

3rd Quarter Newsletter



Mark Your Calendar

March

- 28th-30th – Early Release for Conferences

April

- 2nd-6th – No School – Spring Break
- 9th – End of 3rd Quarter

May

- 28th – No School – Memorial Day

June

- 12th – Last Day of School, Early Release

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I'm 100 Days Smarter...

Ms. Allen's Kindergarteners celebrated our 100th day of school last month with ideas gathered at the cohort of Kindergarten teachers from the Panorama Consortium.

"Sharing ideas together with other teachers from rural, small schools is the greatest idea," says Ms. Allen, "as many teachers don't have any other teachers at their own grade level to collaborate with."

Ms. Allen's students made crowns with "100 jewels" and fruity loop necklaces with "100 loops". Students were engaged and much more interested in counting one hundred yummy items, and lining

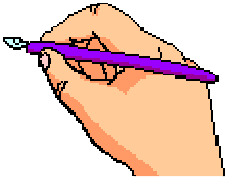
them up row by row, than perhaps simply counting a picture of one hundred items in a math book.

It was a day of fun and learning that ended with Ms. Allen's class visiting Mrs. Walter's outside word wall where all the students, in groups of ten, wrote ten words each!

Students were delighted to learn how many days smarter they had become and they wore their crowns and necklaces proudly the entire day. Of course, there probably weren't 100 fruity loops left on their necklace by the time they reached home!!!



K – 8 All Day Writes a Big Success



Read, with comprehension, write with skill, and communicate effectively and responsibly in a

variety of ways and settings.

This is the goal Washington state and our school district have committed to. In an effort to see how close we are to meeting this worthy goal, the Kindergarten through 8th grades spent two different days writing intensely. Students had a lot to say! They responded over an extended period of time to a variety of prompts and were pleased to share their thoughts on paper.

Teachers used late start time to meet, read and discuss the student writing. Everyone had a chance to look at our students' writing in depth across a wide range of grade levels. Now teachers have proof of what students have learned well and what needs to be worked on. As teachers plan for the rest of this year and next year, writing activities will be tailored to student strengths and weaknesses. Next year there will again be two measures of writing to monitor our progress toward meeting our goal.

We're on the Web

Remember that you can find the Mary Walker School District on the Internet. Check in often for the latest updates, events, sports schedules, lunch menus and more!

www.marywalker.org

News from Mrs. Henjum

WASL Update!

As we return from Spring Break, we will continue our preparation for the WASL. Starting April 16th students will test their knowledge on the state exam, also known as the WASL. Grades 3-8 will test for approximately 3 weeks. It is very important that your child is present during this time. If your child is going to be out for an appointment or family event, please let the office know ahead of time so we can make arrangements allowing the student to make-up the missed section. All WASL results will be released in the fall of 2007.

Dress Code

As the weather starts to get warmer, shorts and short sleeve shirts come out of the closets. Before your child steps out the door, please make sure they are dressed appropriately for school. Tank tops, spaghetti straps, strapless shirts, short shorts or skorts (shorter than mid-thigh) and muscle shirts are not appropriate school attire. Flip flops are highly discouraged due to health and safety concerns. So, as the weather starts to warm, please make sure your child is wearing something that is appropriate for school.

Seattle Trip



On May 23rd and 24th the eighth graders will head to Seattle! They will test their knowledge in regards to social studies and science. Traveling to the state capital and then on to the Pacific Science Center, students will receive a first hand look at our state. Another 8th grade parent meeting has been scheduled for April 12th at 5:30 in the cafeteria. During this meeting we will discuss specifics in regards to clothing, sleeping bags, money, etc. Please plan to attend this meeting if you are an 8th grade parent or guardian. Students who are eligible for this trip will be notified prior to April 12th.

Book Day!

For those of you who were able to come to our first Book Night, you already know how much fun the event was. Due to its success, we are going to hold another book event on April 20th. This event will be during school hours, but we want YOU to come! All parents or guardians are encouraged to come and participate. We will start at 12:30 and end promptly at 3:00. Book activities will be dispersed throughout grades PreK-6 and just like last time, each and every student will receive a FREE book! Mark your calendars for April 20th! Hope to see you there!



