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District Stories

School board meeting Monday, February 6

- 6:30 p.m.
- District board room (364 S. Park St.)
- Meeting open to the public

District schools receive 2011 Washington Achievement Awards

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education recently announced Garrison Middle School and Walla Walla High School received 2011 Washington Achievement Awards. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education created the Washington Achievement Award to celebrate our top-performing schools and to recognize achievement in multiple categories.

Garrison Middle School

- Special Recognition – Improvement

Walla Walla High School

- Special Recognition - Extended Graduation Rate

Comment from Superintendent Mick Miller

“It is gratifying to have schools and programs receive acknowledgment for their improvement. Our staff members deeply care for their kids and are working to help improve the achievement of each student. Congratulations to those recognized by OSPI!” Mick Miller, Superintendent

Garrison Middle School

“We are thrilled to have our school honored for our work in closing the achievement grant. Our students and staff have been working very hard the past three years to implement systems changes and instructional interventions to assure all students learn. I cannot express my appreciation enough to our staff and students for their hard work and determination! We are excited to have our efforts recognized by our state organization.” Gina Yonts, Garrison MS Principal

Walla Walla High School

“This award is reflective of our entire community and their high expectations for Walla Walla High School. Our teachers, counselors and support staff are the key; they go out of their way to ensure that every student gets the opportunity to succeed and leave us career and college ready.” Pete Peterson, Walla Walla HS Principal

This highly selective award is based on each school’s performance according to the Washington Achievement Index, a comprehensive measurement of how schools in Washington are performing over time. The Washington Achievement Award is given to elementary, middle, high and comprehensive schools in seven different categories: overall excellence, language arts, math, science, extended graduation rate (high and comprehensive schools only), improvement and closing achievement gaps.

Yonts and Peterson have been invited to an awards ceremony Wednesday, April 25 at Mariner High School in Everett. Visit OSPI’s Education Awards pages to learn more about the Washington Achievement Awards, including details on the Washington Achievement Index and the criteria for selection. <http://www.k12.wa.us>

Relationship expert Stu Cabe shares effective communications strategies for parents

Parent Meeting

- Presenter: Stu Cabe
- Topic: Effective communication strategies for successful parent and teenager relationships
- Date: Tuesday, Feb. 7
- Time: 6 to 7 p.m.
- Location: Wa-Hi Auditorium
- FREE
- Spanish translation service available

Relationship expert Stu Cabe returns to Walla Walla to lead a discussion on effective communication strategies for successful parent and teenager relationships. This free event targeted for parents with middle and high school students is Tuesday, Feb. 7 from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Walla Walla High School Auditorium. Spanish translation services will be available.

Cabe has been the keynote speaker the past two years at the Big Blue Weekend event at the Washington Family Ranch in Antelope, OR. He visited Walla Walla in December to meet with middle and high school students to continue his work of promoting a positive school climate and a culture of kindness and respect. Cabe uses humor and stories of real life experiences to relate with students.

Replacement levy ballots due February 14

Ballots for the district's Educational Programs and Operations Replacement Levy were mailed out to voters last week and must be returned and postmarked by Tuesday, February 14.

The replacement levy funds about 20 percent of the district's operating budget and pays for programs not funded by state and federal dollars. The proposed taxpayer levy rates are similar to those currently being collected. Visit the school district web site for additional information and please remember to vote.

In Walla Walla, the replacement levy helps support educational programs and school operations such as:

- approximately 100 staff
- elementary music specialists
- health clinicians
- library-media specialists
- elementary physical education specialists
- school supplies
- school safety staff
- building maintenance and grounds
- technology
- gifted and talented learning programs (Explorers and Advanced Placement Courses)
- extra-curricular programs (athletics, music, drama, FFA and more)
- additional classes for students grades 6-12
- transportation for school activities

For more information, visit the district's web site at: www.wwps.org

Whitman College to host Middle School Science Fair April 22

In an effort to provide an opportunity for local students to learn more about the scientific process, Whitman College announces that it will host a Middle School Science Fair Sunday, April 22, from 1-3:30 p.m. Projects may range from chemistry to biology to zoology, but must adhere to the science fair guidelines.

