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District Stories

School-based health center gets green light to expand to Blue Ridge Elementary

School board members voted 3-2 to approve a proposal from The Health Center to expand and develop a school-based health center at Blue Ridge Elementary. Prior to the vote, The Health Center Executive Director Holly Howard answered questions during a public work session and detailed how the center would operate.

The Health Center at Blue Ridge will be open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. and serve P-5 students. The staff will share space with the Blue Ridge Health Clinician who provides service to the school during the morning hours. The school currently does not have coverage in the afternoon.

School board members will receive a progress report in June to review the number of referrals and the center's impact on local medical providers.

"I feel strongly that we have been given this opportunity to show that we can foster stronger partnerships in our community and that we are here to provide care for the students," Howard said. "We will communicate with parents, providers, students, and the school and will work hard to deliver stronger health care for these young people. The Health Center at Blue Ridge will reduce barriers to access and keep students developing into healthier learners."

The school-based health center at Lincoln HS is beginning year four.

School board develops replacement plan for Lehmann's vacant seat

School board member Dr. Jim Lehmann officially resigned from the school board Tuesday, Sept. 4. Lehmann plans to move to the east coast to spend more time with his children and grandchildren.

"It has been a great honor for me to have been elected to serve the great community of Walla Walla and I will truly miss this responsibility," Lehmann said.

Superintendent Mick Miller and Board President Max Carrera detailed the plan for finding a replacement.

Board member replacement timeline:

The district will accept applications for Lehmann's replacement through Tuesday, Sept. 18 by 5 p.m. Forms are at the district office and online: www.wwps.org. The School Board will review applications Sept. 18 in an executive session and then announce the finalists during the regular Sept. 18 meeting.

The school board will interview finalists and vote on the candidates Sept. 25. The new board member will be sworn in Oct. 2. The new board member stands for election November 2013 to fill the remainder of the term through 2015.

Online program improves customer service for parents

Business Office staff Nancy Taylor and Susie Golden briefed the school board Tuesday night on the district's new online receipting system which improves communication and customer service by allowing parents to pay student fees electronically. The Touchbase system, which conveniently interfaces with Skyward Family Access by using the same log-in information, also tracks all purchases.

Parents may pay with check, cash or debit/credit using Touchbase. Prior to the installation, parents were unable to pay electronically. The system also improves processes for building secretaries, creates a uniform system throughout the district of receipting and handling funds and provides a more timely accounting of revenue collection.

The district has created an Online Parent Resources page on its web site for a one-stop-shop experience for fee payment, attendance, class schedules, sports forms and meal payments.

School Board Meeting dates (January to June 2013)

Tuesday, January 15 - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, February 5 - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, February 19 - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 5 - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, March 19 - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, April 16 - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 7 - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, May 21 - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, June 4 - 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, June 18 - 4 p.m.

Personnel Report (from 09/04/12 board meeting)

Employment

(Certificated) NONE TO REPORT

(Classified)

Ruth Farias, Family Advocate/Para-Ed (temp), Head Start/ECEAP Program
Nicole Hyatt, Para-Educator, Sharpstein
Michael Najera, Para-Educator, Edison
Betsy Russell, Para-Educator, Blue Ridge
Miranda Schmid, Para-Educator, Lincoln High School
Heather Usko, OT/PT Aide (temp.), Special Programs

Leave of Absence

(Classified)

Joy Moniz, Para-Educator, Walla Walla High School, 8 years

- For the 2012-2013 school year

Staff Achievement grant recipients recognized by peers

Congratulations to this year's *Staff Achievement Grant* recipients. *Staff Achievement Grant* recipients are nominated and chosen by teachers and support staff for superior performance; innovation; exemplary leadership; exceptional service. Staff Achievement Grant recipients receive a \$1,500 stipend and five days of paid release time for professional growth activities.

2011-2012 Staff Achievement Recipients

Maria Garcia

- Assessment and RTI Coordinator

Carina Stillman

- English Teacher, Walla Walla High School

Christine Ludwig

- Intervention Specialist, Prospect Point Elementary

Carl Robanske

- PE teacher, Garrison Middle School

Shane Jacobson

- Technology Specialist

Gillespie Golden Onion recipients named

Berney Elementary physical education teacher Ryan Van Dyke, Pioneer Explorer Program teacher Dan Calzaretta, and Walla Walla High School science teacher Pamela McBride recently received 2011-2012 Gillespie Golden Onion awards as recognition for their outstanding service to Walla Walla students.

Longtime Walla Walla residents Dr. Mike Gillespie and his wife Sue recently established the “Golden Onion Award” to provide school supplies, equipment and professional development funds to Walla Walla educators.

The “Golden Onion Award” is presented annually to three district teachers representing elementary (P-5), middle school (6-8) and high school (9-12) grade levels. Each recipient will receive \$500 for use in their classroom or to better their teaching skills.

