



School of Distinction Awarded to Springdale Elementary

Springdale Elementary School was recently awarded "School of Distinction" by the State of Washington. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) awarded 98 schools for their outstanding academic growth. This award reflects the real gains schools have made that aren't recognized by the federal "No Child Left Behind" law or calculation of "Adequate Yearly Progress" (also known as AYP). To be considered for this award, each school had to exceed the state average performance in the 4th, 7th or 10th grade in the areas of reading and math, as measured by the spring 2008 Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL).

Schools that met the average performance requirements were then evaluated for WASL performance during the past six years. The top 5% of elementary, middle, and high schools were given the distinction award. This year there were only 53 elementary

schools that received the award. Springdale Elementary was the only rural elementary school to receive the award of distinction. The other two elementary schools in Eastern Washington were from the Spokane Area.

This award is a great honor to our staff, students and community. Each and every person in the building has contributed to the great successes our students have seen over the past six years. Everyone needs to be proud of this accomplishment and celebrate the fact that our kids can surpass the expectation when we all work together!

Staff and students received a beautiful glass plaque that is in the main entryway to the elementary/middle school, as well as a banner that will be hung to remind everyone of the accomplishments that our students have achieved. Please stop by to see the award and congratulate teachers and students on a job well done!

Mark Your Calendar

- November 5th-7th ~ Early Release @ 12:30 for Parent-Teacher Conferences
- November 11th ~ **No School** - Veteran's Day
- November 26th ~ Early Release
- November 28th-29th ~ **No School** - Thanksgiving Break
- December 22nd-January 2nd ~ **No School** - Winter Break
- January 19th ~ **No School** - Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- January 21st ~ End of 2nd Quarter

News from Mrs. Henjum ~ K-8

Parent - Teacher Conferences

The Elementary/Middle School will be conducting conferences during the first week of November. Conferences provide a great opportunity for not only the teacher to share your child's progress, but also for the student to share what they have been learning over the past 9 weeks. If you are unable to attend your child's conference, please contact your child's classroom teacher to reschedule the conference. Report cards will be given out during conferences. Report cards will be mailed home the week after conferences to those who are unable to attend.

Cold Weather Approaching!

Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather. Fall is definitely here and the mornings are too chilly for shorts and T-shirts. Before your child

leaves for school, please make sure they have a jacket, pants and closed toed shoes before heading to the bus. If your child is missing a jacket or sweatshirt, encourage them to check the Lost and Found. There are many items that have found a new home in our hallway!

Emergency Contact Information

If you move to a new location, or need to change who can pick up your child, please contact the office ASAP. We need to make sure that all emergency and pick-up information is current at all times.

Unless you notify the office of the changes, the office will use the information that you provided upon registering your child. This information is very helpful in the event of an evacuation, emergency or even if your child is sick. We appreciate your help in making sure we have all of your information updated.



Preparing for School Closures

Mary Walker School District's School Closure Procedure is in place to ensure the safety of students and staff in the event of an unexpected school closure. The plan includes several elements that it is important for parents to be aware of.

First, an emergency plan for all students must be on file in the event that it is necessary to close school early. We would like to know where your child should go in case

of an emergency or unexpected school closing. Cause of an emergency school closure may include an extended electrical outage, gas line leak, interruption of water or sewer service, or severe weather conditions.

Checking the safety of the students' route to school is especially important in winter because weather in North-east Washington can be quite challenging! Parents need to know that they have a choice

if they decide the weather, roads, bus stop, or walking conditions are unsafe for their students with consideration for the students' maturity level and clothing.

The expectation in the Mary Walker School District is to hold school every day that we can safely transport students and that our staff can safely get to work. However, parents are in the best position to make a judgment as to

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College Bound?

College Bound is an amazing program that pays full tuition for up to four years at any Washington public college, university, or community college. In addition, it gives students a book allowance of \$500 a year.

Who's it for? All 7th, 8th, and 9th grade students.

How to apply. Send in application (available at school) or apply online at www.hecb.wa.gov/collegebound

Requirements: Graduate from high school, earn a grade average of C or above, be a good citizen, and meet income guidelines at graduation.

Think you can't afford college? Think again.!

Getting Ready for College

Juniors

- Take the SAT and ASSET in May.
- Make a list of colleges that interest you and gather information. Visit the colleges if possible
- Work hard and take challenging classes. Colleges like students to take advanced math and science classes. They also appreciate students who take AP classes. This year we are offering AP in English, science, history, and psychology.

Seniors

- Keep your grades up. Colleges like to see good grades in your senior year.
- Don't drop challenging

classes at semester.

- Apply to the colleges you're interested in. The earlier you apply the better. Think about completing applications by November or December
- Take college entrance tests (October—December). Take the SAT for 4-year colleges. Take the ASSET. Both tests are given at our high school.
- Apply for Financial Aid and scholarships. Federal financial aid applications can be submitted after January 1st. For more information visit www.fafsa.ed.gov. Check with counselor about current scholarships.

Please call 258-4533 or email Jerry Dyar at jdylar@mwsd.k12.wa.us if you have any questions.

