

Community steps up to fund new Garrison backstop

Walla Walla Valley Select Baseball program fundraiser pays for project

The Walla Walla Valley Select Baseball program, under the direction of fundraising chair **Peggy Needham**, led a successful fund-raising campaign which generated more than \$9,000 for the materials to replace the aging baseball backstop at Garrison Middle School.

The backstop was originally installed by the Rotary Club of Walla Walla in 1958 for use as a Pony League field. The new backstop was installed by Eagle Construction of Walla Walla. Walla Walla Public Schools paid for the cost of the installation.

The new backstop was moved forward to enhance competitive play, allow for additional fan seating and improve safety by increasing the overhang to lessen the chance of cars and spectators being hit by foul balls.

“This backstop was in desperate need of replacement. Not only is the Garrison field used by the middle school, it is utilized by the community as well. It will be wonderful to have an additional field to use for summer and fall baseball programs.”

Peggy Needham



Mike and Peggy Needham toss out the first pitch at the Garrison Middle School Baseball Backstop Dedication ceremony earlier this spring.

- \$500 or more donor list:
- | | |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| - Mike and Peggy Needham | - Tom & Sydnee Watson |
| - WW Valley Select Baseball | - Stubblefield Trust |
| - Eric Kimball | - WW Babe Ruth |
| - Rotary Club of WW | - Gary Carlson |
| - Key Technology (sign donation) | |

Walla Walla Public Schools

364 South Park Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362
509.529.7713 (FAX)
509.527.3000
website: www.wwps.org

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Walla Walla seniors offer gift to school

Pottery project evolves into a one-of-a-kind keepsake



Walla Walla High School seniors **Nason Babbitt**, **Josh Leamer**, **Austin Morgan** and **Aaron Nelson** created a Mosaic Blue Devil as a gift to the school from the Class of 2011. The students are in John Butenhoff’s pottery class.

Imagine the Possibilities! Walla Walla High School Conceptual Design



This conceptual design would retain the school’s open campus style and feel.

Our Core Values
are more than mere words;
they’re our business!

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy

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Reser Road project to begin summer 2011

School board members granted right-of-way and maintenance easements to Walla Walla County and donated a narrow strip of land to support the project designed to improve Reser Road from Howard to Fern Streets.

The project is slated to begin this summer and be completed this fall. Walla Walla County Project Engineer **Aaron Grimm** said they are still waiting on permits for final approval which could change the schedule. Traffic flow will be impacted by the project.

The Reser Road project will widen the road to 40 feet and feature sidewalks on both sides of the street. New fencing will be installed along the road. The project will not impact the playground at Prospect Point. Walla Walla County received grant money to help pay for the project.

No district funds are being used to pay for the Reser Road project.



Mick Miller
Superintendent

529-7713 (FAX)
526.6714
mmiller@wwps.org
www.wwps.org

2010-11 Goals

- Relationships
- Customer Service
- Achievement

First year in Walla Walla one to remember!

As the school year slowly comes to its conclusion, I am heartened by what I observed during the course of the year ... my first in Walla Walla.

On June 2, Lincoln High School students graduate; Wa-Hi will hold its commencement exercises on June 3. For these seniors, commencement and the receipt of a high school diploma are the culmination of years of hard work, growth, maturity and study. Many enrolled in our schools in the previous century and have been educated in our schools for thirteen years. Seeing the pride on the faces of graduates, and their parents, is truly one of the highlights of any school year.

However, I was heartened by so much more. On a daily basis I was proud to work with colleagues who care about children. Our mission is to prepare young people academically, and I believe we do so very well. But our staffs also help meet the needs of our students in so many different ways. It has been a pleasure to watch this.

During the past four months I have been working with many people to gather feedback regarding facility improvements at our high schools. I am so encouraged by the support we have received in the community and with the direction of our Wa-Hi facility planning. Please log onto our website, www.wwps.org, to see the conceptual designs. Also, we need your comments and feedback. In the near future, a bond election will be held to fund an expansion and modernization of Wa-Hi and now is the time for your input. I cannot thank our community enough for the comments thus far and for your support.

