



School Board Student Representative

EVA MAXWELL

Walla Walla High School sophomore Eva Maxwell was sworn into office in December as the district's second-ever official Student Representative to the School Board. Eva has attended Walla Walla Public Schools for almost five years, starting in 6th grade at Garrison Middle School.

"This is where I learned about the value of partnership in creating impactful change by working with administrators and student leaders in the environments around me," said Eva. "At Wa-Hi I have enjoyed participating in a variety of activities, such as volleyball, Book Club, students for climate action, Green Club, the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council, and the Equity and Access Committee."

Eva enjoys hiking and the outdoors, arts and crafts, spending time with her family and friends, and reading.

"I am honored to have been chosen for this new position of school board student representative, and am excited to collaborate with board members on working towards building a better future for our school community and district," Eva said.

Delivering on Our Promise!



National Magazine Honors Wa-Hi Bond Renovation

Have you heard the great news? Walla Walla High School was one of only two schools in the state of Washington to receive an Education Architectural Award from Learning by Design for its schoolwide renovation project made possible by a successful bond in November 2018.

"It's an honor to be recognized by this prestigious magazine which recognizes the nation's preeminent architectural firms by publishing outstanding pre-K to 12 and college/university projects," said Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith. "We delivered on every promise made to our community and are so thankful for the support of this project and all the others connected to the 2018 bond measure."

Board of Directors:

- Alayna Brinton
- Ruth Ladderud
- Kathy Mulkerin
- Derek Sarley
- Terri Trick
- Eva Maxwell, Student Rep.
- Hailey Thrall, Student Rep.

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 does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination.

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Walla Walla Public Schools is an Equal Opportunity Employer and complies with all requirements of the ADA.

Where are they Now?

Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates

Growing up the son of long-time district educators Gary and Judy Peasley, it's no surprise their eldest child Greg Peasley has dedicated his life to service of others as a City of Walla Walla Firefighter and Paramedic. Giving back is the Peasley way. In his role as a local first responder, Greg also serves as Instructor for the Walla Walla Regional Fire Academy, which trains new firefighters from Walla Walla, College Place and the surrounding areas how to be safe while helping people on their worst day.

