



# PTIONS in education

The Newsletter of the Washington Association for Learning Alternatives

## 2002 WALA Secondary Scholarship Recipients Are Off and Running

by *Billie Needham*,  
Scholarship Chair

In May of 2002, WALA awarded 16 scholarships to students from 13 different alternative high school programs around the State. A total of \$7,500.00 was awarded to these students. Many other students also applied but were not selected for funding, underscoring the competitive nature of the WALA Secondary Scholarships.

Students receiving awards: **Maria Baltazar**, from Chelan Preparatory High School in Lake Chelan, plans on attending Wenatchee Valley College to study either psychology or office management. **Rebecca Benson**, a graduate of New Horizon High School in Pasco, will attend Columbia Basin College to become a paralegal. **Marie Chumley**, of Family Learning Center/BEST in Redmond, is going to Brigham Young University in Idaho to study photography, music, and journalism. **Sawyer Clouse**, who went to Scriber Lake High School in Lynnwood, will attend Shoreline Community College to study criminal justice. **Megan Driscoll**, of Nova High School in Seattle, plans to study creative writing and psychology at Reed College. **Vaughn Eide**, who graduated from Everett Alternative High School in Everett, plans to study culinary arts at Seattle Central Community College. **Marjorie Ellenwood**, from Legacy High School in Vancouver, will attend Clark College

to study nursing. **Iris Fairchild**, another graduate of Everett Alternative High School, heads to Everett Community College to study art. **Christin Hanson**, from Stanton Alternative High School in Yakima, will study education and home and family consumer science at Heritage College. **Sarah Jackson**, of State Street High School in Sedro Woolley, is headed to Gene Juarez to learn cosmetology. **Lesley Mitchell**, another Stanton Alternative High School graduate, will go to Yakima Valley Community College to study art, teaching, and sociology. **Matthew Osier**, who attended Henderson Bay High School in Gig Harbor, heads to Pierce College to pursue technical theater. **Roy Putra**, of GATES High School in Tacoma, plans to attend Pierce College to study early childhood development and education. **Vicky Simonyan**, from Holden High School in Chelan, goes to Naropa University to pursue art/dance therapy and psychology. **Mayra Soto**, a graduate of New Horizon High School in Pasco, heads to Columbia Basin Community College to study early childhood education and seek a degree in arts and sciences. **Jennifer White**, who went to PACE High School in Wapato, heads to Heritage College to pursue studies in business management.

For more info on applying for WALA grants/scholarships, see page 8.

Dear WALA,  
I would like to thank you so very much for the scholarship funds you have so graciously awarded to me. I cannot tell you how much this means to me and my family. Thank you again!  
Sincerely,  
*Iris Fairchild*

## WALA Awards Bob Carpenter Memorial Program Grant

by *Billie Needham*,  
Grants Chairperson

WALA Board of Directors has granted \$750.00 to the North Kitsap Options Program to assist in a Visiting Artists Project. The Visiting Artists Project is the first phase in a two-phase art project to immerse their students in the world of visual arts. Phase One will introduce the students to local artists and their jobs. Students will be instructed in how different media can be used to communicate ideas and concepts across school curricula and beyond. Later, in Phase Two, students will create a piece of community art for the city of Kingston. Look ahead to future Options in Education articles from North Kitsap Options Program as they proceed through their project and to a presentation highlighting the project at a future WALA conference.

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**President's Message**

*by Andy Wheeler*

Time and again we hear that the best regional mini-session, or the best conference session, was the one in which people had a chance to talk to each other and network. I no longer find this surprising, but it still warms my heart. After all, this is how WALA started – as a group of alternative educators meeting with each other to share ideas and offer support.

A few decades later this is still an integral part of WALA. I'm often impressed and enlightened when I visit a school or listen to a presentation – we all have so much to share with each other. (Yes, I'm talking to YOU here. Every one of you.) There are so many needs to be served in each of our communities, and I see dedicated educators striving to meet and serve these needs all over the state. Cooperative programs with local businesses? Yep, they're out there. Diploma programs at Job Corps centers or other facilities? Yep. Transitional schooling to get kids back into a conventional classroom? You get the point. I personally have something valuable I can learn from every one of these programs. So do you.

