

Blue Ridge students SOAR into leadership roles

As the SOAR program has evolved, so has student interest in school, according to a report last night from Principal **Connie Taylor-Randall**, Para-Educator **Tara Jasper** and several Blue Ridge students.

"Students seem to view our school more as a community and began asking for ways they could be school leaders," Taylor-Randall said. "These included team building, cooperative group tasks, action planning, communication skills, and leadership observations and connections."

Students reported how the SOAR program has helped them as students and as young leaders.

Students now have the opportunity to become "Soaring Eagles." Each month classroom teachers nominate students who show good behavior based on the school's SOAR Guidelines...

S - Solves Problems

O - Outstanding Decisions

A - Academic Excellence

R - Respectful

Nominees must obtain signatures from staff members who agree that their behavior has been exemplary. Once the student has the signatures, they are then honored with their Soaring Eagle necklace at a school-wide assembly.

District names Graduates of Distinction

Walla Walla Public Schools names this year's honorees for the Graduates of Distinction program.

R.F. "Dick" Monahan – Class of 1958

• Walla Walla Attorney and Vice President of the American Quarter Horse Association

Daniel DeSiga – Class of 1967

Artist and Muralist currently based in Yakima, Washington

Greg Ralston Pepin – Class of 1968

President of Boeing, Turkey and Vice President of Boeing International

Dr. Philip Phillips – Class of 1975

Researcher and Professor of Physics at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaigne

Graduates of Distinction Reception

Date: Tuesday, June 2

Time: 6:15 to 7:25 p.m.

Place: Walla Walla School District Board Room

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of the May 5 board meeting, Personnel Report, May Bills and Payroll, April Financial Report, Opportunity Imprest Termination, Student Insurance for 2009-10, Head Start/ECEAP Grant Application, Resolution #5-2009 WIAA Membership 2009-10, PSE ratification of 2009-10 contract (no changes from the 2008-09 contract), Three Rivers Interlocal Agreement, School Bus Purchases, and 2009-10 Dairy Bids.

- approved the 2009-10 District calendar revision. The revision was necessary after state legislation this session eliminated a Learning Improvement Day (LID). School will be in session Thursday, September 17. This day was previously slated to be a Learning Improvement Day. There will be no school Friday, May 7. This move allows the district to meet required student day count and builds in a possible snow make-up date for the 2009-10 school year.

- approved a measure to acquire an abandon railroad right-of-way at the future Support Services complex property.

- approved a motion naming Architects West the architectural firm for the Support Services building.

Personnel Report

• New Hires

(*Certificated*)

Suzann Rose, Kindergarten teacher, Prospect Point

(*Classified*)

Rayni Lambert, Special Education Dept. Secretary, Wa-Hi

Eva Madrigal, Para-Educator, Sharpstein

Yara Martinez, Para-Educator, Sharpstein

• Resignations/retirements

(*Certificated*)

Julianne Anderson, 5th grade, Berney, 4 years

(• Julianne is resigning .2 FTE and will continue at .8 FTE (.6 FTE LAP and .2 FTE second grade)

Ryan Kauffman, Physical Education Specialist, Prospect Point Elementary, 1 year

(*Classified*)

Erin Partlow, Assistant Athletic Secretary, Wa-Hi, 13 years

Betty Jo Vercio, Health Clinician, Green Park, 1 year

• Leave of Absence

(*Certificated*)

Richelle Palmer, Instructional Coach, Pioneer Middle School, 5 years

• Richelle is taking a .5FTE LOA to serve as WWVEA president and will be a .5 FTE for 2009-10 (Reading Specialist/Title I Coordinator at Blue Ridge Elementary)

Ben Ugaldea, Library Media Specialist, Berney, 5 years

• Ben is taking a .5 FTE LOA and will be a .5 FTE for 2009-2010 (LMS at Pioneer Middle School)

Quote of the Week

"At the desk where I sit, I have learned one great truth. The answer for all our national problems - the answer for all the problems of the world - come to a single word. That word is education."

Lyndon B. Johnson

Youth Health Fair features low cost sports physicals

Walla Walla General Hospital and Walla Walla Public Schools have teamed to host a Youth Health Fair Sunday, May 31 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Walla Walla General Hospital.

Last night District Event Coordinator **Dan Calzaretta** and Walla Walla General Hospital representative **Sharryl Toews** briefed the school board on the event.

Event Fact Sheet:

• Walla Walla General Hospital and Walla Walla Public Schools partner to provide a Youth Health Fair featuring low cost sports physicals - \$10 each. *NOTE: (All proceeds will be donated to the district's Athletic Department to pay for student sports fees and equipment.)

• Sunday, May 31 from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• Walla Walla General Hospital

• This event provides low cost sports physicals and health information to all families. The Health Fair also features health screenings, immunizations, health information and educational activities for the entire family

For more information contact:

Sharryl Toews: ToewsSL@ah.org

Dan Calzaretta: dcalzaretta@wwps.org

Public invited to Edison Farewell Celebration

Edison Elementary staff and students invite the community to join them in celebrating the end of an era during a farewell ceremony at the 73-year-old school, Tuesday, June 9.

Celebrate Edison's vast traditions and historical significance by honoring past and present students and staff. The new Edison Elementary is under construction and is scheduled to open Fall 2009.

Event date: Tuesday, June 9

- School Tours of original building - 3 to 5 p.m.
- Farewell Ceremony - 7 p.m.

Location: Edison Elementary (1315 E. Alder)

Information: Nancy Withycombe, Principal
509.527.3072 - Email: nwithycombe@wwps.org

All Staff Dessert Social

Friday, June 12

2 to 3:30 p.m. / Wa-Hi Commons

Program highlights:

- Honor retirees
- WWVEA student scholarships
- Staff Achievement Grant recipients