Students should choose a specific question that they can seek to answer through their own investigation, rather than an internet search. After developing a hypothesis, students will collect data and report their results in a journal. No experimenting on animals or contact with pathogenic organisms is allowed. Any safety concerns should be addressed BEFORE the start of the project. This event is open to individual students in grades six through eight (no group projects). The deadline to register is Friday, March 30. Due to space constraints, only the first 50 registrants will be accepted.

Contact: Mary Burt, Whitman College HHMI Science Outreach Coordinator
(509) 522-4441 / burtmb@whitman.edu

School Stories

State director of student achievement keynote speaker for 3rd Annual AVID Academic Recognition Night

3rd Annual AVID Academic Recognition and Family Night

- Presenter: Erin Jones, OSPI Assistant Superintendent of Student Achievement
- Topic: Building bridges between schools, families and communities
- Date: Wednesday, Feb. 22
- Time: 5:30 to 7 p.m. - Free dinner @ 5:30 p.m. / Program begins @ 6 p.m.
- Location: Walla Walla High School Commons
- Spanish translation service available

Erin Jones, OSPI Assistant Superintendent of Student Achievement, returns to Walla Walla to lead a discussion on building bridges between schools, families and communities during the Third Annual AVID Academic Recognition and Family Night Wednesday, Feb. 22 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. at the Walla Walla High School Commons.

Jones was hired in 2008 as the Director of the Center for the Improvement of Student Learning, where her focus is on creating a repository of best-practices for educators and building bridges between schools,

“The most powerful changes we can make are changes in our own attitudes about kids—all kids can be successful, no exceptions!” said Jones.

AVID, Advancement Via Individual Determination, is an elementary through postsecondary college readiness system that is designed to increase schoolwide learning and performance. AVID students are expected to access rigorous curriculum and the elective class is an avenue for students to acquire the skills in communication, critical thinking, note-taking, peer-tutoring, organization and time-management.

Walla Walla High School students involved in the AVID program will be recognized for academic achievement during the event. Last year, all fifteen of the seniors in the AVID program went on to higher education institutions after high school. The AVID project is a collaborative effort between Washington State University GEAR UP, Walla Walla Public Schools, and our community.

Walla Walla music students selling citrus

Walla Walla band, orchestra and choir students will be taking orders for oranges, grapefruit and tangelos, as part of the 3rd Annual Music Boosters Citrus Sale. Fruit is sold by the 20 lbs. or 40 lbs. box at a cost of \$20 and \$35 respectively. This is the Music Boosters only fundraiser and helps provide the extras that make your Music Program a success.

The fruit is delicious and it is a great way to support our students participating in orchestra, band, choir and music at every level. The sale will run from February 6-21. For more information find us on Facebook at Walla Walla Public Schools Music Program or call 526-1916.

AVID Club announces scholarship opportunity

AVID Club is proud to announce the opening of their first annual Blue Devil College Cup Scholarship! As a result of the Blue Devil College Cup staff vs student soccer game last spring, three worthy Wa-Hi seniors will receive an award.

Awards:

- One first place award of \$500
- Two runner up awards of \$250

The scholarship is focused on leadership, both in school and out-of-school, and is open to any Walla Walla High School senior with a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher. Scholarship applications will be accepted through March 1. Applications will be available in the library at both the GEAR UP resource counter and the Career Center.

Information:

Miriam Garber, GEAR UP
(503) 348-1608

Wa-Hi Winter Sports Tournament Schedule

Dance

- Competition: Feb. 18 @ Kamiakin & Feb. 25 @ Quincy
- District at Pasco: March 10
- State at Yakima: March 23

Wrestling

- Districts at Chiawana: February 3-4
- Regionals at Moses Lake: February 10-11
- State at Tacoma: February 17-18

Basketball

- Season ends February 4 with boys and girls vs. Chiawana @ Walla Walla
- Districts (four rounds) Feb. 10, Feb. 11, Feb. 17, and Feb. 18
- Big Nine/GSL play-in game (Sub-Regional) Feb. 21 @ GSL site
- Regional (first two rounds of State) Feb. 24 and Feb. 25
- State (final eight) in Tacoma - March 1-3

Swimming

- Districts at Ellensburg (CWU) - February 3-4
- State at Federal Way - February 10-11

Volunteers needed to serve on Walla Walla High School Senior Presentation panel

Volunteers are needed to serve on the Walla Walla High School Senior Presentation panel for the Class of 2012. Volunteers will listen to graduates as they share their personal stories, successes and struggles, academic accomplishments, community volunteer experiences, and future plans.

