

WWPS Equity and Dual Programs



February 2020

EESE Task Force

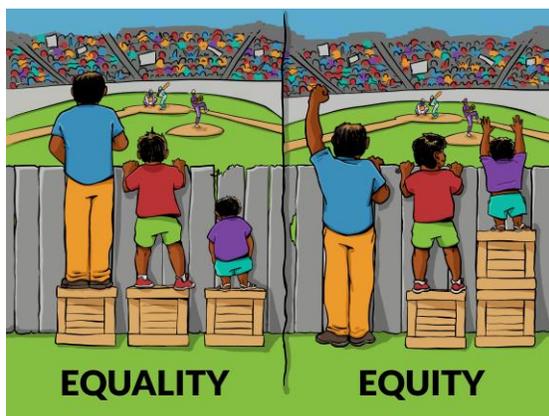
Providing Equitably Engaging Strategies for Everyone

Our **EESE Task Force** is committed to providing and facilitating **equitably engaging strategies for everyone**, both staff and students, at the district, building and classroom level. Each school's team member participates in rigorous conversations and activities to help us support our school district strategic plan and our commitment to believing in all students' worth and abilities. Currently, we have created a menu of professional development options that include TED talks, discussion prompts and resources for classroom use.

Here is a list of the EESE Task Force members:

Amy Kasenga, Amy Hartford, Amy Reed, Carey Knifong, Cesar Hernandez, Claudia Salazar, Erin Dorso, Heather Hudoc, Jazmin Lopez, Jose Beleche, Julie Perron, Kathleen Gilmore, Kellie Humbert, Kim Kelsay, Marilyn Melgoza, Roger Garcia, Sofia Parsons, and Sara Van Donge.

Dr. Julie Perron
Director of Equity
& Dual Programs



SHARPSTEIN'S SPANISH CLUB

Opportunity to continue Spanish language skills

Last year, I wanted to give Kindergarten and First grade students the opportunity to learn Spanish since our Dual Language Program is rolling out from Sharpstein. This year, I am working with K, 1st, and 2nd graders in developing Spanish language skills. Some of the materials that I use to teach Spanish are Estrellitas, Cancionero, RAZ- kids, GLAD and SET-R strategies. Last year, I had two sessions with roughly 20 students in each. This year, we are offering three sessions of 19-20 students during the school year. It is wonderful seeing so many families interested in their child learning Spanish.

Sofia Parsons
Third Grade Bilingual Dual Teacher

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Escuelas Públicas de Walla Walla

EDISON'S "SPANISH FOR PARENTS" CLASS

Great opportunity for parents to learn Spanish

In the month of October, Edison Elementary School offered a "Spanish for Parents" class. The attendees learned to pronounce and read in Spanish, basic vocabulary and how to access online resources to help their children in the acquisition of this language. The class was taught using methods similar to those used in Dual Language. Parents experienced the way in which their children learn Spanish and how to motivate them to continue this learning process. The parents who participated showed interest in forming a Parents' Club to continue studying Spanish and the culture of Spanish-speaking countries.

Eli Entrena
Spanish Language & Literacy
Specialist

For great YA reads, check out:

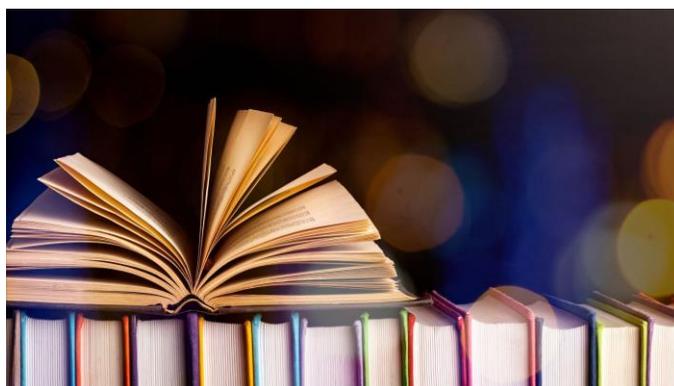
1. National Public Radio's (NPR) "2019 Book Concierge" - filter by Young Adult genre
2. School Library Journal's (SLJ) "Best Young Adult Books 2019"
3. Young Adult Library Services Association's (YALSA) "2019 Best of the Best"

