

Chamber Singers perform final tune up

Board members salute group for Northwest invite honors



School board members traveled to Wa-Hi for the special program portion of their regularly scheduled meeting Tuesday night to listen to the Chambers Singers' *Appreciation Concert*. The show also served as final dress rehearsal for the group slated to perform at this weekend's 2005 Northwest Music Educators Conference in Bellevue.

The group received a standing ovation following the 30 minute show emceed by **Glen Mitchell**. Board members congratulated Wa-Hi's elite singing group for being one of just five choral groups representing six Northwest states invited to perform.

This latest honor follows a pattern of excellence the group has attained in recent years. The Chamber Singers competed at the State Solo-Ensemble Competition for the past seven years -- bringing home first place titles three times. Last Spring they earned wide recognition for their performance at the Seattle Mariners Memorial Day game.

Special thanks to Choral Director **Norb Rossi** for all his hard work preparing the students for perform at the region's highest level. Good luck on Friday!

February 15 • School Board Meeting Recap

Boggs named Assistant Superintendent

Board members named **Linda Boggs** its new Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, during last night's regularly scheduled school board meeting. Boggs is currently Principal of Blue Ridge Elementary School and will remain in this position until July 1.

Boggs' major responsibilities will include coordinating curriculum, identifying teacher training needs and directing the district's assessment program.

"Linda Boggs is the perfect fit for this position," Superintendent **Rich Carter** said. "She does everything at a high level and we're excited to keep her on our team and further tap her skills in this new capacity."

Boggs has worked the past 10 years as Principal at Blue Ridge and four years prior as the school's assistant principal. Boggs, who was also a classroom teacher for seven years and named the state's Distinguished Elementary Principal for 2003, will complete her Superintendent's Certification program in July.

"Walla Walla is my home," Boggs said. "I am excited at the opportunity to continue my professional career in my hometown. I believe in our school district and look forward to being part of its future."

As cabinet members **Oscar Graybill, Len Taruscio, Bill Jordan, Aron Rausch, and Mark Higgins** were congratulating Linda, she reminded the group she plans to keep her hair and hair color despite her new position. This comment was received with a roar of laughter from the audience. Even the "hair challenged" cabinet members managed a good chuckle.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of regular board meeting February 1, 2005, and Personnel and Out-of-State Travel Reports.

Our Core Values
are more than mere words;
they're our business!

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(Classified) - **Cindy Cutlip**, Library Tech, Wa-Hi

• Resignations/Retirements

(Certificated) - **Shirley Blake**, Special Ed., Wa-Hi - 13 years (effective end of school year)

Linnea Keatts, Occupational Therapist, Special Programs - 8 years (effective end of school year)

Dave McClelland, Vocational Education, Wa-Hi - 11 years (effective end of school year)

Marcia Tomlin, English Teacher, Wa-Hi - 30 years (effective end of school year)

(Classified) - **Susie Taggart**, Secretary, Special Programs - 16 years

• Out-of-State Travel

Georgie Germain to Iditarod & visit McGruff Village School in Anchorage, AK (funding - Staff Achievement Grant)

Rick Pummel to Brainshare Convention in Salt Lake City, UT (funding - Technology)

MSG Gerald Taylor to JROTC Training Seminar in Reno, NV (funding - US Government)

Jim Thacker to Basketball Coaching Clinic in Las Vegas, NV (funding - Professional Growth)

Marcia Tomlin to AP English Literature Exam Reading in Daytona Beach, FL (funding - ETS)

Peggy Willcuts to National Science Teachers Association Conference in Dallas, TX (funding - LASER)

Quote of the Week

"You will rise by lifting others."

Robert Green Ingersoll

Elementary principals team to improve schools

District elementary principals provided an *Improvement Update* to school board members last night to share common themes they are working on to make district elementary schools better.

In a sign of unity to the school board, all the principals said they are collaborating more than ever to improve student achievement. From aligning curriculum to meet state determined Grade Level Expectations to developing district-wide Bully/Harassment Interventions with the help of Mark Thompson, they all said using a team approach is crucial to success.

They reported assessment results are guiding decisions on instruction. They are, however, concerned with the number of assessments currently being used. They said more teacher collaboration time is needed to improve instructional strategies and study assessment results. **Linda Boggs** said with extended learning after school, "diner's club" late staff meetings and five weeks of summer school, many of our teachers are wearing down. She suggested a need for a regularly scheduled time for elementary teachers to collaborate. She would also like to review the elementary summer school program. Board members praised the principals for their efforts to work as a team.

Garrison track project racing along

School board members received a progress report last night from **Craig Nelson** of the *Citizens for the Garrison Track Project*. Nelson said design work and fund raising efforts have begun for the proposed all-weather track at Garrison.

The group has raised nearly \$50,000 to date. They are currently writing grants and seeking private donations in an effort to raise \$150,000 for the project and another \$100,000 for future maintenance. Several local businesses and contractors have already pledged their support for the project according to Nelson.

The group plans to secure enough funding for the track for a summer construction timeline.

Contact the Blue Mountain Community Foundation regarding pledge opportunities, 529-4371.

Head Start program in compliance according to study

Head Start/ECEAP Director **Lloyd Commander** provided a report to school board members on the program's recent annual self assessment. Commander said the draft self-assessment is now complete with no listed areas out of compliance. A federal review of the program, scheduled every three years, is set for March.

Head Start/ECEAP Programs are family development programs that provide comprehensive health, education, disabilities and social services to children ages 3-5 and their families. Families must meet Federal Poverty income eligibility guidelines. Head Start is funded by the federal government and Early Childhood Education Assistance Program, or ECEAP for short, is funded by Washington State.

Head Start / ECEAP Highlights

- Students assessed three times annually (eight developmental areas)
- Most students enter program with limited skills
- Students have made significant growth in all areas
- Grants awarded: Four totaling \$12,000 & six written & submitted



District Website New Feature

It's simple! Just go to the *News and Events* area on the district website (www.wwps.org) and sign up!

We'll e-mail you school closure announcements, news briefs and more directly to the computer of your choice.

The **10/10 Staff Newsletter** is published three times per month by the Walla Walla Public Schools Communications Department.

To submit materials for this publication, contact Communications Director Mark Higgins:

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'Keeping Our Team Informed'