

“You have the power of one to eradicate racism”

Carl Bernard Mack, President of the Seattle National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), visited Walla Walla High School earlier this school year to speak to students in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Mack, an engineer with METRO King County, is a noted historian, author and speaker. We took advantage of his visit to ask him the following questions.



Carl Mack

What do you hope Walla Walla High School students will gain from your visit?

That racism still exists and when it rears its ugly head, that EACH ONE of them can be the ONE to challenge it. I want them to believe in the POWER OF ONE!

Why do you believe it's important to discuss race issues with today's youth?

Because sticking your head in the sand is NOT going to make racism go away. A wise man once said something to the effect of, everything that is great in the world was done by the youth. Generation after generation we are getting better. Racism will come a step closer to extinction if we continue to dialogue honestly.

What changes have you witnessed in your life regarding race issues?

The number of people of color in technical jobs like mine (engineering). Mixed marriages. People of color in positions of local, state and national governments. The sophisticated attacks on equality. Black Republicans. Not so much of “The First Black to do this or do that.” Integration of schools, neighborhoods.

Do you believe America is moving in the right direction regarding race issues? Yes.

Why was Martin Luther King, Jr. such an inspiration to you?

Because those times were horrible for black people, and he took a position (non-violent) that most of us either could not have taken or would not have had the courage to take. He stayed consistent with his approach. After fighting for civil rights for the five years I've been involved with the NAACP, the amount of racism I see on a daily basis angers me.

Independent study helps district assess long-range facilities needs

District strives to create 21st Century learning communities

What's next? has often been the question asked when discussing Walla Walla Public Schools facilities needs.

For years modernizing one school at a time every five to six years allowed the district to keep pace with school renovations and upgrades.

“Times have definitely changed,” Superintendent **Rich Carter** said. “The list keeps getting longer and we’re running out of time with some of our schools. We just can’t keep up.”

The district is in the midst of developing a long-range facilities plan to address today’s needs and those for years to come.

“We are working with our staff and community to develop a 30 year facilities plan,” Carter said. “Many districts including Richland, Pasco, Kennewick and Spokane have used similar strategies to keep their schools functional in today’s era of high stakes achievement mandates.”

School board members earlier this school year hired *MGT of America* and *Architects West* to complete a third party facilities study to score all schools and support departments in three areas: physical condition, education suitability, and technology readiness.

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Governor Locke keepsake



Governor **Gary Locke** takes time to sign a book for Blue Ridge Elementary 5th grade student **Anthony Olivos** during his visit to Walla Walla earlier this year. Locke honored Blue Ridge for being named the state’s “Reading School of the Month” for February.

Olivos had limited English skills when he entered school in Kindergarten and now he reads at an 8th grade level.

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Focus on Education community newsletter is published tri-annually by Walla Walla Public Schools. Walla Walla Public Schools is an equal opportunity employer and complies with all requirements of the ADA.

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Opportunity students launch school newsletter

What began as a vision to inform the community about the Opportunity Alternative Education Program has evolved in to a student-run school news magazine thanks to a handful of ambitious teenage students.

Senior **Sara Houlihan** wanted a vehicle to communicate issues affecting teenagers living in Walla Walla. Now she’s the editor of a new publication set for distribution later this month.

From teenage boredom to teen pregnancy and issues of abuse, Houlihan and her classmates felt strongly they had something to say about these issues.

“It was pretty intimidating at first to put a whole magazine together,” Houlihan said. “I hope next year another group of students can put together something similar and enjoy it as much as my classmates and I did.”



Sara Houlihan
Editor

The Opportunity Alternative Program relies on a relaxed, non-threatening environment, hands-on exercises, and one-on-one teaching to enhance learning. The campus is located at 919 2nd Ave.

Legislation information online

The 2004 Regular Session of the 58th Legislature convened on January 12th and adjourned on March 11.

