



Mary Walker Class of 2009 Celebrates Achievements

An overflow crowd helped say good-bye to a group of 38 Mary Walker High School seniors during graduation ceremonies Saturday in the school gymnasium.

The ceremony included guest speaker Bob Carroll, president of the Deer Park Rotary Club, along with a valedictory address by Alyssa Glass and a salutatorian speech by Karinne Smith.

Carroll, who told the graduates to embrace the future, said he was impressed by the school's concept of "radical hospitality" which showed itself by students' warm welcome to strangers. He also told graduates not to be

afraid about coming back because they will always be welcome.

Glass and Smith mirrored Carroll's refrain about embracing the future as they leave Mary Walker for different avenues of life. Smith also provided a musical interlude with her performance of her original composition, "My Best Friend" on the guitar.

In addition to the speeches, the graduation ceremony gave the faculty a chance to recognize top students in various classes and scholarship recipients. See page 10 for a list of students and their achievements.



Mark Your Calendar

- June 17th ~ School Board Meeting @ 7:00
- August 2009 ~ Check your mailbox for the Back to School Newsletter

The 2009-2010 School Year Calendar, including the date of the first day of school, will be announced after the June 17th School Board Meeting. The calendar will be posted at www.marywalker.org at that time.

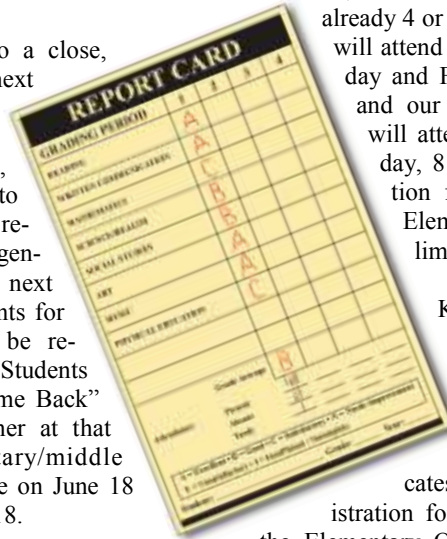
News from Mrs. Henjum ~ K-8

School Year 09-10

As this year comes to a close, preparation for the next school year has already begun. Within the next few weeks, parents should expect to receive their child's report card along with a general supply list for next year. Teacher placements for grades K-5 will not be released until August. Students will receive a "Welcome Back" letter from their teacher at that time. The elementary/middle school office will close on June 18 and reopen on August 18.

Preschool/Kindergarten Registration is Open!

Our preschool program is currently registering students who are turning 3 by August



31st, as well as those students who are already 4 or 5. Three year old students will attend Preschool every Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 – 11:15 and our four and five year olds will attend Tuesday through Friday, 8:30 – 11:15. All registration forms are located in the Elementary Office. Space is limited so sign up early!

Kindergarten registration is also open. Students who turn 5 by August 31st are eligible for registration. Health records, birth certificates, immunization and registration forms can be picked up at the Elementary Office. Our kindergarten program is a full day program and will start on September 1st at 8:30. If you have any questions over the summer months please call 258-4534.

Kindergarten Promotion

All dressed up with graduating caps on, twenty-four kindergarteners were promoted to the 1st grade on June 4th!

Over the course of the year the kindergarten students

have worked on their reading and writing skills, as well as learning their numbers up to 50 with mastery. Science experiments and social play were also highlights throughout their day. Kindergarten teachers Mr.

Gilmore and Mrs. Presho have provided a wonderful foundation for all the kindergarten students.

Congratulations to all our kindergarten students!



Forty-five Graduate from Middle School

On June 3, 2009, there was definitely a reason to celebrate! The eighth grade graduating class of 2009 is one of the largest to go through the Springdale Middle School.

