



Options in education

The Newsletter of the Washington Association for Learning Alternatives

Thanks for the Support

by Cathy Hammerberg, WALA President

"An outgoing President's article," that was the request. Sounds simple enough until I began to think about the last year. "Our articles for the Options need to be professional." That was one of the things I said when I became the president. I guess I'm going to break the rules because like most people it's hard for me to separate my professional and personal life.

On January 28, 2003 my life changed drastically. My husband died. He went suddenly and without warning. He was a teacher. He taught school for twenty-nine years in Harrah, which is a small town deep in the Yakima Reservation. We had met in that little school. I was a second grade teacher. He was a third grade teacher. We married and had three children. He stayed in Harrah while I went on to teach high school, Special Education, middle school, became a counselor and then an administrator. He was steady and hated change. I, on the other hand, embraced new and exciting adventures; at least that is what I thought at the time.

Now I have the "New Life." It's been a year and five months. There have been many, many changes and challenges in my new life. I didn't really know how to irrigate (I live on acreage) but I've learned how. I sold nine vehicles (one of us was a pack rat). I cleaned the garage and had a yard sale (doesn't sound like a big deal but it was). This has been a journey that has, at times been two steps forward and one step back. It's a jour-

ney that no one wants to take but half of us will. So how do I feel now? I'm happy. I like my life. It's not the same. But it's good.

So as I reflect on how I got through the year and five months and emerged to a place where I can say, "I'm happy", there were many people that kept me going. The night my new life began an Options edition was to go out either the next day or the day after. I e-mailed Isabel Gates to let her know I was going to be "out of the loop". She e-mailed me back with her condolences and forwarded my e-mail to Lile. There were three groups that really stepped forward to support my family during the next few difficult weeks. The people I work with were fantastic. From the superintendent to the bus drivers everyone was there to help in whatever way they could. They were there when I needed them and gave me space when I needed that. The people in the community and Harrah School were very generous. Then there was the WALA board. I heard from them all. They sent flowers and cards. Lile and Virginia were at the funeral. I got cards with very kind thoughts from people who I hardly knew. What a generous, kind group of people make-up the organization we call WALA.

So as I think of handing the gavel to Jim Sparks and giving up one of my two red shirts (red is my favorite color and I like the shirt so I'm keeping one) my overwhelming feeling is one of gratitude. I am grateful that the professional organization that represents me is not only professional but also human. You can't always separate your professional and personal life. I am so thankful that the people I have been associated with this last year are the kind of people who just naturally support each other.

This has not been a year I want to relive. It is a year I want to remember. It is during the difficult times that you really learn the strength and character of others. I have wonderful generous friends who made it possible for me to put one foot in front of the other in the beginning. I also belong to an organization that supports both students and peers when needed. I felt the support of the people who make-up WALA and I'm grateful. Thank you for being there.



The Inside Scoop

President's Message	Regional News	Legislative Issues	WALA Business	Secondary Scholarships	Alternative Films	WASL Grad Requirement	What's Ahead	Summer Reads
1	2-3	4	4	5	5	6	7	8

"It is not so much what is poured into the student, but what is planted that really counts."

Author Unknown



Region I

by Steve Hoffman and Rob Slater,
Region I Reps

Reflections from a rainy WALA Friendship Games. This rainy day had 500 students from all over the state enjoying themselves, in a myriad of ways. There was a flag football game that lasted for five hours, with an ever-changing cast. Smash the Can had a continuous line of participants all day long. The bandstand blasted the stadium with the skills of many. Art was displayed in mural made by all the schools, and displays from individual students. A chess tournament raged for hours. Many more events were appreciated by all, culminating in the tug-of-war challenge. Kudos to Chris Allen and Options for organizing, and running an excellent event: the Friendship Games. Those that attended, and those that are interested, plan for this event next year.