Information on legislation relating to public education is available online at: www.k12.wa.us/LegisGov/2004Session.aspx

Online Information includes:

- Table of bills that impact K-12 education
- Short summaries of major bills:
 - Certificate of Academic Achievement and Assessment
 - Charter Schools
 - Sexual Misconduct

Our Core Values are more than mere words; they're our business!

Quality Integrity Accountability Respect Courtesy



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Levy community support sends district a vote of confidence

I want to thank all of our community members for their strong support at the polls February 3 as the district passed a four-year replacement Maintenance and Operations levy at 67 percent.

This overwhelming support of your Walla Walla Public Schools will help provide stability to essential academic programs and activities.

We can now focus more attention on our mission of teaching and learning. With the support of our community, together we can push on to meet the vast challenges upon us. We won't forget your vote of confidence!

I'm always torn with my emotions as we approach the end of a school year. Of course

I'm so proud of our seniors as they prepare to graduate and pursue their hopes and dreams. But our students become our children and we are always sad to see them move on. We wish them the best and know in our hearts we gave them all we had so they could be successful.

"We can now focus more attention on our mission of teaching and learning."

Rich Carter

I encourage community members to attend our end-of-year celebrations and salute tomorrow's leaders. It's a powerful feeling when you surround yourself with young people. Their passion for life and adventure spills over to those around them and uplifts us all.

I also invite you to get involved in your Walla Walla Public Schools. We always need volunteers in our classrooms and to support our activities.

Please remember my door is always open if you would like to learn more about your schools and programs.

Board members showcase Garrison Night School at national conference

What started as private English lessons for Hispanic parents who wanted to help their children complete homework assignments, has blossomed into the *Garrison Night School*.

School board members **Anne Golden** and **Toni Rudnick**, Superintendent **Rich Carter** and Bilingual Coordinator **Cindy Gregoire** traveled in March to the National School Board Association's Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida, to tell of Walla Walla's success story.

Housed at Garrison Middle School, this dynamic, low-cost adult education program is opening doors to higher education and employment opportunities for its graduates.

Walla Walla Public Schools partnered with Walla Walla Community College to expand the program and help adult students earn General Education Diplomas and ultimately take classes at WWCC.

"We're proud of this community partnership program and were encouraged by others in our state to showcase it on a national level," Carter said. "It's a great feeling knowing Garrison Night School students work full-time and still make time to come to school and better themselves and their families."

Goals of the Garrison Night School include stronger parent support at home, parent involvement at school, higher education for parents, improved employment opportunities and citizenship preparation. The program began in 1994 with just 45 students. Today nearly 400 participate taking classes from introductory computer skills to basic and intermediate English. For more information on the program, contact **Betty Schubert** in the Special Programs Department at 527-3000.

Reault announces plans to retire

After 31 years in education which included six administrative positions and three teaching assignments, Deputy Superintendent **Judy Reault** announced in March this school year would be her last.

"My years of teaching and administration have brought joy and fulfillment to my life, and I hope I have made a difference for many deserving students," Reault said. "It just seems fitting that Walla Walla is my last stop - I saved the best for last."

Reault was hired by Walla Walla Public Schools in 1999 to lead the district's Curriculum and Instruction Department.

Reault has since led the district through Science and Math Curriculum adoptions and is currently working on Social Studies. Reault was instrumental in crafting the district's recently approved Strategic Plan extension and organized a broad-based committee to develop a secondary late start plan.

Under Reault's leadership, her department expanded to offer more data analysis to better utilize assessment information to impact student achievement.

Reault plans to spend more time with her husband Greg in Pasco and her new granddaughter in Seattle. She enjoys fishing, golfing, traveling and playing with her black lab Maggie. Reault will continue teaching at WSU Tri-Cities. She hasn't ruled out further professional endeavors, but says she has no immediate plans.



Reault

Wa-Hi Migrant students excel



(Pictured L to R) - Wa-Hi Principal Brian Pendleton, Saray Hernandez (Sophomore), Jessica Arreola (Senior), Maria Morales (Junior), Gerardo Delgado (Sophomore), Erica Patino (Sophomore) and Wa-Hi Bilingual Teacher Karen Peddicord.

