

2nd Quarter Newsletter



Mark Your Calendar

January

- 25th – End of 2nd Quarter

February

- 15th – School Board Mtg.
- 20th – No School ~ President's Day
- 21st – No School ~ Teacher Inservice

March

- 17th – No School ~ Curriculum Day
- 29th-31st – Early Release ~ Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 31st – End of 3rd Quarter

April

- 3rd-7th – No School ~ Spring Break

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Remember to Mail In Your Ballot

Mary Walker Schools is placing before the voters a request to RENEW a four-year educational program maintenance and operations levy (M&O) to assist in the funding of educational programs during the 2007-2010 school years. Mail in ballots need to be postmarked by February 7th in order for your vote to be counted. Please take a moment to review the facts about this important issue on pages 2 and 3 of this newsletter.

Student Art Showcased on Internet Site

Artsonia.com is an educational company founded on a dream - to use the power of the Internet to unleash the creativity of young people all over the world! This free site allows teachers to post student artwork so that it can be shared with friends, family, teachers and even their peers from all over the country.

Artsonia offers schools a unique service that enables them to integrate technology into the classroom, develop multicultural understanding and increase parental involvement in their children's education. Artsonia has many features starting with a personal gallery page for each student. There is also the ability for family and friends to leave comments about a child's artwork or to join a "Fan Club" in order to receive automatic e-mail notifications whenever the artist publishes new works of art. In addition, Artsonia offers a gift shop so that parents can purchase t-shirts, key-chains, mugs, and much, much more featuring their child's creative endeavors.

If this will be your first visit to this great online art gallery, just go to www.artsonia.com. Begin by entering the zip code for our school and then

click on the link for Mary Walker School District. From there you can view all of the art done by our students. Once you find your own child's work, make note of his or her screenname (the first name followed by a number) as you can then go straight to your student's personal site anytime you wish by entering that information on the main page.

If you have any questions concerning Artsonia, please feel free to call Pam Hegel at 258-4533. And please be sure to visit Artsonia.com to see lots of great artwork from Mary Walker students such as the still pictures below and on page 5 of this newsletter.



Shaun, Grade 9

Replacement Levy Facts

The local levy maintains essential educational programs and activities for students not funded by state and federal dollars.

- The proposed levy renews an expiring four-year levy approved in March 2002. **It is not a new tax.**
- The tax rate for 2002 was \$1.50 per \$1000 of assessed property value – the tax rate for 2005 was \$1.26 per \$1000 and the replacement levy tax would be \$1.39 per \$1000.
- The owner of a \$100,000 home is currently paying approximately \$126 per year in school levy taxes. With the replacement levy the owner of a \$100,000 home would pay approximately \$139 per year in replacement levy taxes, an increase of \$13 per year.
- The replacement levy will be run for \$150,000 per year and we will receive **\$384,000 from the state** (maximizing our equalization from the state) per year in levy equalization funds to fund essential programs for our students.
- The amount you pay a year in school levy taxes will stay the same for four years even if the appraised value of your home increases.
- This levy will be a mail-in vote. The Stevens County Auditor will mail the ballot to voters on January 18, 2006. ***To be counted, your ballot must be postmarked by February 7, 2006.***

What is a levy?

An educational program maintenance and operations replacement levy (as it is referred to on the ballot) is a local property tax that supports educational programs for students.

Because the state does not fully fund education for students, school districts across the state run levies to pay for things the state does not. Maintenance and operation replacement levies provide for student educational programs, which include all, or portions, of existing programs such as special education, learning enhancement textbooks, music, art, drama, extra curricular activities, classroom support, maintenance, some student transportation, fieldtrips, classroom reduction, and safety and security, etc. **Levies are extremely critical in order to provide a complete educational program for our children.**

STATE MATCH FOR THE MARY WALKER SCHOOL DISTRICT

Passage of the levy will provide Mary Walker School District an additional \$384,000 in state equalization funding in each of the four years. In the past we have run the levy for \$135,000 per year and the equalization money from the state has been \$360,000. This levy will provide the opportunity for the District to maximize/increase (by \$24,000 per year) the money we can receive from the state. **Without the levy, the district will not be eligible to receive these funds.** Levy equalization or matching funds are to assist communities that otherwise would have to pay excessive tax rates compared to other communities. The matching funds are an incentive for districts to pass levies.

For additional information:
Call 258-4534 or visit
www.marywalker.org

On February 7, 2006, Mary Walker School District voters will decide on the following ballot measure:

Provides funds for textbooks, instructional materials, technology, teachers & aides to maintain small class size, maintenance, extra-curricular activities and transportation.

District enrollment continues to increase. This year over 577 students attend our schools.

