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District Stories

First Day of School Tuesday, Sept. 4

- Visit district web site for more information
- Visit schools or school web sites for back-to-school supplies lists

Walla Walla Public Schools offers documentation support for newly authorized immigration rule change

Per the recent immigration rule change on childhood arrivals authorized by President Obama, Walla Walla Public Schools will provide school record documentation for those who meet the qualifications. See qualifications below.

Those who qualify and are Walla Walla High School graduates or attendees are asked to visit Walla Walla High School (800 Abbott Road) to obtain the necessary documentation regarding their school enrollment. All other individuals needing support documentation are asked to visit the district office (364 S. Park St.) and ask for Veronica Esparza.

Qualifying Criteria:

1. Were under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012;
2. Came to the United States before reaching your 16th birthday;
3. Have continuously resided in the United States since June 15, 2007, up to the present time;
4. Were physically present in the United States on June 15, 2012, and at the time of making your request for consideration of deferred action with USCIS;
5. Entered without inspection before June 15, 2012, or your lawful immigration status expired as of June 15, 2012;
6. Are currently in school, have graduated or obtained a certificate of completion from high school, have obtained a general education development (GED) certificate, or are an honorably discharged veteran of the Coast Guard or Armed Forces of the United States; and
7. Have not been convicted of a felony, significant misdemeanor, three or more other misdemeanors, and do not otherwise pose a threat to national security or public safety.

Those who qualify may find information on completing the process online at: www.uscis.gov

Walla Walla High School Contact:

Bunny Baker
bbaker@wwps.org
509.527.3020

District Office Contact:

Veronica Esparza
vesparza@wwps.org
509.527.3000

School board meeting Tuesday, August 21

- regularly scheduled meeting
- 4:00 p.m.
- District Office (364 S. Park St.)
- Meeting open to the public

See you at the Fair!

School displays, student work, animals, information and more!
• August 29 through Labor Day Weekend

Walla Walla Public Schools expands options for reporting bullying

SafeSchools Alert provides easy access to report an incident

Walla Walla Public Schools is now using *SafeSchools Alert* to report safety concerns. *SafeSchools Alert* is a tip reporting service which allows students, staff, and parents to submit safety concerns to district administration in four different ways:

1. Phone: 1-855-4ALERT1, ext. 1057
2. Text: Text #1057 @tip + your tip to ALERT1 (253781)
3. Email: 1057@alert1.us
4. Web: <http://1057.alert1.us>

Easily report tips on bullying, harassment, drug use, vandalism or any safety issue concern through SafeSchools Alert. When submitting a tip, be sure to use our district's identification code, 1057, in the communication.

Every tip SafeSchools Alert receives about Walla Walla Public Schools is immediately logged in the system and the administration is notified so that they can investigate and take appropriate action. Tips may also be submitted anonymously. Additional information and Walla Walla Public School bullying reporting forms are available on the district web site at: www.wwps.org

All Staff Back-to-School Meeting

- Thursday, August 30
- Wa-Hi Main Gym
- 8 a.m. (treats and visiting)
- 8:30 a.m. (program begins)
- All staff encouraged to attend

WWPS District Office Summer Hours (normal hours resume August 20)

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

School Stories

Walla Walla High School Drama teacher performs in local Shakespeare Festival

Brian Senter, the Director of Performing Arts at Walla Walla High School, returns to the professional stage after an 11 year absence as Friar Lawrence in *Romeo and Juliet* at the Power House Theatre. Brian holds an MFA in acting from the nationally acclaimed Professional Actors Training Program at the University of Washington and his stage work was enjoyed for many years by audiences throughout the west coast. Shakespeare Walla Walla Summer Shakespeare Festival offers our community a marvelous opportunity to experience the mastery of its own professional actors.

Romeo & Juliet

Shakespeare's classic tale of the tragic romance of two young star-crossed lovers whose deaths ultimately unite their feuding families. A classic for all to appreciate beautifully performed.

