

New Blue Ridge gym court named after Hansen

“Hansen Court” installed following fire

This fall, Blue Ridge Elementary students participated in physical education classes in the school’s hallways and outdoors while their new gym floor was being installed following an August 2012 fire which caused extensive water damage. The wait was worth it for the kids.

In November, installation of a beautiful new hardwood gym floor was completed and ready for use. The new floor was named “Hansen Court” in honor of **Sue Hansen** who spent 26 years as the school’s PE teacher.

Hansen’s replacement, PE teacher **Bryan Eggart**, says the new court features painted markings the gym did not have in the past. The new lines will enhance the PE program.

“It is really an honor to have the court named after me and I appreciate it very much.

It really took me back when I saw it the first time. I am so grateful to have been a part of Blue Ridge for so many years.”

Sue Hansen
Former PE Teacher



Former Blue Ridge Elementary Physical Education teacher Sue Hansen and current PE teacher Bryan Eggart cut the ribbon to officially open the new gym floor.

**Walla Walla
Public
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Focus on Education

Excellence in Every Classroom

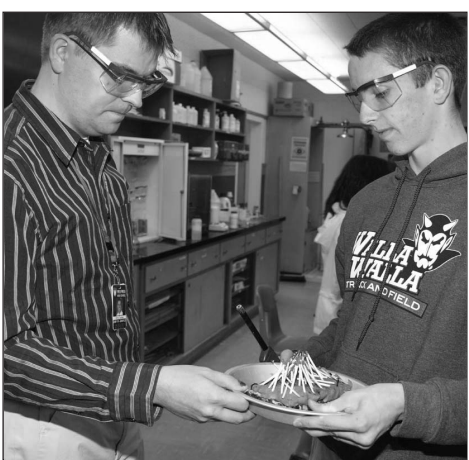
Your School District Newsletter | Winter 2013 | Volume 15 | Issue 2

Science labs join list of needs at Wa-Hi

Any excess bond dollars will be returned to Walla Walla taxpayers

Walla Walla Public Schools will seek a \$48 million bond on the February 12, 2013 Special Election to fund a \$69.6 million modernization of Walla Walla High School.

All of the existing 1963 buildings will be remodeled and upgraded in the design to economize construction costs. The project is eligible for \$21.6 million in State Matching dollars which will all be used on the Wa-Hi project. Should there be any excess funds, they will be returned to taxpayers. The bond represents an increase of 68 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value. The recently approved College Place School District bond was \$2.67 per \$1,000 of assessed value. Learn more about the Wa-Hi bond online: www.wwps.org



Walla Walla High School’s science labs are outdated, too small, lack proper ventilation and today’s technology.

Wa-Hi Video Walking Tour: Visit the district YouTube page as Superintendent Mick Miller takes viewers on a Walking Tour of Walla Walla High School.

ASB President says school remodel supports learning



Michaela Stalder
Class of 2013

“I’ve had many experiences in the science building. I have taken three science classes at Wa-Hi -- freshman, sophomore and chemistry. I didn’t choose to take biology, but I know biology students literally use plastic shoe boxes to do their labs on the tables. There is no lab space and only one sink, so they often clean up in the restrooms. I’m in pottery this year and that space is complete clutter and only has two sinks.

This facilities project would be beneficial on all levels by improving efficiencies, student comfort and learning.”

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Prospect Point named School of Distinction for second year

Prospect Point Elementary was one of six schools in the Educational Service District 123 region and one of 97 in the state to be recognized as a 2012 *School of Distinction*. This is the second consecutive year Prospect Point Elementary has earned this distinction.

“I am fortunate to be part of a staff which is committed to student learning,” said Prospect Point Principal **Chris Gardea**. “The Prospect Point community continues to strive for improvement that directly benefits our students. I am so proud of their accomplishments and feel privileged to be part of such a dedicated group of educators and parents.”

Detailed information on the methodology for selection of the *School of Distinction* award, as well as a complete listing of all state winners, is online at: www.effectiveness.org.

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Focus on Education community newsletter is published tri-annually by Walla Walla Public Schools.

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Walla Walla High School Bond Election

Ballots must be postmarked by Tuesday, Feb. 12

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

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect
Courtesy | Innovation | Diversity



Mick Miller
Superintendent

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mmiller@wwps.org
www.wwps.org

Message from Superintendent Mick Miller

Welcome to 2013! I hope you had a wonderful holiday season and that your year is off to a great start.

The tragic events last month in Connecticut remind us of the importance of school security. We have a number of procedures in place to help keep schools safe. Students and staff have been through the required drills and we continue to refine our practices. However, we must have your help as well. Our relationships and diligence are two of our most effective methods of ensuring safe schools.

