

# **Washburn High School Foundation**

Fall 2015

201 West 49th Street Minneapolis, Minnesota 55419-2588



### **Greetings Washburn Community,**

You are receiving this letter because somewhere, somehow, you have been instilled with MILLER PRIDE! Whether you are a graduate of Washburn High School, a former teacher or staff member, a parent of a Washburn student or graduate, or a member of our wonderful neighborhood, you know Miller Pride.

It seems you can't go anywhere without finding others who appreciate the great "Orange & Blue." Washburn High School's legacy goes deep and it goes back. We love connecting with other Millers to share our experiences and stories of the past.

The purpose of this newsletter is to connect you with stories of Washburn High School TODAY. The stories continue to be inspiring, full of accomplishment, hope and optimism. In this letter, you will learn about Washburn's strong academic standing and the achievements of our many and varied fall sports athletes. You'll also read about increasing enrollment numbers and the effort to add new space for all our students, as well as the continued excellence of our drama and music departments.

As members of the Washburn High School Foundation, we strive to keep you connected with Washburn and to help bring the wonderful resources of our community and alumni to the important work of educating and shaping the young people who will soon graduate from Washburn. They will go out into the world to make a difference. They too will become lasting members of this Miller Legacy. Over 85% of the funds raised by the WHS Foundation go directly back into the school to support:

- Grants to teachers and staff for programs, supplies and special experiences for their students.
- College scholarships to graduates.
- Events designed to connect students, staff and alumni.

We are asking for your continued investment in the programs of Washburn High School. The vibrant future of our community continues to be deeply connected with the success of our school. Please consider:

- Making a generous gift to the WHS Foundation today Use the attached envelope, or go online to the Washburn High School web page, click on the Alumni icon in the upper right corner of the screen and look for the Foundation link in the left-hand margin.
- Becoming a member of our WHS Foundation Board Contact Lisa Quist at lisa\_q1@yahoo.com for more information.
- Volunteering your time and talents to support our students, their teachers and staff.

We thank you for your continued support. Cheer for the Orange and Blue, waving forever!!

Mark Bachman, WHSF Board President • Go Millers!

# INSIDE

Academic Fun Facts
Page 2

Mini-Grants Page 2

**Arts** Page 3

Fall Sports Wrap-Up
Page 4

**Building Improvements** Page 5

**New Look Builds on Tradition** Page 5

Thank You Donors
Page 6-8



# ACADEMICS

Some have wondered if students attending Minneapolis Public Schools can obtain the academic rigor needed to prepare them for college or vocational life after high school. The trends at WHS suggest that Millers are putting in the hard work to answer those critics with a resounding "yes." Here are some updated fun facts about recent academic and enrollment trends at WHS:

- Average ACT score for all Class of 2015 students entering a 4-year college: 24.5 (National Average: 21). One out of four students scored 28 or higher. One student earned a perfect score of 36.
- Growth of International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB):
- Class of 2013 (1) IB Diploma
- Class of 2014 (1) IB Diploma
- Class of 2015 (6) IB Diplomas
- Class of 2016 (14) IB Diploma Candidates
- Class of 2017 (42) Potential IB Diploma Candidates
- More IB Exams passed than any other Minneapolis Public School in 2015.

- 4 National Merit Scholarship Winners in 2015.
- Continued enrollment increases. 2015-2016 enrollment is 1550 (up from 811 in 2010). This year's freshman class is 453.
- Large capital investment and construction in the school continues to add classrooms and refurbish common areas such as the original auditorium, gymnasiums, and lunchroom.

Students from the class of 2015 were admitted to 171 colleges and universities internationally, including University of California-Berkeley, Carleton College, Emory University, Iowa State University, St. Olaf College, University of Minnesota (various campuses), University of Wisconsin (various campuses) and Vassar College.

Washburn is the place to be!

Data source: Washburn High School Counselor's Office

### **Mini-Grants**

Nearly \$25,000 in mini-grants were awarded to teachers this fall to fund things like field trips, speakers and special curriculum. For example, Crystal Spring, director of Washburn's Blackbox theater program, will use her mini-grant to hire spoken word artists, choreographers, and actors from the community who can build students' theatre skills, as well as bring in a multi-cultural perspective to their work. Teachers are so grateful for this support in helping provide more creative and engaging activities for students.

I am so grateful for all the financial support you have given the Blackbox! It makes a huge impact on us, honestly. We wouldn't be the same without your support.

> Crystal Spring - Director, WHS Blackbox Theater

# Find us on Facebook www.facebook.com/WashburnHSFoundation/

### FALL 2015

### ARTS

### New Student-Designed Mural

Washburn studio arts students worked with local artist-in-residence, Melodee Strong, to create this mural on the 3rd floor of the high school. Last spring, 32 students in Ms. Cristina Benz's class contributed to the ideation and design process and learned to paint through layers. The mural represents important aspects of Minneapolis as the home of the Washburn Millers.

