

Blue Ridge students learn how to S.O.A.R.

S.O.A.R.

- S - Solve Problems
- O - Outstanding Decision Making
- A - Academic Excellence
- R - Be Respectful

Blue Ridge Core Values Cheer
“Have Fun. Be Safe. S.O.A.R.!”

Last year Blue Ridge Elementary staff set out to create a more positive school climate by establishing the Soaring Eagle Program. This program rewards students for making good choices, academic performance and peer leadership.

“We let the students know that we value each of them as individuals and that we take the business of educating them seriously,” Principal **Connie Taylor-Randall** said.

A key component of the program is self-evaluation and student reflection. Students complete an evaluation form which asks them a series of questions relating to academics, behavior and social expectations.

The program hinges on consistent performance at school as students in the program are required to maintain high standards throughout the year.

“The choice to do their best academically and to behave appropriately is theirs,” Taylor-Randall said. “We find they choose to SOAR at Blue Ridge.”

How the program works...

- Each month a teacher selects a student to be considered for the program.
- Students complete self evaluations and discuss results with their teachers.
- Students meeting the goals are given an application to the program.
- Students then get signatures from school personnel.
- Once students get the signatures and meet criteria, they get S.O.A.R. necklaces at the monthly Super Eagle Assembly.
- Each month students meeting criteria receive new beads for their necklaces and get to wear them at school.

Regional discussions on Transportation Co-op continue

Superintendent **Rich Carter** reported to school board members last night he is planning to visit with regional school district superintendents and school board members beginning next week to further discuss options for joining a Walla Walla coordinated Transportation Cooperative for bus maintenance and service.

Carter said he will meet during their regularly scheduled school board meetings to provide them more details about this service designed to save their districts thousands of dollars on bus repairs and upkeep.

Carter organized a similar operation in his last school district in White Salmon, WA. In addition to lower costs for service and parts for Walla Walla buses, Carter said our community gets the added benefit of having state dollars pay for 90 percent of the facility and equipment needed to run the operation.

Carter reported some districts have concerns, which he plans to address. One concern is committing to the program for 10 years. Another concern is distance. Carter said he plans to discuss possibilities for a mobile repair unit and a shuttle service for bus drivers.

He said he is asking for their commitment this month to meet an upcoming state deadline to submit the proposal for funding.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the board meetings of Oct. 2, 2008 (special meeting with College Place School board and Superintendent) and Sept. 16, Personnel Report and Out of State Travel.

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(Classified) **Danielle Alaniz**, Para-Educator, Wa-Hi
Machelle Leconte, Para-Educator, Edison
Dawn Moore, Para-Educator, Berney
Theresa Reisinger, Para-Educator, Prospect Point
Mickey Weber, Para-Educator, Sharpstein
Justine Benson, Para-Educator, Pioneer Middle School

• Resignations/retirements

(Classified) **Derrick Conley**, Intervention Specialist, Berney, one year
Yaneth Hernandez, Assistant Secretary, Blue Ridge, two months

Out of State Travel

Pat Johnston to attend the Association of School Business Officials Conference in Denver, CO (Funding: Business Office)
Christine Ludwig and **Yolanda White** to attend the 2nd Step Elementary School Training in San Francisco, CA (Funding: Admin Match)
Mary Ann Newcom to attend Oregon Speech and Hearing Association State Conference in Salem, OR (Funding: Professional Growth)
Pam Clayton, **David Talley**, and **Valerie Gentzler** to attend K12/North American Council for Online Learning Conference in Phoenix, AZ (Funding: I-728, PGO, Virtual Academy Budget)

Quote of the Week

"The larger the island of knowledge,
the longer the shoreline of wonder."

Ralph W. Sockman

Walla Walla High School teacher earns citizenship



Last week Walla Walla High School Spanish teacher **Refugio Reyes** became a naturalized citizen of the United States at the U.S. Courthouse in Spokane.

Reyes' students have been studying immigration this fall and took a field trip to Spokane to witness the ceremony as part of their studies. The road to citizenship for Reyes took many years and a lot of preparation, and he hopes his example will help others reach this goal.

October Highlights

- Crime Prevention Month
- Computer Learning Month
- German-American Heritage Month
- Italian-American Heritage & Culture Month
- Polish-American Heritage Month
- UNICEF Month

October 5-12

Fire Prevention Week

October 12-19

School Lunch Week

October 19-26

School Safety Week, Safe Schools Week, Red Ribbon Week

Boundary review meetings continue

- Wednesday, Oct. 15
- 7 p.m.
- Prospect Point Elementary
- Public meeting

Learn more about the Boundary Review study process and the committee's recommendations online at www.wwps.org (A to Z section - Boundary Study).

WW County Health Department plans annual Flu Shot Round-up

Walla Walla County's 4th Annual Flu Shot Round-up will be held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, October 21-23 at the Walla Walla County Fairgrounds' Community Building from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Highlights of this year's roundup include in-vehicle immunizations for residents with limited mobility and separate tables for families with children.

Influenza vaccine will be available to the community for \$30 for adults, \$10 for children; pneumococcus vaccine will be available for \$45 for adults, \$10 for children.

Cash, checks, VISA and MasterCard will be accepted; Medicare and Washington Medicaid billing will be provided.