Several students received academic awards during the ceremony. The following students were awarded for their outstanding citi-

zenship and dedication towards their studies:

Corey Buche – Mathematics

Kimberly Brown - Algebra

Shane O'Malley – Social Studies and Language Arts

Cassie Howder – Drama

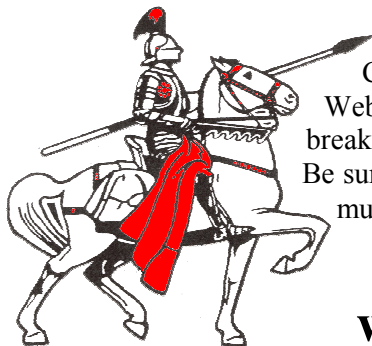
Jonathan Jacobsen – Physical Education

Makala Presho- Art

Devin Butler- Science

Connie Wilson – Band and Directors Award

Congratulations to all the 8th graders and their accomplishments!



Check out the Mary Walker School District Website for the latest news, 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

FCCLA Receives FACTS Award

Mary Walker High was selected to receive the 2009 FCCLA National High School Runner-Up FACTS (Families Acting for Community Traffic Safety) Award. The goals of the program are to save lives through sober driving, seat belt use, and safe driving habits.

The purpose of the FACTS award program is to encourage local chapter members to identify a specific community traffic safety problem and carry out an innovative project to address that need. Using their family and consumer sciences skills, members can take the lead in their communities and

show how youth can make a difference.

As the runner-up, Mary Walker High FCCLA chapter will receive a \$500 award, presented to them at the 2009 FCCLA National Leadership Conference, July 12-16 in Nashville, Tennessee.

A survey was conducted throughout Mary Walker High School and the data showed that 60% of students surveyed send text messages while driving. The goal of the project, "Texting...Your Obituary," was to gain the attention of students and raise their

awareness of the risks they were taking by text messaging while operating a moving vehicle.

Chapter members conducted classroom workshops, primarily targeting future drivers, to prevent the habits of irresponsible driving. The chapter also simulated a "texting while driving" activity for students. Participants were required to attempt to type a 150 character text message while driving a bicycle in the school gym.

by Tara Keenan

State Competition Takes Some to Nationals

The FCCLA State Leadership Conference took place April 1st - 3rd in Wenatchee, Washington. This year's theme was "Excellence Electrified- Shock the World with the Leader in You!" The Mary Walker Chapter had 21 people attend, with 2 guests, 1 adviser, and 18 students competing in STAR Events (Students Taking Action with Recognition).

The conference included exciting keynote speakers, fun-filled workshops, election of 2009-2010 State Officers, a recognition banquet, and of course, the part everyone looks forward to, our Washington State FCCLA Mixer! Those involved with the con-

ference had a blast and look forward to attending next year!

Out of those 18 students that competed, 9 proved to be the best in the state and will go on to Nationals. The competition will be held this summer in Nashville, Tennessee.

Karinne Smith and her partner Damien Howder did their project on sexual abstinence entitled "How crowded is your bed?" teaching students about the dangers and risks of having sexual intercourse.

Tanya Martushoff, Ledia Martushoff, and Melodie Adams will be competing for the second consecutive year

with their project "EnviornMENTAL: Get Crazy about Saving the Earth!" teaching young children the dangers of pollution and how to keep the Earth healthy!

For the third year, Tara Keenan and Madeline Swidergal will be competing with their project "Texting... Your Obituary", which taught high school students about road safety, and the deadly risks of texting while driving.

Kiriakia Affonin, and Carrie Martushoff will be competing at the Junior level.

by Victoria Smartt

Third Annual Seattle Trip

On May 21, Springdale Middle School 8th graders boarded a charter bus bound for Seattle. This was the third annual trip the 8th graders have made to the beautiful skyline.

As the bus headed through the middle of the state, the first stop was Olympia. Students learned about governmental branches, architecture of the state building, participated in a mock trial and visited the House and Senate offices.

After leaving Olympia the charter bus was Seattle bound. Stopping by the Space Needle, students were greeted by clear skies, a wonderful view of Mt. Rainer and the business area of Seattle.