CTE Class Receives National Accreditation

The EETC (Engine Equipment Training Council) has awarded Mary Walker High School's Power Equipment Technology (Small Engines) class with national certification for the teaching of 4-stroke and 2-stroke engine service and repair.

Teacher David Howard applied for EETC certification in November of 2007 through a written application process and in June of

2008 a national certification representative came to the school to look over the program. The curriculum, tools and facility were all inspected and met EETC standards. Mary Walker High School is one of only four schools in the state to receive certification.

When students take and



pass the EETC certification test they receive nationally recognized certification. The power equipment industry has a shortage of qualified techs. Jobs in this industry should continue to grow as all homeowners have one or more types of power equipment products.

Renaissance Program at MWHS

We are proud to announce a new program for all MWHS students called the Renaissance Program. The purpose of this program is to provide extrinsic incentives and recognition for student effort, achievement, and improvement. Some of the exciting incentive pieces we offer are:

- Each week students have the opportunity to get a Renaissance card for showing improvements in attitude, academics or attendance. At the end of each week, they may exchange their card for a spin at the Renaissance wheel. Students then choose various prizes from the Renaissance boxes.
- At the end of each month, students who do not have any missing assignments or discipline issues for that month may join in on a school wide activ-

ity. During this time, students who qualify get to play bingo and enjoy complimentary refreshments.

- We also host a school wide Renaissance activity for **all** students and staff to attend. The goal of these monthly activities is to bring staff and students together in a spirit of competition, comradery and fun.
- This month we had a kick off Renaissance assembly where students from various grades showed off their homemade spirit sticks in a school wide contest. The winning spirit stick will be displayed in the square for the remainder of the school year under the class who currently holds the most spirit points.

We are always looking for opportunities to create pro-

grams and activities to increase school spirit, recognize and encourage student achievements, and bring students and staff together.

This program would not be possible without the financial support of local businesses. We would like to extend a hearty thank you to the following businesses that have provided generous donations to our program:

Cat Tales Zoological Park
McDonalds
Pizza Pipeline, 418 W. Sharp
Redline Finishing L.L.C
Rohweder Equipment
Zips - Deer Park, Chewelah, Colville

Preparing for School Closures

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whether or not to send their children to school based on weather conditions in their specific locale. If parents believe it is too cold or too dangerous for their children to walk, be driven, or drive to school, they certainly have the option to keep their children home.

When weather and road conditions are a concern, we

gather information from different sources to decide if it is safe to transport our students to and from school. Our first concern is the safety of students and staff. Our school buses are well-equipped for winter conditions and our drivers are trained to drive in all kinds of weather. We do know that it is safer for students to ride the bus than to drive themselves to school, so we encourage beginning



drivers to take the bus when road conditions are poor.

If the decision is to close schools, that information is given to the media so please tune in to your local TV or radio stations to be kept up to date.

Winter Sports Begin Soon

Winter sports for Mary Walker H.S. will begin on November 17th. Student athletes should stop by the office and pick up all needed paperwork. It is important to get it ALL turned in a timely manner. Student athletes will not be able to practice unless all of their paperwork is turned in.

If you have any questions

about Winter sports feel free to give the Athletic Director, Kyle Dodge, a call at (509) 258-4760.

The High School coaches for this season are:

Boy's Basketball:

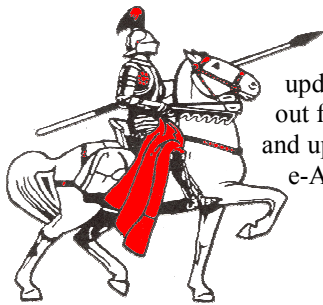
Coach: Dwayne Watts
Assistants: Dave Howard and Jeremy Hegel

Girl's Basketball:

Coach: Mark Edwards
Assistants: Toni Thompson and Donna Hutchinson

Wrestling:

Boy's Coach: Kyle Dodge
Assistant: Rickey Lyons
Girl's Coach: Donna Hutchinson



The Mary Walker School District website was just 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

Keeping Our Schools Safe

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great resource when there is a safety concern or discipline issue. The cameras allow the principals to view hallways and entrances/exits, keeping an eye out for individuals who should not be in our buildings. We also have cameras that view the outside areas so we can monitor the outdoor activity. The goal is to keep our students safe, whether it is student to student or from out-

side influences.

Understanding that students are going to continue to need a safety support system, it is important to continue fostering a positive, healthy working environment for all students. This success comes from staff, students, parents and administration working together by being aware of inappropriate behaviors, celebrating when students make good choices and keeping the

lines of communication open.

The administration at the Mary Walker School District will continue to work with students and parents in providing safe schools. With your help, together we can continue to lower discipline numbers and focus on the potential that our students have for being successful young adults.

GEAR UP College Corner

The Gear Up Program is devoted to educating our youth on post secondary education, a.k.a college. Gear Up feels very strongly that for our youth to have a successful future they must obtain some means of a college education. College can be defined as a 4 year university, 2 year college, vocational school, or any means of education after high school. The Mary Walker School District is currently in the 4th year of our GEAR UP Grant.

