



Volunteer Spotlight

SHARON CARTER

Sharon Carter has a heart for children and demonstrates her love by volunteering every day at Berney Elementary. She has developed "honey-do" buckets for all teachers and checks them daily to determine if help is needed in any classroom. Through this, she does tasks such as cutting, laminating, copying and filing.

Sharon also takes on much larger projects including almost single-handedly planning the school's Scholastic Book Fair.

"She spent several hours a day with set up and sales," said Assistant Secretary Annette Matlock. "She does it all with a smile and without expecting anything in return."

Sharon spearheaded decorating for Berney's Holiday program. Parents and staff said the gym never looked more beautiful.

Another monumental project Sharon took on this school year was to create hundreds of fabric bags to store individual sets of headphones for every Chromebook cart in the building. Sharon donated not only the supplies for this project, but also the time to sew these amazing bags. This project will ensure the longevity of equipment and makes it easy for students and staff to manage and organize.

"Sharon is a gem and her heart for kids knows no boundaries," said Matlock. "She will do whatever is asked and if a need arises, is the first person we go to for assistance. She is dependable, fun to be around, giving, loving, and an inspiration to all who know her."

SALUTING THE CLASS OF 2020!

COMMENCEMENTS

Walla Walla Public Schools salutes seniors from the Class of 2020 who have been greatly impacted by the COVID-19 school campus closure. Graduation ceremonies, spring sports, musicals and end-of-year activities often serve as capstone experiences for seniors and their families. Although these seniors will miss out on some of these rich opportunities, we want them to know how much they are appreciated!

LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

» **WHEN:** Thursday, June 4, dusk

» **WHERE:** M-F Drive-In Theater

Private event for students and families.

OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

» **WHEN:** Friday, June 12, 6:30 pm

» **WHERE:** Virtual (video link on wwps.org)

WALLA WALLA HIGH SCHOOL

VIRTUAL VIDEO CEREMONY

» **WHEN:** Friday, June 5, 7 pm

» **WHERE:** WWPS Facebook & Spectrum cable channel 191. *Special thanks to the City of Walla Walla for allowing us use of their cable channel.*

DRIVE-THROUGH DIPLOMAS & PHOTOS

» **WHEN:** Friday Afternoon, June 5

» **WHERE:** Wa-Hi

Students have a socially distanced option of a drive-through diploma pick-up and photo the day of graduation.

FAMILY DRIVE-IN SHOWING:

» **WHEN:** Tues & Wed June 9-10, 8:45 pm

» **WHERE:** M-F Drive-In Theater

Private showing of the commencement video for students and families.

AIM HIGH GRAD!



LUKE MATLOCK

Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps Cadet Lt. Col. Luke Matlock has elected to attend the U.S. Air Force Academy after also earning appointments to the Army, Navy and Coast Guard academies. Wa-Hi JROTC officials say it is extremely rare to get invitations to all four service academies.

"Luke's accomplishments are a testament to his hard work and commitment," said Walla Walla Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith. "He is a role model for future students and a shining example of our vision of Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates."



Walla Walla Public Schools collaborated with the Walla Walla Downtown Foundation and the City of Walla Walla to place 100 banners in downtown Walla Walla honoring the Class of 2020. Local business Integrity Design, owned and operated by Wa-Hi graduate John Sasser, designed and printed the banners. The City of Walla Walla Parks and Recreation Department staff, under the direction of Andy Coleman, installed the banners. In addition to the banners, signs were placed in the yards of seniors to honor and celebrate their achievements.

Board of Directors:

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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:

- **Title IX Coordinator & Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator**
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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

Local businessman and Class of 1982 graduate John Sasser has spent more than 30 years in the printing business. He started in the industry shortly after high school as a pressman with David and Carl Tyler at Rose Street Graphics. A career opportunity opened at Whitman College and it turned into a 14-year experience as the school's pressman, mailing services expert and graphic designer.

John and his wife Cheryl Calhoun, also a Class of '82 graduate, decided to open Integrity Design and Copyworks, LLC 18 years ago. The business started with one digital printer and no clients. Today they offer digital and offset printing as well as a full array of sign needs, fleet graphics and business branding support. John, who attended Green Park Elementary and Pioneer Junior High, says he enjoys looking around the community and seeing the work they have contributed over the years. John and Cheryl have two children, Justin & Breanne, and six grandchildren.