Wa-Hi students recently named *Exemplary Migrant Students* proudly display their recognition plaques with Principal **Brian Pendleton** and their teacher **Karen Peddicord**.

To qualify for this honor, the students were required to be a past or current migrant youth and have at least a 3.0 GPA, or 2.8 with no grade less than a C.

The students also wrote short essays on the following topics: long-term goals, obstacles overcome, leadership, community/school involvement, and shared talent.

All of the students had little or no English skills upon enrolling in Walla Walla Public Schools and now speak and read at their appropriate grade levels or above.

Public Broadcasting Station reports local efforts to close student achievement gaps

Walla Walla Public Schools continues to receive high level recognition for excellence and will be featured in a one-hour KCTS PBS television program, *THE LEARNING CURVE - Closing the Achievement Gap*.

Promising practices being used at Blue Ridge Elementary to improve student achievement and an overview of Sharpstein Elementary's Dual English/Spanish Language program will be featured during the Public Broadcasting special.

Reporter Jenny Cunningham will also lead a round table discussion with Wa-Hi seniors, interview a Garrison Adult Night School parent and discuss how Pioneer Middle School Science teacher Cheryl Herr is using community professionals to help educate Walla Walla children.

"I was looking at WASL (Washington Assessment of Student Learning) scores on the web and the incredible improvement at Blue Ridge caught my eye," Cunningham said. "I called OSPI (Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction) and they singled out Walla Walla as a school district that was doing great things to close the achievement gap."

The show will air **Thursday, May 20** from 7 to 8 p.m. on KCTS in Seattle. Regional PBS program directors have been contacted and may air the program on their stations.

Staff Making News

Butenhoff leads Energy Program to \$1 million savings

Under the leadership and watchful eyes of manager **John Butenhoff**, the district's Energy Management Program has saved the district more than \$1 million in utilities costs since its beginning in 1999. The district recently received the Rocky Mountain region western states award for outstanding energy management practices.

Walla Walla Public Schools comprehensive Energy Management Program hinges on turning off lights when they're not needed and avoiding heating and cooling unoccupied areas. Butenhoff closely reviews all utilities bills to ensure the statements are accurate.

Tomlin's Wa-Hi WordMasters teams place nationally

Wa-Hi students competing in the national WordMasters English competition earlier this year placed in the top 20 among teams from throughout the United States. Wa-Hi English Department Chair **Marcia Tomlin** advises the WordMasters program. Students participating in WordMasters are judged on their reading skills to better understand writing styles.

School retirees name mini-grant recipients

Edison Library-Media Specialist **Georgie Germain** and Special Programs Occupational Therapist **Nancy Kessler** were named recipients of the Walla Walla-Columbia School Retirees Association spring mini-grants of \$100 each.

Germain plans to use her mini-grant to purchase Accelerated Reader tests for new books added to the Edison Library.

Kessler intends to obtain two pieces of assistive technology and a teacher's manual with her mini-grant money.

Edison principal named Distinguished Principal

Congratulations to Edison Principal **Nancy Withycombe** for being selected by her colleagues as a Washington State Regional Distinguished Principal.

Withycombe was selected based on her contributions to professional growth and development, educational excellence, community relations, and humanitarian activities. She is respected for her staff relations, parent involvement and listening skills.

Paraeducators meet No Child Left Behind requirement

Congratulations to **Connie Pinza** (Edison), **Karlyn Wilson** (Berney), **Stephanie Eastman** (Edison), **Susan Johnson** (Berney), **Vicki Johnson** (Berney), **Nancy Harwood** (Berney), **Jennifer Cisneros** (Wa-Hi), **Cynthia Lorang** (Wa-Hi) and **Mary Ellen Farr** (Berney) for successfully passing the federally mandated Paraeducator Assessment per requirements of the *No Child Left Behind Act*.

