

4th Quarter Newsletter



Mark Your Calendar

June

- 12th – Last Day of School ~ Early Release

August

- 14th – Sports Meeting ~ 6:00 p.m.
- 16th – Football practice starts
- 21st – Volleyball and Cross Country practices start
- 29th – First Day of School for the 2006-2007 School Year

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Students Help Community by Painting Crosswalks



Three fourth grade girls from Ms. Allen's class, named McKinsey Schurger, Miranda Swiger, and Zoe Moritz thought their class should do something special for Earth Day this year. They brainstormed ideas for an Earth Day project with their teacher and the principal, Helen Hindley.

We found out we might be able to paint crosswalks for our town! And that's how it all began...

Our first step was to go ask the Mayor (Mike Pammler). He said it would be a big responsibility. Next, he gave us the number to the Springdale City. The first time – the lady didn't answer. We were disappointed because we were so excited about our idea to paint crosswalks. The second time we called, she answered! We told her our names, our idea and asked her when it would be a good time to do this project. We asked when we could paint, what colors we could use, and the most important question of all – if we could actually do the project! She said we could! So Mr. Pammler helped us make a map of

where we would paint the crosswalks.

After he told us all the details, we decided we had to have three groups: "Security" to direct traffic, "Operations" to sweep the area clean and carry materials, and "Paint" to actually do the painting. After that we went to the principal and she gave us the phone number to our town cop named Josh Mazatko. We had to call him to ask if he had any bright orange vests and flags for our security group. We tried to call but he was busy and he never answered until the second time we called back. He said yes to the first, and no to the second question. That meant we had to make our own flags – so we did – out of sticks and red paper.



On Friday, May 5th it was the day we started painting crosswalks. It was really cool. We never knew how many steps it took, and how much we had to plan. Those steps were so hard but we were glad we had enough perseverance! We're proud we could help out our town of Springdale.

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Have a great summer! See you on August 29th!

Reading Success Begins at Home

Parents of young children under the age of six years old can take comfort in knowing that some of the best preschool pre-reading programs can happen right in their own home!

We know from research that children begin to learn to read and write long before they enter kindergarten or first grade. According to the National Institute for Literacy, from the day children are born they begin to learn about spoken language by hearing family members talk, laugh, and sing. They start to learn about written language when they hear adults read stories to them and see these same adults reading newspapers, magazines, and books. In fact, research tells us that when parents read aloud to their young children, they are doing the most important single activity for building the foundation for reading success. Children learn new spoken and written words, and learn more about the world around them, when they hear their parents or relatives read to them.



Research again tells us that young children need lots of learning opportunities at home and school to become skilled and confident. What can parents do at home this summer (and year around) to help their young children eventually become better students at reading and writing? According to the U.S. Department of Education, the following activities have been proven to be effective:

- From birth, begin talking and singing to your child (e.g. play “peek-a-boo” and “pat a cake”)
- Let your baby know you hear his or her babbles, coos, and gurgles
- Play simple touching and talking games together (e.g. Where are your toes?)
- Point to familiar objects and name them (e.g. “Here’s your blanket”)
- Encourage your child to talk with you (e.g. “What would you like to do next?”)
- Answer your child’s questions (e.g. “Mommy, why do we brush our teeth?”).

When parents read to their children, they should make it a pleasure. They should show enthusiasm, read to their children often, and talk to their children as they are reading to them. Other recommendations at home to help children have success at reading and writing include:

- Start a home library for your child. This shows him or her that books are important! A bookcase or even a cardboard box can be used to collect books bought at bookstores, garage sales, flea markets or sales at the local library.

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Preschool at MWSD

The Mary Walker School District offers two separate preschool programs. Students with special needs or those experiencing developmental delays in social-emotional, cognitive, speech and language, fine or gross motor functioning, may qualify for free attendance to the developmental preschool. Students who do not meet that criteria, can still attend a preschool program for a minimal cost. Call the school at 258-7357 for more information.

Kindergarten Notes

Completion Program: The Kindergarten Completion Program will be on Thursday, June 8, at 1:30p.m. in the High School Auditorium. The students will demonstrate what they have learned in the Core Knowledge Curriculum this year.