More Elementary and Mid-School News

It's Rube Goldberg Time!

Have you ever turned on or off a light, put a cube of sugar in your coffee, rang a bell, popped a balloon, or watered a plant? Piece of cake right? Not if you're in Mr. Gilmore's science class. The "work at home" project for this quarter is for the kids to take an easy task and make it difficult by building a Rube Goldberg.

What the heck is a Rube Goldberg? A Rube Goldberg is a simple machine that takes an easy task and makes it difficult. It's named after a cartoonist by the same name who used to draw contraptions for the newspaper. You can see several examples if you go to www.rubegoldberg.com.

Below are some examples of great Rube Goldberg's that the 5th grade kids made.



John rang a bell



Callan popped a balloon

8th Grade Students Team Up to Create Posters

Have you ever looked around and wondered what caused our landscape to look the way it does? In Northeastern Washington, we have fossil beds created from ocean sediment. The Columbia basin has basalt, up to 4000 feet deep, formed from lava flows that covered nearly half of the state. Glaciers too, left their mark causing floods that created the Channeled Scablands. Volcanoes, lava flows, megafloods and other geological features of the state are some of the topics that the Eighth grade has been studying.

In an effort to understand the unique history of our state, teams of students researched various aspects of the state. After writing a report, students then made posters which were printed for display. Students used knowledge from Social Studies, Math, Science and Language Arts to create the posters which you will find in the halls of the school as you visit for conferences. Thanks to Mrs. Moss for printing the posters.

You may view the students' work online by visiting www.marywalker.org and going to the Middle School page.

Fifth Grade Technology Integration

Mrs. Howard's fifth grade class learned how to use computer technology to make a PowerPoint. We worked on our PowerPoint for about 3 weeks. For our PowerPoint we were able to choose one state we wanted to report on. All of us had fun doing them. There were a lot of steps to learn, and some were a little confusing, but we got through it just fine.

On our PowerPoint we were able to choose our backgrounds which made it more interesting for our audience/class. We were also able to pick pictures that would best fit with our states. The sounds also made it enjoyable for ourselves and for listeners. There were a lot of slides to make for our presentation. We learned more from our classmates about each state's weather, history, and many cool facts. Also, we were able to show a couple of them to Mrs. Gearhart's 4th grade class. They were very interested in our shows, and we even got some laughs out of them because of some of the facts and pictures. We were able to get photos off the Internet for our PowerPoint. We were able to choose a partner to help us along the way, which made it a lot easier for us.

The next Power Point we will be doing will be on inventions and history. Our class is very excited to be doing another PowerPoint, especially on inventions like the railroad and the steamboat, which we had wanted to learn about for quite a while. This experience will be able to help us during our school years with any PowerPoint projects we may have. PowerPoint presentations are fun for us to do and we look forward to our next one.

By McKinsey Schurger and Lexy Walters

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Springdale Women's Club is once again sponsoring their annual Easter egg hunt. It will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, April 1st at the Mary Walker Elementary School. Children ages 1 to 10 are encouraged to bring their baskets and enjoy an afternoon of fun. There will be lots of candy and eggs!



Mother's Day Clean Up

The Horizon's Community Leadership Program is sponsoring a Mother's Day Community Clean Up on May 12th & 13th. They are looking for volunteers to help pick-up trash and do other activities to beautify Springdale and the surrounding areas.

If you are able to help or if you have a project for the volunteers, please contact:



Carrie Scovel at 258-6781
icegenie88@gmail.com

Sue Cox at 258-6956.
bergiecox@peoplepc.com

Senior Parents Raffle

Parents of Mary Walker High School seniors are sponsoring a raffle to raise money for upcoming senior events. 2 winners will each receive a 1/2 pig. Tickets are being sold for \$2.00 each or 6 tickets for \$10.00. If you are interested, please contact Toni Thompson, Lois McKinney, Karen Thrasher or any other senior parent.

