

May is Partners in Learning Month

District honors area leaders for their support

Tuesday night Superintendent **Mick Miller** and members of the school board paid tribute to area businesses and agencies as part of Partners in Learning Month. School Board President **Max Carerra** read a proclamation and thanked the more than 100 district partners. They will also receive a thank you letter and proclamation from the school district.

The district also honored three *Partners of the Year*. This year the Washington State Penitentiary, Total Office Concepts and the YMCA were named this year's recipients.

Washington State Penitentiary: Steve Sinclair, Superintendent

- "Great Pumpkin" deliveries to area schools each October
- Back to school supplies drive
- Coat drive to help keep our kids safe and warm
- Offer community outreach for Lincoln High School's homeless students
- Creek beautification project near Pioneer Middle School

Total Office Concepts: Mark Carlile, Owner and President

- Manages the district's copiers through the state's contract
- Provide exceptional and timely customer service and competitive pricing
- Recently donated thousands of pieces of paper to the district

YMCA: Randy Grant, Executive Director

- The Walla Walla YMCA offers students and staff fitness programs
- The 2nd grade swimming program helps ensure our students learn to swim
- Homelink program was invited to use the YMCA facility this year
- The Citizens for Schools levy rally was held at the YMCA
- Senior party will be held at the YMCA in June

Walla Walla teachers earn national certificates

Congratulations to Walla Walla Public Schools teachers **Anne Bickelhaupt** (Walla Walla High School), **Kerri Tucker** (Walla Walla High School), and **Brandi McIntire** (Lincoln High School) for earning certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBTPS).

"I have a huge support system around me which I'm very thankful for as I wouldn't be where I'm at today without it," McIntire said. "I will continue to be very reflective in what I'm doing each day to make sure I'm meeting the needs of all my students."

Walla Walla Public Schools has 43 teachers nationally certified. There are nearly 4000 statewide.

Source: NBTPS

National Board Certification is an advanced teaching credential. It complements, but does not replace, a state's teacher license. It is valid for 10 years. The assessments include four portfolio entries that feature teaching practice and six constructed response exercises that assess content knowledge.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes from the April 17, 2012 school board meeting, personnel report, May 1 accounts payable and April payroll, renew dairy bids 2012-13, student insurance 2012-13, Resolution 03-2012: WIAA 2012-13 membership, and Head Start/ECEAP community needs assessment.
- approved Resolution No. 01-2012 - Budget extension (to fund a school bus purchase)
- received for first reading a revision to Policy 6215 - Voucher Certification and Approval

Personnel Report

Employment

(Certificated)

Russell Carroll, Bilingual Second Grade, Blue Ridge Elementary

Rachelle Cristobal, PE Specialist (Temp.), Pioneer Middle School

Diane Gray-Chamberlain, Choral Music (.5FTE), Pioneer Middle School

Mario Uribe Saldana, Bilingual 5th grade, Edison

(Classified)

Jennifer Avina, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge Head Start/ECEAP

Resignation/Retirement

(Certificated)

Jeanne Bailey, Learning Specialist, Green Park, 1 year

(resignation effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year)

Alicia Quackenbush, School Psychologist, Special Programs, 4 years

(Alicia is resigning a .4 FTE and will continue as a .6 FTE School Psychologist)

Julie White, School Psychologist, Special Programs, 8 years

(resignation effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year)

(Classified)

Michael Lorang, Custodian, Pioneer Middle School/Wa-Hi, 9 years

(resignation effective April 20, 2012)

Karen Shafer, Nutrition Services Assistant, Wa-Hi, 7 years

(resignation/retirement is effective at the end of the 2011-2012 school year)

Leave of Absence

(Certificated)

Jeremy Hubbard, Math Coach, Blue Ridge Elementary, 11 years

(Leave from his third grade teaching position for the 2012-2013 school year to continue as Math Coach)

Mary Schumacher, English, Walla Walla High School, 23 years

(For the 2012-2013 school year)

(Classified)

Renee Gaytan, Para-Educator, Sharpstein, 4 years

(For the 2012-13 school year)

Excellence in Every Classroom

Quote of the Week

“An investment in knowledge
pays the best dividends.”

Benjamin Franklin

Staff Transfer:

Barbara Casey will transfer from Green Park to Prospect Point as a Special Education teacher beginning with the 2012-2013 school year.

Garrison and Wa-Hi receive state achievement awards

Last night, Education Service Director 123 Superintendent **Dr. Bruce Hawkins** presented Garrison Middle School and Walla Walla High School 2011 Washington Achievement Awards.

In February, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education announced this year's recipients. The awards aim to celebrate top-performing schools which have made improvements over time and in multiple categories.

2011 Washington Achievement Awards

- Garrison Middle School: Improvement
- Walla Walla High School: Extended Graduation Rate

“It is gratifying to have schools and programs receive acknowledgment for their improvement,” said Superintendent **Mick Miller**. “Our staff members deeply care for their kids and are working to help improve the achievement of each student.”

Edison Academic Vocabulary Program

Edison Elementary Principal **Josh Wolcott** and 5th grade teacher **Susan Nakonieczny** reported to school board members on the school's Academic Vocabulary Program.

Wolcott said with 75 percent of the students at Edison qualifying for free or reduced-price meals, the need for academic vocabulary is more evident. He said students living in poverty are exposed to far fewer words on a daily basis than students living in homes with more means.

Students are issued an Academic Vocabulary work book and a list of words to study. This year the program was a pilot for 4th and 5th grade students. Next year all students will participate in a grade level appropriate program.

Wolcott says he is confident this intentional approach to expanding academic vocabulary will improve achievement.