



FEB. 9 LEVY Educational Programs and Operations

Levy Dollars help fund the following:

- Extra teachers to reduce class size
- Music & PE specialists
- Health Clinicians
- 6th and 7th period course offerings at Wa-Hi
- Sports, music, drama and FFA
- Highly capable program/Explorers
- Technology (Chromebooks, training)

Summary of 2016 Levy Proposal

2017 - \$11,234,122 (projected rate \$3.70 per \$1,000)
2018 - \$11,458,504 (projected rate \$3.73 per \$1,000)
2019 - \$11,687,674 (projected rate \$3.77 per \$1,000)
2020 - \$11,921,427 (projected rate \$3.81 per \$1,000)

These rates are based on per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Proven Track Record

Walla Walla Public Schools has a proven track record of holding the line on replacement levy rates. Below is a historical look at recent replacement levy rates approved by Walla Walla voters.

Year	Projected Cost	Actual Cost
2012	\$3.83	\$3.59
2013	\$3.64	\$3.65
2014	\$3.70	\$3.69
2015	\$3.75	\$3.71
2016	\$3.81	\$3.66 (est.)

These rates are based on per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

Walla Walla Public Schools

Green Park embraces trauma sensitive approach



Gina Yonts

Each year, more students are coming to school with a long list of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)*. Research reveals staggering proof childhood trauma has an impact on the ability to learn. Green Park Elementary is being proactive by taking steps to better support students living in trauma. Staff conduct weekly lessons at all grade levels through the social/emotional learning curriculum *Second Steps* and *Steps to Respect*. They also plan daily classroom meetings to build community and sense of belonging. The entire staff participated in studies on *Help for Billy*, by Dr. Heather Forbes and *Managing Emotional Mayhem*, by Dr. Becky Bailey. Green Park has implemented Conscious Discipline (consciousdiscipline.com) practices in K-3 grade classrooms. Conscious Discipline teaches educators to respond to daily conflict by transforming it into a learning opportunity.

"We have seen a reduction in out-of-school suspensions, due to behavior and misconduct," said Principal Gina Yonts. "We are looking at the disruption as something that is stress driven and

are trying to identify the stressors so we can help."

Green Park is also focused on the reinforcement of PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) school-wide. Kindergarten through second grade classrooms have worked intentionally on self-regulation strategies to help children learn the skills of self-calming and problem solving, according to Yonts. Conflict mediation to assist with students having a voice and being able to help be a part of solving problems with their peers is stressed in grades three to five. Strides are being made to have teams in place to support the development and implementation of a support plan for struggling students to be successful in school.

"We established Student Success Room space that is comfortable," said Yonts. "We have different lighting to encourage students to remain calm, problem-solve, relieve stress."

Green Park is doing its part to adjust to a changing world so all students have the necessary support to be successful.

** See more about ACEs at: www.acesstudy.org.*

"Our world is changing and our student population is coming to us needing more support and explicitly taught skills around self-regulation."
-Gina Yonts, Principal

New board member excited to support students

The newest member of the board, elected in November 2015, Derek Sarley is a communications consultant who for 20 years has worked with clients in many industries, including education. He and his wife Erin, a professor in Psychology at Whitman College, have two young daughters.

Sarley is a native Pennsylvanian who has also lived in Arizona, California, Washington DC and Texas, where he graduated from Rice University. Since settling in Walla Walla, he has been active with the WWPS Community Facilities Task Force and the independent group, Citizens for Schools, working to find solutions to the district's building needs. His term ends in 2019.

