

Community Bank adopts area schools



Community Bank Chief Executive Officer **Tom Moran** presents a \$1000 check to Superintendent **Mick Miller** to launch a new Adopt-a-School program.

Green Park and Blue Ridge Elementary Schools will both receive \$500 to support students in financial need. Funds may be used to assist students to purchase school lunches, classroom supplies, and any other items that would benefit them in their pursuit of an education. Selection of recipients of funds will be entirely at the discretion of teachers and/or counselors at the respective schools.

“Recognizing that an investment in people and their education is a smart investment in the community,” said Moran “Community Bank wants to get more involved in the community and schools are a great place to start.”

Community Bank identified Green Park and Blue Ridge based upon the significant percentage of students who participated in the free or reduced-priced school lunch program. Moran said the bank hopes this program is the start of a long and mutually beneficial relationship.

AVID Academic Recognition Night

Walla Walla High School Assistant Principal **Mindy Meyer**, AVID and Math Teacher **Mike Gobel** and GEAR UP Site Director **Jerri Grant** briefed the school board on the Third Annual AVID Academic Recognition and Family Night scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 22 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Walla Walla High School Commons.

Erin Jones, OSPI Assistant Superintendent of Student Achievement, returns to Walla Walla as the event’s keynote speaker. She will lead a discussion on building bridges between schools, families and communities. Jones was hired in 2008 as the Director of the Center for the Improvement of Student Learning.



Erin Jones

Senior **Ana Andrade** also addressed the school board and reported the AVID program will help her become the first in her family to attend college. She invited school board members to attend the event and learn more about how AVID is changing lives.

AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination, is an elementary through postsecondary college readiness system that is designed to increase schoolwide learning and performance. AVID students are expected to access rigorous curriculum and the elective class is an avenue for students to acquire the skills in communication, critical thinking, note-taking, peer-tutoring, organization and time-management.

“The AVID project is a collaborative effort between WSU GEAR UP, the district, and our community.”

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved personnel report, February 21, 2012 accounts payable, January Financial Report, and Rescind Lincoln High School General Fund Imprest.

Our Core Values
are more than mere words;

they're our business!

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect

Courtesy | Innovation | Diversity

Personnel Report

Employment

(Certificated) **NONE TO REPORT**

(Classified) **NONE TO REPORT**

Resignation/Retirement

Certificated: **Sue Hansen**, PE Specialist, Blue Ridge, 29 years
(effective at the end of the 2011-12 school year)

Leave of Absence

Certificated: **Gayle See**, PE Specialist, Walla Walla High School, 31 years
(for the 2012-2013 school year)

Out-of-State Travel - NONE TO REPORT

Excellence in Every Classroom

Quote of the Week

"You cannot teach a man anything;
you can only help him to find it
within himself"

Galileo

Staff Transfer: **Rocio Anaya** is transferring from Walla Walla High School to Sharpstein to serve as Secretary to the Principal.

Green Park Summer Academy makes learning fun

Last night Green Park teachers **Colleen Chamberlain**, **Wes Sanders** and **Elizabeth Razo** reported on their school's Summer Academy. Students participated in the program for 18 days and learned a variety of skills through hands-on activities.

Science was a major focus of the program. Students also went on field trips to the airport and a farm. Music, PE, art, theatre and nutrition were also taught during the academy.

Parent to Parent supports families with special needs children

The Parent to Parent program Coordinator **Cyndy Knight** reported to school board members last night on services available through her agency for parents with special needs children. Knight says Parent to Parent offers parents both emotional and informational support to parents of children with special needs from birth to adulthood.

"Parents who may be just learning about their child's disability or chronic health condition will be provided with helpful information and resources in their local communities that will assist them," Knight said. "Parents may also receive personal support and mentoring from other parents who have a child of their own with similar needs."

Parent to Parent also offers two support groups. The first is for children ages birth to eight and the second is for caretakers who are parenting high school students through adulthood. In addition to support and educational groups, Parent to Parent also holds special events featuring guest speakers and host Legislative Teas, educational teleconferences, Hispanic children's day and much more.

Call or email Knight at 509-524-2940 or cknight@co.walla-walla.wa.us for additional information.

Levy Tallies (as of 2/17/12)

Yes: 6,072 - 64.33%

No: 3,367 - 35.67%

Total: 9,439 - 100%



Automated External Defibrillators to be installed at district facilities

The district plans to install Automated External Defibrillators in district schools, support services facilities and the district office by spring break, according to Health Services Director **Jennifer Douglas**.

An automated external defibrillator is used in cases of life threatening cardiac arrhythmias which lead to cardiac arrest.

Last night school board members received for first reading: Board Policy 3412 Automated External Defibrillators.

New Mid Columbia Conference

Tri Cities and Walla Walla athletes will be playing in a new conference when the 2012-2013 school year begins.

Officials from Pasco, Kennewick, Richland, and Walla Walla school districts announced Tuesday that the new conference will be called the Mid Columbia Conference.

The districts announced on January 27 that they would be leaving the CBBN, citing economic circumstances and the desire to keep staff and students in class as the two primary drivers in the decision. The new Mid Columbia Conference will greatly reduce travel distance, which will both save districts money and require less lost instruction time.

The Mid Columbia Conference will consist of Pasco HS, Chiawana HS, Walla Walla HS, Kennewick HS, Kamiakin HS, Southridge HS, Richland HS and Hanford HS and will be a mixed 3A and 4A league.