



# Selah School District's Education Report

An education update for the Selah community

105 West Bartlett, Selah, WA 98942 509-697-0706

Sept./Oct 2009

## Back at it Again!

The 2009-2010 school year is well underway and the Selah School District's approximately 3,500 students are hard at work!

So far enrollment is over projection with the largest increase being at the K-4 level. Looking at true growth from last May, the District is up 78 FTE. As the fall has progressed the District is finalizing its Strategic Plan, and has reconvened its Learning Improvement Team, which will facilitate the implementation of the Learning Improvement Plan. Also, the District is preparing for the renewal of its M & O Levy, and continues to monitor facility needs.

As the first trimester winds down conferences have occurred at the secondary level, while elementary conferences are scheduled November 16-20, and at all levels, report cards will soon be issued. As always, if you have questions please contact the school your child attends, or the District Office.



*Junior High students gather on the first day of school.*

## Selah School District Prepares to Run M & O Levy Renewal

Now that the year is underway the Selah School District is beginning to prepare for the renewal of its Maintenance and Operations (M & O) Levy.

The replacement levy which will be presented to voters on the February 9, 2010 ballot would renew the tax that is currently being paid to support current District programs. The current M & O collection rate is \$3.45 per \$1,000 in assessed valuation.

"Thank you to the community for supporting its schools over the years," said Selah School District Superintendent, Dr. Steve Chestnut. "Levy funds contribute to the valuable programs and materials that are instrumental in the success of our students."

Throughout November, a 28-member Levy Committee comprised of parents, patrons, staff, students, and

board members will evaluate current levy items and discuss prospective items for the upcoming proposal. Also, the committee will discuss levy duration as it recommends either a two-year or three-year proposal.

The M & O Levy funds 15% of the

***"Levy funds contribute to valuable programs and materials that are instrumental in the success of our students."***

*—Dr. Steve Chestnut, Selah Superintendent*

District's \$30 million budget as the State does not fully fund education. Also, over half the funds generated by the levy directly impact student learning, such as for instructional materials, additional teachers, programs for advanced students, and online learning opportunities. District programs

supported by levy dollars fall under four key categories: Student Educational Support, Student Activities and Athletics, Technology and Operations.

According to Scacco the renewal of the M & O Levy is significant in relation to the District's budget.

"Funds generated from the levy contribute 15% of our budget," said Scacco. "Looking to next year we are preparing for the most challenging budget season in years as the state looks at a \$10 billion deficit. Because K-12 education makes up 41% of the state's budget, we will feel the impact."

Scacco also says as the District prepares for more state cuts, levy funds will help continue Selah programs.

"We can't lose the funding the levy provides," said Scacco. "Even with state cuts, funds will help continue the opportunities students deserve."

***"The Selah School District, in partnership with students, parents, and the community, inspires a culture of life-long learning for all."***

# Selah School District News and Notes

## A Message from the Superintendent

**N**ow that we are back into the school routine, I hope your year is off to a smooth start!

Unfortunately, flu season has already begun in our state. In addition to the normal influenza virus, the H1N1 virus (swine flu) is also a concern. As you know, flu can spread easily from person to person. Therefore, we are taking steps to reduce the spread of flu in Selah Schools. We want to keep school open to students and functioning in a normal manner during this flu season. But, we need your help. We are working closely with the Yakima County Health District to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the steps to take concerning schools. We will keep you updated as new information becomes available.



**Dr. Steve Chestnut**

We are doing everything we can to keep our schools functioning. Here are a few things you can do to help:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. If you have children at home teach them the same thing.

- Do not share personal items like drinks, food, or unwashed utensils.
- Know the signs and symptoms of the flu. Flu symptoms include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.
- If you are sick, stay home at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever, without using fever reducing drugs. Staying at home when you have a fever will reduce the number of people who may get infected.
- If you have children at home do not send children to school if they are sick. Any child determined to be sick at school will be sent home.

For more flu information, visit [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov), or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

For more about flu in our community visit the Yakima Health District web site: <http://www.yakimahealthdistrict.org> or call 575-4040.

We will notify you of any changes to our district's strategy to prevent the spread of flu.

## Winter Weather and Selah Schools

The cold mornings and frost on the pumpkins can only mean one thing—winter is around the corner. To help alleviate questions regarding school delays or cancellations, the Selah School District Transportation Department has implemented a weather hotline.

