

## OSPI monitors praise district staff during this week's Consolidated Program Review

A team of monitors from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) visited the district Tuesday to conduct an on-site Consolidated Program Review.

The monitoring team, representing several program areas receiving federal funding including Special Education, Migrant, Title One and Safe Schools, interviewed principals and department directors, made site visits and provided a summary overview of their findings.

"They were very complimentary of the district's staff for making progress in complying with all the changes we've seen from the federal government in the past few years," Special Programs Director **Betty Schubert** said. "We all know how *No Child Left Behind* has changed the rules for public education."

The monitoring team did find some areas in need of improvement and will detail those for the district to work on. It has been four years since the district underwent a similar review.

Special thanks to Special Programs and Curriculum Departments staff for all their extra work preparing for this intensive review.



Betty Schubert

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**Betty Schubert**

Special Programs Director

## April Extra

### What's New?

#### KCTS PBS Television Program

• Walla Walla Public Schools will be featured during a one-hour KCTS PBS (Seattle) feature television show *THE LEARNING CURVE - Closing the Achievement Gap*.

Program features include: Blue Ridge Elementary, Sharpstein Dual Language Program, discussion with Wa-Hi students, an interview with a Garrison Night School parent, and Pioneer's science partnership program in Cheryl Herr's class. The show will air **May 20** from 7 to 8 p.m. on Cable Channel 9.

#### Staff Spotlight - Diana Cox

• Look for Preschool Family Services Coordinator **Diana Cox** as the *May Staff Spotlight* employee. Diana will be featured on cable television stations throughout May and her video will be posted on the district web site under the district news area.

## Staff Profile - Count on Us!

### Diana Cox - Child Development Center

**Job Title:** Family Services Coordinator

**Years in District:** 25

**Favorite Band:** All kinds

**Favorite Food:** Seafood and Mexican

**Birth place:** New Bedford, MA

**Most memorable life experiences:** Living on a remote Island in the Bahamas.

**Tell Us Something About Yourself That Nobody Else Would Know:** I once lived on a remote Island in the Bahamas for 2.5 years.

**High School:** Wa-Hi - Class of 1986

**Favorite Movie:** *Forest Gump*

**Favorite Book:** *Murder Mysteries*

**Hobbies:** Gardening and reading



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

Quality

Integrity

Accountability

Respect

Courtesy

### Boggs to discuss AYP on television special

Blue Ridge Elementary Principal **Linda Boggs** has been invited to join a panel of educational leaders to discuss Adequate Yearly Progress and other issues on a local television special.

ESD 123 is producing the video for public access channels. Boggs has been touring several school districts this school year and inviting fellow educators to Blue Ridge to discuss the school's promising practices.

Blue Ridge math scores on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning have soared to nearly 80 percent after being in the teens just a few years ago. The school scored over 70 percent in reading last year as well.

Video taping will take place Monday, May 17, and will air at a date yet to be determined. Staff will receive more information on airing dates as they become available. A copy of the video will also be put on the district's web site.



Linda Boggs

### Second Key Communicators facilities discussion held

With the district in the midst of developing a long-range facilities plan, *Key Communicators* met this week for their second facilities discussion.

Nearly 40 community *Key Communicators* attended the meeting to receive more information on the district's Master Facility Planning Interim Report.

"We value your input and experience as we embark on a journey of transforming our schools into 21st Century learning communities," Superintendent Rich Carter said to the community leaders.

*MGT of America*, in partnership with Architects West, was hired in November to help the district assess its facilities needs. The final report

produced by *MGT of America* will go before the school board May 18. This detailed document scores all schools and support departments in three areas: physical condition, education suitability, and technology readiness.

Staff members will receive an electronic version of the report after the May 18 school board meeting.

Soon the facilities assessment process will shift to developing standards for ranking district facilities needs and ultimately crafting a long-range facilities plan to meet the needs of today's students and beyond.

Spring 2005 has been targeted as a potential timeline to bring a bond issue to voters supporting a long-range facilities plan.

### Wa-Hi Future Problem Solving team wins state

Walla Walla High School Future Problem Solving team Seniors **Natalie Coleman**, **Meghan Carlson**, **David Johnston**, and Junior **Riley Clubb** took the state title in the 10-12 grade level and qualified for the International Competition in Kentucky.

Pioneer seventh grader **Glynnis McClellan** placed first in the individual competition for grades 7-9 and also qualified for International Finals.

The Future Problem Solving Program is a year-long instructional program that challenges students to solve hypothetical problems set in the future but based on issues of today.

The topics studied this year were: Alternative Energy, Education Options, Organ Donation, and Environmental Law. The topic for the international competition will be Virtual Corporations.

Congratulations to Garrison Math Teacher **John Buissink** for coaching the team.

### Wa-Hi music students excel at state

All Wa-Hi music entries received "Superior" or "Excellent" ratings at last weekend's state competition. Kelly Bendixsen placed third among all Alto Vocal Soloists.

Congratulations to all of our musicians for their dedication and commitment to musical excellence.

- Jeremy DeWitt/ SarahThomson Vocal Duet
- Bret Emry/Kevin Waring Vocal Duet
- DJ Collette/Kadie Sharp Vocal Duet
- Caitlin Carlile/Ricky White Brass Duet
- Blue & White Vocal Men's Ensemble
- Chamber Singers
- Tre ble Ensemble

- Jana Melchior Mezzo Soprano Solo
- Lacey Perry Mezzo Soprano Solo
- Sarah Parnicky Soprano Solo
- Kelly Bendixsen Alto Solo

Specials thanks to Music Teacher **Norb Rossi** and District Music Director **Glen Mitchell** for their dedication preparing these students for competition.

### In Our Thoughts

*Our condolences to...*

- Prospect Point's **Maribeth Bergstrom** on the loss of her mother.
- Former Green Park Secretary **Jan Webb** recently passed away

*Please take a moment to think about our colleagues during this difficult time. You have our support. Please e-mail Mark Higgins at: mhiggins@wwps.org if you would like to share condolences with our district family.*

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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'**