

District Stories

- School board public work session and meeting Tuesday, Nov. 6
- Dondi Cortinas featured on district Alumni Spotlight video series
- Support Staff Spotlight series features district printer

School Stories

- Wa-Hi's 1963 transformer fails leaving music building in the dark
- Green Park parents go back to school
- Berney students use liquid nitrogen to make ice cream thanks to Whitman College outreach program
- Walla Walla High School Drama presents "Get Smart"
- Walla Walla High School students state leaders for Microsoft certifications
- Books for Babes bulb sale in full bloom
- Walla Walla High School Debate Team students shine in Mock Presidential Debate by Coach Jean Tobin
- Wa-Hi girls varsity cross country team takes top state academic honors for third consecutive year
- Walla Walla High School AVID students mentor Pioneer students
- Wa-Hi Link Crew to host state leadership conference at YMCA
- Junior ROTC earns title 'cadet of the month,' garners on-the-spot promotion

Community Stories

- Retired educators offer scholarships for prospective teachers
- The Moms' Network Parent Workshop with Pediatrician, Dr. Trent Rogers
- Staff and students perform in White Christmas play at Little Theatre
- Whitman Collage READS program focuses on volcanoes

District Stories

School board public work session and meeting Tuesday, Nov. 6

- 4 p.m.: Public Work Session to discuss potential high school facilities bond (work session at Lincoln High School)
- 6:30 p.m.: Regular meeting (meeting at district office)
- Both meetings open to the public

Dondi Cortinas featured on district Alumni Spotlight video series

Class of 1989 graduate Dondi Cortinas is featured via the district's Alumni Spotlight video series. Dondi reflects on his childhood and years in school. Take a moment to learn more about Dondi Cortinas by watching a brief video on the district's YouTube page on the district web site: www.wwps.org.

Support Staff Spotlight series features district printer

Print Shop printer Kelly Gabel is now featured on the district web site as part of the Support Staff Spotlight series. An informative newsletter, photos and a video are included in the feature. Visit the district homepage at www.wwps.org to learn more about Kelly Gabel and the Print Shop.

School Stories

Wa-Hi's 1963 transformer fails leaving music building in the dark

The Walla Walla High School Music Building electrical transformer, which was installed in 1963, permanently failed this week. The choir and band classrooms did not have electricity Monday and web and email service was down the following day. Classes were held in other areas of the school during the power outage.

The electrical service to the Music Building classrooms is now operating off of the Performing Arts Auditorium transformer which was installed in 1991. Now both buildings are powered up by the 1991 transformer.

A load meter was installed this week to determine if the 1991 transformer can handle the additional power load draw. A 30 day reading is needed to determine if the district needs to upgrade the transformer.

Green Park parents go back to school

This week Green Park parents flocked to the school to participate in the "Bring Your Parents to Math Class" event. More than 60 parents took time out of their busy day to support their children. The event was organized by Brenda Crumpacker as part of the school's Title One Parent Involvement plan. Parent Kylee Christiansen says the event helps her better support her daughter.

"I feel it brings me closer to my daughter and helps me stay in the loop so I know what she is doing in school." Christiansen said. "I will understand what she is referring to when she brings home her math homework and have a better idea of what is expected."

Second grade teacher Tressa Baker welcomed the event and says it's an opportunity to connect with her parents.

"It's a great way to get parents into the school and make them feel comfortable and welcome," Baker said. "It reinforces that we are partners in their child's education. The kids were so excited for the event they could hardly wait for their special adults to show up."

Berney students use liquid nitrogen to make ice cream thanks to Whitman College outreach program

Wednesday Whitman College Science Education Outreach Coordinator Mary Burt taught Berney Elementary students how to stir up a "concoction" of liquid nitrogen, vanilla, half and half, sugar and milk. As the students stirred, it slowly turned into ice cream!

Students in April Brown, Kathy Kellie, Stacy Morrison's class participated in the lesson. Thanks to Mary Burt and Whitman College for making this fun experiment possible for Berney students.