Our most recent activity to educate our 9th graders was taking them to the College Career Fair in Colville. This

was a great opportunity for them. They were able to meet with representatives from numerous colleges and receive some very helpful information. They also had the chance to speak with people who are currently in the work field that have successfully completed their college education.

Gear Up's main goal is to make ourselves available at all times to our kids and their families. Educating them on

their futures and how they can set goals and achieve them is very important to us. For a successful future we must make our youth aware of the importance of post secondary education.

If you would like to talk more about your student's future please feel free to call Shamalee Gray at 509-258-4708 or e-mail at sgray@mwsd.k12.wa.us



EASTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
start something **big**

FFA Chapter Qualifies for State

The beginning of this new school year has been extremely productive for our chapter. The first competition was Stevens County Land Judging near Addy and our chapter had nearly thirty members come to participate. Our scores were not great but it was the first competition and we stayed positive and tried to improve.

The second competition was at Colfax and about twenty members went to compete. Our team made some big improvements and the scores reflect their hard work.

The most recent was at Lind-Ritzville where our chapter qualified for state. We placed 15th out of 50 teams and will be going to Garfield-Palouse on November 4th to compete to go to Nationals.

Some upcoming events include Ag Issues and job Interview. In Job Interview members make resumes and cover letters for the job of their choice. They turn both in and get scored. After turning in their resume and cover letter they go through an interview and get scored on their responses, composure, ap-

pearance, and a follow-up letter. Ag Issues has teams of six or fewer and they discuss an Agricultural issue in their region. Their presentation has a slideshow, presentation which lasts 15-20 minutes, and five minutes of questions from the judges after the slideshow and presentation.

We are also preparing for our upcoming fund raising activities to include wreath making and poinsettia sales. We are looking forward to a very successful year this year in FFA.

Mary Walker School District FCCLA

This past summer 7 students attended the National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida. Three groups from our school alone represented Washington State, and all brought back gold! The projects included "Don't Be a Vegetable, Eat One!" by Tanya Martushoff, Ledia Martushoff, and Melodie Adams; "Random Acts of Kindness" by Alyssa Glass; and Anti-Black&Blue by Tara Keenan and Madeline Swidergal. Victoria Smartt, our new state officer, attended Nationals and helped lead the Washington

delegation.

Victoria hosted the Region 10 Fall meeting. Our Regional Meeting was held in Spokane, Washington on October 8th. The meeting went well with a total of 188 people in attendance with 35 people attending from Mary Walker. The keynote speaker, Terry Edwards from ITT Tech, was a huge hit. He taught the members about life after high school and how to make a good impression by "mirroring" someone in an interview, or even in real life situations.

Overall Regional Meeting was a hit, with people learning more about FCCLA as an organization, and meeting other FCCLA members!

This year is taking off quickly, and students right now are starting their STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) event projects to present at FCCLA's Regional STAR events competition on February 18, 2009!

Victoria Smartt
Tara Keenan

High School Open House a Success



Mary Walker High School had a wonderful showing at their yearly Open House on October 22nd. The evening started off with hot-fudge brownie sundaes that parents and family members were able to create. When the ice cream was served, Matt Cobb (building principal) introduced the high school staff and thanked all the parents for attending. About 110 parents with students were served and it was exciting to see that kind of turn-out!

After the ice cream was served and eaten, students took their parents to their advisory class teachers to participate in a parent-child survey. Parents were given a

questionnaire that they read to their child asking about their future goals and aspirations.

"In today's high-tech and fast-paced world, we wanted to create an opportunity for parents to actually have a sit-down conversation with their active high school student," states Jerry Dyar - high school counselor. The teachers then closed this session by walking with their class to the high school commons to a "mini-college fair".

Numerous colleges from the state of Washington were on display including EWU, WSU and Spokane Community College. Several representatives were also present from WSU Upward Bound

and Wyo-Tech. There was information on college admissions and financial aid available for parents or students who had questions. The commons area was packed and families left with handfuls of information from the various colleges.

Overall, the evening was a success and plans are already in the works planning for next year's open house. Again, thank you parents for attending the open house and supporting your child and the staff at MWHS!

News from the Superintendent

Keeping Our Schools Safe

Across the United States schools are constantly looking at trends that bring about inappropriate behavior or safety concerns for students. While larger schools may be experiencing an increase in discipline issues and safety concerns, the Mary Walker School District is being proactive in keeping all students safe while on campus. Students, staff and administrators continue to work on developing positive relationships with each other.

Administrators work closely with teachers to get their input on trend behaviors that are seen on a constant basis. By tracking these behaviors the administration has been able to effectively set behavior expectations by dealing with inappropriate behaviors in a positive/proactive way. Over the last few years, discipline issues

involving student confrontations, safety concerns and student suspensions have decreased.

Our first step as a district was to ensure that all students were aware of behavior expectations. In order to effectively do this, administration worked closely with teachers to establish behavior guidelines that all students must follow, along with consequences when these expectations were not met. These expectations allow students to see exactly what is expected of them throughout their day. It also allows administration to be consistent when dealing with inappropriate behavior.

Another step in looking at safety measures and improving discipline district wide was to add more cameras around the school grounds. Live video is filmed 24/7 and provides a

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