District Committees:

- Curriculum Advisory
- Instructional Materials
- Certificated Negotiations
- District Calendar
- WWVEA Liaison

"We had been here about six months when the \$48 million Wa-Hi bond failed. That was a catalyzing event. I've been very focused on the schools since."
-Derek Sarley



Board of Directors:

Dr. David Hampson
Ruth Ladderud
Cindy Meyer
Derek Sarley
Sam Wells

BOARD



Focus on Education

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Walla Walla Public Schools

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Walla Walla Public Schools

City honors Prospect Point teacher



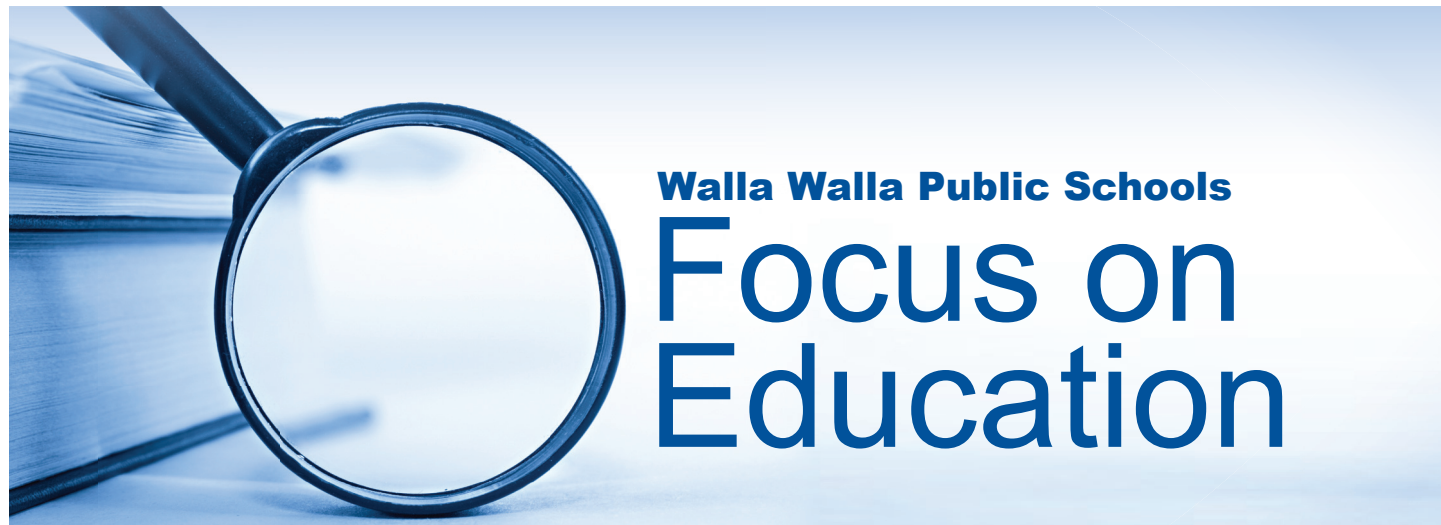
Mayor Jerry Cummins proclaimed November 9, 2015 as David Parodi Day in Walla Walla. Parodi was named a recipient of the prestigious City of Walla Walla Civic Award. Parodi is a 5th grade teacher and has been employed by the district since 1992. Cummins honored Parodi during an all school assembly. His wife Denise, a second grade teacher at Berney Elementary, and his daughters Denali and Daria were present during the surprise announcement.

"He received this award because of his unselfish contributions to the citizens of Walla Walla in volunteer and civic affairs," said Cummins.

Walla Walla Public Schools
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Remember to Vote!
Feb. 9, 2016

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Musical interest prompts neuroscience exploration

Walla Walla High School Junior Hannah Cabasco has been considered one of the state's top musicians since her freshman year. She plays the piano and saxophone. However, it is her clarinet skills earning her state awards. She was also placed in the Interlochen World Youth Wind Symphony following an audition. Hannah attended the summer music camp in Interlochen, Michigan for six weeks, performing in concerts with renowned composers and conductors. Hannah, who has a 4.0 GPA and is cur-

"I want to learn more how music affects the brain."

-Hannah Cabasco

rently taking four Advanced Placement courses, also loves science. She plans to double major in music and neuroscience at a private Liberal Arts college.

