

Chinook salmon program offers hands-on learning

Edison students release fish into Mill Creek



Edison Elementary 4th grade teachers **Sara Erwin, Rebecca Tate, Leslie Hanson-Anderson** and student **Emily Newton** report to school board members on their school's *Salmon Expedition* program.

The program is a partnership with the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla and the Whitman Mission National Park Service. Fourth grade students begin the salmon development process in September and continue it all school year until they release the young fish into Mill Creek near their school in May.

Hanson-Anderson said this real world experience helps students learn at a higher level. They use writing and math skills and enhance their understanding of science. The students also learn the cultural significance of salmon to Native Americans and how these fish enhance our environment and way of life.

Newton to lead strategic plan process

Walla Walla Public Schools is teaming with Susan Newton of *Development Strategies Plus* to develop a new strategic plan.

Newton has worked with the Walla Walla YMCA and Lincoln Health Center on strategic planning. She is also currently working with the Walla Walla division of the Army Corp of Engineers on leadership development.

School board president **Dr. Jim Lehmann** says the district will seek widespread input to create a vision for the future.

"Our strategic plan is key as it gives us focus for the future," Lehmann said. "I think it's important to have outside input in our school district. It helps us determine our long-range goals and set a direction for the future."

Newton will be organizing surveys, interviews and focus groups to collect data as part of the process to develop a new strategic plan. Newton will begin the data collection process in the coming weeks. She said the goal is to have the plan finished by the end of June.

Board approves revised 2011-12 calendar

Last night school board members approved a revised 2011-2012 school year calendar. This calendar will be emailed out to all staff and posted on the district website.

For certificated staff: For the week of October 3-7 and the week of March 5-9, buildings will be voting on how to use their separate contract/conference days/evenings. Please note, October 6, 7 and March 9 are contracted work days.

In other School Board meeting business...

Board members:

- approved minutes of February 1, 2011 board meeting, personnel, out-of-state travel, February accounts payable and payroll, Head Start/ECEAP Child Abuse & Neglect Statement, January Financial Statement and Out-of-State travel.
- approved revised 2011-2012 school calendar. This revised calendar will be posted to the district web site.

Personnel Report

Employment

NONE TO REPORT

Resignation/Retirement

(Certificated)

Karen Peddicord, English/Spanish Teacher, Wa-Hi, 18 years
(effective at the end of the 2010-2011 school year)

(Classified)

Cleo Peterson, Para-Educator, Lincoln Alternative HS, 5 months

Out-of-State Travel

Carina Stillman to attend Holocaust Workshop in Washington, DC (Funding: US Holocaust Grant/Staff Development)

Clairey Boggess to attend Air Force Educator Tour in San Antonio, TX (Funding: Air Force)

Wa-Hi receives award for closing achievement gap

Walla Walla High School was named a recipient of the 2010 Washington Achievement Award for the *Closing the Achievement Gap* category. Walla Walla High School was one of only two high schools statewide recognized in this area.

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education created the Washington Achievement Award to celebrate top-performing schools and to recognize achievement in multiple categories.

“This award is recognition that the hard work put forth on a daily basis by our entire staff can result in steady and pronounced increases in student learning across the board,” said **Pete Peterson**, Walla Walla High School Principal. “This is a tribute to the dedication of our staff and students who make Walla Walla High School great.”



Pete Peterson

This highly selective award is based on a school's performance on statewide assessments for the three previous years. This data is analyzed using the Washington Achievement Index which is approved by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education.

The Washington Achievement Award is given to elementary, middle, high and comprehensive schools in seven different categories: overall excellence, language arts, math, science, extended graduation rate (high and comprehensive schools only), improvement and closing achievement gaps.

On April 27, the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction will recognize Walla Walla High School's achievement at an awards ceremony hosted by Lincoln High School in Tacoma. Visit OSPI's [Education Awards pages](#) to learn more about the Washington Achievement Awards, including details on the Washington Achievement Index and the criteria for selection.

Quote of the Week

“The school is the last expenditure upon which America should be willing to economize.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt

Mid-Winter Holiday Break

- Thursday, Feb. 17 (No School)
- Friday, Feb. 18 (No School)
- Monday, Feb. 21 (Presidents Day Holiday - No School)

Art Regier Volunteer of the Year nominations

Nominations are being accepted through Friday, March 25 for the Art Regier Outstanding Volunteers of the Year Award. Recipients will be recognized at the April 19 school board meeting. Nomination forms are available at all Walla Walla Public Schools and the district office.

Criteria for selection may include the following:

1. Exceptional service or contributions to the children of Walla Walla Public Schools
2. Unusual dedication
3. Demonstration of care, compassion and empathy

Recipients of the Art Regier Outstanding Volunteer Award will be honored with a plaque to display at their home or place of business, and their name will be permanently affixed to a memorial plaque in the school district's board room at 364 South Park Street. For more information, please call Communications Director Mark Higgins (509) 526-6716.

Explorer nomination period now open

Nomination materials are now available in all district elementary and middle schools for the 2011-12 Explorer (Highly Capable) Program. Parents with students in grades 2 through 7 may contact their child's teacher or school learning specialist/middle school counselor for more information.

For more information, please contact the Walla Walla School District Curriculum and Instruction office: 509-526-6735.