

Local business woman teaches students Ballet Folklórico

Program supports Diversity Committee goals

Norma Arceo began dancing at the age of six while a student at Berney Elementary School. Now she is volunteering to share her passion for Ballet Folklórico with district middle school students.

Arceo meets with students twice a week to teach them this traditional Mexican folk dance. Arceo, who has been in the restaurant business her entire life, attended Pioneer Middle School and graduated from Walla Walla High School. She says this fun activity is also a great way to learn more about Mexican history and culture.

Arceo is a member of the district's Diversity Committee and served on the reviewing panel for the prestigious Graduates of Distinction program.



“Dance is a great activity for anyone! I also want students to get more in touch with the Hispanic culture and their parents’ roots!”

Norma Arceo



Norma Arceo teaches Garrison Middle School students to dance Ballet Folklórico. She is volunteering to instruct students to help them have a positive activity and stay connected to their Hispanic heritage.

Arceo is also a business role model for students. She and her family are in the process of opening a new Mexican restaurant in Walla Walla. She says she wants to do her part to give back to the community.

Walla Walla
Public
Schools

Focus on Education

Excellence in Every Classroom

Your School District Newsletter | Spring 2014 | Volume 16 | Issue 3

SEA-TECH construction complete

Class registration now open for student enrollment



Location: 525 Campus Loop - WWCC campus

SEA-TECH equals innovation

After a year of construction and six years of planning, the Southeast Area Technical Skills Center is set to open in the Fall. Students will spend three hours per day at SEA-TECH during a morning or afternoon session. Class registration forms are now available at: www.myseatech.org.

SEA-TECH is a branch campus of the Tri-Tech Skills Center in Kennewick and will serve high school students from around the region. The state funded this \$11 million project. WWCC is leasing the land to the district for \$1 per year to meet district's match requirements. No local bond taxes were used to fund this project.

SEA-TECH Programs

- Digital Media Technology
 - Instructor: Dennis DeBroeck
- Advanced Manufacturing & Welding
 - Instructor: James Polson
- Sustainable Energy Technology
 - Instructor: Jarrod Evensen
- Health Science Careers
 - Instructor: Sandy Thomas

Partnering Districts:
Dayton, Waitsburg, Touchet, Prescott and College Place

www.myseatech.org

In This Issue

- Superintendent's message2
- School Board Forum Q & A3
- Gobels' AVID passion4
- Exchange Club honors Molitor ...5
- Volunteers of the Year6
- Wa-Hi state achievement award 7
- Ballet Folklórico program.....8

District records clean audit

State finds no deficiencies

The State Auditors office completed their accountability audit of the Walla Walla Public Schools for the year of September 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013 and found no deficiencies.

This process is designed to serve citizens by promoting accountability, fiscal integrity and openness in state and local government.



Ted Cohan

Executive Director of Business Services **Ted Cohan** said the process demonstrates the district uses best practices to manage its resources.

“The district was pleased that there were no findings or management letter items from the audit,” said Cohan. “We are proud to be good stewards of taxpayers’ dollars.”

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

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

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Anne Golden
Dr. David Hampson
Ruth Ladderud
Cindy Meyer
Sam Wells

Walla Walla Public Schools is an Equal
Opportunity Employer and complies
with all the requirements of the ADA

Remember to vote!
August 5, 2014
(Primary Special Election)

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Graduation a time to celebrate student achievement

As I get older, time seems to go by more and more quickly. It seems like just yesterday the 2013-14 school year began. Yet, over the past eight months, student learning and growth has been outstanding and I am so proud of the work of our students and staff.

Commencement for Lincoln High School is June 5 and the following day, June 6, seniors at Walla Walla High School will graduate. We are very proud of our graduating seniors, as they have met ever increasing standards in order to earn their diplomas. Graduation is the culmination of thirteen years of education. For many, all thirteen have been in the Walla Walla Public Schools. I am very proud to recognize Walla Walla High School for earning a Washington Achievement Award for the fourth consecutive year, this time for “High Progress.” The students and staff at our high school are doing outstanding work.