Region II

by Jane Andrew,
incoming Region II Rep

Greetings! My name is Jane Andrew, and I am currently the Principal of the Family Learning Center, a Parent Partnership program in the Lake Washington School District. I started my career in 1969 as a teacher in the Bellevue School District. I taught Special Education for five years and returned to school for my Masters Degree in Early Childhood Education. After returning to teaching for two years my daughters Rebecca and Amanda were born and I was lucky to be at home with them for ten years. During those years I taught classes for Bellevue Community College, Central Washington University, and learned many of the realities of how to parent and how children learn. I

returned to a more formal setting to continue my career as a teacher in Lake Washington School District 19 years ago. During this time I have been a teacher and staff developer, returned to school to get my Administrative credential, and served in the role as a Principal and Central Office administrator with a focus in working with students with Special Needs.

During these years I have become more convinced that students and families need choices and options within the public school system to support them in receiving the best education we can provide. In the spring of 2003 I was offered the position as Principal of the Family Learning Center. Having been involved in the supervision of the program over the years I jumped at the chance to move back closer to teachers, families, and kids. I am anxious to learn from my experience in working with WALA and to share some of what I have learned over the past three decades in education. Thank you for allowing me the pleasure of representing you and your interests in our organization.

Region III

by Randy Hill, *Region III Rep*

As we get close to the end of another school year, celebrating our success gets a little bit tougher. Teachers, administrators, parents and students all seem to be focused on "getting out of here" and we forget that it was a journey that we made together.

We take the opportunity to recognize students at Sequim Community School with awards and certificates that celebrate learning. Students receive academic awards for accomplishments as well as personal awards for attendance, change in attitude, and perseverance.

All too often, we focus on only one goal at this time of year, graduation. The other students tend to be pushed to the

WALA Board Contacts

President:

Cathy Hammerberg (509) 877-6138
chammerberg@nwinfo.net

President-Elect:

Jim Sparks (253) 535-0211
jimsparks3098@msn.com

Past President:

Andy Wheeler (360) 855-3534
awheeler@swsd.k12.wa.us

Sec/Treasurer:

Darlene Quayle (360) 379-4251
dequayle@olympen.com

Region I:

Steve Hoffman (360) 647-6871
shoffman@bham.wednet.edu

Rob Slater (360) 383-9344
rslater@ferndale.wednet.edu

Region II:

Cherie Exner (253) 537-0211
Cherie_Exner@fp.k12.wa.us Ext. 2415

Martha Daman (425) 836-8348
madman@lkwash.wednet.edu

Region III:

Randy Hill (360) 582-3400
rhill@orca.esd114.wednet.edu

Bonnie Jump (360) 538-8323
bjump@hoquiam.k12.wa.us

Region IV:

Maureen Harkcom (360) 748-2163
mharkcom@centralia.wednet.edu

Tom Hays (360) 904-7824
tom.hays@washougal.k12.wa.us

Region V:

Mark Brundage (509) 682-4061
brunm@lchelam.org

Mary Anne Campo (509) 354-6460
maryca@spokaneschools.org

Region VI:

Mike Carlson (509) 942-2595
carlsonmik@hotmail.com

Admin Rep:

Terry Smith (509) 877-3138
tnsmith@televar.com

Parent Partner:

Marianna Hanefeld (425) 702-3331
mhanefeld@lkwash.wednet.edu

Grants and Scholarships:

Billie Needham (360) 879-1218
billie_needham@eatonville.wednet.edu

Legislative Rep:

MaryAnne Campo (509) 354-6470
maryca@spokaneschools.org

AWASSP Liaison:

Steve Friebe (360) 313-4350
sfriebe@vansd.org

Exec. Director:

Lile Holland (800) 455-WALA
walakids@gte.net

Fall Conference:

Gary Babcock (509) 836-8407
babcockg@sunnyside.wednet.edu

Newsletter:

Jim Sparks (253) 535-0211
jimsparks@3098@msn.com



Regional News

The things taught in colleges and schools are not an education, but the means of education.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-82) U.S. essayist and poet

back burner. We tend to lose sight of the fact that many of these students have made a great deal more progress than those who are graduating.

