

## District teachers earn national certification



Congratulations to **Terry Carlsen, Kerri Tucker, Vivian Glaeser, Chris Neese Blackman, Peggy Payne** (Walla Walla High School), **Marci Knauft** (Lincoln High School), **Barbara Casey, Suzanne Rose** (Prospect Point) and **Anne Shelley** (Green Park) for earning certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBTPS).

Walla Walla Public Schools has 49 teachers nationally certified. There are more than 4000 statewide.

## No School January 21

### *Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday*

There will be no school Monday, January 21 in observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Classes resume Tuesday, January 22.

## School Board Appreciation Month

### *Staff and students praise efforts*

January is *School Board Appreciation Month*. District staff and students presented cards, posters and gifts to school board members. Green Park students also created a fun video to add to the celebration. Superintendent **Mick Miller** said the school board plays a critical role in all aspects of the school district.

Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors: **Max Carrera, Anne Golden, Dan Hess, Ruth Ladderud, and Cindy Meyer.**



*Pioneer Middle School Principal Mira Gobel and students present an origami crane mobile to school board members.*

## In other School Board meeting business...

### **Board members:**

- approved minutes from the Dec. 18 and Dec. 21, 2012 board meetings, personnel report, out-of-state travel, extra curricular contracts, Jan. 1 accounts payable and Jan. 15 accounts payable and December payroll, December financial report, 2012-13 school bus purchases.
- received for first reading: Revision to Policy 6800 Safety, Operations, and Maintenance of School Property.
- approved Resolution 01-2013 Energy Grant. CFO **Pat Johnston** said the grant application will be for approximately \$500,000 to replace outdated lights, a new boiler at Berney Elementary and a new HVAC system at the district office. No district dollars are committed per the grant requirements. The grant application is due to OSPI by Feb. 15.

# Personnel Report

## Employment

(Coaching) - **Kate Keyes**, Head Softball Coach, Walla Walla High School

## Resignation/Retirement

(Administration) - **Donna Painter**, Principal, Berney Elementary, 8 years

(Certificated) **Mary Matau**, History/AVID, Walla Walla High School, 19.5 years

\* *Mary was on a leave of absence for the first half of the 2012-2013 school year*

(Classified) **James Briggs**, Registrar, Walla Walla High School, 23 years

**Yvonne Warner**, Bus Assistant, Transportation Dept., 9 years

## Out of State Travel

**Linda Boggs** to attend the AVID Training in San Diego, CA (Funding: CIA Travel)

**Kirk Jameson** to attend the Interop Technology Conference in Las Vegas, NV (Funding: Technology)

**Mark Mebes** to attend JROTC National Championship in Salt Lake City, UT (Funding: CTE)

**Susan Nakonieczny** and **Marit Nierman** to attend CABA Conference in Long Beach, CA (Funding: Title III)

### Board salutes FFA Tractor Driving Team



Walla Walla High School students **Reed Curcio**, **Jed Eastman**, **Hayden Leber** and advisor **Jessica Johnson** show off the plaques and trophy they won for taking the State Tractor Driving championship Nov. 9.

Curcio took 1st place in the individual category, Eastman was 2nd place individual and Leber earned a 7th place finish. The competition included 17 FFA chapters and 27 teams.

### Pioneer Middle School WEBS program

Pioneer Middle School Assistant Principal **Jack Mehn** and 8th grade students involved in the WEBS (Where Everyone Belongs Program) reported success stories from this year. WEBS links 8th grade students with 6th graders to help guide and mentor them through the school year.

Mehn showed videos the students produced this year to reinforce the mission of WEBS and messages about how the school climate should be maintained. WEBS challenges students to take pride in their school and themselves to create a positive learning environment for all.

### Federal Farm-to-School Grant Program plows the way for more local produce in schools

Walla Walla Public Schools was awarded a \$96,000 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Grant to increase the availability of local produce.

Longtime school garden advocate, parent volunteer and nutrition specialist **Beth Thiel** has been contracted to serve as the Farm-to-School grant coordinator for the school district.



*Beth Thiel*

She reported to school board members last night the funding will also enhance educational opportunities for students, staff and the community about food and agriculture.

“The goals of this grant will benefit students and the entire community by increasing the purchase of locally grown food for our school cafeterias,” said Thiel. “It will also help us expand the utilization of school gardens, better educate young students about food and farming and teach district staff and parents about cooking healthy meals.”

This fall, Walla Walla students saw an increase in the amount and variety of fruits, vegetables and legumes served in school lunches: a requirement of the National School Lunch Program’s Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010. Walla Walla students in grades K-12 are required to have at least one half cup of fruits or vegetables on their tray at every meal.

“This is a positive change for student health,” said Thiel. “The Farm-to-School program aims to ensure students are eating those extra fruits and vegetables daily.”