



REPORT IT!

Safety is one of the district's top priorities. To help safeguard our school community, Walla Walla Public Schools uses SafeSchools Alert, a tip reporting service for students, staff and parents to submit safety concerns to the administration four different ways:

1. PHONE

1-855-4ALERT1, ext. 1057

2. TEXT

#1057 @tip + your tip to ALERT1 (253781)

3. EMAIL

1057@alert1.us

4. WEB

1057.alert1.us

NEW MOBILE APP!

Walla Walla Public Schools introduced a new mobile app to better support smartphone and mobile device communications. Android users visit Google Play and iPhone users go to the App Store and type Walla Walla Public Schools in the search window. It's free and easy to install.

MOBILE APP FEATURES:

- School closure and emergency notifications
- News, events and calendar
- Job postings
- WWPS social media links
- Links to school websites

Walla Walla Public Schools

Blue Ridge parents rally to revive dormant PTA

Parent Teacher Associations have been around for years, but complications such as working families, mounds of required paperwork from the state PTA office and language barriers pushed the Blue Ridge PTA into extinction for the past seven years.

Thanks to support from Trinity Baptist Church, Physical Education Teacher Bryan Eggart, and numerous Blue Ridge staff and parents, Blue Ridge Elementary Principal Kim Doecker reports the school now has a formal PTA registered with the state.

"We worked with the state PTA regional support staff to complete the necessary paperwork and get everything set up," Doecker said. "We're meeting every month and have about 30 members."

Local PTA fundraisers support school programs, building improvements, and educational events. The need for a PTA at Blue Ridge became even more evident this year when Eggart proposed organizing a Fund Run to help raise funds for new playground equipment.

Once the Blue Ridge PTA was once again official, the Treasurer had the financial components in place to accept funds. Students, staff, volunteers and parents went to work and successfully secured more than \$4,800 in donations in less than a week. These funds are now safely tucked away to put toward the future purchase of new playground equipment.

"We appreciate our local businesses for their kind donations," said Doecker. "Our school community came together in support of this event and it will make a difference for all Blue Ridge students."

Doecker is anxious to work closely with the newly formed PTA to continue benefiting from these hardworking and dedicated volunteers.

"Our PTA parents are ready to help implement school improvement

programs, help us improve communication, and support keeping the entire school community informed of current events, issues, and accomplishments," Doecker said. "Involved parents understand the challenges schools face and become part of the solution. By developing a closer relationship with parents, student achievement improves and the school develops a positive reputation in the community."



Teacher Tina Brennan joined parents and students in support of the Fund Run fundraiser.

Curriculum adoptions and instructional materials

Standards-aligned and modern curriculum materials are critical tools for classroom learning



By Christy Krutulis,
Executive Director
of Teaching and
Learning

Our School Board is committed to supporting updates to our Curriculum and Instructional Materials by increasing funding from \$450,000 to \$800,000. Research shows access to rigorous content aligned to the Washington State Learning Standards helps ensure students are college- and career-ready. We are reviewing and updating several content areas this year. Teams of teachers are devoting extensive hours to this critical work to increase student learning and proficiency on local and state assessments.

Middle School Math: Garrison and Pioneer Middle School math teachers, with support from Monica Nelson, Math Teacher on Special Assignment, have been piloting new materials. The goal is to ensure students have the rigorous skills necessary to meet the new Washington State Learning Standards. In February, we anticipate adopting *Ready Math*.

Middle School Science: With the support of Rob Ahrens, Science Teacher on Special Assignment, we are providing middle school science teachers with three new updated units for the curriculum we currently use. These units provide much-needed additions to support student access to the new Next Generation Science Standards and success on the new 11th-grade science assessment in 2018.

K-5 English/Spanish Language Arts: A team of 20 teachers lead by Casey Monahan, Curriculum Coordinator, has studied the new Language Arts standards, examined current instructional materials, and reviewed new materials available in English and Spanish. A 10-week pilot featuring new materials begins in January in all six schools. A recommendation to the Board is expected in May.

K-12 PE and Health: Wa-Hi Athletic Director Dirk Hansen is leading teachers in a review of the new state-adopted K-12 Health and Physical Education learning standards. A review of secondary health materials has also begun with a vision of lifelong fitness and health. We expect to present an adoption recommendation to the School Board this spring.

Board of Directors:

Dr. David Hampson
Ruth Ladderud
Cindy Meyer
Derek Sarley
Sam Wells

BOARD



Focus on Education

Is a community newsletter published tri-annually by Walla Walla Public Schools.