The current levy expires in 2006.

Local Money for our local schools. This is not a new tax. It replaces an expiring tax.

**MARY WALKER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 207
MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS REPLACEMENT LEVY**

This proposition would authorize the District to meet the educational needs of its students by levying the following excess taxes, in place of an expiring levy, on all taxable property within the District, for support of the District's General Fund educational, maintenance, and operation expenses:

Collection Year	Approximate Levy	
	Rate per \$1000.00	Levy Amount
2007	\$1.39	\$150,000
2008	\$1.39	\$150,000
2009	\$1.39	\$150,000
2010	\$1.39	\$150,000

Operation expenses include safety and security, books, counselors, other student support, transportation, athletics and student activities, fuel bills, and utilities.

Maintenance includes repairs to buildings, equipment, vehicles, summer grounds work, and daily maintenance.

Replaces the current 2006 expiring levy.

all as specified in the District Resolution No: 0505

Levy ... YES

Levy ... NO

Tax Rate

A Maintenance & Operations levy provides funding for programs and operations of a school district not funded by the state. At Mary Walker School District our levy provides 10.25% of the district's basic education funding.

(If, after reading this information sheet, you still have questions, please contact Kevin Jacka, Superintendent at 509-258-4534)

Kindergarten Orientation Meeting

Parents of children starting kindergarten in the Fall 2006 are invited to a Kindergarten Orientation meeting on February 23, 2006. There will be two different meeting times that day to make it more convenient for parents; a morning meeting from 9:00-10:00 and an afternoon opportunity to attend from 3:00-4:00.

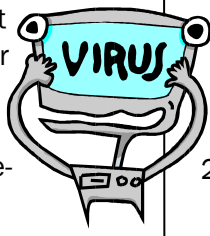
Attendance at one of the above sessions is **very important** so that parents can be aware of the readiness skills necessary for Kindergarten success. Please contact the school if you are unable to attend so that information can be sent to you. This will also provide the staff with an idea of how many children will be attending Kindergarten in the fall.

Please note that the Orientation meeting is for **parents only!** If you are unable to find childcare while you attend, please contact the school for assistance.

If you have questions about the Orientation meeting, please feel free to contact Mrs. Walters at 258-4761.

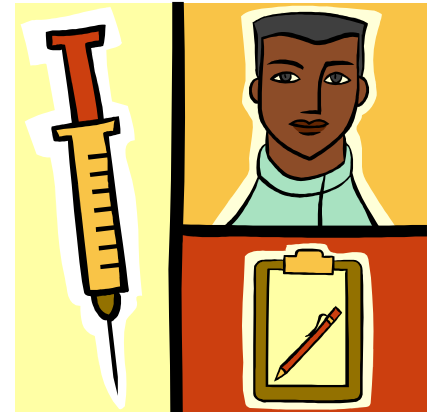
Did You Know

...that many of the e-mails going around claiming to warn about the latest computer virus or even the "worst virus ever" are complete hoaxes? Even the e-mail that promises you an Applebee's gift certificate is a hoax! So how do you figure out what's real and what's not? Just visit the Technology Info page on our website at www.marywalker.org for tips and resources to help you be a discerning, safe, and informed e-mail user.



News from the Nurse

School faculty and staff at Mary Walker School are concerned about the health and safety of the children, their families and the community. One of the most frequently asked question by parents is, "When should I keep my child home from school?" Ask yourself, "Will he/she be able to participate in regular classroom activities and does he/she have anything that might be contagious?" In general, you should keep your child home for the following reasons:



- Temperature of 100 degrees or more in the last 24 hours
- Vomiting and/or persistent diarrhea during the night or in the morning
- Severe sore throat, especially a red throat or white patches on the tonsils
- Red, draining eyes
- Uncontrolled/Untreated lice, impetigo, scabies or ringworm
- Chickenpox (until all lesions have crusted over)
- First 24-48 hours of antibiotic treatment

If a child becomes ill at school, the parent/guardian is contacted. The student can be released only to the parent/guardian or to the person designated on the school's emergency card.

Reye's Syndrome. This is a very serious disease that can develop 3-5 days after the onset of a viral illness. Studies have shown that using aspirin or aspirin-containing medications to treat viral illnesses increases the chances of developing Reye's Syndrome. Aspirin is part of the salicylate family of medicines. Another name for aspirin used on labels is acetylsalicylate, acetylsalicylic acid, salicylates or salicylic acid. Reye's Syndrome targets the liver and brain. It is noncontagious and often misdiagnosed as encephalitis, meningitis, diabetes or poisoning. Relentless or continuous vomiting is the most obvious symptom of the disease. It can be diagnosed or ruled out with the results of two liver function tests (SGOT/SGPT) at the hospital.

