Principal Partners for Legislators

We are all advocates for the principal profession: Our daily interactions with students and adults are opportunities for us to communicate about the importance of education and having strong leaders.

Want to help do more? Become a Principal Partner for Legislators to connect more regularly with a legislator you already have a relationship with or with whom you are interested in developing a better relationship.

It’s easy! Email Roz Thompson at roz@awsp.org to let her know you are interested. Once you are connected to a legislator, reach out to them and their legislative assistant to share contact information. Create a reminder on your calendar to share updates with your legislative partner each month or so. You can also invite them to visit your school. The goal is for the legislator to know a principal in their district who he or she can call to get an understanding of how potential policy may impact student learning and the management of a school building.

AWSL Launches Revised Edition of Middle Level Publication: “Starting in the Middle”

The second edition of the Association of Washington Student Leaders’ “Starting in the Middle” publication has been rewritten and redesigned as a resource book for teaching leadership concepts to middle level students. In addition to 84 brand-new and revamped lessons for both formal and informal classrooms, the manual includes “20 for 20,” a collection of 20-minute lessons designed for school-wide use in advisory or homeroom sessions. Also included are resources for structuring a middle level student leadership program, aligning leadership instruction to standards, workshop/large group icebreakers, and organizational tools.

AWSL also has elementary and high school publications, as well resources for CheerLeadership programs, assemblies, and fundraising.

Check out all the AWSL publications at https://awsleaders.org/publications.

ASB Workshops Focus on Best Practices for Supervising ASB Funds

AWSP and AWSL are partnering with the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) to bring you an ASB workshop called, Best Practices: Supervising ASB Funds. The workshop provides helpful hints on how a school or district can handle ASB funds and stay in compliance with the requirement for accounting practices and public money. Attendees will:

• Learn ASB rules, regulations, policies and procedures.
• Explore budget writing.
• Hear real-life examples of students in the ASB process.
• Look at the connection between activities, athletics, clubs and classes.
• Test your knowledge at the end of the day in a mock audit.

The workshop is designed for principals, activity advisors, bookkeepers, booster club members, PTO officers and students. There are still a few opportunities to register this year. Learn more at www.awsp.org/professional-learning/training-conferences/asb.

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Basecamp 3

Basecamp (which we highlighted in a previous issue of Washington Principal) launched version 3 of their project organization app, and we can’t get enough of the new features!

How does Basecamp work? Instead of having stuff scattered all over the place — strewn across separate products, lost in inboxes, or scrawled on Post-Its or notepads — Basecamp allows you to keep your communication and documents in one location, accessible by anyone and everyone in your organization. It’s messaging, real-time chat, to-do lists, scheduling, file storage, documents and project management all in one. Best of all, it’s FREE for teachers and students, and discounted for non-profits!

AWSP uses the app to create shared calendars, to post organization-wide announcements, to create and assign to-dos, and as a way to keep the content and discussion around big projects organized (such as the creation of the very magazine you are reading!) In fact, we’ve pretty much done away with inner-office emails thanks to Basecamp.

Version 3 offers the following upgrades:

• Unlimited projects for everyone.
• A “Hey!” menu which serves as a single inbox for every Basecamp notification. @mentions, new messages, to-do assignments and completions all show up nice, neat, organized, and threaded.
• “Pings,” which are like instant messages or direct messages. Want to get someone’s take on something before sharing it with everyone else? Just ping them!
• To-dos can be assigned to multiple people.
• Automatic check-ins that allow you to ask part or all of your team whatever you’d like (e.g. “What did you work on today?”) on a schedule of your choosing. Basecamp will regularly gather responses and present them in an organized report.
• Scheduling, emailing forwarding, and much, much more!

Learn more about this amazing product and the version 3 updates at www.basecamp.com.