

## Edison Elementary under budget funds generate additional \$730,000 for projects

Walla Walla Public Schools Chief Financial Officer **Pat Johnston** reported during Tuesday night's school board meeting the district has leveraged approximately \$730,000 in additional funds through successful applications of energy efficiency grants by reinvesting the \$1.6 million in excess bond proceeds from the Edison Elementary construction project.

District funds were required up front as matching dollars in order to secure these state energy efficiency grants. Johnston said in addition to securing the \$730,000 in funds from the state energy efficiency grants, the district also stands to cut energy costs \$42,500 annually through these upgrades.

### Summary of projects completed through reinvestment of Edison funds:

#### **Blue Ridge Elementary**

- Radon mitigation system, new HVAC controls and lighting upgrades

#### **Pioneer Middle School**

- HVAC and lighting improvements

#### **Telephone & network upgrades at four schools**

- New telephone systems and network upgrades at Berney Elementary, Green Park Elementary, Garrison & Pioneer Middle Schools

The global recession, which pushed down construction costs, and efficient construction management led to the Edison Elementary project coming in under budget. Walla Walla voters approved the \$19.5 million bond to construct a new Edison Elementary bond with a 61 percent "yes" count in 2007. Ballot language authorized the use of excess funds for other district capital improvement projects.

## Evaluation process to change

Assistant Superintendent **Laure Quaresma** and her specialized team of district leaders **Jack Mehn, Richelle Palmer, Mindy Meyer, Kim Doecker** and **Liz Campeau** reported to school board members on the work they are doing to modify the teacher and administrator evaluation process.

Quaresma said the state will mandate this change by 2013, so the district is getting a head start by beginning this work now. The new evaluation process will be based on a four point system, complete with rubrics and identified standards. Currently the evaluation process is based on satisfactory or unsatisfactory criteria.

Quaresma and her team are doing book studies, researching other school districts, connecting with state education leaders and meeting regularly as a professional learning community to work on this project.

Quaresma said revising the evaluation tool will be a thoughtful and collaborative process. She said the new evaluation system will improve education. Campeau is working with PSE leaders to revise classified evaluations to this new model. Administrators will also convert to a similar evaluation process.

**National Teacher Day • May 3**

**National Nurses Day • May 12**

Thanks for all you do!

## In other School Board meeting business...

### **Board members:**

- approved minutes of April 19, 2011 board meeting, personnel, out-of-state travel, May 3, 2011 accounts payable, Resolution No. 04-2011/Cancellation of Outstanding Warrants, and Resolution No. 05-2011/2011-2012 WIAA Membership.
- approved second reading/adoption/new Policy 5004/Anti-Nepotism.
- approved a general fund transfer to capital projects fund - Resolution No. 06-2011 (\$225,000 transfer to fund two portables at Walla Walla High School for needed additional classroom space)

# Personnel Report

## Employment - NONE TO REPORT

### Resignation/Retirement

(Certificated) **Katherine Hohimer**, Bilingual First Grade, Blue Ridge, 4 years

**John Stilson**, English, Walla Walla High School, 7 years

### Out-of-State Travel

**Karen Dazell**, **Dennis DeBroeck**, **Kathi DeBroeck**, and **Keven Peck** to attend Photoshop World in Las Vegas, NV (Funding: CTE)

**Diana Erickson** and **Connie Taylor Randall** to attend GLAD Key Trainer Re-certification in Whittier, CA (Funding: Title 1 Stimulus)

**John Herr** to attend AVID training in San Diego, CA (Funding: PGO/Personal)

### Quote of the Week

"Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world."

**Albert Einstein**

### Staff Transfer

**Angie Butler** will transfer to Pioneer Middle School from Homelink as a Science Teacher for the 2011-2012 school year.

**Crystal Holmes** will transfer from Garrison Middle School to Walla Walla High School as a Physical Education Teacher for the 2011-2012 school year.

## Pioneer Middle School student produced video wins award at world's largest youth film festival

Pioneer Middle School Explorers teacher **Dan Calzaretta** and students **Brian Mott** and **Nate Brewer** reported to the school board last night on their documentary "Black Door Art Gallery" which recently won the audience award in the National Film Festival for Talented Youth. Student **Malcolm Gabbard** was also a partner in the production of the video, but was not able to attend last night's meeting.

The "Black Door Art Gallery" is about the local art gallery located in Walla Walla above Tallman's Drug Store and its proprietor **Gerald Matthews**. The movie is about seven minutes long.

The National Film Festival for Talented Youth is the largest youth film festival in the world: [www.nffty.org](http://www.nffty.org). This year nearly 700 films were submitted in all genres; only seven were accepted in the documentary category.

"I am amazed that in the very first year we have entered films into the NFFTY competition, these students had their film selected and received an award," said Dan Calzaretta, Pioneer Middle School Explorers and Humanities teacher. "These students were by far the youngest in attendance. Most of the participants were in college."

According to Calzaretta, the students made documentaries last year for C-SPAN, but he and the students were not interested in this year's topic so they searched for other opportunities and found the National Film Festival for Talented Youth.

"The students put in between 10 to 15 hours of work for every one minute of finished film," Calzaretta said. "They did all the work from start to finish. This says a lot about their dedication to the project and to each other. It also shows that when we provide students with opportunities for relevant, rigorous, and real world projects they will amaze us with what they can do."

The National Film Festival for Talented Youth was held April 28 to May 1 in Seattle.

### Parents:

- Brian Mott: Parents Mimi and Kevin Mott
- Malcolm Gabbard: Parents Jean Tobin and Brian Gabbard
- Nate Brewer: Parents Tanya and Bert Brewer

## May proclaimed *Partners in Learning Month*

Walla Walla Public Schools has proclaimed May as *Partners in Learning Month* to raise awareness of the vital role businesses, agencies and individuals have in our school system.

*Partners in Learning Month* is an opportunity for Walla Walla Public Schools to extend a sincere thank you to the more than 100 community partners who provide essential support to help Walla Walla Public Schools offer a first-class education.

### Community funds new Garrison backstop

Last night Garrison Middle School Principal **Gina Yonts**, Athletic Director **Chad Hulett** and parent volunteer **Peggy Needham** reported to the school board on the new Garrison baseball backstop.

Needham led a successful fund-raising campaign which generated more than \$9,000 for the materials to replace the aging baseball backstop at Garrison Middle School. A dedication ceremony was held last month in recognition of the project.

#### \$500 or more donor list:

- Mike and Peggy Needham
- Tom & Sydnee Watson
- WW Valley Select
- Eric Kimball
- Rotary Club of WW
- Key Technology (sign donation)
- Stubblefield Trust
- WW Babe Ruth
- Gary Carlson

### Prospect Point PALs program helps school

Prospect Point 5th grade teacher **Kate Van Cleve** and students involved in the PALs program to promote leadership and good will on campus reported to school board members on the impact they are having at their school. Students have conducted fund-raisers, anti-bullying programs, awareness campaigns and more to make the school a better place for staff and students.