

## 10-10 Staff Newsletter

Partners in Learning

**Board to conduct work session to discuss levy**

School board members will conduct their first public work session for the upcoming 2004 Maintenance and Operations Levy, Tuesday, Oct. 7 at 6:00 p.m. in the district office.

Board members will discuss setting the levy rate and selecting an election date. Board members are also considering a three-year levy. Historically Walla Walla has proposed a two-year levy, but many districts - *including College Place which recently passed a four-year levy* - are moving to three or four year levies.

Superintendent **Rich Carter** said some of the advantages of running three or four year levies include: saving election costs; more efficient and effective budgeting; stable tax rates; saving time and energy of community members and school district staff.

M&O Levy dollars represent more than 13 percent of the district's general operating budget.

**District begins new collaboration plan**

Deputy Superintendent **Judy Reault** updated school board members on the district's new teacher collaboration plan. She thanked our teachers for their leadership and commitment to students.

She said the plan has received few complaints from parents and staff members have voiced their praise. Reault said school principals will work with staff and PTA representatives to communicate what is happening during collaboration time.

Garrison Assistant Principal **Gina Yonts** reported planning activities occurring at her school. She said staff are tracking their actions to help maintain accountability efforts and improve communication.

**School Board Meeting Recap • September 16****Reault calls WASL results 'banner year'**

"This is a banner year for Walla Walla Public Schools and we're extremely proud of our staff and students for their efforts," Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction **Dr. Judy Reault** said to school board members last night as she reviewed results of the Spring 2003 Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL).

District scores, up in many categories, indicate Walla Walla Public Schools are providing all students with the academic knowledge and critical thinking skills needed to succeed in school and beyond.

Walla Walla Public Schools fourth grade students made gains in math, reading, and writing; seventh grade students showed gains in math, reading, writing, and listening; and tenth grade students improved their writing scores.

"Our promising practices of improved instruction, clear expectations, professional development and targeted assistance for students with specific needs are making the difference," Reault said.

In the past year, Washington state schools have experienced increased

accountability demands. The 2002 reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, commonly referred to as "No Child Left Behind," expands the federal government's role in ensuring that every student succeeds academically. This law requires all schools, school districts and states to show that all students are meeting achievement targets in reading and math. Students in nine subgroups must meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets each year or the district faces federal sanctions, including possible funding losses.

**Walla Walla Public Schools has been identified for not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) during the 2002-2003 school year. Here are the specific reasons:**

- *Wa-Hi did not meet AYP in Special Education and Hispanic for reading and math;*
- *Garrison did not meet AYP in Hispanic for reading and math;*
- *When all the subgroup populations are combined, the district did not meet AYP in special education reading and math at all three grade levels; and*
- *The district did not meet AYP in 4<sup>th</sup> grade bilingual reading, and 7<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> Hispanic reading and math.*

**In other School Board meeting business...**

September 16 • Board Meeting

**Board members:**

- approved Sept. 2, 2003 board meeting minutes; Personnel and Out-of-State travel reports; Award of bid for district copiers; WWVEA and PSE Negotiated Agreements; Payment of September bills and payroll.
- approved district's annual insurance premium.

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

Quality

Integrity

Accountability

Respect

Courtesy

## Personnel Report

### • New Hires

(Certificated) - NONE TO REPORT

(Classified) - NONE TO REPORT

### • Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated) - NONE TO REPORT

(Classified) - **Gail Anderson**, Director of Preschool Programs, 17 years (to retire Oct. 21, 2003)

**Sandi Swanson**, Director of Food Services, 28 years (to retire at the end of the 2003-2004 school year)

**Magdalena Gutierrez**, Family Service Worker, Blue Ridge, 2 months

### • Leave of Absence

(Classified) - **Sue Smith**, Para-Educator, Berney - (one year leave of absence)

### • Out-of-State Travel

**Linda Boggs** to State NDR Award Ceremonies in Washington DC (funding - Title I and Principal's Travel)

**Bob Gregoire** to English for Academic Purposes Level II - Conference in Fullerton, CA (funding - Title III)

**Peggy Willcuts** to NSRC - Smithsonian Advisory Board Meeting in Washington DC (funding - LASER - no cost to district)

### Quote of the Week

"People must believe in each other, and feel that it can be done and must be done; in a way they are enormously strong. We must keep up each other's courage."

Vincent Van Gogh

### Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) 2003 Results

#### Grade 4 Spring 2003

(Percentages listed reflect students meeting or exceeding the standards)

Subject	District	State
Mathematics	53.2% (41.1% - 2002)	55.2%
Reading	68.4% (60.2 - 2002)	66.7%
Writing	48.1% (39.6 - 2002)	53.6%
Listening	64.5% (66.7 - 2002)	65.8%

#### Grade 7 Spring 2003

(Percentages listed reflect students meeting or exceeding the standards)

Subject	District	State
Mathematics	32.0% (23 % - 2002)	36.8%
Reading	46.9% (45.2% - 2002)	47.9%
Writing	61.9% (61.6% - 2002)	54.6%
Listening	89.1% (83.3% - 2002)	86.9%

#### Grade 10 Spring 2003

(Percentages listed reflect students meeting or exceeding the standards)

Subject	District	State
Mathematics	32.6% (33.6% - 2002)	39.4%
Reading	50.3% (57.7% - 2002)	59.9%
Writing	53.7% (51.2% - 2002)	60.4%
Listening	71.5% (81.9% - 2002)	75.8%

Go to the *Schools* button on the district website for a listing of all Walla Walla Public Schools WASL results.

**www.wwps.org**

### Hall has experience of a lifetime thanks to Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program

An experience of a lifetime is how Blue Ridge bilingual first grade teacher **Brenda Hall** described her Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program to school board members. The internationally known program, which was established in 1946, opened the door for Hall to travel to Uruguay this summer for a six week learning adventure.

Hall and six fellow Americans were the first to visit Uruguay through the Fulbright program. She interacted with in-country teachers and even helped work with students during her stay. She said conditions are poor in Uruguay compared to America.

"I have more resources in my one classroom than they have in their entire school," Hall said. She noted class sized averaged 40 students per teacher.

She thanked the school board for supporting the program and encouraged other teachers to participate.

### Grimes recognized for ESEA series

Superintendent **Rich Carter** recognized Walla Walla Union Bulletin reporter **Cathy Grimes** for her work on the Elementary and Secondary Education Act - *No Child Left Behind* articles. Grimes wrote 18 articles and interviewed more than 70 people to complete her work.

Carter said her series is receiving statewide acclaim from educators. He said copies of the articles are being made for administrators and staff.

The **10/10 Staff Newsletter** is published three times per month by the Walla Walla Public Schools Communications Department.

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**'Keeping Our Team Informed'**