Kindergarten Registration: If you have not registered your child for Kindergarten next Fall, please come into the elementary school office as soon as possible. Please bring your child's birth certificate and immunization records.

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.

Want to receive e-mail notices of special events or schedule changes? Just take a moment to join our mailing list from the main page of the site.

Rummage Sale



The Mary Walker School District band students are planning a

rummage sale to raise money for the middle and high school band programs. It will be held Saturday, June 10th from 10:00–2:00 in the school district parking lot.

Students will be providing live entertainment for the pleasure of the patrons during this time. Planned events include a variety show and performances by the band.

The students are needing donated items to sell. If you have anything you would like to contribute, please contact Matt Lodge at 258-4533.

By planning to join us on June 10th, you can support the Mary Walker School District Band Program and find great bargains to boot! See you there!

A Matter of Choice!

Student Transfers to Mary Walker School District

At the beginning of each school year any student who lives outside Mary Walker School District boundaries must apply to attend Springdale Elementary/Middle School or Mary Walker High School. Parent/guardians request a release form from their home district office and send it to Mary Walker School District for approval. The Superintendent, Kevin Jacka, contacts the building Principal to make sure there is room for the student in the grade level they are entering. Students may be denied Mary Walker School District attendance based on the following:

- Classroom space or services are not available to accommodate the needs of the student
- The student's attendance may pose a health or safety risk to other students or staff
- Parents must provide transportation unless established bus routes have space available
- Student does not cause a financial burden to the District
- Admission may be revoked at any time due to the student's failure to observe school rules which results in a disruption of school, the educational process and/ or a suspension from the District
- The District reserves the right to deny nonresident transfer to any student who has engaged in misconduct or disruption to the educational process in another school.

A copy of the acceptance/denial form is sent to the home District Office. Out of District students must reapply at the beginning of each school year. If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact Mary Walker School District or your home District Office.

The Becca Law ~ Protecting Children & Supporting Parents

The Becca Law (RCW 28A.225) was enacted by the Washington State Legislature to:

- Protect children who are endangering themselves
- Keep families together through assessment and treatment services
- Provide tools for schools, parents and Juvenile Court to keep children in school
- Hold children and parents accountable to the order of the Court

Mary Walker School District Board Policy (3122P) states that students

are expected to attend all assigned classes each day. Teachers must keep a record of all absences and tardies. According to Policy, absence due to illness, health condition, family emergency or religious purposes are the only accepted absences. School assigned activities such as travel with a sports team are also accepted.

An excuse may not be approved if it causes a serious adverse effect on the student's educational progress. Students who miss school or are tardy are not participating in critical classroom work, missing assignments and essential learning activi-

*ties. The school may choose not to accept an absence if the student's grades are being adversely affected. Schools **must** file a truancy petition with Juvenile Court when a child has more than five unexcused absences or tardies in a month or ten in a school year.*

Unexcused absences include failing to return a signed excuse note, absences for such activities as shopping, sleeping-in, car trouble, missed the bus, excessive sickness without Dr. note, repeated head lice infestations, and others.

Staff Goes Four for Four in Dallas

No it wasn't the NBA Play-offs (they missed it by just a week) but four of Mary Walker's teachers recently completed training in Dallas, Texas to become National Trainers for the College Board's hot new curriculum "Springboard." Because Mary Walker was one of the first schools in the state to adopt this reading and writing program Debbie Solum, Don Vanderholm, Lis Motley, and Wendi Peone were all invited to attend five days of training over two week-ends last month. Not all teachers who attended received National Trainer status and all four can attest to the taxing nature of the five days.

This highly interactive, hands-on program is growing so rapidly nationwide that over 150 new trainers are needed to travel to districts and train teachers who will be implementing this curriculum next year. All four expect to be given at least one assignment, over the summer, that will require them to teach a one-week session and two follow up week-end sessions during the school year.

The College Board pays for all travel expenses and provides an honorarium for trainers.