Walla Walla Public Schools

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Walla Walla Public Schools

Heroic actions garner spotlight

District parents and teacher honored for helping fire victims

Walla Walla Public Schools and the City of Walla Walla Fire Department presented Brian and Jennifer Fullen and Brian Richard with Outstanding Citizenship Awards for their efforts to ensure safety and protect property during an Alder Street residential fire. On the morning of Friday, December 2, parents Brian and Jennifer Fullen and Richard went to the burning building to help alert any occupants who were inside the apartment complex.

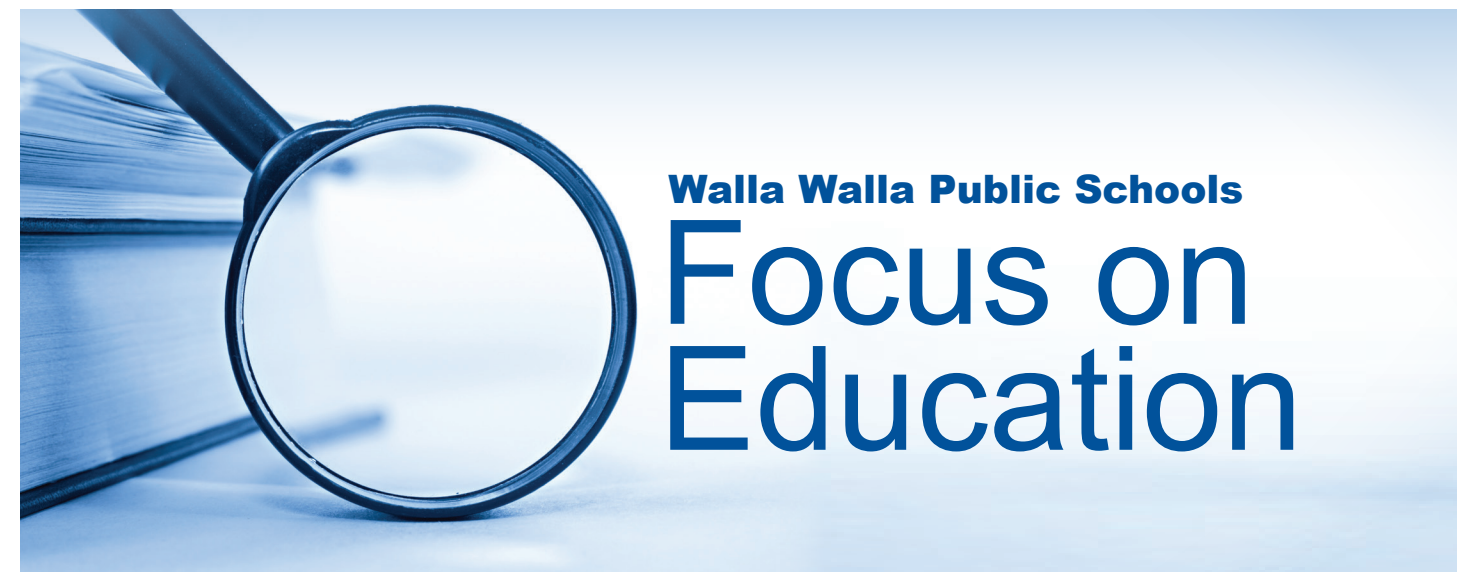
Fire Chief Bob Yancey said he believes these actions possibly helped save lives and made it safer for responding firefighters. Superintendent Smith said these heroes serve as positive role models for students as the district strives to promote good citizenship daily in Walla Walla Public Schools.



PHOTO L-R: Rocky Eastman (Fire District 4 Chief), Bob Yancey (City of WW Fire Chief), Brian Richard (Pioneer Middle School Teacher), Brian and Jennifer Fullen (Parents), Dr. David Hampson (School Board President) and Wade Smith (Superintendent).

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Walla Walla Public Schools

Focus on Education

Your School District Newsletter | Winter 2017 | Volume 19 | Issue 2



Audio Club member Philippa Wauchek teams with Whitman Basketball players to produce pre-game music tracks.

Inside This Issue:

Superintendent's Patron Tour

New Vision, Mission, Beliefs

SEA-TECH Construction class

New district mobile app

SafeSchools Alerts

New Blue Ridge PTA

Curriculum Adoptions

Outstanding Citizenship Awards

Lincoln Audio Club rocks!

Audio Production Club connects kids to school

Rodney Outlaw started his first independent record label, Outlaw Entertainment Group, in 2000. This venture allowed him to lock down his first distribution deal with Houston Records, eventually signing 13 independent artists and releasing six titles.

He is a family man now and his days of concert tours and long hours in the recording studio are behind him. His focus today is teaching Walla Walla students how to write



Former hip hop artist and producer Rodney Outlaw is the Lincoln High School Audio Production Club Advisor.

"I love making music and working with kids."

