



# Washburn High School Foundation

FALL 2016

201 West 49th Street  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419-2588



## Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe that students are looking towards the end of the fall semester at Washburn. It is a vibrant and energetic community that continues to flourish with inspired teaching, active and engaged students and committed parents.

Homecoming was a time of celebration with reunions of the classes of 1991, 1988 and 1966, among others. The football game had outstanding attendance with fans still waiting to buy their tickets at half-time. It's rumored that a modern-day WHS athletic attendance record may have been set that night! And in the week before homecoming, a few graduates from 1946 stopped by the school for a tour. It's heart-warming to be part of such a long-standing, loyal community of Millers.

In the following pages, you can read a bit about the latest happenings at Washburn. I encourage you to attend a Washburn event (see the calendar on the back page) - or if you're not in town, take a look at the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/MPS.Washburn](http://www.facebook.com/MPS.Washburn) to see what's happening.

This fall, we had 70 requests for mini-grants - nearly \$33,000 - demonstrating teachers' commitment to providing an inspiring education for students. This funding ensures that teachers can bring in guest speakers, purchase additional curriculum and arrange for fieldtrips. Washburn has always drawn from an economically diverse community so mini-grants also help fund technology such as graphing calculators that students can use outside of the classroom (see page 2).

Unfortunately, the requests for mini-grants always exceed our available funds. In these final days of 2016, I ask that you consider a gift to the Washburn High School Foundation to ensure that future generations of Millers have the same tradition of education and community. You can send a check or donate online at [www.WashburnConnections.org](http://www.WashburnConnections.org). On behalf of the Washburn faculty, staff and students, thank you for your generosity and commitment to the Miller community.

Go Millers!

Mark Bachman, '91 • President, WHS Foundation



WHS Foundation Board Chair Mark Bachman ('91), former Washburn teacher and WHS Foundation board member Judy Yung, Tom Swain ('38) tailgated before the homecoming football game.



Principal Rhonda Dean (right) watched the homecoming football game with Miller fans.

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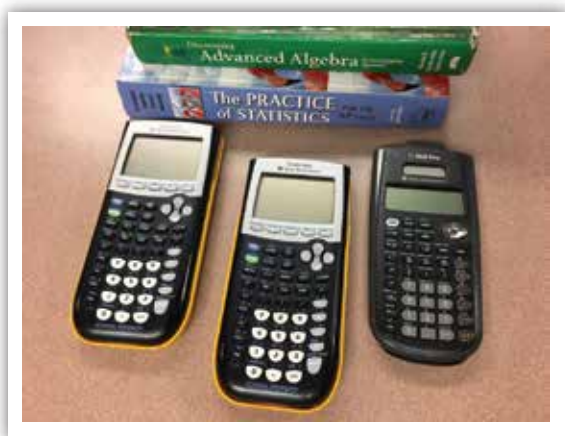
# ACADEMICS

## Foundation Funds \$23,000 in Fall Mini-Grants

### *Donations help improve ACT math scores and a new Quiz Bowl Team*

The Washburn High School Foundation Board awarded over \$23,000 to teachers, staff and coaches this fall. Each grant is used to enhance students' learning. Proposals ranged from vocal coaches to graphing calculators, from physical education equipment to a Quiz Bowl Buzz System.

With the funding of the buzz system, Washburn is pleased to launch its Quiz Bowl team. Quiz Bowl is a competitive academic trivia game. Mark Jensen, English and AVID teacher, is one of the coaches for this inaugural season. Mark said, "Both Principal Dean and the Washburn High School Foundation have given the club a step up toward being competitive. We will show our Miller Pride with the pursuit of trivial!"



Jay Selvaag, math teacher and math team coach asked for graphing calculators for students to check out for use outside of the classroom. Jay explained, "Our SIP (School Improvement Plan) math goal is to increase average ACT Math scores. The purchase of graphing calculators will provide students with a resource that will lead to deeper problem solving skills by allowing students to complete rigorous assignments outside of the classroom." Jay added, "Within the math SIP goal, one important plan of action is to support our seniors in a smooth transition from Washburn to post-secondary options. College level math courses assume the student is adept in using graphing calculators. When students only have access to this resource in the classroom, they lose the chance to keep practicing on their own."