Walla Walla High School Drama presents “Get Smart”

Get Smart, the play, is based on the story of the first episode of the television series, Get Smart. Maxwell Smart talks his way into handling two huge problems at once; how to guard Professor Dante’s invention that, predictably, would bring disaster in the wrong hands (AKA - KAOS), and how to guard Ingrid, a fun-loving Princess from Scandinavia, who could be the next victim in a series of kidnappings.

Of course, the two problems turn out to be interconnected, and action, confusion, and a blonde Chinese waitress follow, all culminating with Max saving the day with a bit of surprisingly quick thinking.

“Get Smart” Schedule:

- November 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, and 17 @ 7 p.m.
- November 10 and 17 at 2 p.m.

Ticket prices:

- \$12 for adults
- \$6 for students

Tickets on sale now at the Wa-Hi Performing Arts Auditorium Box Office. Box Office hours are weekdays from 4 to 6 p.m. and one hour prior to all shows. For more information call 526-8613.

Walla Walla High School students state leaders for Microsoft certifications

After a third place finish in the state for the number of Microsoft certifications earned by the students last year, Wa-Hi students are off to a faster start this fall. As of Oct. 26, they have already earned 81 Microsoft Specialist certificates.

By passing a Microsoft certification exam, students earn a globally recognized credential, which validates their knowledge and skills. “Anyone can say they have computer skills, but this certification verifies the level of skill and knowledge that employers and colleges are looking for,” business education teacher Gay Buissink said. “I compare it to the SAT when I describe the rigor of the exam to students.”

The exam is scored online by Microsoft with 1000 as a perfect score. A student certifies with a score of 700 or higher. The PowerPoint certification exam has 40 task-oriented questions that must be answered within the 50 minutes allowed by the online clock. At the end of the 50 minutes, a dialog box appears, and the exam is then scored online. “Students must comprehend what they are reading and then perform the task at a pace fast enough to finish all questions in the time allowed,” Buissink said.

New this year is the Microsoft Wall of Fame in Locker Lobby A. Business education teacher Scott Reardon created the wall of certificates to showcase student achievement. “I got the idea while attending Microsoft Certification training this summer,” Reardon said. “I believe it is important for us to show to the entire school the priority we place on Microsoft Certification and how proud we are of the students who achieve it.”

As of Oct. 24, Walla Walla High School is ranked third in the state for number of certificates passed.

Books for Babes bulb sale in full bloom

The Books for Babes program, which provides a book for all newborns in Walla Walla, is conducting its annual Bulb-In-A-Can fundraiser. All proceeds benefit the program. For sale are giant narcissus bulbs and a variety of daffodils for \$5 a can. These make excellent holiday gifts. Bulbs will be delivered by December 14.

- Send orders via email by November 30
- Email to: kbarga@wwps.org

Make payment by check to: Books for Babes

Mail to: Kay Barga

Edison Elementary

1315 East Alder Street - Walla Walla, WA 99362

Walla Walla High School Debate Team students shine in Mock Presidential Debate by Coach Jean Tobin

Saturday the Walla Walla High School Speech and Debate Team hosted its first Mock Presidential Debate. Fourteen students participated in the debate. Representing "Team Obama" were: Hope Grant-Herriot (s), Rosa Tobin (s), Marisol Beck (s), Bryan Preston (s), Emma Gregoire (sophomore), Anna Apostolidis (sophomore), Konor Clark (s). Representing "Team Romney" were: Gerrod Peck (sophomore), Kendall Dunovant (junior), Sean Hamilton (senior), Malcolm Gabbard (sophomore), Emily Prull (sophomore), Ricky Entrop (sophomore), Julia Cosma (senior).

Kurt Christianson and Kera Parsons helped behind the scenes and Katie Christianson and Missy Johnson volunteered their assistance to make everything run smoothly.

During the debate students presented the candidates' positions on: social issues, foreign policy, the economy, the deficit, immigration and health care. Unlike the official debates, the candidates' were permitted to ask each other questions. The students did an impressive job and the audience enjoyed the presentations.