So here's my call to action. Figure out what region you're in. (E-mail WALA at [walakids@gte.net](mailto:walakids@gte.net) if you don't know.) Now look in the "Board Contacts" on this page and find the names and e-mail addresses of your regional representatives. E-mail the two in your region right now. Just say 'hi' if that's all there is to say now, but let them know you're out there. Tell them about your program. Ask them if they would consider planning an event around WASL scoring, drug abuse prevention, Parent Partnering, or whatever you think you would like to see. It doesn't have to be a huge idea. Ever thought about spending two hours some afternoon at another

school learning about their program and then sharing thoughts about teaching writing? That's enough. Make sure somebody brings snacks, and I'll bet everybody will leave smiling. What we can do is limited only by our efforts to do it. Every effort counts, however small it may seem.

You've got an idea, however grand or small it might seem. Now's the time. E-mail your representatives and let them know. It's for the kids, after all, so don't be afraid to speak up.



*The deadline for submitting pieces for the next issue of OPTIONS is January 10th.*

*Publication date: Feb. 3rd. School profile articles are always welcome!*

**WALA Calendar**

- Jan 10 Deadline for submissions for Feb. *OPTIONS*
- Jan 31 Deadline for nominations for Educator of the Year awards
- Feb 8 Region VI mini conference
- Mar 13-15 Annual Conference
- Apr 7 Region II student leadership competition, National Guard Armory, near Ft. Lewis
- Apr 26 Region VI mini-conference
- Sept Board Retreat exact dates TBA

**Website Link to WALA Available**

The WALA web site is ready to link your school/region to our web page. If your school has a web page that you'd like to have linked to our WALA site, or if you'd like to inform members, publicize events, post job announcements or jobs wanted, or any type of school announcements, please submit an e-mail to Steve Hoffman at [walaregion1@aol.com](mailto:walaregion1@aol.com).

To check out WALA's website, visit [www.walakids.com](http://www.walakids.com).



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## Karol's Konference Korner

### Fall Connections Conference

by Karol Gadwa,  
Conference  
Coordinator



Despite experiencing a conference planner's worst nightmare...the registration computer crashing, two other WALA computers down with a virus, our main speaker canceling and registrations doubling the last two weeks...175 participants successfully "connected" with one another and the issues facing us as educators who operate outside-the-box to serve the needs of our students. For many, realizing that a School Improvement Plan (SIP) is required of all schools and programs receiving state funding was an unsettling wake-up call. WALA board members knew it would be and re-focused efforts to getting the word out to members following the June 2002 memorandum from the State Board of Education (SBE).

Most often noted in the conference evaluations as highlights of the conference were keynote speaker, Lorna Spear (who graciously stepped in at the last minute), networking sessions, school site visitations and food and refreshments (chocolate!). Attendees were also appreciative of the keynote panel attempting to "connect" SIP, Accreditation & No Child Left Behind, making it not such an awesome task to fulfill all three in one process.

WALA conferences happen because there are a dedicated group of board members, region reps, committee chairs, and spouses who give their time and talents without compensation. Being a practitioners conference, rarely are presenters paid and this conference had no paid presenters. To name everyone who contributed to the success of this conference would require an added page to the newsletter. A few individuals must be noted whose extraordinary effort to manipulate their schedules to just get here and

those who courageously stepped in at the last minute: Bobbie May and Larry Davis from the SBE; Donna Foxley, Region X Rep NCLB; Helene Paroff, ESD 101 who fielded the panicked call for a SIP presenter plus recommended Lorna Spear, Bemiss Elementary Principal in Spokane as a keynoter. An additional note of thanks to Spokane S.D. Superintendent, Brian Benzel and his staff, who loaned us vital AV equipment.

To the dedicated unnamed presenters, worker bees and loyal attendees, WALA thanks you. See you in Ocean Shores, March 13-15, 2003.