From the Space Needle the students were off to the Woodland Park Zoo! Students were able to roam the grounds during night hours,



seeing some amazing nocturnal animals. Spending the night in the zoo was just like camping! Students enjoyed being awakened by the sound of the peacock that guarded the grounds.

Needless to say the night was short; however it was well worth getting up early to see all the animals that might not have been seen otherwise. Lions, tigers, elephants, small birds, hippos and monkeys were all

in view for the students to take pictures of.

Before the bus headed back to Springdale, a stop was made by the Ballard Locks, the Seattle Aquarium, Pike Place Market, Starbucks (the 1st one!) and Snoqualmie Falls.

The entire trip was amazing for all the students; who knew educational sites could be so fun for 8th graders!



MWSD Addresses Budget Issues

As many of you know, our state and school districts are looking at some challenging budget issues for the 2009-2010 school year. With the State of Washington facing a \$9 billion shortfall, a \$1.2-\$1.3 billion cut for public education, school districts, such as Mary Walker, will not be able to maintain current levels of staffing or programs. This translates to a \$210,000 loss of revenue (after the federal stimulus is added back in) for the 2009-2010 school year to this district.

The Mary Walker School Board has been involved in budget conversations for the last five months, waiting on the State of Washington and the federal government to provide enough information for the school board to make some very difficult decisions. These were difficult decisions that

will affect children and families. These are not decisions that school boards take lightly.

The Mary Walker School Board met on May 11th to make some final decisions on what budget adjustments needed to be made.

- Reductions that were made to this school district are as follows:
- Reduce Food Services Personnel
- Reduce Counseling at the K-8 building
- Eliminate C Squad athletics and coaches
- Eliminate two assistant coaching positions
- Eliminate K-12 music program
- Eliminate 2.5 teaching positions

Frequently Asked Questions

What is happening at the State level and how will this affect our students?

Washington is facing an unprecedented \$9 billion deficit and state lawmakers have presented a budget that impacts public education as a \$1.3 billion cut in revenue. For Mary Walker School, this translates into net \$210,000 in lost revenue, after adding in the federal stimulus. To offset the lost revenue, the District will propose about \$215,000 in budget reductions.

If the District has a cash reserve, why isn't it used to fill the gap created by the State budget cuts?

Districts use their cash reserves to purchase and pay bills while waiting to be reimbursed by State and Federal programs. For example, the District may not start receiving Special Education money from the State or Federal programs until three or four months into the school year. Meanwhile, the District continues to pay bills and staff in those programs. Also, all public schools are accountable for maintaining budgets that can demonstrate solvency. Spending down cash reserves too low

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Budget Issues, Continued

(Continued from page 6)

could put a district in financial danger.

Why can't we use any of the grants the District has received to fill the gap created by the State budget cuts?

All grants are designated funds. Those designations are outlined in the grant regulations and contract. That amount can only be used according to the terms specified in the grant, and is paid to the district on a reimbursement basis (we have to spend it before we get it back, after providing the correct paperwork and information to the grantor).

Can we use Capital Projects or Transportation Vehicle Fund money to help during the financial crisis?

No. These are designated funds. The Capital Project fund may only be used to build or modernize schools or to make major repairs to existing buildings. Transportation Vehicle Fund money can only be used to purchase a new bus or to make major repairs to a bus.

Why is the District continuing to spend money on employee professional development?

The Mary Walker School District No. 207 participates in a few grants that involve professional development for teachers/staff. This money can only be used for staff professional development according to the grant guidelines. These grants are very helpful to the continued development of AP programs, pre-AP programs, Math programs, Science programs, and AVID programs.

Can we use bond money to help during the state's financial crisis?

No. Bond money may only be used to build or modernize schools.

Isn't basic education protected?

