

Edison’s Moreno named “Adminstrative Professional of the Year”

Service and love for children leads to award

Congratulations to Edison Elementary Secretary **Arlene Moreno** for receiving the Mix 105.3 FM Administrative Professional of the Year award. Moreno has been at Edison for 12 years.

“I love all aspects of my job: the kids, the teachers, the parents, the variety of things that I do,” Moreno said. “I am a little embarrassed about this recognition. I love my job, and always try to do my best.”

Award includes:

- Lunch for herself, nominator **Kathryn Southwick-Hess** and four additional people of her choosing at the Cameo Heights Mansion in Touchet
- A corsage from the Kennewick Flower Shop
- An overnight stay for herself and a guest at Cameo Heights
- Two tickets to the Mannheim Steamroller Show
- Recognition Plaque

“She takes care of all of us. She is the nurse when Nurse Leigh is gone, she schedules and keeps track of all things. She has amazed me for the nine years I have been there. She is the Queen of Edison!”

Kathryn Southwick-Hess, Nominator



Edison Elementary Secretary **Arlene Moreno** was named the *Administrative Professional of the Year* for her outstanding job performance. Moreno is known for being kind and professional to all. Enjoy your stay at the Cameo Heights Mansion!

Walla Walla
Public
Schools

Focus on Education

Your School District Newsletter | Spring 2008 | Volume 9 | Issue 3

Contractor awarded Edison school bid
Tri-Cities firm breaks ground



Six houses were removed near Edison Elementary this spring to make room for the new, larger school. **Chervenell Construction** of the Tri-Cities was awarded the bid as the project’s general contractor. No Walla Walla firms bid on the Edison project.

See Edison Contractor page 3

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District takes closer look at
School Health Center idea

Local doctor **Alison Kirby MD** says many youth living in Walla Walla are not receiving adequate medical care and she has a plan to do something about it.

In March, school board members approved using a \$20,000 grant to conduct a feasibility study to determine if a School Based Health Center is a good fit for Lincoln Alternative High School.

Kirby says her proposal would be funded by community sources and offer Lincoln students medical and mental health services.

Health Department Director **Harvey Crowder** will lead the feasibility study, which could take several months to complete.

“Crowder’s study will include surveys and utilize information from the safety net of existing city and county agencies,” Superintendent **Rich Carter** said.

Prospect Point playground dream comes true
Kindergarten equipment install marks the project's final phase

Swings, monkey bars, slides and climbing structures now abound at Prospect Point Elementary’s kindergarten playground, thanks to a \$73,000 fund-raising effort led by local businesswoman and parent **Staci Wanichek**.

In April, volunteer teams from local businesses installed the new equipment.

Two innovative designs for the kindergarten playground were developed from input by the kindergarten teachers, and their students voted on the final selection.

Six benches and an independent slide will also be replaced.

Wanichek said generous donations from local businesses, individuals, grants, and personalized brick sales made this Playground Project dream come true. Special thanks to the following businesses for helping install the equipment: **Coldwell Banker, St. Mary Medical Center, America West Bank, Home Depot, American Lawn & Landscape, Hafen Construction, Walla Walla Builders Supply, Koncrete Industries, and Narum Construction.**

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

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy

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- Mary Jo Geidl
- Anne Golden
- Jim Lehmann
- Cindy Meyer

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with all the requirements of the ADA



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We'll e-mail you school closure announcements, news briefs and more, directly to the computer of your choice.

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"The goal of education is the advancement of knowledge and the dissemination of truth."

John F. Kennedy

Levy support appreciated

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to our community for securing local funding for school programs for another four years by approving the February 19 Replacement Levy.

The district will put these local dollars to good use helping Walla Walla children get an excellent education.

Walla Walla continues to be recognized at the state level for our strategies to help students be successful in school. We have a dedicated, caring and committed staff focused on student achievement and personalized education.

In my 34 years in education, I've never worked with better staff, parents, students and community members than we have right here in Walla Walla.

I'm proud to be superintendent of the Walla Walla Public Schools as this is truly a premier school district. Thank you again for your support as our Partner in Learning.

