

Garrison MS teacher to attend Space Academy

Sue Schulz to train as an astronaut

Garrison Middle School Science teacher **Sue Schulz** has been invited to join teachers from throughout the world to participate in the Honeywell Space Academy for Educators June 15-20 in Huntsville, AL. See more at: <http://educators.honeywell.com>.



Sue Schulz



Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy

Innovative programs help educators inspire the next generation of scientists. Honeywell Educators @ Space Academy is an intensive educator program for math and science teachers that provides simulated astronaut training focused on space science and exploration.

All lessons taught at Educators @ Space Academy and lesson plans provided to the educators align with National Science and Math Standards and are ready to use in the classroom.

"I plan to bring back additional materials to supplement our current curriculum," Schulz said. "I will be able to weave in some of the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) experiences and challenges I learn this summer at camp. I can hardly wait!"

Schulz will train as an astronaut, participate in problem solving exercises, conduct science experiments, experience NASA math and science curriculum, and meet people from all over the world. Math and Science teachers from all 50 states and various countries are expected to attend.

"It will infuse my teaching of astronomy and space and even physical science with personal experiences that I will be able to share with my students. It will be infectious."

Sue Schulz

Walla Walla Public Schools

364 South Park Street
Walla Walla, WA 99362
509.529.7713 (FAX)
509.527.3000
website: www.wwps.org

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Board of Directors

Max Carrera
Anne Golden
Dan Hess
Dr. Jim Lehmann
Cindy Meyer

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Walla Walla Public Schools

Focus on Education

Excellence in Every Classroom

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High School Skills Center receives state funding

New cooperative facility to offer high school students job ready skills



This spring, the Washington State Legislature allocated nearly \$11 million to fund the Southeast Area Technical Skills Center in Walla Walla. Construction is expected to begin this fall.

The Skills Center will serve regional high school students and be located at Walla Walla Community College on Isaacs Avenue.

The Southeast Area Technical Skills Center will initially offer construction trades, welding, renewable resources and health occupation programs. The building will have space for future growth which may also be used for other Skills Center needs. The Walla Walla Skills Center will be a branch campus of the Kennewick School District's Tri-Tech Skills Center.

Technology Director **Kirk Jameson** and District Consultant **Sergio Hernandez** are taking the lead on organizing the project and coordinating programs. Walla Walla Public Schools anticipates the Skills Center will serve 60 Full-Time Equivalent students when it opens and grow to 160 FTE in future years. Students will attend for a three period block in either the morning or afternoon. Career and Technical Education courses at Walla Walla High School will still be offered.

"This Skills Center will provide us more options for students throughout the Walla Walla Valley and help us better coordinate programs with Walla Walla Community College. Thanks so much to Senator Mike Hewitt and Representatives Maureen Walsh and Terry Nealey for their support representing this project in Olympia."

Superintendent Mick Miller

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Skills Center Programs

- Construction Technology
- Welding Manufacturing
- Renewable Resources Technology
- Health Occupations programs
- Space for additional programs

Construction Timeline:

- Construction begins Fall 2012 with classes projected for Fall 2014

Cost/Funding Source:

- Approximately \$11 million
- State funded (construction budget)
- WWCC low cost land lease
- No cost to local bond rates

Partnering districts:

- Dayton
- Waitsburg
- Touchet
- Prescott
- Possibly local private schools
- An agreement could also be reached with the new College Place High School and the Milton- Freewater School District to serve Oregon students.

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

Quality | Integrity | Accountability | Respect
Courtesy | Innovation | Diversity



Mick Miller
Superintendent

526.6714 (Office)
mmiller@wwps.org
www.wwps.org

Message from Superintendent Mick Miller

Commencement for Lincoln High School is Thursday, May 31 at the Walla Walla Fairgrounds. Walla Walla High School seniors will graduate Friday, June 1 on the Wa-Hi campus. These events mark the end of the K-12 education provided for our graduates by the citizens of Walla Walla and the state of Washington. I join these graduates in thanking each of you for your support throughout their educational experience in Walla Walla Public Schools.

The coming of June also marks the end of the 2011-12 school year. Again, thank you to the community for its support of our Educational Programs and Operations Levy. The 64.5% "yes" vote was incredibly encouraging and gratifying.

Also, while we as educators try our best to score and measure student growth, we simply cannot measure it all. We give grades and focus on meeting standards, but it's deeper than just grades. On a daily basis, our students are growing and maturing and making incredible strides. Although the calendar marks only one year of a student's school career, for many, 2011-12 was a year they will never forget due to the remarkable occurrences in their lives.

