

Willcuts receives Science Education Award

District elementary science coordinator **Peggy Willcuts** recently received the Washington State Laser 2006 Science Education Advocate Award and a \$5000 check to use for district science related educational activities.

"I have the vision that we could empower each student to become a scientifically literate person - someone who has an understanding of science and the nature of science such that it allows them the excitement and passion for the world around them," Willcuts said.

Willcuts is also a Science Specialist for Pacific Northwest National Labs in Richland. She has dedicated her professional career to serve as an advocate of science education in Washington State by working at the local, regional, state and national levels for education reform. She is also currently pursuing a doctorate from WSU in Educational Leadership.



Peggy Willcut's \$5,000 award donation will be used to develop district outdoor educational activities.

May 1 • School Board Meeting Recap

"Paperless" Board Meetings



Superintendent **Rich Carter**, School Board President **Anne Golden** and Vice President **Toni Rudnick** review information on their computers at last night's school board meeting as part of the district's new "Paperless" board meetings.

The move to go paperless is a trend across the nation in an effort to cut costs and improve efficiencies.

District Technology Department staff, **Janis Barton** director, developed the system which allows board members to review agendas, reports, web links and other information essential to conducting board business.

Special thanks to Technology Department's **Cory Fish** for his expertise creating the system and **Pam Nichols** for her support in training. By developing this system internally, the district is expected to save nearly \$10,000 per year.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the board meeting of April 18, 2007, Resolution #4-2007, WIAA Enrollment, and Personnel Report and Out of State Travel.
- recognized the district's most recent National Board Certified teacher as Berney Fourth Grade Teacher **Laura Grant-Herriot** recently earned her certificate. Dr. Bill Jordan congratulated her and will present her with a special pin recognizing her as a National Board Certified teacher later this week.

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

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(*Certificated*) **Nathaniel Carrara**, Special Ed. Behavior Classroom, Garrison
Jodi Grove, Kindergarten, Edison
Kim Lawbaugh, Science, Pioneer
Jessica McDaniels, Kindergarten, Blue Ridge
Staci Spencer, Explorers/Gifted, Pioneer

(*Classified*) **Jamesette Rukavina**, Para-Educator (Brailist), Special Programs

• Resignations/Retirements

(*Classified*) **Claudia Salazar**, Para-Educator, Prospect Point (3 years)

• Leave of Absence

(*Certificated*) **Elisa Weinman Pogue**, Preschool Teacher, 17 years

• Elisa was on a leave of absence for the 2006-07 school year

• Out of State Travel

Judy Gwinn and **Donna Painter** to attend Grant Funded Programs Management Conference in Las Vegas, NV (Funding: Professional Growth/Head Start)

Kathryn Lamb to attend Lindamood Phoneme Sequencing in Las Vegas, NV (Funding: Staff Achievement Grant)

Quote of the Week

“Life would be infinitely happier if we could only be born at the age of eighty and gradually approach eighteen.”

Mark Twain

Grant makes walking to Blue Ridge safer

Blue Ridge students who walk and ride bikes to school will have safer routes thanks to a recent awarding of a \$117,000 grant. In a report to school board members last night, organizers detailed the plans to improve sidewalks, curbing and dangerous gravel areas near the school west of 9th Street.

The movement to improve the areas started with a training from the Blue Mountain Safe Kids program which organized an activity to help students learn more about safety and proper ways to walk and bike to school. Blue Ridge students and staff also participated in a neighborhood clean up effort which further identified the need to improve walking and biking conditions near the school.

A new sidewalk from 9th Street to Blue Ridge is expected to be in place by fall. Other areas near the school will be improved by the start of the 2007-08 school year as well.

Special thanks to parent **Kathy Farrell-Guizar**, Blue Mountain Safe Kids Coordinator **Debi Alessio** and the Blue Ridge staff for their support of this project.

Garrison teacher shares Japan Fulbright experiences

In what she described as a life changing experience, Garrison reading teacher **Grace Ogoshi-Maher** reported on her trip to Japan earlier this year as part of the Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Teacher Program. Grace was one of 600 educators, out of 2,300 applicants, to participate.

She traveled to selected host cities where they had direct contact with Japanese teachers and students in an effort to promote greater intercultural understanding between the two nations.

Grace said teachers in Japan are highly respected. She said since Japan has limited natural resources, education is considered the country's highest priority. She was impressed by the students' behavior, honesty and determination to receive an outstanding education.

Legislative session positive for education

Last night Superintendent **Rich Carter**, Business Manager **Aron Rausch** and Special Programs Director **Laura Droke** reported on the state's 2007 legislative session which ended last week.

According to the report, the session was positive for public education. Funding was made available for all-day Kindergarten at schools with high poverty rates, health care allocations appear to have kept pace with inflation, an increase was given for fuel, utilities and other non-employee related costs, and I-728 funding will increase across the state. For a complete overview on this session, visit www.wssda.org.

Wa-Hi plans Cinco De Mayo celebration

• Friday, May 4 (Wa-Hi Commons)

Agenda

5:30 to 6:30 p.m. - Soccer Tournament

6 to 7:30 p.m. - Dinner by La Monarca/comida por La Monarca

7:30 to 8:30 p.m. - Music and Entertainment/música y entretenimiento

8:30 p.m. - Prizes and Piñatas/premios y piñatas

9-10 p.m. - Dancing/Baile

Questions in English?

Contact: Mike Gwinn (526-8621)

¿Preguntas en español?

LLame a: Javier Hernandez (526-8638)

Pick up your complimentary dinner tickets @ the event / Obtenga sus boletos de cena gratis en la entrada.