



Mary Walker Receives Foundational AVID Grant

The Mary Walker School District and the P.R.E.P Consortium (Panorama League Schools) are recipients of a six-year Foundational AVID grant worth about 1.2 million over the six years. Each of the seven schools involved in this grant will receive over \$28,000 per year to be used for teacher and administrator professional development and AVID curriculum.

This 7th-12th grade grant provides an opportunity for the consortium schools to develop and establish a program that has been highly successful in creating a college/post-secondary-going culture that includes teachers and all grade levels and disciplines. This program will play a critical role in readying all students for the rigorous academic programs needed for college/post-secondary success. We see AVID as an organizing principle that compliments, connects, coordinates, and improves all elements of our post-secondary readiness efforts.

The AVID program was built

to help prepare students for post-secondary education that meet one or more of the following criteria:

- First to attend college/post secondary education in their family
- Historically underserved students in four year colleges and post secondary education
- Low income students
- Special circumstances

We believe that AVID provides and delivers the effective support so that all students can meet state and college/postsecondary standards.

The Mary Walker School District and the P.R.E.P. consortium are truly excited to receive this consortium grant and to be the first small school consortium in the country to implement the AVID program. Historically, AVID has been implemented in large schools and large districts. The P.R.E.P. Consortium will be the National Pilot for small schools for the AVID program.

Mark Your Calendar

- February 16th ~ **No School** - President's Day
- February 25th-27th ~ Early Release @ 12:30 for Conferences
- March 20th ~ **No School** - Consortium Day
- March 30th - April 3rd ~ **No School** - Spring Break
- April 7th ~ End of 3rd Quarter

News from Mrs. Henjum ~ K-8

Calendar Events:

It is hard to believe that half of the school year is already over. The students have begun second semester knowing that conferences and the WASL are just around the corner. The days and months are going to continue to move quickly until we hit spring break. Please take note of the dates below, as there are some important events that you will want to attend and/or make note of:

- Valentine Celebrations – February 13th
- No School – February 16th
- Golden Horseshoe and Honor Roll Assembly – February 20th
- Parent Conferences – February 25th thru 27th

Winter Weather:

As all of you are aware, winter is definitely here! Without any doubt we have received, in my opinion, our fair share of snow this year. Due to the cold temperatures and snow covered ground, please make sure your child is dressed for these conditions. Snow pants, boots, gloves or mittens, and a hat are highly

recommended. If your child needs any of the items listed above we do have a limited supply in the office. We don't want your child to miss school because they are sick from not dressing for the weather.

Unexcused Absences:

Each month the office sends home a letter of your child's unexcused absences. Please make sure you call the office and clear these dates as soon as possible. If your child has ten or more unexcused absences, these unexcused absences must be reported to the state, also known as the BECCA law. If you have questions in regards to any of the absences we have marked, please contact the office.



7th Graders Deepen Comprehension

The 7th graders are currently working on reading strategies to deepen comprehension. We all talk about comprehension and understanding what was read, but how does it work? How do we go beyond the literal or right there on the page meaning? One way to get deeper is to transform the text from one form to another.

The students are reading the

poem "Casey at the Bat" and really analyzing all the vocabulary and what the story is about. They are making a picture in their head, visualizing stanza by stanza. Then they are transforming it into a new form; a sports page news article. The title or headline gives the main point of the poem, the article reports the play by play and crowd involvement, and the illustration

gives another look at the focus of the action. By going through these steps, students understand all the nuances of the poem and what the author was thinking.

This is just the first of many text transformations the 7th graders will perform this year in search of deeper meanings.

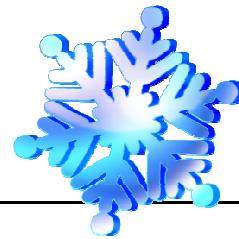
Snow Make-up Days Announced

Our District was closed for four days due to winter weather and hazardous road conditions. The dates that school was cancelled so far were December 18 and 19, 2008, and January 6 and 7, 2009.

The State requires 180 days of school attendance per

year. The Mary Walker School District No. 207 has one snow day built into the 2008-2009 school year calendar, Monday, June 8, 2009. The second through fourth cancelled days will be made up on Tuesday through Thursday, June 9-11, 2009. This would make the last day of school June

11th. If we have more school closures, the additional make-up days could be added to the end of the school year.