Finally, as I finish my first school year in Walla Walla, I need to thank our students, staff and community for the warm welcome that you have extended to me and my family. This is a wonderful community. Our school district is a great place to learn. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or comments at mmiller@wwps.org or 526-6714. Best wishes for a wonderful summer!

Support Services Dedication

In March, Walla Walla Public Schools cut the ribbon on its new Support Services facility located at 1174 Entley Street during a public dedication ceremony. Construction on the \$3.2 million project began last March on the 9.5 acre site. The new facility is now fully operational.

The completion of the new Support Services facility represents the second phase of a project to relocate Support Services and the Transportation Department from 325 S. Park Street to the new Entley Street site.

The new Support Services facility houses the warehouse, science materials center, maintenance, grounds services, print shop, and food services.



This project helped stimulate the local economy and create jobs. Twenty-two subcontractors, including five from the Walla Walla valley, worked on the project. Thanks for your support on a job well done!

Walla Walla students visit White House



Forty Walla Walla Public Schools students traveled to Washington DC and Gettysburg over spring break as part of a learning adventure of a lifetime.

Pioneer Middle School Teacher **Dan Calzaretta** led the tour. Students and parent chaperons participated in the Smithsonian Student Travel program which emphasizes the study of American History.

Visits included Smithsonian museums, the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials, the World War II-Korean-Vietnam Memorials, the Washington Monument, the Marine Corps Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery and Mount Vernon, as well as tours of the U.S. Capitol and the White House. The students also spent a day touring Gettysburg battlefields and museums.

Schools represented included Pioneer Middle School, Garrison Middle School, Walla Walla High School and Edison Elementary School.

The trip was organized by Calzaretta and parent **Kathryn Southwick-Hess** with a great deal of support from the community.

End-of-Year Celebrations

Lincoln Alternative High School Graduation
Thursday, June 2 @ 6 p.m. - WW Fairgrounds

Walla Walla High School Commencement
Friday, June 3 @ 7 p.m. - Wa-Hi Commons area
(gym if raining)

Pioneer Middle School 8th Grade Recognition
Tuesday, June 7 @ 7 p.m. - Wa-Hi Gym

Garrison Middle School 8th Grade Recognition
Wednesday, June 8 @ 7 p.m. - Wa-Hi Gym

** Last day of school - Thursday, June 9 (early dismissal)*

Community Connections

May proclaimed *Partners in Learning Month*

Walla Walla Public Schools has proclaimed May as *Partners in Learning Month* to raise awareness of the vital role businesses, agencies and individuals have in our school system. *Partners in Learning Month* is an opportunity for Walla Walla Public Schools to extend a heartfelt thank you to the more than 100 community partners who provide essential support to help Walla Walla Public Schools offer a first-class educational program.

The partners listed below will be honored at the May 17 school board meeting.

- **Children's Home Society**
(Meagan Anderson-Pira, Director)
- **Whitman Mission** (Mike Dedman, Coordinator)
- **American Association of University Women**
(Karen Peddicord, President)
- **Tony's Sub Shop** (Tony Wenham, Owner)

Prospect Point Arbor Day Celebration



Prospect Point Elementary Principal **Chris Gardea**, City of Walla Walla Mayor **Barbara Clark**, 5th grade student **Campbell Schulke** and kindergarten student **Peyton Helfer** plant a tree at Prospect Point as part of an Arbor Day Celebration.

Helfer is in **Laura Reiter's** class and Schulke is in **Kate VanCleve's** class. Students also were able to take potted oak trees home to plant. Thanks to the City of Walla Walla and its Parks, Recreation & Urban Forestry Advisory Board for organizing this learning opportunity for Prospect Point students.

Walla Walla High School

District teams with BLRB/USKH Architects to modernize school

Superintendent **Mick Miller** and Walla Walla High School Principal **Pete Peterson**, with the support of architects from BLRB/USKH, organized a master planning committee earlier this spring to develop conceptual designs for a future Walla Walla High School facilities improvement project.