It is a pleasure working with great kids and fantastic adults in the Walla Walla Public Schools. Thank you so much for all your support. As always, if you have a question, comment, concern or compliment, I would love to talk with you. My office phone is 526-6714 and email is mmiller@wwps.org. Please have a wonderful summer. We look forward to seeing our students back in school on September 4.

WSU Food \$ense Program a recipe for healthy youth

By Debi Evans, Program Coordinator

Is there *really* cheese in Cheetos? That was the question recently posed to Mr. Reid's 5th grade class at Sharpstein. If there *is* cheese, there should be calcium, the students predicted. But further investigation of the Cheetos nutrition label provided a surprise. These types of nutrient realities occur often during Food \$ense lessons.



The WSU Food \$ense Program brings nutrition education to elementary schools that meet the eligibility criteria of 50% or more students receiving free and reduced lunch. The program is funded through a USDA federal grant facilitated by Washington State University Extension.

Students at Blue Ridge, Green Park, Sharpstein and Edison have had the opportunity to learn about healthy foods and strong bodies through engaging activities, case studies and class discussions facilitated by a WSU Food \$ense educator. Used as a supplement to WWPS district's health curricula, Food \$ense provides classroom enrichment with lifelong practical application.

Many classroom teachers report more student awareness and discussion as they filter through the lunch line discussing nutrients found in the foods they choose. Nutrient Rhymes, like *Vitamin A helps you see Night and Day*, create a catchy way for students of all ages to remember key functions of major nutrients.

The Food \$ense program is about meeting children where they are and providing new knowledge that encourages enjoyment of nutrient dense foods more often and creating strong confident youth along the way.

With a dash of creativity, a pinch of fun, and a sprinkle of research based activities, WSU Food \$ense has created a recipe for healthy youth in Walla Walla County.

Suggested reading list:

- Your Child's Weight: Helping without Harming
- Secrets of Feeding a Healthy Family
- Child of Mine Feeding with Love and Good Sense

Debi Evans, Food \$ense Program Coordinator
WSU Extension-Walla Walla County
509.524.2685 or debi_evans@wsu.edu

Community Connections

Partners of the Year!



School Board President **Max Carrera** (L) and Superintendent **Mick Miller** (R) congratulate Total Office Concepts' **Mark** and **Dave Carlile** for being named one of the district's Partners of the Year.

Walla Walla Public Schools recognizes May as Partners in Learning Month. The district also named the Washington State Penitentiary and YMCA for this award. The penitentiary donates Halloween pumpkins and back-to-school supplies each year. TOC provides quality copier services and the YMCA keeps everyone healthy. Thanks for all you do for our schools!

Community Bank adopts local schools

Community Bank recently launched an Adopt-a-School program at Green Park and Blue Ridge Elementary Schools. Both schools received \$500 to support students in financial need. Funds may be used to purchase school lunches or materials to support learning.

"We recognize that an investment in people and their education is a smart investment in the community," said **Tom Moran**, Community Bank CEO.

End-of-Year Celebrations

- Lincoln Alternative High School Graduation**
 - Thursday, May 31 @ 6 p.m. - WW Fairgrounds
- Walla Walla High School Commencement**
 - Friday, June 1 @ 7 p.m. - Wa-Hi Commons area (gym if raining)
- Pioneer Middle School 8th Grade Recognition**
 - Tuesday, June 5 @ 7 p.m. - Wa-Hi Gym
- Garrison Middle School 8th Grade Recognition**
 - Wednesday, June 6 @ 7 p.m. - Wa-Hi Gym

Walla Walla votes YES for levy!



Thanks to Walla Walla voters for sending a strong message of support by approving the district's replacement levy with a 64.5% yes count. This local funding supports educational and afterschool programs and accounts for nearly 20% of the district's budget.

(PHOTO L-R) Citizens for Schools Co-Chair **Peter Swant**, Superintendent **Mick Miller**, School Board member **Cindy Meyer** and Citizens for Schools Co-Chair **Shauna Bogley** celebrate the victory at the election center.

