

New Wa-Hi computer lab expands technology accessibility

Lab offers teachers new options for enriching curriculum

Walla Walla High School received a much needed technology boost this summer with the addition of a modern student-center computer lab.

Classroom space for the 31 station lab and editing facility was made available on the cramped Wa-Hi campus after the TV/Broadcasting program was dissolved last year in a cost saving move.

All of the speedy, software rich computers are connected to the Internet to help students with research projects and other online demands.

According to District Technology Director **Janis Barton**, this project will provide Walla Walla High School with a state-of-the-art online basic education computer lab.

"All Wa-Hi students and staff will have electronic access to web and server-based curriculum," Barton said. "Some of our curriculum adoption learning materials are only available through the web."

Staff reassignments have allowed

the computer lab to be supported by a full-time monitor to provide assistance to users.

In previous years, Wa-Hi relied exclusively on its 20 station computer lab in the library for online access. Teachers will now be able to sign up for the lab in advance and use its online capabilities as a reliable tool for academic research.

Wa-Hi Principal **Brian Pendleton** said the school's vocational program computer labs are also going online for even more student access to the Internet.

New Wa-Hi Computer Lab

- 31 computer stations
- Lab open to all students/staff
- High speed online access
- Video editing stations
- Multiple software options
- Presentation equipment



District Software Support Specialist **Shane Jacobson** and other computer savvy experts from the district's Technology Department spent part of their summer configuring a new student-centered computer lab and video editing facility at Wa-Hi.

"Networking is not a sufficient goal in itself; equipment installations must be followed with adequate amounts of staff development, curriculum integration, and technical support. Enhancing technology access for all students is our focus."

Janis Barton, Director
Library Media & Technology

WALLA WALLA PUBLIC SCHOOLS Focus on Education

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Your School District Newsletter

Wa-Hi closes campus to underclassmen Student safety and liability concerns prompt move

Students racing to fast food chains miles away from Wa-Hi have for years been a concern of parents and staff.

Steps have been taken this school year to ease catastrophic fears and limit chronic tardiness and other discipline issues. Wa-Hi campus is now closed during the school day for freshmen and sophomores. Juniors and seniors may leave campus during school hours if they meet newly established criteria.

See **Closed Campus** - page 7

"Parents and Shared Leadership Committee members expressed concern with underclass students being able to leave with another student without parent knowledge or permission from the school or home."

Brian Pendleton, Principal
Walla Walla High School



Scott Narum of Narum Construction digs a drainage well for the new Walla Walla High School outdoor food court and student social area.

Two additional inside serving areas and one outside window are now in place to more timely serve students.

Conservative budgeting helps district weather funding losses

With Spokane Public Schools facing more than \$9 million in budget cuts this school year and Yakima slashing more than \$3 million from its coffers, Walla Walla Public Schools Business Manager **Aron Rausch** was relieved the district wasn't forced to make significant cuts to programs and staff in its recently approved 2003-2004 budget.

School board members in August approved a \$43,681,663 million general fund budget, up slightly from last year. Low class sizes will be maintained throughout the district and no teachers will lose employment, although cash reserves are projected to take a 3.1 percent hit by slipping to \$1,903,510. Core curricular subjects and academic electives remain comprehensive and relatively untouched.



Aron Rausch

"This year we were forced to dig deeper into our reserves to cover funding losses from the State of Washington and increases in operations costs," Rausch said. "Fortunately the school board had the vision years ago to man-

See **Budget** - page 6

Secondary teachers use delayed start days to improve instruction

Secondary teachers this school year will have more time to learn together thanks to the district's new professional development plan featuring delayed starts each Wednesday for students in grades 6 to 12. Look for details of what teachers are learning during these sessions in school PTA newsletters.

Plan Highlights

- No loss of instructional time
- Clearly defined use of time
- Consistent weekly schedule
- All but two of the early release days removed
- No change to elementary schedule

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Remember to Vote!

Tuesday, November 4

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Boggs named state's Principal of the Year

The Association of Washington School Principals (AWSP) has named Linda Boggs of Blue Ridge Elementary the state's Distinguished Elementary Principal for 2003.