This group met five times to refine design options and this process continues. Architects also met with Walla Walla High School staff on several occasions. In March, Superintendent Miller recommended to the school board the district wait until a later date to place a bond measure on the ballot. Miller is now focusing on meeting with the community, staff, students and parents to continue pre-planning efforts. Contact Superintendent Miller with your thoughts on these preliminary designs. *(Miller's contact information -- bottom of next page)*

Master Planning Committee

Alex Demambro	Craig Sievertsen
Dan Johnson	Dennis Debroeck
Ed Nakonieczny	Gary Peasley
Greg McCracken	John Butenhoff
Ruth Ladderud	Lee Fenton
Linda Newcomb	Melito Ramirez
Mick Miller	Mark Higgins
Mindy Meyer	Pat Johnston
Peggy Payne	Pete Peterson
Ron Higgins	Tom Bates
Jerry Zahl	Kayla Leinweber
Hannah Melling	

Conceptual Designs Online: www.wwps.org
A to Z: W = Wa-Hi Conceptual Designs

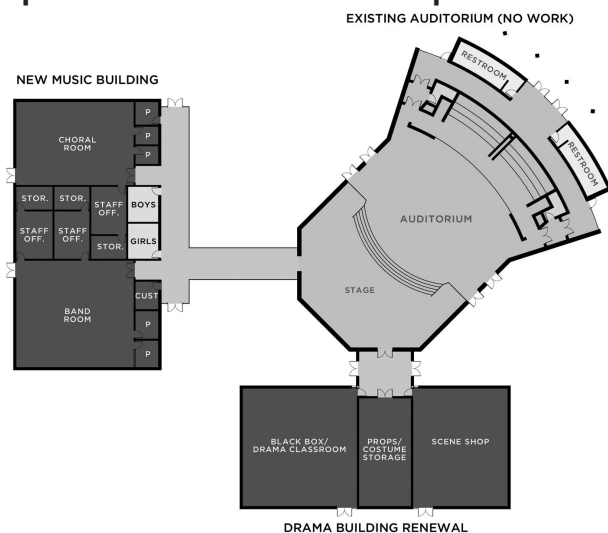
South View



Open campus style would remain.

The new parent drop-off area would be off Reser Road and lead to an outdoor plaza area and modernized Student Commons.