John is an avid golfer and also enjoys home renovation projects. He says he has many fond memories of teachers and mentors throughout his school days in Walla Walla. He says all of his teachers treated him as an individual and made him feel important. Sasser loved sports and learned at an early age the importance of hard work. Walla Walla educators who stood out for John include Dave Klicker, Bill Jordan, Dick Neher and Joy Gage. John, who always likes a good laugh says, whether they knew it or not, he was listening.



JOHN SASSER

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Walla Walla Public Schools Focus on Education

Your School District Newsletter | Spring 2020 | Volume 22 | Issue 3



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Distance Learning

Distance Learning Program takes hold as district navigates new reality of COVID-19 pandemic

The COVID-19 global pandemic hit home for Walla Walla Public Schools March 13 when Governor Jay Inslee took to the airwaves directing school campuses closed for six weeks. Less than a month later, Governor Inslee positioned himself in front of the cameras once again, this time announcing he was closing schools for the remainder of the school year.

Days after the order to close campuses, the district put in place a Distance Learning Plan which hinged on weekly customized learning packets for preschool through 5th grade and an online experience for secondary students.

“ Within one week of receiving the order to close our school campuses, we were among the first school districts in the state to launch a robust Distance Learning Program for all students. ”

Dr. Wade Smith, Superintendent

COVID-19 continued inside ■ ■ ■

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 to "Develop Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates."

Dr. Wade Smith
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Spring Focus | 2020

Community support prevails yet again

While our district continues to navigate the impacts COVID-19 is having on our daily lives, customs and traditions, I am purposefully setting this topic aside from my address in this spring's Focus Newsletter. By no means is this omission a reflection of our response to these incredible circumstances. Frankly, I could not be more proud of how our staff, students, parents and community have responded to the sweeping impacts of campus closures and distance learning. Instead, I would like to focus our attention on the accomplishments and aspirational goals we are working towards.

Voters sent a strong message of support on election night Feb. 11 as 73 percent voted YES on the 2020 Replacement Levy to continue funding educational programs and opportunities for students not funded by the state. Thank you for your legacy of ongoing levy support.

Just over one year ago marked a historic time for Walla Walla Public Schools as the district received a nearly 75 percent YES vote as our community stepped up to invest in the preservation of three of our most aged campuses; Wa-Hi, Pioneer Middle School, and Lincoln High School. In addition, our voters understood the critical need to invest in safety, security, infrastructure and efficiency improvements across other school sites. Now, one year into what will be a three-year construction campaign, I can confirm we have delivered on every one of our promises to date. The state-of-the-art, 18,000 sq ft WWHS science building is nearing completion. Safety improvements have been accomplished across identified campuses and many roof replacement projects have already been completed. Our community Bond Oversight Committee continues to monitor and communicate bond expenses and activities and reports over 26 local contractors, vendors and suppliers have already participated in the program. We look forward to working with more local businesses as improvements continue at Wa-Hi and Pioneer this fall.

Another historic accomplishment is the highly anticipated opening of the Center for Children and Families in September. Formerly Blue Ridge Elementary, the new center responds to nearly two decades of community-wide effort to develop a coordinated and comprehensive community learning hub for Walla Walla youth. Led by Samantha Bowen, in partnership with many community organizations, Walla Walla's preschool program and new Transitional Kindergarten for our valley's four-year-old children ensure all students and families will be ready for success when entering kindergarten.

Finally, as our district enters year four of our five-year strategic plan, we will continue to implement the focused strategies, efforts and attention that has resulted in incredible success and outcomes the last three years. While spring distance learning and possible fall start-up measures may impact some of our specific delivery models, we remain committed to our goals and laser-focused on our vision of Developing Washington's Most Sought-After Graduates!

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

BOND REPORT

DELIVERING ON OUR PROMISE

PRESERVING HISTORY



Spirit Bell Lives On!

During the fall of 1980 several Walla Walla High School students spent their Saturdays constructing a new spirit bell for the school that would later be dedicated to retiring counselor Deal Vandergrift. The impressive 6' high by 15' wide bell tower, located near the original gym, was recently dismantled as part of the bond program to make way for a required fire lane. Contractors will rebuild the iconic structure next to the school Commons in a new student plaza location. The next generation Spirit Bell will be rededicated upon completion.

"The Spirit Bell was important to former Principal Dick Neher because he had a love for the school and the students far beyond just having a job," recalls former Wa-Hi Vocational Director and long-time City Council member Jerry Cummins.

The Spirit Bell also housed a massive 100lb time capsule buried in its foundation containing various items of the time.