Refinancing of bonds saves taxpayers quarter of a million dollars

This spring the district refinanced a portion of its outstanding bonds in order to take advantage of lower interest rates.

This move saved taxpayers more than one quarter of a million dollars. The approximately \$256,000 in savings will flow directly to taxpayers through reduced tax levies and is not available for district expenses.

This is a direct savings to our community members in the form of taxes they expected, but will not have to pay.

The district has been monitoring bond market conditions over the past year and recent low interest rates allowed the district to take action and save taxpayers money. Interest costs averaged 2.60% on the new bonds compared to 4.89% on the old debt.

The district refinanced \$7,510,000 of bond debt March 12 for the significant savings to taxpayers.

Math WASL changes coming

By Ron Higgins, District Assessment Director

Math WASL to remain in place until 2014- then be replaced with "End-of-Course" Exams

The recent Washington state legislative session saw some changes in high school graduation requirements. Beginning with the class of 2014 (our current sixth grade students), the existing Math WASL exam will be phased out and math end-of-course exams in Algebra 1 and Geometry will be required for graduation.

Students in the Class of 2013 will have an additional option to choose end-of-course math exams or the WASL exam to meet high school math graduation requirements. Nothing has changed to affect the math graduation requirements for students through the Class of 2012.

At this time, the procedures for implementing the end-of-course Algebra 1 and Geometry exams have not been developed, but OSPI will lead work on this in the near future. It is not as yet known whether or not the Algebra 1 and Geometry end-of-course testing will utilize a similar state-wide testing schedule as the WASL exam.

Math graduation requirements for the Class of 2009-2013

Math graduation requirement met by:

- Passing the math high school WASL/WAAS OR
- Meeting standard on a math Collection of Evidence OR
- Submitting a score of 19 or higher on the math ACT, 47 or higher on the math PSAT, 470 or higher on the math SAT, or 3 or higher on an AP calculus or statistics exam OR
- Earning two math credits after 10th grade and annually take the high school math WASL/WAAS, submitting a complete math Collection of Evidence, or taking the math ACT, math PSAT, math SAT, or an AP calculus or statistics exam.

Math graduation requirements for the Class of 2014

The high school math WASL/WAAS will be eliminated as a graduation requirement or option for students in the Class of 2014. Students in this class will fulfill the math graduation requirement by:

- Passing end-of-course exams in Algebra I and Geometry or end-of-course exams in Integrated Math I and II OR
- Meeting standard on a math Collection of Evidence OR
- Submitting a score of 19 or higher on the math ACT, 470 or higher on the math SAT, or 3 or higher on an AP calculus or statistics exam.

NOTE: Contact Special Programs for Special Education graduation requirements, 527-3000.

Community Connections

District names Graduates of Distinction

Walla Walla Public Schools names this year's honorees for the Graduates of Distinction program. Honorees are: **Claro E. Bergevin**, Class of 1941, **Gretchen Miller Kafoury**, Class of 1959, and **John E. (Jack) Pelo**, Class of 1974.

Celebrate alongside these distinguished alumni at a reception in their honor on Tuesday, June 3, 2008 (details listed below). Listen to their stories and hear who helped shape their lives during their school years.

Reception -- Meet this year's recipients

Date: Tuesday, June 3

Time: 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.

Place: Walla Walla School District Board Room

End of Year Ceremonies scheduled

Garrison Middle School

8th Grade Recognition

Cordiner Hall

Wednesday, June 11 - 7 p.m.

Pioneer Middle School

8th Grade Recognition

Wa-Hi Large Gym

Tuesday, June 10 - 7 p.m.