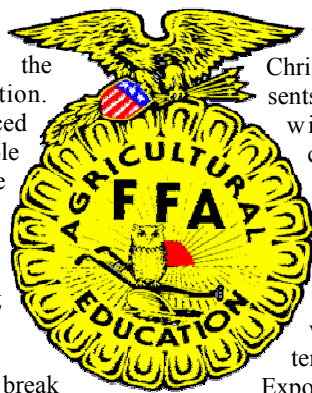


Closed Days	Make up Days	Reason
December 18, 2008	June 8, 2009	Original Snow make-up day
December 19, 2008	June 9, 2009	Added Day
January 6, 2009	June 10, 2009	Added Day
January 7, 2009	June 11, 2009	Added Day

News from FFA

Our FFA Land Judging team placed sixth at the state competition. Ryan Presho placed first in the whole state and will be getting his award at state in Pullman this upcoming spring.

Before Winter break our chapter participated in the Tree of Sharing. Tree of Sharing is when FFA members get in groups and purchase Christmas gifts for children in the community.



We had four groups buy Christmas presents for children within the community.

In the beginning of February our chapter will be attending the Ag Expo in Spokane.

Ag Expo is a fun activity for our chapter. We get to see the advances in the agricultural business in our local area. Also we get to explore some possible fu-

ture careers in the agricultural business.

In early March the sub-district competition for Parliamentary Procedure, Rituals, and First-Year Greenhand will occur. Also in March applications for state degrees will need to be turned in. The State Degree is the second highest degree that an FFA member can achieve.

The second half of the year for our FFA Chapter looks to be productive and promising.

Animanga Club



@ Your Library

- Mondays** 3:30-4:30pm @ Springdale Community Center
(hosted by Library of the Lakes)
- Tuesdays** 3-4pm @ Northport Community Library
- Wednesdays** 3-4pm @ Colville Public Library
- Thursdays** 3-4pm @ Chewelah Public Library



Join your library's animanga club. Each week we will watch anime, eat snacks, and practice our manga drawing. No drawing skill necessary. Grades 7-12 only. Free.



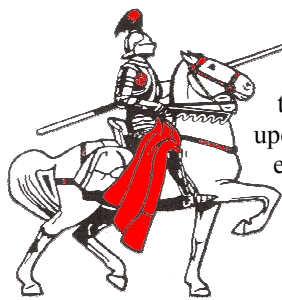
Mary Walker High School Sports News

The Mary Walker High School girl's and boy's basketball teams continue to play well. The first round of the play-offs will be at Springdale. The girls play on Feb 10th and the boys on the 11th. Start time will be posted ASAP. The second round of the play-offs will be at Wellpinit for both teams on the 13th.

The MWSHS boy's and girl's wrestling team is also doing well. The girls will wrestle in Connell on the 14th of February with the top two in each weight class going on to State. Springdale will be hosting the league tournament on the 7th of February. The top 6 in each weight class will qualify for Regionals.

The Regional tournament is at Reardan on the 13th and 14th of February. The top 5 in each weight class will advance to the State Tournament.

The High School Spring Sports meeting will be on February 26th at 6:00 pm in the H.S. Auditorium.



The Mary Walker School District website was updated with a brand new, visitor friendly design! Check it out for the latest sports schedules, breakfast and lunch menus and upcoming events. Be sure to register to receive important e-Alerts and much, much more!

www.marywalker.org

8th Grade Students Explore Writing Styles

Students in eighth grade Language Arts are comparing challenges in society now to challenges in the past by examining information found in the news, movie clips, short texts, poems, and the novel, The Giver. They are becoming critics to better understand how a director and an author use techniques of their

trade to “sell” their points of view.

Students will incorporate what they have learned by creating their own travel brochures and posters for their idea of a perfect society or utopia. Their goals are to try to “sell” their utopian



community to tourists through their projects.

Students will also experiment with developing their own style of writing through word choice, punctuation, and sentence building. Using the sentences of published authors as a model, students then integrate the new style of sentence or punctuation in their own writing.

News from the Art Room

There has been a lot going on in the art room this year! The students have been exploring art, creating great projects, and even entering local area contests.

During first quarter, Middle School students competed in the annual Lion's Club Peace Poster contest. This year's theme was "Peace Begins With Me" and students came up with their own designs depicting their version of the theme.

Our students did exceptionally well in this contest. Marshall Anderson took first place from the 45 entries submitted from the area schools. Cassie Howder won second place and Kimmy Brown placed third. All participants received a

certificate of participation as special recognition for their posters.