Automated External Defibrillators placed in all Walla Walla schools

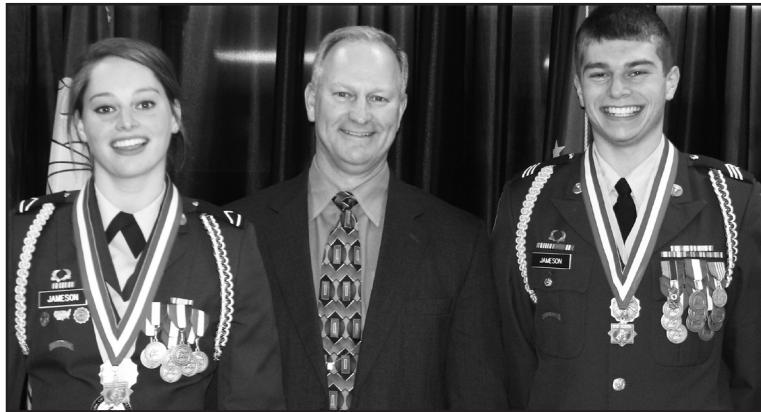
This spring the district installed Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in all district facilities to better respond to cases of life threatening cardiac arrhythmias which lead to cardiac arrest. Health Services Director **Jennifer Douglas** says the devices will help improve safety and have saved lives in schools across America.



www.yourcollegeandcareer.org

- quick reference to college & career events
- AVID strategies & classes
- single source guide for district parents for summer programs, leadership opportunities crossing over middle schools and the high school
- great resource for college visits

Precision shooting a family affair



Technology & CTE Director and proud father **Kirk Jameson** celebrates with his daughter **Sarah** and son **Kyle** following the National JROTC Air Rifle Championships in Anniston, Alabama. The team placed 5th in the nation.

Following the competition, Kyle was recruited as a rifle team member for the US Air Force Academy beginning in Fall 2012. He was also recently named a Washington Scholar recipient and was a National Merit Scholar semi-finalist. Sarah was selected to compete on the Junior Olympics rifle team in June. In just her sophomore year, Sarah is also the JROTC Western Region National Champion. Kirk is a 15 year veteran of rifle, pistol, and shotgun competition at the national level.

“Sarah and Kyle Jameson have infused a level of marksmanship excellence and leadership that has resulted in building one of the most talented teams in the country,” said **Lt. Col. (R) Bill Bialozor**, Senior Army Instructor, JROTC.

Educators earn national teaching certificates



Superintendent **Mick Miller** and School Board President **Max Carrera** congratulate teachers (L-R) **Anne Bickelhaupt** (Wa-Hi), **Brandi McIntire** (Lincoln HS), and **Kerri Tucker** (Wa-Hi) for earning their national teaching certificates. Walla Walla Public Schools now has 43 nationally certified teachers.

Grants boost Lincoln High School fitness and athletic programs

A \$10,000 grant from the Stubblefield Trust and another \$7500 from other local foundations and trusts have helped Lincoln High School boost its physical education and athletic programs through the purchase of new equipment. Teacher **Lori Finn** served as the school’s grant writer. She was amazed with the response to Lincoln’s needs.

“We received even more money than we were asking for and by comparison shopping for the best use of the money, we were able to purchase additional equipment above what we initially requested,” Finn said.

Finn said she was motivated to action following the struggles of establishing the school’s first ever volleyball team.

“The net and stand needed to be duct taped to the floor and it wasn’t regulation height or size,” Finn said. “We also played with donated volleyballs and no equipment racks. I noticed the basketball team was dealing with the same situation. Due to funding cuts, there was no money available for equipment. I decided to look somewhere else for funding.”

Grants Received:

- J.L. Stubblefield Trust - \$10,000
- Mary Garner Esary Trust - \$2500
- Clara & Art Bald Trust - \$2500
- Pacific Power Foundation - \$1500
- Harold and Helen Shepherd Foundation - \$1000

Grant Purchases:

- Volleyballs, net system, & equipment
- Girls and boys basketball uniforms
- Softball gloves and balls
- Archery cart with targets, bows, and arrows
- Ping Pong tables, paddles and balls
- Folding exercise mats
- Footballs, basketballs and soccer balls
- Badminton - birdies and racquets
- Trophy/award case

2012 Art Regier Volunteers of the Year

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



Shauna Bogley - Nominators - Mick Miller and Cindy Meyer

- Co-Chair, Walla Walla Citizens for Schools (levy passed with nearly a 65 percent “YES” vote)
- She is the Co-Secretary of the Walla Walla Public Schools Music Boosters Program

Nominator Cindy Meyer said: “Co-chairing the Citizens for Schools levy campaign is a daunting task and Shauna approached it with enthusiasm and grace. She studied the issues, thought through strategies, found committee chairs, supported committee activities, conducted meetings, kept the campaign moving in a steady positive direction and did it all with a calm, positive attitude and a smile. It was a pleasure to work with Shauna, and I am grateful for her presence in our schools and our community.”