At the end of the evening the audience had an opportunity to vote for the top Obama speaker, the top Romney speaker, the best team overall and who they would vote for for President. While votes were counted, sophomore Anna Apostolidis, a finalist last year at the State Speech Tournament, entertained the audience with her Humorous Interpretation piece "Shakespeare's Complete Works (abridged)." Anna will be presenting this piece at the Whitman College Debate Tournament this upcoming weekend.

Emily Prull won as the top Romney speaker, representing him foreign policy. Anna Apostolidis and Marisol Beck tied as top Obama speaker, representing social issues and the deficit respectively. Overall, Team Obama won and if this audience represents the Nation, then President Obama will be reelected for a 2nd term. Our first competition of the year starts Thursday, November 1 at Whitman College.

Wa-Hi girls varsity cross country team takes top state academic honors for third consecutive year

The Walla Walla High School girls varsity Cross Country team maintained a team Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.979 to take the 4A Cross Country State Academic championship. This is the third consecutive year they earned this honor. "Three back-to-back titles is a tremendous accomplishment and tribute to some outstanding young ladies," said Don Wilkins, district athletic director.

The Washington Interscholastic Activities Association offers two team academic awards based on the combined GPA of team members. The athletes' previous semester grades are used to figure GPA's. The WIAA Distinguished Scholastic Award is given to teams with a team GPA of 3.0 to 3.49 and the WIAA Outstanding Scholastic Award is given to teams with team GPA of 3.5 and above.

The following teams received WIAA awards:

WIAA Outstanding Scholastic Award (3.5 and above)

- Varsity Girls Cross Country
- JV Girls Cross Country
- Varsity Boys Cross Country
- Varsity Girls Swim
- JV Girls Swim
- Varsity Volleyball
- "C" Team Volleyball

WIAA Distinguished Scholastic Award (3.0 to 3.49)

- Varsity Girls Soccer
- JV Girls Soccer
- JV Boys Cross Country
- Frosh Football
- JV Volleyball
- Frosh Volleyball

Walla Walla High School AVID students mentor Pioneer students

Thursday, Walla Walla High School students enrolled in the Advancement Via Individual Determination or AVID program went to Pioneer Middle School to demonstrate a tutorial. The exchange activity was designed to demonstrate the work the middle school students are doing in AVID will continue in high school.

“We want our students to see this class is relevant to what they will be doing in high school and college,” said Mira Gobel, Pioneer Middle School principal. “This exchange was to show the middle school student what could be.”

Walla Walla High School sophomore Martin Barrera says AVID has helped him become more responsible and organized in every class.

“I want the middle school students to know AVID prepares them for high school and college and that they need to stay with it,” Barrera said.

AVID program supports students by providing them with skills necessary to be successful in college. AVID students are expected to access rigorous curriculum. The elective class is an avenue for students to acquire the skills in communication, critical thinking, note-taking, peer-tutoring, organization, time-management etc. In addition, AVID elective class becomes a family. Students stay together for four years with the same group of peers and teacher where deep relationships are nurtured. Learn more online at: <http://yourcollegeandcareer.org/avid>

Wa-Hi Link Crew to host state leadership conference at YMCA

Wa-Hi's Link Crew will host the Washington State Link Crew conference at the Walla Walla YMCA on Friday morning, November 9. Link Crew Leaders (students) and Link Crew Coordinators (teachers) from area high schools will meet with Micah Jacobson, co-founder of The Boomerang Project in Santa Cruz, CA.

This organization helps students transition to middle school and high school more smoothly and build character and community in schools throughout the United States. During the State Link Crew conference, Link Crew Leaders will continue to develop and practice their leadership skills and plan for future events. So far this year, Link Crew has organized Wa-Hi's Freshmen Orientation, co-sponsored the back-to-school BBQ and Ice Cream Social, and activities for Big Blue Weekend.