The opportunity to “celebrate success” is a keystone to our program. If you would like more information relating to our “Evenings of Excellence” please e-mail me at rhill@orca.esd114.wednet.edu.

Region IV

*by Maureen Harkcom,
Retiring Region IV Rep*

The end of the school year is fast approaching with all the extra activities it brings. It also brings for me the realization that my term as region rep is about to end. I am going to miss the additional WALA involvement that has meant. Thank you to those who have been active within the region and state promoting the best interests of our students. I plan to remain active within the region, so expect to see many of you at region meetings as well as at WALA conference(s). We have a great organization dedicated to the education of students and the support of the staff working in all types of alternative situations.

We have made arrangements (thanks to “popular demand” at the spring conference meeting) to bring Ron Glodowski to southwest Washington this fall. Region IV will be hosting a half-day for students with Ron on November 4, 2004. It will be held in the Yard Birds Mall where CAPS (Centralia Alternative Program and Services) is located. Ron will work with students from 9 a.m. until noon. Please mark it on your calendars and start making plans to bring your students. This is a great opportunity for students and staff within our region and beyond. We will have an RSVP process, as we will need to know the number of students (and accompanying staff) at-

tending. It is being put on by and for Region IV member schools, but will also be open to WALA member schools outside our region as space allows. Watch for details in *OPTIONS* and on the WALA website.

Marilyn Boerke has been elected to my position, so she and Tom Hays will be the region reps for 2004-2005. They will be your contacts for the region and for the Glodowski session.

Thanks to a great organization!

Region V

*by Mary Anne Campo and
Mark Brundage, Region V Reps*

Mark and I are already busy planning next year’s activities for our region and we have put two dates on the WALA calendar. In the fall we are planning to once again hold another joint Region V-IV meeting. Last October we had a great turnout in Grand Coulee at Skilskin High School. This fall we are planning the weekend of October 8-9th for our joint meeting. Allen Korvola and Gary Jennings of Region VI will let us know the specifics and the school that will be showcased. Be watching for e-mails early in September. To kick off 2005 our Mid-Winter Region V meeting will be held the first weekend in February. We would like to meet in the middle of the state, so more members can attend. But we would like your input as to where to hold it. If you would like to showcase your school or just be a “host school” please email us and let us know. Mark and I are looking for ideas for our region’s meetings and how to make them fit the needs of our members. WALA is an information organization. We have many schools that are working creatively with kids and would like to share those ideas with other members. We want to let others know the successes we are having. We value meeting with everyone and sharing ideas and look forward to seeing you all in September.

The Best Laid Plans: Friendship Games 2004

*by Chris Allen, Options Facilitator,
Shorewood High School*

Thursday, May 27th marked the culminating eight month applied learning project for Shorewood Options when it hosted the WALA Friendship Games. “We actually felt calm,” says Chris Allen, SW Option’s Department Head. “Of course we didn’t sleep, eat, do lesson plans or correct papers the week before.” All the bases were covered: food offered, stage erected, awesome sound system, large inflatable games, wristbands, events galore. Then Mother Nature decided to contribute a little sumptin special. It rained the entire time. The students were great! Or, to put it the cheesiest way I know: they made rainbows out of rain.

With 12 out of 15 schools showing up, we had over 350 students in attendance. Some of the events were able to go on despite the rain while others were modified. Some students engaged in pick-up games of ultimate frisbee, touch football and bongo-ball on the field despite the rain. I was really proud to see most of the students NOT whine about the weather. The show went on: cans were smashed, rhymes were busted, refrigerator boxes were raced, etc. Having each attending school bring an event with them turned out to be a good idea and I expect we will continue this theme next year. Yes, there will be a next year!