Lice. Tis the season to be loused? It's not a laughing matter. Every Tuesday we will be conducting lice head checks. **Please have clean hair!**

Immunization Compliance. Thank you to all the parents who took the time to update their child's vaccines and/or school records. After July 1st, 2006 Varicella (Chicken Pox) immunization or proof of having had the disease, will be a requirement before entering school for the school year 2006/2007. Please sign and return the forms.

Jill Drew and Jackie Franks

Creative Art Projects on Display



Charlie, Grade 8

The art room is always a busy and creative place! The year is almost half over and we have had a multitude of projects displayed throughout the district. Please take time to come and view your child and other children's work of art!

I also have been using any free time I have to put the students' art work on an internet site called Artsonia.com. This is a very time consuming process, but I think it is well worth it! The students love to see their work on the internet, and it is a great way for parents, family and friends to view their projects. For more information on Artsonia and how to navigate the site, please see the article on the front page of this newsletter. If you do not see your child's work published yet, please be patient as I will continue to add work when time allows.

As always, I invite any parent that wishes to help or share a project to give me a call so that we can arrange a time for you to come on in (remember to check in with the office on the day you visit). Thanks for all of your support!

Pam Hegel

FCCLA Members Committed to Community Service

The Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America, commonly known as FCCLA, has been going strong for 60 years. Several of the members we have this year are working on community service projects. These range from the "White Out" presentation to raising money for Hurricane Katrina victims.

Sheena Harvey and Tara Keenan are doing a project on Youth Suicide Prevention (YSP). They are hoping to organize a school wide Suicide Prevention week, which will involve two assemblies. They are also planning on presenting to the freshman and eighth grade classes.

Tamara Menz is doing a project called "Adopt a Soldier". Her project involves volunteers writing to soldiers overseas to give them encouragement and support. It is her hope to have all the letters sent by the end of January.

Tyka Keenan and Trevor Ferguson are preparing a project on drinking and driving. As part of their presentation, they will be using vision impairment goggles to emphasize what it is like to be under the influence.

Carolyn Harvey and Felicia Clark completed their project called "White Out". In this project students were whited out every fifteen minutes (symbolizing being killed in a drunk driving accident) and not capable of communicating with others. This was then followed by an assembly to show what it was like after a drinking and driving accident.

Mary Vanderholm, Jordon Hayward, and Colleen Accord are focusing their project on the victims of Hurricane Katrina. In October they held a money drive to benefit the Red Cross.

This year Mike Harvey, Sam Conner,

and Angel Commito are emphasizing the importance of reading. They held a book drive in December and received over 400 books that will be disbursed among the K-4th graders in the elementary. Angel and Sam are still continuing this project with the soon departure of their partner Mike.

Kayla Sheppard and Maria Solomon are working on a breast cancer awareness project. This includes cards that remind women to check themselves every month, and also a presentation to any girls who are interested in learning more on this topic.

Mikayla Ward and Jaime Holder are working on an Anger Management project with grades K-3. This will hopefully help to cut down on future bullying.

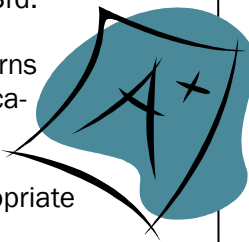
by
Tamara Menz

End of Quarter Info

The end of the 2nd Quarter has been moved to January 25th due to the weather related closure on December 21st. Any semester schedule changes for students will now begin on Thursday, January 26th.

Since there are no Parent-Teacher conferences scheduled this quarter, progress reports will come home in a variety of ways, depending on what grade a student is in. K-4 students will be bringing their report cards home with them some time during the week of January 23rd. Students in grades 5–8 will have their progress reports mailed home on January 27th. High School semester grades will be mailed home by Friday, February 3rd.

If you have concerns about your child's academic progress, please feel free to contact the appropriate school.



No "World's Finest"

The Elementary-Mid School will not be having our World's Finest Chocolate fundraiser this year due to both new state laws and parent responses. The new state law requires parent permission before any ASB sales material can be sent home with students.

Permission slips were sent home but 70% of parents who responded said "no". Unfortunately, in order to have a successful fundraiser, we need at least 50% participation.

The money raised would have benefited the ASB (Associated Student Body) fund for classroom field trips.

Mid-School Wrestlers Have Great Season

While the Mid-School Wrestling Program was small, the talent was not. According to coach Tony Hamilton, "All three wrestlers will someday be state placers. Cody Pardun, CJ Kenney, and Conan Kalugin showed great improvement over the season." Such improvement that they were able to represent Springdale Schools at the season-ending tournament in grand fashion.