Junior ROTC earns title ‘cadet of the month,’ garners on-the-spot promotion

A Walla Walla High School JROTC “Blue Devils” cadet has won an immediate promotion as a reward for winning the title of ‘Cadet of the Month’ for October. Cadet Pvt. 1st Class Carson Livingston, a 15-year-old freshman, was promoted to this new rank after he won the top spot with a total score of 77 points, according to the president of the examining 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 Wa-Hi’s Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program. Livingston said he joined JROTC because he wanted to become a better citizen and he intends to join the Marine Corps after high school. He enjoys playing guitar, soccer, running and track.

“His strongest competitive category was military knowledge,” said cadet Command Sgt. Maj. Brandon Webster. “This competition was a close match and all the cadets’ performances were outstanding.”

First runner up, with 74 points, was cadet Pvt. Evan Lockwood, a 14-year-old freshman, whose strongest suit was personal appearance. Second runner up, with 64 points, was cadet Pvt. Beau Remus, a 17-year-old senior, whose strongest suit was bearing.

“After tallying point totals, the board identified the winner, and then we held an immediate promotion ceremony for our winning cadet to recognize 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.

Community Stories

Retired educators offer scholarships for prospective teachers

Available:

- two \$1000 scholarships
- Scholarship grants are given to prospective teachers and/or candidates in other school related fields that will student teach or do internship experience in an educational setting

Requirements:

1. Graduate of high school in Walla Walla or Columbia County
2. Student teach/internship between September 2013 and June 2014

Contact:

- Mardel Bierwagen at 525-6117 or gbierwagen6117@charter.net

Applications available:

- November 1, 2012

Applications due:

- April 1, 2013

The Moms' Network Parent Workshop with Pediatrician, Dr. Trent Rogers

The Moms' Network will host the final Parent Workshop of the year on Thursday November 8 with Walla Walla Clinic pediatrician Dr. Trent Rogers. The event will be at the Children's Museum of Walla Walla at 7pm. Families are welcome to bring their children during the lecture. The children will be supervised while exploring the museum so parents can participate in the workshop.

Dr. Rogers will discuss the current health status of the Walla Walla Valley and open up the lecture to questions and answers. "An evening with a local pediatrician is our most popular workshop" says Beth Swanson, President of The Moms' Network. "This is a chance to ask questions about your child's health or behavior and also listen to what other families are dealing with. We also thought it is a great way to support the Children's Museum."

The evening is a free community event. For more information contact Beth at 509-301-7471 or beth@themomsnetworkww.com. For more information on The Moms' Network visit www.themomsnetworkww.com.

Staff and students perform in White Christmas play at Little Theatre

Based on the beloved, timeless film, this heart-warming musical adaptation features seventeen Berlin songs and a script by David Ives and Paul Blake. Veterans Bob Wallace and Phil Davis have a successful song-and-dance act after World War II. With romance in mind, the two follow a duo of beautiful singing sisters en route to their Christmas show at a Vermont lodge, which just happens to be owned by Bob and Phil's former army commander.

- The show begins at 8 p.m. on Nov. 2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, & 24
- There will be a 2 p.m. matinee on Nov. 11 & 18
- Tickets are \$15

The four principle actors are all accomplished singers and Wa-hi graduates; Kolton Kolbaba, Richele Loney, Daniel Rose and Shauna Fletcher. Most of the cast and crew are current or former students or employees of Walla Walla Public Schools, including current students Breelyn Hess, Jordan Calhoun, and Kylee Wagner. Wa-Hi Mathematics Teacher William Calhoun will impress you with his singing and dancing, along with recent Wa-Hi graduates Dave Marr and Gregg Bradford.

Other Alumni include Alex Leeper, Eva Katsel, Tom & Veronica Klicker, Becky Hatley, Cate Lyons, Lynn Rose and Barb McKinney. Cari Wilton, Mike Rose and Rich Hinz have all worked in the Wa-Hi Drama Department.

Whitman Collage READS program focuses on volcanoes

- Wednesday, November 7
- Walla Walla Public Library
- 3 to 3:45 p.m.
- This month's focus is on volcanoes and Mt. St. Helen's and is geared for K-5 students
- Fun, free, educational event