Lincoln Alternative High School

Graduation

Thursday, June 5

6 p.m. - School Gym

Opportunity Program

Graduation Celebration

Thursday, May 29

Senior Luncheon

12 noon

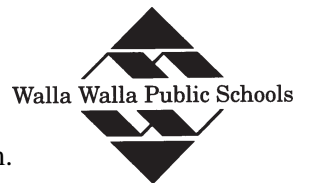
Walla Walla High School

Recognition Evening

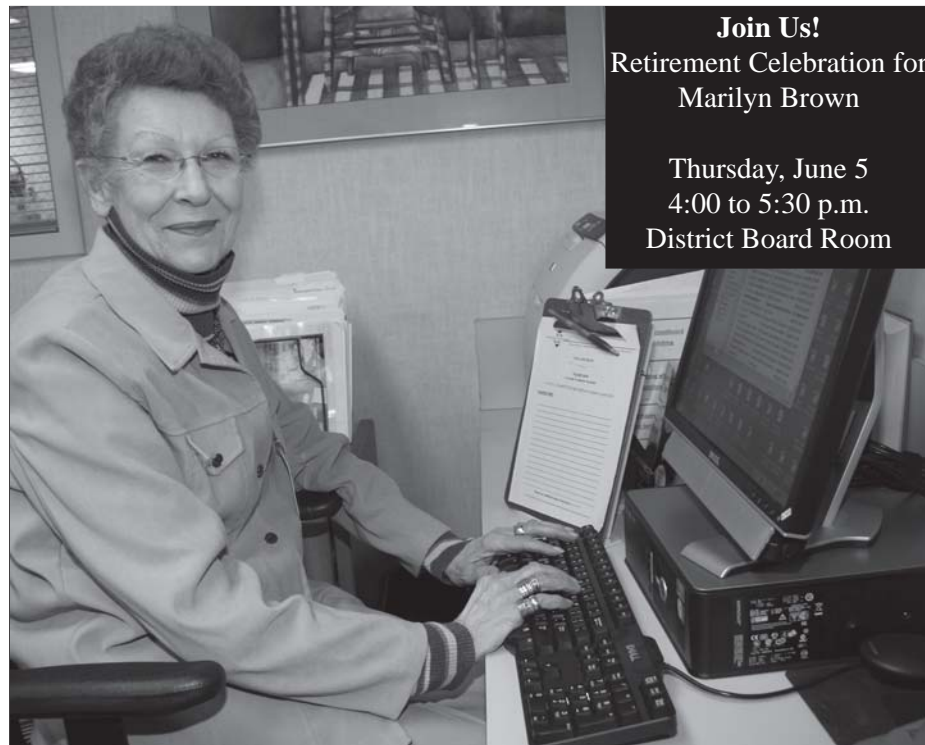
Wednesday, June 4 - 7 p.m. (Wa-Hi Auditorium)

Commencement

Friday June 6 - 7:30 p.m.



A Superintendent's Best Friend to Retire



Join Us!
Retirement Celebration for
Marilyn Brown

Thursday, June 5
4:00 to 5:30 p.m.
District Board Room

After serving six superintendents over nearly a 60 year span, Superintendent Secretary **Marilyn Brown** is saying good-bye to the district at the end of August after 41 years of service.

Brown began her career in 1950 as secretary to Superintendent **Wesley Lacey**. During her career she was the lead secretary to superintendents **Arthur Jones** (1951-1952 -- *Marilyn stepped away from work for nearly 20 years to raise a family*), **Franklin "Pete" Hanson** (1970-1980), **Dr. Dennis Ray** (1980-1990), **Dr. Ellen Wolf** (1990-2000), and **Dr. Richard Carter** from 2000 to present.

"I consider myself a very privileged secretary with the opportunity I have had to work with all the dedicated staff who do so much for children," Brown said. "I offer my very best wishes to everyone for your continued success."

High School Facilities Task Force urges public discussion on recommendations

After meeting for nearly one year and studying numerous issues, the High School Facilities Task Force has formed conclusions on their study and are close to presenting their recommendations to the school board.

The High School Facilities Task Force believes their recommendations and conclusions are based on thoughtful study of the facts and issues surrounding our high school facilities. They are anxious to share their work and respectfully request the school board use this report as a springboard for more public discussion.

Please take time to review the report and weigh in on what you see. This group fully understands solving these challenges will take the entire community. Thanks for your time and thoughtful consideration as we strive to support Walla Walla children.