Linda Boggs

Boggs will serve as the state's nominee to the National Distinguished Principals Program. The award serves to honor exemplary elementary and middle school principals who set the pace, character, and quality of the education children receive during their early school years.

Blue Ridge Elementary is a diverse

school with multiple challenges, including poverty and language. Nearly 90 percent of its students qualify for the state's free and reduced lunch program.

Approximately 76 percent of students are English Language Learners. And yet, under Boggs' leadership, the school has continued to make academic gains, particularly on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning. In the 2000-01 school year, just 14 percent of students were passing the WASL in mathematics. By 2001-02, that figure rose to nearly 60 percent.

Boggs credits the increase in learning to the hard work of her staff, parents and all who enter Blue Ridge.

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

Quality

Integrity

Accountability

Respect

Courtesy



Rich Carter
Superintendent

Welcome to a new school year!

Welcome to Walla Walla Public Schools and another exciting school year. We have much to accomplish this year as we strive to maintain our position as one of the state's premiere school districts. Our lofty goals will not come without challenges. This year Walla Walla voters will be presented with the district's regular replacement Maintenance and Operations Levy. This proposal would replace funding Walla Walla voters overwhelmingly approved in 2002. Levy dollars represent approximately 13 percent of the district's general fund operating budget. In light of significant state funding losses we've

witnessed this school year, local levy funding continues to be essential in helping our district maintain its current level of program and educational offerings.

This year I'll continue to advocate for adequate state and federal funding as we further implement costly education reform mandates.

We welcome several new teachers and administrators this school year. Help us make them feel at home in our community and school district. With your support, we expect to achieve even more this school year. As *Partners in Learning* with our community, we continually emphasize our core values. We believe quality, integrity, accountability, respect and courtesy are priorities in all services and relationships. We look forward to working with you this school year!

2003-2004 District Goals

- Keep pace with the state's Uniform Bar for improved academic achievement.
- Maintain the current level of programs and services with 2004 Replacement Maintenance and Operations Levy funding.
- Continue to refine and shape the district's facilities needs study in preparation for a potential multiple projects bond issue to go before voters in 2005.
- Support staff and recruit highly skilled educators to Walla Walla Public Schools.
- Maintain positive cash reserve of at least 3 to 5 percent, per school board directive.
- Continue efforts to improve communication with our community, parents, staff and students.

Board Beat

By **Toni Rudnick**, School Board President



The three R's have been replaced by the three A's. While reading, writing and arithmetic have always been critical pieces of a well balanced education, today they have been superseded by the three A's: achievement, assessment and accountability. Certainly a student must be a skilled reader, writer and mathematician to achieve and meet the terms of the

Washington Assessment of Student Learning, and the education systems of our state will be held accountable if they cannot!

For Walla Walla Public Schools, these are not mere buzzwords, but the top items on our agenda for improving student learning. Washington State has set the pace for education reform and we are working diligently to help our students acquire the skills that will meet their needs as citizens of the 21st century.

The standards that have been set forth by recent State and Federal mandates require everyone in education to rethink, redefine and reinvent the processes by which we educate our students. Change is not something we tend to embrace unless we are referring to those coins in the bottom of our pockets. But this undertaking is so vast, so important that I have come to believe that we must educate and re-educate ourselves, as well. There is a great deal of information posted on the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's web site

(www.k12.wa.us) regarding education reform, assessment based learning and ESEA ('No Child Left Behind'). The processes are new and continue to take shape as we progress.

There has been a significant amount of evaluation and research regarding systems and schools as this process has begun. Type in *highly effective schools* on most any search engine and you'll find endless research indicating that there are many impediments to success, most notably resistance to change; but of the schools that have shown the most rapid improvement there are also commonalities: strong leadership, a shared vision, collaboration and staff development. I think Walla Walla Public Schools enjoy many of these qualities and are implementing changes which will enhance the others. We have a shared vision, a committed staff and administration and have found ways to make the time necessary for collaboration and staff development.

We've learned over the years one of the most significant factors for success and high achievement is a high level of parent involvement and strong community support. Walla Walla is a community that prides itself on the quality of its schools and is recognized as such. We have all the makings of a successful endeavor; now we must work together to bring about the changes for a high level of achievement, so that we can ensure a bright future for all.

