

## District celebrates American Education Week

*November 13-19*

During this year's American Education Week, the district is taking time to thank and recognize educators for their commitment to student learning and for building positive relationships with youth and their families.

With an American Education Week theme of "A Strong America Starts with Great Public Schools," Walla Walla Public Schools is poised to raise awareness about the critical need to provide every child with a quality public education.

Thursday the district will host its 4th Annual *American Education Week Celebration* event. The event is closely aligned with Goal 2 of the district's Strategic Plan and will bring in numerous community members to each school to gain a better understanding of the district's mission, successes, challenges, and needs.

"We're calling upon all community members to do their part in making Walla Walla Public Schools great for every child so that they can grow and achieve in the 21st century," Superintendent **Rich Carter** said. "This celebration will help us spread the word about the importance of public schools in the lives of students and the quality educators we have."

### American Education Week Event Facts

**Date** - Thursday, November 17

**Time** - 10 a.m. to 12 noon

#### Activities

- Visit the school of your choice
- Meet students, tour classrooms
- Eat school lunch with students

There is still time to participate. If you know of someone who would like to join us, please contact Communications Director Mark Higgins at 526-6716 or mhiggins@wwps.org.

November 15 • School Board Meeting Recap

## Students at core of Pioneer's new schedule

With a focus on meeting the needs of all students, Pioneer Middle School created a new schedule this year with an emphasis on enhancing student learning time, improving school climate and decreasing student discipline issues.

Pioneer Middle School Principal **Dana Jones**, Assistant Principal **Jon Abbott**, Literacy Trainer **Richelle Palmer**, Language Arts/Social Studies teacher **Cheryl Herr** and Language Arts/Social Studies teacher **Shannon DeBeaumont** reported to school board members that despite a "rocky start" the new schedule is making a positive impact at Pioneer.

"I've seen every type of schedule," Herr said referring to her 15 years of experience. "This is the one that makes sense."

All students have a formal, 17 minute advisory period four times a week at the end of the school day. Students have flexible meet times daily with different length periods for different classes based on their academic needs.

The schedule also allows all 7th and 8th grade music students daily instruction and all students exposure to a variety of elective classes. According to the report, the schedule also enhances relationships since students have longer blocks of time with teachers. Students will also keep their same advisory teacher throughout their three year experience.

## Board to conduct special work session to discuss future facilities improvements

School board members have scheduled a public special work session **Tuesday, December 6** at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the district's 25-Year Facilities Improvement Plan and possible bond resolution.

"I will be meeting with all staff members throughout the month to discuss our long-range facilities plan and get input so we can make the best decisions for our students, staff and community," Superintendent **Rich Carter** said.

## In other School Board meeting business...

### Board members:

- approved minutes of the regular board meeting November 1, 2005, Personnel Report and Out of State Travel, Board meeting schedule January to June (dates: 1/17, 2/7, 2/21, 3/7, 3/21, 4/18, 5/2, 5/16, 6/6, 6/20) and Payment of November bills and payroll.

## Personnel Report

### • New Hires

(*Certificated*) - **Keith Michels**, Social Studies Teacher, Wa-Hi

(*Classified*) - **NONE TO REPORT**

### • Resignations/Retirements

(*Classified*) **Lee White**, Bus Driver, Transportation, 6 years

### • Out of State Travel - Rick Nebeker, David Talley, Connie Taylor-Randall to NAESP Conference in San Antonio, TX

(*Funding - Principal's Travel*)

### Quote of the Week

"The illiterate of the 21st Century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn."

*Alvin Toffler*

## Wa-Hi FFA marketing team makes "pitch" to board

Wa-Hi's FFA program once again had a tremendous showing at the recent national competition in Louisville, KY. Students from the national title winning Marketing Team talked about their experiences to school board members at last night's meeting and showcased their award winning marketing presentation and plan.

The marketing plan featured "Walsh's of Walla Walla Certified Organic Sausages." The students worked with local entrepreneur Kelly Walsh, who sells his sausages at several local events, to develop a marketing plan to help transition his hobby into a full time business career.

Students studied industry trends, buyer profiles, competitors' strengths and weaknesses and those of Walsh's product.

This comprehensive plan required students to conduct extensive field surveys throughout Walla Walla, meet with local grocery owners and managers and use their math skills to project potential sales. Students also learned about advertising, public relations and direct sales promotions.

Thanks to advisors **Mike Martin** and **Arch McHie** for all their work preparing the students for competition.

## FFA National Competition Recap

Congratulations to these outstanding students!

Marketing - 1st Place and winners of a \$1,000 scholarship (each)

- Anna Forge
- Zach Harvey
- Sam Puller

Agriculture Issues - 5th Place Finish

- Andrea Bughi
- Ciera Christenson
- Anthony Cannone
- Cassi Hunter
- Ashely Mason
- Kael Puller
- Darling Walk

Floral Team - 12th Place Finish

- Breann Eggers - Top 25 contestant
- Sarah Keown
- Tovah Kingman
- Marissa Ruzicka

## First Community Forum on facilities study set for Thursday at Edison Elementary

The district will hold its first of two community forums scheduled this month on Thursday at Edison Elementary.

The forums are scheduled to discuss and get input on the district's proposed 25-Year Facilities Improvement Plan.

*Thursday, November 17*

- Edison Elementary School

*Tuesday, November 29*

- Walla Walla High School Commons

Both events: 6:15 to 8:00 p.m.

\*\*\*Child care will be provided

\*\*\*Translation services provided

## Pioneer Book Week Display

To help celebrate National Children's Book week, several books from Pioneer's Book Week display were available for review at last night's school board meeting.

Principal Dana Jones said many of the student created picture books were designed in the school's extended day program made available through the 21st Century grant. Jones said students were more excited about school and learning through the development of these books.

## School board meeting dates set

The following schedule for school board meetings was adopted at last night's meeting (all meetings start at 7:30 p.m.)

- Tuesday, January 17
- Tuesday, February 7
- Tuesday, February 21
- Tuesday, March 7
- Tuesday, March 21
- Tuesday, April 18
- Tuesday, May 2
- Tuesday, May 16
- Tuesday, June 6
- Tuesday, June 20