School must represent life, life as real and vital to the child as that which he carries on in the home, in the neighborhood, or on the playground.

John Dewey
My Pedagogic Creed, 1897



Legislative Issues at WALA

by Mary Anne Campo, Legislative Representative

Legislative issues at WALA seemed to be in almost all conversations at the Annual Spring Conference in Ocean Shores this year. Conference goers with notebooks in-hand jotted down information to take back to their schools as they attended WASL, Charter Schools and graduation requirement workshops. Finally the Keynote Speaker, Terry Bergeson, the State Superintendent of Education, spoke about the rulings made by the Legislature just the night before her presentation. Charter Schools will now be allowed to operate in Washington, the WASL was amended to allow four retakes in each content area, and alternative assessments will be developed to provide students with special needs options to taking the test. The Legislature argued until nearly the end of the session about these important issues, but finally agreed that students are different indeed and need to be provided with options for school choice and assessment testing. To me, this is just the beginning of the realization that each student is an individual and should be educated accordingly. By the end of the conference I realized how tired I am of all the focus on the WASL. What we should be focusing on instead is

“School Reform.” If we worked as hard on providing educational reform with creative ideas of what schools should be doing for students then we wouldn’t be spending so much time talking about the test. The schools of today need revamping, that is why so many of us have turned to alternative methods of teaching. We already realize all students are not alike and need choices in their education. Our school system was developed when all students were taught through the same methods at the same time in the same room. We already know this is not what is needed for the students of the 21st century. Educators are facing the fact that the school system itself needs an overhaul. The schools of today need to be replaced with 21st century schools that are outstanding schools with high achieving whereby at the same time replacing the focus of education from “the test” to “school reform”.

WALA members are creative educators. We have a wealth of ideas tucked into our notebooks. By gathering these ideas together to improve schools WALA be able to give education our greatest gift: creativity. We would be able to create great schools utilizing alternative teaching methods with high achieving students. I feel we are the pace setters in education and have much to offer. To this end WALA is creating a sub-committee of interested members to meet electronically and face-to-face to talk about the issue of “educational reform.”

It’s time we, alternative educators, step up to the plate in our state, collaborate and communicate our exceptional ideas that will bring not just a few WALA schools into the 21st Century, but help bring about true educational reform.

If you are interested in joining this sub-committee please send me an email. We will be e-mailing each member to ask what you can contribute to this conversation. I anxiously look forward to working together with you to accomplish this immense task.

WALA Business



WALA General Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2004, Ocean Shores
Submitted by Darlene Quayle, WALA Board Secretary/Treasurer

Cathy Hammerberg called the meeting to order at 1:55 p.m.

Darlene Quayle read the minutes from the 3/14/03 General Meeting. Janet Adams moved to approve the minutes and Sharon O’Brien seconded. Motion passed.

Financial Report

Darlene read the financial report showing current actual revenues of \$147,725. The budgeted revenue was \$181,725 and the budgeted expenses were \$177,242, leaving a projected balance of \$4,482.34. Larry Dobson moved to accept the financial report, Marilyn Boerke seconded. Motion passed.

By-law Changes

Cathy introduced the by-law changes proposed to change the officers’ term to June 1-May 31 and to extend the president’s term to two years, alternating past-president and president-elect as the third executive board member. Ed Stolarik moved to accept the proposed by-laws, Lee Hunsperger seconded. Tom asked about the number of voting people on the executive board, and commented on difficulty bringing people in for the position. Cathy explained that this change allows the president to get more involved and know what’s going on. She also said that often, the president’s name gets known to other organizations just when we are changing presidents. Cherie Exner expressed concern that the change cuts the executive board from 4 voting members to 3. She asked for the by-laws items to be separated.

Lee Hunsperger called the question, seconded by Dottie Record. Cathy asked members whether they wanted to vote on the entire by-law changes, all agreed except one. Cathy asked for the vote on the by-law changes. The vote was 48 yea, 9 nay, approximately 12 abstaining. Motion passed.