Enhanced security is one component of the upcoming Walla Walla High School bond election set for February 12. Currently, there are over 100 exterior doors at Wa-Hi and the remodeled school would reduce that number by over 80%. The bond would pay for a full modernization of the academic, math/science, library, music and commons buildings. Further, the CTE building would be refurbished. A kitchen, fitness center and music building will be built, along with the addition of an all-weather track. The entire campus will have new HVAC systems for energy efficiency and comfort. All portable classrooms will be removed from the campus. Wa-Hi has served us well for the past 49 years, but it is showing its age on the interior despite the excellent work of our custodial and maintenance staff.

Congratulations to the staff and students at Prospect Point Elementary School on being named a *School of Distinction* by the Center for Educational Effectiveness for the second consecutive year. Congratulations as well to the Wa-Hi girls' cross country team on earning a second consecutive Washington Interscholastic Activities Association Academic State Championship with a combined GPA of 3.979. Congratulations to coach Mike Locati and these outstanding student-athletes.

Finally, thank you to our Board ... President Anne Golden, Vice-President Dan Hess, Cindy Meyer, Max Carrera, and Ruth Ladderud for their contributions to the students and staff in Walla Walla.

Best wishes for a wonderful 2013. If you have a question, concern, comment, criticism or compliment regarding our District, please let me know. My direct number is 526-6714 and email is mmiller@wwps.org.

Superintendent Miller forms committee to study Lincoln HS facility needs

Superintendent **Mick Miller** is forming a broad-based committee to study two main issues facing a Lincoln High School facilities improvement plan.

The first issue is to determine whether to remain at the current campus location or find a new home. If the determination is to remain at the 3rd Ave. location, then the committee will make a recommendation to build new or renovate the existing 1927 school. Miller will seek a third party expert to study the condition of the existing building.

Lincoln High School is the district's next priority following the Wa-Hi bond election. Miller plans to bring a recommendation from the committee to the school board in June.



One issue the group will study is whether to remodel the 1927 school or construct a new school.

Federal Farm-to-School Grant Program plows the way for more local produce in schools

Walla Walla Public Schools was awarded a \$96,000 United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Grant to increase the availability of local produce. The funding will also enhance educational opportunities for students, staff and the community about food and agriculture.

Longtime school garden advocate, parent volunteer and nutrition specialist **Beth Thiel** has been contracted to serve as the Farm-to-School grant coordinator for the school district.



Beth Thiel

"The goals of this grant will benefit students and the entire community by increasing the purchase of locally grown food for our school cafeterias," said Thiel. "It will also help us expand the utilization of school gardens, better educate young students about food and farming and teach district staff and parents about cooking healthy meals."

"The Farm-to-School program aims to ensure students are eating those extra fruits and vegetables daily."

Beth Thiel

This fall, Walla Walla students saw an increase in the amount and variety of fruits, vegetables and legumes served in school lunches: a requirement of the National School Lunch Program's Healthy Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010. Walla Walla students in grades K-12 are required to have at least one half cup of fruits or vegetables on their tray at every meal.

"This is a positive change for student health," said Thiel. "The Farm-to-School program aims to ensure students are eating those extra fruits and vegetables daily."

One strategy Thiel is introducing in Walla Walla is working with area farmers to bring in more locally grown produce. Thiel says this move and others will entice students to make healthier food choices.

"By providing the freshest, most flavorful local produce, we can influence student preference for healthy foods," said Thiel. "School gardens and cooking activities, as well as farm field trips and farmer visits to schools, also play critical roles."

Community Connections

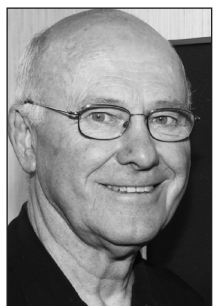
Legacy Ford delivers Holiday Spirit

Thanks to Legacy Ford of Walla Walla for providing meals for 30 school district families and gifts for the children as part of their holiday giving program. **Ross Russell** from Legacy Ford coordinated the event. Also thanks to **Beth Swanson** of *The Moms Network* for helping organize the efforts and supporting the program.

Athletic Hall of Fame names Class of 2013

The Blue Devil Athletic Hall of Fame names the Class of 2013: **Eric O'Flaherty** - Class of 2003, **Phil Reser** - Class of 1965, **Bill Till** - Class of 1952, **Randy McDougall** - Class of 1968, and **Dick Turner** - Class of 1952.

"In 1992, the men who had played football for Coach Felix Fletcher raised over \$200,000 to help build, finish and furnish the Felix Fletcher Team Room and establish the Blue Devil Athletic Hall of Fame in memory of their coach," said Bill Bieloh, Athletic Hall of Fame chair. "Since that time, the room and the Hall of Fame has been, and continues to be, supported by donations from Wa-Hi alumni."