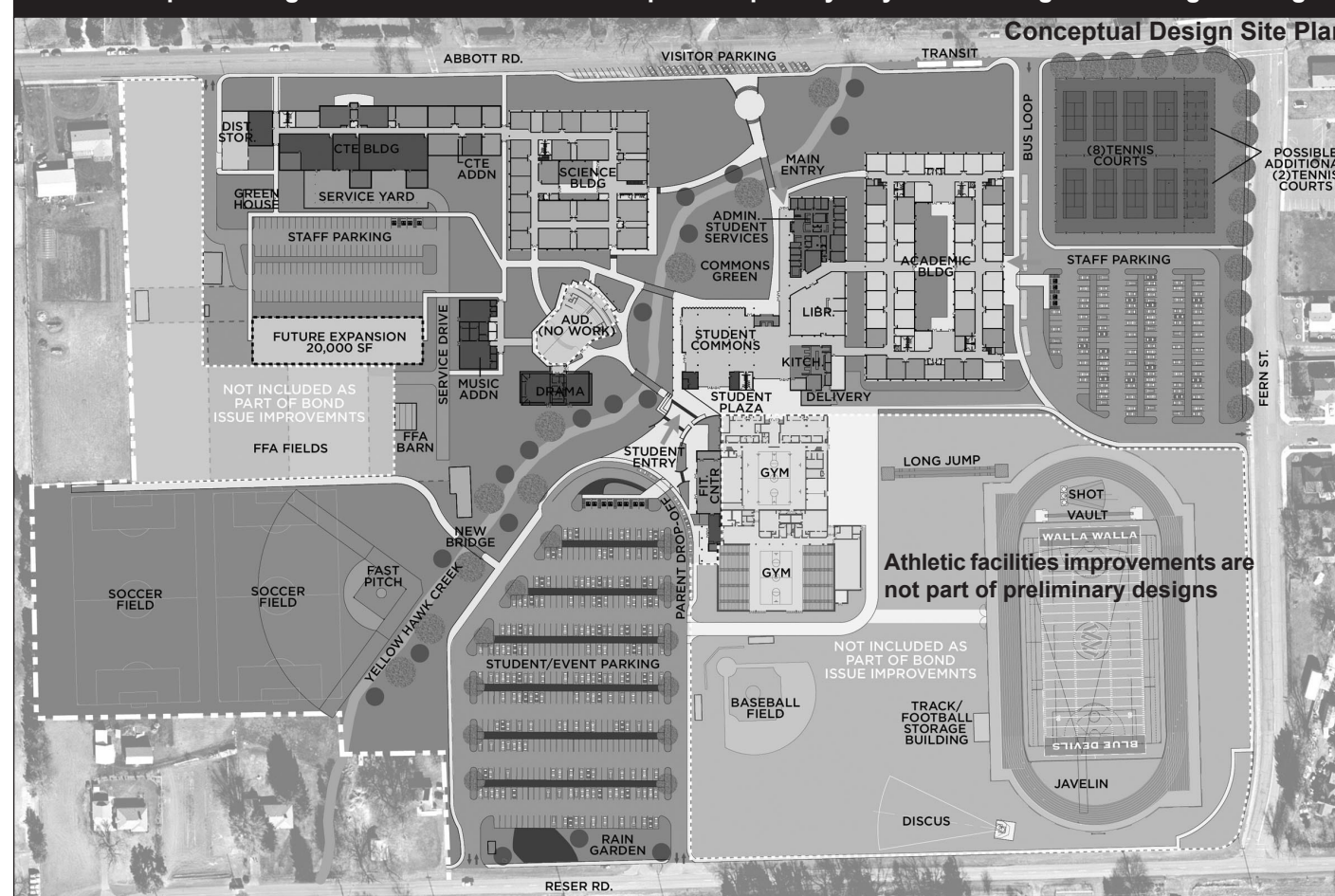
Improved Music and Drama Spaces



Conceptual Design Highlights

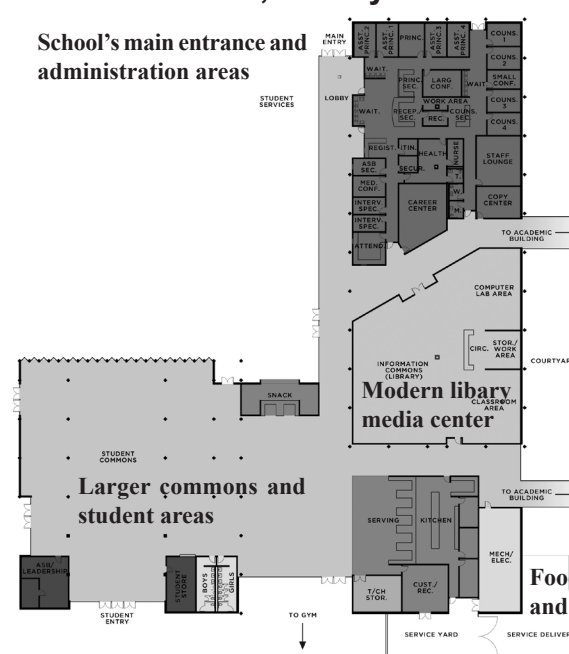
- More classrooms -- design features 92 classrooms *(Currently there are 87 classrooms, including portables)*
- Larger classrooms -- 940 square feet *(Current classrooms are 810-860 square feet)*
- Larger science classrooms and more labs *(1600 square foot science labs, plus an additional 250-300 square feet for shared prep space between labs)*
- Separate bus and parent drop-off areas for safety
- Improved technology infrastructure & equipment
- More restrooms and parking

This conceptual design would retain the school's open campus style by modernizing the existing buildings.



Administration, Library & Commons

School's main entrance and administration areas



Conceptual Design Features

- Re-design would accommodate 2000 students. *(current enrollment 1850 students)*
- Conceptual designs calls for re-purposing the academic, science, library, music and commons facilities to stretch dollars and economize project costs. *(The design features the use of existing roofs, foundations and concrete slabs on all these facilities to reduce costs.)*
- Modern heating and cooling systems would improve comfort and energy efficiencies.

