

Fire destroys home not community spirit

Pioneer Middle School staff and students organize community donation drive to help family in need



(Photo L-R) Jacob Tegtmeier (8th), PE teacher Megan Poulson, Rebekah Tegtmeier (6th), Morghan Carrera (8th), Megan Thompson (7th) and Logan Morris (8th) deliver donated items Pioneer Middle school students, staff and community members collected for the Rob Gonzalez family following a fire which destroyed their home.

A total of more than \$700 was donated to help this family which has two children at Pioneer and one at Walla Walla High School.

Thanks to the following businesses for these generous gifts to the Gonzalez family

Albertsons	\$50 Gift Card
Andy's Market	\$50 Gift Card
Applebee's	\$30 Gift Card
Book and Game	5 Board Games
Christian Supply Cnt.	Framed Picture
Cummins Athletics	12 towels, t-shirts
Hastings	DVDs, CDs, Books, T-shirts & misc. items
Jo-Ann Fabrics	5 Fleece Blankets
Loney's Harvest Foods	\$50 Gift Card
Macy's	Two Down Comforters, Sheet Set, Roasting Pan
Rex	Sony DVD Player
Safeway	Cookies & Hot Cocoa
Super One	\$50 Gift Card

"Words can't describe how we feel about receiving these gifts. We are overwhelmed by this generosity."

Yvonne Gonzalez (mother)

Walla Walla
Public
Schools

Focus on Education

Your School District Newsletter | Winter 2007 | Volume 8 | Issue 2

In This Issue

Wa-Hi Leadership Camp	2
Army Navy game salute	3
Edison Bond information	4
Edison Bond designs	5
Garrison teacher top cowboy	6
Health fairs positive message ..	7
Exchange Youth of the Month ...	7
Pioneer helps fire victims	8

Edison Bond to go before voters February 6 Bond Goal - Provide best education possible for Edison students



Edison Elementary Fourth Grade Teacher Leslie Hanson-Anderson works with Alexandria Peter on developing her math skills.

The Edison bond proposal calls for replacing the 70-year-old school on its current site with a modern school with features designed to support learning.



If approved, the new Edison is expected to open Fall 2009.

Edison Elementary students will have access to modern, climate controlled classrooms, today's technology, a larger library, and safer campus design should voters approve the February 6 bond measure.

The plan to replace the aging Edison Elementary received strong community and staff support during listening efforts following the rejected May bond proposal.

Board members said a comprehensive study of the high school experience, including alternative education, will begin following the Edison bond election.

This \$19.5 million dollar project will increase the bond rate 20 cents per thousand of assessed valuation -- an average of \$2.50 per month on a \$150,000 house. Ballots for this bond measure mail Friday, January 19.

See **Edison Bond** pages 4 & 5

Golden named school board president for 2007

Recently school board members voted for **Anne Golden** to serve as Board President in 2007 and **Toni Rudnick** as Vice President.



Golden is the most senior board member, elected in 1987.

This Gonzaga University graduate is a tireless volunteer who is serving her third term as board president.

She has dedicated many years of service to YWCA, Camp Fire, the American Heart Association, as well as public education.

Rudnick was elected to the board in 1999 and has three Wa-Hi graduates. Rudnick has served one term as board president.

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Focus on Education community newsletter is published tri-annually by Walla Walla Public Schools.

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School Report Cards

No Child Left Behind Accountability
See information highlighting our progress at:

<http://reportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us>

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

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect | Courtesy



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WASL proposal allows more time to meet math targets

Recently State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Terry Bergeson and Governor Christine Gregoire proposed a temporary change in the state math graduation requirement -- *students in classes of 2008, 2009 and 2010 to either pass Washington Assessment of Student Learning math or take and pass math coursework to meet graduation requirement.* The 10th-grade WASL represents a minimum threshold that all students need to meet.

Students who have not passed the high school WASL continue to take rigorous math classes until they graduate or pass the test. The option of allowing students to graduate without passing the math WASL would remain in place for three years - for the graduating classes of 2008, 2009 and 2010.