Beginning at 5:30 a.m., parents can call the hotline at **697-0515** to learn if schools are following their regular schedule, or are delayed or canceled. Also, parents can access the District website at [www.selah.k12.wa.us](http://www.selah.k12.wa.us) where school operating decisions will be posted, or listen to local media stations to learn of weather related school announcements.



## Selah School District is Proactive in Keeping Students and Staff Healthy During Flu Season

The outlook is that this will not be an ordinary flu season, so the Selah School District is being proactive in keeping students and staff healthy.

In an effort to combat the arrival of H1N1 (swine flu) as well as the traditional strain of seasonal flu, the Selah School District has placed hand sanitizer dispensers in each of the District's schools, as well as throughout the administrative building. Washing hands often with soap and water, or an alcohol-based hand rub (found in hand sanitizers) is one of the ways the Yakima Health District has identified decreasing the spread of flu. The placement of the hand sanitizer units, which occurred earlier this fall, is one way the district hopes to decrease illness during this heavily anticipated flu season.

## Superintendent Coffees Resume

It's once again time for coffee with the superintendent!

Selah School District Superintendent, Dr. Steve Chestnut, has resumed the monthly Coffee and Conversation series for the 2009-2010 school year. The coffees are an opportunity for parents and patrons to meet with the superintendent and learn about different issues within the District. Please be on the look-out for future Coffee and Conversation dates and topics.



# Selah School District WASL News...

## Selah School District WASL Results are Reported

Even though the year is underway there is still *Washington Assessment of Student Learning* (WASL) results to report for the Selah School District. The good news is that several grades and content areas met standards overall. Out of the 20 state assessments given overall for grades 3-8 and 10, the District was above the state average on nine. These include: **Reading**, grades third, sixth, seventh, and eighth; **Math**, grades fifth and seventh; and **Science**, grades fifth and eighth. Furthermore, five assessment levels achieved all-time high results.

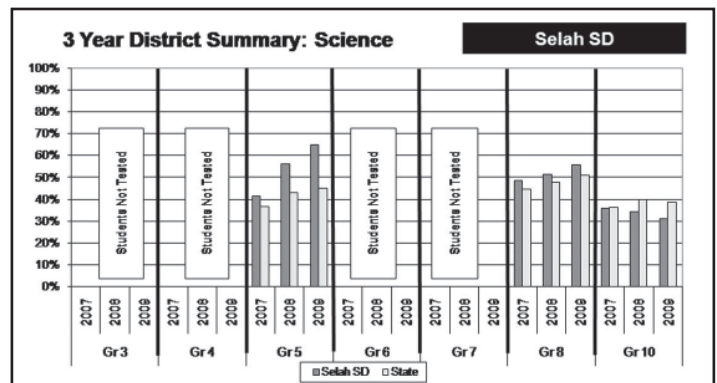
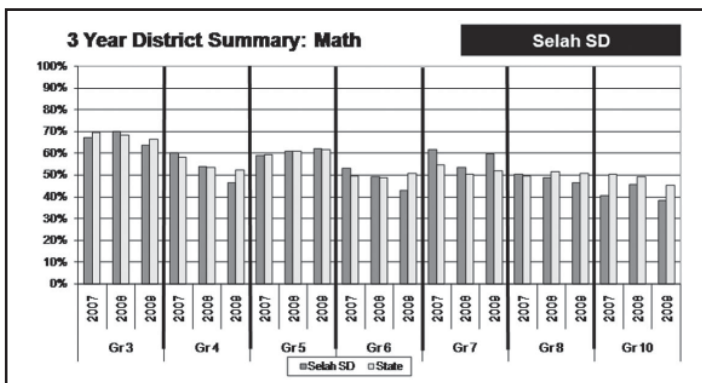
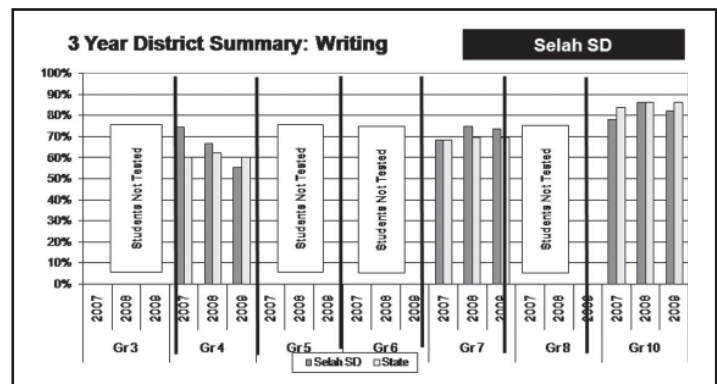
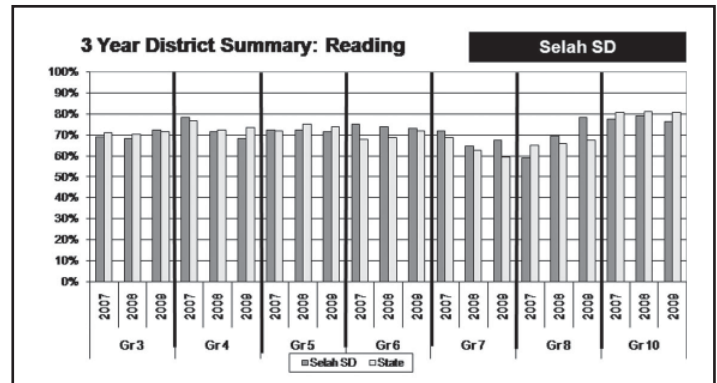
Selah School District Executive Director of Teaching and Learning, Shane Backlund, acknowledged the District is making progress, but there is still work to be done.