As you are aware, the district’s bond proposal for a science building addition at Wa-Hi was defeated. While again receiving a majority of the vote, it did not receive the needed supermajority. I am so thankful for all the support we did receive on this bond and promise the district will be reworking our plans for future proposals. We have facility needs at Wa-Hi and at other buildings in our district that must be addressed. Over the course of the next school year, the Board of Directors will be working to find the right plan to put forward to the voters.

I continue to be thankful for the support of the community in regard to educating our children. As always, if you have a question, comment, concern or compliment, I would love to talk with you. My office phone is 526-6714 and email is mmiller@wwps.org. Please have a wonderful summer and we will see you in September.

Reflection and study next steps for Wa-Hi bond planning

Bond falls short of supermajority requirement

The majority of voters once again supported facility improvements at Walla Walla High School during the April 22 Special Election, but the final tally failed to meet the 60% supermajority state requirement. Only 45% of Walla Walla voters cast their mail-in ballots.

Last year, voters turned down a \$48 million bond proposal to modernize most of Walla Walla High School. The 2013 measure received a 54 percent Yes vote. No decisions have been made regarding future bond measures. The district will reconvene the Community Facilities Task Force in September to orientate new members and further study district facility needs.

April 22 Election by the numbers:

Yes Votes: 4,677

• Percentage Approved: 52.49%

Rejected Votes: 4,234

• Final Percentage No: 47.51%



The bond proposal called for a new science building at Wa-Hi to replace the 50-year-old facility.

“I’m disappointed, but the voters have spoken and we have to respect that. I think we need to calm down, take a deep breath and put things away for awhile.”

School Board President Anne Golden

State recognizes Walla Walla High School with academic progress award

Walla Walla High School has been named a recipient of the 2013 Washington Achievement Award for the “High Progress” category. Walla Walla High School has earned a Washington Achievement Award the past four years.

To qualify for this award, Walla Walla High School landed in the top 10 percent of all schools in Washington State for increasing math and reading achievement overall.

“Wa-Hi is the only 4A school in Eastern Washington to receive an Achievement Award four straight years. This speaks volumes about the quality of education students receive in Walla Walla Public Schools across all grade levels.”



Pete Peterson, Principal

“Blood and Guts” program inspires learning

Pacific Science Center’s “Science on Wheels” featuring the “Blood and Guts” program made a stop at Prospect Point. Students participated in an exploration of arteries, muscles, nerves, organs, and everything else that keeps our bodies moving, from the skeleton down to the smallest muscles in the eyes.

Students participated in a science show with a model skeleton and props that will examine the skeletal system, plot the path of red blood cells through the circulatory system and discuss how messages travel through the nervous system.

The Science on Wheels programs are aligned with Washington state learning standards.



Students studied real organs from both humans and animals.

Green Park team earns Sportsmanship Award



Green Park Elementary staff formed a team for the YMCA Corporate Cup competition. Para-Educator **Karen Carlile** and teacher **Michelle Carpenter** served as team co-captains. Green Park’s Corporate Cup team came home with the Sportsmanship Award.

Green Park staff are encouraging a team from each school to participate in next year’s competition to encourage health and wellness within our district staff.

“We won the Sportsmanship Award for coming to every event with a smile on our face, graciousness in our hearts and a passion for seeing everyone succeed.”

Michelle Carpenter



End-of-Year Celebrations

Lincoln High School Graduation

• Thursday, June 5 @ 6 p.m. - WW Fairgrounds

Walla Walla High School Commencement

• Friday, June 6 @ 7 p.m. - Wa-Hi Commons area (gym if raining)

Pioneer Middle School 8th Grade Recognition

• Tuesday, June 10 @ 7 p.m. - Wa-Hi Gym

Garrison Middle School 8th Grade Recognition

• Wednesday, June 11 @ 7 p.m. - Wa-Hi Gym

Walla Walla educators take AVID message national

Gobels' use AVID strategies as pathway to college

Walla Walla educators **Mike** and **Mira Gobel** have aligned their careers with the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Mission of closing the achievement gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.

Mira is the principal at Pioneer Middle where she began her career as an art teacher. Mike is a math teacher and coach at Walla Walla High School. They also represent AVID. Mira is a national AVID Staff Developer and Mike is a Western Division AVID consultant. In their AVID roles, they participate in Summer Institutes to train education leaders and teachers in AVID strategies.

