



Volunteer Spotlight

KARA BILLINGSLEY

Kara Billingsley is the first to admit she is not an artist. But that doesn't keep this Colorado native from volunteering with the Carnegie Picture Lab to enhance art education for elementary school children in the Walla Walla Valley.

"I am not a particularly artistic person, but I love the mission of Picture Lab and the smiles it brings to kid's faces when I push my supply cart into their room before a project," said Billingsley. "As a bonus I feel like I learn as much as the kids, if not more, along the way!"

Picture Lab has been partnering with the Walla Walla School District for the past 10 years by delivering art lessons from more than 70 dedicated volunteers.

Kara is married to WWPS Graduate of Distinction recipient Tony Billingsley. They met at Whitworth College in Spokane. When it came time to raise a family they decided to return to Tony's hometown of Walla Walla to settle down. They now have four school-aged children. Kara has been volunteering with Picture Lab for about seven years.

Picture Lab lessons are designed on a six-year artist rotation, so students receive new experiences every year of their elementary school career. This year's curriculum features Mexican artist Frida Kahlo, Dutch artist Piet Mondrian, and an interactive photography unit.

Walla Walla Public Schools

Promising Futures

District establishes Promise Standards to support learning



The district has taken a major step forward in realizing its vision of "Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates." Over the summer, 50 district teachers came together to identify the most critical skills students need in math and language arts at all grade levels.

These essential skills needed for successful schools, now known as Promise Standards, are readily available for families to see on district websites. Teachers will also use this newly created resource to communicate with students and their families.

"These are the most important standards students need to master on their path toward graduation" said Christy Krutul, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning. "Math and language arts teachers collaborated to ensure as students move from grade level to grade level there isn't a repetition in their learning. Instead, there is a depth of learning built each year. Other content areas will follow."

Dream Big!

Jeannette C. Hayner Park



As WWPS Graduate of Distinction and 1969 alum Michael Murr was walking his dog one day last spring he glanced over at a tree he had passed by for years. This time the giant, 150' London Planetree, commonly referred to as a sycamore, caught his attention. Following some research it was discovered the tree on the campus of Walla Walla High School was the world's largest of its kind.

Murr reached out to Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith about funding the development of a park to showcase the tree. He envisioned a space to inspire students for years to come. His vision became reality with a ribbon cutting ceremony this fall, officially marking the opening of Jeannette C. Hayner Park. Hayner (1919-2010), a former influential school board member and Washington State Representative and Senator, led the much debated effort to relocate Wa-Hi to its current location. This beautiful park features walking paths, benches, decorative fencing and plantings. Murr encourages visitors to dream big about the future.

LEVY = LEARNING | BOND = BUILDING

Walla Walla Public Schools will seek renewal of its Replacement Education Levy in February. Levies are different than bonds. Levies pay for educational programs and opportunities for students the state does not fund. The Replacement Education Levy funds over 100 staff not paid for by the state's basic education funding model. Levies support school programs like music, art, honors courses, athletics, and a variety of experiences Walla Walla parents and stakeholders have approved at the ballot box for over 50 years. This is not a new tax, but a replacement levy that replaces the expiring 2016 levy.

Bonds are used for the construction of new schools, major building remodels or major facility upgrades. Voters approved a replacement bond in November 2018 to address facility improvements. Look for more information on the Replacement Education Levy election in the coming months.

Key Levy Dates

- » Election date: Feb 11, 2020
- » Ballots mailed: Jan 22, 2020
- » 50% + 1 voter approval required

Voter Registration

- » Forms are available at all schools
- » 310 West Poplar St.
(509) 524-2530
elections@co.walla-walla.wa.us

Board of Directors:

Dr. David Hampson
Ruth Ladderud
Derek Sarley
Terri Trick
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BOARD



Focus on Education

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Walla Walla Public Schools does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination.

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

Where are they Now?

Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates

Wa-Hi class of 2012 graduate Ana Andrade continues to advance at Mod Pizza working in the corporate office in Bellevue. She has been with Mod for three years and works in the Marketing Department.

After high school, she earned her Bachelor's Degree from Washington State University. At Wa-Hi she was involved in track and field, Latino Club, AVID and student government. Ana says retired teacher Sherry McConn had the greatest impact on her high school career. She was her AVID teacher. Ana was affected by the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy in 2014. She recalls she didn't feel she would have many options after high school. When she shared her story with Mrs. McConn, she was willing to help her find opportunities. Her hard work has paid off. Two weeks after graduating from WSU, she was interning for Mod Pizza before landing a full-time position.

Today Ana also volunteers with Rainier Athletes. This program uses sports and mentorship to direct at-risk students towards a path to achievement. Ana is a member of One America, an organization that advocates for justice at the local, state, and national level by building power within immigrant communities. She says it helps her have a sense of purpose in advocating for what she believes is right. She would like to go back to school and earn a master's degree in mental health and wellbeing with the hope of one day working for the Disney Company at its California headquarters.



