

10-10 Staff Newsletter

Partners in Learning

School Board Meeting • October 15

Pioneer focuses on basics

As state and federal pressure mounts to improve math and reading scores, Pioneer Middle School is narrowing its focus to improve student achievement, according to a report to school board members last night from Principal **Lyla Reibel**.



Lyla Reibel

Pioneer students posted terrific gains in reading and writing during last Spring's WASL test cycle, but witnessed its mathematics scores miss accountability goals.

Reibel said teachers are working hard and doing a good job. She said they are interviewing 8th grade students who took the WASL last spring to help identify areas to improve. She cited teacher collaboration within and

between grade levels as one proven strategy being used to make gains. Pioneer students in need will also be participating in mandated afterschool math tutorials.

Seventh grade Language Arts teacher **Connie Taylor-Randall**, who is also pursuing her administrator credentials this school year, also presented school improvement plan details. She said they are providing more feedback to students regarding their writing skills, using portfolios to chart writing assignments and offering technology to help enhance student interest in writing.

Assistant Principal **Josh Almy** also provided support during the presentation.

Reibel thanked her staff for all their efforts and dedication.

Team goal setting helps chart Berney School Improvement plan

After posting impressive gains during last Spring's WASL test cycle, Berney staff will continue efforts to improve math and reading scores according to Principal **David Talley** during last night's school improvement plan report to school board members.



David Talley

Fifth grade teacher **Gina Yonts**, who is also pursuing her administrator credentials this school year, and learning specialist **Susan Meiner** joined Talley in delivering the improvement plan.

Talley said resources will focus on supporting the instructional setting. He said the staff has done an excellent job using assessment data to determine the best learning plan for each student. He said afterschool programs, team building exercises and individual goal setting will enhance student achievement this year.

Yonts discussed activities the school's Leadership Team will focus on this year. She said several school-wide activities are planned, including quarterly goal reflection designed to track progress. She also said Berney will continue to support a master schedule which places instructional support during core instructional time.

Teacher collaboration and weekly common planning time will also be used to improve student achievement. They said they are excited about the gains they made last year and are setting even higher expectations this year.

**Edison McTeacher Night**

Edison teacher **Kay Barga** keeps the burgers and fries moving during last night's *McTeacher Night*.

Edison staff served dinner from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Eastgate McDonalds as part of a staff fund raiser. Edison earned 15 percent of the profits to support its Accelerated Reader program. Hundreds of people showed up to support their school.

In other School Board meeting business...

October 15 • Board Meeting

Board members:

- approved October 1, 2002 board meeting minutes; Personnel and Out-of-State travel reports; Head Start Quality Improvement Plan; Call for Bids: Prospect Point Portable; Basic Ed. Application; Payment of October Bills and Payroll.

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

Quality

Integrity

Accountability

Respect

Courtesy

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(*Certificated*) - **Laura Bertinelli**, Special Education Teacher, Wa-Hi
(*Classified*) - **Jeanne Quistberg**, Food Service Assistant, Wa-Hi
Cory Fish, Computer Technician/Web Developer, Technology

• Resignations/Retirements

(*Certificated*) -
(*Classified*) - **Mark Scott** (termination), Custodian, Garrison, 1 year

• Out-of-State Travel

Elaine Bluhm to Employee Benefit Seminar in San Diego, CA (Funding - Prof. Growth & Business Office travel)
Mike Martin to Agricultural topic in LaGrande, OR (Funding - No Cost to District)
Jeff Weeks to NASSP Conference in San Diego, CA (Funding - Prof. Growth)

Quote of the Week

"We must adjust to changing times and still hold to unchanging principles."

Jimmy Carter

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WASL scores lagging behind goals

Results of the Spring 2002 Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) tests indicate Walla Walla Public Schools students are making positive strides, but much work still remains for the district to meet tough Education Reform goals, according to a report from ESEA/Certification Administrator **Len Taruscio**.

Fourth grade students made gains in two of the assessment areas (*writing and math*); seventh grade students showed gains in reading, writing and math; and tenth grade students made significant gains in writing only.

Taruscio said students at all three grade levels fell short of meeting the district's reading and math accountability goals. He said improving math scores is the greatest challenge.

The WASL measures student achievement of the state's rigorous academic standards in reading, writing, mathematics and other core subjects.

Growth Trends

- Number of students not meeting standards in any of the four content areas went **down** in Spring 2002
- More students taking Spring 2002 WASL test met at least **three of four** standards (44% at 10th grade)
- Writing scores went up across the district in Spring 2002

Go to the **Schools** button on the district website for a complete listing of WASL test results: www.wwps.org

Grade 4 Spring 2002

(Percentages listed reflect students meeting or exceeding the standards)

Subject	District	State
Mathematics	40.9%	51.8%
Reading	59.9%	65.6%
Writing	39.4%	49.5%
Listening	66.3%	66.6%

Grade 7 Spring 2002

(Percentages listed reflect students meeting or exceeding the standards)

Subject	District	State
Mathematics	23%	30.4%
Reading	45.2%	44.5%
Writing	61.6%	53%
Listening	83.3%	83.6%

Grade 10 Spring 2002

(Percentages listed reflect students meeting or exceeding the standards)

Subject	District	State
Mathematics	32.9%	37.3%
Reading	56.6%	59.2%
Writing	50.3%	54.3%
Listening	80.4%	81.8%

Board meeting serves as final tune up for FFA issues team

Wa-Hi's Future Farmers of America *Issues Team* hope last night's tune up in front of school board members will build upon their first place finish at state last spring as they brace for nationals later this month.

The *Issues Team* debated a local issue involving the placement of wineries in Agriculture Only areas. Team members Melissa

Bughi, Kristen Collins, Danielle Gray, Kelsay Pease, Bonnie Williams, Mitch Frazier, and Kyle Williams will lead the team against the nation's best in Louisville, KY.

Wa-Hi sent 29 students to the FFA state finals last spring where they captured three state titles and a second place finish.

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'Keeping Our Team Informed'