

Stories this week include:

District Stories

- Spring Break - April 2-6 (No School)
- Local contractor awarded Pioneer Middle School boiler bid
- Kindergarten and Open Enrollment registration dates set for the 2012-13 School Year

School Stories

- Pioneer Middle School teacher receives \$10,000 technology grant
- Elementary Explorer student wins national math contest
- Area students encouraged to submit films to local youth film festival
- Wa-Hi Cadet of the Month earns on-the-spot promotion
- JROTC air rifle teams places 5th at nationals

Community Stories

- Exchange Club Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 7
- Walla Walla Kids Read 2012 welcomes best selling authors
- The Moms' Network celebrates with Mom Prom
- Volunteers organize fundraising for June 2013 Dublin/London/Paris student trip
- Altrusa and the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce Present the 5th Annual Spelling Bee

District Stories

Spring Break - April 2-6 (No School)

- No School April 2-6
- Classes resume Monday, April 9

Local contractor awarded Pioneer Middle School boiler bid

Upgrade expected to save district thousands annually in utilities costs

Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors during a special school board meeting Wednesday awarded Valley Mechanical of Walla Walla the contract to install a new boiler at Pioneer Middle School. This project represents phase two of the project to complete the new system to provide energy efficient heating to the school.

“This project will reduce natural gas usage and save the district thousands of dollars each year in energy costs,” said Chief Financial Officer Pat Johnston. “The current Pioneer boiler is World War II era equipment and has long exceeded its life expectancy.”

Scope of Project:

- High efficiency condensing natural gas boilers
- Gas-fired gym air handlers
- Locker room ventilation
- Electric heaters in various small spaces

Project Timeline: Construction to begin June 2012 and be completed by the start of the 2012-13 school year

Project Cost: Approximately \$600,000

Project Funding Sources:

- Excess Edison Elementary bond proceeds
- District General Fund Budget
- Office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction grant

Kindergarten and Open Enrollment registration dates set for the 2012-13 School Year

Walla Walla Public Schools kindergarten and Open Enrollment registration period is Monday, April 23 to Friday, May 4, 2012.

Kindergarten registration will be conducted at the student’s attendance area elementary school. Parents wishing to pick up the kindergarten registration information may do so at your child’s school beginning April 16. However, the completed registration forms will not be accepted until April 23.

Open Enrollment and Kindergarten registration hours:

Monday, April 23 - 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

April 24 to May 4 - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Parents/guardians who wish to open enroll their child to a school outside of their attendance area may pick up Open Enrollment application forms at their attendance area school during normal business hours beginning April 16; however, forms will not be accepted in the receiving school until Monday, April 23.

If there is space available to accommodate open enrollment requests, then the priorities outlined in School Board Policy No. 3130 will be used to determine movement of a student. School Board Policy manuals are available for public viewing at all Walla Walla Public Schools and the Administration Office. School Board policies are also online at <http://www.wwps.org/leadership/board.htm#11>

Please contact your attendance area school for more information. District boundary maps are available at all schools, the Administration Office at 364 South Park Street, and online at www.wwps.org. Click on the District A to Z link and then click on Boundary Map.

School Stories

Pioneer Middle School teacher receives \$10,000 technology grant

Calzaretta plans to purchase iPads for his students

Pioneer Middle School teacher Dan Calzaretta is one of nine Washington state educators to receive a \$10,000 CenturyLink technology grant to strengthen existing curricula and integrate technology. Calzaretta plans on purchasing classroom iPads for his students. The technology equipment is expected to arrive in July.

“While we often teach students what to learn, we rarely teach them how to learn,” Calzaretta said. “The most powerful learning experiences spark curiosity, are relevant to students’ lives, and are academically challenging.”

Calzaretta teaches the Explorer Gift Learning program and specializes in film making and documentaries. He says his recent documentary project, *Through Our Eyes*, was a great example of how this new technology will advance learning.

“In addition, the project incorporates iPad technology in every step of the process,” Calzaretta said. “The iPad is an ideal platform as it is intuitive, easy to use and will allow students to complete their entire project on one device.”

CenturyLink grant award winning projects came from across the state and include a competition-level robot, a documentary that investigates why populations migrate to specific area and the design and fabrication of 3D product models. The variety and scope of the nine 2012 learning projects touch all core subjects and integrate state learning standards with the most current Web technologies.

“Students live in a 21st century world, but they step into a 19th century system as soon as they enter the school door,” Calzaretta said. “As educators it is our duty to give students the best possible chance for success. We do this when we combine current technology with relevant, meaningful, and exciting instruction.”

CenturyLink (formerly Qwest) has funded the program since 2007. Each of the nine winning teachers or teacher teams will receive \$10,000 to implement their winning grant proposals. Representatives from OSPI and CenturyLink joined district staff, previous grant awardees and educators from around Washington to evaluate and select the winning projects.