Wa-Hi student leaves Russia to pursue the American Dream

When Marina Bushkovski was a young girl learning violin at a music school in Pskov Russia (near St. Petersburg), she never imagined one day she would be playing in the Walla Walla High School Orchestra pursuing the American Dream.

When an opportunity to move to the United States arose in 2000, Marina's family packed their bags and set out on a journey that would forever change their lives.



Marina Bushkovski

Marina remembers being taken back by the beauty of the Walla Walla Valley when she stepped off the plane and saw the foothills of the Blue Mountains for the first-time.

Despite Walla Walla's beautiful scenery, the move was hard on Marina and she had many fears and challenges to overcome. She didn't have any friends, couldn't speak English and was in a foreign country thousands of miles from her birthplace.

Shortly after her arrival, she enrolled at Wa-Hi and her life in America brightened. Her love of music played a key role in connecting her to Walla Walla and her classmates. Marina immediately joined the choir and orchestra and soon began making friends.

Although Marina learned some English skills while living in her Russian hometown of 206,000 people, limited English skills were still a barrier.

"I don't think she said more than a few words her first year at Wa-Hi," Music Teacher **Norb Rossi** said.

She took a language placement test and was placed in the English as a Second Language program with teacher Kay Jamison. As a child, Marina was taught English three or four days a week in her Russian school. She says schools operate differently in Russia and it was an adjustment coming to American schools.

"In Russia students have a different schedule every-day. We usually had more than 10 classes total and attended 6 to 7 classes daily,"

she said. "Wa-Hi was much easier because I had the same schedule every-day and was able to concentrate more on each subject."

Marina said she also found it easier working with Wa-Hi teachers and Rossi was her favorite. She said Rossi took the extra time to make her feel welcome and informed.

"The first time I went to Wa-Hi it was very interesting to watch students communicating with their teachers," Marina said. "The teachers in Russia are usually pretty strict with students. I like how easy it is to communicate with teachers here. They helped me fit in."

Marina went on to graduate with honors in January 2004 with a 3.5 GPA and will enroll in fall classes at Walla Walla Community College.

Marina also worked as the Plant Facilities student assistant secretary during high school and continues her em-



Plant Facilities Secretary **Jeanette Wright** reviews the district's facilities planning report with Wa-Hi student intern **Marina Bushkovski**.

ployment today. She files paperwork, enters computer data; answers telephones, makes copies and completes special jobs assigned to her.

"Marina has learned life-long skills and she has also helped our crew learn many things about her Russian culture," Plant Facilities Director **Lowell Schneider** said.

Marina lives with her mother and father and four brothers. She's active in her local church and still enjoys playing the piano and singing in her church choir.

Marina is excited about the opportunities that await her in the United States and believes her future is bright.

"I feel grateful for everything I now have in the United States," Marina said. "Although I don't know exactly what I want to do in the future, I feel strongly I'll have the opportunity to pursue all my dreams."

21st Century Schools continued from page 1

Many of the district schools need work according to the report. Carter says he plans to use the data in the report to help prioritize needs.

"This document will be a valuable tool as we embark on a journey of transforming our schools into 21st

Century learning communities," Superintendent **Rich Carter** said. "Facilities needs are always emotional. Now we have an independent, objective study of our facilities we'll be able to turn to when crafting our long-range facilities plan."

The process now shifts to developing standards for ranking district facilities needs and crafting the long-range plan.

Carter has targeted Spring 2005 as a potential timeline for a bond issue supporting a long-range facilities plan.

Battelle scientists team with Pioneer students



Pioneer Middle School 6th grade student **Kaci Cook** shows Battelle Hydrogeologist **Signe Wurstner** the poster her group created in support of a pilot program requiring students to complete a risk analysis study of four Blue Mountain regional camp sites.

Fellow Battelle Scientist **Gregg Andrews** and **Wurstner** designed the program to help students in Cheryl Herr's class enhance their Earth Science skills through hands-on learning.

