



# Special Programs

Designed for the Bilingual, Headstart/ECEAP,  
Special Education and Title I/LAP Staff  
in the Walla Walla Public Schools

December 2003



## Walla Walla class teaches special-ed students valuable. . . Life Lessons

Walla Walla Lunch at the "White House" is quite an orderly affair, down to the personalized placemats of laminated construction paper with shapes of plate, glass, napkin and silverware drawn in to help students remember what goes where.

"Can you see anything that's missing on the placemats?" Special education teacher Barbara Fryhling asks student Marc Ruley, 18, as he sets the table for lunch.

"Napkins!" Marc says.

"That's right," Fryhling says. "This is our house-school," says Nicole Goddard, 17, busy serving herself and her classmates.

"Would you like me to pass the mustard?" She asked. Marc accepts and thanks her. Then he stands and squirts a dollop of mustard onto the plate of Natasha Craik, 19. "Do you want more, or are you OK?" Marc asks. "I like you," Natasha replies, smiling.

For the special-education students in this small house near Prospect Point Elementary, cooking, serving and cleaning up their own lunch is only part of learning how to handle day-to-day life. The food is provided by the the school cafeteria and the students purchase a regular school lunch. Cheryl Zuver and her staff have been extremely supportive of meeting the needs of the program.

It's important to learn how to make and keep friends, too. Since the start of the school year, the Walla Walla School District's Student Transition and Employment Program has been a home away from home for these students where they can learn the skills they'll need for independent living.

"We do puzzles, drawing and read, and we clean the bathroom, wash tables, eat and brush our teeth," says Susanna Walker, 20, explaining the curriculum. "I wash the dishes clean--no germs inside."

"These students have moderate disabilities, ranging from mental retardation and autism to speech and health problems," Fryhling said. "But that doesn't mean they can't learn the skills to live independently."

"The ultimate goal is to have them leave the high school with paid employment," she said.

Students are allowed to participate up to age 21, giving high school graduates a chance to hone the skills they can't learn in a classroom.

Two years ago, Fryhling moved to Walla Walla from Yelm, where she'd taught a similar program out of an apartment. When she learned the our District owned the little house at 355 Reser Road, she developed a proposal that was presented by Betty Schubert, Special Programs Director, to the school board last spring for their approval.

So far, the students in the program appear to like it well enough to give it its own name --one that has a certain ring to it, Fryhling said. "They call it the "White House," she said, "they feel it's their house."

Charts on the walls mark each student's schedule and list the chores he or she is expected to do that day. On this particular day, vacuuming the living room is the task of Nicole Goddard, 18. Marc will prepare lunch, and Natasha, Susanna and Nicole are working on study skills.

Clipped to the board on the wall is a list of dishes for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner, with newspaper coupons of the necessary ingredients taped beside it. "It's a way to learn how to match pictures with words, as well as a way to learn about shopping.

There are also rules for students to follow for "friendship making," including good grooming, smiling, making eye contact, and complementing each other.

"He's blossomed," said Vicki Ruley, Marc's mother. "The program has played to her son's strengths," she said -- "his love of cleaning and working outdoors."

"They're learning how to function on their own," says Becky Zaro, a substitute parapro, before heading out to the bus that takes Marc and Keri to their afternoon jobs at the Jonathan M. Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center in Walla Walla.



Excerpts from the story written by Jeff St. John, Tri-City Herald staff writer

## District Committee Meetings

### ESL/Bilingual

\*\*\*ESL Bldg. Coordinators  
January 26th, 3:30-4:30  
Sharpstein's Library

\*\*\*Bilingual Teachers  
February 3rd, 3:30-4:30  
Sharpstein, S. Van Donge's

### Title I/LAP Meetings

Holiday Tea  
The Title I/LAP "Holiday Tea"  
will be in December 17th, 2:30 -  
3:00 in the District's Board Room

\*\*\*Title I/LAP  
EIR Session 5  
January 12th, 3:30 - 5:00  
Sharpstein Library



### Special Education Staff Meetings

\*\*\*Life Skills Teachers:  
January 22nd, 3:30-4:30  
D. Bailey's Rm C 41@ Pioneer

\*\*\*Preschool Teachers Mtg:  
January 23rd, 1:00 - 3:00  
K. Bense's Office @ Bl Ridge

\*\*\*Elem. Sp. Ed. Staff:  
January 21st, 3:15 - 5:15  
WA-HI Auditorium

\*\*\*Middle & High Sp Ed Staff:  
January 21st, 7:45 am - 9:00 am  
Wa-Hi-L. Bertinelli's RM A-36

Have a  
Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year!



## District Workshops

Roles of a Paraprofessional  
January 6th  
District Meeting Room  
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm  
Core Competency #2, 9, 10

Research Based Vocabulary  
& Comprehension Strategies  
January 13 & 15th  
District Meeting Room  
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Brain 101  
January 29th  
District Meeting Room  
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Classroom & Behavior  
Management  
February 3rd  
District Meeting Room  
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

Core Competency #6, 11

Classroom Management  
February 26th  
District Meeting Room  
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

### Books Of The Month

"Words Their Way"  
Word Study for Phonics, Vocabulary,  
and Spelling Instruction.  
by: Donald R. Bear, Marcia Invernizzi,  
Shane Templeton, Francine Johnston

"When Adolescents  
Can't Read"  
Methods & Materials that Work ...  
(From Reading Research  
To Practice)  
by: Mary E. Curtis &  
Ann Marie Longo

"Starting Out Right"  
A Guide to Promoting  
Children's Reading Success  
by: The National Research Council  
(Specific recommendations from  
America's leading reserchers on how  
to help children become successful  
readers.)

Stop by our Special Programs  
Library and you will find the above  
mentioned books along with many  
other very interesting resource  
books ..

## Regional Workshops

OSPI Conference  
\*\*\*\*1/21st-22nd  
Spokane, WA

Read Well  
"Level K Training"  
\*\*\*\*1/30-31/04  
Federal Way, WA  
\*\*\*\*2/27-28/04  
Portland, OR

Read Well  
"Level One Training"  
\*\*\*\*1/30-31/04  
Federal Way, WA  
\*\*\*\*2/27-28/04  
Portland, OR

To register call  
800-459-4655



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or call (800) 394-7537.

### Our Director & Coordinators

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