(Please Note: School board meetings are held the first and third Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held in the district board room, 364 South Park Street. All board meetings are open to the public and begin at 7:30 p.m.)

New secondary science curriculum more 'hands on' for students



By **Rob Ahrens**
Wa-Hi Science Department Chair

Walla Walla Public Schools' middle school and high school science classes will have an exciting new look this fall as the school board recently approved the new 6th grade through 12th grade science curriculum. Students will soon find themselves having fun learning science. The days kids opening up their Biology books to page whatever and answering either the odd or even questions are over.

This new curriculum will have students acting as scientists. Students will apply science to real life situations that they can relate to and experience. They will investigate nature in a way that allows them to develop strong scientific process skills while at the same time studying a broad range of interesting topics such as earthquakes, ecology, electric circuits and evolution.

Our goal is make the transition from middle school science classes to high school science classes seamless. Our teachers at both middle schools are working closely with high school science teachers to make sure students are prepared to meet the increasingly complex needs of today's world. In turn, the new curriculum will help to prepare students for the Science WASL in both the 8th grade and the 10th grade, as well as when it becomes a graduation requirement in 2010.

The district formed a Science Adoption Committee in 2002 to develop this new science curriculum. The mission of the science

adoption committee was to create a student-centered learning environment in which all students become scientifically literate. In order to accomplish this task, members of the science committee researched and screened many science programs. The committee selected a combination of science

The mission of the science adoption committee was to create a student-centered learning environment in which all students become scientifically literate.

programs to best meet the needs of Walla Walla students.

Students in 6th through 9th grades will now have the opportunity to have a mixture of science topics during the year. For example, sixth graders will learn about catastrophic events such as earthquakes, magnets and motors, and the human body. This plan will allow students to find a subject within science that they are interested in each year.

Students will also have an opportunity to utilize technology in new ways. For example, the 9th grade portion of the curriculum will allow students to monitor plate movements via the Internet as well as to use spread sheets to analyze the safety of traffic intersections. Following the ninth grade year, students will participate in a more traditional program in which they will take year long courses in biology, chemistry and physics where they will gain specialized skills.

We've taken years of research in the area of science education and are setting the curve in Walla Walla!

Closed Campus continued from page 1

Juniors and seniors must have parent permission, passing grades, and no history of suspension or expulsion due to discipline issues. This year's junior class must also have successfully completed two of the four sections of the WASL exam to receive junior privileges. Recent changes to Washington state traffic laws prohibiting newly licensed

drivers to transport other passengers also played a role in the decision to close campus.

"We feel with our new procedures, we will have a better grasp on who is leaving with whom and parents will be aware that their students have earned privileges to come and go during the lunch time," Principal **Brian Pendleton** said.

"There is no plan at the present time to close the entire campus. We are concerned however with the amount of time it requires for a student to commute to areas in town that serve lunches and to be able to return in a timely fashion for afternoon classes without having to speed or take unnecessary risks in returning to campus."



Brian Pendleton, Wa-Hi Principal

Wa-Hi adds lunch options for students

With more students expected to be eating school lunches this year due to the closing of the campus to underclassmen, Wa-Hi has expanded its seating and serving areas to better accommodate students. The Food Service Department also expanded and improved its menu to better appeal to teenagers.

Two additional serving areas have been added to cut down time students spend in line waiting for lunch. New modern round tables will also make it easier for students to converse while eating lunch.

Tasty New Lunch Choices

- Main Line (burgers, chicken, fries, veggies, fruit)
- Deli Line (sandwiches, wraps, fruit, juices)
- Express Bar (taco bar, pizza, rice bowls and more)
- Salad Line (Vegetarian items, fresh fruit, rolls)
- Ala Carte (various tasty choices)

New this year...

- Chicken rice bowls, potato bar, deli sandwiches, wrap sandwiches, new salads, taco bar and more...