Cindy Meyer and John Rowley, Co-Chairs

High School Task Force Members

Darcy Weisner	Scott Krivoshein	Lawson Knight
Jim McCarthy	Mike Pettyjohn	Jim Hayner
Cindy Widmer	Clint Gabbard	Mindy Meyer
Jim Sporleder	Max Carrera	Rob Ahrens
Nanqi You	John Butenhoff	Dave Warkentin
Ruth Russo	Ruth Ladderud	Carina Stillman
Everett Knudson	John Rowley	James Payne
Dick Cook	Jim Sanders	Jody Schneidmiller
Linda Newcomb	LaDessa Smelcer	

Report Online - www.wwps.org

Task Force Conclusions *(Summarized -- for a complete report visit the district website)*

Two High School issue

- The Task Force believes Walla Walla is not ready for two comprehensive high schools due to compromised educational offerings and cost. Instead, this group feels Walla Walla High School’s overcrowding issues could be relieved through enhanced offerings for more students at Lincoln Alternative High School. They also feel a dynamic Vocational Skills Center could offer relief to Wa-Hi by enrolling a significant number of students.

Lincoln facility not meeting needs

- The Lincoln Alternative High School facility is not meeting the needs of the district’s alternative education programs.

College Place not planning for a high school

- Walla Walla Public Schools will continue accepting College Place high school students per state legal requirements. College Place leaders have indicated they are focusing on improving their K-8 facilities and are not planning for a high school.

District facilities have been maintained

- Walla Walla Public Schools maintains its physical facilities as they were built and with “superb professionalism.”

Safety and security issues not at core of Wa-Hi improvement needs

- Walla Walla High School, despite some physical building limitations, has an effective safety and security program.

Both district High School facilities are over capacity and need improvement

- The current condition of the two high schools in Walla Walla indicates a need for improvement. Both Wa-Hi and Lincoln are over enrollment capacities for educational offerings.

Quality facilities linked to academic improvement

- Although not the number one factor leading to academic improvement, research shows there is a connection between student achievement and the physical condition of school buildings (most notably -- lighting, acoustics and air quality).

Career Technical Education (CTE) remains a priority

- Career technical education brings relevancy to students’ education and district facilities should support these programs.

Task Force Recommendations *(Summarized -- for a complete report visit the district website)*

Phase in projects over time

- Board of Directors should phase in high school improvement projects over time. Do not ask for one large proposal.

Include improvements for both schools

- The Board of Directors should include improvement projects for both Wa-Hi and Lincoln in each phase.

Think “outside of the box” when designing improvements

- Consider strategies to keep costs for improvements to a minimum. Study modular designs, community funding partnerships and other construction and design options to limit expenses to taxpayers while still meeting educational needs. The historical significance of buildings should be considered.

Consider developing a Skills Center

- The Board of Directors should first pursue state funding of a Skills Center for Walla Walla Public Schools.

A Skills Center would:

- a. Increase the relevancy of current programs and improve the educational offerings at both Walla Walla high schools.
- b. Provide relief to the overcrowding at Walla Walla High School.
- c. Allow some increase in enrollment at the Lincoln Alternative High School.

Blend new construction with existing buildings at Walla Walla High School

- The Board of Directors should pursue a combination of renovating existing buildings and new construction at Wa-Hi.

Limit costs when improving Lincoln Alternative High School

- The Board of Directors should not invest in renovating the current Lincoln Alternative High School building. This building has outlived its usefulness. Educational limitations and cost are at the core of this recommendation. The school board should look at creative building techniques, including modular designs, different materials and configurations to keep costs to a minimum while still meeting educational needs.

Keep eye on future school sites

- The Board of Directors should continue to study land acquisition needs for future school sites.

Collaborate with Citizens for Schools

- When the time comes, the Board of Directors should seek assistance of Citizens for Schools to promote educational needs and the funding requirements for these school facility improvements.

Your comments are needed

Send or phone your comments to District Communications Director Mark Higgins.

- E-mail: mhiggins@wwps.org
- Telephone: 509.526.6716

How will you discuss the report?

