

“Partners in Learning Month”

District salutes its partners



Walla Walla Public Schools Superintendent **Dr. Richard Carter** and School Board President **Cindy Meyer** present Blue Mountain Action Council Director **Steve Moss** with an appreciation plaque as part of last night’s Partners in Learning Month Recognition event.

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. The district recognized the following partners last night.

- 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

Explorer students produce documentaries for C-SPAN

Last night Explorer Program students from Garrison and Pioneer Middle Schools reported to school board members on the video documentaries they produced for a C-SPAN competition.

Although the 32 documentary topics were vast, all videos centered on two themes:

- challenges we face as a country
- strengths we have as a country

School board members and audience participants were treated to the showing of two of the videos submitted for the competition. One focused on the impacts of cyberbullying in schools and the other on the negative media coverage schools often face.

Explorer teacher **Dan Calzaretta** reported to school board members the students spent about 60 hours per video or more than 1600 hours total for all the productions.

Explorer teacher **Beth Clearman** said the project challenged the students to hone their research skills, enhance their understanding of technology and work as a team. The videos are posted on the Pioneer and Garrison websites.

Calzaretta said approximately 250 people attended the film showing evening at Walla Walla High School earlier this year.

All Staff Breakfast

Friday, June 11
Breakfast - 7:15 a.m.
Program - 8 a.m.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

• approved minutes of May 4, 2010 school board meeting, personnel report, May bills and payroll, Recind/close Sharpstein General Fund Imprest, 2010-11 bus purchase, 2010-11 student insurance, April financial report, PSE ratification of contract for 2010-2011, Head Start/ECEAP Grant Application, and use of equipment for summer sports camp.

Personnel Report

• Employment

(Administrative) **Matt Bona**, Principal, Sharpstein

(Certificated) **Tammy Baker**, Fifth grade, Berney

Tina Brennan, First grade dual language, Blue Ridge

Daisy Cruz, Kindergarten dual language, Blue Ridge

(Classified) **Cathy Mehn**, Family Service & Mental Health Coordinator, Blue Ridge Head Start/ECEAP Program

• Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated) **Julianne Anderson**, LAP/2nd grade, Berney, 5 years

* *Julianne is resigning .2 FTE - she will continue as a .6 FTE LAP teacher*

Jennifer Kontos, Special Education, Walla Walla High School, 1 year

* *Jennifer is resigning .5 FTE and will continue as .5 FTE TOSA in Special Programs*

• Leave of Absence

(Certificated) **Julianne Anderson**, LAP/2nd grade, Berney, 5 years

Quote of the Week

“To penetrate and dissipate these clouds of darkness, the general mind must be strengthened by education.”

Thomas Jefferson

Matt Bona named new Sharpstein Principal

Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors approved the hiring of **Matt Bona** as principal of Sharpstein Elementary School. Bona replaces Principal **Laure Quresma** who was recently named the district's new Executive Director of Personnel. Bona's tenure at Sharpstein begins July 1.

Bona has 18 years experience in education. He has been an assistant principal at Walla Walla High School for the past four years. Prior to coming to Walla Walla, Bona worked for four years as an assistant principal and dean of students at Lake Roosevelt High School in the Grand Coulee Dam School District. Bona was also a high school physical education teacher for three years at the Grand Coulee Dam School District. Bona has social studies and physical education teaching experience at Toppenish, Ellensburg and Highland School Districts.

Bona was also an adjunct professor teaching health education at Linn-Benton Community College and a lecturer on health related topics at Western Oregon University.

“It is a great honor to become the new principal at Sharpstein Elementary School,” Bona said. “My family and I love living in Walla Walla and are excited about the opportunities that our town affords young children. Sharpstein is a school that has a lot of cutting edge programs in place that are beneficial for students and their education. My goal is to keep the positive things that are in place at Sharpstein moving forward and continue to make collaborative decisions that are best for students.”

Bona earned his Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education (History) degree from the University of Idaho, his Master of Science in Education Degree (Health) from Western Oregon and his Administrative Certification from Heritage University. A search for a new Walla Walla High School assistant principal is underway.



Yamate students bring Japanese culture

Last night Walla Walla High School Associate Principal **Mira Gobel** and teachers **Rob Ahrens** and **Bill Calhoun** presented to school board members on the recent Yamate Japanese exchange student visit.

Seventy-two Yamate students traveled to Walla Walla in April for a two-week stay in the valley. Students stayed with 35 host families and were treated to numerous activities and tourism sites.

Gobel said saying good-bye was difficult for everyone.

“It's amazing how attached you can get in just two weeks,” Gobel said. “Everyone was in tears as we hugged good-bye. We have already heard from many of the students and they all say how much they enjoyed their visit.”

Ahrens and Calhoun are participating in the return trip this summer. They will chaperone 19 students in July during their two week stay in Japan.

Senior presentations

Walla Walla High School Associate Principal **Mira Gobel** said 353 seniors have completed their senior presentations. Now in its third year as a high school graduation requirement, Gobel said the presentations continue to improve. This year 222 community members volunteered to serve on the review panels.

Earthquake preparedness pilot study

Chief Financial Officer **Pat Johnston** reported to school board members the district is participating in an earthquake preparedness pilot study. This no cost study will provide information on the district's facilities. The report will be completed in November.