This proposal has already fueled speculation that the state is backing down on the requirements altogether. This is not the case. The reality is students need higher levels of preparation to meet these high standards. Walla Walla Public Schools will continue to focus on math and make the most of this brief reprieve.

The state has developed a comprehensive plan to improve math teaching and learning in our schools. The comprehensive plan includes clarifying and prioritizing state standards, adjusting the WASL accordingly, identifying a limited menu of curricula, diagnostic assessments and intervention materials aligned with our standards and tests, and creating a new and better system to prepare teachers and provide them with the professional development they need to improve the teaching of math at all levels.

We have much work to do, but with the support of our community, we will meet these challenges. Thanks for being our Partner in Learning.

Wa-Hi students work on communication and team building at Fall Leadership Camp

More than 100 students and 8 staff members traveled the winding road to Meadowood Springs Camp atop Tollgate this fall to learn more about themselves, work on communication and enhance team building skills.

“Most importantly they have fun too,” said Wa-Hi Leadership Teacher **Lori Finn** who helps advise the event.

Leadership Camp is developed and organized by junior counselors who are a part of Wa-Hi’s Leadership Class.

“The camp is helping to bring down walls and allowing students to overcome issues which prevent them from being successful in high school,” Finn said. “For many students it is a life changing experience.”

Finn’s goal is for every student to attend Leadership Camp before they graduate.

There are two more camps scheduled this school year: February 23-25 and May 4-6. Cost is \$50 per student. Scholarships are available.



Wa-Hi student Andrew Crawford participates in the “spider web” team building activity. All team members start on one side of the web with the goal to get everyone to the other side. However, each hole in the web may only be used once! (Photo L-R -- Students Chester Holt, Veronica Rangle, Callie Hansen, Jacob Harold, and Wa-Hi Assistant Principal Kirk Jameson.

Healthy living supports learning



Sharpstein Elementary 5th grade students (L-R) **Addily Dyer** and **Libby Donaldson** use the handwashing station at the Sharpstein Health Fair earlier this school year. This demonstration was designed to help teach students how to properly wash their hands.

A Rural Health Partnership Grant awarded to Walla Walla Public Schools, Walla Walla Community College and St. Mary Medical Center this school year is to help reduce obesity and other related problems in school children.

This school year three health fairs are supported through grant funding. The grant also supports an education program with staff and parents. This year’s goal is to screen even more parents of school children.

Parents will be encouraged to participate in a Lifestyle Management Program designed to teach new, healthy habits for adults who in turn can promote healthy lifestyles in their children.

Snow Day!

What to do if winter weather hits Walla Walla

If school is delayed or closed due to poor weather, notices will be posted on the school district website (www.wwps.org) by 6:30 a.m. and be updated throughout the day as needed.

Announcements are also made on local radio and TV stations beginning at 6:00 a.m. If no announcement is made by 6:30 a.m., you should assume schools are running on time.

If there is a 2-hour delay, there will be no A.M. Preschool (no Preschool on Fridays) and no breakfast services. All schools will start two hours after the normally scheduled start times.

Community Connections

Blue Mountain Community Foundation grants funding for Edison’s “Books for Babes” program

The “Books for Babes” project recently received a check for \$3,000 from The Blue Mountain Community Foundation.

This funding will help purchase more books for more babies, according to Edison Second Grade Teacher **Kay Barga** who helps coordinate the program.

The “Books for Babes” program was created to promote literacy with Walla Walla families who have newborns. Each year Edison elementary students deliver book bags to St. Mary Medical Center and Walla Walla General Hospital to be sent home with mothers who recently had babies.

Exchange Club of Walla Walla honors outstanding Wa-Hi seniors with Youth of the Month awards

Congratulations to **Chris Schulz** and **Kelsey Beckmeyer** of Walla Walla High School, who were named the Exchange Club of Walla Walla Youth of the Month recipients for the month of October 2006.

These high school seniors were honored during a special luncheon for outstanding achievement and will be eligible to compete for the Exchange Club of Walla Walla Youth of the Year Awards and special \$1,000 college scholarships.