Performances: Now to August 26

The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged)

This zany combination of the Marx Brothers, Mel Brooks and Monty Python features three actors who portray over 100 characters as they race through all 37 of Shakespeare's plays in less than two hours. Very fun entertainment for the entire family!

Performances: August 2 to 26

Shakespeare Walla Walla Summer Festival

Info online: www.ShakespeareWallaWalla.org

Pioneer Middle School teacher receives technology grant

Pioneer Middle School Explorer teacher Dan Calzaretta received a \$2000 from ING U.S. for his “iCreate: App Incubator Project. This project is designed to tap into students’ interest in technology. Students in the program will learn the process of creating applications for mobile devices instead of just using them.

“The technology program is unique because it takes students through the entire process of creating applications including app design, testing, refining and marketing,” Calzaretta said. “App creation is a growing industry and one in which people of all ages can participate.”

Calzaretta says one of the objectives of the program is to increase access to technology and to help bridge the “digital divide” since many of the students do not have technology available at home. Other objectives include building real-world skills, creating apps and helping students develop entrepreneurial skills. Community service will also be encouraged through a “student technology team.”

For the community service, students will teach technology skills to others in the school and community including teaching senior citizens how to use mobile devices such as the Apple iPad. Sales of the apps will help the program become self-sustaining. Calzaretta, who lives in Walla Walla, hopes the “incubator” program will help students develop analytical and critical thinking skills that they can spread into other areas of curriculum.

Walla Walla High School teacher receives “Outstanding Achievement” award

Monday, August 6, Walla Walla High School Career and Technical Education teacher Gay Buissink received the Outstanding Achievement “Game Changer” award at the Washington Association for Career and Technical Education Summer Conference in Yakima. Buissink was one of only three state educators to receive the award.

Buissink and her students participated in the Microsoft IT Academy (ITA). The Microsoft ITA is designed to bridge the gap between the world of education and the world of work. It boosts Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) education statewide and the employability and global competitiveness of students and future workforce. The Microsoft IT Academy program provides training and certification in a number of Microsoft products, as well as advanced topics, including programming, Web development, and database development.

Buissink helped her students successfully pass Microsoft Office Specialist Certification exams. A Microsoft Office Specialist certification helps validate proficiency in using Microsoft Office 2010 and meets the demand for the most up-to-date skills on some of the latest Microsoft technologies.

“Offering Microsoft certification for students started out as a way to validate the technology skills that students were learning in my Computer Apps classes,” Buissink said. “As the year progressed, I became motivated by the sense of accomplishment that a student’s face beamed over to me when the screen popped up at the end of a grueling exam, and the word “pass” was displayed. Next CCI Learning, one of the partners in this venture with Microsoft and OSPI, advertised a \$1,000 scholarship for a student, and the game really changed.”

Buissink said she was surprised and honored by the Microsoft award.

“It really isn’t about me,” Buissink said. “This is about students who are accomplishing something as big as an internationally recognized certification, which translates into technology readiness for college and careers. I just wish that more students would take advantage of this opportunity.”

Walla Walla High School football players help move Carnegie Picture Lab art program

Thursday, Walla Walla High School football players volunteered to move the Carnegie Picture Lab into its new home at 515 East Main Street.

“Strong and tireless, these guys were great, good humored, and even invited their friends to join the fun,” said Augusta Farnum, who helps coordinate the program. “Carnegie Picture Lab heartily thanks: Zach Anderson, Dean Atkinson, Trever Coronado, A. J. Crump, Ethan Gardner, Zachary Gilvey, Darnell Handcox, Daniel Lake, Jeremy Larson, Reid Magnaghi, Quinn Piver, and Logan Reardon”

The Carnegie Picture Lab formerly known as the Carnegie Art Center’s Picture Lady Program, is a non-profit volunteer-led organization founded in the early 1970’s, which provides art education to children in the Walla Walla Valley from Kindergarten through 5th grade.

