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**School Stories**

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- Tickets on sale for Big Blue Weekend Spring Fundraiser Spaghetti Feed
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- Wa-Hi FFA Plant Sale begins Monday
- Garrison's Multicultural Mural Unveiling
- Blue Devil College Cup activities
- Bicycle Barn sponsors Prospect Point Bike Safety Rodeo

**Community Stories**

- District staff and students featured in local play *The Hobbit*
- Baker Boyer Ducky Derby welcomes Relay for Hope child abuse prevention event
- School groups receive free admission to Tamastlikt

### **School Board meeting Tuesday, May 1**

- Tuesday, May 1
- 6:30 p.m.
- District Office Board Room (364 S. Park St.)
- Meeting open to the public

### **Diversity Committee hears report on district Cultural Competency policies and practices**

Wednesday Sergio Hernandez facilitated the district's second Diversity Committee meeting of the year. Whitman College students reported to the group their findings and recommendations on cultural competency issues in the district. The study was part of The State of the State for Washington Latinos. The study focused on Blue Ridge Elementary, Garrison Middle School and Walla Walla High School. Below is a summary of their work.

Providing Quality Education for All: Cultural Competency Policies and Practices in the WWPS

- By Catherine DeCramer, Andrew Ryan, Simerun Singh

The State of the State for Washington Latinos, Whitman College, April 2012

**TOPIC:** This study investigates the cultural competency policies and practices of three Walla Walla public schools, identifies culturally competent practices, and suggests areas for improvement at each school and the district overall. The research was guided by our community partnership with the Bilingual Coordinator of the Walla Walla Public Schools (WWPS), Diana Erickson, and Latino Club Advisor, Bill Erickson.

**METHODS:** We used the "Snowball Method" to recruit teachers, administrators, Latino parents, and Latino students for individual and group interviews at the three schools with the highest percentages of Latino students in the district: Blue Ridge Elementary School, Garrison Middle School, and Walla Walla High School. Interview participants were asked their perspectives on educational services for Latino parents and students, the cultural and racial dynamics at school, the school culture in general, and their school's level of cultural competency. Staff and faculty members at the three schools were surveyed electronically about communication with Latino parents and Spanish-dominant speakers, confidence in teaching in culturally competent ways, general views on the effects of students' cultural backgrounds and race in school, and experiences with prior cultural competency trainings.

#### **FINDINGS:**

- In 2009, an unfunded mandate by the Washington State Legislature identified cultural competency as an effective means of reducing the achievement gap in Washington public schools.
- There are no policies explicitly establishing a commitment to cultural competency at Blue Ridge, Garrison, or Walla Walla High School.
- Most teachers are uncertain about how to address racial conflict in the classroom. Cultural competency related trainings increase a teacher's confidence to deal with racial conflict. Latino teachers communicate with students or parents about racial or cultural issues on a daily to weekly basis while white teachers report doing so on a monthly to quarterly basis.
- Latino students perceive certain barriers to their success at school, including discrimination from other students, lack of racially and culturally diverse staff members, and marginalization in higher level/AP classes.
- Latino families value schools' efforts to affirm the cultural backgrounds of Latino students through providing bilingual staff members and sponsoring culturally inclusive family events, and express a desire that schools further develop these efforts.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE WALLA WALLA SCHOOL DISTRICT:**

- Encourage the hiring of bilingual staff members and teachers of color.
- Provide cultural competency training for teachers that focuses on developing both cultural knowledge and an understanding of the role that culture and race plays in a student's life.
- Promote communication between Latino families and schools by involving Latino parent representatives in the WWPS Diversity Committee.
- Identify, develop, and implement culturally affirming teaching and family outreach practices.
- Encourage schools to include a culturally affirming statement in their mission statements.
- Expand the reach of the dual-language program.

Full report online at [www.walatinos.org](http://www.walatinos.org)

Contact: Prof. Paul Apostolidis [apostopc@whitman.edu](mailto:apostopc@whitman.edu), Andrew Ryan [ryanaj@Whitman.edu](mailto:ryanaj@Whitman.edu)

### **Snow Make-Up May 11, 2012**

Reminder! School will be in session Friday, May 11. This is a make-up date for the January 18 closure due to an ice storm. Friday, May 11 will be a full day of school. All after school activities will be on a normal school day schedule as well.

### **Walla Walla Kids Read continues to promote a love for reading**

It was a great 2012 Walla Walla Kids Read! Andrea Davis Pinkney and Tony Diterlizzi spoke to Walla Walla Valley students from as far as Pomeroy and Athena. [More than](#) 4,500 students participated in the five events over the course of two days. Hundreds of books and DVD's were donated to classrooms as well as awarded as prizes to the families who attended the evening family event and book signing.