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### 28<sup>th</sup> Annual WALA Conference March 13-15, 2003 Ocean Shores, WA

by Karol Gadwa, Spring Conference  
Coordinator

With more than 28 conferences behind us, now that we're doing two a year, we've had lots of practice in presenting quality conferences for likeminded educators. Each year the bar is raised to do even a better job than before and so it goes..."Providing Umbrellas for Learning Alternatives," March 13-15, 2003 at Ocean Shores (Shilo Inn) will provide a wealth of laughter, learning and linking with leaders like yourself—on the leading edge of educating individuals.

Our featured keynote speaker, Marilyn Grey, will challenge participants to remain on their chairs as she aerobically massages our internal organs through laughter. In addition, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Terry Bergeson, will join us



Terry Bergeson

as we are her favorite group of educators. Spring is a time for renewal and rejuvenation and that is what WALA strives to provide at this conference featuring Best Practices programs like "Courage To Teach" and ones that you, the expert practitioner, are

conducting in your schools.

Networking is a huge part of WALA conferences and this year we're adding some "focus" networking sessions like *sharing student work* and *goldmines on Individual Learning Plans (ILP, SLP, PEP, PLP etc.)* which will provide each participant with samples of what others are using. So begin looking for exemplary student work you'd like to share with others and the forms that help you monitor student progress.

Favorite features such as the Silent & Almost Live Auction and our Friday Night Foot Stompin' Dance will be a part of this fun- learning conference.

*Don't wait until January or February when budgets historically are frozen, register NOW.* Check our website [www.walakids.com](http://www.walakids.com) for "Call for Presenter" forms, registration forms, hotel accommodations and continually updated information. (At the time of this writing, the Shilo Inn is already 2/3rds booked and no advertising has gone out yet!) Head for the beach...It's the happenin' conference!

#### OPTIONS in Education

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OPTIONS welcomes and encourages articles and news relating to the WALA Mission and Vision. We reserve the right to edit for clarity, brevity and appropriateness. The views expressed in OPTIONS articles do not necessarily express the policies or beliefs of the WALA Board of Directors. Reprints of OPTIONS articles are permitted with credit unless another source is indicated. Comments and contributions are encouraged.

## Region I

by Rob Slater and Steve Hoffman

We in Region I are planning to re-establish Goodwill Games for the spring. We will be breaking down the responsibilities for individual events between each of the member schools so no one school will be overwhelmed.

Another current project, set in motion by our colleagues at Timberidge, is to establish a NW Washington Alternative High School Basketball league. If any schools from outside of the region wish to participate, please contact Steve at [shoffman@bham.wednet.edu](mailto:shoffman@bham.wednet.edu) or Rob at [rslater@ferndale.wednet.edu](mailto:rslater@ferndale.wednet.edu).

Region I members are reminded to e-mail Steve Hoffman at [shoffman@bham.wednet.edu](mailto:shoffman@bham.wednet.edu) to nominate: WALA elem. educator of the year; WALA sec. educator of the year; Friend of WALA; and Region Representative.

Also, please e-mail Steve to list your school or program on the WALA Region I web link. Include a short description of your school or program as well as contact information.

## Region II

by Jim Sparks

Region II has completed several events this year, the statewide alternative high school basketball tournament, and a regional mini-conference at the Emerald Queen Casino. The basketball tournament was held at AIHS, Clover Park School District, and ten teams participated. The mini-conference's focus was on student medication, and motivational techniques. Thirty educators attended the free four-hour conference and buffet. Randy Okumura was the big winner after the event, hitting a slot machine for \$900. Also, we attempted to compile a directory of people and programs in our region. This project has been put on hold, due to limited response.

In other news Jim Lovejoy stepped down as region representa-

tive, and was replaced by Cheri Exner. Cheri has a long association with WALA serving in many positions, including Region II Rep and WALA President.

At the annual board retreat, we planned two events for this school year. First, a Region II mini-conference is planned for November 8, or November 22. The focus of the mini-conference will be art in the curriculum or Parent Partner Programs, depending on speaker availability. We are attempting to get space at the Emerald Queen Casino, or similar venue. An e-mail, and mailing, will go out in the next week or two. The other event is a leadership competition (ROPES) for students. The event is tentatively scheduled for April 7, 2003, at the National Guard Armory, near Ft. Lewis.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or just want to help, please e-mail me at [jim\\_sparks@fp.k12.wa.us](mailto:jim_sparks@fp.k12.wa.us).