Bill Bieloh

These five outstanding Wa-Hi athletes will join the 43 outstanding athletes and citizens who have already been inducted into the Hall of Fame.

District supports Care & Share Food Drive



Walla Walla Public Schools contributed 16,000 lbs to the Care and Share Realtors Food Drive this fall. Thanks to **Peter Swant** for organizing the campaign.

Wa-Hi Staff Address Facilities Needs



“Wa-Hi was built for students to sit in traditional rows of desks, but now in education we do a lot more group work and collaboration activities. It is cumbersome in our small classrooms to arrange desks so it is easy for kids to group and work together.”

Mike Gobel, *Math Teacher*



“Modernizing Wa-Hi will help increase technology opportunities for my students. I only have two classroom computers so I must take my students to the library or the computer lab to do online research. These spaces are often difficult to reserve because they are in such high demand.”

Michelle Higgins, *Social Studies Teacher*



“The most important aspect of this bond proposal for me is the improved HVAC systems. I see my students nodding off in 100 degree classroom conditions since we don’t have air conditioning. I am also excited about more technology. With the Common Core Standards moving toward more research based learning, this technology will be imperative in the coming years.”

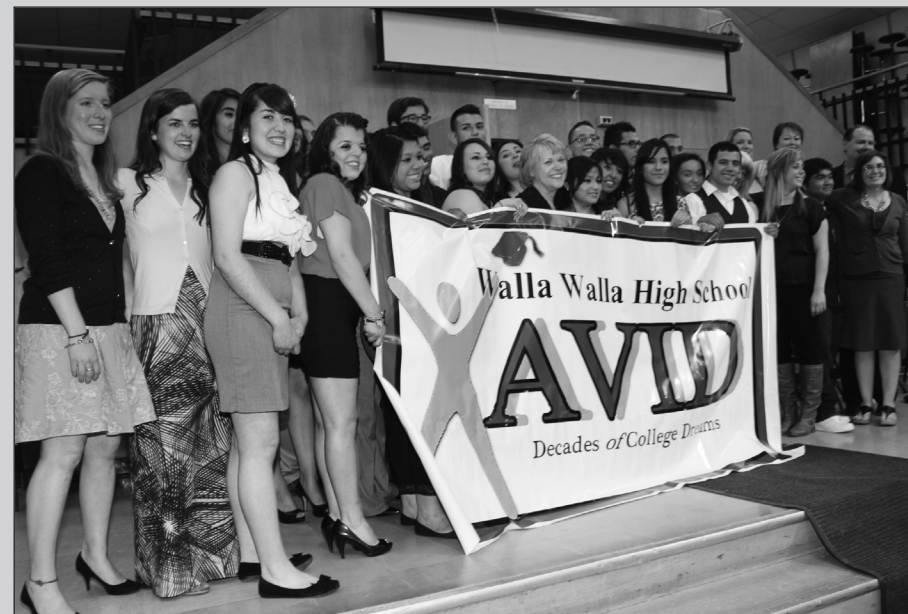
Carina Stillman, *English Teacher*

Election Date - February 12, 2013



Walla Walla High School Fast Facts *Preserving a Tradition of Excellence*

- Wa-Hi has a 92% on-time graduation rate (The state graduation rate is 76.6%)
- Wa-Hi was a Washington Achievement Award Recipient in 2010 & 2011
- Wa-Hi offers 13 Advanced Placement Courses and 13 Honors Courses
- Wa-Hi ranks higher than the national average on SAT scores in all categories
- Wa-Hi ranks higher than the state and national average on ACT test scores
- 79% of the Class of 2012 went on to a two or four year college
- Class of 2012 featured two National Merit Finalists and two state scholars



The Class of 2012 had 22 seniors participate in the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program all four years of high school. Of these students, 17 went onto community college or a four year university. All of these students were the first in their family to attend college. Walla Walla High School senior **Marcos Medina** received a \$42,000 annual Lomen-Douglas Scholarship from Whitman College.

“Our Fine Arts Department has offered wonderful programs for many years and we win many regional and state awards. But, our Drama Department has no classroom or dressing rooms. In music, we have no practice rooms and very little storage. It puts up obstacles in further advancing our programs.”

Norb Rossi, *Choral Teacher*



“Many careers are going to require biotechnology skills that our students should be exposed to in high school. But the Wa-Hi facility is not suited for this curriculum. We offer college level courses at Wa-Hi, but our classrooms and labs are not college level. They are not even high school science level.”

