



## School Closure Announcements

### Winter weather is here!

During winter months, staff, parents and community members are encouraged to tune to local radio and television stations, or go **ONLINE** at [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org), to receive current information regarding school closures or delays.

Assume school will operate on time if you have not heard about a delay or closure by 6:30 a.m. Calls to local media outlets from the school district are made **ONLY** if there are delays or closures.

### How do I get school closure information?

- Tune to local radio stations
- Check KNDU, KVEW, KEPR morning TV reports
- Online - [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org) (see - School Closures)



### For more information...

- Contact Communications Director Mark Higgins
- 526-6716 / e-mail: [mhiggins@wwps.org](mailto:mhiggins@wwps.org)

**School Closure Information Online - [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)**

## November **Extra**

### What's New?

**Listen to exciting  
Blue Devil Sports**  
*KTEL 1490 AM*



*Winter schedules now in  
schools and online!*

### Holiday Concert Series

*Complete schedule of events now online!*  
[www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org) (news and events area)

### Staff Spotlight - *Dianne Jackson*

• Look for Pioneer Kitchen Manager **Dianne Jackson** as the December *Staff Spotlight* employee. Dianne will be featured on cable television stations throughout December and her video will be posted on the district web site under the district news area.

## **Staff Profile - Count on us!**

### **Dianne Jackson** - Pioneer Middle School

**Job Title:** Kitchen Manager

**Years in District:** 26

**Favorite Music:** Classical

**Favorite Food:** Pies

**Birth place:** Seattle, WA

**Most memorable life experiences:** Meeting my husband on a blind date.

**Tell Us Something About Yourself That Nobody Else Would Know:** I have backpacked through five mountain ranges.

**High School:** Woodrow Wilson

**Favorite Movie:** *Forrest Gump*

**Favorite Book:** *Mysteries*

**Hobbies:** Gardening



## District Highlights

### Retired Employees Association names grant recipients

Prospect Point third grade teacher Michele Briones and Wa-Hi ESL teacher Diana Erickson were recently named recipients of the Walla Walla-Columbia School Retirees Association autumn mini-grants. Each teacher will receive \$100 to help enhance educational offerings in their classes.

Briones plans to use the mini-grant dollars to purchase books that are needed for reaching the 50 point goal of the Accelerated Reader.

Erickson wants to encourage her students to use English outside of the classroom. In order to do this, she will use the mini-grant to purchase sets of books written in both English and Spanish so that she can pair up ESL students with students learning Spanish.

### Walla Walla teachers earn national certification

Pioneer's **Dawn Jepson**, Wa-Hi's **Mindy Meyer**, **Anne Swant**, and **Dan Ojcius**, Paine's **Natalie Allen-Tibbling**, Garrison's **Kristen Harvey** and former Berney teacher **David Williams** all recently earned certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Requirements included authoring a detailed portfolio, video taping classroom instruction and passing a challenging assessment to test subject knowledge.

Congratulations on achieving this prestigious certification!

### District still saving energy and tax dollars

It is the end of Year 5 of our Energy Management program and we have saved over 24% on usage and costs of our utilities.

*We saved:*

- \$169,000 or 28% on Electricity,
- \$24,000 or 14% on Natural Gas,
- \$64,000 or 25% on Water/Sewer.

This savings of more than \$258,000 would not be possible without the support and dedication of our staff.

### Story ideas needed for district publications

Production of the Winter 2005 Focus on Education community newsletter is underway. Communications Director Mark Higgins is looking for story ideas for this publication. Please include contact name and a brief description of the story (program name, activity, etc.)

E-mail ideas to: [mhiggins@wwps.org](mailto:mhiggins@wwps.org). Thanks for helping promote the great work being done in our district.

## In Our Thoughts *Our condolences to...*

- Technology's **Pam Nichols** on the loss of her father.
- Garrison's **Dave Morales** on the passing of his son in Guatemala.

*Please take a moment to think about our colleagues during this difficult time. You have our support.*

## Berney Buddies



Berney second grade student **Leilani Alva** and Wa-Hi Junior **Briana Kelly** work on literacy skills during a recent mentoring program site visit to Berney Elementary.

This mentoring program was established to promote literacy, support good role modeling and enhance social studies education with elementary students.

Berney 2nd grade teacher **Shannon Walton** and Wa-Hi Social Studies teacher **Michelle Higgins** coordinated the event and may organize others later this year.

## Green Park hosts Superintendent's Coffee

Friday, December 10  
Green Park Elementary Library  
8:00 - 9:00 a.m.

This activity is an opportunity for parents and community members to get to know Superintendent Rich Carter. He will discuss issues facing Walla Walla Public Schools and talk about ways they can support efforts to improve district schools.

This will be a very informal setting, so please encourage people to drop in for coffee, juice and sweet rolls.

## Retirement Planning Seminar Scheduled

**Thursday, February 24**

6:00 to 9:00 P.M.

*Walla Walla Public Schools Boardroom*

Do you have questions about the retirement process?

- What financial decisions need to be made?
- What are my health insurance options?
- How much will social security pay?

All school employees who are considering retirement in the next two years are invited to attend this free presentation.

*Co-sponsored by the Walla Walla-Columbia School Retirees Association and Walla Walla Public Schools*