## Region III

by Linda McCabe

The fall WALA Conference in Spokane provided information and opportunities to share in presentations, workshops, job-a-likes, and site visits. To continue the gathering and sharing of information in alternative education, Region III will have several informal get-togethers to be planned in the near future. Please contact me at [lmccabe@olypen.com](mailto:lmccabe@olypen.com) if you have suggestions for Region III opportunities to communicate and provide needed information and support. I'm looking forward to meeting and visiting with you!

## Region V

by Mark Brundage

Region V is presently working on a group e-mail so that we can continue communication. I only have e-mails for the people who attended the board meeting at the conference in Wenatchee. If you would like to be included in the group e-mail please contact Melissa Pettey at (509) 354-6427 or at [melissap@spokaneschools.org](mailto:melissap@spokaneschools.org). Also we were hoping that each program would have a point person for the Region Reps to contact to share info with

their schools/staff. Please share your thoughts on this at the WALA conference or call or e-mail Melissa. Also, we are still planning on having a region mini-conference in the upcoming months, so if you have any topics or speakers that you would like to see WALA bring to you please let us know.

## Region VI

by Allan Korvola

Region VI held its Fall Mini-Session October 19, 2002, at the Fruitland School, Kennewick. It was hosted by members of Transitional Programs in the Kennewick School District. Programs presented were the 8.5, The Rock, Day Program, and REACH. All are H.S. programs except for REACH, which is a middle school program.

A full announcement is on the WALA website. Announcement of the event has also been sent via e-mail to all WALA Board Members and all Region VI members possible. The possible list is compiled from those attending WALA functions - Regional Mini-Sessions, Fall Conferences, and the Annual Conference.

## Regional Activity Ideas

by Andy Wheeler

Stuck trying to think up ideas for a regional activity? Maybe one of these is what you're looking for.

- ✦ Have juvenile authorities host a mini-conference
- ✦ Have the Police Dept host a mini-conference (Gangs? Dress code?)
- ✦ Have individual school presentations (with food) to learn about each other's programs
- ✦ Hold Friendship Games
- ✦ Host athletic tournaments
- ✦ Leadership events
- ✦ Academic Tournaments
- ✦ Teen Court
- ✦ Mock Trials
- ✦ Video Conferences for teachers and/or students
- ✦ Service Learning opportunities
- ✦ Evening Gatherings/ socials
- ✦ Sessions on Classroom needs



### Past President's Message

by Gary Babcock

"Past President"—what a feeling!! As those of you who have served in the role

know, the year spent as President of WALA is very rewarding and fulfilling, but also hectic and energy draining. (I hope Andy doesn't read this). There is, however, a feeling of relief when you get to "sit back and advise." My year as President was thoroughly enjoyable thanks to the wonderful supporting cast I had. Their hard work and dedication made it possible for the organization to move forward, and I thank them again for their efforts.

Recently the WALA Board met at Leavenworth to lay the groundwork for the current year. The time was well spent as many serious issues were dealt with and plans were outlined to ensure the organization's continued growth and success. The colleagues you have selected as your regional representatives and officers of the organization are energetic and eager to work with and for you. You need to seek them out with your ideas and concerns for helping students and making the organization stronger. One of the best ways to do this is to attend your regional meetings. You have quality leaders who are in tune with the vision of WALA and who have the best interests of both you and your students in mind. To all of you, and especially those on the Board, I would caution you to be sure and take care of yourselves and your families as you go through the year, because, as many of you know, taking care of the job and other people's children can consume you.

I am looking forward to another year of working with the Board and each of you as we continue to keep the issue of providing the best educa-

tional opportunity available to each individual child in front of our local districts, OSPI, the State Board of Education and our state legislators. Have a good year, accept your challenges as opportunities and, when you get time, step back, look at your students, past and present, remember their dreams and your role in bringing them to life, and press on because sometimes lightening someone else's burden also lightens yours.



