

Stories this week include:

District Stories

- School board plans public work session to discuss facilities
- Board conducts budget work session
- School lunch prices increase
- Personnel Report (from June 19 school board meeting)
- GEAR UP develops College and Career online resource
- District strengthens partnership with Commitment to Community
- WWPS District Office Summer Hours

School Stories

- Hope Grant-Herriot competes at National Forensics Tournament in Indianapolis by Coach Jean Tobin
- District science teachers collaborate with Whitman College professors
- Blue Devil Athletic Development (BDAD) Summer Program June 27-August 2

Community Stories

- Sheriff's Roundtable community meetings this month
- Join The Moms' Network of Walla Walla for a Books for Babes fundraiser

District Stories

School board plans public work session to discuss facilities

- Wednesday, June 27
- 8:30 to 11 a.m.
- District Board Room (364 S. Park St.)
- Topic: The school board will review the district's facilities improvement plan, study priorities and discuss strategies for advancing the plan.

Board conducts budget work session

Preliminary budget maintains strong reserves

Despite no increase in state public education funding for the 2012-2013 school year and a slight decline in enrollment last year, the district remains fiscally sound.

The district is projecting an unrestricted fund balance of more than \$5 million or nearly eight percent, based on preliminary General Fund budget projections from Chief Financial Officer Pat Johnston during Tuesday night's public school board work session. The district would need to dip into fund balance reserves by approximately \$2.2 million to balance the General Fund budget, according to the preliminary budget presented by Johnston.

Johnston based the preliminary General Fund budget on revenues of \$60,833,848 and expenditures of \$63,034,653. The district is using an enrollment figure of 5,862 Full-Time Equivalent students as the primary revenue source for the 2012-13 General Fund Budget. This basic education enrollment figure used for budgeting purposes is up 33 students from the previous year. During the next two months, Miller and Johnston will be working to find ways to reduce expenditures to better align with revenue.

School board members and Superintendent Mick Miller believe the trend of using significant reserves to balance the General Fund budget cannot be sustained. He said the district built up its reserves to help maintain programs and necessary staffing levels to combat the lean years of the recession. Miller says he hopes to get additional state funding next year and in the coming years. Despite the uncertainty in a down economy, Miller says he is confident the district is sound fiscally.

School lunch prices increase

On Superintendent Miller's recommendation, school board members reluctantly approved a 10 cent increase to school lunches to keep pace with program costs and to conform with federal guidelines. Students receiving free or reduced-price meals are not impacted. Lunches were last increased in 2008-09.

Personnel Report (from June 19 school board meeting)

Employment

(Certificated)

Dr. Sherri Eaton-Bin Daar, School, School Psychologist, Special Programs

(Classified)

Ana Aguilar, Para-Educator, Sharpstein

Amity Priore, Para-Educator, Edison

Resignation/Retirement

(Certificated)

Ted Cummings, PE Specialist, Walla Walla High School, 30 years

(Classified)

William Beckmeyer, Trades Assistant, Facilities & Operations, 20 years

(Retirement effective September 30, 2012)

Chris Brown, Para-Educator, Walla Walla High School, 1 year

GEAR UP develops College and Career online resource

Tuesday night WSU GEAR UP's Jerri Grant and Becky Waggoner reported to school board members on the new web site developed last school year to promote College and Career readiness programs here.

Waggoner explained how the site offers parents and students information about upcoming events and activities. A link to the site is located on the Walla Walla Public Schools homepage.

Online features:

- School Contacts
- Career Planning
- College Planning
- Getting Involved
- Paying for College
- Testing
- Academic Support

www.yourcollegeandcareer.org

District strengthens partnership with Commitment to Community

Commitment to Community (C2C) Program Director Julia Leavitt provided a report to school board members Tuesday night. This school year C2C organizers regularly visited schools in the neighborhoods they serve. This activity is designed to improve relationships and communication. Leavitt said having more access to district schools helps them build stronger relationships with the children of the families they serve.

C2C Team: Julia Leavitt, Lupe Mares, Yesenia Guevara, Federico Diaz, Aubrey Hill.

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

School Stories

Hope Grant-Herriot competes at National Forensics Tournament in Indianapolis by Coach Jean Tobin

We had a roller coaster of a ride and it was an incredible experience. Thank you all for your support during this adventure! For more general information, the National league has a website (www.nflonline.org) and a Facebook page with updated photos and information about Nationals: <https://www.facebook.com/NationalForensicLeague>.

