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District Stories

Walla Walla High School Facilities Improvement Plan Public Survey

Walla Walla Public Schools seeks public input on its high school facilities improvement plan. A survey is now available on the district website: www.wwps.org

The Community Facilities Task Force chaired by citizen volunteer Dan Reid has listed Walla Walla High School and Lincoln High School as the top priorities for district facilities improvements. The school district passed a bond for a new Edison Elementary School in 2007 and is now seeking input on Walla Walla High School and Lincoln High School. Both schools have significant facility needs. Improved classrooms, science labs, enhanced technology and outdated heating and cooling systems are among the greatest needs. Your input is highly valued and all responses will be reviewed by Superintendent Mick Miller. Thank you for taking time to learn more about this important issue.

Community meeting: Superintendent Mick Miller to detail plans for modernizing Walla Walla High School

- Walla Walla High School Facilities Improvement Plan Overview
- Wednesday, Oct. 24
- 6 p.m.
- Walla Walla High School Auditorium
- See the preliminary building plans
- Discuss options for modernization
- Review costs & timeline

National School Bus Safety Week - October 22-26 by Steve Olson, Transportation Director

School Bus Safety: I am writing to let everyone know the week of October 22-26, 2012 is NATIONAL SCHOOL BUS SAFETY WEEK. Walla Walla School District school buses transport over 2,500 students total each day to and from school. Safety of all students is our number one priority. Our drivers, bus aides, mechanics, and office support staff receive extensive training in all areas vital to each position to assure the safety all students. Walla Walla School District buses travel a total of more than 350,000 miles annually and are subject to mandatory state inspections bi-annually.

This year's focus for National School Bus Safety week is the "DANGER ZONE" around the school bus for students. The Danger Zone is the space all around the school bus. It extends out ten feet in all directions from the bus. It is very difficult for the driver to see students in this zone. It is especially important when the bus is at student bus stops. As you go about your daily business, please be aware of students traveling to and from school, whether it be on a school bus, walking, or bicycling. Everyone plays a part in student safety when traveling roadways. When you are in a hurry and you "GET CAUGHT BEHIND A SCHOOL BUS", please take a deep breath and remember keeping students safe is the number one priority.

October is "National Farm to School Month"

This month Nutrition Services will be featuring locally grown plums in four varieties in school lunches: Italian, Simka, Empress, and Frias. Plums will be garden bars through the end of the month. Other locally grown food will also be featured.

District joins area Realtors for "Care and Share" Food Drive this weekend

Walla Walla Public Schools is teaming with area realtors to help those in need through the "Care and Share" annual food drive. There are many ways for parents, students and staff to get involved. All donations help the Blue Mountain Action Council Food Bank. Demand remains high. Peter Swant is the project coordinator: pswant@cbfr.biz

Here's how you can help:

- "Fill the Bus" drive at area grocery stores: Saturday, Oct. 20 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Pick a section of town to distribute bags to area homes and then collect them the following day (Oct. 20 & 21)
- Donate food during Walla Walla High School home football games
- Donate food at all district schools (collection barrels are now in place)

Superintendent's Patron Tour program invites community members to visit schools

Superintendent Mick Miller is continuing his Superintendent's Patron Tour program Wednesday, Oct. 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Guests will visit Green Park Elementary, Walla Walla and Lincoln High Schools as part of the program.

Miller's goal with the program is to build relationships, learn about each other and listen. Please ask your friends, family, neighbors and parents of students to participate. They will value the experience and learn a lot along the way. Patron Tour guests will meet with Superintendent Miller, tour schools and conclude with lunch and a debriefing. If you are interested in participating in a Patron Tour, contact Communications Director Mark Higgins: 509.526.6716 or by email: mhiggins@wwps.org.

Personnel Report (from Oct. 16, 2012 school board meeting)

Employment

(Certificated) - NONE TO REPORT

(Classified)

Tania Nelson, Para-Educator (temp), Berney

Jeff Reid, Painter, Facilities & Operations

Kinsey Nickell, Para-Educator (temp), Prospect Point

Resignations/Retirements

NONE TO REPORT

School Stories

Green Park students receives free membership to YMCA

Business woman and community volunteer Tera Davis of Academy Mortgage presented Green Park 5th grade student Julian Saldaña with a one-year membership to the YMCA. Davis says Academy Mortgage will provide annual scholarships to the YMCA to a different student each quarter.