"We definitely have some things to be proud of regarding our WASL scores, said Backlund. "But, we also know we have room for growth. We will use this information to continue to plan for how we can make gains for all students."

In addition to the overall state-wide comparisons, Selah Superintendent, Dr. Steve Chestnut, evaluated 2009 WASL data for the District's five schools with comparable state schools, using the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction *School Report Card* web-site. Dr. Chestnut compared Selah's schools to other schools with the same student diversity, or which were more diverse. Comparison schools were at least 60% as large as Selah schools. Significantly smaller schools were not included. The result is an "apples to apples" comparison.

Each of Selah's schools had different numbers of comparison schools. John Campbell had 75, while Robert Lince had 58, due to higher enrollment and free and reduced lunch percentages. Selah Intermediate fifth grade had 165 comparable schools because of the elementaries that include fifth grade, while sixth and seventh grades had 59 comparison schools because there were fewer middle schools. Selah Junior High had 131 comparison schools, and Selah High School had 106.

Selah School District WASL Scores ranking in the top 20% or better of comparison schools were **John Campbell** third grade, which ranked 14th in reading; **Robert Lince** third grade which ranked 9th in reading and 11th in math; **Robert Lince** fourth grade which ranked 7th in math, and 12th in both reading and writing; **Selah Intermediate** fifth grade ranked 4th in science, while seventh grade ranked 1st in both reading and math; **Selah Junior High** eighth grade ranked 7th in reading and 13th in science. Although Selah High School and Academy did not have WASL scores in the top 20% for 2009, 99.5% of seniors met WASL requirements for graduation last spring.



# More Selah School District Curriculum News

## District Enters Step Two of Improvement Status

by: Shane Backlund, Executive Director of Teaching and Learning

In an effort to keep parents and patrons informed of important issues affecting our district, this article explains Selah School District's status with regard to student achievement.

In August, Washington school districts were notified of their status to federal legislation known as the *No Child Left Behind Act* (NCLB). This status, called *Adequate Yearly Progress* (AYP), is a key component of NCLB. Adequate Yearly Progress is an annual determination of whether schools, districts, and states have made progress toward the goal of having all students meet or exceed state standards in reading and math, as well as meet targets for test participation, unexcused absences and graduation

rates. Our state's assessment, the *Washington Assessment of Student Learning* (WASL), serves as a major factor in calculating AYP. Beginning with the 2009-2010 school year, the WASL will be replaced by the *Measurements of Student Progress* (MSP) in grades 3-8 and the *High School Proficiency Exam* (HSPE). Please visit [www.Watesting.com](http://www.Watesting.com) for information on state testing changes, including the move toward online testing.

Based on our results, Selah School District has not met AYP targets in all areas. As our next step the District will implement the *District Learning Improvement Plan* that was created last school year. Also, the District must reserve at least 10% of its annual Title

I allocation to provide focused, professional development for teachers and administrators in the areas where we have not met the target.

Parents/guardians of students in grades 3-8 and high school who participated in the WASL last spring have received individual WASL results. Staff has been busy analyzing results and putting programs or strategies in place to help more students meet state standards. Please contact your student's school for information about these programs and strategies.

