

Public School Employees Union honors McCauley with award



District Public School Employee President **Larry McCauley** (L) receives the PSE President's Leadership Award from PSE Zone One President **Duane Adams** of Tri-Cities.

Adams said McCauley earned the award through his dedication and strong leadership representing more than 300 PSE members in Walla Walla.

Board approves Transportation Cooperative

School board members last night approved a resolution authorizing Walla Walla Public Schools to establish and serve as the host of the Southeast Washington Transportation Cooperative.

The move is a legal requirement for the district to continue efforts to submit a proposal to the state for potential funding of the facility to operate a regional transportation cooperative.

The Southeast Washington Transportation Cooperative helps partner districts save money on school bus maintenance and repair service, improves school bus safety, extends school bus life, and reduces risk liability.

Currently Dixie and ESD 123 have committed to joining the cooperative. Prescott officials will be asked to make a decision during the district's school board meeting next week. Seven area districts, including College Place, have been invited to join.

"With many of our small districts losing students and revenue, it's hard to believe more are not interested in joining," Superintendent **Rich Carter** said. "We'll work with those we have and find ways to cut costs and save our taxpayers money."

State law requires only one district partner to make up a cooperative. Carter is working on a November deadline to submit a proposal to the state. If approved, the state will pay for 90 percent of the facility and the equipment necessary to operate it.

Assessment data leads to improved achievement

District Assessment Director **Ron Higgins** provided a comprehensive report to school board members last night on the district's assessment program.

He stressed the district relies heavily on multiple assessments, including those gener-

ated from district teachers in local classrooms.

He said a team approach is used to understand the information and make recommendations for program placement.

Higgins said technology is also playing a larger role in helping understand assessment results.

District Assessment Philosophy

- Assess and monitor student progress and achievement over time using multiple measures
- Identify the needs of individual students
 - To insure appropriate program placement
 - To insure appropriate interventions
- Determine the effectiveness of instructional programs

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the Oct. 7, 2008 board meeting, Personnel Report and Out of State Travel, Extra-Curricular Contracts, Co-Curricular Contracts, October Bills and Payroll, August 2008 Financial Report, September 2008 Financial Report, Finger Printing Imprest, and Minimum Basic Education Requirement Compliance.

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(Classified) **Heraclio Torres**, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge

Amy Trejo, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge

Susan Weber, Para-Educator, Wa-Hi

• Resignations/retirements

(Certificated) **Irene Randow**, Behavior Room Teacher, Prospect Pt., one year

• Irene was also a para-educator for nine years

(Classified) **Paul Wostenberg**, Food Service Assistant, Lincoln Alternative, six months

Out of State Travel

Laure Quaresma and **Kerri Coffman** to attend NSCD Conference in Washington, DC (Funding: Prof. Growth, CIA)

Quote of the Week

“Life is like playing the violin in public and learning the instrument as one goes on.”

Samuel Butler

Walla Walla High School introduces AVID program to help students develop skills for college entrance

College entrance could become more than just a dream for more Walla Walla High School students thanks to a new program now available.

The AVID program, Advancement Via Individual Determination, is now serving 60, 9th and 10th grade students who come from families who do not have a history of attending college.

Sherry McConn serves as the program’s teacher. Students reported to school board members last night the program is helping them develop skills, gain confidence and organize a pathway to college. The students also visited Whitman College this fall to get an upclose look at the college experience.

AVID Mission

To ensure that ALL students, and most especially the least served students in the middle capable of completing a college preparatory path will:

- succeed in rigorous curriculum,
- enter mainstream activities in school,
- increase their enrollment in four-year colleges, and
- become educated and responsible participants and leaders in a democratic society.

Blue Devil Volleyball Team plans Breast Cancer Awareness Night

2nd Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Night

Date: Thursday, Oct. 23 (Varsity Volleyball vs Richland)

Time: 7 p.m. (Wa-Hi gym)

All proceeds go to the Breast Cancer Program at St. Mary Medical Center. Event t-shirts are \$15 and donations are accepted.

Fans are encouraged to wear pink to the game or buy a shirt. Shirts are being pre-sold: Contact Lisa at 520-8737 or Tina at 520-9833 to buy a t-shirt.

Trunk or Treat offers families safe and fun trick or treating experience

Date: Thursday, Oct. 30

Location: Walla Walla High School main office parking lot (Abbott Road)

Time: 5:00 p.m.

Entry fee: Two cans of food and/or any old cell phones.

Sponsor: Wa-Hi Key Club

Head Start program supports at-risk children

Last night Head Start/ECEAP Pre-school Director **Donna Painter** presented her annual report to school board members.

She stressed this program is committed to helping children from low income families have success in school.

Painter said a key element of the program is working closely with families and helping them become advocates for their child’s learning.

There is also a strong focus on health and nutrition, community partnerships, and social and emotional development.

Painter thanked the school board for their support of the program.

Head Start Demographics

- 213 children
- Serves 16 homeless families
- 110 single parent households
- 98 two parent households
- Six children have disabled parent
- Eight children in foster care
- 41% Spanish speaking
- 14 children on Special Ed. IEP
- 99% of families living in poverty



Remember to
VOTE!
November 4