Kim Casetto
Wa-Hi Library Media Specialist

Diverse Representation in Literature Matters

Multicultural perspectives in Young Adult Literature

2019 was a great year for young adult literature representative of many cultures and varied perspectives. As a former high school English teacher and as an educator of twenty years, it's refreshing for young people to be able to walk into our libraries and classrooms and easily find books with characters who look like they do, who face complex cultural issues and who are celebrated for their rich diversity. This representation further helps to break down harmful cultural stereotypes and to broaden understanding of our students' home lives or those of their peers. I'm particularly eager to support our high school ELA teachers in their implementation of the new Springboard curriculum which asks students to read independently and draw thematic connections to ideas being discussed in class. I'm currently collaborating with 12th grade English teachers Jamie Kemano and Kristen Wegner to create a unit where students will apply one of the critical perspectives to a single text from a diversified list of books made possible in part by both library and Equity & Diversity funds. In addition, Walla Walla School District's middle school and high school libraries allocate budget to a book subscription through Junior Library Guild, whose core value is to nurture lifelong reading by getting the very best books for readers. Book selection includes featuring books with multicultural perspectives and puts them in the hands of our students on a monthly basis.



"...it's refreshing for young people to be able to walk into our libraries and classrooms and easily find books with characters who look like they do, who face complex cultural issues and who are celebrated for their rich diversity." (Casetto)



Let's remember to always celebrate Black heroes, role models and educators in our buildings

February is **Black History Month**, which is an annual celebration that recognizes the central role of African Americans in US history. It is crucial that we use this time to widen our students' exploration of Black lives through celebrations and incorporations of African American perspectives into lesson plans and daily activities. However, it is also as important to remember that during Black History Month, we are celebrating US history that is often left out of our student's educational experience. Let us use this time to continue to educate our students about the courage, advocacy and liberation of those whose stories and voices have been silenced throughout our country's history. Nevertheless, let us remember to include Black history and perspectives into our lessons, events, and activities year-round, not just reserve these stories for a month or for a special event once a year. Let us use the month of February to dig deeper into history and celebrate Black leaders, while using the rest of the year to incorporate the rich history of Black leaders in our country.

Resources: Teaching Tolerance - [Black History Month: Teaching the Complete History](#)

More about Migrant

Program offers services and opportunities for students to reach academic achievement

The **Migrant Education Program** identifies migratory children as those students whose education has been interrupted during the previous 36 months due to a move for the purpose of finding seasonal or temporary work in agriculture or fishing. The mobile lifestyle of a migrant family faces numerous barriers: migrant children miss school because they or their parents are migratory agricultural or fishery workers, they tend to have more health-related issues and can be credit deficient.

Migrant Program Services:

- Re-engagement support and services to Out-of-School Youth ages 16-21 years old
- Free School Meals
- Free physical exams/vaccinations
- Limited dental services
- Field trips to university campuses
- Tutoring services

Want to learn more?

Contact our K-12 Migrant Specialist:
Yaneth Hernandez, yhernandez@wwps.org

WWPS Employees Shout-Out!

Maria and Arturo Alonso Featured on Walla Walla Lifestyles

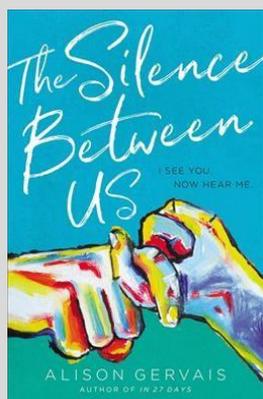


If you haven't already picked up the **February 2020 "Walla Walla Lifestyles" Union Bulletin** magazine, make sure you do so! In this month's article of Food & Wine, our very own, **Maria and Arturo Alonso** are featured and celebrated. The article narrates their experiences in Mexico to their journey in the United States.

Maria's delicious Mole recipes are highlighted, as well as her experience of introducing more authentic Mexican cuisine to Garrison Middle School during her time there.

