

## District to make-up two of the four snow days

*Move allows Wa-Hi graduation date to remain unchanged*

School board members last night unanimously voted to make-up two of the four days missed this winter as a result of the area's record storms. Governor Gregoire declared a State of Emergency in December allowing district's to apply for fully funded waivers to excuse missed days as a result of the severe winter storms.

Walla Walla Public Schools received state waivers to excuse three of the four days, but the school board voted to use only two.

The district will extend the school year by one day. The school year will now end Friday, June 12 at noon. The district will also make-up a second missed day. The most likely scenario is shortening spring conferences to one day. The district will make a final decision on the second make-up day soon.

The school board's action allows Walla Walla High School's graduation date to remain Friday, June 5 and does not impact student summer programs and teacher professional development opportunities currently scheduled in June.

"This decision marks a compromise," said Superintendent **Rich Carter**. "We feel strongly students need to be in school, but we also realize extending the school year into the third week of June impacts end of year ceremonies and summer programs. This schedule allows us to make up some of the missed time without jeopardizing important school activities."

Despite waiving two days, the district continues to exceed the state required 1,000-hour minimum for instructional hours.

"On December 24th, Governor Gregoire declared a State of Emergency Proclamation as the result of a severe winter storm with blizzard conditions.

Inclement weather conditions resulting in district-wide snowfall is an unforeseen natural event and is within the eligibility criteria for emergency district closure. Your three-day make-up requirement is waived in declared emergencies."

**Jennifer Priddy**  
*OSPI Assistant Superintendent*

## Lincoln students praise school

Lincoln Alternative High School students participating on the school's student leadership team reported to school board members last night on the positive changes they have witnessed at the school under Principal **Jim Sporleder's** leadership.

In the past two years attendance is up 41 percent and students are more actively involved in school, according to last night's report. Students also said teacher and student leadership team advisor **Erik Gordon** is helping the school's culture.

*Some of the changes include:*

- student government program
- safe school
- more course options
- team sports
- full-color, hardback yearbook
- "girls circle counseling group"
- drama program

## Health services linked to learning

Last night Health Services Director **Jennifer Douglas** and Pioneer Health Clinician **Melissa Bronstein** reported to school board members on the district's health services program.

Douglas said they are launching a new web page to improve communication and serve as a one-stop information source. The district's health clinics serve more than 3000 students per month. Douglas said the department continues to use data to improve service. She said academic performance is clearly linked to health.

## In other School Board meeting business...

### **Board members:**

- approved minutes of the Feb. 3, 2009 board meeting, Personnel Report, Out of State Travel, approval of February bills and payroll, and January financial report.
- approved Policy 6102 -- District Fundraising Activities (per recommendation from state auditor)
- approved Policy 6300 -- Recognition (per recommendation from state auditor)

## Personnel Report

### • New Hires

NONE TO REPORT

### • Resignations/retirements

(*Certificated*) **Allison Peck**, Alternative High School teacher, Lincoln, 19 years  
**Tracy Khan**, School Psychologist, Special Programs, 6 months

(*Classified*) **Denise Marr**, Para-Educator, Walla Walla High School, 8.5 years  
**Jennifer Lee**, Para-Educator, Green Park, 4 years

### • Leave of Absences

(*Classified*) **Patricia Weeks**, Speech Language Pathologist, Special Programs (13 years)  
• For the 2009-10 school year

### • Out of State Travel

**Amy Hisaw** and **Eric Hisaw** to attend 360 Degree Coaching Series in Temple, AZ (Funding: Athletic Professional Growth and Personal)

**Jerry Quaresma** to attend ASCD Conference in Orlando, FL (Funding: PGO and Professional Growth)

### Quote of the Week

"Education's purpose is to replace an empty mind with an open one."

**Malcolm Forbes**

## Latino Club helps preschool students learn

Last night members of the Walla Walla High School Latino Club reported to school board members how they are using funding from a United Way Early Literacy Grant to help area children.

The Explorers' Post 311 Latino Club purchased the Preschool Estrellita Early Literacy Program with the funds. In October, 10 Latino Club students, along with three Walla Walla School District para professionals that serve as Garrison Night School childcare workers, spent an evening being trained in how to use the program and preparing materials.

"Starting the first week in November, the Latino Club members attended every Wednesday and Thursday to work with the preschool age children from 6-7 p.m. using the Estrellita materials," said District Bilingual Coordinator Diana Erickson. "If there was a low number of preschoolers, some of the Latino Club students worked with the school age children who were involved in 4-H and Learning for Life activities."

Although the Estrellita part of the evening ended at 7:00, all of the Latino Club members chose to stay the remaining hour of Garrison Night School to help with all of the children when they went to the gym to play, according to Erickson.

### Program objectives:

- promote literacy skills in preschoolers
- promote leadership skills in Latino Club members
- provide service in our community
- develop awareness in Latino teens of the skills necessary for early childhood success



*Latino Club members and preschool students demonstrate the Estrellita Early Literacy Program to the school board.*

## School funding at core of recent legislative visit

Last night Superintendent **Rich Carter**, Assistant Superintendent **Linda Boggs** and School Board member **Anne Golden** reported on their recent visit to Olympia.

School funding and state budget woes were the focus of the discussions. Carter said the district is expecting significant state cuts and is talking to legislators about protecting school funding.

## Weisner visits schools to discuss facilities

This week Walla Walla High School Principal Darcy Weisner begins visiting schools to meet with staff about high school facilities needs.

Weisner is encourages staff to the take the survey (see link below) to provide valuable feedback.

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/?p=WEB228S24MM5K9>