

March 7 • School Board Meeting Recap

All Day Kindergarten enriches school experience

Assistant Superintendent **Linda Boggs** presented to school board members last night on the district's all day kindergarten program.

Now in its first full year districtwide, the program is already having a positive impact on academics according to Boggs. She said reading assessments indicated fewer students are at risk for literacy deficiencies.

She also said the program is popular with parents as only 12 out of approximately 400 students are participating in the district's half-day program.

The district offered a half-day program to meet the needs of families which prefer more time with their children during the daytime.

Boggs said the all day program enriches the school experience by allowing more time for the following:

- Poetry
- Drama
- Art
- Social Studies
- Physical activity
- Choice reading
- Journal writing
- Songs
- Science
- Health
- Handwriting
- Mixing native English and Spanish

Boggs said the all day program also has other benefits for students, teachers and families.

"The teachers know the parents better," Boggs said. "The environment is more relaxed and feels less rushed."

The district's Open Enrollment and Kindergarten Registration period is **Monday, March 20 to Friday, March 31**. Kindergarten registration will be conducted at the student's attendance area elementary school.

Classified School Employee Week March 13-17

Last night Deputy Superintendent **Dr. Bill Jordan** led a recognition presentation during the school board meeting for the district's classified employees in honor of Classified School Employee Week, March 13-17.

Public Schools Employees (PSE) President **Larry McCauley** and Vice President **Mike Stroe** were present to receive a proclamation from Governor **Christine Gregoire** recognizing and thanking classified employees for the outstanding work they are doing.

"These employees keep the system working," Jordan said. "We can't operate without their services."

Assistant Personnel Director **Pat Johnston** was also on hand to extend her thanks to these employees. She said she appreciates the leadership and professionalism McCauley and Stroe bring to their positions.

"They have been great to work with," Johnston said. "We keep the lines of communications open and meet on a regular basis."

Public School Employees officers

Special thanks to the following classified staff members for their leadership and service to classified employees.

- **President Larry McCauley** (Plant Facilities)
- **Vice President Mike Stroe** (Transportation Department)
- **Secretary Jeanne Brewer** (Library Technician, Pioneer)
- **Treasurer Rose Martin** (Para-Educator, Sharpstein)

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the board meeting of February 21, 2006, Personnel and Out of State Travel Report.

Personnel Report

• New Hires - *NONE TO REPORT*

• Resignations/Retirements

(*Certificated*) **Craig Mason**, English Teacher, Wa-Hi, 7 months

- (resignation effective 3/28/06)

Barbara Rutzer, Library Media Specialist, Prospect Point, 21 years

(*Classified*) **Deanna Aichele**, Kitchen Manager, Green Park, 26.5 years

(*Coaching*) **Amy Hisaw**, Head Girls' Volleyball Coach, 2 years

• Out of State Travel

Gay Buissink and Kathi DeBroeck to National Journalism Convention in San Francisco, CA (*Funding - Perkins Grant/Vocational*)

Barbara Buttice to Culinary Arts Level II in Chicago, IL (*Funding - PGO/Vocational*)

Quote of the Week

"Those who bring sunshine to the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves."

James M. Barrie

Art Regier Outstanding Volunteer Award 2005-2006 Nomination Announcement

It is time to start thinking about whom you want to nominate for the 2005-2006 Art Regier Volunteer of the Year awards.

We have tremendous volunteer support in our district and are proud to honor those who are making a difference in your work place. Each year we honor three of our most deserving volunteers.

Electronic copies of the nomination form were sent out last week and hard copies will be sent out this week.

Staff are encouraged to contact Communications Director **Mark Higgins** if they have any questions.

Completed forms and letters of support must be returned to the Communications Department by Friday, March 31.

Recipients will be recognized at the April 18 school board meeting in conjunction with Volunteer Appreciation Month.

2004-2005 Recipients

- Russ Martin
- Missy Peterson
- Marilyn Yaple

Art Regier Award Criteria for Selection

1. Exceptional service or contributions to the children of Walla Walla Public Schools
2. Unusual dedication
3. Demonstration of care, compassion and empathy

**THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING
NOMINATIONS IS - FRIDAY, MARCH 31, 2006**

Bond 2006 Information Update

The district continues to provide information to the staff and community as questions come in. This week look for more detailed information on the following issues:

- Why is it more expensive to remodel existing Wa-Hi buildings than replacing them with a new structure?
- How much more will these projects cost if we wait?
- Why do construction costs increase faster than general inflation?

Come see what all the buzz is about!

Bond Tours

Sunday, March 26

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

- Edison Elementary, Paine High School, Wa-Hi and the Support Services building will be open for you to get a first hand look at why these facilities need help.
- Make an informed decision on the May 16 bond proposal.
- Take the time to get the facts and ask questions.
- District administrators and school board members are available to answer all your questions and discuss the issue.

Future Tour Dates

- Sunday, April 23
- Sunday, April 30

Quality Schools - Important to All