

Mehn transfers to Wa-Hi to direct athletics programs

A new era in Walla Walla Public Schools athletics will begin this summer. Pioneer Middle School Assistant Principal **Jack Mehn** will transfer to Walla Walla High School to direct district athletic programs as an assistant principal as part of an administrative reorganization. Longtime district Athletic Director **Don Wilkins** is not returning.



Wilkins has been on staff at Walla Walla High School since 1969 as a teacher, coach and assistant principal. He has served as district Athletic Director since 1994. Jack Mehn has been employed by Walla Walla Public Schools for 13 years. He was a science teacher and Dean of Students at Walla Walla High School for eight years prior to accepting the Pioneer Middle School Assistant Principal position in 2009. Mehn also coached the Walla Walla High School Girls Varsity Basketball team from 2001 to 2008.

"I'm excited about this opportunity to begin the next chapter of Walla Walla Public Schools athletics," Miller said. "We have outstanding coaches, student-athletes and community support and Jack Mehn's leadership and organizational skills will build upon an already successful program. We want to thank Don Wilkins for his years of service to the district and commitment to developing well rounded student-athletes."

No decisions have been made regarding Mehn's replacement at Pioneer Middle School. Mehn will assume his new duties at the end of the 2013-2014 school year.

Partners of the Year

School board honors recipients

May is Partners in Learning Month. The district established Partners in Learning Month in May 2010. This month the district sent out over 130 proclamations and letters of recognition to our Partners in Learning.

"We initiated Partners in Learning Month to raise awareness of the important role our partners have in our school system," said **Anne Golden**, School Board President.

Superintendent **Mick Miller** presented plaques to the district's 2014 Partners of the Year. He thanked them for providing essential support to help Walla Walla Public Schools offer a first class educational program

2014 Partners of the Year

- WW County Fairgrounds
- Original Design (Anne North-Jones)
- Walla Walla Foundry
- Fort Walla Walla Museum
- Commitment to Community

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes from the May 6, 2014 regular board meeting, personnel report, out-of-state travel. May 20 accounts payable, April financial report, student insurance 2014-15, use of equipment for summer sports camps, Head Start community needs assessment, Head Start/ECEAP program self-assessment executive summary, Head Start/ECEAP strategic planning goals, Head Start/ECEAP program year calendar, and Resolution 05-2014 WIAA 2014-15 delegating authority.
- approved the Elementary Math Curriculum adoption: (Co-Chairs: Chris Gardea, Matt Bona, Anne Swant)
- approved Upper Level Secondary Math Curriculum Adoption: (Chair Kathy Pritcher)
- approved Head Start/ECEAP 2014-15 grant
- approved Resolution 04-2014 Support Initiative 1351/lower class sizes

Personnel Report

Employment

(Administrative)

Marci Knauft, Principal, Lincoln High School

Jack Mehn, Assistant Principal, Walla Walla High School

(Certificated)

Robert Dennis, Choral Teacher, Walla Walla High School

Jackeline Garanzuay, Dual Language Spanish, Garrison Middle School

Jarrod Evenson, Sustainable Energy Technology teacher, SEA-TECH Skills Center

Terri Klundt, Special Education, Pioneer Middle School

Retirement/Resignation

(Certificated)

Bethany Brown, Third Grade, Blue Ridge Elementary, 1 year

Diane Gray-Chamberlain, Choir Teacher, Pioneer Middle School, 2 years

(Classified)

Lynda Bren, Health Clinician, Berney Elementary, 9 years

Christopher Bryant, Para-Educator, Garrison Middle School, 1 year

Pam Elia, Kitchen Assistant, Sharpstein Elementary, 9 years

Machelle Leconte, Para-Educator, Edison Elementary, 5 years

Ita Trejo, Para-Educator, Prospect Point Elementary, 7 years

• *Ita was on leave of absence for the 2013-2014 school year*

Out of State Travel

Linda Boggs, **Mira Gobel** and **Gina Yonts** to attend Learning Forward Academy in Chicago, IL (Funding: CIA Professional Development)

Brenda Crumpacker to attend See Stars Workshop in San Antonio, TX (Funding: Staff Achievement Pro. Growth, Personal)

Jo Anna Gogl to attend Common Core Project Based Learning Workshop in Napa, CA (Funding: Staff Achievement Professional Growth, personal)

Interim Lincoln principal earns full-time position

Interim Lincoln High School principal **Marci Knauft** was named the school's permanent principal following an extensive selection process. Knauft topped a diverse group of qualified administrative candidates to secure the Lincoln High School principal position. A total of 20 applicants applied for the position and five finalists received an interview. The interview process included a broad-based group of stakeholders, including staff, students and community members.

Knauft served as the acting principal during the 2013-14 school year following the retirement of Principal Jim Sporleder. She has been employed by Walla Walla Public Schools for 20 years.

"I'm honored to have been selected to be the principal of Lincoln High School," said Knauft. "I love Lincoln's students and staff and am excited to begin this next step in my career."

Knauft began her tenure in the district in 1994 as a Special Education teacher. Knauft, a National Board Certified teacher, has also been a college instructor. Knauft received her Bachelor's of Arts degree and Master's of Education Degree from Walla Walla University. She serves on the College Place Public Schools Board of Directors.

Quote of the Week

"You cannot create experience. You must undergo it."

Albert Camus

Middle school students showcase films

Garrison and Pioneer Middle School students in the Explorer program reported to school board members on films they made as class projects. **Beth Clearman** is the Garrison Explorer teacher and **Dan Calzaretta** leads the gift and talented program at Pioneer Middle School.

The film "Piece of You," created by Pioneer Middle School 8th graders Kyndal Locati and Hally Ruff, was awarded a Gold Medal in the Film and Animation category of the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program. Calzaretta said this is the first Scholastic Gold Medal award in district history. Locati and Ruff will travel to New York in June to accept their award at Carnegie Hall.

The Garrison film titled "Masked" was about a boy who goes to school but is completely unnoticed. In his life afterschool, he volunteers to take care of animals, helps the poor and is an all around good citizen. The Garrison filmmakers wanted to stress the importance of getting to know people. Students: **Bryson Jacob**, **Alicia Newcombe**, **Jerry Ladderud**, and **Marissa and Natalie Manny**.