School libraries and the Walla Walla Public Library are finding the works by this year's authors and past WWKR authors to be incredibly popular and a strong testament to the power these authors have to get kids excited about reading!

"Patrick Carmen has provided an awesome gift to the community in so many ways, Pinkney said. "He has such vision and passion about getting students excited and engaged in books and reading!"

Special thanks to Vicki Shafer's art classes for the spectacular stage props, and of course, to Patrick Carman for his wonderful gift to our community. As Andrea Davis Pinkney said in a recent email, "Thanks for making it [WWKR] so fabulous!" "Those amazing librarians, booksellers, community folks and teachers should be applauded for building such a solid foundation for WWKR by getting kids excited about the authors they would be meeting."

### **School Stories**

#### **Walla Walla High School Drama and Music Programs Present: Rogers and Hammerstein's *The Sound of Music***

Tickets are on sale at the Walla Walla High School Performing Arts Box Office. Get them now! Many have already been sold in large blocks, so make sure to give yourself choices by getting them early.

Box Office Hours: 4 to 6 p.m. weekdays and one hour prior to shows.

Box Office phone: (509) 526-8613

(Please note: All tickets reserved in 'Will Call' need to be picked up 24 hours prior to the show date)

'Sound of Music' Show Dates:

May 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 12 @ 7 p.m.

May 5 & 12 matinees @ 2 p.m.

During *The Sound of Music*'s Broadway premiere season 45 years ago, which starred Mary Martin, one critic wrote, "The new Rodgers and Hammerstein show has a warm-hearted, unashamedly sentimental and strangely gentle charm that is wonderfully endearing."

After being transformed into a Hollywood classic starring Julie Andrews, which celebrates its 47th anniversary this year, the original musical by Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II became even more popular. Children and adults continue to fall in love with Fraulein Maria as she wins over the Von Trapp family. Families will delight in *The Sound of Music* classics "Do-Re-Mi," "Sixteen Going on Seventeen," "Edelweiss" and "Climb Every Mountain."

#### **Pioneer's Got Talent a hit**

More than 33 acts auditioned for this year's Pioneer's Got Talent. The judges, which included a parent, staff member and one student from each grade, narrowed it down to eight acts. These students performed in front of the school and then the students voted online. Results were based on 50% from the judges and 50% from the student vote. Winners were Sophia Gregoire, Rachel Adams and Emily Coleman who sang Adele, "Rumor Has It"

Pioneer's Got Talent Results:

- 1st Place - Sophia Gregoire, Emily Coleman & Rachel Adams
- 2nd Place - Natalie Funk
- 2nd Place - Ryan and Reagan Jackson

### **Lincoln High School featured for lowering suspension rates**

Lincoln High School was recently featured in the "Aces too High" online newsletter for its efforts to reduce suspensions by 85 percent (see URL address below). The students at Lincoln HS continue to report they feel supported and that Lincoln is like an extended family.

Principal Jim Sporleder and the Lincoln staff have focused on two basic concepts during this process of change:

- toxic stress prevents kids from learning
- moving from a punitive approach to a supportive, educational approach changes behavior

<http://acestoohigh.com/2012/04/23/lincoln-high-school-in-walla-walla-wa-tries-new-approach-to-school-discipline-expulsions-drop-85/>

### **Grants boost Lincoln High School fitness and athletic programs**

A \$10,000 grant from the Stubblefield Trust and another \$7500 from other local foundations and trusts have helped Lincoln High School boost its physical education and athletic programs through the purchase of new equipment. Teacher Lori Finn served as the school's grant writer. She was amazed with the response.

"We received even more money than we were asking for and by comparison shopping for the best use of the money, we were able to purchase additional equipment above what we initially requested," Finn said.

Finn said she was motivated to action following the struggles of establishing the school's first ever volleyball team.

"The net and stand needed to be duct taped to the floor and it wasn't regulation height or size," Finn said. "We also played with donated volleyballs and no equipment racks. I noticed the basketball team was dealing with the same situation. Due to funding cuts, there was no money available for equipment. I decided to look somewhere else for funding."

#### **Grants Received:**

- J.L. Stubblefield Trust - \$10,000
- Mary Garner Esary Trust - \$2500
- Clara & Art Bald Trust - \$2500
- Pacific Power Foundation - \$1500
- Harold and Helen Shepherd Foundation - \$1000

#### **Grant Purchases:**

- Volleyballs, net system, equipment storage carts and knee pads
- Locking ball carts
- Girls and boys basketball uniforms
- Softball gloves and balls
- Archery cart with targets, bows, and arrows
- Ping Pong tables, paddles and balls
- Folding exercise mats
- Footballs, basketballs and soccer balls
- Badminton - birdies and racquets
- Storage shelves and bins
- Trophy/award case

"The new P.E. equipment at Lincoln has really improved our program," Physical Education Teacher Jessie Briones said. "The variety of equipment allows our students more opportunities to play different games and improve our sports programs."