### New Legislative Liaison Speaks Out

by MaryAnne Campo,  
*Legislative Liaison*

As your new Legislative Liaison, I thought I would introduce myself and share a wee bit of information about me. I am a teacher at Havermale Center in Spokane and have been a member of WALA for eight years and attended many conferences. I am excited at the opportunity to be Legislative Liaison. I initially had some concerns about how I would be able to do this job living in Spokane, but technology has made this and quite a few other things possible. I hope to keep the board and members informed regarding pending issues on education from the state legislature and OSPI. I've always felt that as Alternative Teachers we too need someone to 'keep an eye out for us' and if necessary voice our message to the office of education and the legislature. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or 'insider secrets' to share. I am here to benefit all the members of WALA; we share a common mission: to support and explore efforts with families and communities to achieve educational options that provide full opportunity for all learners to become successful. You can reach me by e-mail at either [maryca@spokaneschools.org](mailto:maryca@spokaneschools.org) or [georgiesgirl2@earthlink.net](mailto:georgiesgirl2@earthlink.net).

### Administrators' Meetings Coming Soon

by Terry Smith, WALA Administrative Representative

I am interested in helping administrators in the various programs we have in alternative education come together to share concerns and programs. When we meet in our Job Alike sessions at conferences, there are always situations that are unique to programs but there are also commonalities that we face as administrators in alternative education. In order to have more in-depth conversations, I am planning on having two meetings for administrators to share concerns and programs. I am looking at a meeting in February and April. I am open to place/time/date. If anyone would like to be the host school please contact me at [tsmith@televar.com](mailto:tsmith@televar.com).

### How Do You Establish Community Within Your School?

by Rob Slater

**Call it what you will:** Core, Orientation, Personal Development, Advisor(y), Human Relations, Choice Culture, Communications/Conflicts, Leadership, Life Skills, SSK (What did this stand for?), Family, Culture, Core Congress. What does your school do to establish community and orient new students to your programs?

One of the goals of WALA is to support existing Alternative Learning programs. By sharing our tools we may be able to keep our overworked staffs from having to reinvent the proverbial wheel of Alternative School communities.

I have been collecting and collating materials from several schools. If you are willing to share your own created activities and programs in exchange for the same from other schools, contact me at [rslater@ferndale.wednet.edu](mailto:rslater@ferndale.wednet.edu).

## Executive Perspective

by Lile Holland

Since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has recognized nearly 4,000 Blue Ribbon schools, honoring their accomplishments and touting their ability to educate the youth of America better than the "average" school. Recently, a new list naming schools that did not meet state standards was also published. When USA Today<sup>1</sup> compared the lists they found at least seven schools that were simultaneously on both lists – at the same time they were both the "best" school and a "failing" school. This gives new meaning to "grading on the curve".

Paul Huston offers some insight into how this might happen.<sup>2</sup> He suggests that the greatest myth about education is that "Schools are worse today than they used to be." In the fifties and sixties we had a few who did not graduate, but at least they did not struggle to learn computer skills. In the seventies and eighties we had a few dropouts, but we made sure the top students got a good education. Students today are smarter and better equipped to master today's higher standards. Subjects once available to only the top students are now required for all students. Having the top half of the classes succeed is no longer acceptable – we expect every child to be given the opportunity and tools to learn, and the knowledge to pass a test. Schools may not be worse today than they used to be, but they sure are different!

So, how does one go from the best to worst? Or better yet, how can one be the best – and the worst? The answer is in the way schools are evaluated. To be a Blue Ribbon winner you must show high scores in reading and math; to avoid being a failing school, you must show continuous growth. In short, a very good school with very high marks and little room for sustainable growth may be

classified as a failure based on the criteria used.

So how does all of this impact alternative education? I believe it impacts us in two very dangerous ways:

First, these issues consume the time of decision and policy makers. In a time when the existing rules and regulations actually hamper implementation of many proven reforms, our leaders spend their time debating these issues instead of working to provide alternatives that will make a real difference in the lives of students.

Second, these issues are consuming thoughts of teaching professionals and student alike. "What can we do to raise our test scores?" is the battle cry of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Instead of using time to work with students in areas they need, many educators are using "drill and kill" tactics to prepare them to pass a test.

Schools may not be worse today, but the world in which we live is very different. Our needs are different, the expectations are different, the standards are higher, and the risks are greater.