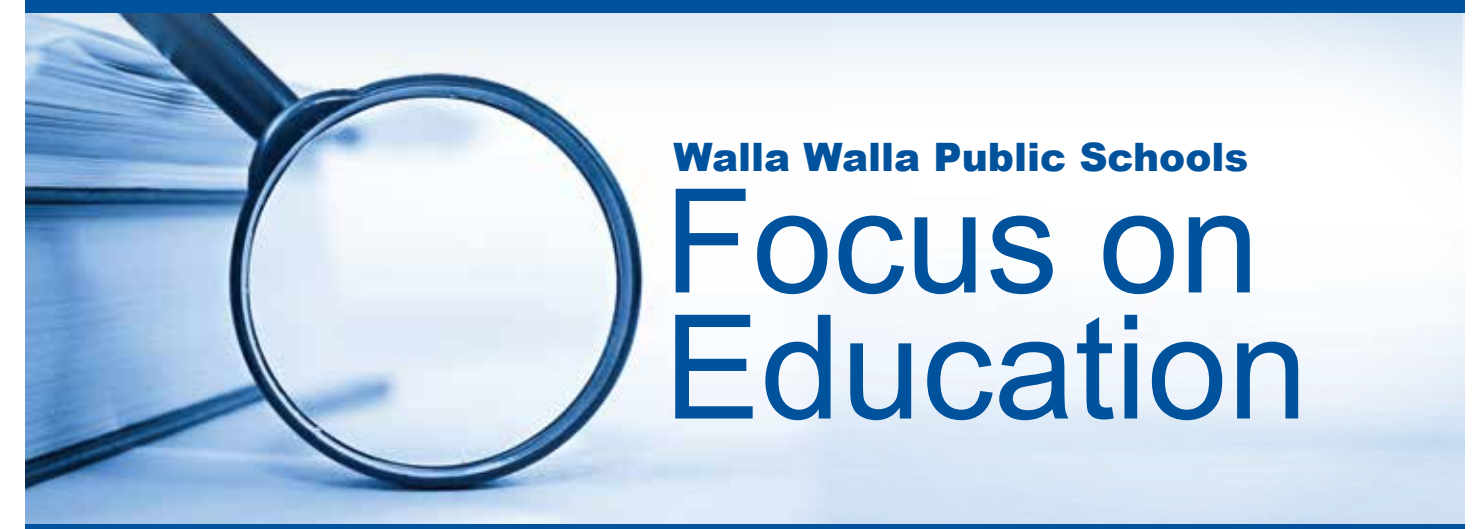


GREG PEASLEY

After graduating from Walla Walla High School in 2008, Greg went on to Central Washington University where he earned a Bachelor's in Science degree in Paramedicine. Greg also attended Pioneer Middle School and Berney Elementary during his school days. He credits current Pioneer Middle School Principal Kris Duncan, his then teacher, for giving him the freedom to learn his own way and feel comfortable in class. He also thanks retired teacher and coach John Golden, who is now the District 4 Deputy Fire Chief, for telling him about firefighting and encouraging him to give it a try. The rest is history he says. Greg, and his wife Theresa, have two children; Katelynn (4) and Robert (2). They also consider Shelby, their Yellow Lab, a member of the family. Greg enjoys spending time with his family, hunting, fishing and cooking. He would like to continue serving his community by emphasizing the importance of fire safety and CPR awareness.



VERSIÓN EN ESPAÑOL DISPONIBLE EN EL SITIO WEB DEL DISTRITO --- WWW.WWPS.ORG



Walla Walla Public Schools Focus on Education

Your School District Newsletter | Winter 2024 | Volume 26 | Issue 2



Carnegie Education Center Opens!

Walla Walla Public Schools and the City of Walla Walla partner to repurpose the historic Carnegie Library into an education hub for Walla Walla youth.

The historic Carnegie Library building in beautiful downtown Walla Walla has been a hub for children and families for more than a century. This fall Walla Walla Public Schools celebrated with the City of Walla Walla to dedicate the building as the Carnegie Education Center during an official ribbon cutting ceremony. The Carnegie Education Center is home of the Opportunity,

Walla Walla Online and Homelink programs. The transition to the Carnegie Education Center from the previous Eastgate location was made possible thanks to a low-cost lease from the City of Walla Walla. Guests took time to tour the building after the ceremony to see how it is being used for learning once again to support local children and families.

“ Superintendent’s Message ”



Preparing students for their future...

Did you know 95% of our students earn a high school diploma?

That is well above the state average and has steadily increased over the last decade, especially for our Hispanic/Latino students. And while the earning of a diploma is an important milestone, it is also critical that each and every student leave high school with a set of skills and experiences that help prepare them for their futures, regardless if they are college, military, trade school or career bound.

Thirty years ago, beloved Walla Walla Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Ellen Wolf emphasized that, “we are educating students for their futures, not our past.” Those sage words are even truer today than they were back then. The rate at which our world is changing, flattening and influenced by automation and artificial intelligence is startling. The World Economic Forum predicts 65% of the jobs our current elementary students will hold don’t even exist yet.

How are we preparing our students to meet the challenge of their futures you may ask?

As one of our district’s core goals in our Vision 2030 Strategic Plan, our school board has prioritized relevant and rigorous educational experiences. As a result, we are committed to ensure that every senior graduates with 21st Century skills and a post-secondary plan. Students interested in the trades or technical fields have access to some 50 career and technical courses. Students who wish to explore deeper and more challenging curriculum have the opportunity to take over 30 Advanced Placement, honors and College in the High School classes. And nearly two dozen opportunities exist to earn industry certifications while still in high school. All of these are made possible through our district’s Learning Levy, which has been resoundingly renewed for over 50 consecutive years in Walla Walla.

