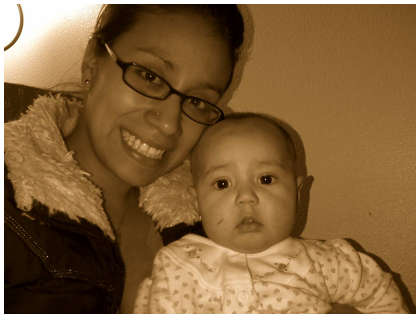


Just for Parents

Special Interest Articles:

- ECEAP Program in Jeopardy
- WSA Parent Ambassadors Selected
- Childcare subsidy budget proviso
- Items of interest to Early Learning

Parent Ambassador of the Week:



Name: Goretta Manzo-Kittelson
Hometown: Pullman, WA

Goretta has four children, one is a current Head Start student and one is a graduate. She serves as the Policy Council President. Goretta is the Spanish translator for this newsletter and would be available to answer any questions for Spanish speaking families.

"A teacher affects eternity; he can never tell where his influence stops."

-- Henry Brooks Adams

Federal Update: Head Start Funding

The President signed the 2009 omnibus bill. This bill includes funding for most government funded programs. The bill includes a \$235 million increase for Head Start and a \$65 million increase for childcare. To review the most pertinent sections of the bill please go to

<http://appropriations.house.gov/pdf/LHEFY0902-23-09.pdf>

The economic recovery bill has set aside \$2.1 billion for Head Start Programs to be distributed over two years. The additional proposed funds would add approximately 50,000 slots for Head Start. \$1.1 billion in each version of the bill is specifically allocated to Early Head Start, a program designed to work with and care for pregnant women and their children until age three. More educational legislative priorities for the upcoming session include universal pre-kindergarten and grants to states for innovation projects.

Rick Larsen (District 2) is the new representative on the House budget committee. While now is not the time to email him letters and information about Head Start, please sign up for the email listserv on the WSA website – www.wsaheadstarteceap.com so you can be alerted when the time is right.

ECEAP Program in Jeopardy

In light of the \$9 billion dollar deficit, it is being proposed that ECEAP will face budget cuts in the State Budget due next week. While this will not wipe out the program, it will cut ECEAP slots.

It is possible that the legislature has wrongly assumed that they can use the money from the Federal Government to offer Head Start slots to ECEAP families – but ECEAP and Head Start have different eligibility requirements, standards and locations that may keep families from being able to switch. Also, most of the money from the Federal Government is being used mostly for quality improvements, not to create new slots – and most of the new slots will be created in Early Head Start – which does not serve ECEAP.

Please write to the following legislators, especially if you are a 'constituent,' which means that you live in their legislative district. Include a personal story about ECEAP, a reason for them to support it and the reality families face if it is cut. Also give them your contact info in case they have questions.

Speaker of the House, Frank Chopp (dist 43) - Chopp.Frank@leg.wa.gov
Senate Majority Leader Lisa Brown (dist 3) - Brown.Lisa@leg.wa.gov
Rep. Kelli Linville, Ways & Means Chair (dist 42) - Linville.Kelli@leg.wa.gov
Sen. Margarita Prentice, Ways & Means Chair (dist 11) - Prentice.Margarita@leg.wa.gov

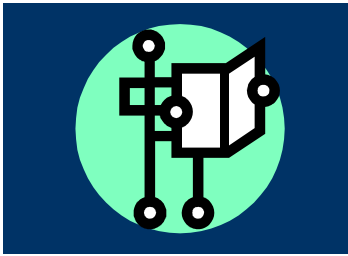
Rep. Ruth Kagi, Chair Early Learning & Children's Services (dist 32) - Kagi.Ruth@leg.wa.gov

Senator Rosemary McAuliffe, Chair Early Learning & K-12 (dist 1) - McAuliffe.Rosemary@leg.wa.gov