Peter Swant - Nominators: Mick Miller and Cindy Meyer

- Co-Chair, Walla Walla Citizens for Schools
- Peter is the Realtors Association “Care & Share” Food Drive Coordinator

Nominator Mick Miller said: “The Walla Walla community is blessed to include many who give so much of themselves for others. Peter Swant is such an individual. He cares deeply about kids, our schools and our community. We thank Peter for his leadership in the campaign that led to a 64.5% “YES” vote on our replacement levy.”



Sue Westergard - Nominators: Elizabeth Razo, Mike Lambert and Jean Tobin

- Sue started the Green Park Accelerated Reader program and in her retirement continues to coordinate it.

Nominator Jean Tobin said: “Wherever I go, I run into people who attended Green Park and inevitably someone will mention their ‘favorite teacher’: Sue Westergard. Because of Sue’s willingness to dedicate her time and volunteer, the lives of many more students have been changed for the better. We are lucky to have her.”



Tania Nelson - Nominators: Lisa Davis and Jennifer Holbrook

- Tania was the coordinator of the Citizens for Schools calling committee
- Tania is a regular volunteer at Berney during the school day and for afterschool activities

Nominator Lisa Davis said: “Tania gives hours of service to our school. She is passionate about what she does. Her care and concern for the students who she works with is evident by the number of staff members who request her assistance in their rooms and with their projects. We all know Tania is competent and dependable and will do the best job possible with a smile.”



Barnyard Champs 4-H group - Nominators: Kerri Coffman and Sandra McCoy

- Ruth Ladderud and Mirney Wagner are the group leaders
- Each year, the club sews book bags for each of the more than 200 preschool children

Nominator Sandra McCoy said: “The book bags have become an invaluable part of the Head Start/ECEAP program. Each room has its own color which allows for quick identification of children who may wander away from their group while walking to or from the bus. Notes and classroom projects are sent home in the bags every day, but most importantly the bags allow for each child to safely carry home a book that can be read and then exchanged for another on the following day.”

Green Park teacher sets example for her students to follow

Razo's hard work and determination helps her overcome language barrier

Green Park 2nd grade teacher Elizabeth Razo was born and raised in Walla Walla. Her parents immigrated to the United States from Mexico with no language or cultural ties to this country.



Elizabeth Razo

But they believed in their daughter and inspired her to pursue her dreams. School was difficult for her since Spanish was her first language and the district offered little support in those days. Razo was determined to succeed. She recently earned her Masters in Arts Degree in Leadership & Administration from Gonzaga University.

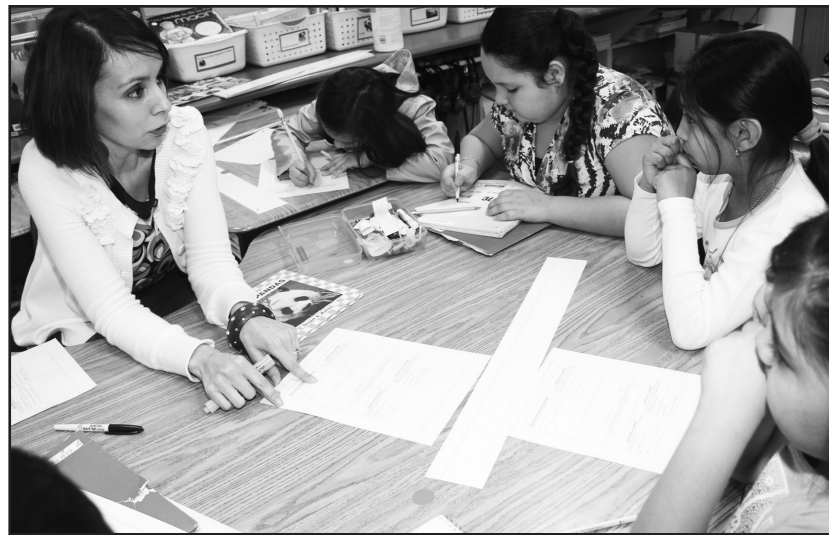
"I have learned giving up is not an option," Razo said. "I encourage my students to set goals and dream."

Razo often shares her personal story with her students. She tells them how she lived in poverty and did not know the English language. She is also the first in her family to attend college.

"It is not easy, but with determination it can happen," Razo said. "I hope I motivate my students with my personal journey."

"As a minority role model, I believe my students can see their bilingual teacher is leading by example. That is, the English and Spanish language and culture are equally important; both need to be preserved to allow our students to become bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural for generations to come."

Elizabeth Razo



As a Walla Walla native, Green Park teacher Elizabeth Razo attended several local schools including: Blue Ridge, Prospect Point and Garrison. She graduated from Walla Walla High School in 1996.