Volunteers may sign up for multiple panel dates, but they will only need to attend the training session on the first day they have selected to participate. This is a graduation requirement for seniors. Community support is appreciated and needed.

Senior Presentation Panel Dates:

- Wednesday, February 15
- Thursday, February 16
- Wednesday, March 21
- Thursday, March 22

Time commitment:

- Approximately 3:30 to 7:30 p.m.

To sign up, contact Walla Walla High School Assistant Principal Mark Pickel at: 509.527.3020 ext. 8602 or by email at: mpickel@wwps.org.

Athletic Hall of Fame welcomes new members February 4

Walla Walla High School *Athletic Hall of Fame* is inducting seven new members Saturday, February 4 during the Chiawana basketball game. The ceremony will be held between the girls' and boys' double header basketball game at approximately 7:15 p.m. A reception will follow the induction ceremony in the Fletcher Athletic Team Room for the new inductees, former inductees, family, friends and Big Blue Boosters.

2012 Athletic Hall of Fame inductees:

- Patrick O'Rourke • Class of 1922
- David Bateman • Class of 1971
- Phil Girsberger • Class of 1984
- Jill (Meliah) Watkins • Class of 1996
- Jason Grove • Class of 1997
- Lindsay (Chutas) Morgan • Class of 2000
- Thomas Kelati • Class of 2001

Community Stories

Tickets available for Sweethearts for Kids Luncheon

- Wednesday, Feb. 15
- 12 noon (Silent Auction prior to luncheon)
- Marcus Whitman Hotel
- \$40
- Proceeds support Childrens Home Society of Washington programs and activities
- Tickets: Contact CHS @ 509.529.2130

Save the date! WW Valley Violence Prevention Coalition Presents:

2012 Event: *Stop Violence Now: For Yourself, Your Family, Our Community*

Coalition Goal:

The goal of this conference is to prevent violence in the Walla Walla Valley by promoting healthy families and life choices, supporting the development of the whole child, and providing tangible strategies for positive change.

Schedule of events:

Free Public Forum and Kick Off Session

- Monday, March 26
- 7 p.m.
- Keynote speaker: Vincent Felitti (Strategies for preventing and overcoming childhood trauma)
- Conference Title: Stop Violence Now: For Yourself, Your Family, Our Community
- Maxey Hall (Whitman College)

Free Workshops and Activities

- Tuesday, March 27
- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Reid Center (Whitman College)

Parent Night and Workshops

- Tuesday, March 27
- 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. (free dinner and child care provided)
- St. Patrick's Catholic Church
- Spanish translation available

The Moms' Network Announces Free Parenting Workshops for Busy Parents

The Moms' Network is excited to announce three new workshops for local parents to help strengthen families. Each workshop will provide invaluable information and ideas plus create an open dialogue for parents.

“Our hope with the upcoming parenting series is to educate our local parents and give them tools to make their family stronger. During each session there will be an open forum to discuss parenting issues and realistic solutions” says Beth Swanson, President of The Moms' Network.

The first of the series is Thursday, February 9 at 7 p.m. at the YMCA. The topic is “Resilience Trumps Trauma” with Mark Brown and Teri Barila of the Children's Resilience Initiative. They will discuss how parents can foster resilience in their own children to make them stronger individuals. They will also discuss what local resources are available to families and how to access them.

Workshops are open to all families in the community. There will also be Spanish language translation services provided at each event. Free childcare is also available during the workshop. The event is free thanks to the support of The Moms' Network, Walla Walla Public Schools and the YMCA.

To register for this event or for more information contact Beth Swanson at 301-7471 or beth@themomsnetworkww.com.

The Parent Workshop Series schedule is:

- February 9: “Resilience Trumps Trauma” with Mark Brown and Teri Barila of the Children's Resilience Initiative
- March 21: “Mom to Mom” with local mom Terri Neal
- April 16: “Yoga Stretches for Moms” with yoga instructor Rebecca Thorpe

All workshops take place at the YMCA. The schedule (plus other family-friendly events) is online at www.themomsnetworkww.com.