

2012 Graduates of Distinction

Recipients represent the best of Walla Walla Public Schools

Last night Superintendent **Mick Miller** and school board members honored this year's recipients of the prestigious Graduates of Distinction Program. This marks the 14th year of our Graduates of Distinction Program, established in 1999 to recognize and honor the distinguished achievements of our high school graduates.

John P. Folsom – Class of 1962

- Certified Public Account and lawyer
- His nickname is “Mr. Tacoma” for his community service and contributions over the years in Tacoma
- Inspirational staff members: Russell Larsen (music) and Don Cramer (teacher/coach)



Jill Largent M.D. – Class of 1968

- Medical specialties in both Pediatrics and Nephrology (children's kidney disorders)
- She practiced at Albany (NY) Medical Center and the distinguished Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, PA
- Inspirational staff member: Bill Bieloh (math teacher)



Megan Ferguson Clubb – Class of 1974

- Whitman College graduate (currently a Whitman College Trustee)
- President, Baker Boyer Bank
- Inspirational staff member: Ruth Hanson (Spanish and English teacher)



2012 WWVEA scholarships

Tuesday night WWVEA President **Margo Piver** presented three, \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors.

Facing the Challenge Scholarship

- Lucero Garcia \$500 (WWCC)
- Itzel Cuevas-Vasquez \$500 (WWCC)

The Facing the Challenge Scholarship is available to students who have overcome a challenge(s) and are enrolling full-time in a 2-year or 4-year university, college or community college.

Donna Manuel Future Teacher Scholarship

- Chelsea Cavazos \$500 (Lewis & Clark College)

The Donna Manuel Future Teacher Scholarship is available to students planning to become teachers and are enrolling full-time in a 2-year or 4-year university, college or community college.

“As educators we see the importance of helping all students find their path in life and getting a college education is something that has helped all of us reach our goals,” Piver said. “We want to help others reach their goals and dreams.”

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes from the May 15, 2012 school board meeting, personnel report, out-of-state travel, June 5 accounts payable and May payroll, request to issue administrative contracts, cancel outstanding warrants/Resolution 05-2012, and surplus equipment and materials.
- received a report on the FFA State winning Food Science team and the 2nd place Veterinary Science team. Teacher **Lindsey Butcher** reported team members put in numerous hours after school preparing for the contests. They will travel to Indianapolis this fall to compete at the national convention.

Personnel Report

Employment

(Certificated) **Ambra Bryant**, English (temp.), Walla Walla High School

Gloria DeLaO-Parks, School Psychologist .6 FTE (temp.), Special Programs

Jane Froese, Bilingual Kindergarten (temp.), Blue Ridge

Keith Swanson, English, Walla Walla High School

Resignation/Retirement

(Certificated)

Anthony Barba, Math teacher, Lincoln HS, 7 years

(effective at the end of the 2011-12 school year)

(Classified)

Jane Baffney, Science Material Clerk, Facilities & Operations, 10 years

Sean Day, Para-Educator, Walla Walla High School, 2 years

Velma Gilliam, Food Service Assistant, Walla Walla High School, 8 years

Sharon Quinn-Sears, Health Clinician, Blue Ridge, 4 years

Bret McKinney, Bus Mechanic, SE Transportation Co-Op, 3 years

Leave of Absence

(Certificated) **Christine Lowry**, Fourth Grade, Berney, 22 years *(For the 2012-2013 school year)*

Audra Cummings, Physical Education, Garrison, 8 years *(Audra is taking a .5 FTE leave of absence for the 2012-13 school year. She will continue as a .5 FTE employee)*

(Classified) **Amber Olson**, Para-Educator, Green Park, 2 years *(For the first three months of the 2012-13 school year)*

Rachelle Cristobal, Para-Educator, Special Programs, 1 year *(Leave of absence from her Physical Therapy para-educator position for the 2012-2013 school year to serve as a temporary Physical Education Specialist at Pioneer MS)*

Out-of-State Travel

Gay Buissink to attend JEA Advisers Institute in Las Vegas, NV (Funding: Vocational)

Diana Erickson, Mira Gobel, Susan Nakonieczny, Marit Nierman to attend Bilingual Immersion Conference in Newport Beach, CA (Funding: Bilingual)

Bunny Baker, Carol Franklin, Ron Higgins, Mindy Meyer, Mark Pickel, Melito Ramirez, Elaina Renius, and Mireya Vargas to attend AVID Elementary Training in Dallas, TX (Funding: GearUp)

Excellence in Every Classroom

Quote of the Week

“The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.”

B.B. King

Explorer student wins national math contest

Prospect Point third grade student **Colleen McKibben** was honored last night for winning the national Continental Math League contest. McKibben tallied perfect scores on all three quizzes. She is in **Lance Longmire's** class as well as enrolled in the Explorer Gifted Learning program taught by **Mary Cortinas**.

Continental Math League is a nationwide mathematics problem-solving competition. Students take three, 30 minute quizzes consisting of six problems. Students are competing with students at their grade level from other schools across the nation.

Homelink students shine in essay contests

Homelink 6th grade student Lauren Bergman was the state winner of the Daughters of American Revolution history essay contest. Community member and organizer Sarita McCaw presented the award. Fellow Homelink student Jennifer Rau took 2nd place in the VFW history essay contest. Principal Connie Taylor-Randall presented the award.

Homelink offers a great choice for parents

Last night the school board received an annual report on the Homelink program from Principal **Connie Taylor-Randall**.

Homelink is a Parent Partnership Program located at Berney which serves students in grades K-8. Students can either attend classes on campus two days per week or complete their educational hours entirely at home with weekly meetings with their advisory teacher.

Taylor-Randall said the program made great gains this year with plenty to celebrate. She thanked parents and staff for working together to help students learn and grow. She says Homelink is another great choice for parents.

Unfortunately, Taylor-Randall also reported recent state funding formula changes cut revenue by 10 percent or approximately \$200,000 thus negatively impacting enrollment. This year, Homelink served 106 Full-Time Equivalent Students, down 42 FTEs from this time last year.

Highlights this year include partnering with the YMCA, improved student learning plans and enhanced communications tools including brochures and a handbook.