2004 Secondary Scholarships Awarded

by Billie Needham, Scholarships Chairperson

WALA has awarded a total of \$8,000 to 12 students seeking post secondary education and training. These students represent ten different alternative schools and programs from across Washington state.

Ana Andres, from GATES in Tacoma, is planning to study massage therapy. She is awarded \$300 to attend Clover Park Technical College in Lakewood.

Acacia Cadorette and her brother Logan Cadorette both graduate from the I.C.E. program in Port Townsend. Each is awarded \$1,000. Acacia plans to study theater and carpentry at Seattle Pacific University. Logan will study engineering and wooden boat building and sailing starting at the Northwest School of Wooden Boat Building in Port Townsend.

Savannah Carter hails from Sequim Community School in Sequim. She will attend Olympic Peninsula College in Port Angeles and will use her \$500 award to study nursing.

Elizabeth Castner graduates from Options in Bellingham. With her \$500 scholarship she will go to Whatcom Community College in Bellingham to begin studies in education and recreation.

Jeffrey Chumley, from Family Learning Center in Redmond, will attend Brigham Young University in Rexburg, Idaho. He is awarded \$1,250 to study medicine and science.

Craig Ebersole graduates from Legacy High School in Vancouver and starts his studies in business and teaching at Clark College in Vancouver. He is awarded \$1,000.

Jamie Gonzalez, from Burlington-Edison Alternative High School in Burlington-Edison, is planning to use her \$350 scholarship to go to Skagit Valley College in Mt. Vernon. She will study human services and communication.

Tana Gore is graduating from Prosser Falls High School in Prosser. She will use her \$350 award to attend Yakima Valley Community College in Grandview as she begins her studies to become an elementary educator.

Brianne Hanson plans to use her \$500 scholarship to go to Bates Technical Institute in Tacoma to study early childhood development. She is graduating from Henderson Bay High School in Gig Harbor.

Andrew Larsen, a student at River Homelink in Vancouver, will move on to Clark College in Vancouver with his \$500 award. He will study business administration.

Angie Lee, another student from Henderson Bay High School, is awarded \$750 to attend Tacoma Community College. She plans to study social work or nursing.

We at WALA are proud to assist these students in their pursuits. They are prime examples of the dedicated, committed students attending schools of option in our state.

Alternative Films for Alternative Students in Region I

by Bruce Vilders, State Street Alternative High School,
Sedro-Woolley, WA

The historic Lincoln Theatre in Mount Vernon and State Street Alternative High School (Sedro-Woolley) are partnering in an effort to offer independent and documentary films for our regional Alternative High School students.

We are currently in the brainstorming/planning phase of looking at ways at how cutting-edge and in-depth films can be brought to our classrooms for student review and discussion.

The Lincoln Theatre is looking at putting together an ad hoc committee comprised of filmmakers and educators in order to select films that would then be circulated to local Alternative High Schools in Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties. Once a quarter the Lincoln would then host a showing of a film with expert discussion leaders (either local filmmakers, actors, counselors, etc. depending on the topic). It would be an excellent way to bring interested students together in order to allow them to discuss the 'film of the quarter.'

We are just now bringing this idea to fruition and want to test the level of interest with our regional alternative schools. Using the Washington Alternative Learning Association (WALA) e-mail address list-serve, we are sending this note out to alert your school as to this alliance between the Lincoln Theatre and the alternative High Schools.

If you would like to be involved, or just kept on an e-mail update list, please contact Bruce Vilders at bvilders@swsd.k12.wa.us or Vicky Young at Vicky@lincolnthatre.org.

Note: Due to the small size of the theater, space is very limited. The priority for attendance is for schools in Region I, then for schools on a first come – first served basis.