Enhanced partnerships with local business and employers is underway in order to increase worksite learning and internship opportunities for our students. Continued collaboration and coordination with our region’s higher education partners is helping to streamline student access, accession and opportunities to earn post high school certificates and degrees locally. And improved partnerships with families will ensure parents are actively involved in their child’s high school course selection and graduation pathway plans.

Collectively, these efforts will help ensure that the American Dream is not just a possibility but a reality for each and every student in Walla Walla as we work together to realize our vision towards Developing Washington’s Most Sought-After Graduates.



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 appreciate your involvement and support. The Board of Directors and I value your input and welcome your ideas as we strive to “Develop Washington’s Most Sought-After Graduates.”

Dr. Wade Smith
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WALLA WALLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

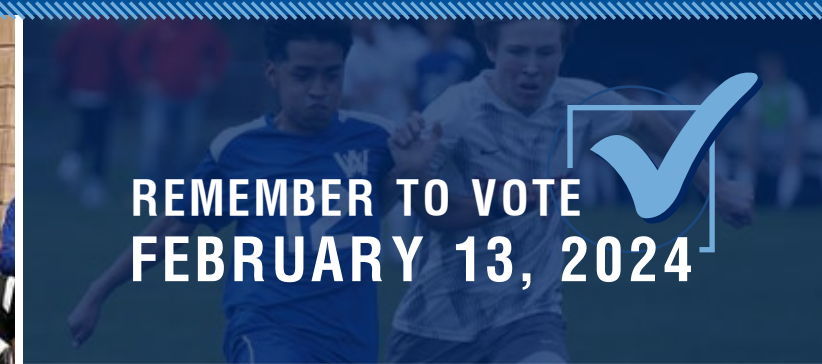
2024 LEVY MEASURES

STRONG

SCHOOLS | FAMILIES | FUTURE

INVESTING IN THE SUCCESS OF OUR STUDENTS

LEVIES BENEFIT ALL STUDENTS



WA-HI TRACK ATHLETES SHINE ON NATIONAL STAGE

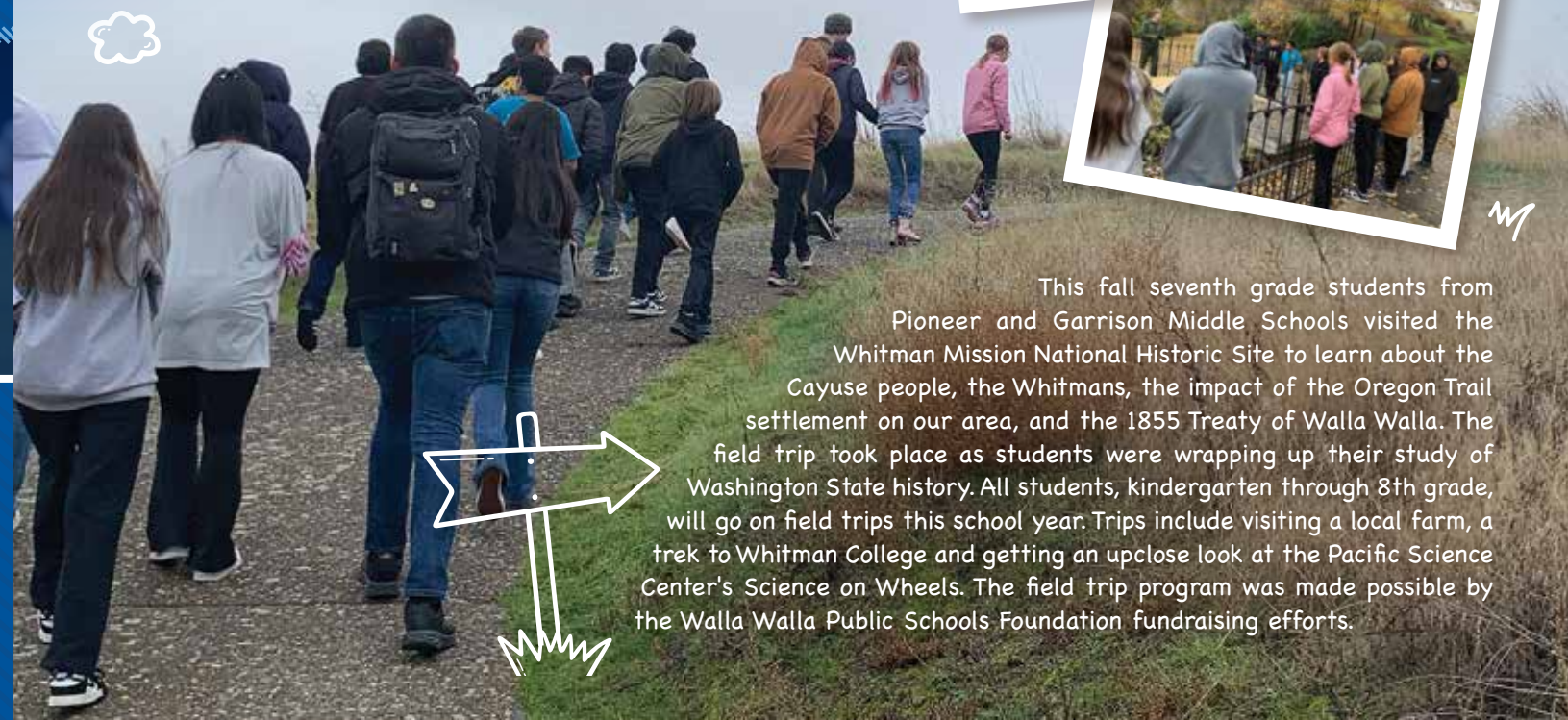
Congratulations to Walla Walla High School Track & Field athletes Isaiah Roberson, Caleb Morehead, Ian Calhoun and Jake Hisaw for being named All-Americans. This team qualified for the Nike Outdoor National Championships after winning the state championship in the 4x100 meter relay in a school record time of 41.99.

These Wa-Hi student-athletes kept practicing for two additional weeks following state and competed in Eugene, Oregon at Historic Hayward field, on the University of Oregon campus. They won their preliminary heat, and then came back to finish 2nd overall at the Outdoor National Championships.

