



2024 Newsletter

Volume 7, February 2024 - Published Annually

Helping students achieve their educational goals
www.whitepass scholarship.org

Broadening Horizons. Shaping Futures.

by Susan Fortin, Scholarship Committee Chair

School field trips—a bus ride, sack lunch and the promise of adventure. These special school days included fun with friends, seeing new places and learning about something bigger than my immediate world. (Bonus - my field trip sack lunch always included the treat of a Hostess Berry Pie!) These fond memories came back when I saw the White Pass website featuring a group of young scientists from Ms. Scott's Science and Ag classes. They recently visited a Fish Hatchery and had first-hand experience learning how rivers are populated with salmon. While there, they collected eggs to hatch in class and when ready, they will release them. **Broadening Horizons!**

Recently the local paper mentioned that the Theater and Advanced Placement English classes received permission for an overnight trip to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland OR. Building up to the experience, Theater students will be performing Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* in May. **Broadening Horizons!**

A few years ago, many of our graduates applied for scholarships but never claimed them. Maybe the thought of going to school and the reality of leaving the area was just too scary. Maybe they hadn't ventured out before. Today our students seem more confident and prepared. Kudos to Maureen Foley, GEAR UP Director for her role in making that happen. The annual College and Career Fair brings over 35 trade schools, military branches, colleges, apprenticeship, and career opportunities straight to our students. GEAR UP field trips include UW Tacoma, CWU, WSU Vancouver, Yakima Valley, Green River, Centralia, Lower Columbia, Bates, Clover Park, Perry Tech, and Centralia Beauty College. Students observe construction trades through local unions and are exposed to military options by visiting Joint Base Lewis McCord. Maureen's goal is that all students have opportunities to be on campuses or see different trades that are available to them. **Broadening Horizons!**

The White Pass Scholarship Fund is committed to helping ALL students achieve their post-secondary goals—whether an accredited trade school or college. With your help we can continue to support our graduates as they venture out. Whatever path they choose our goal is that they will have the skills and training to lead the lives that they envision. **Shaping Futures!**



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Scholarship Recipient Spotlight

by Luis Cruz, White Pass Class of 2022 Scholarship Recipient

Luis is in his second year at Central Washington University and is majoring in Music Education.



I was a recipient of the White Pass Scholarship back in 2022. I've received almost \$7,000 which was a complete game changer! During my senior year of high school, I didn't really want to continue my education. But I'm really lucky that I had some amazing people in my life that convinced me to continue my schooling. I've experienced so much in such a short amount of time, such as performing in Jazz band, performing in my school's symphonic band throughout the two years, participating in a wine studies class with my friends Shariden and Kayla, and performing in pep-band this coming winter quarter. (It's even a paid position which is a real plus!)

I've also had so many memorable "life experiences" not directly related to school. I've been river rafting with my friends Jason and Daniel. I tried the "the world's hottest wing" for my friend Cole's birthday (never doing that again)! I even watched CWU's annual drag show. All these things I wouldn't have done if I didn't go to school. I'm really fortunate to have this amazing opportunity that was possible with such a huge help from this scholarship! Thank you to the White Pass community for making this possible.

Sweet and Savory Sprint is Back!

Join the fun and be prepared to bid!



Saturday
March 9

Doors open
at 5:00



Silent Auction – Raffles – Live Auction – Sweet and Savory Sprint

Tickets are \$10 each which covers our direct expenses and gives you a bidding number and a seat.

Consider partnering with friends to reserve a full table for 8, then pool your money to be a big winner in the sprint for sweet or savory treats!

Register in advance through Bidding Owl using the QR code on the right. This will create your bidding account and allow you to purchase tickets.

For more information about tickets or donations contact Auction Chair Bonnie Sniezak (360-880-5976) or Hazelanna McMahan (360-496-1903)

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New Member is also New Principal!

Marji Ruzicka returns to her Alma Mater

by Marji Ruzicka, Secondary School Principal and Scholarship Committee Member

Back when I graduated from White Pass HS in 1991, the main fundraiser for the scholarship fund was the community birthday calendars (which I kind of miss now that I have moved back to Randle, to be honest). The White Pass Scholarship paid for tuition in my first year at college, and this was a huge help for me and my family. I attended Central Washington University, majoring in French and Spanish with plans to become a teacher. I knew I wanted to be a teacher when I was in second grade, but being the first person in my family to go to college I didn't know very much about the application process or options for scholarships. Staff here at White Pass made sure we all knew about the scholarship and how to apply. The same is true today as staff members continue to support students in navigating their post-secondary options.

My teaching and administrative career led me to Vancouver, Washington and then to Tualatin, Oregon. After such a wonderful experience at White Pass, I had always known that I wanted to come back to the valley. I introduced my husband to the area, and he also fell in love with the mountains and the rural community that I grew up in. My dad, who still works for the school district, has kept me informed on all the White Pass news, and when he told me about a possible opening here for the 2023-24 year, I knew it was meant to be. I sent in my resume the same day the job was posted and was able to find a great house to buy in Randle. I count myself lucky every single day as I drive around this beautiful area!

White Pass has many strengths that I am working to highlight. Our CTE programs like construction and welding are providing great experiences for students. We're rebuilding our FFA, Agriculture and Business programs along with our arts programs to provide a well-rounded experience for students. We work with Centralia College to provide Running Start opportunities for students and are planning to develop culinary and child development programs in the coming years. In addition to offering exciting classes, we want every single student to be involved in at least one after-school activity such as sports, FFA, FBLA, clubs, community service projects or the arts. Our combined elementary and high school winter concert brought the three communities together in December, and we want to do more things to involve families and the community. Great things are happening at White Pass! I have joined the scholarship committee and have learned a lot more about the amazing White Pass Scholarship Fund. I am proud to live and work in a community that places such value on the success of our young people. The financial support provided by this scholarship fund is changing lives and building futures for so many!

Financial Recap for 2023

Donations totaled \$58,675!

This includes individual donors, business sponsorship, foundation support and others.

Paid out \$68,194 in scholarships!

These payments were distributed to members of the Classes of 2021-2022 as they met criteria for certification, credits and GPA.

Legacy Fund grows to \$90,387!

Started in 2019 with \$46,000 our legacy fund continues to grow. Our goal is to achieve a level where annual interest will fund scholarships in perpetuity.

2024 White Pass Scholarship Committee

Susan Fortin, Chair

Van Anderson, Secretary

Sherry Brown, Treasurer

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