Volume 15, Number 5

A quarterly newsletter of WALA,
a not-for-profit organization.

Editor: Jim Sparks
(253) 535-0211

jimsparks3098@msn.com

Production Editor: Isabel Gates
(360) 638-0240

gatesi@silverlink.net

Examinations are formidable even to the best prepared, for the greatest fool may ask more than the wisest man can answer.

C. C. Colton, Lacon: Reflections,
No. 322

Educational Standards



WALA and the WASL Graduation Requirement

by Ann Randall, WEA Accountability
Coordinator

The April *OPTIONS* articles by Lile Holland and Terry Smith urging WALA members to get involved in legislative and policy discussions cannot be stressed enough. State level policy discussions about the use of the WASL as a graduation requirement/high school exit test will be the focus of the State Board of Education, the Academic Achievement and Accountability Commission and the legislature over the next 10 months. The debate will center on three issues:

World Class Standards vs Inadequate Funding: The Princeton Review ranks the WASL as the third most rigorous exit test in the nation. The Department of Education ranks Washington 42nd in annual per pupil expenditure. The fairness of one of the nation's highest testing expectations in a state with one of the nation's lowest education funding levels will be the subject of intense debate. As educators in alternative school settings, you well know what the district funding filter-down effect is for your schools and programs. In a state that funds the eighth worst in the nation for the education of its students, alternative programs are often at the tail end of a school district dispersal of its meager state resources. It will be an issue for WEA. We hope that WALA will weigh in as well and insist that expectations should be set within the context of resources and funding.

Validity/Reliability: The reliability and validity of the WASL as a graduation requirement will also be a hotly contested debate decided in the

2005 legislature. Far too much attention has been paid to the issue of WASL reliability over the past decade of education reform; the battle cry has been that every student must pass the same exact test with increasingly standardized test administration procedures – all to insure WASL reliability. Far too little attention has been paid to WASL validity; the basic fairness issues that rankle educators and parents. There is no predictive validity for the WASL as an exit exam; no evidence that passing the WASL guarantees post-graduate success. The single piece of research done on predictive validity is a small study done by the University of Washington. It's findings concluded that weighted high school GPA is a better predictor of freshman U.W. success than either the WASL or the SAT. The statutory Basic Education Goal for Washington state – the purpose of our decade-long education reform effort is to “provide students with the opportunity to become responsible citizens, to contribute to their own economic well-being and that of their families and communities and to enjoy productive and satisfying lives.” I taught for years in alternative high schools in Washington. As alternative educators you know your students find success in a wide variety of post-graduate settings; the military, vocational schools, community colleges, entry-level jobs, parenthood or simply getting their act together and finally figuring it out at age twenty-five. WALA needs to weigh in on the use of the test to graduate and declare your students a success or failure.

Other states with exit exams take great pains to insure their test is valid for all of their students. New York administers it's exit test in five translated versions: Spanish, Haitian-Creole, Korean, Chinese and Russian. Minnesota gives its students 11 re-take opportunities included funded opportunities in its community colleges and vocational schools for students who fail to pass while in high school.

Massachusetts, Louisiana and Ari-

zona, who all have exit tests equal or higher in rigor to the WASL, have lowered their graduation cut score to Level 2 or Basic.

Should the legislature maintain the exit test requirement, WEA will be insisting on a valid assessment system that insures fairness for each Washington student. We hope WALA will weigh in on that issue.