ANA ANDRADE

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Walla Walla Public Schools

Focus on Education

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History in the Making

Science building breaks ground

For the first time in nearly six decades, Walla Walla High School students will have access to a new, modern science facility thanks to the generosity of the community. This exciting new era began this fall with a groundbreaking ceremony.

The science building is one component of the successful \$65.6M bond overwhelmingly approved by voters last November. This 18,000 sq ft facility includes eight identical, fully-functional laboratory classrooms and flexible teaching arrangements. More than \$2.5 million of work will be completed by local Walla Walla Valley contractors, suppliers, and vendors. The science building will be completed Summer 2020.

"This state-of-the-art facility puts our students on equal footing with their counterparts across the state to maximize their science experience and skills."

Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent

PHOTO L-R: Board member Derek Sarley, Board President Ruth Ladderud, Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith, Board Vice President Dr. David Hampson, Citizens for Schools Co-Chair Jim Hayner, Citizens for Schools Co-Chair Susan Prudente and Board member Sam Wells.

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Our Vision

"Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates"

Our Mission

Walla Walla Public Schools ensures all students receive high quality instruction in an aligned and coherent system while addressing their social and emotional needs in a safe and engaging environment.

www.wwps.org



Superintendent's Message

Walla Walla Public Schools mails the Focus on Education newsletter to the homes of residents three times per year. This publication serves as a platform to keep our community informed and connected to the school district.

We appreciate your involvement and support. The Board of Directors and I value your input and welcome your ideas as we strive for a world-class education for all students as we "Develop Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates."

Dr. Wade Smith
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wsmith@wwps.org
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Walla Walla Public Schools...

Strong start to school year *Board moves forward with early learning center*

The start of the 2019-20 school year has been nothing short of remarkable. Our energized all-staff kick-off ceremony in August was complemented soon thereafter by unveiling of the benefactor-funded Jeannette C. Hayner Park on the Wa-Hi campus. In early October we celebrated again with our history-making Wa-Hi science building groundbreaking ceremony, kicking off the first of many improvements to occur across the campus. Graduation rates continue to soar past state averages, recently-released assessment scores show improvement in math, English language arts, and science performance, and students are continuing to excel in our dual language and special education programs. Hope, optimism and collective energy fill the hallways of our Walla Walla schools.

Although work remains to fully reach our vision of "Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates," as your superintendent, I am appreciative of the incredible efforts I witness daily from our staff and students. *continued...*

Chamber Honors School District

School Board President Ruth Ladderud and Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith accept the Duane Wollmuth Catalyst Award at the Walla Walla Valley Chamber of Commerce 2019 Business Showcase.

Walla Walla Public Schools was recognized for last November's successful bond measure, the state Board of Distinction award, improved academic achievement, higher graduation rates and partnerships with local agencies addressing social and emotional needs of students.



THE LATEST BOND NEWS



Science Building Virtual Tour

Visit the district's Bond Update website to take a virtual tour of the new science building. Congratulations to the following Walla Walla Valley contractors for their successful bids to garner \$2.5M in work on the new Science building: Nelson Construction (concrete work and site/civil work), Houk Masonry (masonry), Jackson Contractor Group (general contractor/construction manager, structural steel framing, rough carpentry, waterproofing, door frames/hardware, misc specialties), Elsom Roofing (roofing), Bowen (painting and wall coverings), Walla Walla Electric (photo-voltaic system) and Smith Bros (landscaping and fencing).



Safety First! New Access Controls

Voters made it clear safety was a top priority when they went to the polls and the district has listened. WWPS Technology Director Forrest Baker displays signage posted at five district schools alerting guests to the newly installed access control systems.

These new systems require visitors to ring a bell at the school's front entrance once school is in session. Upon stating their appropriate business on campus, office staff buzz them into the school to sign in and get a visitor's pass. This helps ensure visitors are accounted for at all times. Pioneer MS, Wa-Hi, and Lincoln HS will get new access control systems as part of their major renovations. The remaining schools come online next summer.

Stay Connected!
» Web: wwpsbond.org
» Twitter: @bondwwps

BOND REPORT

DELIVERING ON OUR PROMISE

KEEPING IT LOCAL

Local businesses working on bond projects thus far:

- » Jackson Contractor Group, Inc.
- » Anderson Perry & Associates
- » PBS Engineering and Environmental
- » Integrity Design & Copyworks, LLC
- » Pacific Power
- » Perfection Glass of Walla Walla
- » S&K Mountain Construction
- » Wilson Design Company
- » Moreno & Nelson Construction Inc.
- » Integrity Metal Fab
- » Walla Walla Electric
- » Cutting Edge Plumbing
- » Elsom Roofing, Inc.
- » Materials Testing & Inspection (MTI)
- » DA Davidson

PROJECT SCHEDULE

WALLA WALLA HIGH SCHOOL

- » **OCTOBER 2019 - AUGUST 2020**
New Science Building
- » **JUNE 2020 - SEPTEMBER 2020**
Site Utilities Improvements
- » **SEPTEMBER 2020 - AUGUST 2021**
Old Science Building Renovation, Music Building Addition, Fitness Addition
- » **MARCH 2021 - SEPTEMBER 2021**
Commons Improvements, Media Center Improvements, CTE Addition
- » **JUNE 2021- AUGUST 2022**
Academic Building Renovation
- » **DECEMBER 2021 - AUGUST 2022**
CTE Building/Greenhouse Improvements and Site/Parking Closeout

