

Leaving a Legacy for the Next Generation

Community leaders organize fundraising effort to privately fund new Walla Walla High School track

Each year the district spends more than \$10,000 transporting student-athletes to and from Martin Field for track practices and meets.

A group of Walla Walla community members, led by Scott Krivoshein, are working to privately fund a new all-weather track at Wa-Hi. The current 50-year-old cinder track can no longer be used for track & field or physical education classes. The facility will also support band, soccer, special community events and 800 PE students a week. Krivoshein reports approximately \$680,000 of the \$850,000 needed for the project have already been raised.

Krivoshein says the group will take whatever people are willing to donate. He hopes to have all the funding before the end of the 2013-14 school year.

Make Checks Payable to: Big Blue Boosters Track Fund

Mail checks to: 6 E. Alder Suite 307

“Our theme has been: *Leaving a Legacy for the Next Generation*. We see other communities in our region stepping up to invest in their high school tracks and we believe Walla Walla’s students deserve the same attention.”

Scott Krivoshein



Class of 1983 graduate Scott Krivoshein is leading a private fundraising campaign to build a new track at Walla Walla High School.

The existing 1964 cinder track does not meet today’s competition standards and has been ruled unsafe.

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Board of Directors

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Dr. David Hampson
Ruth Ladderud
Cindy Meyer
Sam Wells

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Walla Walla Public Schools

Focus on Education

Excellence in Every Classroom

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Lincoln float takes top honors



Lincoln High School won First Place honors in the Best of Show category at the 2013 Macy’s Downtown Parade of Lights. The students and staff created a float in the image of “The Nightmare Before Christmas.”

PHOTO L-R: Katrina Robbins, Jordan Moody, Lyric Arms, Kyleen Lucas, Austin Eng, Gary Sublett, Emily DeLaRosa, Margaret Yount, and Jeremy Gradwohl.

Opportunity Program outgrows district office location

Opportunity Program moves to new site off Isaacs Avenue

The Opportunity Program is now serving 107 full-time high school students and has outgrown the district office.

This contract-based program -- which offers a flexible schedule, one-on-one instruction and credit retrieval -- has operated in the basement of the district office the past two school years. This month, Opportunity will move to 1917 E. Isaacs which is the former location of Real Deals Home Decor. The leased location features 5000 sq.ft. of space to adequately meet the needs of the Opportunity Program.



Teacher Tom Porter reviews a remodeling plan with district carpenter Kevin French.

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Wa-Hi AP test scores top national success rates

Walla Walla High School students took 446 Advanced Placement (AP) exams in 2013. Approximately 61 percent earned passing marks, which is above the national average by three percentage points.

More Wa-Hi students are also enrolled in AP classes. This year 236 students, or 13% of the student-body, are taking AP classes, up 58 students from 2011.

Wa-Hi AP Course Offerings:

- AP Studio Art
- AP English Language and Comp.
- AP English Literature and Comp.
- AP Psychology
- AP US Government and Politics
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Biology
- AP Chemistry
- AP Environmental Science
- AP Physics B
- AP Spanish Language

Our Core Values
are more than mere words;

they’re our business!

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



Mick Miller
Superintendent

526.6714 (Office)
mmiller@wwps.org
www.wwps.org

Skills Center completion a highlight to look forward to in 2014

2014 is upon us and I wish you a wonderful year. I truly love the start of a new year with all the potential for exciting events to occur.

On the campus of Walla Walla Community College, the Southeast Area Skills Center (SEA-TECH) is being built. This branch campus skills center, which is an extension of the high school, will be operated by Walla Walla Public Schools and governed by a consortium of College Place, Dayton, Prescott, Touchet and Waitsburg School Districts. Final construction will be completed in March 2014 and the school will open in September 2014. A skills center is for juniors and seniors who spend three class periods a day going more “in-depth” into a subject area. The curricular areas include: Digital Media Technology; Health Science Careers; Sustainable Energy Technology; and Manufacturing & Welding Technology. For more information, please go to myseatech.com. Also, thank you to Dennis DeBroeck, Sergio Hernandez and Gerry Ringwood for all the “behind the scenes” work leading the completion of the building and the development of the programs.

The Board of Directors approved the 2014-15 and 2015-16 calendars and they are posted on our website. Thank you to the members of the calendar committee for their participation in the calendar process.

Lastly, thank you for your ongoing support of our community’s children through your support of Walla Walla Public Schools. I am proud of our staff and students and am grateful for your support. I would love to hear from you. My direct number is 526-6714 and email is mmiller@wwps.org.

What are the Common Core Standards and why are they important?

By Dr. Linda Boggs, Assistant Superintendent: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

The Common Core Standards (CCS) are a set of rigorous K-12 English/Language Arts and Math standards designed to prepare students for post high school, namely career and college. Released in 2011, the CCS have been adopted by 45 states and 3 territories. Washington State formalized its adoption of the CCS in July 2011, and a state transition plan anticipates full implementation by the 2014-15 school year.