AVID supports students by providing them with skills necessary to be successful in college. AVID elective classes focus on communication, critical thinking, note-taking, peer-tutoring, organization, and time-management.

Mira and Mike are both committed to applying their AVID knowledge and resources at their schools in Walla Walla. They both say they have seen AVID change the lives of students and provide new opportunities for success.



Mike and Mira will lead sessions during the AVID Summer Institutes in Sacramento and San Diego. They have been selected to train educators from across the nation using AVID strategies.

Four schools on state "Focus" list – Lincoln High School earns ticket off list

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction released its list of Priority and Focus schools and Walla Walla Public Schools has four schools on the "Focus" list: Edison Elementary (English Language Learners - continuing); Garrison Middle School (English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities - continuing); Pioneer Middle School (English Language Learners – newly identified); and Sharpstein Elementary (Students with disabilities – newly identified).

Lincoln High School moved off the Focus list by improving graduation rates. Blue Ridge Elementary maintained its growth pattern and was not named as a Priority or Focus school for 2014. No Walla Walla Public Schools have been identified as "Priority" schools.

Priority and Focus designations are based on the school's performance over the past three years in relation to the State Board of Education Achievement Index standards. The Achievement Index factors in student growth as well as student achievement in reading and math.

"We are proud of the hard work our teachers and students do every day and are confident the schools identified as 'Focus' will make the necessary growth to move off of this list," said Maria Garcia, WWPS Assessment Coordinator.

Priority and Focus Schools Definition

Priority

- Schools across the state with the lowest five percent of Achievement Index Scores.

Focus

- Focus schools are those showing the greatest improvement need for a specific sub group of students.

NOTE: In Walla Walla, these 'Focus' subgroups are English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities.

Steps to Improvement

- Providing instructional planning support
- Specific professional development targeted at accelerating student learning
- Continuing to monitor student progress

Blue Ridge students turn used markers into fuel



(L to R) Blue Ridge 2nd graders **Bianca Vieyra**, **Elizjah Garcia**, **Eden Contreras** present to kindergarten students in Joyce Moreno's class about the school's recycling project. Blue Ridge students will be collecting, sorting, tallying and preparing Crayola markers now until the end of the school year to ship back to the Crayola Company. Once the markers are delivered to Crayola, they are melted down and refined into fuel. Para-Educator **Tara Jasper** is the project coordinator.

Interim Lincoln High School principal named to full-time position

Interim Lincoln High School principal **Marci Knaft** was named the school's permanent principal following an extensive selection process. Knaft topped a diverse group of qualified administrative candidates to secure the Lincoln High School principal position. The interview process included a broad-based group of stakeholders, including staff, students and community members.



Knaft served as the acting principal during the 2013-14 school year following the retirement of Principal **Jim Sporleder**. She has been employed by Walla Walla Public Schools for 20 years.

"I'm honored to have been selected to be the principal of Lincoln High School," said Knaft. "I love Lincoln's students and staff and am excited to begin this next step in my career."

Knaft began her tenure in the district in 1994 as a Special Education teacher. Knaft, a National Board Certified teacher, has also been a college instructor. Knaft received her Bachelor's of Arts degree and Master's of Education Degree from Walla Walla University. She serves on the College Place Public Schools Board of Directors.

Exchange names Youth of the Year

Walla Walla High School senior **Kiana Molitor** received the Exchange Club of Walla Walla and Exchange District (WA, OR, HI) Youth of the Year award. Molitor, the daughter of Skip and Amy Molitor, received \$2000.

Currently ranked #1 in a class of 516 students with a 4.0 GPA, Molitor will graduate with a total of 13 advanced placement and honors courses, as well as completing a Spanish course at Whitman College. She is Wa-Hi's Student Body President, a student-athlete and involved in music.

Molitor attended Prospect Point Elementary and Garrison Middle School. She plans to attend the University of Redlands next year to study Global Business and International Relations.

"ASB adviser Arch McHie always encouraged and challenged me to become the best leader I can be."