While many projects are classroom-bound, a high number take students out to industry and nature. Many of the projects involve student peers and a significant number interface with industry professionals, families and the community. To date, 92 teachers and teacher-librarians have received CenturyLink/OSPI Teachers & Technology grants.

For more information, visit the CenturyLink/OSPI Teachers & Technology Grant Program page on the OSPI Web site.

Elementary Explorer student wins national math contest

Congratulations to Prospect Point third grade student Colleen McKibben for winning the national Continental Math League contest. McKibben tallied perfect scores on all three quizzes. She is in Lance Longmeyer’s class as well as enrolled in the Explorer Gifted Learning program taught by Mary Cortinas.

Continental Math League is a nationwide mathematics problem-solving competition. Students take three, 30 minute quizzes consisting of six problems. Students are competing with students at their grade level from other schools across the nation

“It is a major accomplishment,” Cortinas said.

Area students encouraged to submit films to local youth film festival

Walla Walla Public Schools is sponsoring a youth film festival Saturday, May 19 at the Walla Walla High School Auditorium from 4 to 8 p.m. SPIFFY, Student Produced Independent Films For Youth, is accepting films from all local and regional students under the age of 19. The deadline for submission is April 20.

“This festival, the only one in the region, will give students a chance to showcase their video talents. When you put a kid behind a camera, amazing things happen,” said Dan Calzaretta, coordinator for the festival and teacher at Pioneer Middle School.

Films can be submitted in the following categories:

- Drama/suspense
- Comedy
- Animation
- Documentary
- Music video
- Experimental

Students interested in the SPIFFY, are encouraged to visit: <https://sites.google.com/site/pioneerexplorers/>

Information:

- Dan Calzaretta: dcalzaretta@wwps.org / 509.527.3050

Wa-Hi Cadet of the Month earns on-the-spot promotion

The Walla Walla High School JROTC “Blue Devils” Cadet Battalion has selected its “Cadet of the Month” for March 2012 and rewarded his achievement with an immediate promotion.

Cadet Corporal Aaron Awai, a 16-year-old sophomore, was promoted to this new rank after he won the top spot with a total score of 73 points, according to the presiding official on the board.

The top cadet was selected from three candidates who were inspected and examined in oral interviews by a board of four advanced cadets, according to Lt. Col. Bill Bialozor, Senior Army Instructor for the Walla Walla High School’s Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program.

Awai said that he joined JROTC to become a better leader. He plans to attend a military academy or enlist in the Air Force after graduation. His hobbies include playing basketball and football.

”His strongest competitive category was military knowledge,” said cadet Command Sgt. Maj. Malachi Matthews. “This Cadet of the Month was a close match, since the cadets’ performances were outstanding.”

First runner up was cadet Corporal Jobe Diaz, a 15-year-old freshman, whose strongest suit was his bearing. He came in second with 49 points.

Second runner up was cadet Corporal Shawn Weisner, a 16-year-old sophomore whose strongest suit was his personal appearance. He came in third with 31 points.

”After the board tallied the points and the winner was clear, we held a ceremony to promote the winning cadet one rank higher, to recognize him for his hard work and personal success,” said Bialozor.

Wa-Hi JROTC cadets participate in the program to develop leadership skills and to strive to be better citizens in society. Many cadets compete with drill, marksmanship, and physical training teams as well as attend the class. These cadets get to travel to and compete in drill meets at 16 other schools in the Cascade Division that include Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Navy cadet programs.

JROTC air rifle team places 5th at nationals

In their first year competing at the National JROTC Air Rifle Championships, Walla Walla High School's Precision Air Rifle team excelled, placing 5th overall out of 15 teams with a combined score of 4555 points. Seniors Cadet First Lieutenant Kyle Jameson and Cadet Captain Karri Mickelson, junior Cadet Sergeant Caitlyn Lasseigne, and sophomore Cadet Corporal Sarah Jameson all traveled to Anniston Alabama to compete in this three day shooting competition from March 22-24, competing against the best shooting teams from Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force JROTC programs from all over the nation.

The shooters also excelled individually. Out of 76 shooters, Kyle Jameson placed 28th, shooting a two day total of 1146, Sarah Jameson and Karri Mickelson both shot a total of 1145, placing 30th and 31st respectively, and Caitlyn Lasseigne placed 62nd, shooting a score of 1119. The shooters have been preparing for this match after placing first as a team at the Army JROTC Air Rifle National Championships in Camp Perry Ohio in February. Sergeant First Class Mebes described their training process, saying,

“These students did a lot of work to get here. Countless hours of practice, analysis and in-house competition went into preparing for this match.” He also said, “It was truly a great experience to go and test ourselves against the top shooters in the country. The pressure was tremendous but the student's competitive nature came through.”