These common academic standards are important because they help ensure that all students, no matter where they live, are prepared for success in college and the workforce. The standards help set clear and consistent expectations for students, parents, and teachers. It is important to note that the standards are not curriculum. Local school boards still maintain control over material selection, instructional practices and additional progress assessments.

In Walla Walla, administrators, teachers and support staff have been engaged in the transition to the CCS since the fall of 2011. Together, we are discussing the shifts in content and student outcomes and planning how best to provide a learning experience, assuring all students have the opportunity to meet the expectations set forth in the CCS. The English/Language Arts and Literacy Standards provide a cohesive set of learning goals in the areas of reading, writing, speaking and listening. These same literacy standards have been identified and are expected to be taught within the content classes of social studies, science, career and technical courses. This explicit focus is designed to ensure that all students will engage in a variety of texts and styles of literature, including both fiction and non-fiction.

Embedded within the English/Language Arts standards is the expectation that students master the skill of “careful reading.” This means students are able to make sense of difficult and complex texts. Further, students will be expected to engage in oral and or written analysis of the text, using evidence from the source to defend their position. Experience in more complex and varied texts also exposes students to a broader range of vocabulary and sentence style. These experiences become foundational to college readiness, leading to students’ ability to read, understand, analyze and synthesize a variety of reading materials.

In Mathematics, beyond computational fluency, the standards introduce foundational concepts which are built upon in subsequent grade levels. The expectations set forth in the standards can best be described as a “more narrow, but more intense” study of mathematical concepts. The shift in math standards provides an opportunity for all students to engage in mathematical thinking, in a cohesive, balanced approach, by equally addressing conceptual understanding, procedural skill and fluency and application. The time and energy spent on arithmetic at K-5 (addition and subtraction of whole numbers, multiplication, division and fractions sets) provides students with a core foundation, allowing them to later engage in more complex mathematics such as algebra, geometric measurement, statistics and probability.

Of course, high standards are not the only thing needed for our children’s success. Building a relationship with a caring adult greatly influences a student’s success in school. Walla Walla educators are committed to providing a learning environment addressing the Common Core Standards, while nurturing our students as individual human beings.

Common Core Standards Public Work Session

- Learn more about Common Core Standards
- School board work session: Tuesday, February 18 - 5:30 p.m.
- District Office Board Room (364 S. Park St.)
- Meeting open to the public

Board of Directors welcome Sam Wells to school board



Superintendent **Mick Miller** administers the *Oath of Office* for school board members **Ruth Ladderud**, **Cindy Meyer**, and **Sam Wells**. Wells and Meyer have been elected to four year terms and Ladderud will stand for election in 2015.

Wells is new to the school board. He replaces **Dan Hess** who retired from the Board of Directors.

Golden elected board president

School board members elected **Anne Golden** to serve another term as board president and **Cindy Meyer** as vice president for 2014.



Anne Golden



Cindy Meyer

Learn more about the school board online:
www.wwps.org

District continues to take stance against bullying

Programs start with youngest students and continue through high school

Legal References

WA State Legal Definition:

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying means any intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical act, including but not limited to one shown to be motivated by any characteristic in RCW 9A.36.080(3), or other distinguishing characteristics, when the intentional electronic, written, verbal, or physical act:

- (a) Physically harms a student or damages the student's property; or
- (b) Has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education; or
- (c) Is so severe, persistent, or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or
- (d) Has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

WA State Law:

- RCW 28A.300.285

WWPS Bullying Policy

- Policy No. 3207

Bullying Reporting

- Reporting forms at all district schools
- Reporting forms online at: www.wwps.org
- Use LiveTip reporting system

WWPS Primary Contact:

- Assistant Superintendent Laure Quaresma
- 509.526.6711 / lquaresma@wwps.org



24/7 Bullying Tip Line
1-866-LIVE-TIP Ext. 570



Transportation Director **Steve Olson** coordinated the installation of cameras and audio recording devices on all school buses to improve safety and deter bullying.



Risk Management Specialist **Mark Thompson** conducted a training in January for district administrators on the issue of harassment, intimidation, and bullying.

Thompson regularly visits schools to work with students and staff on this topic. His focus is making sure everyone understands the law and incidents are reported, investigated and resolved.

"We are training staff, students and parents to understand the connection between rude behavior and bullying. It is a big job, but we are willing to work hard at it so everyone feels safe."

Mark Thompson
Risk Management Specialist



Green Park Intervention Specialist **Barbara Thatcher** holds up her "It Takes a Village" artwork she created during a training focusing on cooperation, diversity and acknowledging the needs of others.



Relationship and civility expert **Stu Cabe** visited Walla Walla in December to work with students at Garrison, Pioneer and Wa-Hi. This is the third year Cabe has come to Walla Walla to work with students on issues of kindness, respect and leadership.