Kiana Molitor



Wa-Hi senior Kiana Molitor was named the Exchange Club Youth of the Year for Washington, Oregon and Hawaii.

2014 Art Regier Volunteers of the Year

Bunny Aragone - Blue Ridge Elementary Volunteer

Nominators: Liza Jacobson and Corey Hobbs
Nominator Corey Hobbs said: “Affectionately called Miss Bunny, students lavish her with hugs and high fives. Her presence is such an inviting and welcome occurrence that students are enthusiastic about getting the chance to work one-on-one, or in a small group with her.”

Karri Bruce - Sharpstein Elementary Volunteer

Nominators: Terri Gilbert, Matt Bona, Jodi Weber, Ruthell Martinez, and Terry Morgan
Nominator Terri Gilbert said: “Karri believes all children deserve a chance and the opportunity to be provided for and to learn. Karri can be found at school early in the morning and late at night. There isn’t a job I have seen her delegate to others without doing it first. She seems to have an endless supply of positive energy and always has a smile on her face.”

Jim Hanson - Walla Walla High School Debate Program Volunteer

Nominators: Jean Tobin, Kendall Dunovant, and Malcolm Gabbard
Nominator Jean Tobin said: “Since our Wa-Hi Debate program began in the Fall of 2009, he has personally donated thousands of dollars and debate materials, provided free registration to the Whitman tournament, given scholarships to Whitman debate camp to Wa-Hi debaters and provided members of Whitman’s Debate team to help coach, mentor and judge our team.

Troi Coram - Green Park Elementary

Nominators: Brenda Kirk, Gina Yonts, Colleen Chamberlain-Biddle
Nominator Brenda Kirk said: “Troi is unfailingly patient and kind with the students, always providing encouragement. She has played an essential role in the success of our immersion first grade, new this year at Green Park. Not only did she enroll her own son in the program, but she volunteers two mornings per week during reading and math instruction.”

Rachel McCauley - Berney Elementary

Nominators: Christy Krutulis, Annette Matlock, Stacy Morrison
Nominator Stacy Morrison said: “The students love her humor, creativity, patience and time. She comes in each Friday and does whatever needs to be done in our classroom. She works hard to make all of our school-wide events organized, fun and well attended.

May is Partners in Learning Month



“Walla Walla School District established Partners in Learning Month in May 2010. This month the district will send more than 130 proclamations and letters of recognition to our *Partners in Learning*. We so appreciate the businesses, organizations and agencies who partner with the district throughout the year to support our students.”

Anne Golden
School Board President

2014 Partners of the Year

- Walla Walla Foundry
- Fort Walla Walla
- WW County Fairgrounds
- Original Design (Anne North-Jones)
- Commitment to Community

Thank you for supporting Walla Walla Public Schools students and staff!

School Board Forum

Proud to serve our community

Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors has established the School Board Forum to respond to questions and issues from the community. Email your questions to School Board President Anne Golden at: goldenaa@charter.net.

Q: Are Board of Directors paid for their work on the school board?

A: No, school board members volunteer their service. They are elected officials who serve four-year terms. They typically serve hundreds of hours each year fulfilling their duties on the school board.

Q: What committees do school board members serve on?

A. School board members serve on a variety of committees. See list below.

Dr. David Hampson:

- Safe Schools
- Career/Technical Education
- Classified Negotiations (w/Cindy Meyer)
- Health & Nutrition Task Force

Anne Golden

- Curriculum Advisory/Instructional Materials
- Certificated Negotiations (w/Ruth Ladderud)
- Legislative Representative
- District Calendar
- WWVEA Liaison

Sam Wells

- Extracurricular Supervisors Negotiations
- Administrative Negotiations
- School-Based Health Clinic
- Technology/Telecommunications

Ruth Ladderud

- Community Facilities Task Force
- WWVEA Liaison
- Head Start Policy Council
- Certificated Negotiations (w/Anne Golden)

Cindy Meyer

- Explorer Advisory Committee
- Parent Advisory
- Classified Negotiations (w/David Hampson)
- Citizens for Schools Liaison
- AVID Liaison

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Proudly serving Walla Walla’s children



Anne Golden



Sam Wells



Cindy Meyer



David Hampson



Ruth Ladderud