We are committed to the success of each student in our District and are focused on raising their academic performance. We are optimistic and hope you will join us in this important work. We encourage you to contact your student's school or the District Office if you have any questions or for additional information.

## It's All Golden at John Campbell

It's all golden at John Campbell Elementary as its *Math Extensions* program has been honored with a KCTS Golden Apple Award. The Golden Apple honors successful teaching models and programs among Washington state educators. *Math Extensions* was initiated last year by teacher Janet Rouleau and parents Steve and Doreen Hamilton. Similar to a nightly reading log, the program encourages students to spend at least 10 minutes a night on math at home. The time spent is logged on a sheet and turned in each month for incentives. This year approximately 50% of students participate in the program, a jump from 30% participation last year.



Janet Rouleau and District Administrators are presented with a check from Jim Menzies from Pemco.

## A Link of Support for Home School Families

The Selah School District is establishing a new parent partnership program, *Selah HomeLink*, designed to support families who are looking for resources to supplement their home based instruction.

The *HomeLink* Program is in early stages of development and the District would like to invite all home school families to take part in its design. **Contact Theresa Anderson, HomeLink Facilitator at 697-0522**, to share ideas about what resources, materials and support the District can provide. Below is some other *HomeLink* news:

**Gathering Time for Home School Families:** Thursday mornings from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at Selah HomeLink (portable one at the junior high). Enjoy a cup of coffee, visit with other home school families, work on planning or projects and utilize *HomeLink* resources.

**Workshops and Future Classes:** As the District gathers feedback to design its *HomeLink* Program, it will offer initial workshops for home school students. Check the *Selah HomeLink* website, on the District's web page under *Visit our Schools*, for a list of November offerings. Also, please provide suggestions for future *HomeLink* classes.

# A Look at Selah's Schools and Students

## Now in the Books!

**T**hey've always been buried in books. Now Barb Engvall and Jean Gustafson will go down in the books as they were honored by the Washington Library Media Association (WLMA). Both Engvall and Gustafson were presented with the

*President's Award* during the WLMA Fall Conference. The Award is given annually to the individual or individuals exemplifying outstanding service as teacher-librarians. Both Engvall, who serves as the teacher-librarian at John Campbell, and Gustafson, who is Selah Junior High's teacher-librarian, have been active in WLMA leadership roles.

Students in Kathy LeClair's class at Selah High School are in the Central Washington State Fair books as they earned a banner in horse judging. The students received an invitation to judge from Ray Harris and the FFA. As part of the judging LeClair's students rated the horses on appearance. Prior to the fair, LeClair's students studied horses and which appearances would rate the best. In other fair news, Harris' FFA students earned first place honors in *Team Horse Judging*, second place for *Landscape Display*, and third place recognition in *Agricultural Display* and *Tractor Driving*.



*Barb Engvall and Jean Gustafson.*



*Students in Kathy LeClair's Class.*

## Making the Grade!

Selah High School athletes have made the grade! The GPA's for fall athletics have been released and all eight of Selah's teams qualified for academic excellence awards according to WIAA standards. Two teams qualified as *Outstanding* with average GPA's over 3.5, while six teams, qualified for *Distinguished* honors.

**VOLLEYBALL—3.7008**  
**BOYS' CROSS-COUNTRY—3.652**  
**GIRLS' SWIMMING—3.4608**  
**GIRLS' SOCCER—3.4496**  
**FALL DRILL TEAM—3.4283**  
**FALL CHEERLEADERS—3.390**  
**GIRLS' CROSS-COUNTRY—3.233**  
**FOOTBALL—3.1134**

## One Last Mission Before Heading Home

Japanese soldiers training at the Yakima Training Center had one last mission before they returned home—to deliver boxes of books to students at John Campbell Elementary School.



*Japanese soldiers, and principal, Chad Quigley, distribute picture books.*

This fall, a trio of Japanese soldiers distributed 100 Japanese picture books to the Selah students. The colorful books, all written in Japanese, are popular stories among Japanese children. Each fall a contingent of Japanese soldiers from the country's army, participate in training exercises at the Training Center. After several years of visiting Selah, soldiers wanted to give back to the community.

*Arigato* from students and staff at John Campbell Elementary School.