Konen Rock Products and Concrete Industries donate “Spirit Rock” to promote Wa-Hi pride

Thanks to Konen Rock Products for donating a “Spirit Rock” to Wa-Hi to encourage school pride. Concrete Industries donated delivery of the 12,000 lb. boulder.

“The idea behind the rock is to paint it frequently with events and activities on campus,” Wa-Hi Leadership Teacher **Lori Finn** said. “Any group can submit a proposal to paint the rock.”

Blue Devil Basketball

KTEL 1490 AM



Edison Elementary Bond

Bond Goal - Provide best education possible for Edison students

We Listened

(Information based on post May 2006 bond listening efforts)

Walla Walla spoke: We want one project at a time.

We listened:

- Edison Elementary is the only project on the February 6 bond.

Walla Walla spoke: We want a stronger voice in bond decisions.

We listened:

- Nearly 90 percent of survey responses called for Edison as a stand-alone project. Edison is a stand-alone project on this bond.

Walla Walla spoke: Keep project costs and taxes low.

We listened:

- This proposal represents a 64% reduction from the entire May bond.

Walla Walla spoke: We want more information on the current high school experience and our high school options for the future.

We listened:

- The school board has called for a comprehensive study of the high school experience following the February bond.

Study areas include:

- Replace vs. remodel existing Wa-Hi buildings
- Second high school option
- College Place High School (future potential)
- Alternative Education (including Vocational Tech Center)
- Athletic facility options

Edison students will stay on their campus and attend school in the existing Edison building during construction.

All precautions will be made to ensure staff and students have a safe learning environment.

School Tours

To arrange for a school tour, please call Principal Nancy Withycombe at 527-3072.

Why Edison?

To meet today's standards.

Visit Sharpstein or Green Park Elementary Schools and you'll quickly see Edison Elementary does not compare.

The School Board is committed to equity and believes Edison students deserve a quality facility to enhance their educational opportunities.

Edison Elementary is 70 years old, and the facility fails to meet today's learning demands.

Scope of project

Replace existing 70-year-old Edison Elementary on an expanded current site with a two-story, 63,000 square foot school designed to serve approximately 450 students to meet district growth demands.

Project to support learning

- Better classrooms (advanced technology, furniture, improved lighting, sound systems to better hear teachers, and climate-controlled)

- Needed additional classrooms

- Modern library and technology labs

- Teacher prep rooms and testing areas

- Separate cafeteria and PE spaces

Other Project Benefits

- Added student capacity for future growth
- Improved safety (Hobson Street entrance)
- Additional parking
- Separate bus and parent drop off/loading

Why replace Edison at current site?

- Serves established neighborhood
- Local studies recommend replacement



Why does Edison cost more this time than it did on the May 2006 bond?

- This proposal calls for finishing the entire school at once to meet growing district enrollment projections, rather than just the first floor as was proposed on the May bond.
- The completion of the second floor will provide approximately 50 percent more classroom and program space for district growth demands.
- Costs for finishing these second floor spaces were not included in the May bond proposal.
- Second floor includes: 12 classrooms, two restrooms, three specialist teaching areas, and two teacher preparation areas.
- School construction costs are rising approximately 15 to 20 percent per year. Cost estimates for this project are based on rising inflation for construction/labor, equipment, furniture and land purchases.

Proposed Project Timeline

- Facility design process _____ Spring 2007 to Winter 2008
- Contractor bids _____ Spring 2008
- Construction begins _____ June 2008
- School opens _____ Fall 2009

How much does the project cost?

Project Cost: \$19.5 million

Cost per \$1,000: The Edison project will increase the bond rate 20 cents per thousand of assessed valuation -- an average of \$2.50 per month on a \$150,000 house.

NOTE: Due to valuation increases and community growth contributing to a broadening tax base, the new total bond rate proposal would be about \$1.38 per \$1,000, which is less than the current total rate of \$1.50.

State Matching Dollars: \$3.4 million

Barrelman of the Year



Garrison teacher receives Northwest Professional Rodeo Association Barrelman of the Year Award

Garrison Middle School Science and Social Studies Teacher **Jason “JJ” Harrison** recently won the Northwest Professional Rodeo Association Barrelman of the Year Award for the second consecutive year.