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

Quality
Integrity
Accountability
Respect
Courtesy
Innovation
Diversity

Hollywood costume creator finds peace helping students

Laurie Haluska is inspired to teach underprivileged students how to sew. Growing up in an abusive family and losing her brothers to substance abuse and suicide, Laurie turned her attention to beginning an afterschool sewing and costuming program. She has been working in the industry for 35 years, including stints on Return of the Jedi, Born on the Fourth of July and Lonesome Dove. Haluska moved to Walla Walla 12 years ago after living in cities across the nation. For many years, she worked out of her in-home design studio. Now she operates at her own professional studio, Laila Design, near downtown Walla Walla. This is the site of her afterschool program where she took the lead in helping Lincoln High School students design their costumes for the school's award winning Star Wars parade entry. She is also assisting with the costumes for Lincoln's spring play "Alice in Wonderland."

"Even if the kids don't want to do this for a living, it's a creative art form that can give them fulfillment and fun," Haluska said. "My goal is to make this program available to any kids who want or need it, regardless of their ability to pay."

Haluska set-up a fundraiser through You Caring.com to help fund her afterschool program. Thus far she has raised more than \$8000.

"So many of us are shaped by the tragedies we have experienced," Haluska said. "And the service that we later actively do, as a way of giving back to life, comes from the deepest heartbreaks."

To learn more about the afterschool sewing program or to make a donation, contact her at: haluskadesign@gmail.com or (509) 301-2758.



Laurie Haluska of Laila Design Studio in Walla Walla adjusts a Star Wars costume for the Lincoln High School parade entry.

"I feel very blessed to have found a career that feeds my soul and I would like to assist any young adults who come my way."

-Laurie Haluska

Former accountant says kids come first

Salvador Hernandez dedicates career to helping students reduce barriers

At age 22, Garrison Middle School Intervention Specialist Salvador Hernandez had just finished college and was working as an accountant in Mexico City. When his big brother Javier asked him to come to America in search of more opportunities, Salvador packed his bags and never looked back. He worked in agriculture and did odd jobs once he arrived in America.

After settling in for a few years, he went back to college here to advance his education. This opened the door to take an Intervention Specialist position at Garrison Middle School. Twenty-one years later, Hernandez continues to help shape the lives of students by serving as their role model. He visits the homes of students who need extra support, helps coordinate medical needs and works with teachers to communicate better with students and families. Hernandez is also an accomplished musician and entertainer who often performs in the community.



Garrison Middle School Intervention Specialist Salvador Hernandez is committed to helping students overcome barriers and build resilience so they can be college and career ready.

SEA-TECH saves energy costs



Pacific Power featured SEA-TECH in a case study listing it as an exemplary example of an energy efficient commercial building. The Cool Roof design helps lessen demand on the air conditioning units. SEA-TECH also utilizes energy efficient heating systems and modern controls to trim usage and costs, according to the study.

PHOTO L-R: Dennis Matson (SEA-TECH Director) , Dr. Bill Jordan (Superintendent) and Bill Clemens (Pacific Power). Photo by - Travis Wilton

Vets honor American Education Week



Members of the AMVETS Post 1111 (Don Schack, Richard Bardsley, Phillip Shivell, Sr.) performed colors at Sharpstein Elementary during a celebration event for American Education Week. Roberta Bardsley sang the National Anthem. School Board President Sam Wells (2015) shared an historical account of American Education Week with students.

No changes to Wa-Hi schedule



Ted Cohan

The Sleep Study Committee will not bring a recommendation for a later start at Walla Walla High School following months of study. The group was studying an option to start first period at 8:30 a.m. and end school at 4 p.m. Currently first period begins at 7:30 a.m. and school is out at 3 p.m.

"We discovered clearly during this process at least 50 percent of our students already start their day at 8:30 a.m." said Executive Director of Business Services Ted Cohan who chaired the committee. "The tremendous community support we have allows us to offer a seven period day at Wa-Hi and much more flexibility in scheduling classes."

Nearly 1400 people completed the survey asking what schedule was preferred. Approximately 70 percent wanted the schedule to remain the same. The district also held community and staff meetings. The messages against making a change were similar. The primary concerns of changing the schedule centered around less time in the evening for homework, student employment conflicts, extra-curricular activities disruptions and missed class time for those involved in activities.

Hannah Cabasco - continued from page 1

Presently she is considering Oberlin College, St. Olaf College, Bard College, and a few others. She plans college visits this spring.