### **Walla Walla Public Schools Senior Party**

- Theme: "Welcome to the Real World"
- Friday, June 1 following Walla Walla High School graduation
- 9:30 p.m. to 2:30 a.m. at the YMCA
- All seniors encouraged to attend!

Families are encouraged to donate \$35 for their student's party. Make checks payable to "Senior Party" and mail to or drop-off at Wa-Hi (800 Abbott Road) or Lincoln High School (421 S. 4th). Tickets will be available in the Wa-Hi and Lincoln High School office the week of graduation.

Contact Judy Peasley with any questions or if you are interested in helping with the party. ([gjpeas@charter.net](mailto:gjpeas@charter.net))

### **High School students encouraged to register for summer Business Week Camps**

Registration is now open to all current 9th and 12th grade students who are interested in attending one of Washington State's Business Week Camps where students get a complete hands on approach on how to operate in a business environment. Registration packets are available in the Walla Walla High School library. Pre-Registration is DUE May 4. GEAR UP will pay all expenses for up to 84 students, including graduated seniors. These camps are incredible opportunities to develop leadership skills and gain real world business skills.

Learn more online at: [www.yourcollegeandcareer.org](http://www.yourcollegeandcareer.org)

#### **Business Week Program**

Western Washington University (Bellingham) June 24-30

Gonzaga University (Spokane) July 8-14

Central Washington University (Ellensburg) July 22-28

Pacific Lutheran University (Tacoma) August 5-11

#### **Advanced Business Week Program (returning campers only)**

Western Washington University (Bellingham) June 24-30

#### **Healthcare Week Pathway**

Gonzaga University (Spokane) July 8-14

Pacific Lutheran University (Tacoma) August 5-11

#### **Get AMPT! Manufacturing Week Pathway**

Western Washington University (Bellingham) June 24-30

#### **Energy Week Pathway**

Central Washington University (Ellensburg) July 22-28

#### **Agri-Business Week**

Central Washington University (Ellensburg) July 22-28

#### **Information:**

Becky Waggoner, Washington State University GEAR UP Program Assistant

509-526-8621

[bwaggoner@wwps.org](mailto:bwaggoner@wwps.org) / [bwaggoner@earlyoutreach.wsu.edu](mailto:bwaggoner@earlyoutreach.wsu.edu)

### **Head Start/ECEAP Preschool now accepting applications for the 2012-2013 School Year**

Walla Walla Public Schools Head Start/ECEAP Preschool is now accepting applications for the 2012-2013 school year. The program provides free preschool classes for qualifying families living in Walla Walla County. We accept children who will be 3 or 4 years old by August 31, 2012. Some of the services the program provides include transportation, disabilities, meals, health, dental and developmental screenings, parent education, family activities and goal setting.

Head Start and ECEAP are federally and state funded programs that promote school readiness of children from low-income families by enhancing their cognitive, social, and emotional development. The program's learning environment supports children's growth in language & literacy, cognition & general knowledge, physical development & health, social & emotional development, and approaches to learning.

The role of parents as their child's first and most important teacher is emphasized by the program's structure and activities. We strive to build relationships with families that support family well-being and positive parent-child relationships; families as learners and lifelong educators; family engagement in transitions; family connections to peers and community, and families as advocates and leaders.

Applications are available at Blue Ridge Elementary, located at 1150 W. Chestnut. For more information, please contact the Blue Ridge office at 527-3066.

### **Tickets on sale for Big Blue Weekend Spring Fundraiser Spaghetti Feed**

- Spring Fundraiser Spaghetti Feed
- Tuesday, May 22
- 6 p.m. in the Wa-Hi Commons
- Tickets are \$10 each
- Proceeds support Big Blue Weekend
- Contact Michelle Higgins for tickets: [mihiggins@wwps.org](mailto:mihiggins@wwps.org) or 527.3020

### **Walla Walla High School hosts Cinco de mayo Celebration**

Saturday May 5

Walla Walla High School Commons

4:30 to 10 p.m.

On Saturday, May 5, the Walla Walla High School Latino Club, AVID and WSU Gear Up are sponsoring a Cinco de mayo celebration in the Walla Walla High School Commons area. The festival will feature a career and activity fair as part of the celebration. The fair will include many community partners, colleges, universities, and school clubs.