In the months ahead you will be asked to vote on measures and legislators that will shape education in Washington for years to come. In the future you will be asked to participate in sharing and networking to build a solid foundation for alternative education. In a few hours, you will be challenged by a class of young people, hungry to learn. In the meantime you will need to acquire new skills, learn how others are successfully balancing the requirements of several divergent systems, and still have time to meet your student's needs. Use your time and voice wisely. WALA has planned conferences and region meetings to help you get your hands on information and successful practices. Take advantage of every opportunity – you will get a lot more than you give.

<sup>1</sup>"School 'Excellence' Thrown a Grading Curve," *USA Today*, August 5, 2002.

<sup>2</sup>Houston, Paul, *The Mythology of School Reform*, Online, Available at [http://www.aasa.org/publications/sa/2002\\_8/execper.htm](http://www.aasa.org/publications/sa/2002_8/execper.htm), August, 2002.

## WALA Executive Board Minutes

October 24, 2002

Minutes submitted by  
Darlene Quayle,  
Secretary/Treasurer

Present: Andy Wheeler, Cathy Hammerberg, Gary Babcock, Darlene Quayle, Cheri Exner, Lile Holland, Karol Gadwa, Barbara Bennett

Minutes: Cathy moved to accept the minutes as amended. Gary seconded. Motion passed.

Conference and WALA Packets: The contents of the WALA Conference packets were reviewed: Grants, Scholarships, Nominations forms.

Jobs were reviewed and assigned to various "helper bees" and board members.

Insurance: Lile was able to secure liability insurance for the board and the conferences.

Budget Review: This was a cleanup of the previous budget. There are two primary expense items: conference and other. Lile shared a spreadsheet that shows who spends what, and included a detailed breakdown of expenses. He would especially like to see detail in region expenses. He encouraged a drive by the regional representatives to go out and find alternative schools, to get school memberships. He would like them to establish regular contact and if they did not join as a member school to ask, "Why not?"

A training manual was suggested for use by regional reps.

An explanation was made of the cash receipts and expenditures.

Letter to Superintendent: A letter to superintendents or principals was revisited to request prior to election that the potential board member's board meeting expenses are covered.

Conference numbers: 174 were registered. Lile shared his conference worksheet detailing expenses and revenue.

### Risk and Protective Factors for Healthy Youth Development



by Mary Schroeder,  
School Counselor Representative

In order for youth to be successful, they need to be strong in mind and body. Risk and Protective factors in the four domains of Community, School, Family and Individuals /Peers have been identified by J. David Hawkins and Richard F. Catalano from the University of Washington. When the protective factors outweigh the risk factors, students that we work with daily find success academically and make good choices. Students with a high number of risk factors often find themselves in our Alternative Education programs and classrooms.

Risk factors can be attributed to genetics, modalities for learning, family and community life, and failure to progress at the prescribed rate of learning in our educational system. These students can be slow learners, or highly intelligent who have little patience with the pace and flow of the classroom. As you might imagine there could also be many of the factors that you can identify in your own personal frame of reference.

We all can identify the Risk Factors and often work to remedy the problem. Our time and energy needs to work purposefully toward building Protective Factors for youth.

#### Community Protective Factors:

- High expectations for Youth
- Opportunities for Youth Participation in Community Activities
- Community Norms and Laws Unfavorable to Substance Use and Firearms
- Decreased Accessibility of Alcohol, Tobacco, Other Drugs and Firearms

#### Family Protective Factors:

- Positive Bonding Between Family Members
- Parenting that includes high levels of warmth, avoids severe criticism and provides a sense of basic trust, high parental expectations

#### School Protective Factors:

- Caring and support (Sense of community)
- High Expectations from School Personnel
- Clear Standards and Rules for Appropriate Behavior
- Youth Participation, involvement and responsibility in School tasks and decisions

#### Individual /Peer Protective Factors:

- Gender (females more protected)
- Resilient Temperament
- Positive Social Orientation
- Intelligence

As educators we continue to work to accentuate the positive and provide community resources and interventions to help our students to celebrate successes, no matter how small, to build their framework or Protective Factors. For more info, visit the following website: [www.preventionscience.com](http://www.preventionscience.com).

