

10-10 Staff Newsletter

Partners in Learning

Carter praises teachers during annual address*Voices concerns over No Child Left Behind Act*

"Our teachers are working around the clock and on week-ends to improve student achievement. I would put our staff up against any in the nation," Superintendent **Rich Carter** said Wednesday night during his annual district State of Education address - *An Evening with the Superintendent*.

During the event sponsored by the WW County PTSA Council, Carter discussed requirements for the Class of 2008, including recent changes in legislation. He cited concerns over increased testing associated with the No Child Left Behind Act. He said he supports higher expectations and opportunities for all children to be successful learners, but is concerned choices for children may narrow because of the punitive measures associated with NCLB. He thanked the community for supporting a four-year levy and briefly described efforts being taken to craft a long-range facilities plan to transform district schools into 21st Century learning communities.



The 2004 Regular Session of the 58th Legislature convened on January 12th and adjourned on March 11. Information on legislation relating to education is available online at: www.k12.wa.us/LegisGov/2004Session.aspx

Online Information includes:

- Table of Bills that impact K-12 education
- Short Summaries of Major Bills:
 - Certificate of Academic Achievement and Assessments
 - Charter Schools
 - Sexual Misconduct

March
Extra**What's New?****Staff Achievement Grant Forms**

• Forms for the annual Staff Achievement Grant Program will be released next week. This program recognizes staff members who exemplify standards of excellence.

Each year up to five staff members (*certificated and classified*) are named recipients. This grant shall include up to five days of professional leave and up to \$1,000 for use in an approved growth activity. Forms must be returned to the Communications Department by Friday, April 30.

Staff Spotlight - April

• Look for Business Office Secretary **Susie Golden** as the April *Staff Spotlight* employee. Susie will be featured on cable television stations throughout April and her video will be posted on the district web site under the district news area.

★ Staff Profile - Count on us!

Susie Golden - Business Office**Job Title:** Secretary**Years in District:** 6**Favorite Band:** 80's (Journey, REO, Styx)**Favorite Food:** Mom's pot roast dinner**Birth place:** Walla Walla**Most memorable life experiences:** Holding each of my three newborn children.

Tell Us Something About Yourself That Nobody Else Would Know: I once trained to fight forest fires for the U.S. Forest Service.

High School: Wa-Hi - Class of 1986**Favorite Movie:** *Top Gun***Favorite Book:** *My kids' baby albums***Hobbies:** Quilting, scrapbooking, embroidery, gardening

Our Core Values are more than mere words; they're our business!

Quality

Integrity

Accountability

Respect

Courtesy

Paraeducators pass mandated assessment

Congratulations to **Connie Pinza** (Edison), **Karlyn Wilson** (Berney), **Stephanie Eastman** (Edison), **Susan Johnson** (Berney), **Vicki Johnson** (Berney), **Nancy Harwood** (Berney), **Jennifer Cisneros** (Wa-Hi), **Cynthia Lorang** (Wa-Hi) and **Mary Ellen Farr** (Berney) for successfully passing the federally mandated Paraeducator Assessment.

These staff members have now met the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, and are considered “highly qualified” paraeducators.

“Of course, we knew this long before you took this test, but we are so happy for you, and proud of you for doing the work required to pass this test,” said **Judy Peasley**, Title I/LAP Program Coordinator. “Bravo to each of you!”

Future Problem Solving teams qualify for state

The district will be well represented during next month’s Future Problem Solving state competition in Stanwood, WA. Four Wa-Hi teams, three Garrison teams, one Pioneer team qualified to compete.

The Future Problem Solving program is a year-long instructional program that uses a six-step process to solve hypothetical problems set in the future but based on social and scientific issues of today.

Special thanks to coaches **John Buissink** (Wa-Hi), **Beth Clearman** (Garrison), and **Debra Wright** (Pioneer) for their dedication and efforts preparing the teams for competition. Teams winning at state will advance to nationals in Kentucky in June.

Hundreds of books donated during community event

More than 200 books were given away to area children during the 2nd annual collaborative SEUSSENTENNIAL Read Across America community event. This event was held at the Reid Center on Whitman campus and was sponsored by Walla Walla Valley Education Association, the Walla Walla Public Library, and the Whitman College Student Community Outreach Group.

Special thanks to educators **Beth Clearman**, **Georgie Germain**, **Lisa Braddock**, **Diana Evenson**, **Margaret Yount**, **Diane Briggs**, **Toni Steele**, **Grace Ogoshi-Maher**, **Jen Howard**, **Kristen Harvey**, **Sandy April**, **Kim Schneidmiller**, and **Jackie George** and district support staff **Melissa Piceno**, **Gayle Harwood**, and **Kay Schisler** for their participation.

Volunteers greeted guests, read stories, made crafts and passed out books. More than 400 parents, students and community members attended the event.

Edison’s Withycombe selected region’s distinguished principal

Congratulations to Edison Principal **Nancy Withycombe** for being selected by her colleagues as a Washington State Regional Distinguished Principal.

Withycombe was selected based on her contributions to professional growth and development, educational excellence, community relations, and humanitarian activities. She will be recognized by peers during the Elementary School Principals Association of Washington Fall Conference October 25 in Wenatchee.

Dance Team repeats as State Champs

Congratulations to the Wa-Hi Dance Team for defending its state title during the WIAA 4A State Championships, Friday, March 19 in Yakima. The team’s performance earned it the highest score of any team in all events.

Special thanks to coaches **Amy Hisaw** and **Brittney McKeown** for all their hard work preparing the team for competition.

Wa-Hi JROTC students qualify for nationals

Following a family tradition dating back to their grandfather, WaHi JROTC cadets, and siblings, Junior Joey Criss and Freshmen Amber Criss qualified for next week’s National Interservice JROTC Marksmanship Championships at Fort Benning, GA.

Joey and Amber placed fourth and sixth respectively at the Army Western regional championships last month in Colorado Springs, CO. Both their father and grandfather competed on Wa-Hi JROTC Marksmanship teams.

Wa-Hi’s precision rifle team finished second at regionals and fourth nationally, finishing only five points behind the 3rd place team and earning a trip to the nationals.

In other news, the Precision and “Sporter” air rifle teams and the Sponsor Drill team and color guard are league champions in the JROTC Drill and Rifle Conference. They will take the #1 seeds into the Northwest JROTC Regional Championships Saturday, April 24 at Wa-Hi.

An estimated 35 schools and approximately 750 cadets will compete for championships in drill and marksmanship competition during the event at Wa-Hi. The meet is open to the public and free of charge.

In Our Thoughts

Our condolences to...

- Blue Ridge’s **Linda Boggs** on the loss of her father.
- Garrison’s **Sherry Orchard** on the loss of her grandfather.

Please take a moment to think about our colleagues during this difficult time. You have our support. Please e-mail Mark Higgins at: mhiggins@wwps.org if you would like to share condolences with our district family.

Walla Walla Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with all requirements of the ADA.

The **10/10 Staff Newsletter** is published three times per month by the Walla Walla Public Schools Communications Department.

To submit materials for this publication, contact Communications Director Mark Higgins:

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‘Keeping Our Team Informed’