



## Homelink

### *District to close program due to declining enrollment*

Walla Walla Public Schools is closing the Homelink Parent Partnership program at the end of the 2014-2015 school year due to declining enrollment and limited state funding. The Homelink Program provides supplemental curriculum and instruction in a public school setting to enhance the course work parents are providing their homeschool students.

The Homelink program currently serves 27 Full-time Equivalent (FTE) students in kindergarten through 8th grade at the Berney Elementary School campus. The program was established in 1997 and during its peak averaged nearly 160 FTE.

Changes to Alternative Learning Experience laws (WAC 392-121-182) during the 2011-13 Legislative biennium have contributed to a steady decline in



Linda Boggs

enrollment which makes the program no longer sustainable, according to Assistant Superintendent Dr. Linda Boggs.

“New state legislation eliminated funding to homeschool parents for supplemental educational experiences which averaged \$1200 per student each year,” Boggs said. “The changes also require more regulatory accountability and compliance from homeschool parents and Homelink which have negatively impacted the program.”

Homelink currently provides science, technology, and art instruction and curriculum. Homelink parents will be briefed on next year’s educational options for their children within the existing Walla Walla Public Schools system.

## Board Meeting Highlights

### ■ APPROVED . . .

Minutes from the Dec. 16, 2014 board meeting, personnel report, out-of-state travel, extra-curricular, co-curricular contracts, Jan. 6 accounts payable and December payroll, Jan. 20 accounts payable, and December financial report.

### ■ New Concussion Policy . . .

School board members approved: Board Policy 3422 Student Concussions and Head Injuries. The district will establish procedures for the policy.

### ■ Board work session . . .

School board members discussed Strategic Plan: Goal 1, Strategies 1 & 2 during the public work session. Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Dr. Linda Boggs facilitated the discussion.

### ■ Enrollment up in January . . .

Business Services Director Ted Cohan reported the district is up 14 students in January from the previous count in December. The district still remains 80 FTE students below budget targets which equates to about \$450,000 in lost revenue. Cohan said the district will not need to make mid-year cuts due to expenditures coming in lower than expected. The district is beginning preliminary budget discussions for next year, which includes enrollment targets.



(L-R) Superintendent Dr. Bill Jordan presented Green Park Special Education teacher Esther Angotti and Edison Kindergarten teacher Rebecca Keene with their National Board Certification pins. The district now has 43 nationally certified teachers. Jordan congratulated them for this significant accomplishment.

PERSONNEL REPORT

EMPLOYMENT ...

Classified:

ANTONIA KEITHAHN  
Para-Educator (Temp) - Wa-Hi

Coaching:

WILLIAM HOWARD  
Head Girls' Golf Coach - Wa-Hi

RETIREMENTS/RESIGNATIONS

Certificated:

KATHERINE VENNERI | 31 YEARS | TEACHER  
Grades 2/3, Sharpstein (\*effective 6/12/15)

Classified:

MARY BOECKMAN | 6 YEARS | PARA-EDUCATOR  
Green Park Elementary

BIANCA NAVARRETE | 1.5 YEARS | ASST. SECRETARY  
Walla Walla High School

SHELLEY WELTER | 1.3 YEARS | ASST. SECRETARY  
Facilities and Operations

LEAVE OF ABSENCE ...

Certificated:

GRETCHEN BAKER | 16.5 YEARS | CTE TEACHER  
\* For remainder of the school year

GEORGI DELGADILLO | 4.5 YEARS | HOMELINK TEACHER  
\* For remainder of the school year

OUT OF STATE TRAVEL

YAZMIN BAHENA, AMANDA BESS, AMY HARTFORD, BRAD HOBBS, MARIT NIERMAN, LAURE QUARESMA, ELIZABETH RAZO, GINA YONTS to CABE 2015 Conference in San Diego, CA (Funding: State Bilingual, Recruiting - Quaresma)

Quote of the Week

“My parents told me, Finish your dinner. People in China and India are starving. I tell my daughters, Finish your homework. People in India and China are starving for your job.”

Thomas L. Friedman

Board Appreciation  
January is School Board Appreciation Month



District staff and students provided school board members tokens of appreciation in celebration of School Board Appreciation Month. School board members are volunteer elected officials. They serve a four-year term and meet regularly to ensure quality educational opportunities are available to all students. Thank you!

Middle School math update

Pioneer Middle School Principal Mira Gobel and Garrison Middle School Principal Robert Elizondo provided an update to the school board on middle school math. They showed an illustration detailing the math pathway options for grades 6-12. A push to get more students in advanced math classes at the middle school level has nearly doubled the students taking these courses, according to Gobel. This pathway allows middle school students to complete algebra, and in some cases geometry, in the 8th grade. They reported math continues to be an area of focus.

Latino Club

Latino Club Advisor Bill Erickson and students Christian Moreno and Jazmin Duran reported to the school board on Latino Club activities. The students said Latino Club is providing them leadership opportunities and is helping them develop valuable skills for their future.

Snow Make-Up Day - May 8

School was canceled Nov. 20, 2014 due to slick road conditions. School will be held Friday, May 8, 2015 as the snow make-up day.