### A Gala Event

The Washburn High School Foundation would like to recognize the extraordinary work and fundraising done by the Washburn Arts Council. At the 2014 Gala held last November, over \$29,000 was raised through a combination of ticket sales, Great Gatherings, the live auction and Fund-a-Need. As a result of that effort and the generosity of people attending the event, students of the arts are now enjoying new choir uniforms and will soon enjoy a piano lab and a recording studio.

### The Fantasticks

This fall, Washburn High School presented "The Fantasticks," the story of two neighboring mothers who trick their children, Luisa and Matt, into falling in love by pretending to feud. The mothers hire traveling actors to stage a mock abduction to end the feud. Abduction ballets, Shakespearean monologues, sword duels, and wayward journeys ensue. The musical was produced, directed and performed entirely by students including the pit orchestra.









## ATHLETICS

WHS Athletics had another strong fall (on and off the field), with student participation numbers up across all sports.

**Boys Soccer** - Advanced to the State Tournament for the first time since 1989 and took third place. All State honors were given to Junior Juan Louis (1st Team) and Senior Henry Stevens (2nd Team). Congratulations, boys, Frank Ario would be proud!

**Girls Soccer** - Minneapolis conference champs, again! Finished with a 16-3 record losing a heartbreaker in OT in the Section Final game. Maya Rajacich was a Ms. Soccer Finalist and will play at the University of Minnesota next fall.

**Volleyball** - Had a historic year. Finished the season with a record of 29-1, losing only in the Section Final game. They won their Conference for the first time in 32 years! The team is loaded with talent but led by Rachel Stark who has committed to play at Kansas State next fall.

**Boys & Girls Cross Country** - Both boys and girls finished the season as Conference Champions for the 2nd year in a row and both were ranked in the State's Top 10 all year (boys #4 and girls #8). The boys beat nationally-ranked Edina and Wayzata to advance to State for the first time since 1970, and placed second in state. The girls had two runners qualify for State individually: Emily Covert and Olivia Orr.

**Mountain Biking** - Congratulations to Sophomore Anna Christian who won the Varsity State Championship this year at the State Mountain Bike League Racing Series.

**Football** - Started a new era under new head coach and WHS alum Ryan Galindo. Finished the season 4-4 with a young team.

**Girls Swimming** - Had the highest number of students on the District Team (40 Millers), which could lead to WHS re-starting their own team.

**Girls Tennis** - Another solid season finishing 2nd in the Conference with several All-Conference award winners.

Below is the current Wish List from our Athletic Department if you would like to offer your financial support:

- New Lockers for the Girls Locker Room
- New Hurdles and Pole Vault Pit for Track Team
- New Bench Chairs
- New Trophy Cases
- New Wall Mural for Athletic Hallway







### www.WashburnConnections.org

### **Building Improvements at Washburn**

When students returned to school this fall, they found a first floor gym had been replaced by four new classrooms. With more class choices and a growing enrollment, additional classroom space was necessary.

The biggest surprise of the summer's construction project was the opening of the lunchroom. Removing the south wall allows the students to see what is going on in the hallway and in the athletic office and feel a part of a larger environment. Students have a better viewpoint and therefore are more apt to stay in their seats and enjoy their lunch.



### **New Look Builds on Tradition**

This fall Washburn introduced a new look, while still retaining its tradition. The new image considered input from students, parents, staff and designers. Washburn's orange and blue pulled from Cadwallader Washburn's Gold Medal Flour logo. A new font combines the old with the new. The font is used in an updated seal and mascot. You can see the new look at www.washburn.mpls.k12.mn.us/washburn\_logos.





# **Thank You Donors!**

The Washburn High School Foundation would like to thank the following people who made donations between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015. Because of you, we are able to continue our goal of making Washburn High School the top high school in the city with the best teachers, the best resources and the best prepared students for the future. **Thank you for your continuous support and donations!** 

Advocate (>\$10,000) Estate of Steven Stoll

#### Scholar (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

Paula and Kevin Ario Wells Fargo Foundation Educational Matching Gift Program

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

Anonymous (7) Mark and Carrie Bachman James and Edith Broten In memory of Paul Broten ('43) and Ralph Broten ('48) Thomas and Paula Crouch Thomas A. Gruber In memory of Pete Boosalis ('58) Bruce and Jean Grussing Tristen and Steve Lindemann Brian Love and Ann Sonnesyn George E. Maas Michael L. Myers **Jeffrey Post** Rich Renikoff and Kathy Kinne Greg Samuelson and Jean Miller Maryan Schall Bill and Carin Simpson

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

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### THE LEGACY NEWSLETTER

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Kay Thomas

### **FALL 2015**

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### THE LEGACY NEWSLETTER

### FALL 2014

### **VOLUME 31**

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