## Selah FCCLA Students are Part of a Miracle!



*Selah's FCCLA contingent visit Children's Village.*

Selah High School Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) students were part of a miracle as they topped other chapters in a competition to see who could sell the most balloons for the Children's Miracle Network (CMN). Once the challenge was set, Selah FCCLA president, Elizabeth Sanchez, organized fellow members, ASB Officers and the senior class to sell the balloons. In all Selah sold 1206 balloons—the most in the Valley! All balloon proceeds stay local and help Memorial Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Children's Village. Additionally, Selah FCCLA students toured Children's Village to see first hand the benefits CMN provides. Children's Miracle Network is the 2009-2011 National FCCLA project. Former Selah student and national FCCLA officer, Brian Vance, organized the campaign.

## That's Our Policy...

**B**elow is the annual review of policies for the Selah School District. A complete listing of policies can be obtained at the Administration Office or on the District's web-site at [www.selah.k12.wa.us](http://www.selah.k12.wa.us).

•The Selah School District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender or disabilities. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. Inquiries regarding compliance procedures may be directed to the school district's Title IX/RCW 28A.85 Officer and/or Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Dana Jones, Student Support Services Director, 509-697-0714.

•The Selah School District has no tolerance for controlled substances, drugs, alcohol, or look-a-likes. Any student, staff member, parent, or patron found to be in possession will be disciplined and/or prosecuted to the fullest extent

of the law. Further, appropriate school disciplinary action will be taken regardless of law enforcement action. Parents/guardians are advised your child(ren) receive a Student Handbook. Please review these materials with your child(ren). Additional copies are available at each school.

•State law and Selah School District policy allows for student directory information to be released publicly without consent, upon the condition the parent/guardian or adult student are notified and provided the opportunity to request the information not to be released. Such information shall not be released for commercial purposes. To request information not be released, please do so in writing to:

**Selah School District**  
**Attention: Crystal West**  
**105 W. Bartlett, Selah, WA 98942.**

•As a requirement of FERPA, educational agencies must, at a minimum, annually inform parents/eligible students of the following rights:

- (1) The right to inspect and review the student's education records.
- (2) The right to request the amend-

ment of the student's education records that the parent or eligible student believes are inaccurate or misleading.

(3) The right to consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information contained in the student's educational records, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent.

(4) The right to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education concerning alleged failures by the District to comply with FERPA requirements.

•The District shall maintain student records necessary for the educational guidance and/or welfare of students for orderly and efficient operation of schools as required by law. All information related to individual students shall be treated in a confidential and professional manner. When information is released in compliance with state and federal law, the District and its employees are immune from civil liability unless they acted with gross negligence or in bad faith. Student records are the property of the District but shall be available in an orderly and timely manner to students and parents.

## Pesticide, Asbestos and Other Notifications

•The District annually applies herbicides to its vegetated areas between March and October. The District also applies systemic pesticides in the spring around trees. Small quantity pesticides in spray cans are utilized on a year-round basis as needed for crawling insects and bees.

The following is a list of herbicides used followed by their EPA registration number: *Krovar-352-505; Roundup (Glyphosate)-524-445; 2-4-D (Mecamine)-34704-239-65783; Surflan-1471-113; Casoron-400-168; Gallery-62719-145; Snapshot- 62719-175.*

The following is a list of pesticides the District uses: *Merit-3125-421; (Systemic) Permethin, Trans Allethrin, & Tetramethrin-432-582-1769 & 10088-92-9250; Accuspray Hornet Killer-10807-16. (All small spray cans).*

The District shall comply with all legal requirements of record keeping regarding the application of pesticides to school grounds or school facilities. This includes creation of an annual summary report of pesticide usage and compliance with state department of agricultural rules regarding record keeping. Such records will be available on request by interested persons under the state Public Records Act and other laws.

•The EPA Federal Register stipulates under 40 CFR, part 773.84, that the District ensure that workers and building occupants, or their legal guardians, are informed at least each school year about the existence of the management plans which outline inspections, response actions, and post-response action activities, including periodic reinspection and surveillance activities. These management plans are located in the Administration Building located at 105 W. Bartlett. The local education agency designated person for Selah School District is Director of Facilities at 698-0320.

•If any patron wishes to view District grant applications, please contact Student Support Director, Dana Jones, at 697-0714.

•If any parent or patron wishes to view public records as they relate to the Selah School District, they have the right to file (and must file) a public records request.

If you have questions about any Selah School District Policy, please contact the Selah School District Administration Office at 697-0706.