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## District Stories

### Superintendent Miller's video simplifies levy information

Superintendent **Mick Miller** recently produced an informational video on the district's *Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy*. Visit [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org) to watch this informative, five minute video.

Miller uses easy to understand language and examples to clearly explain the levy and how the funding is used. Levy dollars fund learning programs, activities and operations and the staff to support them. Ballots will be mailed out to voters Friday, Jan. 27 and must be returned and postmarked Tuesday, Feb. 14. Click on the link below for additional levy information.

### Citizens for Schools plan community rally

- Sunday, Jan. 15
- 1 to 4 p.m.
- YMCA
- Student musical performances and acts
- Levy information and materials
- Free and open to the public
- For additional information, contact Coordinators Kurt and Barbara Hoffman at: 525-2632

### Educational and Operations Replacement Levy Facts Online

Visit the district website ([www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org)) for *Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy* facts. Contact Superintendent Mick Miller ([mmiller@wwps.org](mailto:mmiller@wwps.org)) or Communications Director Mark Higgins ([mhiggins@wwps.org](mailto:mhiggins@wwps.org)) for more information.

### Mail-in and online voter registration deadline Friday, January 13

Voter registration forms are available at the district office and all WWPS schools. There are two deadlines for voters wishing to cast a ballot for the February 14 Replacement Levy:

Friday, January 13 is the deadline for new voters registering by mail, online, or transferring their registration/making address changes within the state of Washington.

Monday, February 6 is the deadline for people who are not registered anywhere in the state of Washington and did not meet the January 16 deadline. They are eligible to register in person at the Walla Walla County Elections Department at 310 W Poplar Street.

For additional information:

Dale Grogan, Voter Registration Coordinator  
Walla Walla County Auditor's Office  
Elections Department  
310 W. Poplar Street  
Walla Walla, WA 99362  
(509) 524-2535  
[dgrogan@co.walla-walla.wa.us](mailto:dgrogan@co.walla-walla.wa.us)

**Statement from State Superintendent Randy Dorn on McCleary v. State:**

*Thursday, Jan. 5, the State Supreme Court ruled that Washington state is not amply funding basic education under the state Constitution. The Court's opinion is available on the State Supreme Court Web site. Below is a statement from State Superintendent Randy Dorn regarding the decision.*

(By OSPI) Olympia - January 5, 2012 - Today's unanimous ruling by the State Supreme Court is a clear victory for the students of Washington state.

The ruling confirms what I have been saying for many years: education funding has not been adequate, and further cuts are out of the question. The Court could not have been clearer about this when it wrote, "The State has failed to meet its duty under article IX, section 1 by consistently providing school districts with a level of resources that falls short of the actual costs of the basic education program."

In 2009 I fought to pass legislation that created the Quality Education Council. The Council's charge is to make recommendations for the implementation of new definitions and funding formulas for basic education. The Court correctly says that full implementation of the QEC process is the solution to this problem. As a leader of the QEC, I will make that happen by 2018 at the latest.

I am also glad that the Court will continue to monitor the case and I stand ready to help the Legislature identify the elements of basic education that remain underfunded or inappropriately funded.

Finally, I want to thank the Court for issuing its ruling before the start of the 2012 Legislature. The Court understood that the issue of education funding is too important to Washington state to have waited until the end of another session.

**Winter weather school closure and delay procedures**

At Walla Walla Public Schools, we make every effort to post up-to-the-minute school closure information due to inclement weather or any circumstance that would delay or cancel the normal school schedule. Decisions to delay or close school usually are made by 5:30 a.m. or earlier. This triggers the district's comprehensive school closure/delay announcement plan. The district makes every effort to begin announcements by 6 a.m.

Announcements include:

- Media release (radio, tv, newspaper)
- Telephone automated message (staff and parents)
- Web posting ([www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org))
- Staff e-mail (GroupWise)
- E-news message (sign up on the district web site: [www.wwps.org](http://www.wwps.org))
- Twitter message ([twitter.com/wwschools](https://twitter.com/wwschools))
- Facebook page message
- Orange signs posted in front of schools

## School Stories

### **Walla Walla High School teacher to take Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics**

Walla Walla High School Special Education teacher Patty Jones is participating in the Polar Bear Plunge to raise money for the Special Olympics. This year's event is Saturday, January 21 at Columbia Park in Kennewick. Jones, as well as all jumpers, is asking for donations to help support Special Olympics of Washington. Currently there are 200 jumpers scheduled to participate. This will be Jones' second year to jump. Last year she was able to raise \$250. If you would like to offer a pledge to support Jones, visit her site at: <http://kennewickplunge2012.kintera.org/pattyjones>

### **Books for Babes bulb sale a success**

The Books for Babes program sold 700 Bulbs-in-a-Can to generate enough profits to fill 130 bags of books for newborns in the coming year! Books for Babes also started a new tradition this year of giving the first baby of the year a special basket of books. Program coordinator and Edison teacher Kay Barga delivered the basket to the family when the baby was just six hours old. Contact Barga at Edison for more information on this program or to make a donation: [kbarga@wwps.org](mailto:kbarga@wwps.org).

