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District Stories

Thank you for a great school year!

From all of us at Walla Walla Public Schools, thank you for a great school year. We will continue working hard over the summer to prepare for the 2012-2013 school year. Classes begin Tuesday, Sept. 4. Visit the district web site for updates: www.wwps.org. Have a safe and fun summer break!

WWPS District Office Summer Hours

- 8 a.m. to 12 noon & 1 to 4 p.m.
- Closed 12 to 1 p.m. for lunch
- Open Monday-Friday

Nutrition and fitness survey now online

The school district identified the importance of promoting healthy living, lifestyles and safe schools during their recent strategic planning process. Parents and community members are encouraged to complete a survey to provide their thoughts about the status of nutrition and fitness throughout the district.

This survey is available online in both English and Spanish at www.wwps.org. The survey will be live for the next two week. This data will help guide a review of the districts nutrition and fitness procedures. Thank you for taking a few moments to share your input.

Personnel Report (from June 5, 2012 school board meeting)

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)

District honors 2012 Graduates of Distinction

Tuesday night Superintendent Mick Miller and school board members honored the 2011-2012 Graduates of Distinction. 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.

Special thanks to our Graduates of Distinction selection committee:

- Anne Golden, School Board Representative, Peggy Sanderson, Josh Gonzales, Doug Bayne, Art Griff, Dondi Cortinas, Federico Diaz

John P. Folsom – Class of 1962

John P. Folsom's high school years were filled with a variety of activities and interests, including ASB presidency in his senior year. They were a great precursor for this 1962 graduate's life-long accomplishments. After earning a business degree, becoming a Certified Public Account and then a lawyer, Folsom proved himself in the business world, ending his official career at Brown & Brown Inc. in Tacoma in 2006. But that is just the tip of the iceberg for this enterprising man.

His long history of community service projects in his beloved second hometown has earned him the nickname "Mr. Tacoma." He has been active in the Tacoma Arts Fund, Board of the Multicare Health System, the Tacoma-Pierce County Chamber of Commerce, the YMCA and the Executive Council for a Greater Tacoma. In 2011, he received the Kim and George Tanbara, M.D. Humanitarian Award from Community Health Care, honoring his leadership and action in health care initiatives.

Inspirational teacher(s): Russell Larsen, music instructor, and Don Cramer, a teacher and coach.

Jill Largent M.D. – Class of 1968

The life of Jill Largent M.D. has been one of both academic success and defying the odds. The 1968 Wa-Hi graduate was a National Merit Scholar, Valedictorian and straight A student, but she also grew up in a time when women didn't compete in athletics or the tough math and science courses. She actually ran the 440 quite well and excelled in those tough classes, receiving the annual Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Award and earning a rare scholarship to the school where she was able to be in a program that allowed her to complete her undergraduate and medical degrees in just six years.

Largent earned specialties in both Pediatrics and Nephrology (children's kidney disorders) and practiced at Albany (NY) Medical Center and the distinguished Geisinger Medical Center in Danville, PA, until her retirement. She was a catalyst in establishing summer camps for children with spina bifida and severe kidney problems. She physically and financially supported Camp Kydnie which allowed these children to spend a week away from home in places where their medical needs could be met. She and her husband, John, still play Santa and helper for young patients at the Geisinger Children's Hospital. She loves horses and shares that joy with young people at a Kid's Horse Camp.

Inspirational teacher: Math teacher, Bill Bieloh

Megan Ferguson Clubb – Class of 1974

Megan Ferguson Clubb hails from a long-standing family in the Walla Walla Valley and has risen beyond the challenge to successfully lead the oldest independently owned community bank in the Pacific Northwest—Baker Boyer Bank. A 1974 graduate of Wa-Hi, Clubb was active in National Honor Society and was simultaneously president of two organizations: Walla Walla Wagonettes and Kappa Ki, a service club. She earned a degree in Economics from Whitman College and a Master of Science Degree from the Sloan School of Management, MIT.

She held many positions within Baker Boyer bank before being named President in 2000 and, later, CEO. Under her leadership, Baker Boyer ranked 23rd on the Top 200 Community Banks list, compiled by U.S. Banker, in 2010 and the institution earned first place in the 2011 Seattle Business Magazine's "Best Places to Work in Washington" in 2011. She also spearheaded a workplace wellness initiative, honored recently for Leadership in Health Care. In 2011, she was named to the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. On the community front, Clubb is an acting Trustee for Whitman College and has been involved with the Walla Walla Watershed Alliance Board, Carnegie Art Center, Blue Mountain Community Foundation and the Downtown Walla Walla Foundation.

Inspirational teacher: Middle school Spanish and English teacher Ruth Hanson

2012 WWVEA scholarships

WWVEA President Margo Piver presented three, \$500 scholarships to graduating seniors during the June 5 school board meeting.

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.”

School Stories

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

Tuesday 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.