Back to School News

Be sure to check your mail box the first week of August for the Back to School Edition of this Newsletter. It will include important information including the 2006-2007 school year calendar, sports schedules and much more. You can keep up with news in the meantime by visiting the district website at...

www.marywalker.org

Colts Softball has Awesome Season

The Springdale softball girls' team ended the season with a record of nine wins to one loss. The girls worked hard at every practice and worked even harder at the games. Their last game was against Nespelem. They had 3 home-runs hit by Jessica Sulgrove, who brought Haley Goad home. Veronica Vanderholm (a.k.a: Roni) hit one really good home run.

They made these home runs because of the coaching techniques of Coach Don Gilmore. His goal was to make his girls the best possible players in a short amount of time. Did he achieve his goal? Of course, they were past his goal and still trying. They were the most dedicated athletes Coach Gilmore has ever had. Coach Gilmore was completely satisfied with the season ending 9-1.

Now, imagine thirteen girls, ten of them eighth graders and three of them seventh graders. Coach Gilmore said, "I was disappointed that only three seventh graders signed up to play softball. I expected more than three seventh graders. Everybody improved as an individual and as a team. The team accomplished everything I wanted them to do, then took it to the next level and exceeded my goals."

As a coach, things can get pretty hectic and disturbing. Coach Gilmore complimented his team saying that, "The team exceeded expectations by totally dominating all the other teams in the league," and added, "The team didn't disappoint me at all, and they will be the next state "B" champions for Springdale/ Mary Walker in softball."

When asked how he improved his softball players' talents he responded, "... to throw, hit, and catch. I wanted to coach softball, because it's a sport that they can carry throughout adulthood and still compete."

By Cassandra Ward



Puss in Boots Packs 'Em In

On Thursday, March 23, 2006 the middle school drama class successfully presented their third evening production of children's theater, Vera Morris's "Puss in Boots". The commanding presence of Joseph Taulaki's character, the great Ogre, inspired the other actors and actresses to entertain their audience. Children and the audience reacted with roars of laughter and applause to his "terrifying" scenes with Puss, played by C.J. Kenney.

Numerous teachers and students exclaimed over how entertaining the play had been. Despite competition for an audience with a Gonzaga Bulldogs NCAA game, the audience generously attended the evening performance.

One of the Ogre's prisoners, played by veteran actress Vici Smartt, commanded the stage with fellow student Alicea Morrell as they claimed the freedom that Puss had won for them with his defeat of the powerful, but prideful, Great Ogre. Miss Smartt effectively created a uni-browed, haggard appearance that only added to her "pitiful and imprisoned" state. As

Ms. Moss commented, "What did you expect—that's Vici!" She claimed the stage and her audience with a very minor role.

Reggie Peone's portrayal of Tom, the Miller's son, featured smooth delivery of his lines as he expressively and professionally stayed in character. He and his fellow actors and actresses dedicated every Wednesday evening for two hours after school during the month of March in preparation for this play. Mrs. Sulgrove, the middle school drama coach, complimented and credited their successful performances to their natural abilities and hard work. "These individual students showed creativity and daily effort to learn lines, characterization, blocking, and then follow through by gathering their costumes and props."

Other actors and actresses rose to the occasion performing with more expression and projection daily, and finally, in their performances. Great job to the following supporting actresses—Sarah Beckman, Jeanette—Lindsey Spencer, Gabrielle—Ledia Martushoff—Haley Goad, the peasant

Woman—and Kseinya Langlois, the Countess.

A special thanks goes to the volunteer hours donated by Jackie Franks, Mrs. Langlois, Tammy Ward, Donna Hutchinson, and Trisha Lasitch to prepare Renaissance costumes and the tree panels. Jim Scott, and Kim Sulgrove also earned our appreciation setting up the lighting on stage.



Fifth and Sixth Graders Perform 'Tom Sawyer'

HOWDY! This year's actors seem to be up for an awesome performance. All students have read the novel 'Tom Sawyer' and these actors can surely play their parts well.



In the lead role of Tom Sawyer is Marcus Vanderholm. Marcus has memorized over 160 lines! Amazing! Playing the part of Huck Finn, is Colton Peone. Daniel Meyers will be acting as treacherous Injun' Joe. Kassandra Verhaag is playing the role of Muff Potter and Jeff Thatcher. Some of the female roles include Carrie Martushoff, as Becky Thatcher, Cassie Howder as both Aunt Polly and the School Mistress, and Connie Wilson as Amy Lawrence.

