

## Pioneer mentoring program builds unity

*Where Everyone Belongs links upperclassmen with 6th graders*



Pioneer Middle School 6th grade students Scott Golden and Tori Matlock and several other students in Kim Gradwohl's Advisory Class performed a "Flash Mob Dance" during lunch Tuesday afternoon as part of National Mix it Up at Lunch event. A national campaign launched by Teaching Tolerance a decade ago, Mix It Up at Lunch Day encourages students to identify, question and cross social boundaries.

Pioneer students grabbed chewing gum from a can as they entered the cafeteria and then sat with students who had the same color of gum. This is just one activity aligned with the school's Where Everyone Belongs or WEBs program. This peer mentoring program matches 8th grade students with sixth graders to provide additional support and enhance relationships. Assistant Principal Jack Mehn reported sixth grade attendance and achievement are up and discipline and behavior issues are down since implementing WEBs. He said the program is based on research and proven practices.

## Reser Road paving delayed

Contractors will delay paving Reser Road from Fern Avenue to the Yellowhawk bridge until Tuesday, Oct. 25, according to a report last night from Walla Walla County Project Coordinator **Aaron Grimm**.

Paving was originally scheduled for Thursday and Friday. Grimm also said the road will be closed for traffic Tuesday, Oct. 25 so there will be no access to the south parking lot at Walla Walla High School.

Upon completion of this phase of paving, contractors will then focus their efforts west of the Yellowhawk bridge to Howard Street. Grimm said the intersection at Howard and Reser Road near Prospect Point will be closed for up to two weeks during this phase of the project.

Grimm said he will work with the school district to inform parents and the community once a date is set to close this intersection. Alternate detour routes have been established and maps will be available.

A completion date remains projected for early December 2011, according to Grimm.

## Citizens for Schools Meeting

- Thursday, October 27
- Whitman College Memorial Building - Room 328
- 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- Front door will be open
- Those wishing to volunteer and get involved are encouraged to attend

## In other School Board meeting business...

### **Board members:**

- approved minutes of October 4, 2011 board meeting, minutes from open public hearing October 12, personnel report, Out-of-State Travel, October 18 accounts payable, September Financial Report, and January to August 2012 School Board meeting dates.

Our Core Values  
are more than mere words;

they're our business!

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect

Courtesy | Innovation | Diversity

## Personnel Report

### Employment

(Certificated) **NONE TO REPORT**

(Classified) **NONE TO REPORT**

### Resignation/Retirement

(Classified)

**Susan Morasch**, High School Bookkeeper, 25.5 years

- *Effective January 31, 2012*

### Leave of Absence

(Classified)

**Rebecca Wilson**, Para-Educator, Head Start/ECEAP Program (16.5 years)

- *January through March 2012 to complete her student teaching*

### Out-of-State Travel

**Gayle See** to attend National Adapted PE Conference in Long Beach, CA (Funding: OSPI & WAHPERD)

## Excellence in Every Classroom

### Quote of the Week

"I like a teacher who gives you something to take home to think about besides homework."

Edith Ann, [Lily Tomlin]

## Special education program offers vast services

*Nearly 800 students receive local Special Education services*

New Special Education Director **Dr. Karen Lehman** briefed school board members on the district's program during last night's school board meeting. Lehman has more than 30 years experience in all aspects of Special Education and reported she is pleased to see the quality program available for Walla Walla students.

Lehman provided a brief history on special education linking back to the implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) in 1975-76. She said this is a United States federal law that governs how states and public agencies provide early intervention and special education services. Walla Walla Public Schools is currently serving 785 students in the Special Education program. Students range in age from birth to 21.

Most students, currently 701, are in the district's K-21 program. Thirty-six are enrolled in the Birth to Three program and 48 are in the Special Education Preschool program located at Blue Ridge Elementary. Funding and delivery of service for Special Education is based on 14 categories.

Lehman praised her staff for their professionalism and dedication for providing quality service to all students. She said funding limitations continue to be a challenge. She said her department staff are working on a five-year plan to help chart the future. She said she is thrilled to be in Walla Walla.



**Dr. Karen Lehman**  
*Special Education  
Director*

### Senior photos for yearbook due Friday

Senior photos are due for the Walla Walla High School Yearbook Friday, October 21. Print or digital photos are accepted.

#### Size requirements:

- 2" x 3" Portrait orientation
- Digital, 300 ppi resolution is required

Photos may be delivered to Wa-Hi's main office or sent electronically to [kdebroeck@wwps.org](mailto:kdebroeck@wwps.org).

## School Board Meetings

*January – August 2012*

Tuesday, January 17 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 7 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 21 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 6 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 20 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 17 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 1 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, May 15 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 5 - 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 19 - 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, July 17 - 4 p.m.

Tuesday, August 21 - 4 p.m.

*Meeting times noted above, unless changed by the Board. Additional meetings may be scheduled as necessary.*

### Special Board Meeting - Oct. 25

- Tuesday, Oct. 25
- 6:30 p.m.
- District Office Board Room
- Agenda: Levy amount/years
- Open to the public