Understanding Bullying & Harassment

Rudeness

- To disregard, diminish, demean
- To control through invalidation

Harassment, intimidation, or bullying

- State Law: RCW 28A.300
- Intentional act (electronic, written, verbal, physical)
- Physically harms a student or their property
- Severe, persistent, or pervasive

District Steps to Stop Bullying/Harassment

1. Review policy and reporting procedures with students and staff annually
2. Encourage students to report incidents
3. Staff consistently intervene and report incidents
4. Investigate reports
5. Protect the complainant
6. Keep appropriate records
7. Raise awareness of seriousness of bullying
8. Recruit student leaders to help prevent bullying
9. Develop a positive school culture

Anti-Bullying School Programs

- Second Steps in grades K-3
- Steps-to-Respect in grades 4-5
- Social Skills classes
- "Where Everybody Belongs" @ Pioneer & Garrison
"Where Everybody Belongs" (WEB) is a middle school orientation and transition program that welcomes 6th grade students and makes them feel comfortable throughout the first year of their middle school experience.
- LINK CREW @ Wa-Hi
This program trains mentors from the junior and senior classes to be Link Crew Leaders. Link Crew Leaders are mentors, role models and student leaders who guide the freshmen to discover what it takes to be successful during the transition to high school.

Blue Devil Cafe teaches Special Education students job skills

Cafe sales have tripled since opening its doors

The Great Recession has not impacted sales at Walla Walla High School’s Blue Devil Cafe. Now in its second year, sales have tripled for this program designed to offer special education students hands on training in food service. Students line up during lunch and before school to get their favorite beverage or treat. Delivery service is provided to staff during second period and lunch. When teacher **Chris Blackman** developed the program at Wa-Hi, she didn’t know what to expect. “I didn’t think it would grow into what we have today,” Blackman said. “The staff and students have been so supportive of our program. I’m so proud of my students for their hard work and professionalism.”

Program Objective:

To model, teach and reinforce job skills through applied academics, social skills training and a realistic work experience.

Menu:

- More than 20 lattes
- 15 different coffee flavors
- Italian sodas
- Bagels & cream cheese, cookies, muffins, and more

“We have been overwhelmed with the amount of sales. This class provides hands on training. We treat this like we would any other cafe. Our sales demonstrate we have been very successful.”

Chris Blackman, Teacher



Special Education students who work in the Blue Devil Cafe are required to get a Food Workers permit. They learn industry standards for food service, presentation skills, how to dress for the work place and how to be on time.

College Place 9th grade students wishing to open enroll to Walla Walla need completed release form

Secondary (middle and high) schools open enrollment is February 3 through 28, 2014. The schools will be open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. through the end of the month to assist with the open enrollment process.

Secondary parents/guardians who wish to open enroll their child to a school outside of their attendance area may pick up an Open Enrollment application at their attendance area school or a release form from their current school district office during normal business hours.

College Place High School is opening for only 9th grade students in the fall of 2014. College Place 9th grade students who would like to attend Walla Walla High School or Lincoln High School need a completed release form from College Place Public Schools as part of the open enrollment process.

Kindergarten and open enrollment for elementary schools will be Monday, April 21 to Friday, May 2, 2014.

Skills Center nears completion
Teachers hired to lead programs

Progress continues on the Southeast Area Technical Skills Center. Construction will be completed in March with classes beginning in the Fall of 2014.

Dennis DeBroeck has been hired as the Digital Media Technology teacher and **Sandra Thomas** as Health Science Careers teacher. The district expects to hire a Skills Center director soon. Advanced Manufacturing and Welding Technology and Sustainable Energy Technology teachers will also come on board in the coming weeks.

Learn more at: myseatech.org

School Board Forum

Proud to serve our community

Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors have 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: What is the status of the Wa-Hi bond?

A: The facility needs at Walla Walla High School remain the district’s number one capital improvement priority. The school is 50-years-old, and despite outstanding efforts to maintain the facility after all these years, its systems and many aspects of the building are in need of replacement or remodeling.

The school board and district administration continue to listen and meet with stakeholders regarding the best approach to improving the school. Currently, Wa-Hi staff members are carefully reviewing the architectural designs and studying phasing options and costs. The Walla Walla High School staff input plan will conclude early this spring after staff vote on a recommendation. This recommendation will then move on to the Community Facilities Task Force for review and discussion. There has been no timetable established by the school board for placing a bond on the ballot for a vote.

Q: How does the state define Basic Education as it relates to funding?

A: Basic education in the state of Washington has been defined by two recent laws. ESHB 2261 (2009) and SBH 2776 (2010) clearly define basic education.

Among the tenants of the definition:

- Prototypical schools and a revised funding formula
- Increase in instructional hours
- A new pupil transportation formula to fully fund to and from school transportation
- Full-day kindergarten
- Class size allocations, grades K-3
- Increase in the formula to fund Materials, Supplies and Operating Costs (MSOC)

The two bills are lengthy and have many other components, but the primary message is basic education has been defined by the state legislature; now the same legislature, by court order, must fund what it has defined.

Q: Why are some school board meetings now being held in schools?

A: Several school board meetings a year will be held in schools. This decision was made to help school board members get into schools and have more interaction with students, parents and staff. We encourage you to attend these meetings and stay connected to our school district.



Anne Golden



Sam Wells



Cindy Meyer



David Hampson



Ruth Ladderud