- E-mail and postal mail comments
- Face-to-face meetings
- Staff and community forums
- Community surveys
- Media

Walla Walla Public Schools name 2008 Volunteers of the Year

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



Staci Wanichuk - Prospect Point Playground Project Chair

Nominators - Rick Nebeker, Julie Wiley, Kris Takemura, Suzette Kennedy, Luz Phillips, and Christine Ludwig

Volunteer Highlights

- Raised more than \$73,000 for new playground equipment
- Organized the project design and installation
- Organizes class parties and volunteers in the classroom
- Adopted a Prospect Point family at Christmas and provided a tree and gifts for the children
- Serves on district's boundary review committee



Karen McDaniels - Berney, Pioneer and Wa-Hi longtime volunteer

Nominator: Britt Adkins

Volunteer Highlights

- Volunteered weekly in the classrooms of each of her four children for more than 15 years
- Active in the Berney and Pioneer PTSA for years
- Member of the Big Blue Boosters board
- Organized numerous school fundraisers and a college scholarship program through her church
- Takes time to get to know the staff and students at all of her volunteer sites



Laura Schueller - Garrison Middle School and Citizens for Schools volunteer

Nominators: Grace Ogoshi, Ronda Gabbard, Stacy McPherson, Beth Clearman, Chris Blackman, and Gayle Kinman

Volunteer Highlights

- Garrison PTA President
- Organized PTA Cookie Dough Fundraiser and Book Fair
- Facilitated "feeding of the staff" during conferences
- Organized refreshments at Citizens for Schools Levy Rally
- Tennis Team Parent -- required her to attend all home matches and some away matches
- Explorer Program active volunteer

"This award is in recognition of their exceptional volunteer service and demonstration of care, compassion and empathy to the staff and students of the Walla Walla Public Schools."

Superintendent Rich Carter

Home Depot teams with district to provide supplies for Grab & Go Safety Buckets

Safe Schools grant funds safety kits

Walla Walla Public Schools recently received a \$5000 grant from the Washington State School Safety Center to fund safety kits for Pioneer and Garrison Middle Schools and Lincoln Alternative High School.

The kits will contain essential safety supplies. Teachers will have "Grab and Go Buckets" in their classrooms stocked with safety supplies and critical information to use during emergencies.

"**Jamie Dressler** of the Home Depot was instrumental in working with the schools in providing supplies through the Home Depot bid process with some items reduced up to 44 percent," Pioneer Middle School Dean of Students **Judy Anderson** said.

Five gallon, bright orange "Homer" buckets house safety items such as light sticks, first aid supplies, dust masks, emergency flashlights, snacks and other supplies for teachers to use in the event of an emergency. Ninety buckets were assembled and three Jumbo rough totes per school will be used for shelter in place which will include duct tape, emergency radio & flashlights, poly sheeting, two way radios and other necessary items.



*(L to R) Pioneer Middle School Dean of Students **Judy Anderson** and Counselor **Angie Gardea** stock "Grab & Go" Buckets with safety supplies to use during emergencies.*

"These kits make it easy for staff and contain supplies that are needed during a crisis," District Safe Schools Committee Chair **Mark Higgins** said. "We believe these kits are an essential part of our emergency preparedness. Eventually we would like to see them in every classroom."

Edison Contractor continued from page 1

School board approves bid award for Edison Construction Project

Walla Walla Public Schools Board of Directors approved the bid award for a general contractor for the Edison Elementary construction project to Chervenell Construction of the Tri-Cities. Two other construction firms qualified to bid on the project. No Walla Walla firms chose to submit a bid.

"They have experience building schools in Richland, Sunnyside, Kiona Benton and Toppenish, so we are confident they will build a quality project in Walla Walla," **John Evans** of Architects West said. "Even their competitors had good things to say about Chervenell as we did our reference checks."

The base bid for the project was \$11,505,000. Chervenell Construction will be responsible for managing the project and hiring subcontractors. Walla Walla voters approved a bond measure February 6, 2007 to replace the 70-year-old school.



Superintendent Rich Carter helps Edison students (L-R) Autumn Lewis-Grade 4, Isaiah Castillo-Grade 3, Henry Farnum-Grade 2, Sheylene Pierce-Grade 1, Emily Hewitt-Grade K, Chelsea Ballard-Grade 5 officially begin construction during last month's groundbreaking ceremony.