## Teachers say "Thank you for Mini-Grants!"

*"Thank you so much! We truly appreciate your help!"*

*"Fantastic! These mini-grants have been a very helpful part of our SWISH program, which is just in its second year." (SWISH offers alternative instruction models to meet the individual learning needs of its students.)*

*"Thank you so very much. Our kids will be excited for the new equipment!"*

**Your donations directly impact the educational experience of our students and support Washburn's dedicated, creative and hard-working teachers. Thank you, donors!**

## 2016 Graduates

This spring, 303 students graduated from Washburn. Of these students, 80 percent planned to attend a two- or four-year college. In addition to many Minnesota and Wisconsin colleges and universities, students were admitted to a wide range of schools, including Alabama A&M, Bryn Mawr College, Emory University, McGill University, Morehouse College, Oberlin College of Arts and Sciences and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Other students joined the military, opted for a gap year or continued with the Transition Plus program.

International Baccalaureate diplomas were conferred upon nine students. Since 2013, 17 students have received the rigorous IB diploma.

# ARTS



## Nancy Lee Honored by the Tony Awards

The Tony Awards® and Carnegie Mellon University announced that Nancy Lee, director of arts programming at Washburn, has received an Honorable Mention as part of the 2016 Excellence in Theatre Education Awards. Lee was selected from 1,100 applicants from across the U.S. for leadership in building a thriving performing and visual arts program at Washburn.

## A New Dance Class

This fall, Washburn re-introduced dance as a class offering for students. Taught by Rush Benson, the class teaches various styles of dance that students can use in theater productions at Washburn or elsewhere.



students explore social justice issues and teaches them skills to advocate for their needs and beliefs.

This spring, the program was profiled in a documentary produced by Twin Cities Public Television. The documentary was nominated for a 2016 Upper Midwest Emmy. To watch the documentary, visit [www.mnoriginal.org/episode/712-2/washburn-blackbox-acting-program](http://www.mnoriginal.org/episode/712-2/washburn-blackbox-acting-program).

## Zombie Prom



Washburn's fall musical was Zombie Prom. The musical, a mix of Grease and Rocky Horror Picture Show, was open to all freshmen, sophomores or anyone who had never performed in a Washburn musical before to open up the musical theater experience to more students.



Washburn Dance Class

## Blackbox Students Act in Emmy-Nominated Documentary

Since 2008 the Blackbox Acting Program at Washburn High School has provided a safe space for students to create and perform original works rooted in social justice. Led by teacher Crystal Spring, the series provides three levels of theater classes, as well as a spoken word class and another aimed at students with developmental disabilities. The program helps



# ATHLETICS

WHS Athletics continued their rapid ascension to elite status within both the city and state.

**Girls Soccer** - Ranked in the State's Top 10 all season, the girls were conference champions for the 5th year in a row. They advanced to the State Tournament for the second time in three years, finishing fourth.



**Boys Soccer** - An historic season, the boys won the Minneapolis City Conference for the first time since 1990. They were ranked in the State's Top 10 all season and just missed advancing to the State Tournament. Juan Louis became the first Miller in school history to win the Mr. Soccer Award, an award given to the most outstanding senior boy soccer player in the state. Juan Louis was also selected to the 1st All State Team.

**Volleyball** - The team finished the regular season with an 18-8 overall record and were back-to-back Minneapolis City Champs. With only two seniors, the team is well-positioned for next year, as well. They won the Twin City Championship game and advanced to the Section quarterfinals.

**Football** - The football team finished their regular season record 4-4 in conference play. The homecoming football game was a great night with over

2,000 people in attendance. They were one of only 15 schools chosen to participate in "The Greater Game" program started by former Viking and Raven Matt Birk, teaching players about leadership and character development.

**Boys & Girls Cross Country** - The girls were ranked 7th and the boys 11th in the State all season. Both boys and girls finished the season as the Conference Champions again -- three consecutive years for the boys and four consecutive years for the girls. Both teams also won the Blaine Invitational and Twin City Championships. Four students made it to the State championship with Emily Covert and Joseph Minor both finishing in 8th place.