Community Stories

Exchange Club Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 7

The Walla Walla Exchange Club is holding its 53th Annual Children's Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 7 at 9 a.m. at Pioneer Park. This year's Easter Egg hunt features 21 prizes, including three bicycles, which will be awarded in categories, 1-3 years old, 4-6 years, 7-10 years and special-needs. The event is free and open to the public.

The event is a long standing community event that was started by the Walla Walla Exchange Club in 1959. The hunt was held in Wildwood Park until 1999 when the location was changed to Pioneer Park. There are approximately 40,500 individually wrapped chocolate Easter eggs weighing in at about 480 pounds.

About the Exchange Club:

The Walla Walla Exchange Club was formed Saturday, March 26, 1949, in the Georgian Ballroom of the Marcus Whitman Hotel. The club sponsors a variety of activities that support and draw attention to our central mission, which is the prevention of child abuse here in the Walla Walla Valley. Our main fundraiser to help the children in our community is the Baker Boyer Ducky Derby coming up on May 19, 2012.

Thanks to:

Special thanks to sponsor Alexandra Communications and volunteer Master of Ceremonies Jim Bock. Also thanks to the men of Beta Theta Pi from Whitman College, the City of Walla Walla Parks and Recreation Department, Main Street Starbucks, Walmart, and the Walla Walla Fire Department.

For more information call Tina Bradbury at 509-876-2777.

Walla Walla Kids Read 2012 welcomes best selling authors

Walla Walla Kids Read is excited to welcome best selling authors Tony DiTerlizzi and Andrea Davis Pinkney to Cordiner Hall April 16 and 17. Edison Elementary will be hosting the community event for book signings and author activities, April 17, 6-8 p.m. For full details, please refer to wallawallakidsread.com

The Moms' Network celebrates with Mom Prom

Pull out those old prom dresses, bridesmaid dresses, little black dresses or gowns and come to the 2nd Annual Mom Prom to support The Moms' Network. This year the event is Saturday, April 21 from 7 to 11p.m. at the Marcus Whitman Hotel and Conference Center.

"During April women all over the country are celebrating National Mom Prom Day and we could not pass up on an opportunity to celebrate this event. It is a wonderful excuse for all women to put on a gown, dance and raise money for The Moms' Network" says Beth Swanson, President of The Moms' Network.

The evening will include dancing to the live disco/top 20 band Shanks Pony, a dessert bar and a no-host bar. As you are dressed in your finest there will be photos, a raffle and a grand prize for the best dress of the evening. Tickets are \$25 each and can be pre-purchased at Book & Game or Beehive Cut & Color Bar. Tickets are also available at any Moms' Network event or at the door.

So grab your girlfriends and husbands/boyfriends if they dare and join The Moms' Network at Mom Prom. For more detailed information visit www.themomsnetworkww.com or call Beth Swanson at 509-301-7471.

Volunteers organize fundraising for June 2013 Dublin/London/Paris student trip

Fundraising efforts continue for the upcoming trip to Dublin/London/Paris. Trip organizers plan to take 50 travelers, including 35 students from Pioneer and Garrison Middle Schools, Walla Walla High School, Edison Elementary and 15 parents.

Options to support the cause:

1. Big Cheese Pizza Coupons: \$10 coupon will allow you to choose any of their gourmet pizzas. This is a \$9 savings on a gourmet pizza! The group earns \$3 for each coupon sold.
2. Bright's Candy certificates: \$10 certificate good at face value for anything in the store. Great Easter basket gifts! The group earns \$3 for each certificate sold.
3. Avon Beauty supplies: A lot to choose from, including lotions, body sprays, make-up and nail polish. The group earns 40 percent of everything sold. Contact Kathryn Southwick Hess to review the brochure of items for sale thru Avon.

Contact: Kathryn Southwick Hess - hesswick@gmail.com

Altrusa and the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce Present the 5th Annual Spelling Bee

- Event is at the Balloon Stampede
- Saturday, May 12
- 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Walla Walla County Fairgrounds (Community Center)

Altrusa International of Walla Walla and the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce will host the 5th Annual Spelling Bee, Saturday, May 12, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Walla Walla County Fairgrounds (Community Center) during this year's Balloon Stampede presented by Gesa Credit Union. Students in the 3rd, 4th and 5th grades will spell their way to a Spell-Off by grade. The top four students from each grade will be awarded prizes for their spelling proficiency.

Altrusa International of Walla Walla is a group of women working together to provide service to our community through leadership and service, promoting education and literacy. A complete listing of rules and additional information is online: <http://www.wwps.org/community/spellingbee.htm>

For further information regarding the Spelling Bee, please contact Linda Thorson at 509-522-0812, thorson@bmi.net.