PIONEER MIDDLE SCHOOL

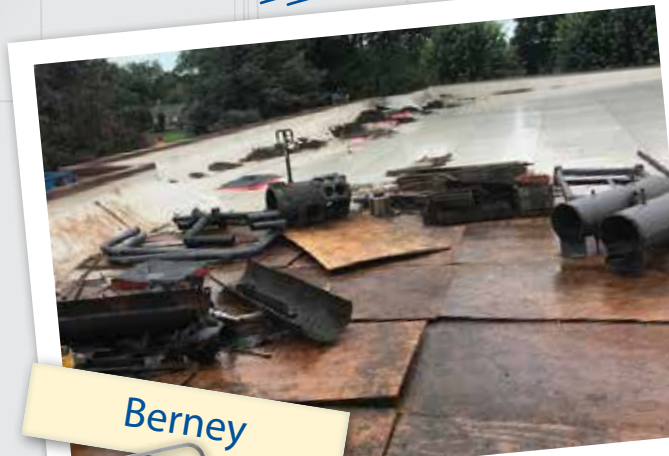
- » **SEPTEMBER 2020 - AUGUST 2022**
Renovation Project

LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

- » **SEPTEMBER 2020 - AUGUST 2022**
Renovation Project

PROJECT OVERVIEW - A CLOSER LOOK

Keeping it Local



Berney

Improved Efficiency

Approximately \$3M was invested at Berney Elementary this summer with the installation of a new roof and modern, efficient heating and cooling system.



Berney Makeover

Contractors removed the 40-year-old ceiling tiles in Berney as part of the new heating and cooling system installation.

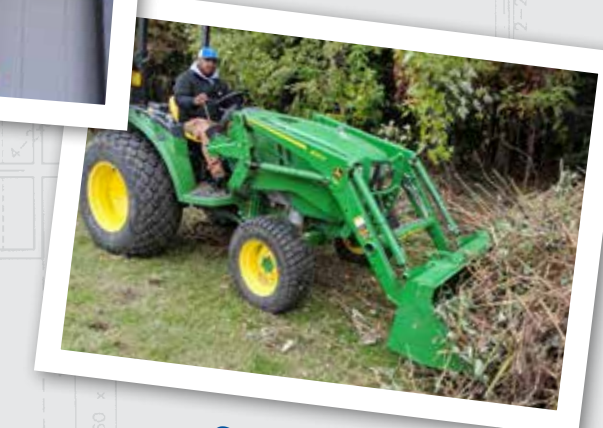
Roof Replacement



Green Park

Heavy Duty 50-Year Roof

Local contractor Elsom Roofing, Inc. replaced the quarter century, three-tab roof at Green Park Elementary this summer with 50-year architectural roof shingles.



Safety 1st!

Fidel Bruno of Facilities and Operations removes brush to make way for new security fencing at Garrison Middle School. Prospect Point Elementary is also getting additional fencing to enhance safety.

safety

Camera Security

Technology Specialist Jorge Gallaga installs cameras as part of the district's safety and security enhancements.

Investing in Our Children

Best of Show

Congratulations to Lincoln High School for designing and building the Baker Boyer Bank 150th Anniversary float which won Best of Show in the WW Fair and Frontier Days Parade. The float design, material selection and construction was completed by the 21st Century Lincoln team. The project was funded by Baker Boyer Bank.

Superintendent continued...

I am even more proud of our academic accomplishments in light of the growing community-wide challenges facing incoming kindergarten students.

In Walla Walla, less than one in four students who entered kindergarten last year were deemed kindergarten ready, according to the state-wide WaKIDS assessment that measures social and academic preparedness among other attributes. That number has continued to recede over recent years. This is an alarming statistic that not only impacts our school system, but the future success of our youth and greater community.

We maintain excellent private, non-profit and public early learning options for families. However, years of study have identified access, affordability, limited providers and state licensing requirements continue to restrict early learning opportunities for many families. This includes those not impacted by economic hardship.

With fewer than 25% of incoming kindergarten students prepared in Walla Walla, nearly half the state-wide average, tremendous resources and attention continue to be focused to remediate lacking skillsets. However, one need just imagine the possibility if we could reverse our readiness trend and begin to improve our early learning preparedness. Think how much farther we could take all students if even half came prepared for kindergarten. Instead of remediating skill sets we could be enriching them!

We are at an opportune time as early learning momentum has peaked across our valley. As the Walla Walla School Board transitions Blue Ridge Elementary into a wall-to-wall community early learning center to expand access, the City of Walla Walla partners with the National League of Cities to explore enhanced early learning initiatives, and our valley's powerful early learning leaders continue to champion efforts, I am confident we can come together to address school readiness for all youth.