New 6th Grade Immunization Requirements

The Washington State Board of Health has adopted changes to the immunization requirements for students entering the sixth grade for the 2007-2008 school year that include both the new Tdap and Varicella vaccinations.

A new vaccine that can protect adolescents against tetanus, diphtheria, and pertussis (Tdap) was licensed in 2005. Beginning July 1, 2007, children attending 6th grade are **required** to show proof of Tdap vaccination **if it has been five years since receiving a DTaP or Td vaccine and they are at least 11 years of age**. Therefore, if the last shots your child received were before school entry, your child will need to receive this shot before the first day of 6th grade.

In addition, state law now requires all students to either have a Varicella (chicken pox) vaccine, have had the disease, or show evidence of immunity through serological testing before entering 6th grade.

Please be aware that your child may not be assigned to a sixth grade classroom until the new requirements are met. You may contact the Elementary School Office to obtain the required documentation form or visit our website at www.marywalker.org/nursenews.htm to print a copy that can be submitted by mail.

PREP Meets Again

On March 9, 2007, nine school districts from the Panorama League met at the Mary Walker campus. The nine schools which cover 84,000 square miles of rural Washington were Republic, Curlew, Wellpinit, Northport, Inchelium, Mary Walker, Columbia, Cusick and Selkirk. This was the second meeting during this school year between these nine schools where the teachers and administrators met to discuss student achievement.

Numerous teachers stated how helpful this day was because it allowed them to interact with other teachers of their grade or subject level. It has often been stated that the most lonely profession around is to be a teacher – where one spends all day secluded within a classroom without having the ability to interact with other peers with regard to professional development.

Teachers are now starting to develop professional relationships that empower their ability to instruct, and encourage by sharing their successes and struggles with other teachers. The sense of being a small rural school doesn't need to have the feeling of isolation thanks to the commitment of the Panorama schools to each other and to student achievement.

The PREP consortium will meet again next year in October 2007, and in March 2008, to continue building on this year's efforts.

Auto Equipment Added at the High School

Washington State has granted Mary Walker High School extra money from the Career and Technical Education (CTE) fund. These funds must be used to purchase new equipment, so the school chose to buy an automotive lift for the Charger Auto Shop. Teacher, David Howard, and vocational director, Matt Gines, have decided to add a two-post Rotary Lift brand hydraulic hoist. Mr. Howard's class teaches basic auto maintenance and this new lift will enable students to perform under car services, such as transmission work, suspensions, tires, brakes and any

other type of work where the vehicle would need to be lifted. "The lift will be a great asset to our automotive class," says Mr. Howard.

The "Rotary Lift" is the industry standard that you find in today's automotive repair shops. The automotive maintenance class at Mary Walker High School is in its second year and continues to grow. Mr. Howard and the students would like to thank Washington State Career and Technical Education and Mary Walker School District for their support of our program. Career and Technical Education is an

integral part of the total education system in Washington schools that is vital to helping students become ready for career opportunities after high school.



FCCLA Students Prepare for State & National Competitions

FCCLA (Family Career Community Leaders of America) is looking forward to another successful year. Last year as freshmen, Maddi Swidergal and Tara Keenan were 1st runners up to go to nationals in the Applied Technology area. Racheal Hawk and Alyssa Glass were 2nd runners up to nationals in Chapter Service. Tara Keenan and Maddi Swidergal are both running for FCCLA state officer positions this year. Once again FCCLA students are working hard on projects in an attempt to move on to state and national competitions.

Torrie Thramer and Haley Goad, members of FCCLA, worked with Ms. Gearhart's 4th grade class. They had the 4th graders make a joke book that was then presented to the seniors at the Chewelah Care Center. Both groups enjoyed the humor and the book.

Another team in FCCLA is Racheal Hawk and Alyssa Glass, who did a

project to sponsor the Northeast Community Center in Spokane. Racheal and Alyssa found out what the Community Center youth needed. They then raised money through a car wash and were able to provide the center with clothes, toys, learning books, and other small items. Next they did a sock drive and hat making session at Mary Walker High School for the children in the center.

