

FEB./MAR. 2012

MARY WALKER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 207

2ND QUARTER NEWSLETTER

INTERACT CLUB ... GOING TO ECUADOR

Summer Trip Planned For Eight Student Members

On August 20, 2012, students from Mary Walker High School will be traveling to Latacunga, Ecuador to take part in the club's first foreign service trip. The Springdale group will be traveling with members of the Deer Park Rotary Club, which has been their sponsoring Rotary Club. The Springdale Interact Club was founded at Mary Walker High School in 2008 as a community service club and has 30 members currently. Eight members of the Junior Class will be participating in this nine-day trip. The Latacunga Rotary Club has initiated many social projects in a mostly agricultural-based region. The students will be serving as helpers in the pre-school center, which accommodates 200 indigenous pre-school children each week. This project is sponsored by Rotary Clubs and individual donors in the Rotary District 5080. In addition, Hewlett Packard is supplying modern computers for the Day Care Center as a part of the Springdale effort. One of the student's duties will be to take individual pictures of the children, for them to have displayed in their homes, which will be developed using the new HP PhotoSmart™ printer. This trip is the dream of past and present student club members. Our motto has been "Make Dreams Real". In August, the Mary Walker students will travel to Ecuador to do just that! A YouTube™ video of the 2011 Exploratory Trip to Ecuador is available for viewing at "Springdale Interact/Latacunga Rotary Project Preview".



If you'd like more information about the Ecuador trip or Rotary Club, please contact Bob Carroll, Rotary International, District 5080, Area 8 (RMPCarroll@aol.com).

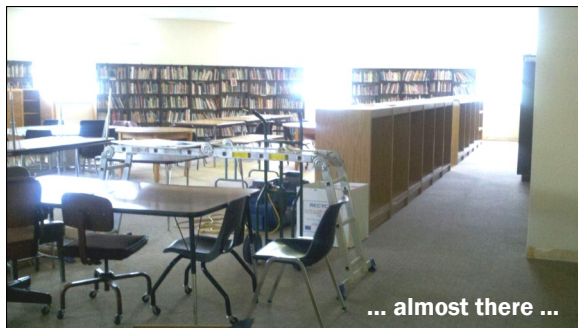
LIBRARY RENOVATION = MODERN MEDIA CENTER

Well Worth The Investment



A decision was made and approved by the Board of Directors to make a capital investment in our High School Library ~ and, indirectly, in our children's future. The consensus was (and still is) that it's time for our Library to become more of a modern Media Center. While we will experience little to no physical book loss, we will be

able to increase our inventory in the way of virtual books (e-books, books online, etc.). We are also in the process of installing user-friendly computer work-stations. The pen is still mightier than the sword — except, in this case, the pen may be a mouse or, perhaps, even a touch-screen attached to a laptop, tower, iPad™ or Kindle™, or some other electronic gadget. In future, we may even be able to make this space available to the community during off-hours.



AND THE PRIZE GOES TO ...

Mary Walker Parent Partnership Program ... A Winner!

It gives us great pleasure to announce that MWPPP is a recipient of a 2011 Washington Achievement Award for Improvement competing with other Comprehensive Schools. Among other criteria, the Washington Achievement Award celebrates schools for overall excellence and special recognition in: language arts, math, science, graduation rate, improvement and closing achievement gaps. Congratulations, MWPPP!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR*

- March 28th - 30th ~ Early Release, Conferences
- April 2nd - 6th ~ No School, Spring Break



* *Calendar subject to change.*

HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU ... KIDS



TITLE I BENEFITS AND INFORMATION

Title I is a federally funded program that brings some extra benefits to school districts. There will be a short survey available for parents/guardians to complete during March parent conferences to provide your much-valued feedback.

Some Title I benefits are:

Additional staffing

Additional materials

Goals for improving student skills

Individualized programming

Smaller class sizes

Extra support for students in reading and math

Some useful links to Title I web sites:

- ◆ OSPI – Title I and LAP - Title I and Learning Assistance Program (<http://www.k12.wa.us/TitleI/default.aspx>)
- ◆ US Dept. of Education (<http://www2.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/index.html>)

SUPERINTENDENT'S DESK ~ KEVIN JACKA

Will There Be A Successful School Levy In Our Future?

Recently in our area, a number of districts ran school levies, only two failed, but they were in district's that ARE in our area. If those two levies fail again, it will be devastating to those students in those two districts. With the cuts that school districts have received in the last three years, a failed school levy will make what education looks like in those districts substantially different, to say the least.

In one year, the Mary Walker School District will be running a levy replacement. The decision that our community will make, on whether to support our kids' education or to not support our kids' in their education, will be one of the most important decisions this community will make.

The passing of a levy basically says that the Springdale Community supports our children in their educational opportunities. Outside families looking for a place to live, learn and love will look for educationally supportive communities. The communities that do support education will see improved housing growth, business growth and community pride growth. Communities that fail an education levy will not see the growth or opportunity.

So, really, supporting school levies in any community comes down to two things: (1) you either support the community's children and value education, or (2) you don't.

MARY WALKER SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 207

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