### **Homelink artwork on display at Blue Mountain Community College**

Artist Anne Bullock announced her recent art series, Ititam, which features artwork from Homelink students. For Series III, Vickie Shafer's Homelink and art students created a long segment for the installation set to open January 12 and run through February 8 at the Betty Feves Memorial Gallery at Blue Mountain Community College in Pendleton. The exhibition is free and open to the public and of course, family friendly.

"I send a big thank you to all who contributed knots and memorabilia to the community-made *counting ball*," Bullock said. "I hope parents and students can come to see the exhibit — the student work is one of the first art pieces viewers will see when they come to the gallery! Thanks again for making this come together, Mrs. Shafer and students!"

### **Walla Walla High School Dance Team Youth Camp Saturday**

Who: Students Kindergarten through 6th grade

When: Saturday, January 7

Time: 1:00 - 3:00 PM

Registration: Begins at 12:30 PM

Where: Walla Walla High School Large Gym

Cost: \$20 (price includes a t-shirt) and free game pass for dancer.

Cash or checks (payable to WWHS Dance Team)

accepted at registration day of camp.

Parents are invited to watch their dancer perform during halftime of the boy's varsity basketball game Jan. 7 at 6 p.m. vs. Wenatchee. Dancers get in FREE, parents at regular price.

## Community Stories

### **Famed Brooklyn Band to Perform for Free**

The Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival invites students and parents to a special FREE performance with PROJECT Trio Thursday, January 12.

Made famous by a combination of innovative performances and YouTube, PROJECT Trio's classically trained musicians are known for surprising audiences by playing a high octane mix of Jazz, hip-hop and rock. Acclaim for the Trio and its members runs the gamut from Downbeat Magazine, which exclaims PROJECT Trio is "packed with musicianship, joy, and surprise" to the New York Times, which calls beat-boxing flutist Greg Pattillo "the best in the world at what he does."

Fellow classical musicians join in the raves saying "PROJECT Trio really has it all. They combine the fire and refinement of the finest classical chamber ensembles with the stage presences and energy of rock stars."

The FREE concert for children (and parents) will be at the Walla Walla Armory, 113 South Colville Street, downtown. The show starts at 4:30 .m. on Thursday, January 12.

PROJECT Trio be involved with seven events during the Walla Walla Chamber Music Festival's Winter Festival, January 12-15. For details, visit [wwcmf.org](http://wwcmf.org).

To see PROJECT Trio in action visit their YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/freedomworksfilms>

### **Marine Corps Toys For Tots Drive a huge success**

As the US Marine Corps celebrated the 64th Anniversary of the Toys for Tots Foundation, Walla Walla celebrated its 5th annual Toys for Tots Drive in the Valley.

"I am so grateful to the community for embracing Toys for Tots" says Beth Swanson, local Toys for Tots coordinator. "It has been a record year for us. With the support of the National Toys for Tots office we collected 2002 toys, 588 books and 460 stocking stuffers."

Everything collected was distributed to 1196 local children in Walla Walla and Columbia County ranging in age from newborn to 18 years old. Once again Toys for Tots worked closely with St. Vincent de Paul, Walla Walla Public Schools, Children's Home Society, the YWCA, the medical centers and other nonprofits to insure that every child in the Walla Walla Valley received a little Christmas.

Thank you for all the organizations that supported the campaign this year; the Early Learning Coalition, The Moms' Network, Book & Game, Community Bank, Providence St. Mary Medical Center, City Slickers, Inland Cellular, Assumption School, AAA Washington, NAPA, Tumac Machinery, O'Brien Chevrolet, Windermere, John L. Scott, Walla Walla Bread Company, Walla Walla Clinic, Parent to Parent, Walla Walla Sweets, Whitman College Bookstore, Legacy Ford, Oil Haus, Tiki Grille, Mama Mia Pasta, Walgreens, Tallman's, Waitsburg Hardware & Mercantile, Dayton General Hospital, Dayton General Store, Dayton High School.

**Congratulations to our 2011 Traffic Safety Super Star Award winners**

The Walla Walla County Traffic Safety Task Force, under the leadership of Target Zero Manager Nancy McClenny-Walters, announces its 2011 Traffic Safety Super Star Award winners. These outstanding individuals and businesses will be recognized Thursday, Jan. 19 at 12 noon at the Masonic Lodge in Walla Walla. The event is open to the public. To make a reservation contact McClenny-Walters at (509) 524-2936.

Aware Recipients

Good Samaritan Award – Patti and Darrell Loney

Business Leadership Award – Scott Abajian / Abajian Motors and Tim Ehlis / Pepsi Cola

Citizen Activist Award – Ramona Kempf

Legislative Leadership Award – Judge Richard Wernette

Media Awareness Award – Emily Jaceks / KTEL

Educational Outreach Award – Deputy Gerrod Martin

Law Enforcement Award – Sgt. Dennis McKee

Public Health Award – Ki Bealey and Neal Chavre

Safety Super Star Award – Chief Chuck Fulton

**Walla Walla Dance Company presents “The Adventures of Alice”**

The Walla Walla Dance Company presents “The Adventures of Alice” on Saturday, January 28, 7:30 p.m. at Cordiner Hall. A delightful twist on a classic tale, this full scale production features over 100 local dancers from ages 3-20. Tickets will be on sale at Earthlight Books.