**Girls Swimming** - Washburn girls again lead the way on the District team with over 45 participants. Maddie Dieffenbach qualified for the State meet with the breaststroke. The Miller Varsity relay also qualified for the State meet for the 200 medley and the 200 freestyle.

**Girls Tennis** - Under the leadership of new coach, Jim Mayer, the Millers finished second in conference play. With many young players, the team has a promising future to finish at the top of the conference next year.



# Raising the Visibility of Washburn

## *Donor Debbie Harley Healey Committed to Washburn*

Debbie Harley Healey is an alumna of the 1966 class of Washburn High School. In addition to being an excellent student, she played the violin in the orchestra and was a co-captain of the dance line, called The Miller Mates.

Debbie and her husband, Tom, are proponents of philanthropy, so when she learned about the Washburn High School Foundation, she immediately wanted to become involved, not only as a donor, but also with fundraising. Her initial contribution was the highly-visible electronic sign in front of the school on 50th Street. "It was time to tear down the old 1960s era sign and replace it with a new 21st century sign that proudly reflects the high quality of the school and surrounding community," said Debbie.

Her next project was to restore the Steinway grand piano in the auditorium. Being an arts advocate, she believed this would spark a new commitment to the music program. The Steinway was as old as the school building, and was in extreme disrepair with missing keys, no bench, and the casing covered in scratches and dents. Bringing it back to its original condition was an exciting contribution to the now-excelling music program. Debbie remains an active donor for the Foundation and enjoys attending the annual Arts Gala, as well.



John Sylvester, center, with friends and supporters.

## Athletic Hall of Fame Inductee: John Sylvester

### *Legend On and Off the Pitch*

John Sylvester ('91) was inducted into the Washburn High School Athletic Hall of Fame on September 22. The ceremony was held on the day of the Sylvester Cup which was named in his honor. Mark Bachman ('91), John's friend and varsity soccer co-captain, presented the award to John. "If you've ever played soccer with John, you know that he is a great soccer player," said Mark. "If you've ever had John as a coach, you know that he is a great coach. If you've ever known John, you know that he is a great guy."

John has been the recipient of many awards and honors over his playing career, both as an amateur and professional. His love of soccer and community continued beyond his playing days, with many years of coaching at the club and high school levels. Hundreds of soccer players have learned from John and appreciated his teaching and support over the past two decades.

## ACE Mentor Program

The ACE (Architecture-Construction-Engineering) Mentor program continues to grow at Washburn. Students in the program have the opportunity for career discovery, scholarships, and interactions with industry professionals. Washburn students were able to tour the new U.S. Bank Stadium while still in construction.



# Thank You Donors!

The Washburn High School Foundation would like to thank the following people who made donations between July 1, 2015 and June 30, 2016. Because of you, we are able to continue our goal of making Washburn High School the top high school in Minneapolis with the best teachers, the best resources and the best-prepared students for the future. ***Thank you for your continuous support and donations!***

## Gold Medalist (\$1000 - \$4,999)

Anonymous  
Paula and Kevin Ario  
Andrew and Katherine Bachman  
Mark and Carrie Bachman  
Steven Beck  
In honor of The Beck Family  
Sally Callahan  
Ralph J. Carlson  
Owen and Katherine Christoferson  
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In memory of Norman S. Anderson ('58)  
Bruce and Jean Grussing  
Deborah and Tom Healey  
RJ (Dick) and Elizabeth Kinyon  
Tristen and Steve Lindemann  
Ann Sonnesyn and Brian Love  
Tod and Jacquelyn Olson  
Daniel M. Prince  
Maryan Schall  
Bill and Carin Simpson  
Stoos-Tysver Family Trust  
Kathleen and Wayne Urbaniak  
Judy Yung

## Miller Pride (\$100 - \$999)

Roberta L. and Robert Abdo  
Jane P. Paul Adamson  
In memory of Chuck Adamson ('49)  
and Dave Adamson ('45)  
Amerprise Financial Annual Giving Campaign  
Joel Andell  
Todd and Shari Anderson  
In honor of Reggie Perkins  
Roger C. Anderson  
Paul Anderson  
Joell Anderson  
John Anderson  
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Joel Ario  
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Gregory and Jennifer Bastian  
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Baxter Family Foundation  
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Lois Beckman  
Alix Hagman Behm  
Janelle Beitz  
In honor of Vicki Bunker

