glance

April 26, 2013
WFIS Board Meeting

May 1, 2013
WFIS Spring Dinner

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)

Short and Important Surveys

Tell us what you think!

We have two important surveys for our members. One is on Scholarship Tax Credits; the other, on the use of standardized testing at your school. Information from these surveys is to inform the work of WFIS and for its members only.

1. Scholarship Tax Credit Survey
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/T6KJML8>
2. Membership Survey including information on Standardized Testing: Log on at www.wfis.org/member to complete your membership survey.

Thank you! This information will be very helpful to WFIS heading into the legislative session.

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Washington Striving for a World-class Education System

WFIS will continue to help Washington State legislators recognize the benefit of supporting private schools and promoting independence and pluralism in the educational options for parents.

The legislators have verbally committed to working together this session. WFIS has supporters on both sides of the aisle and will work with all of the legislators to promote independence in independent schools.

The following is the legislators' list of priorities:

- promoting job growth and a vibrant economy;
- creating a sustainable budget and living within the state's means;
- providing a world-class education system through reforms and enhancements;
- governing collaboratively to protect the most vulnerable while prioritizing the needs of middle-class Washingtonians; and
- setting priorities for state government and holding it accountable.

Education is one of the top three priorities. It will be a busy year!

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Federal Grant to Public Schools

Seven South King County school districts garnered a whopping \$40 million federal grant with a holistic educational approach: "Start

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.

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

Strong," be "STEM Strong" and "Stay Strong."

[Read more here](#)

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SAVE THE DATE!

**WFIS Awards Dinner moved
to May 1st, 2013.**

SAVE THE DATE!

**Nominations will soon be open for the WFIS Best of Washington Awards
- Watch for Details!**

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Remembering Carl Fynboe

Mark Siegel, Executive Director, Oregon Federation of Independent Schools

Carl served as Executive Director of OFIS (Oregon Federation of Independent Schools) at the same time he served as the Executive Director of WFIS, and he cared so much about both organizations. He fought many battles on our behalf, while forging many new friendships and alliances.

I will remember him personally because he mentored me on how to care for the private school community, and about the issues that were so important to us. He taught me key lessons in effective advocacy, and if I do well at this today, it is because of all he taught me. He was a gentle man with a kind word for all. He understood those who had opposing viewpoints and appreciated the range of viewpoints that came to bear on critical issues. He always worked to find common ground with everyone involved in the education community, and worked hard to resolve issues in ways that everyone could support.

The freedom we enjoy today in our private schools, and the excellent relationships with education leaders (in and out of government) we have, were all initially forged by Carl. We just carry on what he started.

He became a personal friend, and we stayed in touch over the years, but less frequently as time went on. I still remember his words of wisdom, his words of support and encouragement, and his warmth and charm. Sometimes lost deep in my work for private schools, I actually hear his words and his laughter, and his bright viewpoint he shared despite the darkness of some of our tougher moments.

He will be missed, but more importantly, he will be fondly remembered.

Sincerely,

Principals on the Pitch



Congratulations to Joan Beauregard and Mary Helen Bever, for competing in a "hamster ball" obstacle course at a Seattle Sounders game in October. Hamlin Robinson School and St. Catherine's School each received \$1,500 for their participation AND one of the Sounders will attend an assembly at each of their schools. Thanks to [Allison Leep](#) and PEMCO Insurance for sponsoring this fun event for private schools!

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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).

We Wish You Peace and Joy this Holiday Season

[Complete Surveys](#)



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