

March 4 • School Board Meeting Recap

Citizens for Schools Co-Chairs honored for volunteer service



School board members recognized the volunteer efforts of Citizens for Schools Co-Chairs and sisters **Jennifer Northam** (L) and **Katie Christianson** (R) during last night's school board meeting.

Board members prepared a personal kids themed gift basket for Christianson and Northam as a special thank you for their efforts helping educate the community on the importance of the district's replacement levy. The recent levy approval secures local funding for school programs and staff for another four years.

District staff and administrators also sent in thank you cards and special keepsakes in appreciation of their efforts.

Yonts named permanent Garrison Principal

Superintendent **Rich Carter** announced Tuesday night he is appointing Interim Garrison Middle School Principal **Gina Yonts** to the position permanently.

"Gina has demonstrated during the past year she is ready," Carter said. "She's earned our respect and confidence."



Gina Yonts

Yonts served four years as Garrison's Assistant Principal before being named interim principal last March. She also has 12 years experience as an intermediate grade level teacher at Berney Elementary.

Classified Employees Week

March 10-14

School board members and Superintendent **Rich Carter** presented Public Schools Employees President **Larry McCauley** a proclamation of support in recognition of Classified Employees Week -- March 10-14.

Carter said our schools could not operate without the support classified employees provide to help Walla Walla children get a quality education.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the board meeting of February 19, 2008 and Personnel Report.
- approved Resolution # 3-2008, Support of H.R. 648, No Child Left Behind -- Improvements Act of 2007.
- approved Resolution #4-2008, Support of Fair and Equitable State Funding for Schools.
- approved Revision of Policy No. 6212, Credit Cards.
- approved Resolution #5-2008, Bond Refinancing.
- received a report from Superintendent Rich Carter on Basic Education Entitlement Compliance. Carter said the district was in compliance in all areas and eligible to receive state funding.

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(Certificated) **LTC William Bialozor**, JROTC Instructor, Wa-Hi

(Classified) **Mary Lou Whalen**, Food Services Assistant, Blue Ridge
Paula Wostenberg, Food Services Assistant, Lincoln Alternative High School

• Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated) **Cheryl Ford**, First Grade, Prospect Point, 26 years

Staci Gloyn, Explorers, Pioneer, (hired but did not actually teach)

• Staci was on a leave of absence for the 2007-2008 school year

Gayle See, Physical Education, Wa-Hi, 20 years

• Gayle is resigning .4 FTE and will continue as a .6 FTE PE teacher

Robert VanDonge, Physical Education, Edison, 40 years

Teri Voth, Science, Pioneer, 30 years

• Teri was on a leave of absence for the 2007-2008 school year

(Classified) **Jessica Arreola**, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge Preschool, six months

Jane McKern, Head Secretary, Pioneer Middle School, 30 years

Karen Sippert, Head Secretary, Garrison Middle School, 24 years

• Out of State Travel

NONE TO REPORT

Quote of the Week

"People are always ready to admit a man's ability after he gets there."

Bob Edwards

Board to study school health center idea

School board members will further study a School Based Health Center concept presented to them last night by local physician **Alison Kirby MD**.

Kirby said the district would be eligible to receive a \$20,000 grant to further study the idea of bringing a community led health center to Lincoln Alternative High School to better serve youth health care needs.

School Board President **Anne Golden** said the school board will review information and possibly conduct a public work session later this month to learn more about this concept.

Kirby said the grant would fund a feasibility study to conduct a needs analysis. She says statistics indicate teens living in Walla Walla County are some of the most under served when it comes to health care.

Green Park STOP Team keeps playground safe

Green Park Intervention Specialist **Barbara Thatcher** and students involved in the Students Talk Out Problems or STOP program reported to school board members last night the program is having a positive impact at their school.

The STOP program began in 1993 as a way for students to help other students resolve conflicts. Currently 47 students in grades 4 and 5 are participating in the volunteer program. STOP students must maintain excellent grades, be a role model and wear bright yellow vests during the lunch recess to be easily identified.

If they witness a conflict they have a structured step process, including having the students involved sign an improvement contract, to put a stop to the negative behavior.

Art Regier Outstanding Volunteer of the Year Award nominations accepted

Nominations for the annual *Art Regier Outstanding Volunteer Awards* are now being accepted. This award was instituted in 1991 as a memorial to "Grandpa Art" Regier.

Regier, a retiree who devoted years of service to elementary schools in Walla Walla, epitomized the spirit of volunteerism in education.

Send completed nomination forms to the Communications Department (364 South Park Street, Walla Walla, WA 99362) through **Friday, March 28**.

Each nomination may be accompanied by no more than three letters of recommendation. Recipients will be recognized at the April 15 school board meeting.

Parent Conference schedule online *No school Thursday or Friday*

This week parents are conferencing with teachers at all district schools to communicate student academic progress.

Conference schedules are available at all district schools and on the Walla Walla Public Schools website (www.wwps.org — A to Z area).