

Exchange Club of Walla Walla honors outstanding Wa-Hi seniors



Congratulations to Walla Walla High School seniors (L-R) **Allen Yu** and **Edgar Ruiz** for receiving Exchange Club of Walla Walla Youth of the Month Awards for October.

They will also be eligible to compete for the Exchange Club of Walla Walla Youth of the Year Award and \$1,000 college scholarships.

Yu said today's youth will work hard to ensure a promising future. Ruiz thanked his family and teachers for their support, which he says helped give him the confidence to succeed.

Youth of the Month/Year Essay Theme:

"America 's Youth - Stepping Forward to Change the Beat of America"

Boundary committee discusses options

School board members conducted a public work session last night to discuss the work of the district's Boundary Review Committee.

This group has been meeting for more than one year with the following charge: increase Edison Elementary enrollment for new school, maintain neighborhood schools, and balance enrollment in district elementary schools. The committee shared the following recommendations. The school board expects to take action November 18.

Boundary Committee Recommendations

- adopt current boundary scenario as presented this fall (view online: www.wwps.org - A to Z: Boundary Study)
- offer a grandfather option for 2009 for 4th and 5th grade students (they also discussed other grandfather options)
- Revise middle school boundaries to incorporate a "feeder school" model:
 - Pioneer Middle School = Edison, Berney, Green Park
 - Garrison Middle School = Blue Ridge, Prospect Pt, Sharpstein

Community leaders asked to weigh in on Skills Center

Business leaders, parents, government officials, higher education representatives and other professionals are among the dozens of Walla Walla citizens who are being surveyed to share their thoughts on a potential Skills Center in Walla Walla.

The surveys are part of a feasibility study the district is conducting to determine if Walla Walla is a good fit to have a branch campus of the Tri-Tech Skills Center (Kennewick).

Earlier this year the district received state funding to conduct this feasibility study, as state elected officials are encouraging local school district's to find more ways to offer students training for employable skills.

The district expects to have the study completed this spring.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the Oct. 21, 2008 board meeting, Personnel Report and Out of State Travel.
- appointed Architects West to serve as the district's architect for the Southeast Washington Transportation Cooperative.

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(Classified) **Kristen Duede**, Intervention Specialist, Berney
Eva Madrigal, Para-Educator, Sharpstein
Cindy Morales, Assistant Secretary, Blue Ridge
Javier Hernandez, Para-Educator, Sharpstein

• Resignations/retirements

(Classified) **Diana Cox**, Family/Mental Health Coordinator, Blue Ridge Head Start/ECEAP (30 years)
- (effective January 1, 2009)

Out of State Travel

Dr. Bill Jordan to attend Forensic Interviewing of Children in Huntsville, AL (Funding: Personnel Travel)

Quote of the Week

"I have come to the conclusion that politics is too serious a matter to be left to the politicians."

Charles de Gaulle

Corps of Engineers donates computers

The district's Technology Department is teaming with the Corps of Engineers to provide more technology options for students. The partnership is made possible thanks to the Department of Defense "Computers for Learning Program."

Surplus computers, including Dell mini-tower workstations and laptops, are being donated.

Technology Director Janis Barton said 300 to 500 computers are available, but budget constraints limit her department to accepting only 50. Barton estimates the district will need to invest \$250 to \$300 per computer to install hard drives, software and other necessary equipment. She said another 50 could be stored and used for parts. She said there is currently not adequate funding in her department to accept more computers.

Barton said the computers would be used as follows:

- 35 - Classroom computer replacement
- 10 - Computer checkout program through Library Media Centers
- 5 - Parent checkout program at Blue Ridge Elementary

"This is a good opportunity for our district," Barton said. "This is good equipment and will improve access to technology."

District's Response to Intervention program praised

The district's tiered instructional model *Response to Intervention* (RTI) was featured in the Fall 2008 issue of Northwest Education published by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory.

The article "The Wa-High Way" focused on Walla Walla High School's efforts to find an educational program to meet each student's specific needs.

Reporter **Rhonda Barton** said Walla Walla Public Schools was recommended by David Tudor of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction special education department. During Barton's one day, whirlwind visit to do the story she met with an interview panel and organized several classroom visits.

Northwest Education is published by the Northwest Regional Educational Laboratory and distributed free of charge. See the story online at: www.nwrel.org/nwedu.

American Education Week Salute

A message from Superintendent Rich Carter

The 87th annual American Education Week will be celebrated November 16-22. This year's theme: Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility — reflects a calling upon America to provide students with quality public schools so that they can grow, prosper, and achieve in the 21st century.

This week spotlights the importance of providing every child in America with a quality public education from kindergarten through college, and the need for everyone to do his or her part in making public schools great. The weeklong celebration will spotlight distinguished individuals who are critical in building great public schools for the nation's 50 million students.

Few other professionals touch as many people as educators do. When parents in Walla Walla drop their children off for school they know they are in good hands. Our staff members care for our students as if they were their own children.

Teachers work to open students' minds to ideas, knowledge and dreams. We use research based teaching strategies to improve achievement and collaborate with their peers to understand each child's specific needs.

Our programs and people continue to influence students long after their school days are only memories. This week especially take time to reach out and thank educators for all they do for Walla Walla children. Join me in Celebrating American Education Week — November 16 to 22.