Thousands of students from every state attended the tournament, and 250 students competed in Original Oratory -- Hope's event. Hope did not advance into the "out rounds", but she was within three points of advancing. She earned a total of 39 points and was one of the top 70 students in her event. It was heartbreaking in the moment because the tournament really hypes the naming of those that advance and this has been a dream of Hope's for several years. We also thought she would do well because of the 12 judges that came up to us and commented on how much they loved her speech and told us that they had ranked her highly in their round. She competed in six rounds, each round had two judges.

However, Hope is a very strong competitor and within hours she was ready to go back to work. We watched every finals round and took notes on every speaker to learn what we could about what it would take to do better in the future. If you get a chance to watch the final speeches, it is an amazing experience. These are truly talented competitors and they were inspiring to watch. We learned a lot and plan on sharing our knowledge next year with the rest of the Walla Walla High School debate team. Thanks and have a wonderful summer!

District science teachers collaborate with Whitman College professors

Walla Walla Public Schools science teachers recently teamed with Whitman College professors for Summer Institute 2012. This was the last workshop over the three year period with the cohort of 15 science teachers from area middle schools.

Previous Whitman faculty who have led workshops were invited to join the group for lunch to conclude the program. This year's focus was "Our Green World: The Biology of Producers" and was lead by Professors Heidi Dobson, Nancy Forsthoefel, Dan Vernon and Jim Russo. The goal of these workshops has been to provide professional development opportunities for local science teachers in key areas of their curriculum while supporting collaboration and collegiality between teachers and Whitman faculty and staff.

Previous Whitman presenters pictured included Michelle Shafer, Mark Juhasz, Andrea Dobson, Frank Dunnivant and Nick Bader. Rachna Sinnott (Development) and Ashley Ehlers (our Whitman student assistant) also joined the fun. Additional presenters over the three year period include: Mark Beck, Kendra Golden, Moira Gresham, Kurt Hoffman, Doug Juers, Kirsten Nicolaysen, Tim Parker, Chris Wallace, and Ginger Withers.

Middle School teachers present this summer: Shannon Jones, Dennis Bennett, Karen Bumgarner, Angie Butler (all from Pioneer MS), Shannon Ahrens, Sue Schulz, Luke Hamada, Kristen Erickson, Chad Hulett (all from Garrison MS), Darin Darand (from Sager MS), and Sue Parrish (newly retired).

Thanks to Mary Burt, Whitman College HHMI Science Outreach Coordinator, for organizing the workshops.

Blue Devil Athletic Development (BDAD) Summer Program June 27-August 2

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

Sheriff's Roundtable community meetings this month

The Walla Walla County Sheriff's Office has scheduled its community meetings for this quarter. Sheriff John Turner and his Command Staff encourage you to attend to learn more about current issues and share your input. Prosecuting Attorney Jim Nagle is expected to join Turner.

Burbank / Wallula:

- Tuesday, June 26

- Columbia High School Library

- 5:30 p.m.

Walla Walla / College Place:

- Thursday, June 28

- Walla Walla High School Commons

- 5:30 p.m.

Join The Moms' Network of Walla Walla for a Books for Babes fundraiser

On Saturday June 23, The Moms' Network will host a celebration to honor *Books for Babes* and give the community a chance to participate and support this important community organization. The event is at Book & Game in downtown Walla Walla from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and open to the public. Everyone is welcome to come enjoy treats, crafts and story times while learning more about The Moms' Network and *Books for Babes*.

Books for Babes puts new books into the hands of families of newborns in the Walla Walla Valley to encourage early literacy. Each newborn receives a bag containing soft books, hard books and a homemade book from local children. From June 23 to July 28 anyone in the community may purchase the soft book at Book & Game and donate it directly to the book bags for newborns.

The books cost \$6.75 each and on June 23 any soft book that is purchased, the Moms' Network will match the purchase with an additional book. You may also purchase the soft book at the Moms' Network website www.themomsnetworkww.com throughout the promotion.

“This is a wonderful partnership for us” says Karri Bruce, *Books for Babes* Board Member. “With the support of the Moms' Network and the community we can continue to provide early learning opportunities for the children of Walla Walla. The event on Saturday, June 23 is also a great way to learn more about both organizations and have fun with your family.”

The Moms' Network of Walla Walla provides opportunities to local parents to communicate, receive and exchange information, network with each other and be involved in the community. To learn about the event or the Moms' Network please contact Beth Swanson at 509-301-7471 or beth@themomsnetworkww.com