

Debate coach praises students

Wa-Hi student wins state competition



Walla Walla High School Junior **Hope Grant-Herriot** and her mother **Laura Grant** (L - Berney teacher) and Debate Coach **Jean Tobin** (R - Green Park teacher) celebrate Hope's state championship at last night's school board meeting.

Hundreds of students from around the state packed the University of Puget Sound campus for the state tournament. Hope placed first in Oratory becoming Wa-Hi's first State Champion in Speech and Debate. Hope's speech was centered on the issue of obesity and its physical and emotional impacts.

Tobin praised all the students on the Debate Team for their efforts. She also thanked the district. She said the debate students are talented and put in the effort and hard work necessary to be successful. Hope will now advance to the national competition.

District developing new model for teacher and principal evaluations

Last night Assistant Superintendent **Laure Quaresma**, Walla Walla Valley Education Association President **Margo Piver** and Blue Ridge Kindergarten teacher **Tina Brennan** provided a progress report to the school board on the development of a new teacher and principal evaluation tool.

Walla Walla Public Schools is participating in a pilot program this school year to develop a model for teacher and principal evaluation changes based on requirements of the education reform bill E2SSB 6696 passed by the Washington State Legislature in the 2010 session.

Education reform bill E2SSB 6696 calls for significant changes in principal and teacher evaluation systems, including the introduction of a four-level evaluation ranking. Currently Walla Walla Public Schools, as well as most school districts in the state, has only two rankings: satisfactory and unsatisfactory.

As currently proposed, beginning in the 2013-14 school year, all districts will be required to adopt evaluation systems in alignment with E2SSB 6696.

"The new evaluation model promotes meaningful conversations and it allows teachers to look at what they are doing and create new ideas," Quaresma said. "It's not a gotcha; it's a growth model."

Quaresma says next month Walla Walla teachers will learn more about the model and the district's timeline for implementation.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes from the March 6, 2012 school board meeting, personnel report, and March 20, 2012 accounts payable, February financial report, and out-of-state travel.
- approved Board Policy 6895/Pesticides Notification, Postings and Record Keeping - per state requirements.
- approved Skills Center: Value Engineering Report and Implementation Plan.

Personnel Report

Employment - NONE TO REPORT

Resignation/Retirement

(Certificated)

Jennifer Nicholson, Library Media Specialist, Prospect Pt., 4 years
(*resignation effective April 11, 2012*)

Sue Parrish, Science, Garrison Middle School, 22 years
(*resignation effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year*)
(Classified)

Janice Long, Para-Educator, Berney, 3 years
(*resignation effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year*)

Leave of Absence

(Certificated)

Annie Boyd, School Psychologist, Special Programs, 6 years
(*for the 2012-2013 school year*)
(Classified)

Mike Lorang, Custodian, Pioneer Middle School, 8 years
(*For March through May 2012*)

Out-of-State Travel

Dr. Linda Boggs and **Maria Garcia** to attend AVID Summer Institute - Expanding schoolwide/districtwide in Dallas, TX
(Funding: GEAR UP)

Dr. Linda Boggs to attend AVID Summer Institute - Elementary Implementation in San Diego, CA (Funding: Title II)

Excellence in Every Classroom

Quote of the Week

“What we learn with pleasure we never forget.”

Alfred Mercier

ACEs expert Felitti headlines 2nd Annual Walla Walla Valley Violence Prevention Coalition Conference

March 26

Dr. Vincent Felitti

- “ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences): Understanding the Links Between Violence and Illness”
- 7 to 8 p.m., Maxey Hall, Whitman College Campus
- Free

March 27

Free daytime workshops

- 8:45 a.m.-5 p.m. at Whitman College
- Topics include:
 - Teen drug use
 - School and internet bullying
 - Children’s resilience
 - Strategies for raising boys
 - Gang violence
 - Anger management
 - Youth health (including nutrition, exercise, and meditation)

Family Night - “Surviving parenting and enjoying it”

- (*Featuring former NFL linebacker Allyn Griffin*)
- 5 to 7:45 p.m. at St. Patrick Church
 - Free dinner & child care
 - Spanish interpretation available
- Topics include: Raising healthy boys, cyber-bullying & sexting, fitness, nutrition, and health tips for you and your family and calming strategies

Prospect Point preparing Safe Routes to Schools education plan

Prospect Point Principal **Chris Gardea** reported to school board members on the education plan he is developing to meet the requirements of the Safe Routes to Schools grant.

Walla Walla County received nearly \$400,000 through this grant to help fund improvements to Reser Road. One component of the grant is to create an education plan to raise awareness on safety issues and encourage more students to walk or ride their bikes to school. Gardea has a \$16,000 budget via the grant to complete the plan.

The education plan features tv and radio public service announcements, posters, web enhancements and a bike rodeo scheduled for Saturday, April 28 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Gardea will also introduce the *Boltage* program to the school which helps track the frequency of students walking and riding bikes to school. Safe Travels Alliance Co-Chair **Katie Christianson** is working with Gardea to establish a “walking school bus” program. This concept features a parent volunteer escorting children to school on a routine basis. The timeline for the education plan is mid-April to mid-September.