

District names *Volunteers of the Year*

In celebration of *Volunteer Appreciation Month*, last night Superintendent Rich Carter announced **James Payne**, **Annie Capestany**, and **Keith Crain** as the district's 2009 *Art Regier Volunteers of the Year*.

James Payne - Green Park, Pioneer and Committees

Nominators - Peggy Payne and Kay Schisler

- Boundary Review and High School Facilities Task Force Committees participant
- Classroom volunteer
- Past Green Park PTA President
- Provides student presentations to discuss archaeology and history
- Provides students free passes to visit Fort Walla Walla Museum

Annie Capestany - Green Park and Pioneer

Nominators: Jean Tobin, Mari Sanders and Samuel Lopez

- Offers classroom support to Green Park teachers
- Helps Pioneer PTA fundraisers
- Provides individualized support to help struggling students.
- Helps organize Green Park's Math-a-Thon and Science Fair
- Provides translating support at both Green Park and Pioneer

Keith Crain - Pioneer Middle School

Nominators: Judy Anderson, Angie Gardea and David Tegtmeier

- Volunteered for all three days at Stars Camp
- Repaired, cleaned and organized fishing poles for Stars Camp students
- Served as a parent chaperone for the Natural Helpers Camp
- Involved in the fall Pioneer Power Night and Sally Foster Cookie Dough Fundraisers
- Facilitator during the 6th grade Safe and Civil Schools workshop
- Spring Power Carnival and Book Fair volunteer

Resolution authorizes reductions

School Board members last night approved a resolution allowing the district to use Reduced Educational Program and Operational procedures if needed in light of the state's budget shortfall.

Superintendent **Rich Carter** stressed this move, better known as a Reduction in Force, will only be used in a worst case scenario.

He said the district's budget savings plan will hinge on cutting non-employee related expenses and making staff reductions through internal transfers and attrition.

Carter says he wants to protect class size, limit the impact on student academic and extra-curricular programs and keep permanent district staff employed.

No state budget news has surfaced out of Olympia recently. The initial budget proposals from the House represented a \$1.7 million cut to Walla Walla Public Schools, while the Senate's proposal would slash district funding \$5.1 million. The legislature is scheduled to conclude this session April 26.

All Staff Dessert Social

Friday, June 12

2 to 3:30 p.m. / Wa-Hi Commons

Program highlights:

- Honor retirees
- WWVEA student scholarships
- Staff Achievement Grant recipients

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the March 17, 2009 board meeting and minutes from the March 25 special board meeting and Personnel Report, Out-of-State travel, April Bills and Payroll, Business Office Stamp Fund Increase and Lincoln General Fund Imprest Account.
- approved Resolution #04-2009/Reduced Educational Program and Operational Resolution.
- approved a resolution for a Skills Center/Ground Lease Intent Agreement between WWCC & WWPS.
- approved an agreement to participate and transport students/Skills Center.

Personnel Report

• **New Hires** - Administrative: **Marcia Walters**, Director of Special Education

• **Resignations/retirements**

(Classified)

Kathy Paddock, Para-Educator, Lincoln Alternative High School, 13 years

Lacey Milleson, Para-Educator, Wa-Hi, 4 days

• **Leave of Absence**

(Certificated)

Amy Ford, Fourth Grade, Edison Elementary, 6 years

- August-December 2009, to return January 2010

Becky Rausch, Learning Specialist, Prospect Point, 26 years

- For the 2009-2010 school year

(Classified)

Susie Morris, Health Clinician, Walla Walla High School, 5.5 years

- April 2009 through the 2009-10 school year

• **Out of State Travel**

Anne Swant to attend ETS Teacher Leader Training in Princeton, NJ (Funding: No Cost to District)

Brad Daly to attend Coaches Clinic Level 2 in Boise, ID (Funding: Coaches' Professional Growth)

Quote of the Week

"We cannot hold a torch to light another's path without brightening our own."

Ben Sweetland

Culminating project allows Wa-Hi seniors to reflect on high school experiences

Walla Walla High School Associate Principal **Mira Gobel** reported to school board members last night on the school's culminating project. This graduation requirement for high school seniors is an opportunity for students to talk about their personal lives, best school work, community service projects and high school and beyond plan.

Gobel said 243 community volunteers served on reviewing panels to judge the presentations. She reported only 11 of the school's 450 graduating seniors have not completed the presentations and will do so in May. She said positive feedback and support from staff and the community has been overwhelming.



Walla Walla High School senior **Jeff Ladderud** opens his electronic culminating project file in preparation of his senior presentation. All Wa-Hi students used technology to complete this state required graduation requirement.

Staff to receive Budget Savings plan update

Wednesday morning Walla Walla Public Schools staff will receive a detailed update on the district's proposed 2009-10 school year Budget Savings Plan.

Construction forces Edison schedule change

Edison Early Release Schedule: Last night Superintendent **Rich Carter** announced the last day of school for Edison kindergarten students will be Friday, June 5. Students of grades 1-5 will attend half-days the last week of school, June 8-12.

Staff and teachers will conduct classes in the morning and use the afternoon to pack and move materials to the new building.

The adjusted calendar is needed to vacate the old Edison building scheduled for demolition immediately following the last day of school. The kindergarten portable building must be moved off the site before demolition of the main building begins.

State performance targets

Assistant Superintendent **Dr. Linda Boggs** reported the district met or exceeded the state mandated performance target standards for Reading, Language Arts, Math and Graduation Rates. Boggs said it's reassuring to know the district's plan is working.

National board conference evokes passions

School board members reported on their recent trip to San Diego to attend the National School Board Association conference. Board members said the annual conference inspired them and provided up-to-date information on a variety of educational issues.