### Thank You Wileys!

by Karol Gadwa

As WALA's first Executive Director for the past seven years, Bob has literally been the glue, bailing-wire, shoe-string, silly putty, gum, cement...holding the organization together, molding and steering it to its current position of respect in the educational and political arena. For his tireless effort and courageous leadership he was awarded a plaque by Andy Wheeler, WALA President at our recent Fall Conference in Spokane. His wife Kay, who is responsible for his "presentability" plus many board meeting refreshments, conference decorations and successful auctions, was honored with a certificate to a local Island nursery. While Bob is searching for something to hold his plaque to the wall, Kay will be continuing to make things grow. Thank you Wileybeachbums, you'll be missed.

### Students Make Alternative Education Day At the Puyallup Fair A Hit

by Cherie Exner, Fair Chairman

Alternative Education Day at the Puyallup Fair was a tremendous event this year! WALA was lucky enough to have West Auburn, A-I, GATES, Challenger, the ISchool, and TRI Transition at the fair representing a variety of programs. Each school had a display showing their students and program. The booths looked great and all the staff as well as students were good ambassadors for WALA and alternative education. Several schools had activities for students, from the A-I program who had students doing face painting to TRI Transition who did marble painting. The hands on activities are wonderful because they draw in the curious as well as give the students a chance to interact with the public. Good job everyone!

I want to especially recognize West Auburn for their dedication and willingness to spend the entire day at the Fair. Every year they come with great students and staff who give of their day and evening to staff a booth and promote their school. Thanks to you all!

In addition, WALA had a booth with information about schools around the state and alternative education in Washington. Thanks to Pete McIntyre and Lile Holland for manning the booth and answering questions!!

If you would like to attend next year, it is not too early to sign up. Please call Cherie Exner at (253) 537-0211, ext. 2415 and mention that you are interested. Be sure to leave a number and name of a contact person. You will get put on the list for next year and receive mailings. Come join the fun!!



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## Grants and Scholarships for WALA Members

Are you planning to apply for a financial award? Programs/schools must be members of WALA to qualify for program awards; individuals must be members to qualify for Educational Growth Grants and WALA Original Research Grants.

For INFORMATION and APPLICATION FORMS, contact:  
Billie Needham, WALA Scholarships and Grants Chairperson,  
31021 Mountain Hwy. E, Eatonville, WA 98328,  
or phone (360) 879-1218 (work) or e-mail: [billie\\_needham@eatonville.wednet.edu](mailto:billie_needham@eatonville.wednet.edu)

The WALA Board of Directors has established the following deadlines:

Bob Carpenter and Harry Johnson Grants for School Projects: awarded in June for use in the following WALA fiscal year (September 1 - August 31). \$750.00 total allocated. *Submit by second Friday in May.*  
Earl Grambau Elementary Service Grants: awarded following receipt of selected applications from committee chair, Marion Grambau. Applications will be considered until funds for the year are expended. Awards: approximately \$75.00 each (more depending on proposed project). *Open application.*

WALA Secondary Scholarships: for seniors completing programs at WALA member schools. Awards: varies, competitive. The deadline for application is *the third Friday in April.* (\$7,500.00 total allocated )

WALA Conference Follow Up Program Grants: Applications will be considered until funds for the year are expended, for a total of 5% of the net profit of the annual March WALA conference. Awards: up to \$1,000.00 each. *Open application.*

WALA Educational Growth Grant: Applications will be considered until funds for the year are expended. \$750.00 total allocated. This is an individual grant requiring individual membership.

WALA Original Research Grant: Applications will be considered until funds for the year are expended. \$500.00 total allocated. This is an individual grant requiring individual membership. *Open application.*

IMPORTANT: Program/school membership in WALA is required for eligibility for all grants and scholarships except the Educational Growth Grants and WALA Original Research Grants, which require individual membership.

WALA Business Office: Lile Holland, Executive Director, P.O. Box 4596, Bremerton, WA 98312  
1 (800) 455-9252 or e-mail [walakids@gte.net](mailto:walakids@gte.net)