Dinner will be provided by El Sombrero for the first 500 people who attend the event. Music will feature music by Mariachi Huenachi and will include performances by local groups and school programs with additional music provided by Luz y Sonido Elegante. The activity fair will include information tables and activities that families or children would enjoy. Those activities will be from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

### **Wa-Hi FFA Plant Sale begins Monday**

- Monday, April 30 to Thursday, May 3
- 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- Location: Lawn outside the CTE building at Wa-Hi
- Easy parking on Abbott Road
- Students will be available to help load
- Assorted metal and wood projects will also be available
- 2012 Greenhouse Coordinators: Libby Donaldson, Shanna Smith, Ryan Fogg and Ross Lake

### **Garrison's Multicultural Mural Unveiling**

- Thursday, May 3
- 6 to 8 p.m.

Garrison Middle School, in conjunction with Whitman College and Heritage University, is hosting an evening of art and performance. Enjoy pozole and meet Pedro Adream de Valdivia the school's mural creator.

### **Blue Devil College Cup activities**

- Kick Like a Pro Week: May 8-11 during lunch at Walla Walla High School (students and staff will attempt to kick a soccer ball the fastest and raise money for scholarships)
- Blue Devil College Cup Staff vs. Students Soccer Match
- May 23
- 5 to 6 p.m.
- Wa-Hi soccer field, (students vs. staff soccer match).

#### Information:

- Miriam Garber, AVID Club Advisor
- (503) 348-1608

### **Bicycle Barn sponsors Prospect Point Bike Safety Rodeo**

- Saturday, April 28
- 10 a.m. to 12 noon
- Free
- Prospect Point Elementary parking lot
- The Whitman Cycling Team will support the event
- Obstacle course with a Safety Station Pledge at the end
- Safe biking literature for parents and students
- Two bikes will be raffled off (Trek starter bike and Red Line BMX bike from the Bicycle Barn)
- Special thanks to the Bicycle Barn and owner Greg Knowles for sponsoring the event

### **Community Stories**

#### **District staff and students featured in local play *The Hobbit***

Walla Walla High School teacher William "Bill" Calhoun is playing Gollum in *The Hobbit* at the Little Theater starting this week. Don't miss seeing Calhoun in a unitard and loincloth. Wa-Hi teacher Terry Wilcut's son, Brad, is also in the production. Three Wa-Hi students are in the play as well; Colin Pummel, Sara Beko, and Brelynn Hess.

- *The Hobbit* @ The Little Theater

Directed by: Cheryl Sutlick and Robert G. Randall (Assistant Directed by Gloria Schille)

Performances: April 27, 28, May 4, 5, 6\*, 11, 12.

\*May 6 is a 2 p.m. matinee, and all other shows start at 8 p.m.

Visit the Little Theater web site for more information: <http://www.ltww.org/>

**Baker Boyer Ducky Derby welcomes Relay for Hope child abuse prevention event**

*Tickets on sale now: See Mark Higgins for tickets*

The Baker Boyer Ducky Derby is Saturday, May 19 at Walla Walla Community College. Tickets are on sale now. This event is presented by the Exchange Club of Walla Walla. All proceeds stay local to support the HomeTeam Parent Aide program and for positive youth activities. This year the Baker Boyer Ducky Derby invited the HomeTeam's Relay for Hope Event to join the festivities. Relay for Life features 5K run/walk, free Columbia REA Family Fun Festival and Kid Olympics.

May 19 Event Schedule

- 8:30-11 a.m.: Relay for Hope-5K run/walk or 5K family friendly stroll along Mill Creek
- 11:30 a.m.: Kids Dash will kick-off the Baker Boyer Ducky Derby
- 11:30-3:30 p.m.: Columbia REA Free Family Fun Festival and Kid Olympics
- 2 p.m.: Baker Boyer Ducky Derby Race Begins

Registration Fee for Relay for Hope 5K run/walk

- Cost: Individual \$15; Family \$25; Team \$10 per team member (participants receive a t-shirt and water bottle)
- Proceeds: All proceeds support the Walla Walla HomeTeam Parent Aide Program (parent mentoring program)
- Become a corporate sponsor, form a team, pledge or sponsor someone to walk

Baker Boyer Ducky Derby Ticket Outlets:

- Baker Boyer Bank
- Walla Walla's Harvest Foods
- Safeway
- Super 1 Foods
- Any Exchange Club member

Ducky Derby tickets:

One ticket = \$5  
Five tickets = \$20

**School groups receive free admission to Tamastlikt**

Bobbie Conner, Director, Tamastlikt Cultural Institute, has declared permanent free admission for all school groups, effective spring of 2012. Free admission applies to home schoolers, youth groups, after school programs, and scouts as well. Students that present individually are required to pay the individual student admission. Groups are considered 10 persons minimum.

It is recommended that school groups make a reservation with the Tamastlikt Education Coordinator by calling (541)429-7723 or emailing [tci.education@tamastlikt.org](mailto:tci.education@tamastlikt.org).