The students also received some fun prizes in addition to their certificates. Marshall received a cash prize from the Lions Club and a large two topping pizza from West Side Pizza. Cassie and Kimmy also received cash winnings and art lapel pins were given to the first three winners. All entries were also treated to a "Big Mac" compliments of Chewelah McDonalds. We are very proud of all the students who entered and gave such great effort and creativity. Congratulations to all for their participation.

It's show time again for student work to be shown in

the 2009 Chewelah Community Arts Festival. Examples of student's work will be on display at the Civic Center Feb. 13-15. This has been a great outlet to show off our schools' talented young artists' work. This annual art show is unique to the area and the Chewelah Arts Guild is proud of the diversity of the artists.

New this year in art is a Graphic Design class offered to High School students. The students have been learning techniques in design with the use of Adobe Photo Shop, digital cameras and hand drawing and lettering.

Some of the projects students have completed in the Graphic Design class include business cards, flyers, letterhead and envelopes for a business of their choice, magazine covers, CD covers, and advertising. They are now tackling silk screening and designing their own t shirt logos. This has been a great learning experience that hopefully will follow them throughout their life.

Finally, as always, you can view student's art work in the halls of both the elementary and high school buildings.



Marshall, Cassie and Kimmy with their art and awards

Middle School Science News

As the new semester begins, seventh grade students are brushing off their calculators and sharpening their pencils. We have begun the study of motion.

Many of the skills that are taught in Math are now put to good use in Science. Graphing motion helps us to visualize how an object moves and understand the relationships between force, mass and motion. When students take the time to understand the concepts, they will help build the foundation necessary to be successful in High School.

The Earth, Moon, and Sun are the topics studied in the Eighth grade classroom. Students presented posters or PowerPoints explaining the difference between solar and lunar eclipses or what a penumbra is.

The reason that we have seasons is also a hot topic for science. Many think that we are closer to the Sun in the summer and farther in the winter. The reality is



that we are closest to the Sun in early January. Why, then is it so cold? The seasons are determined by the amount of daylight we receive and the intensity of the Sun's rays. Due to the tilt of the Earth, we have very short days and indirect sunlight during winter.

Next up, we will be looking out into the cosmos toward the rest of the solar system.

Superintendent Addresses State Deficit

The Washington State Constitution states, "It is the paramount duty of the State to make ample provision for the education of all children residing in its borders." My understanding is that Washington State is the only state which defines public education as the state's paramount duty.

A decade ago, Washington State was among the top ten states in regard to per-student funding. We are now in the bottom ten (position #42). Given the current economy, I would not be surprised to see us fall further behind. The Washington state newspapers report a \$7 billion budget

deficit for this biennium. While I believe that cuts to public education are inevitable, the question of how deep and to which programs remains unknown. Other state agencies have been asked to assume a potential reduction of twenty percent (20%) to the biennial budget requests. K-12 public education will not be unaffected by these reductions.

The Mary Walker School District continues to operate under a conservative district budget utilizing grants and federal dollars on a continuing basis whenever possible. Our district will continue to search for opportunities to

maintain high standards and improve on the programs already established.

We cannot forecast what the pending deficit will mean to our District. We do know as a District, that we value the quality educational programs that our students and families have come to expect and certainly deserve. We will continue to monitor the State budget deficit to see how the shortage will affect us.

If you have any questions, please contact Kevin Jacka, Superintendent, Mary Walker School District No. 207.

News from the Superintendent

Like many of you, the Mary Walker School District received more snow than we knew what to do with over Christmas break. We made a decision to close schools on January 6th and 7th to bring in the necessary equipment and people to remove snow from buildings and around buildings. We wanted to do this without students being in school because of the amount of people, type of equipment and work we were going to be doing.

These two days allowed us to create a safer campus for all our students and employees. We would like to thank the many community members who helped shovel and remove the snow, including those that provided the necessary large equipment to move snow off of and away from the buildings. A special thanks to machinery operators Jamie Cummins, Tyrell Hibdon, Tate Newell and the Town of Springdale. Also, a special thanks to volunteer

workers Leslie Sulgrove, Robert Farmer, Toni Thompson, Ken Canfield and thanks to contributor Shawn O'Malley. Thank you to the custodial staff for their contributions and patience. I would personally like to thank Maintenance Supervisor Kim Sulgrove for his leadership, organization, and dedication in making this all happen.

Kevin Jacka, Superintendent