"I have four children at home and understand the importance of getting kids involved in positive activities," Davis said. "It feels great to help students and I hope one day they will give back to their community."

Green Park Intervention Specialist Ian Gregoire says Julian was a perfect fit for this award.

"Julian has made tremendous academic, social and emotional growth in his six years at Green Park," Gregoire said. "His effort and attitude are commendable and this award allows Julian to continue to pursue one of his greatest interests and abilities, sports."

Walla Walla High School band students to Attend Western International Band Clinic in Seattle

Congratulations to the following Wa-Hi Band students for being selected by MP3 audition to the 2012 Western International Band Clinic Nov. 16-19 at the Sea-Tac Doubletree Inn.

Sam Gentzler, Clarinet - Senior (three time participant)

Kyli Humphreys, French Horn - Junior (First time participant)

Hannah LaPier, Clarinet - Senior (Two time participant)

Brandon Rohde, Alto Sax - Junior (First time participant)

Michelle Ruzicka, Clarinet - Senior (Fourth time participant)

Rachel Schueller, Flute - Senior (Third time participant)

Groover Snell, Clarinet - Senior (First time participant)

More than 900 students from all over the Northwest and Canada auditioned with 660 students being selected for the four honor bands.

Big Blue Weekend Thank You - By Coordinators Kristina Duncan and Carina Stillman

As we work to gather the names of all who were involved with Big Blue Weekend 2012, we continue to be inspired by the school and community support for this event. This year over 375 students attended Big Blue Weekend, and over 150 scholarships were awarded. Including volunteers, our total number of participants was about 440--this is outstanding! Unfortunately, however, for the first time in six years, we had to turn away students who registered on time. While we probably could have ordered another bus to hold the 50 plus students who wished to attend, we simply did not have enough volunteers to chaperone and/or participate on work crew at such a short notice. Our goal for this next year is to develop partnerships with community organizations that may be able to help us recruit volunteers. We feel that Big Blue Weekend has truly become part of what we do here at Walla Walla High School, and we look forward to seeing how we can grow our capacity for future years. Big Blue Weekend 2013 will be October 4-6—Save the Date!

Special thanks to the following individuals and groups:

- Mindy Meyer, for problem-solving, helping with all the picky details, and so much more
- Stu Cabe and Geoff McLachlan, for incredible stories that stick with us long beyond the weekend
- Michelle Higgins, for fundraising vision, coordinating the spring spaghetti fundraiser, and help with many other details
- Bill Calhoun and Ron Higgins, for unique and strange meal-time entertainment as well as coordination of other details
- Bob Meyer and Rob Ahrens, for developing, setting up, and running the Big Blue Weekend Olympics
- Lisa Cox and Barbara Brown, for coordination of student sign ups and much, much more
- Pat Hanford and Gary Bannister, for development, maintenance and database support
- Chris Blackman, for gathering and awarding scholarships—many more than ever before
- Kate Stone and Sarah Stone, for sweatshirt design and order coordination
- Link Crew Commissioners, especially Michelle Ruzicka, Mattie Smyth, Jazmine Gonzalez, and Marissa Angulo
- Arch McHie and ASB, for financial support and help with literally whatever else we need
- Bridget Jacobson, Carolyn Crouthamel, Pam Jacobson, Ginger Heiser, Linda Schaub, Debra Pryor, and many TAs, for copying, cutting, sorting, delivering, and handling the incredible paper trail this thing requires
- Mark Higgins, for endless publicity, website support, and other advice throughout the year
- Mick Miller, Laure Quaresma, Pete Peterson, and the Wa-Hi Administration Team, for encouragement and support

AJ Blumel, Bailey Arango, Bill Calhoun, Bob Meyer, Carol Franklin, Carrie Lujan, Erica Salgado, Javier Hernandez, Julie Cox, Keith Swanson, Lauren Hemenway, Marcos Vargas, Margaret Thomas, Mary Palotas, Matt Thomas, Melito Ramirez, Michelle Higgins, Mindy Meyer, Mireya Vargas, Peggy Payne, Robert Young, Robin Fonger, Ron Higgins, Sally Sipperley, and Shannon Kerrigan, for supervising and hanging out with students this weekend as chaperones.

