

## District names *Volunteers of the Year*

In celebration of *Volunteer Appreciation Month*, last night Superintendent Rich Carter announced **Dr. Howard Blessing**, **Vanessa Prull**, and **Jim Russo** as the district's 2007 *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.



**Dr. Howard Blessing** - Dental Health Programs  
*Nominators - Jennifer Douglas and Terri Gilbert*

- 15 year (at least) volunteer -- Dental Health
- Known for joyful and humorous approach to education
- Provides sealants and exams to promote oral health



**Vanessa Prull** - Citizens for Schools, Edison PTA  
*Nominators: Ladema Myers and Nancy Withycombe*

- Chair, Citizens for Schools (Edison bond)
- Organized citizens bond information campaign
- Volunteers daily at Edison (passionate about literacy)



**Jim Russo** - Chair, Health Advisory Committee  
*Nominators: Linda Boggs, Jean Carwile Masteller, Jennifer Douglas, and Julie Jones*

- Active helping district develop Fitness and Nutrition procedures in support of new policy
- Volunteer publisher of health-related parent newsletter

## JROTC cadet wins national event

*School to host all-service competition Saturday*

Last night Wa-Hi JROTC teacher LTC **Gary Banks** and JROTC Para-Educator Sgt. **Gerald Taylor** introduced Blue Devils Cadet Battalion Commanding Officer **Darci White** and Executive Officer **Amber Criss** to brief school board members on this weekend's All-Service JROTC Competition.

Criss recently won the National JROTC Individual Precision Air Rifle Championship at Fort Benning, Georgia. She also set two new Army JROTC records during the competition and earlier this year participated in the Junior Olympics.



*Amber Criss*

Saturday more than 1,200 uniformed cadets representing more than 30 Pacific Northwest schools are expected to be on campus. Teams will go head-to-head in drill and ceremonies, inspections, physical fitness, and marksmanship. The event is open to the public at no cost.

## In other School Board meeting business...

### *Board members:*

- approved minutes of the board meeting of March 20, 2007, Personnel Report and Out of State Travel, Issuance of certificated contracts and notices of employment for 2007-08, Equipment/Facilities for summer sports programs, and approval of April Bills and Payroll
- approved Technology and Learning Plan 2007-2010. The plan focuses on the integration of technology in the classroom.
- approved Resolution #2-2007, Award of bond bids. The district sold bonds to fund the Edison construction project at a fixed interest rate just over four percent, which means Walla Walla taxpayers will pay less than originally projected to fund the project. A low interest rate also mean the bonds will be repaid in 11 years -- two years earlier than projected during the time of the bond election, according to Business Manager **Aron Rausch's** report.
- approved Resolution #3-2007, Budget Extension for Capital Project and the Architect's contract for Edison project
- approved Curriculum adoptions: K-5 Music; WWHS Economics; WWHS Sports & Entertainment Marketing
- received a briefing on the I-728 Forum which detailed how funds were used this year and could be used next year.

## Personnel Report

### • New Hires

(*Certificated*) **Celia Boyd**, Preschool Special Education, Blue Ridge (07-08)

Cheryl Peters, Special Education, Wa-Hi (07-08)

(*Classified*) **Russell Kinsfather**, Seasonal Grounds worker, Facilities Support

**Bonnie Pearson**, Health Clinician, Prospect Point

**Joe Wilkins**, Seasonal Grounds worker, Facilities Support

(*Coaching*) **Nancy Wells**, Dance Instructor, Wa-Hi

### • Resignations/Retirements

(*Certificated*) **LTC Gary G. Banks**, ROTC Instructor, Wa-Hi (22 years)

**Sara Van Donge**, Bilingual Second Grade, Sharpstein, 7 years

• Sara will continue as a .5 FTE

(*Classified*)

**Cami Coers**, Para-Educator, Wa-Hi (3 years)

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

**Kristin Gehrett**, Para-Educator, Garrison, 1 year

• Kristin taught Science at Pioneer Middle School for the 2006-07 school year

**Brian Heim**, Para-Educator, Wa-Hi, 1.5 months

**Sara McMasters**, Health Clinician, Pioneer, 1 year

**Mary Palotas**, Health Clinician, Green Park, 19 years

**Bonnie Roberson**, Secretary to the Director of Food Services, 11 years

**Barbara Woodland**, Health Clinician/Assistant Secretary, Blue Ridge, 11 years

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

**Adriana Ruiz**, Family Advocate, Blue Ridge Preschool Program, 7 years

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

### • Leave of Absence

(*Certificated*) **Genie Huntemann**, Fifth Grade Teacher, Edison, 8 years

### • Out of State Travel

**Kimberly Cassetto** and **Casey Monahan** to attend WASL Writing Scoring in Tuscon, AZ (Funding: No District expense)

**Conor Fish** to attend Nike Coaches Clinic in Las Vegas, NV (Funding: Coaches Professional Growth)

**Amy Hisaw** and **Eric Hisaw** to attend the Three Day Functional Training Summit in Long Beach, CA (Funding: Professional Growth)

**Jack Mehn** to attend Nike Basketball Clinic in Las Vegas, NV (Funding: Coaches Professional Growth)

**Judy Peasley** to attend Boston Instructional Coaching Study in Boston, MA (Funding: Staff Achievement Grant)

**Connie Taylor-Randall** to attend Career Fair -- Recruiting in Missoula, MT (Funding: Recruiting)

**Patricia Verdun** to attend 2007 Conclave and Professional Conferences in Nashville, TN (Funding: Vocational)

### Quote of the Week

"If a man takes no thought about what is distant, he will find sorrow near at hand."

**Confucius (c. 551-479 B.C.)**

## High School Task Force Update

### *Community leadership sought for high school study*

Last night School Board President **Anne Golden** said board members were going to begin contacting potential Task Force members.

She asked that names of community leaders (with contact information) to serve as potential members be sent to **Marilyn Brown** in the Superintendent's Office. Golden said she hopes to have the Task Force set by mid-May.

**The following areas, and others, are expected to be studied by the High School Task Force.**

- Replace vs. remodel Wa-Hi
- Second high school option
- College Place High School (*Future options/possibilities*)
- Alternative Education (*Programs & facilities*)
- Vocational Tech Center possibilities
- Athletic facility options

### Golden to hold National Board position

Longtime school board member and current President **Anne Golden** was recently elected to a three year term as the Pacific Region "Director-at-Large" for the National School Board Association. NSBA's mission is to foster excellence and equity in public education through school board leadership.

"I'm committed to using my experience to help ensure all school boards are successful," Golden said.