The Pioneer students documented historical flood data, calculated slope figures, studied stream flows, and charted topography during this Earth Science exercise. They used their research data to determine the best site to locate a camp. Students were required to e-mail Andrews and Wurstner with updates throughout the project and write narratives on their findings.

Students also created logos, designed posters and formed their own consulting groups to communicate their findings. In addition to charting research data, students enhanced their technical writing skills through narratives of their research.

This project was made available through the district's Leadership Assistance for Science Education Reform (LASER) partnership with Battelle. The LASER program enhances the district's science offerings by providing additional funding sources, science materials and professional expertise.

Wa-Hi Future Problem Solving team wins state

Walla Walla High School Future Problem Solving team Seniors **Natalie Coleman**, **Meghan Carlson**, **David Johnston**, and Junior **Riley Clubb** took the state title in the 10-12 grade level and qualified for the International Competition in Kentucky.

Pioneer seventh grader **Glynnis McClellan** placed first in the individual competition for grades 7-9 and also qualified for International Finals.

The Future Problem Solving Program is a year-long instructional program that challenges students to solve hypothetical problems set in the future but based on issues of today.

Healthy Lifestyles!

New PE gear helps Wa-Hi students stay fit

Physical Education classes at Walla Walla High School have gone high tech thanks to a \$143,932 *Carol White - Physical Education for Progress* grant.

The funds are being used at the high school for purchasing equipment to improve the fitness center in the balcony of the small gym, TriFit computerized fitness assessment system, and staff training.

"This is the most exciting thing I've seen in my career," Wa-Hi PE Department Chair **Jim Smith** said. "We can now develop complete health and fitness portfolios for all students and give them immediate feedback so they can improve their fitness and health results."

This year 9th grade students are using the equipment. Future use will depend on what's best for the program.

TriFit Features

- Comprehensive fitness assessment (computerized)
- Health risk appraisal
- Exercise Program design
- Nutrition and meal planning
- Progress reports for students/parents

Wa-Hi PE teachers also received computerized "Palm Companions" to take attendance, input student results, check student heart rates and review student fitness plans.



Freshman **Megan Nix** (R) tests her strength on Wa-Hi's new TriFit computerized assessment equipment while Whitman student **Kristen Grant** records her results. TriFit assessment is quick and provides immediate feedback so students can complete a health appraisal and track their progress. Whitman is the program evaluator and will help staff analyze data and find ways to make the program work best for Wa-Hi.

Citizens for Schools chairs honored



Superintendent **Rich Carter** presents *Citizens for Schools* Chairs **Bob Hill** and **Cindy Meyer** with *Certificates of Appreciation* for their help providing information to the community regarding the February 3 Maintenance and Operations levy.

Meyer and Hill coordinated telephone calling trees, fundraising, direct mail information efforts, yard signs, a public rally and much more. This is Meyer's second term as *Citizens for Schools* chair. She has daughters at Green Park Elementary and Wa-Hi. Hill has two daughters at Sharpstein Elementary.

The district's four year M&O Levy officially passed at 67.41 percent. The district received 5210 yes votes.

Thanks for your support of our schools!

Things to look for...

End-of-year celebrations

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Wa-Hi Academic Recognition | June 2 - Wa-Hi Auditorium, 7 p.m. |
| Wa-Hi Commencement | June 4 - Wa-Hi grounds, 7:30 p.m. |
| Graduates of Distinction | June 4 - Board Room, 2 p.m. |
| Pioneer 8th gr. Recognition | June 8 - Cordiner Hall, 7:30 p.m. |
| Garrison 8th gr. Recognition | June 9 - Cordiner Hall, 7:00 p.m. |
| Last Day of School | June 10 - Early release |
| Summer School | June 21 to July 22 |

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Thanks for a great year!

Prospect Point teacher takes water skiing competitors back to school

Prospect Point Elementary 2nd grade students in Renee Almy's class are often awed by their scientific discoveries, but few know their teacher spent much of her free time as a child defying the laws of physics as a competition water skier.