Walla Walla High School ASB Officers/Commissioners/Class Officers for 2012 – 2013

ASB Executive Council

Michaela Stalder - ASB President
Dean Atkinson - ASB Vice President
Christina Swanson - ASB Treasurer
Melissa Magnaghi - ASB Secretary

ASB Commissioners

Emma Jenkins - ASB Historian Commissioner
Tyler Morgan - ASB Club Relations Commissioner
Summer Carlton-Gantz - ASB Publicity Commissioner
Summer Morton - ASB Student Orientation Commissioner
Natalie Nunez - ASB Community Service Commissioner
Jon Blanc - ASB Music/Technology Commissioner
Danny Butler - ASB Positive Relations Commissioner

Senior Class Officers

Anna Pettyjohn - Senior Class President
Kendsey Hill - Senior Class Vice President
Franny Eacker-Rude - Senior Class Secretary

Junior Class Officers

Kiana Molitor - Junior Class President
Sam Oberg - Junior Class Vice President
Blake Morasch - Junior Class Treasurer
Mason Ahrens - Junior Class Secretary

Sophomore Class Officers

Molly Warinner - Sophomore Class President
Maddy Sirmon - Sophomore Class Vice President
Colton Jordan - Sophomore Class Treasurer
Francheska Cannone - Sophomore Class Secretary

Sharpstein first graders take adventure to Welcome Table Farm

Each winter, Sharpstein 5th grade teacher Sean Reid's class leads a seed sale to raise funds for the Sharpstein Garden. This winter, when the 5th grade students described the seed sale during their presentation to each class, they added a twist. This year's challenge: "Whichever grade sells the most seed packets will win a field trip to a farm in the spring."

This year, first grade took the prize. On May 21, two buses of students and parent volunteers emptied onto the fertile ground at Welcome Table Farm, now located on the Old Milton Highway. They broke into five groups and rotated through five stations: planting summer squash; observing and picking a variety of field crops and finding potato beetles; washing their radish and kale treats to eat while hearing about the farm tools pulled by the horses; visiting the work horses used to do the heavy field work; and feeding the other farm critters including pigs, goats and lambs. Besides providing an interesting outing for students, this activity also informs students about farming and food. The district is working to purchase more locally grown produce for use in the school cafeteria. Trips like these help students make connections with healthy food and the farmers that grow it. Fresh, local produce tastes great and purchasing locally can boost our local economy.

If you're interested in supporting the budding Farm-to-School/school garden program at Walla Walla Public Schools, please contact Beth Thiel at wolcott.thiel@gmail.com or 525-0969.

Walla Walla High School students to join regional AVID students for a trip back east

Walla Walla High School Advancement Via Individual Achievement (AVID) students Vanessa Alvarado-Rivas, Ana Andrade, Christina Sosa, and Erika Torres will spend eight days in New York and Washington, DC this summer for the GEAR UP Summer Trip 2012. These students are among 20 selected from the 11 school districts served by WSU Tri-Cities GEAR UP.

These students have truly shown their commitment to higher education by taking advantage of GEAR UP resources in order to plan for a better future. Selections were made based on a rubric of essay content, use of GEAR UP services, and the challenges faced and overcome, demonstrating that our students have a dream, a plan, and the determination to achieve a higher education.

Walla Walla High School Class of 2012 graduation photos available online

(Message from: Marty Huie, Professional Photography)

Photographs taken at the Walla Walla High School Commencement are available for viewing/ordering online.

Please go to: www.orders.gradphotonetwork.com

1. Enter EVENT NAME:
2. Click Continue
3. Select the EVENT (Walla Walla High School 2012)
4. Enter the student's Last Name:
5. View and Place orders on the secured servers:

Your orders will be processed and sent directly to the address you signify.

You will also be receiving an order form in the mail but it only has the individual proofs. You can see those, the class photo and hundreds of candids on the website above.

Additional Information:

- grads@bigfoot.com

- 509.529-5183

Blue Devil Athletic Development (BDAD) Summer Program

Dates: June 27 - August 2

Incoming 9-12 grades: 8-9 a.m. or 10-11 a.m.

Incoming 5-8 grades: 9-10 a.m.

Cost:

- \$30 pre-register (postmarked by June 25)

- \$35 registering at the door

Registration form available on the Wa-Hi web site

Questions:

Eric Hisaw: ehisaw@wwps.org

Amy Hisaw: ahisaw@wwps.org

Community Stories

Youth summer “Discover Camp” comes to Whitman Mission

The Blue Mountain Action Council Americorps and the Whitman Mission National Historic Site are partnering to host a day camp for area youth. Participants will spend four days exploring the meaning of service learning through games and activities. Youth will also learn about the environmental and historical aspects of the Whitman Mission National Historic Site.

Discover Camp

- Open to students going into 5th grade through students going into 7th grade
- Location: Whitman Mission National Historic Site
- Dates: June 25-28 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Registration: registerdiscover@gmail.com or call Jessie Bloom at: 529-4980 ext. 141

Register today for Walla Walla Rock Camp

The Walla Walla Symphony announces the 4th Annual Rock Camp! The Walla Walla Public Schools Music Department and Garrison Middle School will host a one week performance camp designed to give its attendees the experience of producing a Rock ‘n Roll concert.

Who: open to students, ages 12-18, no experience necessary

What: one week intensive music experience

Where: Garrison Middle School, 906 Chase St., Walla Walla, WA 99362

When: July 30 to August 3 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; final performance Friday, August 3 at 6 p.m.

Why: To learn about topics such as

- Song selection and arranging
- Song writing
- Professionalism and stage presence
- Marketing and promoting a music production
- Instrument coaching

Cost: FREE, but limited to first 60 campers who sign up!

Registration: Registration materials are available at the Symphony office (please contact Elizabeth Fleming at elizabeth@wvsymphony.org), Hot Poop, and Melody Muffler.

Questions: Email Anthony Barba at abarbaemail@gmail.com or call the Walla Walla Symphony at (509) 529-8020

Mailing Address: Rock Camp, c/o Walla Walla Symphony, PO Box 92, Walla Walla, WA, 99362

Thank you to our sponsors: First Fruits Fund of the Blue Mountain Community Foundation, Melody Muffler, Hot Poop Walla Walla Public Schools Music Department/Garrison Middle School and Wildhorse Foundation