New district administrators ready to serve Walla Walla students

Mike Lambert

Green Park Elementary Principal

- 15 years experience as an elementary principal
- Most recently principal of Eastwood Elementary School in Roseburg, Oregon
- Master's Degree - University of Oregon



Hobbies & Family

- Golf, hunting and fishing
- Married with two grown daughters

Ron Higgins

Walla Walla High School Assistant Principal

- Longtime Wa-Hi Math teacher
- Highly skilled in creating master schedules
- Master's Degree - WSU



Hobbies & Family

- Yardwork, computers, exercising
- Married with two school-aged children

Mira Gobel

Walla Walla High School Assistant Principal

- Longtime (15 years) district art teacher
- Wa-Hi Culminating Project Director



Hobbies & Family

- Arts & crafts and playing with her kids
- Married with two school-aged children

Kirk Jameson

Walla Walla High School Assistant Principal

- Spent 12 years teaching math and technology at Mead High School in Spokane
- Significant Vocational Education experience (General contractor)



Hobbies & Family

- Weight lifting, hunting and fishing, home improvement
- Married with 4 young children

Gina Yonts

Garrison Middle School Assistant Principal

- Longtime (12 years) Berney 5th grade teacher
- Strong Curriculum & Instruction background



Hobbies & Family

- Exercising, gardening, watching football
- Married with two school-aged children

High stakes for Class of 2008

Starting with the Class of 2008, all Washington graduates must fulfill the following four statewide requirements, in addition to Walla Walla Public Schools graduation requirements.

Earn Certificate of Mastery

Students must meet standards on the 10th-grade Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) in reading, writing and math. (Science will be added in 2010).

Complete a Culminating Project

The *Blue Print for Tomorrow* culminating project showcases the student's high school experience. Students will create five portfolios: citizenship, career, academic history, student work and personal. The students will present their *Blue Print for Tomorrow* to staff and community members their senior year.

Meet class credit requirements

Students must earn 22 credits in English, math, science, social studies, health and fitness, visual or performing arts, occupational education and electives.

Craft High School and Beyond Plan

Students must detail their plan for meeting the high school graduation requirements and what they expect to do the year after graduation.

New Berney teacher puts out house fire

New Berney teacher **Wes Sanders** hoped he would be a hero in the eyes of his new students when he arrived for his first day of school.



Wes Sanders

By the end of the day, he was seen as a hero in the eyes of the entire school. Wes noticed smoke rolling out the basement window of a house across the street. Without hesitation he donned a Berney fire extinguisher and raced over to the house.

Sanders pushed his way to the basement and extinguished the fire before it could spread. The owner had no idea the house caught fire.

City of Walla Walla Fire Chief **Terry Thomas** told Berney staff members Sanders' actions saved the home from extensive damage. Sanders is from Santa Cruz, CA and teaches first grade.

Martin named Agriculture Outstanding Teacher

Unprecedented six state FFA championships in 2003 lead to award

Walla Walla High School Vocational/Agriculture Teacher **Mike Martin** was recently named the 2003 National Association of Agricultural Educators Outstanding Teacher for the western United States.



Martin teaches Freshmen Andrea Bughi how to operate a tractor in preparation for an FFA Tractor Driving competition.

Martin, who's been a Vocational/Agriculture Teacher at Wa-Hi for 21 years, first earned state honors in this category before securing the National Association of Agricultural Educators award. Martin last year helped lead the Wa-Hi Future Farmers of America teams to an unprecedented six state titles.

"It's a tremendous honor to receive this award and it truly reflects the high quality of students we have at Wa-Hi," Martin said. "We also receive outstanding support from our community, school district and parents which helps build a successful program. In addition to this terrific support, it's a pleasure every day to have a high quality educator like Arch McHie to help lead this program."

Martin competed against several thousand Washington state and western region agriculture teachers to earn this award. Selection for the award was based on excellence, commitment,

achievement, teaching philosophy, FFA involvement, and partnerships in the community. Martin also developed curriculum guides for course offerings and refurbished the Wa-Hi barn and farm area.

"This is the highest honor I've ever received in my career," Martin said, who has led Wa-Hi teams to 23 state titles in his career. "I want to thank the students and parents for all their support over the years. This award mirrors the high standards we come to expect at Walla Walla Public Schools."