OUR VISION

Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates

OUR MISSION

Walla Walla Public Schools ensures all students receive high-quality instruction in an aligned and coherent system while addressing their social and emotional needs in a safe and engaging environment.

www.wwps.org



Superintendent’s Message

Walla Walla Public Schools mails the Focus on Education newsletter to the homes of residents three times per year. This publication serves as a platform to keep our community informed and connected to the school district.

We value your input and look forward to your involvement in our Strategic Planning efforts throughout this school year as we work collectively to develop Washington’s most sought-after graduates.

Wade Smith
Superintendent
(509) 527-3000
wsmith@wwps.org
Twitter: @WallaWallaSup

Walla Walla Public Schools...

Strong support for Entry Plan

My wife, two children and I are excited to be in Walla Walla and appreciate the outpouring of support we have received since arriving in July. The “Walla Walla Way” is alive and well. Thank you to the Board of Directors, staff, community, and stakeholders for your generous gift of time and willingness to partner as I transition to Walla Walla Public Schools.

December marked the end of my formal six-month Entry Plan which included nearly 250 interactions, meetings, and engagements with stakeholders. The district will now begin to plot a vision and direction for the future of Walla Walla Public Schools. A deliberate action plan with identified target outcomes will be created in the coming months providing the framework for the district’s strategic planning process with an intended outcome of delivering a comprehensive five-year Strategic Plan by June.

Our new Strategic Plan will be focused, attainable, well-understood, and supported in order to provide consistency, clarity, and purpose to our core mission of educating current and future students of Walla Walla Public Schools as we work collectively to develop Washington’s most sought-after graduates. We will use the information gathered this year and in previous years to develop goals and strategic initiatives which represent the vision and direction we have established for the school district. We are committed to ensuring our plan is innovative, responsible, accountable, and well-communicated. Look for more opportunities in the coming months to engage and learn more about our process.

PHASE #4 ENTRY PLAN HIGHLIGHTS:

- Community and stakeholder outreach (248 meetings with community members)
- Supported school board in finalizing new district Vision, Mission and Belief statements
- Met with student leadership groups at all schools
- Attended and participated in a number of community and school events

Join us for a Superintendent’s Patron Tour!

DATE: Wednesday, February 1 | 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. (lunch provided)

RSVP: by Friday, January 27 – sgolden@wwps.org | 526-6715

TOUR SITES:

Blue Ridge Elementary, Lincoln High School and Garrison Middle School

This is an excellent opportunity to meet new Superintendent Wade Smith and learn more about your schools during this behind the scenes tour.

Tiny house competition to test job skills

Walla Walla Public Schools Career and Technical Education program received a \$3,000 Carl Perkins Reserve Grant to participate in the 2017 CTE Showcase of Skills. The program concludes March 27 in Olympia at the Capital Campus, where approximately 25 Walla Walla High School and SEA-TECH students will complete their tiny homes and compete for honors.

Students in the SEA-TECH Construction Tech Program are currently practicing for the competition by constructing tiny homes in their SEA-TECH shop. Students use nail guns, a variety of power saws, drills, levels and other tools of the trade.

Construction Technology, with instructor Eric Matson, is an exciting new course that teaches students advanced carpentry, electrical systems, masonry, plumbing skills and how to read blueprints. Students also research and design both renewable and nonrenewable energy sources. Successful completion of SEA-TECH programs allows students to earn college credits and/or industry certification, including the introduction to apprenticeship opportunities.

“This incredible opportunity offers students a hands-on introduction to construction trades,” said Matson, who spent much of his career in Portland in a variety of construction roles.

This program also features Geometry in Construction, which

offers a unique hands-on approach for students to apply their math skills in designing roof structures, material estimates and costs, and general structural framing layout.

SEA-TECH operates as a cooperative school of six local school districts: College Place, Dayton, Prescott, Touchet, Waitsburg and Walla Walla. SEA-TECH also can serve students from private schools, online schools and home school students. Juniors and seniors are eligible to enroll. Visit myseatech.org to learn more about registration for Construction Technology and the other industry-focused programs available at SEA-TECH.



PHOTO L-R: Senior Josh Rencken (Touchet), Senior Antonio Parra (Wa-Hi), Instructor Eric Matson, Senior Riley Winnett (Wa-Hi), Junior Amin Acevedo (Touchet). These students will compete in the Tiny House Construction Competition in Olympia later this school year.



Mr. Whitman raises \$50,000 for local school-based health centers

Thanks so much to the seven men who competed for the title of Mr. Whitman 2016 during the 15th annual fundraising contest organized by the women of Kappa Kappa Gamma.

This year’s beneficiary of the \$50,000 grand total is The Health Center, which operates clinics at Lincoln High School, Pioneer Middle School and Blue Ridge Elementary School.

