

School board honors state softball champions

Blue Devils first in school history to take title



Players and coaches from Walla Walla High School's softball team brought their state championship trophy to Tuesday's school board meeting. Coach **Jerry Humphreys** praised the team for being the first in Wa-Hi and Big Nine history to win the state title.

The Walla Walla High School softball team defeated Marysville-Pilchuck 1-0 in the 4A championship game in Spokane this spring. The Blue Devils did not give up a single run in the state tournament. The team is expected to be strong again next year as all but three players are returning, including Big Nine, Tri-Cities Herald and Gatorade Player of the Year **Alyson Ambler**. Ambler has not lost a game as pitcher for the Blue Devils in her first three seasons with the team.

The team also placed near the top in academic achievement based on WIAA state ranking criteria.

Blue Ridge continues to improve

Blue Ridge Elementary Principal **Kim Doepker** reported to school board members students continue to make academic gains since the district volunteered to implement a school improvement plan after being placed on the state's lowest performing schools list in spring of 2010. Doepker credits the staff for embracing change and working as a team to improve. She thanked the school board for support.

This summer more than 200 students are involved in summer school. Blue Ridge kindergarten students will begin in early August to prepare for the upcoming school year.

Academic Gains

- 45 kindergarten students at or above grade level in reading (14 previously)
 - Math scores soar (based on Aimsweb math computation assessments)
 - 97% of kindergarten students reached or exceeded intermediate level - WLPT II (86% prior to dual language program)
 - 68 out of 73 students in grades 3-5 passed WLPT II writing test (level 3 or 4)
- (WLPT is the only assessment of reading, writing, speaking, and listening knowledge and skills used in Washington State for English language proficiency for English language learners)*

Keys to Improvement

- Improved communication and professional development and collaboration sessions
- Platooning (students rotate to different teachers for core content subjects)
- Dual language program
- Math coach (Jeremy Hubbard)

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of June 7, 2011 board meeting, personnel, out-of-state travel, and June 21, 2011 accounts payable and payroll, May Financial report and 2011-2012 Highly Capable grant application.

Personnel Report

Employment - (Classified)

Alex Escalante, Para-Educator, Walla Walla High School

Ashia Jordana, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge Head Start/ECEAP Preschool

Kate Keyes, Para-Educator, Sharpstein

Erica Sayers, Para-Educator (temporary), Sharpstein

Sonia Soto, Para-Educator, Sharpstein

Sara Strickland, Library/Media Technician, Pioneer

Yasmin Torres, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge

Quote of the Week

My parents told me, "Finish your dinner. People in China and India are starving." I tell my daughters, "Finish your homework. People in India and China are starving for your job."

Thomas L. Friedman

Resignation/Retirement

(Certificated) **Carlos Granados**, 5th Grade, Edison, 1 year

(Classified) **Kristen Coffeen**, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge, 1 year

Leave of Absence

(Certificated) **Margo Piver**, Special Education, Walla Walla High School, 16 years

• Margo will be on a half-time leave of absence to serve as the new Walla Walla Valley Education Association President beginning with the 2011-2012 school year.

Out-of-State Travel

Terry Olson to attend Amatrol Equipment Training in Jeffersonville, IN (Funding: Vocational)

Jesse Torres to attend Kennedy Space Station in Orlando, FL (Funding: Staff Achievement Grant)

Mark Mebes to attend NRA Shooting Coach School in Sacramento, CA (Funding: Vocational)

District prepares Strategic Plan "draft"

Superintendent **Mick Miller** is organizing a public meeting Thursday, June 23 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the district office to obtain community input on the district's new strategic plan. Staff are encouraged to attend as well. Below are the key elements of the "draft" plan.

The district is making progress on the report and Superintendent Miller is expected to have it ready for consideration and approval at the July 19 school board meeting. **Susan Newton** of Developmental Strategies Plus is serving as the project facilitator.

Mission: Support all students to reach their potential and provide a great place for people to work

Vision: Excellence in every classroom

Values:

Quality	Integrity	Accountability	Respect
Courtesy	Diversity	Innovation	

Goal 1: Create a learning environment which meets the needs of individual learners and educates the whole child

Goal 2: Create a positive and fulfilling work environment

Goal 3: Create and build trust among our students, staff, parents and community

Goal 4: Create an efficient management operations with adequate resources

Blue Devil Athletic Development program "BDAD"

- June 28 to August 4

- Improve Overall Athletic Ability for All Sports!

- For Boys and Girls Grades 5-12

- June 28 to August 4

- Forms online (district and Wa-Hi web sites)

Weekly Schedule (Monday - Thursday)

- Session 1: 8:00 - 9 a.m. (for incoming 9th-12th grade students)

- Session 2: 9-10 a.m. (for incoming 5th-8th grade students)

- Session 3: 10-11 a.m. (for incoming 9th-12th grade students)

Instructors: Eric Hisaw & Amy Hisaw

Location - Wa-Hi Weight Room & Gym

Cost: \$30 pre-registered or \$35 at door

Note: Students need a medical release and a parent permission form, which they can obtain at the Wa-Hi Athletic Office any time or at the door.

Information: Contact Eric Hisaw at 527-3020 or by e-mail at: ehisaw@wwps.org or Amy Hisaw at ahisaw@wwps.org