Graduation Alternatives: Finally, the issue of WASL graduation alternatives will be an issue over the upcoming year. WEA was instrumental in drafting and lobbying HB 2195, the legislation that requires OSPI to work with other groups to develop one or more alternatives to bring to the legislature for approval in the 2005 session. When we wrote the language on WASL alternatives, we meant genuine alternatives honoring the diverse learning styles and cultural competencies of our state's diverse student population. Trying to convince OSPI and other's who influence them, that authentic alternatives are important has been difficult. Their focus has, again, been on reliability and not on validity. Many policymakers want an alternative that is so WASL-like or WASL-dependent that there will be no real alternative. Advocates in the communities of color, special education and vocational education have started to organize and speak up about the importance of genuine alternatives to the WASL. WEA will be hosting a meeting of those groups on June 30th to begin to outline what kinds of graduation alternatives would best serve all students. WALA will be invited to bring representatives to the meeting. We hope you'll engage in discussions before that meeting to help influence the discussion. WALA needs to weigh in on positions that lobby for genuine assessment alternatives since you understand the importance of alternatives for students.



What's Ahead

You cannot teach a man anything; you can only help him find it within himself.

**Galileo Galilei (1564-1642)
Italian physicist/astronomer**

Keeping the Focus

by Jim Sparks, President-Elect

Recently, my students and I were a part of an event that reminded me what teaching is all about. We participated in the WALA Friendship Games hosted by Chris Allen and Options. His students and staff planned and managed an amazing assortment of activities, and a large group of students from many different schools. Throughout the day, I saw students laughing, sharing ideas, meeting and learning about new people, and pushing themselves. With another school year winding down and the weight of all the administrative requirements tearing me down, I was reminded what really matters – the kids. My focus is clear again.

In keeping with this spirit, the theme for my year in office is "Keeping the Focus." The focus is on student learning, student activities, and student participation at the conferences. We want you to develop ideas like Chris'. These ideas can be anything that will have a positive impact on our students; athletic competitions, leadership events, academic events, friendship games, or presentations with students. WALA will do its best to support you. We can support you with information gathered from past events, advice from other WALA members and funding. The challenge is on: create an event that reminds us why we teach and that our students are the focus.

Bring your ideas to your region representative, or me. I can be reached at jimsparks3098@msn.com or at (253) 537-0211. ext. 4266. Have a great summer!

**Have a great workshop
you'd like to present?
Look for the
Fall Conference
"Call for Presenters"
form in this issue**

Planning for the Future

by Lile Holland, Executive Director

As this year begins to slowly and steadily wind down, planning for the coming year is fully underway. The WALA Board met on May 8th to set the budget and calendar for 2004-2005. The process is time consuming but very rewarding. Many events and meetings are planned. Efforts are under way to meet the professional needs of the membership. Student activities are planned. Although not all needs are being addressed, the vast majority of those voiced during the last six months were included.

A few items remain unsettled. How will alternative schools continue to work within the confines and requirements of NCLB? How will the WASL and the new graduation requirements effect alternative schools? What impact will charter schools have on education and alternative schools? What will WALA's role be in helping devise plans to assist schools and programs as they develop strategies to successfully educate our students? These are just some of the issues that will need discussion in the coming months.

As our planning gains momentum, we need your input. A survey is being prepared to establish the current state of alternative education in Washington. However, the survey is limited and thus will not include many important issues. Therefore, in addition to the school survey, we are asking that you email us with the issues that are most important to you? This can include questions, concerns, needs, or areas we need to cover at conferences and in region meetings.

As you plan your activities for next year, look over the calendar and plan to attend as many meetings as possible. You will find them informative and downright fun!

I Love This Fair!

by Cherie Exner

The Puyallup Fair is just around the corner. It will attract over 1.2 million people throughout the Northwest and what an opportunity to show-case and highlight your program at the Fair. This is an excellent time to show off your school and have fun at the same time!

Alternative Education Day will be on September 24th, so make your plans now. This year the theme is "I LOVE THIS FAIR!". As in the past there will be prizes for the best booth, and it is exciting to see who wins each time. I am anxious to see who will win this year! Will it be you? Only if you come to the Fair! Each school uses a different approach to showcase their school and students. The booths always look great. Everyone has fun and the staff, as well as the students, are good ambassadors for WALA and alternative education.