Toni A. and James A. Beitz  
In honor of Vicki Bunker  
Becky Thatcher-Bell and Tracie Bell  
Philip B. Bell  
Michael B. Belzer  
Herbert and Lynne Benz  
Robert (Ted) Bergstrom  
Lynn Blewett  
Betty Borman  
John Boyt  
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Charles (Charlie) Browning  
John and Jane Burton  
Pamela Campbell  
In honor of Scott Campbell and  
Mark Campbell  
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Marilyn Miller Chapman  
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Brad and Christy Cray  
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Bruce H. and Marty Danielson  
Michael and Michelle DeVaughn  
Daniel J. Diebold  
Franise Bartley and James Dier  
Charles and Joan Diessner  
Amanda Docter  
Jeanette Dunham  
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Dennis W. Dunne  
In memory of Patty Russell Dunne ('46)  
Susan Duxbury  
In memory of Parker Cramer ('55)  
Virginia Dwan  
Amy Arundel Dwyer  
Margaret Berg and Craig E. Eichhorn  
Geoffrey Elfsturm  
Kristin Lynn Erdall  
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Michael Garry  
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In honor of Matt Gerhan's 10th  
year of graduation  
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In memory of Frank Ario  
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Mimi Graceman Gleekeel  
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Carl E. Carlson (former teachers)  
Tom Gould  
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Posie and Graham Hanson  
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Jerome and Adrienne Harty  
Kathleen and William Haug  
In memory of Pat Fallon ('63)  
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Helen Olson Hull  
Kevin and Julie Hurbanis  
Patricia Ingersoll

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Robert C. Jackson  
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Katherine Schweikart and James Johnson  
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David W. Johnston  
In memory of Stephen Johnston ('58)  
Lisa Jorgensen Dongoske  
Judyth Bierman Katz  
Terry Katzman  
Anthony (Tony) Douglas Kelley  
Kelly Kennedy Linton  
John P. Kennedy  
In memory of Toni Stoll ('59) and  
Steve Stoll ('61)  
Kathy Lawless and John Keyes  
Blaine and Lyndel King  
Wendy Klees Larsen  
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Marian Rubenfeld and Frederick Langendorf  
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David M. and Virginia Larson  
Donald P. Larson  
In memory of Gerald E. Larson ('50)  
Elizabeth Larson  
In memory of Warren Wayne Larson ('48)  
Elizabeth Larson  
Elizabeth Breid Leach  
In honor of Bill Everett  
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   In honor of Vicki Bunker  
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   In memory of Chuck Adamson ('49)  
   and Dave Adamson ('45)  
 David Peichel  
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 Anne Hoops and Brad Peterson  
 Corwin S. Peterson  
 Ronald James Peterson  
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 Sherrill Piotraschke  
 Perry C. Plank  
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   (former coach and assistant principal)  
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 Jeffrey and Lisa Quist  
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 Theodore Stern  
 John and Kathy Stone  
 Nadine (Toddy) Grill Sturdevant  
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 David J. Sutton  
   In memory of a great friend in  
   the Washburn Class of 1944  
 G. Rolf Svendsen  
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 Ralph and Bonnie Swenby  
 Sandra L. and Dennis Talbott  
 Richard Taylor  
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   In memory of Daniel Toft  
 Max Schott and Jessica Toft  
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 Emily Anne Tuttle  
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 Yax Vrischika  
   In memory of Matthias Pena for  
   WHS Arts Council  
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 Michelle Welch  
 Stephen and Sarah Weld  
 Wells Fargo Foundation  
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 John White  
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 Annadell and Jeff Witta Christman  
   In memory of Matthias Jacob Pena  
 Michael Woods  
 Lynn A. Woodward  
 Adam Wright  
 Aaron Paul Youngdahl  
 Phillip J. Zavada

#### Orange and Blue (\$1 - \$99)

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 Stephen C. Aldrich  
 Kent F. Alvarez  
 Mary Frederick Ames