Rep. Lynn Kessler, Majority Leader (dist 24) - Kessler.Lynn@leg.wa.gov

Rep. Kathy Haigh, House Education Appropriations Chair (dist 35) - Haigh.Kathy@leg.wa.gov

Senator Rodney Tom, Ways & Means (dist 48) - Tom.Rodney@leg.wa.gov



**WSA
Parent Ambassador
Program**

841 N. Central Ave,
Suite 204
Kent, WA 98032

Phone:
253-373-9100

Fax:
253-373-1321

E-Mail:
tmphysique@juno.com,
lucy.kee@gmail.com
Spanish Speaking:
gtiux@hotmail.com

**The Legislative
Information Line:
1-800-562-6000**

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.wsaheadstarteceap.com

WSA Parents Ambassadors Selected

The Parent Ambassador Program was made possible from a generous grant from the Peppercorn foundation. The parents selected for this program will participate in a yearlong parent advocacy program.

The parents selected for this program are: Kylee Allen, Keith Angotti Bianca Bailey, Simone Beverly, Mary Braae, Cecily Dilworth, Heather Gerrard, Tafrá Jones, Lucy Kee, Brandy Larsen, Maria 'Goretti' Manzo-Kittelton, Carmella Martin, David McCormick, Tracy Mofield, Sara Pearl, Melody Quinn, Lizandra Sandoval, Stephanie Scherling, Mandie Swainston, Lynn Urvina and Connie Woodhouse.

Staffs overseeing the Parent Ambassador Program are: Todd McNerney (Parent Coordinator), Lori Pittman (Project Manager), Rudy Taylor (consultant), Joel Ryan (WSA Executive Director) and Katy Warren (WSA Staff).

These parents will receive training on legislative advocacy and grassroots organizing, be responsible for training parents in their local programs and participate in organizing WSA advocacy campaigns.

Childcare Subsidy Budget Proviso

HB 1754, the bill for improving childcare subsidies did not pass the Ways and Means Committee, so it has been dropped. However, we can request a childcare subsidy budget proviso. A budget proviso will allow us to ask for funding from the budget for childcare subsidies.

Contact Speaker of the House, Frank Chopp (District 43). Let him know that you are disappointed about the failure of HB 1754 to clear the Ways and Means Committee and that you would like him to consider HB 1754 as a budget proviso. Include in your communications a personal story about how childcare subsidies have helped you.

Speaker of the House Frank Chopp: Olympia Office; 339C Legislative Bldg.; PO Box 40600; Olympia, WA 98504-0600. (360) 786-7920 or toll free 1-800-562-6000. email: chopp.frank@leg.wa.gov

Items of Interest to Early Learning

HB 2261/SB 6048 – Concerning the State's Education System

WSA Position: Support. This is a "shell bill" from SB5444/HB1410 – necessary to keep discussion about basic education in legislature.

Status: March 13 – House version passed. Sections of interest to early learning are: Sections 3 and 113. It appears as though the Senate version does not include sections related to Early Learning.

Public testimony is being heard for HB 2261 in the Senate at 8am on Wednesday March 25, 2009.

Childcare Subsidy Budget Proviso – replacement for HB 1754

WSA Position: Support. Please contact Speaker of the House Frank Chopp. See above article for additional information.

Senate/House Budget Reports. Due week of March 23, 2009.

Request from State Legislators that the current budget for ECEAP is maintained. In light of the \$9 billion deficit, cuts to ECEAP are being proposed.

ECEAP day in Olympia will be Wednesday, March 25, 2009.

Finding Resources in your community:

**Did you know that you
can call The Community
Information Line (Open
M-F from 8am-6pm)
from your home phone
to find resources in your
area? Just dial the
numbers 2-1-1.**

**You may also look online
for resources:
[http://www.resourceho
use.com/en/WA/cgi-
bin/location.asp](http://www.resourceho
use.com/en/WA/cgi-
bin/location.asp)**