Basic Education funding includes: Special Education, Bilingual Education, Institutional Education, Vocational Education, Learning Assistance programs and pupil transportation. Funding is also provided for each student based on staff/student ratios. Included in this ratio is funding for salaries, benefits, and non-employee costs (electricity, water, heat, supplies, etc). This basic education staff/student ratio pays for approximately 21 teachers. Currently, we have 10 teachers

(Continued on page 8)

Budget Issues, Continued

(Continued from page 7)

that are not covered under basic education as they are funded under other grants or enhancements. These enhancements to basic education are not an ongoing responsibility of the State of Washington; therefore they can be cut (K-4 Enhancement, I-728, Levy Equalization).

What is Levy Equalization?

Levy Equalization, also referred to as Local Effort Assistance, is state-matching money provided to districts who have passed local Maintenance and Operations Levies, and who have above-average tax rates due to lower than average assessed valuations because there are no major businesses in the area. In the 2009-2010 budget, Mary Walker will receive \$150,000 in levy funds and approximately \$380,000 in Levy Equalization payments. The concern here is the governor has talked about reducing this number by \$60,000 during the 2009-2010 school year.

What is I-728?

Initiative 728 was passed by the voters in 2000. The intent was to provide funding for lower class sizes. Mary Walker received \$256,000 in 2008-2009. That will be reduced to \$73,000 in 2009-2010. The legislature actually reduced I-728 to zero and replaced \$73,000 with federal stimulus money for the next year. It is our understanding that is a one year replacement.

What is K-4 Enhancement?

This is additional state funding provided to school districts to lower class size in Kindergarten through fourth grades. To qualify for these additional funds, a district must meet the ratio of 53.2 teachers for every 1000 students.

Do we anticipate additional cuts?

Maybe. Additional cuts are possible. While the legislature has already cut millions of dollars from public education, the cuts could have been worse. To balance state books, the Legislature used Federal Stimulus money to minimize the already deep cuts to education. Once these monies are gone in 2011, there may be another cut to educational funding. Also, the Governor could call for a special session to reduce enhanced programs, or she could just cut funding from those programs. Our hope is for an improved economy.

Summer Lunch Program Available

Just as learning does not end when school lets out, neither does a child's need for good nutrition. Children in our com-

munities do not need to go hungry this summer. During the school year, nutritious meals are available through the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs. But those programs end when school ends for the summer. This is where the USDA and FREE SUMMER LUNCHESES come in!

Good nutrition is essential for effective learning every day, all year long. Children who aren't hungry learn better, act better, and feel better.



The USDA and the Summer Food Service Program help fill the hunger gap by providing these free nutritious meals and snacks ALL SUMMER LONG!

Know a place where children congregate? Baseball games? Soccer games? Church activities? Apartment buildings? Mobile home parks? Parades? Fairs? 4H clubs?

These children are all entitled to FREE MEALS each

time they meet! You can schedule the number of meals you need (Breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks—up to 2 a day) and pick them up the day of your program, or ahead of time if you have cold storage facilities.

Encourage event organizers to call the Summer Food Program at 233-2345 or Loon Lake School at 233-2212 for more information. You can also drop us a note listing the programs/gathering areas you think of at Summer Food, P.O. Box 218, Loon Lake, WA 99148.

Fall Sports Information

It may be the end of the school year but it's never too early to start thinking about fall school sports. Remember, before you can participate in any of the sports you need to meet all the requirements that the Mary Walker School District requires of its athletes. This includes, getting a physical (physicals are now good for 2 years), and completing and submitting the following forms; insurance forms, athletic code, sports guide lines, sports warning and your medical

card. Please see Tammy Ward in the middle school and Cindy Melville in the high school for all paperwork and return it to them when it is complete.



Some important dates to remember for this Fall:

August 17th ~ High School Fall Sports Meeting at 6pm in the Auditorium

August 19th ~ High School Football Starts

August 24th ~ High School Cross Country, Cheer, and Volleyball Starts

Middle School Cross Country, Football, and Volleyball start the first day of school which will be announced after the June 17th school board meeting.