All actors have been working hard

to present their family and friends with a performance that will be memorable as well as enjoyable. Each year Mrs. Howard is amazed at the effort these actors display in order to put on a great show. Please come and watch.

PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

Date- May 31st

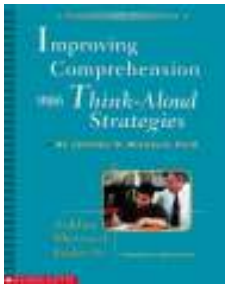
Time- 6:30-8:00

Place- Mary Walker Auditorium

Book Study

Teachers love books! Teachers love to talk! Teachers love kids! So what better way to indulge in some of their favorite things than a book study? For the last three years certified and classified staff members have been meeting at 7 a.m. to read and discuss books about current reading strategies.

This year they met for seven weeks to discuss Jeffrey Wilhelm's book, *Improving Reading Comprehension with Think-Aloud Strategies*. They learned how important it is to model aloud what goes on in a good reader's head as they read. It is necessary to make visible the thinking and activities that occur in a reader's mind to help students see reading as an active process to make meaning of text. These discussions give teachers a chance to share ideas and learn more about current topics in reading education. Teachers can then apply new learning in their classrooms to benefit students.



Mid School Track has Successful Season

Our middle school track teams had a very successful season this year. With one of the biggest turnouts in recent history, the boy's and girl's teams had eleven members each. We had four meets on our schedule and began our season at the Selkirk school, where eight teams competed. The boy's team placed third and the girls took fifth. At the next meet in Republic, the boys had a second place finish and the girls ended up fourth. By our home meet the boy's took first place and the girl's were tied for third! At each meet all of our athletes continued to improve their personal times or distances as well as improving as a team.

At the final meet, the League championship, the competition was fierce. The race for the first place finish and league champ title was a close one. Our boy's team was right behind Republic all day. At the very end when the final score was announced, Springdale came out on top and took the league championship! The girl's team improved on their total for the fourth time and finished in third place. Both teams worked hard all season and have much to be proud of. Just wait till next year!



The Mid School Track Teams with coach, Jo Moss on left

Onward - 7th Grade to Visit EWU

Springdale Middle School seventh graders will be visiting the Eastern Washington University Cheney campus on May 25th as part of the Onward program. The Onward program offers opportunities to prepare for college success beginning in middle school. Students will tour the campus and meet with admissions staff to get a feel for what they need to do in order to prepare for and apply

to college. As part of the tour they will see the Planetarium, Native American Center, Archeology department, and Library. In addition they will have lunch on campus and see part of the State B Track and Field event.

Over the next five years these students will have the chance to build financially for college by completing

regular and advanced course work, earning good grades, participating in other opportunities like this trip to a college campus, and building some savings of their own. This is a great opportunity for our students to start building for college success now. This program is ongoing and will impact present and future Springdale students. The future is bright for our students!

Students Paint Crosswalks

(Continued from page 1)

Ms. Allen said, "These girls are our future leaders. From beginning to end, I stayed out of their way and let them soar. They learned a valuable lesson, that ideas can turn into realities, and even a small group of young students can make a difference in their world."

Article written by: McKinsey Schurger, Miranda Swiger, and Zoe Moritz



Reading Success Begins at Home

(Continued from page 2)

- Tell family stories. This lets the child know about the people important to him or her.
- Write with your child. She or he will learn a lot about writing by watching you write. Talk with him or her when you are writing together so he or she begins to understand that writing means something and has many uses.
- Visit the library together. These are places of learning and discovery for your child.

Computers can be useful tools to help a child read and write well. The "Parents Guide to the Internet," published by the U.S. Department of Education, is free! Call toll-free 10-877-4ED-PUBS or go on the internet, <http://www.ed.gov/pubs/edubs.html>, to order a free copy.

Television can also be a great tool for learning. It is important for parents to think about their child's age and choose the types of things that they want their children to see and learn (and often imitate). Look for TV shows that teach children, hold their interest, encourage him or her to listen and question, help him or her learn new words, make him or her feel good about himself or herself, and introduce him or her to new ideas and things.

