Aiming for Medical School

There is a new partnership between OUR SCHOOL and Pacific Northwest University! Through this exciting new program 45 students from White Swan High School and Mount Adams Middle School are getting real life, hands on experience at the prestigious medical school. Kids attend along side medical students, who serve as their mentors. The goal of the program is to teach that all things are possible, but it begins with a dream... Our students are dreaming bigger than ever before thanks to these kinds of experiences.
Building Climate and Culture!

Last Fall over 65% of our students’ families responded to a comprehensive needs assessment survey. Shortly after that our students were afforded the same opportunity through a Student Perception Survey.

The information was then reviewed by our administrators. They collectively agreed to make a big push to listen closely and address what our community and students are saying.

What stood out for us was a general concern for safety, climate, and culture. Students and adults agree that a calm, safe school is what everyone wants. With this information in mind new ideas are being explored and implemented!

In the recent weeks a new method was rolled out known as Positive Behavior, Intervention, Supports (PBIS). This is an approach that is built on 1) Making Good Decisions, 2) Solving Problems, and 3) Showing Respect.

Featured Student

Christian Clark, 11th Grader

Describe yourself in three words

Nice, Caring, Respectful

If you could visit with anyone for one hour, who would you choose?

All my friends!

I dream that someday I will...

Live in a nice big house

Christian also plays right field on the Varsity Cougar Baseball Team.

March Words of the Month:

Fairness

Pina’tma’aakt

Justicia

Students Leading a Lesson in Engineering Class using an interactive “Smart Board”
This year the White Swan Knowledge Bowl team ended a great season with a narrow defeat at regionals against Easton High School, with a final competition score of 64 to 68. The team traveled to the University of Washington on February 28th for the annual Orca Bowl ocean sciences competition, where they beat Soap Lake and narrowly lost to Friday Harbor.

This year’s team was comprised of Katie Dick, Brandi Hopsen, Faith Huffman, Gladdys Palma, Salvador Guzman, Anthony Perez, Tre Deleon, and Tarell Manjarrez.

Believe in Me

Above is a special moment in our school. Coach Jim Powers and Gladdy Palma celebrate Gladdys’ State Championship win! On the first day of practice Coach Powers and principal Castilleja were standing back taking an inventory of our wrestlers. One stood out as being extraordinarily focused on her practice time. When Mr. Castilleja commented on this Coach Powers says “That’s Gladdys… she will take first in State this year.”

Anyone that has been around wrestling knows that what Coach Powers had said was extremely bold. Turns out he was 100% right!

The same day Gladdys took the state championship Coach Powers found out he had been chosen as the State 2B “Coach of the Year”. This too, was a feather in White Swan’s Cap!

The real lesson here is not only that hard work pays off. This is a prime example of what is possible when students and adults in our school believe in each other. Ask any student about Coach Power’s award, and they will say that the right man was chosen. Ask anyone on the team, and they will reaffirm that they knew Gladdys would do it all along!

“It’s amazing what can happen when students and adults in our school believe in each other.”

-Principal Castilleja
Dream Makers are Standing Tall!

Dream Makers are at it again! This month they took a stand by campaigning for “drawing a line between youth and alcohol use”. Their campaign was well received by students and staff.

So, if you were wondering what all the cars honking was about last week, this explains it!

Be the change you want to see... Volunteer at Mount Adams!