Peggy Payne, *Wa-Hi Science Teacher*



“An all weather track facility would be another teaching station for our physical education program. We currently have a cinder track which is still measured in yards instead of meters. We can’t use the track for PE or track & field because it is unsafe. As head track coach, I see the difficulty and cost associated with busing 180 students to Martin Field every day for 12 weeks.”

Eric Hisaw, *PE Teacher and Coach*



Blue Ridge Elementary name originator identified 30 years later

More than 30 years ago when Blue Ridge Elementary opened its doors for the first time, few people knew how the school received its name.

The district organized a “Name the School” contest. Former district employee **Phyllis Harlan**, who worked from 1972 until 1989 as a library clerk in various elementary schools, submitted the winning name. Harlan said not many people knew it was her submission that was selected.



Phyllis Harlan

“I was flattered that they had selected the name I had submitted – Blue Ridge,” Harlan said. “I looked across the valley and saw the Blue Mountains and it was a neutral name and I think it went over pretty good.”

Blue Ridge Elementary was dedicated in October 1982. It replaced Washington Elementary and Jefferson Elementary.

Lincoln High School and Transportation take first at Macy’s Parade of Lights

Congratulations to Lincoln High School and the district Transportation Department for their successful entries in the Macy’s Parade of Lights. Both entries earned first place honors for their categories.

The Transportation entry featured a lighted school bus. The Lincoln High School parade float was designed by the ASB class as a tribute to Charlie Brown. The students worked on the project for about three weeks by making all the heads for the characters. **Lori Finn** is the ASB advisor. Teacher **Terry Olson’s** stage production class made the dog house for Snoopy and Woodstock.

“It has become a tradition at Lincoln to have staff and students walk in the parade along with the float,” said Finn. “We started participating four years ago and have won ‘Best High School Float’ each year.”



Garrison students support hospital patients



Patients at Providence St. Mary Medical Center had more holiday cheer this season thanks to handmade pillows from Garrison Middle School. Seventh and 8th grade students in Marlene Castoldi’s Family Consumer Science exploratory class made 62 holiday pillows for donation to the hospital.

Wa-Hi graduates lead citizen bond efforts



Walla Walla Citizens for Schools has named **Craig Sievertsen** and **Shannon (Murdock) Bergevin** as co-chairs for the Walla Walla High School Bond Committee. Sievertsen and Bergevin will organize activities to help educate the community regarding the Walla Walla High School bond election scheduled for February 12, 2013.

Sievertsen is a 1991 graduate of Walla Walla High School. His father Al Sievertsen was a teacher, coach and assistant principal at Walla Walla High School for 40 years. Craig Sievertsen is Senior Vice President and Manager of Small Business and Consumer Lending at Banner Bank in Walla Walla. He and his wife Julie have four school-aged children.

Bergevin is a 1987 graduate of Walla Walla High School. Her father George Murdock was Deputy Superintendent for Walla Walla Public Schools and later earned Washington state Superintendent of the Year honors while leading the Pasco School District. Bergevin is the owner of Express Employment Professionals in Walla Walla. She and her husband Robert have two school-aged children.

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.

Picture Lab brings Chihuly to schools

By Augusta Farnum

Carnegie Picture Lab, with support from the Walla Walla Foundry, will partner with Chihuly Studio and the new “Chihuly Garden and Glass” project to present Family Art Nights from January to May 2013.



Augusta Farnum

“I’m honored to be included in the Carnegie Picture Lab Family Fun Nights community events,” said Dale Chihuly. “I believe its mission to bring art to every child in every classroom in Walla Walla is an admirable one.”

Dale and Team Chihuly believe arts education should be available for every student and support communities in ongoing efforts to teach children the importance of the arts.

Carnegie Picture Lab serves 10 schools: Rogers, Assumption, Meadowbrook, Davis, Prospect Point, Berney, Sharpstein, Green Park, Blue Ridge, and Edison. Each child will receive a book courtesy of Chihuly Studio.

These evenings are based on the Title I Family Fun Night programs. Designed as educational events, they bring families together in the evening to explore, learn and have fun. Working with the school’s PTA, the Americorps of Walla Walla provides the work force to run the events.

Carnegie Picture Lab has designed hands-on activities to explore different elements of Chihuly’s work whether it’s color, shape or form. Chihuly Garden and Glass, Dale and Team Chihuly have been extremely supportive of this educational program and are sending materials such as posters, books, prizes and tickets to the new exhibition in Seattle.

Please join the Carnegie Picture Lab is celebrating Dale Chihuly’s work with hands-on activities and exploration. There will be a kick off event for the Family Art Night programs Saturday, January 26 at the Walla Walla Public Library.