MWHS Seniors Recognized

The following Mary Walker High School seniors are recognized for their achievements and scholarship awards:

Sarah Adams: Top music student

Celeste Burt: Newhouse Award

Christopher Bossio: Top mechanics student

Aireall Fuller: Top English student.

Alysa Glass: Top advanced placement English, science and mathematics students, Citizenship of the Year Award and University of Hawaii, Springdale Women's Club Buche Memorial, Deer Park Rotary Club, Mary Walker Education, and National Elks Foundation scholarships.

Damian Howder: Top Outstanding Male student, Charger of the year and Peterson Foundation Scholarship.

Alex Kalugin: Top physical education student.

Tara Keenan: Top art, social studies and consumer science student and Leadership of the

year award.

Andrew Lewis: Top drama student.

Stephanie Lind: Top business student.

Ryan Presho: Top vocational-agriculture student and two Washington Awards for Vocational Excellence scholarships.

Theresa Scott: Peterson Foundation Scholarship.

Karinne Smith: Outstanding Female student and Springdale Women's Club Buche Memorial, Donald Sharffer Memorial, Sons of the American Legion and Eastern Washington University President's Scholarships.

Madeline Swidergal: Cottey College Scholarship.

Mary Kenney: Midland Lutheran Scholarship

Caleb Meyers: BYU-Idaho Academic Scholarship

Heather Corter: JAC Charbonneau Memorial Scholarship



Alyssa Glass
Valedictorian



Karinne Smith
Salutatorian

7th Graders Practice Real World Applications

The seventh grade Math and Science classes recently combined to work on a project that uses both math and science skills. The real world application of concepts learned in both classes was emphasized.

Students measured the playground and attempted to accurately estimate the number of dandelions. In order to do so, they had to find areas of an irregular shape and randomly pick sample plots. After much planning, student went to work. It was fun to watch students work together to solve problems and interesting to see the strategies used. Many of the students were very well organized and able to come up with a great plan.

After the measurements were made, the real work began. The toughest parts of the task were to analyze the data and then create a meaningful presentation for the class. It is fun to create a project but students had to remember that the object was to get information across to the audience.

Students had to overcome the urge to make the flashy project in order to concentrate on the goal. In addition, this is a busy time of year with field trips, such as the honor roll trip. Students had to plan for the possibility that one or both of the partners would be gone and



how they would meet their deadline under those circumstances.

Finally, students had the challenge of understanding the meaning of their data. The ability to think creatively is crucial to solving some of the problems that real-life data creates. It is hoped that students will be able transfer this ability in order to scrutinize information in the future.

This type of project is very rewarding to the students who put forth their best effort. Many students are seeing just such an effect.

FCCLA Produces Strong Leaders

FCCLA: The Ultimate Leadership Experience is a dynamic national student organization that helps young men and women become leaders and address important personal, family, work, and societal issues through family and consumer sciences education. FCCLA has more than 220,000 members and nearly 7,000 chapters from 50 state associations and the

District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

The organization has involved more than ten million youth since founded in 1945. Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America is unique among youth organizations because its programs are planned and run by members. It is the only career and technical in-school student organiza-

tion with the family as its central focus.

Participation in national programs and chapter activities helps members become strong leaders in their family's, careers, and communities.

by Tara Keenan

News from the Superintendent

Mary Walker School District No. 207 is looking to recruit community volunteers who can teach music lessons in singing/instrumentation to come in to the school district during the 2009-2010 school year.

The "Music for Students" program can be during or after school. We are trying to fill a void during a time when schools are facing severe financial difficulties.

These volunteers would be involved in nurturing a love of music in children through their active participation and enjoyment, and increase musical sensitivity and literacy in weekly classroom lessons.

If you are concerned about the lack of music education in your schools, with your help and support, we will continue to offer the musical

opportunities our children need. Once we have a list of volunteers, we will meet to discuss how the "Music for Students" program will be activated.

For further information or to volunteer, please contact me at 258-4534.

Kevin Jacka, Superintendent



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