"I remember the masonry contractor of the Wa-Hi gym project came out on a Saturday morning at Principal Neher's request, along with several students and a few staff members, to put the time capsule together," said Cummins who also played a key role in the project. "We did a scavenger hunt throughout the campus as students looked for items to put into the capsule. We looked for items we thought would be interesting for people to see in the future."

Within the iron box are annuals, student signatures from the Class of 1981, staff roster and Class of 1981 photo. Mr. Vandergrift



Architect's rendering of the next generation Spirit Bell which will be constructed near the school Commons.

donated a 1980 penny, nickle, dime and quarter, Susan B. Anthony dollar and 1979 \$1 and \$2 bills for the time capsule.

A new time capsule will be created for the next generation Spirit Bell and the original 1981 time capsule will be part of the new structure for opening at a later date.

"We always thought it would be best to open it after a century or so," said Cummins. "The time capsule was Mr. Neher's idea as another way for students to be involved in campus life and continue being a lifelong Blue Devil like he was."

KEEPING IT LOCAL

Local businesses working on bond projects thus far:

- » A Key Excavating
- » Anderson Perry
- » Bowen Painting
- » Cutting Edge Plumbing
- » D.A. Davidson
- » Elsom Roofing
- » Handmaid Cleaning
- » Hays Electric
- » Houk Masonry
- » Integrity Design
- » Integrity Metal Fab
- » Jackson Contractor
- » L&G Ranch Supply
- » MTI
- » Nelson Construction
- » Pacific Power
- » PBS Environmental
- » Perfection Glass
- » Premier Excavation
- » Priority One Fence
- » Royse Excavating
- » S&K Mountain Const.
- » Sears Hometown Str.
- » Smith Bros
- » Sun Rental
- » Total Office Concepts
- » WW Builders Supply
- » Walla Walla Electric
- » Wilson Design Co.

PROJECT OVERVIEW - A CLOSER LOOK

Keeping It Local



Elsom Roofing

Keeping Walla Walla Busy

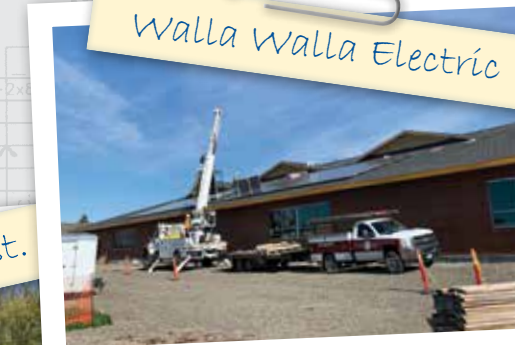


A Key Excavating

Science Building Roof

Local contractor Elsom Roofing completed the new Wa-Hi Science building roof.

Walla Walla Electric



Blue Ridge Roof Project

Local subcontractor A Key Excavating, Inc. removes soil from the berm over the Blue Ridge roof. The new roof will be completed this summer.

S&K Mountain Const.



Prospect Point Safety Improvements

S&K Mountain Construction of Walla Walla completed bond-funded safety improvements at Prospect Point Elementary. The project included raising curbs, widening sidewalks and adding safety fencing near the front entrance of the school to improve the parent drop-off and pick-up area.

Investing in our children

Brick veneer for Wa-Hi Science Building

Houk Masonry is one of nearly 30 Walla Walla businesses involved in the bond program. Houk Masonry completed the brick veneer project for the Science Building.



Houk Masonry

KID MAGNET

Walla Walla's Cesar Hernandez

Cesar grew up in Walla Walla and has a long list of family members who have dedicated their lives to education. Next year Cesar will take his talents to Green Park Elementary as Assistant Principal. He enjoys working with children because every day is different.

"As educators, we have the distinctive ability to help mold students' futures," said Hernandez. "It is rewarding working with students and families and a blessing to serve a community that has given so much to my family."

COVID-19 » Cont. from page 1.

"Despite the challenging circumstances surrounding the closure of school campuses due to the COVID-19 health crisis, Walla Walla Public Schools remains committed to offering the richest educational experience possible for its students," said Superintendent Dr. Wade Smith.

The district has deployed over 2,000 Chromebooks and WiFi hotspots to ensure equity and access for all 6-12 grade students. The day after closure, Walla Walla Public Schools stood ready to feed students with grab and go food service, serving over 9,000 meals to hungry students over spring break alone. Additionally, district support staff are stepping up to provide childcare to our valley's critical access workers who in turn keep our community safe.

"Our plan from day one focused on equity and maintaining student connections with teachers," said Smith.