

**Board experiences Wa-Hi's "new" PE**

Wa-Hi PE teacher **Aneliese Stein** shows School Board member **Tim Donaldson** new equipment in the Wa-Hi small gym fitness center. Wa-Hi PE staff, under the leadership of Department Chair **Jim Smith**, presented a report to board members on the school's new computerized Tri-Fit system.

This high tech assessment system provides immediate feedback so students can complete a health appraisal and track their fitness progress.

**School Board Meeting Recap • April 20****Art Regier *Volunteers of the Year* recipients honored for excellence**

To help celebrate April's *Volunteer Appreciation Month*, Walla Walla Public Schools named **Colleen Larish**, **Don Carlyle**, and **Frank Skorina** its *Art Regier Volunteers of the Year*.

This award is presented in recognition of the volunteers in our schools and their important contributions to our students and educational program. The award is named in honor of Art Regier who as a volunteer exemplified the awardees' dedication. The Art Regier *Volunteer of the Year* award is a thank you for the hundreds of hours and tireless dedication these outstanding citizens have given to the district over the years on behalf of students, staff and the community.

**Colleen Larish - Berney**

- Book fair coordinator
- Classroom volunteer
- Accelerated Reader monitor
- Library assistant

**Don Carlyle - Wa-Hi**

- Wa-Hi Music Booster
- Concession stands coordinator
- Helped generate \$6,000 in profits
- Orders products, stocks concession area, sells goods, and cleans facility

**Frank Skorina - Green Park**

- Math team volunteer coach
- Volunteer computer programmer
- PE program volunteer
- Active PTA and classroom volunteer

**New district technology plan approved**

School board members last night approved a new technology plan designed to assist students in becoming technologically literate and provide teachers with the resources and training necessary to improve student achievement.

District Technology and Library Media Services Director **Janis Barton** reported to school board members the district's Technology & Learning Implementation Plan complies with new stringent requirements from OSPI. The state mandates focus on linking technology to school improvement plans, accountability measures for students and professional development for staff.

"Our plan is designed to assist every student in becoming technologically literate," Barton said.

Barton also introduced her staff and had them report on progress made in the district during her seven year tenure.

Barton thanked the board for its support and Computer Coordinators for their leadership and follow through in the development of the Building Technology and Learning Implementation plans.

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

- approved March 16, 2004 board meeting minutes; and Personnel and Out-of-State travel reports; Resolutions #2- and #3-2004, final acceptance of Sharpstein School, Use of district equipment/facilities for district summer sports camp, and payment of April bills and payroll.
- received notification that the district is in compliance with the Basic Education Act funding requirements.

## Personnel Report

### • New Hires

(Administrative) - **Lloyd Commander**, Director of Preschool Programs, Blue Ridge

(Certificated) - **NONE TO REPORT**

(Classified) - **Irina Foley**, Russian/English Bilingual Para-Educator, Wa-Hi

**Jennifer Harshman**, Lab Assistant Para-Educator, Green Park

**Brandy Ulberg**, Special Programs Para-Educator, Garrison

### • Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated) - **Renae Bendix**, Career Counselor, Wa-Hi, 6 years

### • Leave of Absence

(Classified) - **Diane Johnson**, Kitchen Manager, Berney (through end of school year)

**Mariela Lopez**, Para-Educator, Intervention Specialist, Green Park (through end of school year)

### • Out-of-State Travel

**Cindy Gregoire** to National School Board Association Conference in Orlando, FL (funding - Board Travel)

**Marc Yonts** to Boise State University - Strength Training and Football in Boise, ID (funding - Professional Growth)

### Quote of the Week

"Every calling is great when greatly pursued."

*Oliver Wendell Holmes*

## Board congratulates Hansen for being national Physical Education Teacher of the Year candidate

With her recent return from New Orleans representing the Northwest District at the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (AAHPERD) National Convention, school board members last night congratulated Blue Ridge Elementary School Physical Education Teacher **Sue Hansen** for her efforts and professionalism.

Hansen endured a grueling four-day selection process with teachers representing the United States's six regions to determine the national elementary school Physical Education Teacher of the Year. The national award was presented to a teacher from Iowa.

Hansen was selected for the Northwest District Award from a group of teachers representing Alaska, Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and Montana. Hansen was named Washington state recipient of this award prior to receiving the Northwest District award. Hansen has taught PE for 24 years.

## Board honors Withycombe for being Distinguished Principal

Board members last night recognized Edison Principal **Nancy Withycombe** for being selected by her colleagues as a Washington State Regional Distinguished Principal.

Withycombe was selected based on her contributions to professional growth and development, educational excellence, community relations, and humanitarian activities. Withycombe thanked her staff and said the school has been a perfect fit. She is respected for her staff relations, parent involvement and listening skills.

## Garrison Night School receives national spotlight

Superintendent **Rich Carter** and Bilingual Coordinator **Cindy Gregoire** reported on last month's successful presentation of the Garrison Night School at the National School Board Association's Annual Conference in Orlando, FL.

School board members **Anne Golden** and **Toni Rudnick, Gregoire** and **Carter** explained to board members from across the

United States how this dynamic adult education program is opening doors to higher education and employment opportunities. The school serves 400 adults annually.

The district partnered with Walla Walla Community College to expand the program and help adult students earn General Education Diplomas and ultimately take classes at WWCC.

## District conducts public I-728 meeting

Walla Walla Public Schools held its annual I-728 Community Report public meeting last night.

Dr. Judy Reault reviewed the district's 2003-2004 I-728 Spending Plan, discussed how I-728 funds were spent this school year and provided an update on funding amounts. The I-728 Report is on the district website under the District News section: [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org).

### I-728 funds may be used for:

- class size reduction
- extended learning opportunities
- professional development for educators
- early assistance for pre-kindergarten children
- construction for lower class size/extended learning

## Butenhoff leads Energy Program to western states award

**Ed Graff** of Energy Education, Inc. presented the district with the Rocky Mountain region western states award for outstanding energy management. Under the leadership and watchful eyes of manager **John Butenhoff**, the district's Energy Management Program has saved the district more than \$1 million in utilities costs since its beginning in 1999.

Walla Walla Public Schools comprehensive Energy Management Program hinges on turning off lights when they're not needed and avoiding heating and cooling unoccupied areas and other behavior modifications.

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