We welcome your comments!

Superintendent Mick Miller
509.526.6714 mmiller@wwps.org

Mark Higgins, Communications Director
509.526.6716 mhiggins@wwps.org

Walla Walla Kids Read inspires love for books

Thousands of local students flocked to Cordiner Hall on the Whitman College campus this Spring for Walla Walla Kids Read 2011. This year's event featured renowned children's authors Jon Scieszka and David Shannon.

Walla Walla Kids Read is designed to inspire every K-5 child in the Walla Walla valley by bringing students to a world class facility to hear a well known author. All costs, including busing of students to and from the event, were paid for by Walla Walla Kids Read. Local author Patrick Carman is the founder of Walla Walla Kids Read.

Learn more at: <http://www.wallawallakidsread.com>

"We always tell kids reading is important, but if you don't show them it doesn't have the same impact. Walla Walla Kids Read allows students to visit a college campus, see great artwork, and hear the stories. This program shows the students this is a big deal. It let's them know reading is important."

Jon Scieszka
Children's Author



(Photo L-R:) Walla Walla artist Squire Broel, children's author Jon Scieszka, Walla Walla Kids Read Founder Patrick Carman and children's author David Shannon collaborated to make this year's Walla Walla Kids Read a huge success.

Piver elected new union president

Walla Walla High School Special Education teacher **Margo Piver** was elected President of the Walla Walla Valley Education Association. Piver succeeds **Richelle Palmer** and will serve a two year term. Lincoln High School business education teacher **Lori Finn** will continue serving as the association's Vice President and Edison Elementary 2nd grade teacher **Kay Barga** remains the WWVEA Secretary/Treasurer.



"I am honored to have been chosen to serve the teachers of the Walla Walla Valley," Piver said. "It is difficult to be in education right now and we are lucky to have such a supportive community that recognizes our teachers' efforts on behalf of kids."

Seniors earn Gates Scholarships

Walla Walla High School seniors **José Beleche** and **Janella Bermudez** were selected as Gates Millennium Scholars for 2011. Beleche will attend Whitman College while Bermudez will enroll at Gonzaga University. These are four year, full-ride scholarships.

Social Services Clearinghouse added to web site: www.wwps.org

A Social Services Clearinghouse fact sheet designed to inform people about where to go for help in our region has been added to the district website: www.wwps.org. A Spanish version is coming soon.

Web Locations:

- A to Z = S: Social Services Clearinghouse
- Parent Resources area
- Staff Resources area
- Links area

Walla Walla Public Schools name 2011 Volunteers of the Year

Special thanks to our Art Regier Award recipients for their dedication and exceptional service



Patrick Carman

Nominators:

Elizabeth George and Beth Swanson

Volunteer Highlights:

Creator of Walla Walla Kids Read



Stephanie Kytola

Nominators:

Laura Grant, Lisa Davis, Annette Matlock and Stacy Morrison

Volunteer Highlights:

Berney Elementary School "mile club" coordinator and classroom support



Bill Erickson

Nominators:

Walla Walla High School Latino Club, Armida Contreras, Refugio Reyes

Volunteer Highlights:

Walla Walla High School Latino Club, Garrison Night School, Boy Scouts



Melissa Gardner

Nominators:

Jackie Scholl, Grace Ogoshi and Chris Gardea

Volunteer Highlights:

Prospect Point Elementary, Garrison Middle School and Walla Walla High School PTA and classroom support



Jennifer Northam

Nominators:

Joshua Wolcott and Lucia Mumm

Volunteer Highlights:

Edison Elementary PTA and Citizens for Schools Chair



Abel Hernandez

Nominator:

Kim Doecker

Volunteer Highlights:

Blue Ridge Elementary morning exercise and learning activities



Marla Carmody

Nominators:

Carolyn Smith, Teresa Adams, Nicole Redman

Volunteer Highlights:

Sharpstein Elementary first grade support



Jeneen Webb

Nominator:

Kim Doecker

Volunteer Highlights:

Blue Ridge Elementary School fundraising, special event and classroom support