

## PocketiNet partners with the school district

### *Enhanced technology infrastructure improves service*

PocketiNet Communications is completing a 10 month project with the Walla Walla Public Schools to provide enhanced communication technology through the installation of advanced fiber optics to all Walla Walla schools, Administrative Office, as well as the Transportation Cooperative and Support Services facility.

The new infrastructure provides increased capacity by 660 percent to create a "Mega Super Highway" for information sharing and updated voice services. The project provides advanced fiber optic services throughout the district and represents the latest innovative set of products. Students and staff will now benefit from access to reliable, ultra high speed Internet and voice services which offer an abundance of new learning opportunities.



*Brandenburg*

"Many of the applications at present are still being developed and will most likely come from district educators using this new technology to better the educational experience of the student," said Todd Brandenburg, President of PocketiNet Communications, Inc. "PocketiNet is committed to supporting the future of our children and the community where we live so the students of Walla Walla have all the tools necessary to excel in life."

This project would not have been possible without the contribution of PocketiNet, who offered significant savings on the all new infrastructure. PocketiNet is a locally owned and operated broadband Internet service provider.

"In the garden and water world it mean we had started with a one inch diameter hose that supplied our water and replaced that with a pipe that is nearly 16 inches in diameter." District Technology Director **Kirk Jameson** said. "This allows our technicians to make updates in only minutes which once took hours. Now our teachers and students can stream video curriculum they were unable to access in the past."

## Math emphasis paying dividends

Walla Walla Public Schools state testing results from the Spring 2011 testing cycle reveal a districtwide instructional emphasis on math the past two years is making a difference.

"The data is clear our students' math skills continue to improve," District Assessment Coordinator **Maria Garcia** said.

The new mathematics End-of-Course exams in algebra and geometry replaced the math High School Proficiency Exam and district results indicate Walla Walla students passed at a higher rate than the state average.

"The format of the new End-of-Course exam allows for a more accurate assessment of student learning," Garcia said. "In the past, students were tested at the end of 10<sup>th</sup> grade on content they had not seen since 9<sup>th</sup> grade or even middle school for some students. Now students are assessed upon finishing either their algebra or geometry course when their skills are fresh"

District high school graduation rates are above the state average. Walla Walla Public Schools' on-time graduation rate is 86.5 percent, increasing to 99.3 percent if a 5<sup>th</sup> year is necessary for students.

Blue Ridge made some of the more impressive gains with 78 percent of 5th graders meeting science standards, compared to 10% last year.

Visit the "School Report Card" page at the OSPI web site for a complete list of district test results.

## In other School Board meeting business...

### **Board members:**

- approved minutes of August 16, 2011 board meeting, personnel report, September 6, 2011 accounts payable and payroll, 2011-12 District Insurance renewal, Out-of-State travel and WWVEA contract.
- adopted Policy 6882 (Sale of Real Property)
- approved participation in Self Insured Individual Vision Program & Self Insured Dental Program/Resolution No. 11-2011. This move came from a recommendation from the district's Health Care Committee.

# Personnel Report

## Employment

(Certificated)

**Yazmin Bahena**, Bilingual Kindergarten (temp), Green Park

**Cheryl Thonney**, Title One Specialist .5 FTE (temp), Blue Ridge

**Dan Coffey**, Title One Specialist, .5 FTE, Sharpstein

(Classified)

**Christopher Brown**, Para-Educator, Walla Walla High School

**Fidel Bruno**, Trades Assistant (temp), Facilities and Operations

**Cheryl Copeland**, Health and Nutrition Coordinator, Blue Ridge Head Start/ECEAP

**Edward Czyhold**, Mechanic, Transportation and Facilities and Operations

**Rosalva Diaz**, Para-Educator, Sharpstein

**Silva Gomez**, Life Skills Assistant, Green Park

**Karen Hanson**, Para-Educator, Sharpstein

**Dean Harmon**, Custodian, Facilities and Operations

**Taren Hartzheim**, Food Services Assistant, Garrison

**Cesar Hernandez**, Para-Educator, Green Park

**Danna Jones**, Para-Educator, Edison

**Veronica Klicker**, Health Clinician (temp), Sharpstein

**Gregory May**, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge

**Malinda Prendiville**, Para-Educator (temp), Blue Ridge

**Melissa Teal**, Food Services Assistant, Prospect Point

**Christopher Yoo**, Para-Educator, Berney and Green Park

## Resignation/Retirement

(Classified)

**Maryelyn Hebel**, Administrative Assistant, Curriculum Dept. (7 years)

**Luciana Herrera**, Intervention Specialist, Pioneer, 19 years

*(Luciana was on a leave of absence for the 2010-2011 school year)*

## Out-of-State Travel

**Rick Pummel** to attend Brain Share 2011 in Salt Lake City, UT (Funding: Professional growth, Technology)

**Gayle See** to attend National PE/Health Convention in Boston, MA (Funding: WAHRERD/Personal)

**Scott Tibbling** to attend OAPHERD Speaker in Salem, OR (Funding: PGO Funds)

## Superintendent's Report

*Miller to chair Levy Advisory and Calendar Committees*

Superintendent **Mick Miller** reported to school board members last night on two broad-based committees he is organizing this fall to help make recommendations on the 2012 M&O Levy and 2012-13 and 2013-2014 school year calendars.

The Levy Community Advisory Committee is established to educate this group on the M&O Levy and provide historical data on past M&O Levy rates. This group, which consists of board members, central office administrators, WWVEA and PSE leadership, a student, parents and community members, will ultimately provide a recommendation for the levy rate and how many years it should span.

The Calendar Committee will meet in October for the first time. WWVEA President **Margo Piver** and PSE President **Bill Heiser** will assist Miller throughout the calendar committee process. This committee will also consist of teachers, classified staff, community and business leaders, parents and students.

## Quote of the Week

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

*Nelson Mandela*

## High School Report

*Wa-Hi ASB and FFA update*

Walla Walla High School ASB leaders **Emma Eskil** and **Andrew Hoffman** reported to school board members on the start of the school year. They said the first dance of the year was attended by nearly 500 students and said they are busy planning Homecoming activities scheduled for October 10-15.

FFA President **Lacey Eastman** and Treasurer **Ashley Ramsey** reported this year 58 students participated in the fair. They said 41 members sold live-stock, netting \$38,182 in sales. They said the students put in hundreds of hours preparing for the annual fair.