Homelink teacher named to state math committee

Congratulations to Homelink teacher Kate Venneri for being selected to participate on the Washington State Assessment Mathematics Data Review, Grades 3-5 committee. She will be working with other educators from across Washington to review data from scoring pilot items and evaluating the items for future use in the Washington Comprehensive Assessment Program. This work requires all team members to have an understanding of what the new Washington State K—12 Mathematics Standards look like in a mathematics classroom.

Community Stories

Exchange Club of Walla Walla awards grants to local youth agencies

The Exchange Club of Walla Walla recently announced the recipients of its 2011-2012 grant program which provided \$10,000 to local agencies.

2011-2012 Grant Recipients:

- Girls Council: \$500
- Friends: \$3,000
- WW Hospice: \$500 (Camp Amanda)
- WWCPCAN: \$3,000 (Child Abuse Prevention Council)
- Safe Kids: \$500 (child safety helmets & car seats)
- Campfire: \$2,500

The Exchange Club of Walla Walla Grant Committee consisted of members Liz Conover, Veda Logan, Varga Fox and Tracy Shrouf. The 2011-2012 recipients will be awarded checks at the Exchange Club meeting Monday, September 17 at the Marcus Whitman Hotel and Conference Center.

”It’s through the countless hours of dedicated volunteers that put on the Baker Boyer Bank Ducky Derby fundraiser each year that allows the Exchange Club to raise money to give back to our community through these organizations that support our mission, to make our community a better place to live,” said Shrouf, who coordinates the grant process for the Exchange Club. “Half of the proceeds go to support our HomeTeam Parent Aide program that provides a positive role model for parents, the other half goes through the committee to be dispersed through the grant process.”

The Exchange Club Foundation commits to allocating 100 percent of its net proceeds from all fund raising activities to its pillars of service: child abuse prevention, community service, youth program, and Americanism. The fundraising policy and more information about the Walla Walla Exchange Club is online at: wwexchangeclub.org

Exchange, America’s Service Club, is a group of men and women working together to make our communities better places to live through programs of service in Americanism, community service, youth activities, and its national project, the prevention of child abuse. Club members meet each Monday at 12 noon at the Marcus Whitman Hotel and Conference Center.

Walla Walla Youth Football registration underway

Walla Walla Youth Football is currently registering players for the upcoming season. Players can be registered at wallawallayouthfootball.com or they can register in person at the league try-outs being held on Saturday, August 18. The cost of registration is \$100 per player with a discount to families with multiple children. Try-outs are held at Bledsoe Fields on the VA complex across the street from Blue Ridge Elementary.

The try-out schedule is as follows:

Saturday, August 18

- 9:30 to 11 a.m.: All 3rd graders and any 4th graders who did not play in the league last year
- 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.: All 5th graders and any 6th graders who did not play in the league last year

Please wear shorts and cleats to the try-outs and bring a water bottle. If you plan on registering in person at the try-outs, please arrive 30 minutes before your scheduled time.

YMCA plans Open House to discuss youth programs

Join the Y Tuesday, August 21 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. for an OPEN HOUSE! When the school day ends, children and teens need opportunities to learn and engage in meaningful activities. Their success out of school can impact how well they perform in school. Currently, 15.1 million children nationwide are left unsupervised after 3 p.m. and do not participate in afterschool programs, according to Afterschool Alliance, a nonprofit public awareness advocacy organization. To help close this gap, the Walla Walla YMCA is offering quality afterschool programs.

Program Spotlights will be on:

- SPARKS – After School Program Grades K-5
- Y's Little Owls and Games Galore & More – Pre-School Enrichment Programs
- Technology Programs for Middle & High School
- Music Programs for Middle & High School
- Sport & Recreation Programs for all ages

Come talk to the teachers and coaches at the YMCA who are passionate about providing quality care for children of all ages. Experience programs first hand as the Y provides demonstrations and samplers.

For more information please contact Christy Druffel at 509-525-8863 or cdruffel@wwymca.org, or find us on online at: www.wwymca.org or www.facebook.com/ymcaaww.

To view the YMCA Fall Program Guide, visit <http://wwymca.org/program-registration/program-guide>