Summer should be a time for children to have play and have fun. Reading and writing can be fun during this time, too! Remember, the best summer reading and writing programs begin at home!

Activities to increase a child's math abilities are also highly important but are not addressed in this article. If interested, call the school for recommended summer math activities.

FFA Wraps Up Successful Year

Springdale FFA is just about to wrap up another successful year. This past year, we placed 3rd in State in Land Judging with Amanda Krieg and Ryan Carter placing in the top ten individually. We also had 9 first year members including: Maddie Swidergal, Bobbie Spurgeon, Caleb Meyers, Chelsie Sketo, Celeste Burt, Damien Howder, Ryan Presho, Nick Metlow, and Holly Howard, make it to state in 1st Year CDE which is a contest involving team problem solving, FFA Knowledge, and presentation skills. Amber Barr was se-

lected and participated in the State FFA band with 52 members from all across Washington State.

We had 10 hogs at the Spokane Jr. Livestock show this year exhibited by Rachel Blair, Amanda Krieg, Elissa Metlow, Leah Sulgrove, Mary Vanderholm, Holly Howard, Sara Taulaki, and Amber Barr.

Our annual Plant Sale was a huge success again this year and we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the community and

staff at MWSD for their support at our sale. We had a large variety of plants and plan to increase the variety for next year with the construction of our new greenhouse.

Our last item of business will be our annual FFA awards banquet and dinner on June 1st. We have an exciting program planned and are working very hard to be prepared and ready for this event. Thanks again for all of your support!

Matt Gines

Mary Walker School District, No. 207

P.O. Box 159
500 N. 4th Street

District Office

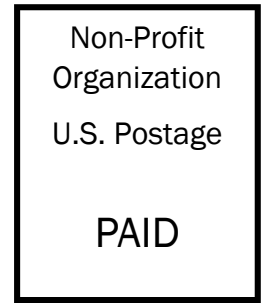
Superintendent—Kevin Jacka
509-258-4534

High School

Principal—Matthew Cobb
509-258-4533

Elementary-Mid School

Principal—Helen Hindley



ECRWSS

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Rural Routes
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News from the Superintendent

As we are headed into Spring and quickly followed by the end of the school year, I am reminded of outdoor activities. One of the activities that is brought up constantly is fishing. Lake fishing, fly fishing, stream fishing, salmon fishing, and whatever other type of fishing there is. I don't fish. I don't like fishing. I don't have the patience or the intelligence for the "sport". My father raised me not to fish. "Fishing is like watching paint dry" was the comment my father spoke every time I asked him to take me fishing. I truly believe that fishing is like watching paint dry.

When my father retired, he took up fishing. Lake fishing, fly fishing, stream fishing, salmon fishing, and whatever other types of fishing there is. He also crabs and digs clams. I didn't know it could get this bad. He educated himself on fishing, crabbing, and tying flies. He has taken classes, read books, and gotten information off the internet. From a man who didn't want to spell the word fish, he has now become a self-claimed expert on fishing.

So what does he tell me now about fishing? "You know, as an educator, there is a lesson in this fishing thing". Well, I am sure there is. With my father, there has always been a lesson in everything, hasn't there. So, he tells me quite simply that this lesson is on continuing education, the ability to adapt and developing the skills necessary to be successful in whatever you are doing. He is doing fishing.

As an educator, I know that there is always going to be continuing education for our students. The world is changing too fast. Their ability to adapt to change and to gain the skills necessary to be successful are more important than ever. The Mary Walker School District continues to work with your students to develop an education that will prepare them for future education/training and the ability to adapt and be successful. This is done through higher expectations and a more rigorous curriculum – a curriculum that gives our students an advantage after high school. This is a continual work in progress.

I know that someday I will take up fishing, to adapt, to spend time with my father. I have already started watching fishing shows on the TV so I can learn the lingo. This is also a work in progress, but it is an opportunity to become more educated – and all of us at Mary Walker School District are about education.

Congratulations on the passing of the levy, the continued support of education in your community and for all our kids. Have a great summer.

Kevin Jacka, Superintendent