Cody and CJ each placed third while Conan found himself atop the 1st place podium. Cody wrestled very well all season despite not having much prior experience. His improvement showed as he out hustled his opponents on the mat. CJ and Conan began as experienced wrestlers. This led them face to face with opponents they have wrestled in the past which caused some problems early on in the season. As the season progressed, they were able to overcome their opponents and wrestle them with more confidence.

The season began with long lonely practice sessions. We practiced as a small squad for the first two weeks while we accumulated the required 12 practices before the first match. The first match was cancelled by the coach after not having enough wrestlers eligible to wrestle. Following in the High School wrestling program's successful steps as five time Academic State Champions, grades were highly esteemed. "I felt that it was not a benefit to anyone to take wrestlers who were not passing in all classes. I also weighed the dollar and cents issue of traveling to Colville with only one eligible wrestler. I decided that it would be more beneficial for everyone to remain home and study," says Coach Hamilton.

After the first three weeks of practice, the mid-school wrestlers were joined by the high school program. While they never wrestled with them, the mid-schoolers received the same training and conditioning required of the high school athletes. This was a tremendous benefit to everyone. These practices benefited the mid-school program immensely. It prepared them for what to expect next year as they prepare themselves to be State Champions.

"I am Proud of Conan, Cody, and CJ!"
- Coach Tony Hamilton



From left: Conan Kalugin, Cody Pardun and CJ Kenney

Visit Our Website

Mary Walker School District's website offers up-to-date school information. Stay connected all year long with the latest news, happenings, sports schedules, lunch menus or last minute changes.



www.marywalker.org

Fourth Graders Write Constitution

On Friday, January 6th, all the fourth grade students convened in a private room in the library. The lights were dimmed, the doors guarded, and quill pens were used to draft a classroom constitution. Students had an opportunity to write rules, amend the rules, and ratify their constitution.

Why were they doing this? Fourth grade students study the United States Constitution as part of their history Core Knowledge Curriculum. They were trying to replicate the real U.S. Constitutional Convention. Students got a



taste of what it was really like. The room was even hot, just as the room in Independence Hall would have been that summer in Philadelphia in 1787.

Most students came away with a better understanding of what it must have been like to write the real constitution. And they had fun doing it!

And the New Guy Is...

Some of you may have seen a new guy wandering around, looking like he doesn't know anything about a school. Well, surprisingly he does, and his name is Mike Bettinson, although he prefers students to call him Mr. B. He's been around the state of Washington for quite a while; 42 years. He's come to the great town of Springdale to teach Business Law, Accounting, Computer Applications, Math 1, Math 1B, and Publications.

In the past, Mr. Bettinson has done substitute teaching for District 81. Throughout his life, he has also done some sport activities. Mr. B. coached baseball at Rogers High School for the last six years and even played in the Springdale Basketball Tournament with Mr. Jacka.

Our newest teacher has two children who go to school in Spokane. Amanda is fifteen and attends Shadle Park High School and Nick,

who is twelve, goes to Balboa Elementary.

Mr. B. said his favorite childhood memory was going to the National Finals for AAU Basketball when he was thirteen years old. Some other favorites of his are: the color purple, math class, and chocolate almond ice cream. His biggest pet peeve is

students wearing their baseball hats sideways.

Mr. B. is a nice guy once you get to know him, so don't let his size scare you away.

by
Joel Kohlstedt



Mary Walker School District, No. 207

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509-258-4534

High School

Principal—Matthew Cobb
509-258-4533

Elementary-Mid School

Principal—Helen Hindley
509-258-7357

Board of Directors

Kenneth Canfield, Chairperson
Robert Pierce
Kenneth Brangwin
Kim Stricker
Meldon Presho

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Core Knowledge Preschool

Springdale School has opened a unique preschool designed to provide an enriched learning environment for three to five year old children. The curriculum at the preschool mirrors the exciting and unique learning experiences kindergarten through eighth grade students receive with the Core Knowledge Sequence. The ultimate goal is to provide all Mary Walker School District students with the type of education private schools use to prepare children for college. The Core Knowledge Sequence is helping us reach that goal.

Studies have shown that children who arrive for kindergarten lacking relevant experience and vocabulary have a difficult time throughout their academic careers. A good, academically focused preschool program can effectively give our children a head start, ensuring a successful journey through school and into rewarding careers. The Preschool Sequence offers activities in early language development, emerging literacy skills in reading and writing, mathematical reasoning, music and fine arts. The Core Knowledge Preschool is in session Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings with bus service provided if needed. Breakfast and lunch are available. At the current time the fee is only \$40 per month (average \$2 per half day!). For more information please call Dani Schurger at Springdale Elementary/Middle School (258-7357).