Tara Keenan and Maddi Swidergal are doing a project called Media's Distorted Images to help young people understand the impact media images have on how they see themselves. They presented to 5th period Personal Choices, 6th period Freshmen Health, and 7th period Child Development at MWHS. To start off their project they used interactive presentations and a Power Point to bring awareness about Media's Distorted Images.

Other students participating in

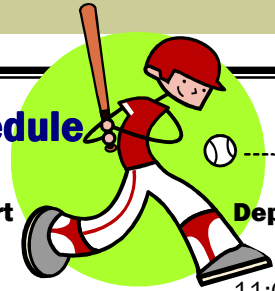
FCCLA are Tamara Menz and Sarah Adams with their "Think Pink" project on breast cancer awareness. Catherine Kenney with a "And the beat goes on" project on heart disease. Jamie Holder and Lizzi Warren with "Throw Away Children". Jake Edwards, Zac Gilbert, Damian Howder, Tyka Keenan, and Kyle Shaver will be competing in FCCLA Parliamentary Procedure

The Chapter went to FCCLA Regional Competition on March 6, 2007. All of these groups are continuing on to state competitions and hoping to go to Nationals.

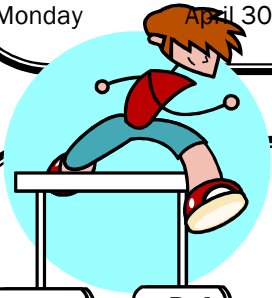
Mrs. Laaker is very proud of all these hardworking young people. These young adults are working hard and providing help and awareness to make our community a better place to live.

Good Luck at State FCCLA! On to Nationals!

2007 Charger's Softball & Baseball Schedule

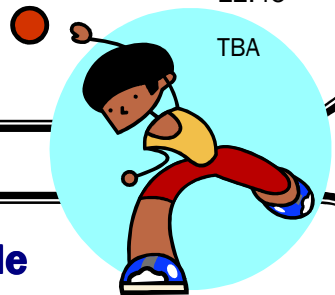


Day	Date	Opponent	Start	Depart
Wednesday	March 21st	St. Michaels	1:00	11:00
Saturday	March 24th	Columbia	12:00	10:00
Wednesday	March 28th	Selkirk	1:00	NA
Saturday	March 31st	Northport	12:00	9:00
Tuesday	April 3rd	Liberty (baseball only)	12:00	NA
Saturday	April 7th	Inchelium (softball only)	12:00	NA
Saturday	April 14th	St. George	12:00	9:30
Saturday	April 21st	Wellpinit	12:00	NA
Tuesday	April 24th	Cusick	2:00	NA
Friday	April 27th	Curlew	2:00	NA
Monday	April 30th	Republic	2:00	10:30



2007 Charger's Track Schedule

Day	Date	Host	Start	Depart
Saturday	March 24th	University Center	10:00	8:00
Tuesday	March 27th	Wilbur/Creston	3:30	1:30
Tuesday	April 10th	Springdale	3:30	NA
Tuesday	April 17th	Colville	3:30	1:45
Saturday	April 21st	Unberg Invite	TBA	TBA
Tuesday	April 24th	Reardan	3:30	2:00
Saturday	April 28th	Riverside Invite	10:00	8:15
Tuesday	May 1st	Republic	3:30	1:00
Tuesday	May 8th	Selkirk	3:15	1:30
Saturday	May 12th	League Tournament @ Colville	10:00	7:45
Thursday	May 17th	Regional Tournament @ SFCC	3:00	12:45
Thurs-Sat	May 24th-26th	Top 4 B girls and top 3 Boys to State State Tournament @ EWU	TBA	TBA



2007 Colt's Mid School Track Schedule

Day	Date	Host	Start	Depart
Tuesday	April 24th	Springdale	3:15	NA
Thursday	May 3rd	Republic	3:15	12:45
Thursday	May 10th	Selkirk	3:15	12:15
Saturday	May 12th	League Championship @ Colville	10:00	8:15

