

## School board visits Edison Elementary



Edison Elementary Principal **Josh Wolcott** briefed school board members on Edison during last night's meeting. He also hosted them for lunch and a tour earlier in the day.

Music teacher **Sara Heimbigner** led the honor choir in a musical performance for school board members. Wolcott said the school has witnessed many changes -- including enrollment increases and a new dual language program -- since the new building opened in 2009. He said they have a dedicated staff and students who work hard to improve academically.

## Teamwork leads school board discussion

The Board of Directors experimented with a new meeting format last night designed to spur more board discussion and community involvement. School board members openly discussed topics of interest while on location at Edison Elementary.

**Dr. David Hampson** suggested the board develop strategies to promote teamwork. He also suggested the school board set goals for itself and get more involved in reviewing the strategic plan. Board members also discussed committee assignments.

## District hires SEA-TECH director

School board members Tuesday night unanimously approved the hiring of **Dennis Matson** as the Southeast Area Technical Skills Center (SEA-TECH)/Career and Technical Education (CTE) Director.

Matson is currently in his fourth year as principal at Newport High School, Newport, WA. Prior, he was a Marketing and Business Education teacher for 10 years at Deer Park High School and served as the District's CTE director from 2007 to 2010. Matson's career also includes 15 years of experience in sales, marketing and management.



*Dennis Matson*

"In my years in education, Dennis Matson is the best program builder I have ever seen," said WWPS Superintendent Mick Miller, who worked with Matson in Deer Park. "Dennis is such a good fit with the outstanding CTE department at Wa-Hi and Lincoln and will help us expand our programs in our middle schools. The SEA-TECH team is shaping up into a powerhouse for kids."

Matson will be working with the SEA-TECH development team of **Dennis DeBroeck**, **Sergio Hernandez** and **Gerry Ringwood** this spring on a limited basis while completing his work in Newport. His official start date is July 1.

## In other School Board meeting business...

### **Board members:**

- approved minutes from the Jan. 21, 2014 regular board meeting, personnel report, out-of-state travel, extracurricular contracts, Feb. 4 accounts payable and January payroll, and revision: Board Policy 3130 District Attendance Areas, Open Enrollment, and Employees' Student Placement.

# Personnel Report

## Employment

(Administrative)

**Dennis Matson**, CTE & SEA-Tech Director, SEA-TECH Skills Center (Certificated)

**James Polson**, Advance Manufacturing & Welding Tech, SEA-TECH

## Retirement/Resignation

(Certificated)

**Tim Bow**, Special Education, Wa-Hi, 11 years

**Shelly Franklin**, English/Language Arts, Pioneer MS, 8 years

**Jane Froese**, First Grade, Blue Ridge, 2 years

**Linda Woodard**, English, Walla Walla High School, 16 years

(Classified)

**Jeff Givens**, Carpenter, Facilities & Operations, 1 years

**Ian Gregoire**, Intervention Specialist, 6 years

## Out of State Travel

**Mick Miller** to attend NSBA Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA (Funding: Superintendent's travel)

**Laure Quaresma** to attend Teacher Induction National Symposium in Burlingame, CA (Funding: New Teacher Support)

**Forrest Baker** and **Linda Boggs** to attend NSBA Ed. Technology site visit in Tucson, AZ (Funding: Curriculum travel)

### Quote of the Week

"Education is the best friend. An educated person is respected everywhere. Education beats the beauty and the youth."

Chanakya

## Pioneer Middle School student donates car to domestic violence victim

When Pioneer Middle School teacher Chris Plucker challenged students in his Leadership Class to "Go Big or Go Home" with their final project of the semester, 8<sup>th</sup> grade student Skylar "Sky" Druffel decided she would take him up on his challenge.

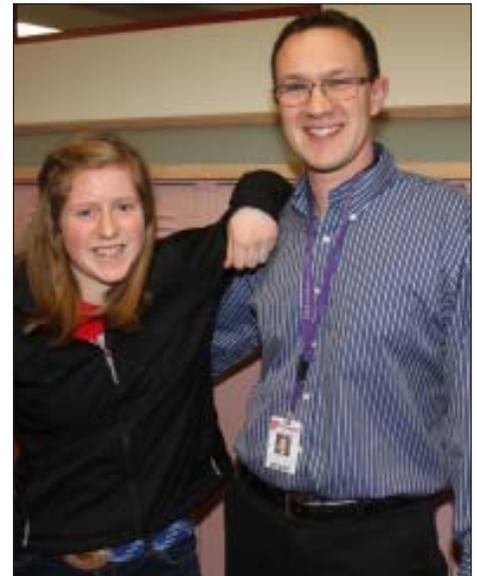
Druffel dreamed up the idea she would donate a used car from the money she raised during the summer picking weeds in her uncle's wheat fields to someone who needed it. Druffel's mother Christy is the Executive Director of the United Way in Walla Walla and her organization by chance was selling a used 1992 Ford Explorer. All the proceeds from the sale of this vehicle were then to be used to benefit local agencies supported by the United Way. After completing the legal process for the sale of the car, Sky was ready to find the perfect recipient.

She worked with the YWCA for this task. Last week she readily turned over the keys to a single mother who has two school-aged children. Druffel said the woman was in a terribly abusive relationship and had no way to get her and her children around town.

"This project was my way to inspire people they can make a difference in someone's life if they only try," Druffel said. "Words can't describe what it felt like to see her amazement when we gave her the car. Now I know she will be able to safely get her children to school and she'll be able to get to work."

Plucker said he encouraged his students to go big with this, and to totally blow me away. While her act was exemplary, her actions showcase the potential of all the young people here at Pioneer and within our district, according to Plucker.

"Sky's efforts demonstrate the hope we can have in tomorrow's leaders," said Plucker. "In a time plagued with pessimism and a generally bleak outlook on the future, Sky shows that if we all cared enough to help even just one other person, we can indeed work toward an amazing tomorrow."



*Sky Druffel and teacher Chris Plucker.*