The awards are peer nominated and peer judged. These outstanding staff were honored at the Back to School All Staff meeting August 30. The Gillespie Teacher Development Fund is a component fund of the Blue Mountain Community Foundation with underlying investment at Edward Jones.

New Pulse video: Superintendent Miller travels to Wa-Hi for his back to school message

Superintendent Mick Miller welcomes everyone back to school for a new year via his “The Pulse” monthly video series. Miller traveled to Wa-Hi to kick off the school year. School board President Max Carrera, Wa-Hi Principal Pete Peterson and Wa-Hi ASB President Michaela Stalder are featured on the video series. Each month Superintendent Miller will produce “The Pulse” to help inform parents, students, staff and community members on district issues. Visit the district website (www.wwps.org) or the district’s YouTube page to watch “The Pulse.”

School Stories

Big Blue Boosters plan football game Free Tailgate Party Friday, September 7

- Members, families and district staff invited to attend - FREE
- Friday, September 7 @ 5 p.m.
- Borleske Stadium near former City Pool
- Great food and live music from the Gary Winston Band
- Kick off at 7 p.m. (Wa-Hi vs. Richland)

There will be membership information available and opportunities to learn how Big Blue Boosters support ‘ALL’ the Blue Devil sports teams. Learn more online at: bigblueboosters.org

New school resource officer assumes post at Lincoln High School

City of Walla Walla Police Officer Matthew Greenland is the new school resource officer at Lincoln High School. Greenland will also provide support to other district schools in the city as needed.

“I’m very personable and I like speaking and mingling with students and staff,” Greenland said. “I believe I’ll be a real positive asset to this school resource officer position.”

Greenland, a Spokane native, began his law enforcement career with the College Place Police Department in 2000. He accepted a position with the City of Walla Walla Police Department in 2006. Greenland is a Martial Arts expert, restraint instructor and member of the SWAT team.

Walla Walla High School student returns from volunteer work in Latin America

Amigos de las Américas (AMIGOS) is proud to announce the return of Michelle Ruzicka, a senior at Walla Walla High School, from a summer service project in a small village in the Coclé province of Panama. For six weeks this summer, Michelle joined more than 700 other teenagers and young adults from across the United States and Latin America to volunteer on public health, education and environment projects in Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay and Peru.

Volunteers lived with families in communities and worked in small teams on projects such as the construction of libraries, playgrounds, latrines, community gardens, schools, fuel-efficient stoves, water storage tanks and bus stops. Volunteers also led youth-to-youth projects to promote healthy social development, improve leadership skills and foster creative expression of young people in their host communities. Michelle lived with a family who spoke only Spanish, and her two volunteer partners in the rural community were from Washington, DC and another province of Panama.

Four days of training in Miami, FL prepared Michelle for her AMIGOS summer. AMIGOS training programs give young adults the skills needed to meet the challenges of conducting community service programs with confidence and cultural sensitivity, both in their home communities and in Latin America.

Founded in 1965, AMIGOS is an international non-profit organization that inspires and builds young leaders through collaborative community development and immersion in cross-cultural experiences. For more information, visit www.amigoslink.org.

“I returned from Panama with great appreciation for my host community’s culture and generosity. My self-confidence has increased more than I imagined, and I am excited to travel again internationally and experience more cultures.”

Community Stories

First Annual “Walla Walla Walks Against Drunk Driving” event Saturday

The first annual “Walla Walla Walks Against Drunk Driving” will take place Saturday morning at 8 a.m. The event, sponsored by Walla Walla Area Crime Watch and Walla Walla County Traffic Safety Task Force, is to raise awareness of the victims of collisions involving intoxicated drivers. Money raised during the event can be used to offset expenses to those injured in DUI crashes and for DUI prevention programs for area youth. The event will take place at the YMCA parking lot and registrations will be accepted up to race time at 8:30. There will be 2 courses, a 1.3 mile walk and a 5k run. Tee shirts will be available for an additional fee. 86 registrations have been received so far. The Task Force was hoping to get at least 50 participants for this first year. Many area businesses have donated prizes that will be given away after the race in a random drawing of the participants. For more information, please contact Nancy McClenny-Walters at 386-8506.

GIRLS COUNCIL teams with district to bring “Finding Kind” film to Walla Walla

GIRLS COUNCIL, in conjunction with the Walla Walla Public Schools Safe and Civil Schools initiative, is hosting a showing of the film “Finding Kind.” The documentary brings awareness and healing to the negative and lasting effects of girl against girl “crime.”

Girl’s Council is hosting the girls of Walla Walla High School, Lincoln High School, Garrison Middle School, Pioneer Middle School, and Sager Middle School on September 20 at Cordiner Hall from 9 to 11 a.m. A free, second showing will also be shown to the public at Cordiner Hall September 20 at 6:30 p.m.