There are more than 1,200 cowboy and cowgirl members of the NPRA who are eligible to vote for this award. Harrison was the barrelman at more than 50 rodeo performances this year around the Northwest. Harrison also earned the Professional Western Rodeo Association “Speciality Act of the Year.”

“Jason is one of our finest teachers,” Superintendent **Rich Carter** said. “His positive attitude and outgoing personality make him a favorite with our students. His ability to connect with kids and inspire a love for learning makes him one of the district’s shining stars.”

Safe School Helpline helps students break code of silence

Safe School Helpline Features

- Report any information which could jeopardize safety (violence, theft, drugs, sexual harassment, weapons)
- Toll free, easy to use, non-intrusive
- Anonymity for all callers
- Daily, 24 hour service

Helpline Telephone Number
(800) 4-1-VOICE (418-6423) ext. 359

Community involvement helps make Walla Walla schools safer for students

Walla Walla emergency responders and safety experts have teamed with Walla Walla Public Schools through its Safe Schools Committee to ensure all students, staff and visitors are safe.

The district relies on the Safe Schools Committee area experts to help review emergency plans, develop strategies for managing crisis, train staff and students and help educate parents on these issues. Thanks to our committee for their support!

Safe Schools Committee

- Anne Golden**, School board
- Mark Thompson**, Bullying/Harassment expert
- Don Marlatt**, Emergency Management
- Keri Abernathy**, Emergency Medical Services
- Harvey Crowder**, Health Services Department
- Wendell Prins**, WA State Patrol
- Terry Heisey**, WW City Police
- Brad Morris**, WW City Fire
- Scott Brashear**, WW County Sheriff
- Rocky Eastman**, Fire District 4
- Matt Wood**, WW City Police
- Peggy Needham**, Parent Involvement Specialist
- R.L. Miller**, WA State Patrol

FFA tractor team plows competition



Wa-Hi Future Farmers of America Tractor Driving team of **Tanner Simmons** (10th), **Dane Swenson** (11th), **Blake Hale** (12th), **Zach Harvey** (12th) and **Bryce Buckley** (10th) took the state title for the third consecutive year.

With six state titles in the past eight years, it’s clear Wa-Hi is the dominant team in the state.

“GEAR UP” much more than just college readiness program



Freshman Transition participants **Israel Maldonado & Amberly Fowler** visit the **WSU Veterinary Medical School** in Pullman.

Gear Up helps students make campus visits and get in-depth information such as financial aid, registration requirements and college activities.

Army Navy Game Salute



Wa-Hi Seniors **Alberto Chavez** and **Alicia Elder** put the finishing touches on a 30 second television commercial they created in their Technology Production class for the annual Army Navy football game on CBS. They were approached by the Army Corp of Engineers to take on this project. Chavez was the lead video animator and Elder served as the video editor.

All Wa-Hi students eligible to receive WSU Gear Up services

From offering study skills classes and paying for teacher professional development to purchasing student computer labs and helping students learn how to transition to high school, the WSU GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is making an impact at Walla Walla High School.

This program, supported by a federal education grant from the Department of Education, helps students succeed in school and develop plans for life after high school.

“GEAR UP is much more than a college readiness program,” said Wa-Hi Gear Up Coordinator **Mike Gwinn**. “Most college readiness programs restrict service to a certain group of students, for example: first generation college student, low income, or minority status.”

Currently at Wa-Hi, GEAR UP is providing service to students in all grade levels, which means every student can access GEAR UP services. To learn more about the WSU GEAR UP, contact Gwinn at 527-3020.

GEAR UP Services at a glance

- **Secondary Instructional Practices (SIP)**
Formerly Literacy First GEAR UP is funding instructional materials, substitute costs, teacher stipends, instructional cost of the training and on-site instructional coaches -- a cost of nearly \$40,000.
- **Mobile Computer Lab**
Purchased 20 wireless laptop computers that can be used daily by students.
- **Study Skills Class**
- **In-Class tutoring**
- **Cougar Club** (college information)
- **Scholarships**
- **Student Planners**
- **9th Grade Summer Transition Program**
- **Parent Outreach**