

School Board Recognition Month

January 2005

Your School Board is making a difference for students and the entire community. Thanks for a job well done!



Tim Donaldson



Mary Jo Geidl



Anne Golden



Dr. Richard N. Jacks



Toni Rudnick

The School Board meets regularly on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Meetings are held in the district board room, 364 S. Park St. Special and study sessions are scheduled as needed. All board meetings begin at 7:30 p.m.

December Extra

What's New?

Slick walking conditions

Please be thinking of wearing shoes with good traction in winter walking conditions.

Reminder from the L&I Safety Committee

Listen to exciting
Blue Devil Sports
KTEL 1490 AM



*Winter schedules now in
schools and online!*

Staff Spotlight - Joe Gribnau

- Look for Berney 5th grade teacher **Joe Gribnau** as the January *Staff Spotlight* employee. Joe will be featured on cable television stations throughout January and given a video tape for a special keepsake.

Staff Profile - Count on us!

Joe Gribnau- Berney Elementary School

Job Title: 5th grade teacher

Years in District: 13

Birth place: Missoula, MT

High School: Hellgate High (Knights)

Favorite Music: Rich Mullins

Favorite Movie: *Jeremiah Johnson*

Favorite Food: Steak and baked potato

Favorite Book: *Trout Magic and Trout Madness - Robert Traver*

Hobbies: Archery, rock climbing (in MT, ID, WA, NV, CA, AZ and Thailand), fly fishing, wakeboarding, writing

Most memorable life experiences: The adoption of our son, Riley and the birth of our daughter, Wesley.

Tell Us Something About Yourself That Nobody Else Would Know: I have a book being published by Pelican Publishing.



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

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy

District News Briefs

Retirement Planning Seminar Scheduled

Thursday, February 24

6:00 to 9:00 P.M. - No Cost

Walla Walla Public Schools Board room

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

Hall selected to host Exchange teachers

Congratulations to Blue Ridge Bilingual First Grade Teacher **Brenda Hall** for being selected to host two teachers from Uruguay this February. Hall says she will do what she can to welcome them and make sure that they have access to American education via Walla Walla.

Explorers students create Civil War documentary film

Sixth grade students in **Beth Clearman's** Explorers gifted student program recently premiered their 11 minute documentary film dramatizing the life of Abraham Lincoln.

The entire class researched the life of Lincoln through books and videos and each group wrote a section of his life for the film. All students had roles in the feature film.

Student **Matt Skorina** (Pioneer 6th grader) was the cameraman and director. The project was made possible in part thanks to the technical support and funding from the district's Technology Department.

District in Step One of School Improvement

Walla Walla Public Schools has been identified for not making Adequate Yearly Progress during the 2003-2004 school year per the No Child Left Behind accountability mandates. Consequently, the district is considered in Step One of School Improvement.

Here are the specific reasons AYP was not met:

- 44.8% of 4th grade Limited English students met the reading standard on the WASL (the target is 52.2%)
- 59.2% of Walla Walla School District seniors graduated in 2003 (the target is either 63% or at least a 1% increase from the previous year - Wa-Hi's graduation rate: 82.7%)

Step One - Consequences include developing a district improvement plan and setting aside 10% of Title I budget funding to address the professional development needs of teachers who work with the student groups who have not met AYP criteria.

In Our Thoughts *Our condolences to...*

- Blue Ridge's **Linda Boggs** on the passing of her mother.
- Berney's **Ben Ugaldea** on the loss of his grandfather.
- Green Park's **Elissa Stites** on the passing of her father-in-law (Dec. 5) and mother (Dec. 7).
- Head Start/ECEAP's **Lloyd Commander** on the loss of his mother.
- Business Office's **DeeDee Delaney** on the loss of her father.

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

'Short Order Bulldogs'



L-R: Berney Bulldogs **Jack O'Brien, Ben Ugaldea, Wes Sanders, Scott Ford and David Talley** show off their food services skills during their annual Staff Appreciation Holiday Breakfast. Each year the guys organize a staff feast to help kick off the holidays season and say thanks for a great fall.

Garrison hosts Superintendent's Coffee

Friday, January 21

Garrison 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.

FFA students embrace spirit of giving



Wa-Hi FFA members (L-R) **Amber Riley, Ciera Christianson, Steven Barker and Jared Crump** and their fellow members carried on a 17 year tradition of providing food for the less fortunate. This year the FFA collected 1,450 items and donated them to the Blue Mountain Action Council.