

National Teacher Day Salute!

By Superintendent Rich Carter

Tuesday, May 4, 2010 is National Teacher Day. Walla Walla Public Schools teachers provide our students a world-class education in a loving, caring and safe environment. The average tenure for a teacher in our district is more than 13 years. This is important on several levels.

First, this length of service equates to experience. Our teachers have the training and expertise necessary to help meet the needs of all students. Secondly, it tells us our teachers are happy. Employees who feel supported and appreciated are more motivated and do a better job.

Teachers impact our community in many ways. They teach our youth the essential skills needed to be competitive in the 21st Century. Teachers are role models, friends, colleagues and neighbors who deeply care about our city and our world. They are quick to lend a hand for those in need or join in a celebration to recognize an accomplishment.

If you ever find yourself in need of a smile, just visit a school. The magic our teachers perform on a daily basis is truly a work of art. They inspire our children and help cultivate their dreams. They are true heroes who shy from the spotlight to allow our children to bask in the glory. This time of the year is an excellent opportunity to reflect on a teacher who made a difference in your life. This good work continues today as teachers in Walla Walla classrooms enrich the lives of our most precious resource; our children.

Please join me in recognizing Walla Walla's outstanding teachers on National Teacher Day.

May is "Partners in Learning Month"

District to thank partners throughout month

Walla Walla Public Schools has proclaimed May as *Partners in Learning Month* to raise awareness of the vital role businesses, agencies and individuals have in our school system. *Partners in Learning Month* is an opportunity for Walla Walla Public Schools to extend a heartfelt thank you to all community partners who provide essential support to help Walla Walla Public Schools offer a first-class educational program.

Each May the district will organize annual celebrations to recognize the contributions of our district partners. Last night School Board President **Cindy Meyer** read a proclamation created in honor of this special month.

The district is sending out more than 100 letters to partner agencies, businesses and individuals this week as well as a copy of the proclamation. The district has organized a special Partners in Learning Month Recognition Tuesday, May 18 from 6 to 7 p.m. at the district board room.

The following district partners will be honored May 18 to acknowledge their significant contributions to Walla Walla Public Schools. Each year the district will feature additional partners.

- City of Walla Walla
- Blue Mountain Action Council
- Walla Walla Kids Read
- Providence St. Mary Medical
- Blue Mountain Dental Care
- Whitman College
- WWCC
- School PTAs
- Walla Walla - Columbia School Retirees' Association
- Mary Garner Esary Trust
- Lincoln Health Center
- Camp Fire USA - WW
- Hepler's Big Cheese Pizza
- Wa-Hi Latino Club
- McDonald Zaring Insurance
- WSU GEAR UP

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of April 20, 2010 school board meeting, personnel report and Resolution 18-2010/WIAA 2010-11.
- approved a Partnership Agreement with the state to support its application for Race to the Top federally funded grants.
- received a report from Superintendent Carter on the Skills Center land lease agreement with WWCC. Carter said the district and WWCC are meeting next week with Senator Hewitt to continue working ways to get the lease agreement language suitable for both parties.

Personnel Report

• Employment

(Certificated) **Matt Hamlin**, Math Teacher, Wa-Hi

(Classified) **Charity Yaw**, Food Services Assistant, Prospect Pt.

• Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated) **Peder Fretheim**, Math Teacher, Wa-Hi, 5 years

* *Peder is resigning .2 FTE - he will continue as a .8 FTE math teacher*

(Classified) **Jesus Lomeli**, Para-Educator, Pioneer, 6 years

Quote of the Week

"The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows."

Sydney J. Harris

Staff Transfers:

Janis Barton will transfer to Pioneer Middle School for 2010-11 as a Library Media Specialist.

Sarah Stone will transfer from the Wa-Hi Copy Center to Secretary to the Director of Facilities and Operations effective July 1.

Wa-Hi Science Curriculum project supports learning

Walla Walla High School science teachers are participating in the National Academy for Curriculum Leadership pilot project to introduce new materials and teaching strategies to the school. Assistant Principal **Kirk Jameson** reported the district is receiving \$120,000 worth of curriculum at no cost. Walla Walla High School is in year one of this pilot project. They will continue the effort next year with an option for a third year. The group reported the curriculum features multiple areas of science so students see the big picture of how it all works.

Green Park teachers enhance parent involvement

Green Park Elementary teachers **Claudia Saldivar**, **Berta Herrera-Trejo**, **Elizabeth Razo** reported to school board members on a parent involvement project they are completing in conjunction with earning their master's degree from Gonzaga University.

Through this project, they have developed parenting classes, parent surveys and fun activities for the entire family. They reported the evidence is clear parent involvement improves student achievement and builds school support. They are scheduled to complete the requirements of their degrees in July.

Gear Up career project helps student win trip

Gear Up leaders **Jerri Doyle-Grant** and **Margaret Thomas** reported on a student career project competition. Students **Ruben Avalos** and **Sonia Calzaretta** reported on their career choices. Avalos placed third in the competition and won a trip to Washington DC.

Former Blue Devil named new Wa-Hi football coach

Walla Walla Public Schools named **Matt Hamlin** to replace Marc Yonts as the new head football coach at Walla Walla High School.

Hamlin, who graduated from Walla Walla High School in 1999, will also teach math at the high school.

Hamlin has spent the past five years at Skyview High School in Vancouver, WA working as a math and physical education teacher and assistant football coach.

Hamlin was a three sport athlete at Walla Walla High School and earned All-State honors in football his senior year as a wide receiver. He was also the point guard on the 1999 Blue Devil basketball team that won the 4A state championship and was a member of the WWHS baseball team. See more on the district website at: www.wwps.org



District supports pursuit of federal funds

School board members approved a request from Assistant Superintendent **Dr. Linda Boggs** to sign a Partnership Agreement in support of Washington state's application to receive Race to the Top (RTTT) federally funded grants.

Boggs reported Governor **Christine Gregoire**, State Superintendent **Randy Dorn** and State Board of Education Chairman **Jeff Vincent** are asking districts and teacher's unions to join them in support of the application

Boggs said the state has a better chance of receiving funds for the second round of Race to the Top (RTTT) Grants. She said legislation passed during the recent session identified some key areas that will strengthen our state's application: improved instruction; updated evaluation standards for principals and teachers; and opportunities to improve low performing schools.

Boggs said if the state successfully receives these additional federal funds, approximately \$260,000 annually could trickle down to Walla Walla over a four year span.

She said the signing of the Partnership Agreement is just the first step and the district will still need to submit a district-wide implementation plan if and when the RTTT grant is awarded to Washington state.

School Nurses Day

Superintendent Rich Carter announced May 12 as School Nurses Day. He thanked district health clinicians for the valuable support they provide.

School in session Friday, May 7

School will be in session Friday, May 7 as a result of a snow make-up day.

This date was originally scheduled to be a no school day, but December's ice storm forced the district to use May 7 as a snow make-up date.