Founded in 2008, The Health Center provides on-site, no-cost,

holistic physical and mental health care services. The Health Center’s innovative model combines accessible physical care and mental health care as part of resilience-based, wrap-around services offered in concert with partner schools. This strategy is producing documented improvements in the academic and life success of participating students.

School Board approves new Vision

New Vision, Mission and Belief statements provide district direction

An important milestone in the district’s year-long Strategic Plan development process was reached in December as School Board members approved new Vision, Mission and Belief statements for the district. This decision followed months of listening, data collecting and discussion. The next step of the Strategic Planning process is developing goals and action plans before finalizing the document in June. Look for opportunities to share feedback on goals and initiatives later this school year.

VISION - *Developing Washington’s most sought-after graduates*

MISSION - *Walla Walla Public Schools ensures all students receive high quality instruction in an aligned and coherent system while addressing their social and emotional needs in a safe and engaging environment.*

BELIEF STATEMENT - *We believe,*

- in challenging and supporting all students
- in collaborative and transparent operation
- quality instruction is critical to student success
- in the importance of family and community
- in investing in staff to ensure excellence
- diversity is a strength
- in maximizing the impact of our resources



“This is an exciting time for the school district. Our new mission provides clarity and direction.”

**-Dr. David Hampson
School Board President**

Audio Production Club -continued from page 1

songs, mix arrangements and use digital recording software to produce music. Outlaw, a Para-Educator and computer coordinator at Lincoln High School, created an Audio Production Club to share his talents and passion for music with students. Lincoln High School Principal Marci Knauff dedicated space for a lab and purchased equipment for the Audio Production Club. Student participation then doubled and has become so popular it is now a CTE class during the school day and the afterschool club has expanded to four days a week. Outlaw also started a club for Garrison Middle School students this fall and has four to six students regularly meeting Tuesdays after school for 90 minutes. He also utilizes the CrewSpace area at the Walla Walla Public Library on Saturdays.

Lincoln High School students in the Audio Production Club are partnering with the Whitman basketball team this year to produce music to use during games. Players made visits to Lincoln High School as part of the collaboration and Lincoln students are planning to attend a game this season.

“The Audio Club kids created introduction music for the team to use during their basketball games,” Outlaw said. “The team was very happy when they heard the final project.”

Walla Walla is a long way from La Grange, N.C., where Outlaw

was raised. His early days of music production included assisting on recording sessions with George Clinton and Pharrell from the Neptunes. Outlaw has a degree from the Conservatory of Recording Arts and Science in Arizona. He began working with youth in the Boys and Girls Club in Scottsdale, Ariz. His wife was in the Navy, prompting many moves. Life is more simple these days for Outlaw.

“My wife retired from the Navy and she is from Walla Walla,” Outlaw said. “We always came here to visit, so we decided to move to Walla Walla and raise our two kids. I realize I have three loves: My family, my music and working with kids.”

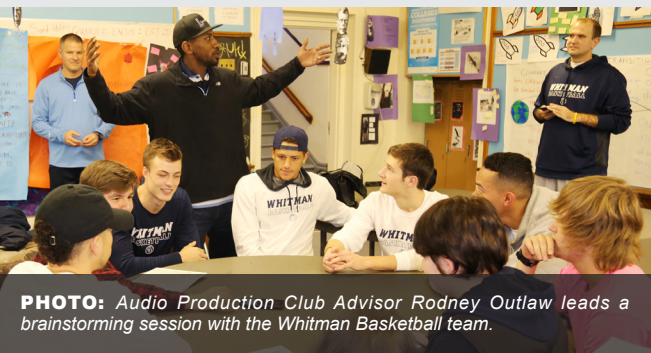


PHOTO: Audio Production Club Advisor Rodney Outlaw leads a brainstorming session with the Whitman Basketball team.



Join the conversation

Walla Walla Public Schools is conducting a community engagement activity with ThoughtExchange this winter to learn more about facility needs in support of developing a long-range Facilities Improvement plan. The ThoughtExchange process is driven by the thoughts and opinions of the community to help shape the direction and priorities of the district over the next three years.

How it works...

Parents, students and community members will have an opportunity to “Join the Conversation” via this confidential online learning process beginning Feb. 13 to Feb. 26. Results will be shared with the public in May.

New Wa-Hi track named after local legend Dave Klicker

School Board members approved naming the new track at Walla Walla High School the Dave Klicker Memorial Track and Field. Board members were presented with two options from a pool of eight to consider.

Approximately 72 percent of the 637 survey participants voted to name it after Klicker. Klicker was a standout athlete at Walla Walla High School. He also taught and coached in the district for years.



PHOTO L-R: School Board President Dr. David Hampson, Del Klicker (Dave’s brother), Dean Derby and Dean Lodmell.