Almy's water skiing resume is as impressive as her abilities to inspire learning. While racing across the water at speeds more often reserved for race car drivers, Almy's hard work and gifted skills propelled her to the top of the sport. She peaked at fourth in the world (*girls 18 and under*) at the height of her career.

Her accomplishments include 1994 Girls National Slalom Champion, 1997 Collegiate Women's Slalom Champion, Western Conference Women's Slalom Record Holder (*with 2 @ 38 feet off*), World University Team Member, Girls Pacific Northwest Trick and Slalom Record Holder. She also earned a scholarship to ski competitively at Arizona State University.

Almy grew up skiing recreationally on Lake Tapps in Sumner, WA. She credits her dad for helping her get started in the sport and sticking with it.

"He got me out of bed every morning before school to ski," Almy recalls. "It was freezing, but there weren't any other boats on the lake at 6 a.m.! I didn't like it then, but winning two national championships made it worth it."

Now that Almy is a teacher, and competition skiing has taken a step back, she still hopes to stay involved.

"I would like to get back into skiing for fun and participate in some local tournaments," Almy said. "It's a great way to spend time with friends and family. Skiing is a very time consuming sport that is hard to do year round in Washington, so touring as a pro and competing at the world level aren't in the cards right now."



At the height of her career, Prospect Point 2nd Grade Teacher Renee Almy was ranked fourth in the world in Girls water skiing. She went on to win two national titles.

Walla Walla Public Schools name 2004 Volunteers of the Year

Special thanks to our Art Regier Award recipients for their dedication and exceptional service



Colleen Larish - Berney Elementary

Volunteer Highlights

- Coordinates both fall and spring scholastic book fairs (money handling, volunteer training, set up and clean up)
- Classroom volunteer (helps track reading assignments and provides students with appropriate grade level books)
- Reads to students and monitors Accelerated Reader tests
- Library assistant (primarily shelving books - Berney's monthly circulation is 5,000 books)



Frank Skorina - Green Park

Volunteer Highlights

- Math team volunteer coach (also volunteers to work during district math contest)
- Computer programming (created a software program to help track physical fitness gains)
- PE program volunteer (works directly with Kindergarten students to enhance fitness)
- Active PTA member and classroom volunteer



Don Carlyle - Wa-Hi

Volunteer Highlights

- Oversees all concession efforts for Wa-Hi Music Booster program (Football, spring and summer baseball)
- Efforts help generate \$6,000 in profits used to support K-12 music program
- Orders products, stocks concession area, sells goods, and cleans facility
- Now in his fourth year and he plans to continue doing it next year despite the graduation of his senior daughter

Improved student achievement core of new district Tech Plan

School board members last month approved a new technology plan designed to assist students in becoming technologically literate and provide teachers with the resources and training necessary to improve student achievement.

District Technology and Library Media Services Director **Janis Barton** reports the district's new Technology & Learning Implementation Plan complies with new stringent requirements from OSPI. The state mandates focus on linking technology to school improvement plans, accountability measures for students and professional development for staff.

"Our plan is designed to assist every student in becoming technologically literate," Barton said. "Special thanks to the school board for its support and Computer Coordinators for their leadership and follow through in the development of the Building Technology and Learning Implementation plans."

Technology teams at each school site gathered information this fall to help craft the plan. Inventories of all district technology equipment were recorded during this process. The plan addresses infrastructure needs, hardware and software issues, security, future growth, and training.

The new Technology & Learning Implementation Plan will be in place through 2007.



Janis Barton

"Technology is finally being integrated into all subject areas as a key to higher student achievement."

Janis Barton

Technology Plan Highlights

- Plan hinges on using current and future technology to improve student achievement and instructional strategies.
- Requires minimum technology competencies for staff and students. Standards have been developed to measure performance levels.
- Expands access to technology through web-based resources.
- Technology to support students as they meet Essential Academic Learning Requirements. (*math, reading, writing, science, social studies, art and physical education.*)