"It's hard to find a college to do both majors," Cabasco said. "Many places will have a very good science program but are limited when it comes to music. I'm looking for a program that has opportunities to grow in both areas."

She is not certain where this college academic path will take her, but she says it is a passion to learn more about how music affects the brain, especially in child development and later in life.

"I think it would be interesting to conduct research in this area," she said. "I've looked into careers in music therapy, but right now I'm just exploring my options."

Hannah is focused on developing strong academic skills to support her future goals. Her class load includes Advanced Placement Biology, Chemistry and Psychology.

She credits family support as a key to her success. Her father Tony directs Admissions for Whitman College and her mother Megan is a teacher at Pioneer Middle School.

"My parents have always supported me and talked about the importance of working hard in school," Hannah said. "They have so much experience for me to draw upon."

Hannah is also active in athletics. She competes on the school's cross country and track teams. She has younger siblings and says it's important to set a good example.

Walla Walla Public Schools...

Winter update...

2016 Replacement Levy

Voters will be asked to consider renewing the district's Educational Programs and Operations Levy February 9. This is not a new tax, but a continuation of local operating funds for the district. Voters approved the 2012 levy by nearly 65 percent. The voter approved 2012 levy expires in December 2016 and this levy would replace it. Proposed rates to taxpayers are similar to those approved in 2012.

Facilities Committee

The district is also continuing to study its facilities under the leadership of local business owner Paul Schneidmiller and Executive Director of Business Services Ted Cohan. They are identifying priorities and studying costs. The district will not take a bond proposal to the community this school year. Our goal is to have a long-range plan developed by the end of the school year.

Superintendent Search

The search for a new superintendent is well underway. The position closes Jan. 28. Semifinalist interviews will be conducted in February with finalist interviews scheduled for March. The public will have opportunities to attend and share their feedback.

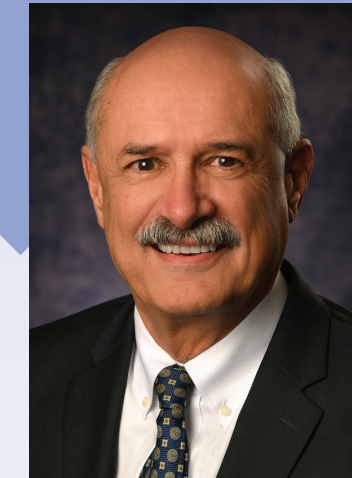
It is a privilege to serve as your superintendent of schools. Thank you again for making quality education programs a priority in Walla Walla.



The replacement levy on the ballot Feb. 9 funds approximately 20 percent of the district's General Fund budget. This percentage includes more than \$3 million in Levy Equalization dollars the district would not receive if the levy did not pass.

Art programs, including Drama, Music and Fine Arts, receive levy funding. Ballots mail to voters Jan. 21.

Learn more online at: www.wgps.org



Superintendent's Message

Walla Walla Public Schools mails the Focus on Education newsletter to the homes of residents quarterly. This publication serves as a platform to keep our community informed and connected to the school district.

We value your involvement and support. Please contact me directly if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for making public education a priority in Walla Walla.

William L. Jordan

Dr. Bill Jordan
Superintendent
(509) 527-3000
bjordan@wwps.org

Levy = ...local programs!



Fall 2015 results...

This fall, parents, staff, students and community members had an opportunity to participate via this online learning process -- ThoughtExchange.

This latest engagement centered on how the community defines a quality education.

Here's what we discovered:

Question 1:

What are some examples of experiences your child or a child you know has had at Walla Walla Public Schools that illustrates what quality education means to you?

Top Five Responses: (Quality education experiences)

1. Quality teachers and staff
2. Individualized instruction
3. Extracurricular offerings
4. Curriculum and programming
5. Whole child education

Question 2:

What are some opportunities you feel would contribute to quality education that are not available for students right now?

Top Five Responses: (Areas for new opportunities)

1. Facilities and infrastructure
2. Vocational and experiential learning
3. Extracurricular offerings
4. Testing vs. learning
5. Technology

Full Results:

For a complete listing of the results, by school, visit the district's website at: www.wgps.org and click on the ThoughtExchange logo.