Rob Ahrens, Alison Staley, Carolee White, Corey DeBritz, Cristy Chavez, Dan Solis, Doug Roquet, Greg Knowles, Jane Kaminsky, Jillian DeBritz, Jody Stillman, Katrina Hill, Keith Crain, Kyle Eggart, Larry White, Laure Quaresma, Linda Clark, Mark Pickel, Marnie Henderson, Mel Gribnau, Missy Johnson, Nicole Redman, Scott Morasch, Shane Prudente, Shareen Knowles, Shelly Crump, Hailey Potter, Taylor Willis, Susan Morasch, Tara Crain, Tawsha Kuhle, Tim Bow, Eileen Bow, and Tina Brennan, for long hours prepping, cooking, serving and cleaning as our work crew.

For donations to the Big Blue Weekend general fund:

Friends (\$50)- Walla Walla Electric, Jenny Romine

Sponsors (\$100)- JC Landscaping, Sandra and Thomas Madsen, Laura Norris, Gale Kimball, John Reese, Walla Walla Electric Ruth Hansen, Jane Kaminsky, GEAR UP

Patrons (\$500-\$1000)- Morasch Family Fund of the Blue Mountain Community Foundation

Benefactors(\$5000)- J.L. Stubblefield Trust, Mary Garner Esary Trust

Sweatshirt Contributors (\$500)-Columbia Rural Electric, Hess Law Office, Pocket iNet, Smith Brothers Landscaping

For scholarship donations:

Bunny Baker, Bennett's Locksmith, Chris Blackman, Elaine Bluhm, Lynda Bren, Karen Bumgarner, Dan Calzaretta, Jennifer Carter, Evelyn Cochran, Julie Cox, Lisa Davis, Dog House Grill and Catering, Lori Dohe, Peder Fretheim, Jacqueline George, Vivian Glaeser, John Golden, Kim Gradwohl, Judy Gwinn, Michelle Higgins, Dawn Jepson, Julie Johnson, Pat Johnson, Linnea Keatts, Shannon Kerrigan, Nancy Klicker, Jeff Ladderud, Kathy Lamb, Learning for Life, Carrie Lujan, Shelly Mann, Sherry McConn, Arch McHie, Mindy Meyer, Donald Miller, Karen Miller, Susan Morasch, Georgia Morgan, Monica Nelson, Grace Ogoshi, Steve Olson, Donna Painter, Kathy Pritcher, Anna Sandness, Linda Schaub, Kay Schisler, Karen Scott, Brian Taylor, Nancy Taylor, Kerri Tucker, Heidi Wiese, Terry Willcuts, Julie Woods, and AAUW for making up the rest (\$1,320!)

Sharpstein Elementary garden wraps up another productive year

Sharpstein students at each grade level have had an opportunity to plant, harvest and taste something from the school garden. From carrots to cucumbers, salad tasting, salsa making, pumpkin muffins, and roasted pumpkin seeds, it's been a busy year in the garden. The fifth graders recently harvested and prepared more than 50 pounds of potatoes that they served to the whole school at lunch. A garden clean-up project is scheduled for Saturday, October 27 from 1-3 p.m. Families are encouraged to come and work together to get the garden ready for the winter. Thanks to all who have helped keep the garden going this year!

FFA team travels to national competition in Indianapolis

In May, Walla Walla High School Future Farmers of America dominated in both the Food Science and Veterinary Science Career Development Events at the State FFA Convention in Pullman, WA. The team included Ashley Ramsey, Peter Siron, Megan Wright, Drew Swenson, Allie Juergenson, Addie Chapman, Alexis Hughes, Sadee Long and Kayla Stewart.