In addition, WALA will have a booth with information about alternative education in Washington as it is reflected in schools around the state. If you would like to attend, it is not too early to sign up. Please call Cherie Exner at (253) 537-0211, ext. 2415 or e-mail me at exner@earthlink.net and mention you are interested. Be sure to leave a number and name of a contact person. You will be put on the list for a spot and receive mailings. Come join the fun!

WALA
P.O. Box 4596
Bremerton, WA 98312-0403

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Rene's
Mailings, Inc.

Great Summer Reads for Kids

*by Bob DeWeese, 5th/6th Grade
Teacher, NK Options Program
(* = For older readers)*

I usually like all of the books by these authors. The ones listed are my favorites, or the ones I have actually read. ALL of these books are great stories, or they wouldn't be listed. ALL of them are about people (usually kids) who became real to me as I read their stories. ALL of them are great for reading aloud!

Almond. Skellig; Kit's Wilderness.
Anderson. Speak*; Fever 1793
Avi. True Confessions Charlotte Doyle;
Crispin. (Newbery Award '03)
Babbitt. Tuck Everlasting
Banks. Dillon
Bawden. Granny the Pag
Beatty. Lupita Manana
Blackwood. Shakespeare Stealer;
Shakespeare Scribe
Bloor. Tangerine; Crusaders*
Brooks. All of the Freddy books
Buss. Journey of the Sparrows
Byars. The Midnight Fox
Christopher. The Tripod series
Coleman. Weirdo's War
Conly. Trout Summer
Cooper. King of Shadows; Green Boy;
The Dark is Rising series

Creech. Walk Two Moons
Cushman. Midwife's Apprentice,
Catherine Called Birdie; Matilda
Bone
Dahl. Matilda; The Witches
Dorris. Guests; Morning Girl; Sees
Behind Trees
Estes. Ginger Pye; Pinkie Pye
Fox. Monkey Island, The Eagle Kite
Freeman. Cuckoo's Child
Furlong. Juniper; Wise Child
George. Julie of the Wolves series
Gould. Jumper*
Grove. The Starplace
Hesse. Just Juice.
Jacques. The Redwall series
Jimenez. The Circuit
Kerr, M.E. Slap Your Sides*
Key. The Forgotten Door
Koller. Nothing to Fear
Korman. The Bruno and Boots series
Laird. Kiss the Dust
Langton. The Fragile Flag
Lawrence. Ghost Boy*
LeGuin. Wizard of Earthsea series*;
Dispossessed*
Lindgren. Ronia the Robber's Daughter;
The Pippi books
Lowry. The Giver; Number the Stars
Mazer. The Ox-Boy
Meyer. White Lilacs
Meyers. Red-Dirt Jessie
Mikkaelsen. Stranded
Morris. Liar
Murphy, Rita. Harmony

Naylor. The Fear Place
Nelson. Earthshine
Paterson. JIP: His Story; Lyddie
Philbrick. Fire Pony; Freak the Mighty
Pinkwater. Lizard Music
Plum-Ucci. The Body of Christopher
Creed*; Catharsis*; What Hap-
pened to Lani Garver*
Pullman. His Dark Materials series
Reaver. Bill
Rottman. Hero*
Rubinstein. Galax-Arena
Rylant. The Van Gogh Cafe
Sachar. Holes
Salisbury. Under the Blood-Red Sun
Sleator. Into the Dream
Smith. Thunder Cave; Jaguar
Speare. Sign of the Beaver; Witch of
Blackbird Pond
Staples. Shabanu; Haveli
Steatfield. Ballet Shoes
Taylor. Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
series
Temple. Taste of Salt
Tolkien. The Hobbit; Lord of the Rings*
Whelan. Goodbye, Vietnam
White. Belle Prater's Boy; Memories of
Summer
Wolff. Bat-6
Wrede. Calling on Dragons series
Yep. Child of the Owl

*For complete bibliographical info,
please contact me at
pearls@olyphen.com.*