“Not only is this the first team to ever win a state title, but they are now the first team to be recognized as All-Americans for the 4x100 meter relay,” said Coach Eric Hisaw. “It’s a really cool honor for the kids and now they have their official All-American status certificate.”



WALLA WALLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION FIELD TRIP PROGRAM LINKS REAL WORLD TO THE CLASSROOM



This fall seventh grade students from Pioneer and Garrison Middle Schools visited the Whitman Mission National Historic Site to learn about the Cayuse people, the Whitmans, the impact of the Oregon Trail settlement on our area, and the 1855 Treaty of Walla Walla. The field trip took place as students were wrapping up their study of Washington State history. All students, kindergarten through 8th grade, will go on field trips this school year. Trips include visiting a local farm, a trek to Whitman College and getting an upclose look at the Pacific Science Center’s Science on Wheels. The field trip program was made possible by the Walla Walla Public Schools Foundation fundraising efforts.



For nearly a decade, volunteer Sharon Carter has been arriving at Berney Elementary each day to support teachers and students. Sharon was recently honored by Volunteer in Person Coordinator Beth Swanson for logging 100 hours of volunteer service for this school year alone.

It’s normal to see Sharon at Berney one to three hours a day doing what she can to help out. She began volunteering at Berney when her granddaughter, who is now a freshman at Walla Walla High School, started school at Berney.

Sharon developed an efficient and easy-to-use system for teachers to submit tasks to support classroom learning like cutting paper, organizing materials and stocking supplies.

Sharon says she loves supporting the teachers who, in her words “can use a hand.”

Thanks so much to SHARON CARTER