The purpose of the veterinary science career development event is to promote college and career readiness by providing opportunities to develop technical knowledge and demonstrate practical skills in the field of veterinary science. The food science and technology career development event is designed to promote learning activities in food science and technology related to the food industry and to assist students in developing practical knowledge of principles used in a team decision-making process.

Along with those competing, Samantha Zuger auditioned and was accepted to sing in the National FFA Choir. Next week the team will travel to Indianapolis, IN to compete along side more than 50,000 FFA members from around the country at the National FFA Convention.

"All of our students worked hard and demonstrated that they are the best in the state," said FFA Advisor Lindsey Butcher. "Now, they have the opportunity to compete against students from across the country at one of the largest youth gatherings in the world."

Sharpstein Principal sleeps in school bell tower

Thursday night Sharpstein Principal Matt Bona slept in the school's bell tower to honor a fund raising challenge. Sharpstein students needed to earn more than \$6000 on the school's Fund Run to put Bona in the bell tower for the night. They raised almost \$8000.

Congratulations to the Sharpstein students for a successful Fund Run and meeting their goal.

Homecoming Football game and Dance this weekend

Homecoming Football Game

- Wa-Hi vs. Kamiakin
- Friday, Oct. 19
- 7 p.m. @ Borleske Stadium

Homecoming Dance

- Saturday, October 20
- 8 to 11 p.m.
- Wa-Hi Small Gym

Thanks for your leadership!

Michaela Stalder - ASB President

Dean Atkinson - ASB Vice President

Melissa Magnaghi - ASB Secretary

Christina Swanson - ASB Treasurer

Arch McHie - ASB Advisor

Trunk-or-Treat offers safe and fun Halloween experience

- Trunk-or-Treat is sponsored by Key Club for all elementary school students
- Candy, treats and other goodies for all
- Wednesday, October 31 from 5 to 7 p.m.
- Wa-Hi Science Parking lot
- Haunted Barn and Auditorium
- Admission is two cans of food for donation to the Christian Aid Center Food Bank

Thanks so much to Key Club Advisor Shelley Mann for her years of service and passion for Trunk-or-Treat. Shelley puts in endless hours to coordinate this amazing community event. She is truly a Wa-Hi hero!

Wa-Hi Debate team plans mock presidential debate

The Walla Walla High School Debate Team will conduct a mock Presidential Debate at the Wa-Hi Auditorium on Saturday, October 27 at 7 p.m. This event is open to the public. A suggested donation of \$5 per person will be collected to help fund the Debate Team.

There will be two teams of debaters: A team supporting Romney's positions and a team supporting Obama's positions. The teams will alternate presenting the candidates' perspectives on different issues, such as the economy or foreign policy. The candidate representatives will have a chance to question each other.

“Audience members will vote to give a prize to the strongest speaker on each team, which team they thought did the best overall and finally, who they think should be the President of the United States,” Debate Coach Jean Tobin said.

Community Stories

YMCA's Halloween Spooktacular

- Wednesday, October 31
- 5:30-7:30 p.m.
- FREE community event

Activities include:

- Pumpkin Carving Contest
- Campfire for roasting s'mores and ghost stories
- Photo booth
- Trick-or-Treating
- Haunted House
- Bounce House
- “Brave” Archery Shoot
- Finding Nemo fish tank
- Cookie Walk
- Outside Haunted Scavenger Hunt
- Face Painting
- Much, Much More!!

For more information contact the YMCA at 525-8863

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals information session Oct. 22

The Spokane Field Office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will hold an information session regarding Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals at the Walla Walla Public Library Monday, October 22. This information session will be in English and Spanish.

Information:

- Diana M. Wolder, Field Office Director
- 509.353.4699

Space travel and tourism expert to speak at Whitman College

Learn more about space travel and space tourism with high-tech pioneer, philanthropist, and space traveler Dr. Charles Simonyi. He will share his personal experiences as one of the first private citizens to fly in space and take questions from the audience.

Space Tourist: Training and Mission

Thursday, November 1

4 to 5 p.m.

Whitman College, Olin Hall 130