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 Jenneane Kunitz Anderson  
 C. Wilson and R. Anderson Pauline  
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 Carole Arndt  
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 Frederic and Karen Brown  
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 Christopher Clancy  
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   (music/choir teacher)  
 Willard Everett  
 John P. Farrell  
 Antar Favors  
 James Feikema  
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   In memory of  
   Joyce Fernstrom Gustafson 63  
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   Dorothy Hesier Stevenson  
 Elizabeth Fisher

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 Steve Hannes  
   In memory of Dan Clark ('67)  
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 Dean Hansen  
   In memory of Frank Ario  
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 Kurt Hanson  
 Peter Hanson  
 Catherine Hartley Hanson  
   In memory of Todd Hartley  
 Catherine Hartley Hanson  
 Eileen E. Hanson-Kelly  
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 Keith Johnson  
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 Virginia Sweetnam Jones  
 William R. Jorgenson  
 Richard N. Juhl  
 Barbara Kaufmann  
   In memory of John D. Hawkland ('45)  
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 Margaret Keith  
 Thomas W. Keljik  
 John P. Kennedy  
 Kristin E. Kieft  
 Robert H. Kieft

Tonu M and Karen Kiesel  
 Kip (I.P.) Knelman  
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 Jeff and Janet Lauber  
 Marlene J. Lawson  
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 Charlotte Lieb  
 Amy Lind  
 Jean Jorgenson Linne  
 Ken and Jean Linwick  
 Dennis Maetzold  
 Jack and Mary Ellen Magner  
 Stephen and Brenda Mahannah  
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     In memory of Dennis O'Connell ('59)  
 Christine Meloni  
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 Roy H. Olson  
 Douglas L. Olson  
 Michael and Mary Orman  
 Benjamin David Page  
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 Doug Palbicki  
 Mike Parrott  
 Judith Peacock  
 Nate Pearson  
 Shea Peoples  
 Anna Korinko and Charles Petersen  
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 Shane Peterson  
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 Nina Rapallo

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 Roslynn Torralba and John Renze  
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     In memory of Marv and Fern Hartwick  
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 Ryan Rintoul  
 Eric Rislove  
 Richard Roome  
 John M. Rosen  
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     In honor of Jim Erickson ('64)  
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 Lee H Trelstad  
 James M. Urnes Sr.  
 Nicholas Vagle  
 Ryan Vanthorpe  
 John Villerius  
 Jean Lammers Volna  
 Becca Voss  
 Rich Wade  
 Stephen Wallfred  
 Steve and Mary Wallfred  
     In memory of Dan Clark ('67)  
 Bill and Cecilia Walsh  
     In memory of Robert Hartmann ('54)  
 Peter Warner  
 Ryan T. Watts  
 John Watz  
     In memory of Gretchen Renich Watz ('56)  
 Michael Welbaum  
 Wells Fargo Foundation  
     Educational Matching Gift Program  
 Sara Wherry  
 Judith Wittig  
 David Wood  
 Eugene A. Wray  
 Travis Yano  
 Mitchell C. Zavada

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Please note that dates sometimes change.

To confirm dates and learn about other events visit  
[www.washburn.mpls.k12.mn.us/calendar\\_of\\_events](http://www.washburn.mpls.k12.mn.us/calendar_of_events).

December 12 - 13	Winter concerts
December 14 - 15	Blackbox Theater productions
February 23 - 26	Spotlight Musical: "Into the Woods"
March 2-5	Spotlight Musical
March 21	Band and Orchestra Concert
March 28 - 29	Blackbox Theater production
May 5	Jazz Band Concert
May 10 - 13	Spring Play
May 25	Spring Choir Concert
June 7	Graduation

## Around 70 Birthday Bash

The high school class of 1965 will be hosting an "AROUND 70 BIRTHDAY BASH" on September 16, 2017 at the Knights of Columbus, Marion Hall. Alumni from Holy Angels, DeLaSalle, Regina, St. Thomas, Benilde/St. Margaret's, Washburn, Southwest, St. Louis Park, Edina and Visitation are invited. Watch for additional information in your school newsletter, foundation updates and Facebook or contact John Lilly at [jlilly2@comcast.net](mailto:jlilly2@comcast.net).