

10-10 Staff Newsletter

Partners in Learning

Locke Praises Blue Ridge

"We're here to learn what you're doing at Blue Ridge so we can share your secrets of success with schools throughout the state."

Governor Gary Locke

Comments made during his visit to Walla Walla February 13 to name Blue Ridge the state's Reading School of the Month for February.



Governor Gary Locke takes time to sign a book for Blue Ridge Elementary 5th grade student Anthony Olivos during his visit to Walla Walla February 13 to honor Blue Ridge for being named the state's "Reading School of the Month" for February.

Olivos had limited English skills when he entered school in Kindergarten and now he reads at an 8th grade level.

**February
Extra****What's New?****Art Regier Volunteer of Year Forms**

• Forms for the annual Art Regier *Volunteer of the Year* program have been distributed. Please submit completed forms to the Communications Department by **March 19**. We only have a few nominations at this time. 2002-2003 recipients:

• **Carol Matson**

Wa-Hi Drama Program Costumer

• **Dan Reid**

Co-Chair, Community Facilities Committee

• **Albert and Laura Schueller**

Edison Elementary PTSA leaders

Staff Spotlight - March

• Look for Pioneer Science teacher **Dennis Bennett** as the March *Staff Spotlight* employee. Dennis will be featured on cable television stations throughout March and his video will be posted on the district web site under district news area.

Staff Profile - Count on Us!**Dennis Bennett - Pioneer Middle School**

Job Title: Science Teacher / Computer Coordinator

Birth place: Santa Anna, CA

Years in District: 11 years

High School: Gold Beach

Favorite Band: Alabama (country music)

Favorite Movie: *Ice Age*

Favorite Book: *Darwin's Black Box* by Michael Behe

Favorite Food: Chinese

Hobbies: RC airplanes, stunt kites, country dancing, archery, taxidermy, digital video, snorkeling, and scuba diving.

Most memorable life experiences: The three beautiful ladies in my life. The birth of my two daughters (Kati and Jess) and the day my wife, Kolleen, said I do. (But not necessarily in that order!)

Tell Us Something About Yourself That Nobody Else Would Know: I played the accordion when I was in 5th grade.



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

Quality

Integrity

Accountability

Respect

Courtesy

Sponsored by Walla Walla County PTSA Council

An Evening with the Superintendent*Annual District State of Education Address*

Rich Carter
Superintendent

March 24

Walla Walla High School Auditorium
6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Topics of Discussion...

- Education reform issues
- Comprehensive facilities study
- Community public education issues

*This is an excellent opportunity to have
open dialogue with Rich Carter.*

*Staff, students, parents and business leaders are
encouraged to attend. Translation technology and
translators will be available. Please join us!*

Wa-Hi WordMasters teams rank nationally

Wa-Hi students competing in the national WordMasters English competition recently placed in the top 20 among teams from throughout the United States.

Students participating in WordMasters are judged on their reading skills to better understand writing styles.

Wa-Hi's Blue division team (Pre-AP grades 9 and 10 English) placed **11th out of 121 teams nationally** in their division, and the Gold division (AP grades 11 and 12 English) placed **13th out of 153**.

Wa-Hi English Department Chair **Marcia Tomlin** is the WordMasters advisor. Congratulations Wa-Hi!

In Our Thoughts

Our condolences to...

- Transportation's **Judy Fowler** on the loss of her brother.
- Sharpstein's **Katie Oliver** on the loss of her father before Christmas break. He was also Edison's **Sara Erwin's** father-in-law.
- Edison's **Nancy Anhorn** on the loss of her grandfather.
- Edison's **Karen Jorgenson** on the loss of her mother.
- Edison's **Danietta Mertens** on the loss of her grandmother.
- Edison's **Dave Larson** and Berney's **Karen Larson** on the loss of their son. Dave's father also recently passed away.
- Edison's **Debbie Rowland-Smith** on the loss of her father.
- Edison's **Karen Fuller** on the loss of her mother.

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.

WALLA WALLA BRANCH
**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION
OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN**

2004 SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

Applications are now being accepted for the AAUW Scholarship, established to provide assistance to women who have completed at minimum one year of college (30 semester or 45 quarter credits) and desire to complete their undergraduate or post-graduate education. Please note that there must be a break of at least one year at some time during the college education process.

Applications will be accepted from women who meet the following requirements:

- 1) They must be able to provide transcripts from at least one year of college, followed by an interruption (time lapse) in education.
- 2) They must be residents of Walla Walla County, Columbia County, or the city of Milton-Freewater.

To request a scholarship application form, send an e-mail to amacd@bmi.net. Completed applications must be received by April 18, 2004. Send completed applications to **Alice MacDonald**, AAUW Scholarship Committee, 1429 Taumarson Rd., Walla Walla, WA 99362.

School retirees name mini-grant recipients

Edison Library-Media Specialist **Georgie Germain** and Special Programs Occupational Therapist **Nancy Kessler** were named recipients of the Walla Walla-Columbia School Retirees Association spring mini-grants of \$100.00 each.

Germain plans to use her mini-grant to purchase Accelerated Reader tests for new books added to the Edison Library. A wall mural enables Accelerated Reader students to use the points they earn to travel across and around the state of Washington.

Kessler intends to obtain two pieces of assistive technology and a teacher's manual with her mini-grant money. School Retirees Association appreciates the hard work and dedication of teachers. **Joyce Oakley** is the Mini-Grants Chairperson.

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

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'Keeping Our Team Informed'