



825 Fifth Avenue SE ♦ Olympia, WA 98501 ♦ (360) 357-9535
www.wsascd.org

Art Jarvis
Executive Director
WSASCD

Dr. Ismael Vivanco
President
Entiat-Palisades
School Districts

Janet Regge
President-elect
Renton
School District

Dr. Greg Borgerding
White River
School District

Celina Brennan
Cheney
School District

Brad Brown
Kent
School District

Dave Colombini
South Kitsap
School District

David Cooke
Washougal
School District

Dr. David Denton
Seattle Pacific
University

Hannah Gbenro
Federal Way
School District

Dr. Suzann Girtz
Gonzaga
University

Karen L. Johnson
North Thurston
School District

Karin Manns
Granite Falls
School District

Tim Praino
Richland
School District

Anastasia Sanchez
Toppenish
School District

Jessica Vavrus
Office of the
Superintendent
of Public Instruction

Marie Verhaar
Federal Way
School District

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dr. Art Jarvis
aandsjarvis@comcast.net
Office: 253-569-7189

Harry S. Truman Elementary School to Receive Safe School Award from Washington State ASCD

Olympia, WA June, 2014 – The Washington State Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (WSASCD) has announced that Harry S. Truman Elementary is a recipient of their Safe Schools Award for 2014. The Safe School Award is intended to recognize educator(s) who contribute to providing a safe school where students learn in an environment that is physically and emotionally safe for students and adults. The award will be accepted by Principal Theresa David-Turner and representatives of the staff at a school board meeting this fall.

Harry S. Truman Elementary is one of Vancouver Public Schools' 'Safe and Supportive Learning Environments' exemplars. For the past five years, the staff at Truman has rolled up their collective sleeves to improve the instructional experience for their students on three different fronts. They have adopted Response to Intervention (RTI) to help the staff focus on the quality of core literacy instruction for all of their students. Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) have been utilized to help staff develop and teach clear behavior expectations for all students. In addition, a bully prevention effort called 'Expect Respect' has been used to help students and staff recognize and respond proactively to bullying situations. The teachers, support staff, and principal are united at Truman as they weave these three student-centered approaches together to improve school climate in an effort to help their students feel safe and secure.

Combining evidence-based instructional practices with research findings that students who feel safe and secure learn better, Truman is teaching common behavior expectations across their school settings as well as providing students with classroom-based social skills instruction. This emphasis on teaching students behavior expectations, acknowledging students for demonstrating pro-social behavior, and building a sense of community in each classroom appears to be yielding favorable results after several years of implementation. Through a strong partnership with parents, all staff have worked to clearly communicate these behavioral expectations through school newsletters, Parent Compacts and ongoing frequent communication with parents. Daily referrals of students to the office for discipline problems are at their lowest in five years, with a reduction rate of less than half of what was occurring last year.

Founded in 1956, the Washington State Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) is Founded in 1956, the Washington State ASCD is a community of all educators committed to promoting promising practices to ensure ALL students are safe, healthy, engaged, supported and challenged.

###