“Physical fighting, name-calling, threats, power struggles, competition, manipulation, secrets, rumors, and ostracizing other girls all fall under the category of girl against girl “crime,” said Becky Renwick, Girl’s Council president. “We have learned, that if these behaviors are ignored, the experiences often lead to depression, anxiety, loss of self-worth, eating disorders, drug abuse, alcoholism, attempted suicide, and actual suicide in millions of girls’ lives.”

GIRLS COUNCIL, a non-profit organization operating in Walla Walla provides programming to ages 9 through 21 with the mission of “empowering girls to become strong women”. Girls Council has been operating in the Walla Walla Valley since 2006. Through our programming we have seen an increase in school connectedness. Girls who are connected to school, feel empowered through their accomplishments, thus successfully navigating their middle school and high school years.

Catholic Schools and Mom's Network team to offer film promoting healthy living

Walla Walla Catholic Schools is teaming with The Mom's Network in a film series for the community. The first film will be the documentary "Super Size Me". It will be shown 7 p.m., Sept 12 in the DeSales High School gymnasium. Although you may have seen this film, it may be a good time to view it with your children. This 2004 documentary film explores the fast food industry's corporate influence and how it encourages poor nutrition for its own profit.

The goal of the series is to help parents and children make better and healthier choices in their daily lives. Films will be presented at no cost to viewers and will include a panel of local experts to lead and direct after-viewing discussions:

- David Woolson, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, will discuss the Plow 2 Plate initiative.
- Jay Entrikin, faculty member of the WWCC Culinary Program, to discuss the program's sustainability goals.
- Melissa Davis, local chef, to discuss her cooking class "10 ingredients, 5 meals".
- Claire Valenti, member of the Farmer's Co-op, on using local produce and products while raising two small children.
- Casi Christensen, Gleaner Coordinator, how this program hopes to get fresh produce to families in need.

Also, organizers will provide resource lists and guides so that the audience can walk away with practical alternatives and changes they can begin to enact immediately. For information on future films in the series, visit www.thewwcs.com or www.themomsnetworkww.com

Operation Homefront brings school supplies to district students

Operation Homefront teamed with the Walla Walla Dollar Tree store to provide school supplies to local schools. Dollar Tree shoppers donated 1,781 school supply items over the summer. The supplies were delivered to the district by local Operation Homefront volunteer, Gail Danielson.

The supplies were distributed to all the schools in the Walla Walla School District. The district schools and students thank Operation Homefront and the Dollar Tree for their donation. The district has many students in need and the supplies will be of benefit to many. Operation Homefront (OH) provides emergency financial and other assistance to the families of our service members and wounded warriors.

The Moms' Network Parenting Workshops for Families in the Walla Walla Community

The Moms' Network is offering Parent Workshops for local families in the community. There are two different workshops to choose from this fall. The first is *Grace Based Parenting* which will be taught by Jamie Griffith a child therapist. *Grace Based Parenting* is based on a book by Max Lucado and Tim Kimmel which offers a thoughtful, profound and compassionate message to nurture a healthy family. The authors describe the parenting series as a "new map for learning to see ourselves and our children through God's limitless tenderness."

The *Grace Based Parenting* series will be offered Wednesday's beginning September 19 -October 24 with classes at 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. at the YMCA. "Our hope is that parents can meet at the YMCA at the lunch hour to learn parent techniques that will help them in their daily lives" says Beth Swanson, president of The Moms' Network. The registration fee is \$15 per couple/person and free child care is available.

The second parent workshop this fall is *Parenting with Dignity* taught by Tim Meliah, Director of Catholic Charities and Michelle Coleman, a child and family therapist. *Parenting with Dignity* is written by Mac Bledsoe who is from Walla Walla and the father of football great Drew Bledsoe. This parenting series emphasizes parents approach to discipline and "let kids make some of their own decisions and experience the consequences early on, so that they can act responsibly later."

Parenting with Dignity will be offered on Monday nights beginning October 15 - November 19 with classes at 7 to 8:30 p.m. at the YMCA. Registration cost is \$15 per couple/person and free child care is available.

"One of the goals of The Moms' Network is to strengthen our local families. We hope that by offering two different parenting workshops that emphasize different styles we can reach more parents who are looking for support and assistance" says Beth. Space is limited in both classes. Please register by calling 509-301-7471 or on-line at beth@themomsnetworkww.com

Public invited to workshops on Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival application process

Catholic Charities Workshop

- Tuesday, Sept. 18
- 7 p.m.
- St. Patrick Church
- Greg Cunningham

One America Workshop

- Sunday, August 26
- 1 p.m.
- St. Patrick Church
- Jazmin Santacruz

District supports school documentation process 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.