

District pays tribute to Mary Jo Geidl

Retiring school board member says education is her passion



After serving two terms on the school board and more than 30 years as a classroom teacher, School Board President **Mary Jo Geidl** is retiring from the school board. Last night Superintendent Rich Carter and fellow school board members thanked Geidl for her service during a celebration reception. Geidl shows off her *Golden Apple* award and the other tokens of appreciation she received.

District withdraws consideration for energy grant

The district is no longer pursuing a \$500,000 state energy grant to install new heating and air conditioning and lighting systems in district facilities. Projects at Wa-Hi and Pioneer were being considered.

Superintendent **Rich Carter** said the December deadline to apply for

the grant and the district's obligation to invest \$750,000 prompted the decision.

"We just don't have enough time to do the research," Carter said. "In these economic times, it's difficult to commit funds against an uncertain budget."

Superintendent Dr. Richard Carter thanks educators for American Education Week

As I reflect upon my pending retirement at the end of the school year, this year's American Education Week celebration means even more to me. The 88th annual American Education Week will be celebrated November 15-21. This year's theme: Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility.

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 week long celebration will spotlight distinguished individuals who are critical in building great public schools for the nation's 50 million students.

As I look into the eyes of our students and see their smiling faces, I see hope for our future. When I watch our parents spend time with their children, I see unconditional love and longing for them to succeed and live happy lives.

Our staff members rise to the challenge of making sure all students have opportunities to reach their full potential and be competitive in today's global society. They love and nurture students each day.

It is through education that all dreams can come true. It is through education that we can live in a peaceful society that respects everyone.

Thank you for your support as we partner to do what is best for children. Thank you for taking time this week to reach out and praise educators for all they do for Walla Walla children. Please join me in Celebrating American Education Week - November 15 to 21.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the November 3, 2009 school board meeting, November Bills and Payroll, Sept. Financial Reports.
- approved Resolution 15-2009 for a High School Skills Center (This is a requirement to complete the application for pre-design and establishes an interlocal agreement with Touchet, Dayton, Prescott and Waitsburg to move forward.)

Personnel Report

No hires or retirements to announce

District Transfer

Dustin Baker - Custodian at Garrison Middle School is transferring to the Assistant Custodian position at Lincoln and Pioneer. (Lincoln is where he will serve as assistant).

Quote of the Week

"Teaching is the profession that teaches all the other professions."

Author Unknown

Holiday Food Drive

Everyone "CAN" make a difference

Who: Food donations support the Blue Mountain Action Council Food Bank (cash donations also accepted)

What: Holiday Food Drive — Project Goal: Help replenish local food bank supplies

When: November 30 to December 18, 2009 (Look for us at area grocery stores December 5 - see more below)

Where: Collection sites at Walla Walla Public Schools and Walla Walla General Hospital November 30 to December 18. Look for us at area grocery stores December 5

Types of food needed: Non-perishable items — tuna, macaroni & cheese, peanut butter, canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, granola bars, etc.)

Why: This year's focus will teach students the importance of helping others.

For more information:

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Fill the School Bus!

School buses to be parked in front of these stores for shoppers to fill with donated items.

Saturday, December 5

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Albertsons
Harvest Foods
Safeway (Rose Street and Plaza) TBD
SuperOne
Wal-Mart (TBD)

Thanks to these participating stores!