2007 Mid School Boys' Baseball Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Start	Depart
Thursday	April 26th	Wellpinit	3:30	2:00
Monday	April 30th	Valley	3:30	NA
Monday	May 7th	Wellpinit	3:30	NA
Thursday	May 10th	Valley	3:30	2:00
Monday	May 14th	Hunters	3:30	NA
Thursday	May 17th	Wellpinit	3:30	2:00
Monday	May 21st	Valley	3:30	NA
Tuesday	May 29th	Hunters	3:30	1:45

2007 Mid School Girls' Softball Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Start	Depart
Wednesday	April 25th	Hunter	3:30	2:00
Tuesday	May 1st	Inchelium	3:30	1:15
Thursday	May 3rd	Wellpinit	3:30	NA
Thursday	May 10th	Valley	3:30	NA
Monday	May 21st	Nespelem	3:30	NA

Basketball Team Extends "Thank You"

The Middle School Boys Basketball team would like to take a moment to thank their parents and community for their support. The young men represented their school and community with integrity and sportsmanship. They presented themselves and their team as gentlemen and should be commended for these efforts. Their hard work and dedication to doing things correctly led them to be quite successful both on and off the floor. They not only achieved winning seasons, but are doing very well academically, and are becoming true leaders in our school and community. This year the varsity record was seven wins and three losses, while the junior varsity record was six wins with two losses. Undoubtedly, these individuals will continue to have many successes



Coach Abrahamson, 30 Kendall Potts, 24 Taylor DeGraaf, 31 Tony Lane, 44 Spencer Leif, 55 Zach Lane, 40 Junior Taitaki, 32 Marcus Vanderhofen, Coach Watts, 22 Ricky Lane, 42 Rodney Abrahamson, 41 Hunter Hinkley, 1 Sly Savage, 5 Justin Thoms, 14 Colton Potts, 20 Gey Potts, 10 Jordan DeGraaf

as they grow and it is necessary to say thank you to their parents and community for their efforts to help them be successful.

Thank you,
Dwayne Watts & Rodney Abrahamson
Middle School Basketball coaches

Mary Walker School District, No. 207

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District Office

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509-258-4534

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Principal-Matt Cobb
509-258-4533

Elementary-Mid School

Principal-Cheryl Henjum
509-258-7357

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Message from our Superintendent ~ Facts and Myths About Reading

This article includes information on reading facts and myths according to different national studies and educational assessments. The ability to be trained/educated after high school, for every student, is essential. The student's ability to read successfully will dictate their success in both post-secondary education and employment.

Girls on average read better than boys. FACT.

Girls outscore boys in assessments at each grade level, on average. Girls spend more time reading books at every age, starting in the first grade, and the difference increases over time. This difference extends into adulthood.

If boys were to read as much as girls, the achievement level would be closer to girls. MYTH.

Boys also read less carefully than girls. Although the differences are small, the impact is substantial.

Internet reading helps to improve reading about as much as book reading. MYTH.

Studies demonstrate that students tend to scan internet sites and not get engaged in close reading which is shown to be essential in building good reading skills.

Teachers are essential for good reading. FACT.

Teachers are essential. They are needed to teach students the basic decoding skills and comprehension strategies, as well as guide students' reading. It is also essential that parents and teachers monitor, guide, and motivate students to read daily so that students become fluent readers who read well.

Summer learning loss is a well-documented phenomenon. FACT.

Students not involved in summer educational activities, on average, lose at least one month of grade equivalency from spring to fall.

Our schools will need your help to have students reading at grade level by third grade. FACT.

Our students come to school with vast vocabulary differences – some with 2500-3000 word listening vocabulary, others with 10000-12000 word listening vocabulary. These differences are largely the result of early home environments. This may be because of lack of reading materials, educational games, and/or parent involvement.

The Mary Walker School District is in the process of implementing a birth-to-kindergarten program to help parents who need assistance in helping their student on the path to becoming a successful reader. For more information, please contact Cheryl Henjum at 258-7357 or Kevin Jacka at 258-4534.