Artist uses mural to inspire Garrison students

Seattle artist Pedro "Adream" Valdivia and Garrison Middle School art teacher Gayle Kinman instruct Garrison Middle School students Jessica Swanson (6th grade) Selina Atkinson (7th grade) during the recent painting of a colorful and inspirational mural in the school's cafeteria.

The mural was funded by the Whitman College State of the State of Latinos project. The project was designed to help students develop an appreciation for art and to promote cultural diversity at the school. More than 20 students helped paint the mural.

"The students loved being a part of this mural project and worked carefully, not wanting to make any mistakes," Kinman said. "This project celebrates diversity and dreams. Student involvement in the mural created a meaningful learning experience for them."



How will new College Place High School impact Wa-Hi?

Q & A - By Superintendent Mick Miller

Q: How many College Place students attend Walla Walla High School?

A: As of February 2, 2012, 350 College Place students attend Walla Walla High School.

Q: When will College Place High School open?

A: That has not been determined. However, according to College Place Superintendent Tim Payne, the Davis Elementary School renovation will occur first. There is a conceptual design, but education specification plans have not been completed. College Place officials project construction bids will go public Spring 2013 with construction beginning in summer 2013. The high school will be constructed on the Sager/Meadowbrook campus. College Place officials report the school will first open with 9th graders with class added each school year. This school could open in September 2015.

Q: Will there be open enrollment and easy movement between the two high schools?

A: Both College Place High School and Walla Walla High School would be staffed for a set number of students, thus making open enrollment not feasible. If movement between the two schools was equal, students would be able to move easily. However, if movement between schools was skewed towards one school, the receiving school would be full and would not be able to take additional open enrolled students.

Q: How will staffing at Walla Walla High School be impacted by a new College Place High School?

A: There will be no immediate staffing impact at Wa-Hi, nor will there be until 2015 at the earliest. Using existing staffing formulas, the loss of 350 students from Walla Walla High School would mean the loss of approximately 15 teachers, or 75 sections from the master schedule. It will also impact the administration and support staff at Wa-Hi. However, one must remember that the College Place High School will not open for three years and will not be fully enrolled until 2018.

Q: Could a College Place High School student take classes at Walla Walla High School?

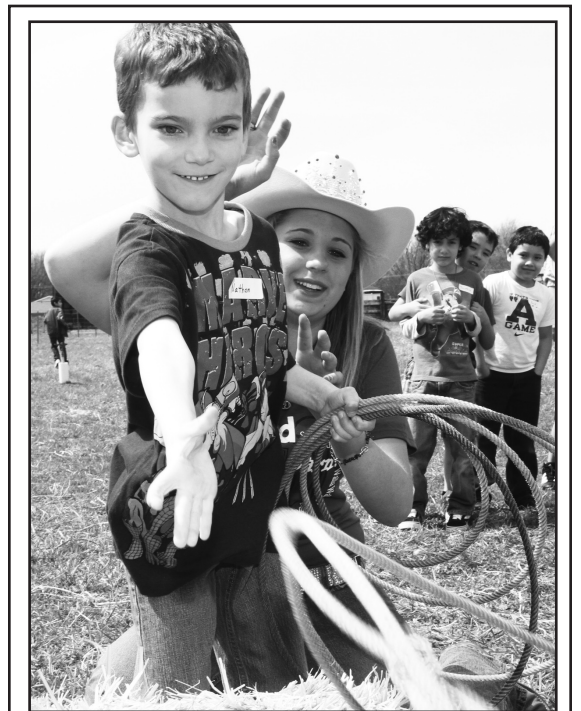
A: Only if there was space at Walla Walla High School and if funding from College Place Public Schools followed the student. The same would go for a Walla Walla student wanting to take a class at College Place High School.

Q: Could a College Place High School student participate in athletic extra-curricular activities at Walla Walla High School?

A: No. Washington Interscholastic Activities Association rules prohibit a student from one school participating in another school's athletic programs.

Q: How will the loss of students impact Walla Walla High School's athletic classification?

A: The reduction of students from Walla Walla High School would move Wa-Hi to the 3A classification in all sports, but the district might "opt up" to the 4A. Wa-Hi would remain in the Mid-Columbia Conference since the conference is a combined 3A/4A conference.



Q: Would College Place High School be able to participate in Walla Walla High School music, drama and Future Farmers of America programs?

A: No. Co-curricular programs at Walla Walla High School, including music, drama and FFA are reserved for Walla Walla students only.