College Bound...

New teachers spend summer break hitting the books



L to R: Berney 4th grade teacher **Sean Reid**, Wa-Hi Social Studies teacher **Malia Renner**, Berney 1st grade teacher **Shannon Walton** and Wa-Hi Special Education teacher **Ryan Carter** and several more area beginning teachers spent most of their summer working to earn their Professional Teaching Certificate.

The district established a partnership with EWU last year allowing new teachers to earn a Masters of Education degree while completing requirements for the new Professional Certificate.

Obtaining this certificate is a new requirement for educators who wish to teach in Washington for more than five years.

Summer Deep Cleaning



Substitute custodian **George Wright** helps "team clean" Wa-Hi as part of the district's summer cleaning program.

Walla Walla Public Schools hired 3.5 substitute custodians this summer to boost the work force during the summer break. The substitutes also fill in for district custodians who are ill or taking vacations.

The district's four cleaning teams work as units to thoroughly clean each school. From dusting ceilings, light fixtures, and blinds to washing walls, tables, desks, and chairs, district custodians did whatever it took to ensure district schools were safe and clean when students arrived this fall.

Facilities Support Director **Dan Johnson** oversees all custodial operations and coordinates the team cleaning schedule.

Walla Walla High School Fall Sports Schedules



Now available at your Walla Walla Public Schools and various local business outlets

Two languages are better than one

By **Cindy Gregoire**
Bilingual Coordinator



The potential for young students to learn a second language and cultivate an understanding and appreciation of another culture is easier to realize this school year thanks to the launching of a new Two-Way Language Enrichment program at Sharpstein Elementary.

This model of instruction is now available at the recently modernized school for two kindergarten classrooms. Both classrooms are composed of a mixture of native Spanish speakers and native English speakers. Students are learning to read and write in their native language first, Spanish for some, English for others, while still learning to speak and understand a new language.

By second grade, students will be introduced to reading and writing in their new language, Spanish for some, English for others. Each year this program will move with the students to the next grade level; serving all grade levels for participating students by 2008-2009.

The goal is for all students participating to be able to speak, read and write in both Spanish and English by the time they complete 5th grade. Students will spend half of their school day learning in Spanish and the other half in English.

Many parents, teachers, administrators and school board members are thrilled with this opportunity for students. It has been a long time coming. The district has grown from 51 students in 1987 who needed assistance learning English, to 696 in 2003.

When compared to other language acquisition models, students learning English who are enrolled in quality Two-Way Language Enrichment programs fare better on standardized reading tests by middle and high school. In 2000-2001 a study committee was formed to study Two-Way Language Enrichment. A survey of English and Spanish-speaking parents showed 83 percent of those who responded were interested in having their children participate in a Two-Way Language Enrichment program.

With tremendous support and encouragement from Betty Schubert, Special Programs Director, our district administrators and the school board gave their seal of approval. Sharpstein Principal Laure Quaresma and many Sharpstein teachers have since attended numerous conferences with other teachers in the nation whose districts are also implementing the model.

Besides academic proficiency in two languages, making long lasting friendships and a lifelong appreciation of another culture are paramount goals of this language learning model. During "Spanish time," English language speakers look up to and are helped by the Spanish speakers, because of their knowledge of the language. During "English time," the situation is reversed.

We're thrilled to bring this program to Walla Walla and are excited about the opportunities for academic and social growth that students and their families will realize. Our entire community will benefit from this language enrichment model.

Budget continued from page 1

date a solid cash reserve to help the district maintain its current level of service during tough economic times. We've dipped in to our cash reserves about as far as we can go. Next year we may face even more difficult budget decisions as we strive to keep the district in solid fiscal shape while still offering quality programs for our students."

The Washington State Legislature ended its second special session June 11 cutting at least \$600 million in funding for K-12 public education, the largest funding cut in state history according to the Washington Education Association. In Walla Walla, this equates to an **\$807,353** loss in funding for the 2003-2004 school year according to information posted on the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction's web site (www.k12.wa.us).

