

Japan trip changes the way Walla Walla High School students view the world



(L-R) Walla Walla High School students **Andrew Zahl**, **Kelsey Gabel** and teacher **Rob Ahrens** report to the school board on last summer's trip to Japan as part of the Yamate Student Exchange program.

Nineteen Walla Walla High School students participated in the two week trip. The students stayed with host families, learned about the culture and were able to do a lot of sight-seeing. Teacher **William Calhoun** also presented to the school board and traveled to Japan as a chaperon.

“The trip changed the way I view the world. When you spend this much time with people it breaks down the stereotypes and allows you to really learn the culture. It’s an eye opening experience.”

Kelsey Gabel, Wa-Hi Junior

Greenways online courses available

Walla Walla High School Assistant Principal **Kirk Jameson** reported to school board members last night 153 students from throughout the state are taking online courses from Greenways Academy of Washington.

Walla Walla Public Schools is in the process of finalizing an agreement with Greenways that would allow the district to serve as the host district for these online services for schools throughout state.

Jameson said many of the students who are participating are from private schools and are taking courses not offered at their schools. He said 95 of the students are from Walla Walla High School and nearly 20 from Lincoln High School.

Jameson said most of the Walla Walla Public Schools students who are taking the online classes are using them for credit retrieval. He also said students with medical conditions, a need to work and go to school and those with other special needs find Greenways courses the right fit.

“Today’s students need options to meet their individual needs and Greenways provides another choice for students,” Jameson said. “Greenways allows students to learn at their own pace, at their convenience and in their own setting. This option is unique in today’s world of education.”

Greenways online courses are setup as open enrollment allowing students to start at anytime. Students are allowed to take one course or a full load. Students are assigned a certificated teacher for each course and can complete the work day or night.

For more information, contact Jameson at 527-3020 / kjameson@wwps.org. Visit the Greenways website to learn more:

<http://greenwaysacademy.com/washington/>

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of September 7, 2010 board meeting, personnel report, co-curricular contracts, extra-curricular contracts, August financial report, and September bills and payroll.

Personnel Report

• Employment

(Classified) **Jonie Clark**, Para-Educator, Wa-Hi

Laurie Ferraro, Bus Assistant, Transportation

Alejandro Garcia, Para-Educator (Temp), Blue Ridge

Erica Sayers, Para-Educator (Temp), Sharpstein

Angela Skiles, Para-Educator (Temp.), Green Park

Kimberly Tomczek, Para-Educator (Temp.), Wa-Hi

Amanda Zagal, Para-Educator (Temp.), Blue Ridge

• Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated) **William Gilbert**, Music Teacher, Pioneer/Garrison, 23 years

• *Bill will retire at the end of the 2010-2011 school year*

• Leave of Absence

(Classified) **Paula Merson**, Food Service Assistant, Pioneer, 1 year

- *Paula will serve as a food service assistant at Sharpstein for the 2010-2011 school year*

Vidalia Trejo, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge Head Preschool Program, 3 years

Quote of the Week

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

Sydney J. Harris

Walla Walla High School's Big Blue Weekend

Event helps students develop positive relationships

Last night Big Blue Weekend Program Chairs and Walla Walla High School teachers **Kris Duncan** and **Carina Stillman** reported to school board members on the event scheduled for October 1-3 at the Washington Family Ranch in Antelope, OR.

Big Blue Weekend is a school-wide retreat aimed at building positive relationships between students and with staff members. Intentionally designed activities allow students to step outside of their comfort zones, break down social barriers, and develop skills they can integrate into their lives.

All Wa-Hi students are invited to attend Big Blue Weekend, with priority registration given to freshmen and sophomores. Student **Alexi Storm** also reported to school board members on how the event changes lives and improves the school climate.

If you are interested in volunteering or making a donation to support this event, contact:

Carina Stillman
cstillman@wwps.org
509.527.3020

Kris Duncan
kduncan@wwps.org
509.527.3020

September 24 early dismissal only for elementary students

The early dismissal days of September 24, March 4 and June 3 are for elementary schools only. The 2010-2011 calendar incorrectly states these early dismissal dates are for all district schools, K-12.

These half-day early dismissals are to allow elementary teachers more time for conference and report card preparation. Parents are encouraged to check with elementary schools for their specific early dismissal times.

Board meetings to start at 6:30 p.m.

School board meetings will start at 6:30 p.m. beginning in October to better meet the needs of staff, parents and students.

Homecoming Week Schedule

Wednesday, Sept. 22

- Western Day
- Powder Puff - 7 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 23

- Pajama Day
- Fill the Pool - Varsity Swimming at 6:30 p.m.
- Jam the Gym - C Team & JV Volleyball at 5:30 p.m. & Frosh & Varsity Volleyball at 7 p.m.
- Frosh football - 5 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 24

- Blue and White Day
- Homecoming Game at 7:30 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 25

- Homecoming Dance at 8 p.m. (Wa-Hi Gym)

Listen to Blue Devil Football