Make sure to pick up a copy of this wonderful article or follow the link below to access it online: [Union Bulletin - Lifestyles Article "From Mexico, With Love"](#)

Reading Recommendations for Students:



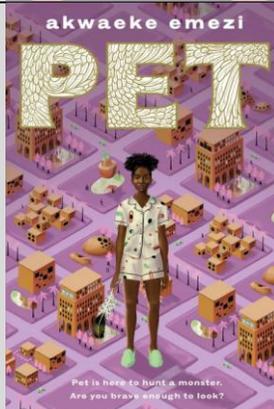
The Silence Between Us - Alison Gervais

Gr 7 Up - Maya Harris lost her hearing at 13. She had been attending a school for the deaf, but because of a family move to Colorado, she ends up at a hearing high school, where she faces a steady stream of trials without a lot of wins. Reading about Maya's struggles can sometimes be almost as exhausting as it is compelling – but *The Silence Between Us* is eminently un-put-down-able, and author Alison Gervais (who's hard of hearing) pulls off fascinating storytelling acrobatics in her dialogue. This book both taught me things about the deaf community and inspired me to continue my education well after the story was finished. — Alethea Kontis, author and book critic, *NPR Book Concierge* 2019



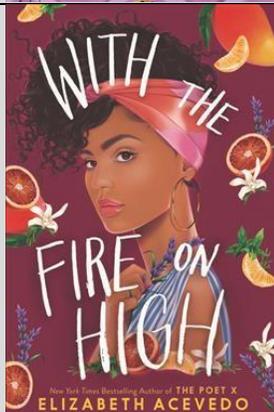
Patron Saints of Nothing - Randy Ribay

Gr 10 Up - As a Filipino American, *Patron Saints of Nothing* is the novel I've been waiting for. It follows Jay, a half-Filipino, half-white teen growing up in the U.S. who travels to the Philippines after his cousin is killed in the ongoing drug war there. While unraveling the mystery, Jay must also wrestle with the realities of a place, a people and a family he thought he knew. Randy Ribay effectively tackles the difficulties of identity through a polarizing and timely event, bringing to bear some of the internal conflict that those of us with dual identities often struggle to put into words. — Ashley Westerman, producer, *Morning Edition* - *NPR Book Concierge* 2019



Pet - Akwaeke Emezi

Gr 7 Up - Angels have rid the city of Lucille of monsters. Jam has no reason to doubt this until a creature crawls out of one of her mother's paintings, intent on hunting down a monster. *Pet* is a shiny gem of a book, more novella than novel, more middle grade than young adult in feel, even as it tackles very adult questions about society's evils and the best way to combat them when everyone seems intent on looking away. *Pet* doesn't concern itself with intended audience – it is for the readers who will let its fire burn bright in their hearts. — Caitlyn Paxson, book critic - *NPR Book Concierge* 2019



With the Fire on High - Elizabeth Acevedo

Gr 9 Up - Emoni got pregnant her freshman year of high school, and now she must juggle parenting her Babygirl with passing her classes. But Emoni's true passion is cooking. In her hands, ingredients transform into something magical, transporting people deep into their most precious memories. And when Emoni's school announces a special cooking class, it seems too good to be true. *With the Fire on High* is an open representation of teen motherhood that shows its hardships and joys without judgment. It's a love letter to teens like Emoni, and its message is a powerful one: You can do this – and thrive. — Caitlyn Paxson, book critic - *NPR Book Concierge* 2019

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ***We Are Wa-Hi***

- Tuesday, February 25 – 5:00-7:00 at Walla Walla High School

Do you have an 8th grader or a student who currently attends Wa-Hi? If so, join us for the We Are Wa-Hi: Planning Your Future event! Learn about the registration process, the classes, clubs, and sports students can explore as well as the many other opportunities students have at Wa-Hi.

- ***Kindergarten Dual Informational Nights***

- Monday, March 2 – 6:00-7:00 at Green Park Elementary School
- Wednesday, March 4 – 6:00-7:00 at Edison Elementary School

Are you interested in your child being bilingual? Join us at one of our Kindergarten Dual Informational Nights! We will explain the application process and answer any questions you may have.

- ***Kindergarten Early Learning Roundup***

- April 1 – 6:00-7:30 at WW Fairgrounds

If you have a student who is old enough to be in preschool or kindergarten next fall, please join us at the Walla Walla Fairgrounds on April 1st to meet school staff, pick up registrations and other paperwork, and visit with community resources. This event is intended to help make the transition into school go as smooth as possible for families and future students.