"Although it's too early to say exactly how funding shortfalls will impact Walla Walla schools in coming years, it's safe to say if this trend keeps up it could eventually result in larger class sizes, higher teacher turnover and the elimination of academic programs that help students," Superintendent **Rich Carter** said.

Replacement M&O Levy Facts

- The voter approved 2002 M&O Levy expires in December 2004. Walla Walla Public Schools will propose a replacement M&O Levy this winter (*date and amount TBD*) to replace this local funding.
- This proposed M&O Levy would help maintain the current level of teaching and programs.
- This proposed M&O Levy provides approximately 13% of the operating budget and impacts about *one-sixth* of district programs and services.
- Voters approved the 2002 M&O levy at a 68 percent rate.
- Voter registration materials are available at the district office and all Walla Walla Public Schools.

2003 WASL scores up

District misses 'No Child Left Behind' accountability marks in two subgroups

Results of the Spring 2003 Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) indicate Walla Walla Public Schools are providing students with the academic knowledge and critical thinking skills needed to succeed in school and beyond.

Walla Walla Public Schools fourth grade students made significant gains in math, reading, and writing; seventh grade students showed gains in math, reading, writing, and listening; and tenth grade students improved their writing scores.

"This is a banner year for student achievement in the Walla Walla Public Schools and we're extremely proud of our staff and students for their efforts," Deputy Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction **Dr. Judy Reault** said. "Our promising practices including improved instruction, clear expectations, focused professional development and targeted assistance for students with specific needs are making the difference."

Students take the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) three times during their school careers - 4th, 7th and 10th grades - to see if they have mastered the Essential Academic Learning Requirements that have been set at the state level.

In the past year, Washington state schools have experienced increased accountability demands. The 2002 reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, commonly referred to as "No Child Left Behind," expands the federal government's role in ensuring that every student succeeds academically. This law requires all schools, school districts and states to show that all students are meeting achievement targets in reading and math. Students in nine subgroups must meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) targets each year or the district faces federal sanctions, including possible funding losses.

Walla Walla Public Schools has been identified for not making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) during the 2002-2003 school year. Here are the specific reasons:

- *Wa-Hi did not meet AYP in special ed. and Hispanic for reading and math;*
- *Garrison did not meet AYP in Hispanic for reading and math;*
- *When all the subgroup populations are combined, the district did not meet AYP in special education reading and math at all three grade levels; and*
- *The district did not meet AYP in 4th grade bilingual reading, and 7th and 10th Hispanic reading and math.*

In each category listed above, the district has one year to improve and meet state targets before being considered a district in need of improvement.

Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) Results

Grade 4 Spring 2003
(Percentages listed reflect students meeting or exceeding the standards)

Subject	District	State
Mathematics	53.2% (41.1% - 2002)	55.2%
Reading	68.4% (60.2 - 2002)	66.7%
Writing	48.1% (39.6 - 2002)	53.6%
Listening	64.5% (66.7 - 2002)	65.8%

Grade 7 Spring 2003
(Percentages listed reflect students meeting or exceeding the standards)

Subject	District	State
Mathematics	32.0% (23% - 2002)	36.8%
Reading	46.9% (45.2% - 2002)	47.9%
Writing	61.9% (61.6% - 2002)	54.6%
Listening	89.1% (83.3% - 2002)	86.9%

Grade 10 Spring 2003
(Percentages listed reflect students meeting or exceeding the standards)

Subject	District	State
Mathematics	32.6% (33.6% - 2002)	39.4%
Reading	50.3% (57.7% - 2002)	59.9%
Writing	53.7% (51.2% - 2002)	60.4%
Listening	71.5% (81.9% - 2002)	75.8%

Go to the *Schools* button on the district website for a listing of all Walla Walla Public Schools WASL results.

www.wwps.org

ESEA report cards now available

Walla Walla Public Schools 2003-2004 Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA) comprehensive *School Report Card* is now available to the public. ESEA *School Report Cards* are available at all schools, the district office - 364 S. Park Street, and online at: www.wwps.org.

The ESEA *School Report Card* documents district accountability scores and targets. Requirements of the "No Child Left Behind" legislation are fully explained and detailed in this district publication.

ESEA report card information is also available online at <http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>.