



# Manson GEARUP APRIL Newsletter



## Jim & Rosemary Tiffany Bring Cultural Awareness and Diversity Between Cultures to Manson Staff, Students and Parents

Jim Tiffany, author of *Uncomfortable Neighbors* and his wife Margery, educator for the Wenatchee School District, have been working with the staff, students and parents in the Manson School District to help our community understand the differences between cultures and helping us to establish better communication. They first worked with the staff on two different Mondays, and spent much time helping explain the educational differences in attitudes between cultures as well as the reason for the differences. After the two presentations, many of the staff members felt that they had learned new ideas in ways of looking at the diversity and how to implement the differences into their classroom teaching. Various staff also felt that they had a better understanding of the dynamics of our service district and the population we serve. The students were then met with on two different days and split up by grade level. The 7th and 8th graders met on April 21st, each class separately and were able to discuss, without teachers and staff present, how they felt about our school and the way they were treated. They also were able to discuss the concerns they had as well as talk about what we, as a staff, are doing right. The same format was used on April 23rd for the 9th, 10th and 11th graders. All students were given a before and after survey and the results will be used by our administration to help improve our service to students. Last, but certainly not least, the Tiffany's met with our parents. All community members were invited, but it was mainly parents that participated in the evening sessions. The district had two different nights, one in English and one in Spanish and we served a dinner before each event. The parents felt like it was a real help to them and the Spanish speakers went away saying that they were very happy that they had attended. To make the event even more beneficial, we have stocked our library with many copies of the *Uncomfortable Neighbor* book and it is available for checkout.

## WASL FINISHED

The 10th graders were very happy to have the WASL testing finished. They have spent many hours of getting ready for the test and the results should be in by the end of the year. The students felt like they were well prepared for the testing and that they did well. We all hope so.

### Contacts & Grant Data

**Matt Charlton**  
*Superintendent of Schools*  
**Manson School District**  
**687-3140**

**Don Vanderholm**  
*Principal*  
**Manson Secondary School**  
**687-9585**

**Alejandro Vergara**  
*Dean of Students*  
**Athletic Director**  
**687-9585**

**Patti Stracener**  
*GEARUP Site Director*  
**687-9585 Ext 725**  
**741-9510**

- **Total Match**  
**\$113,124**

### Special points of interest:

- Tiffany Visits
- WASL Done
- Saturday Night Live

College is not a Dream  
It's a Plan



# SATURDAY NIGHT LIVE

## GEARUP Presents Parent Drug Awareness Night

Just before spring break, a yummy spaghetti dinner was prepared and served to students and family members who attended the March Secondary Parent Night by Manson Gear-Up Director, Patti Stracener and student volunteers.

After dinner the group went to the school's library for a two hour presentation by local professionals from the Manson School District; Don Vanderholm and Matt Charlton, Drug Enforcement Administration; Officer Rodriguez, Officer Mathews and Canine Officer, Reefer, Together for Drug Free Youth; Rebecca Busey and Andi Ervin and Chelan County Sheriff's Department, Officer Simmons signs of drug and alcohol abuse and discussed ideas for prevention.

Parents were treated to a first hand demonstration of Canine Officer, Reefer in action as he found illegal drugs that had been hidden in the library books by his master, Officer Rodriguez. Much time was spent answering questions from the audience by the professionals. Officer Simmons showed the audience his display case with samples of illegal and over the counter drugs.

Stracener shared with the group the plans that are in the works to hold safe activities at the school on non-school hours for the students. These types of events require a partnership with parents and community volunteers to provide the needed chaperone duties for our youth to be in safe environment and have good clean fun. If you would like to volunteer a few hours in an evening to your community youth please contact Stacener via her cell at (509) 741-9510.

Saturday night February 21, was a very busy night for the middle school in Manson. The students were bussed at 5pm to the Wenatchee YMCA for the Saturday Night Live. Saturday Night Live is an open night at the YMCA where students can play basketball, dodgeball, volleyball, swim, use the Wii games, pool tables, foos ball tables and just generally hang out for three hours from 6pm to 9pm. The students were, as always, perfectly behaved and really had a lot of fun. After the SNL, they were taken to Abby's Pizza for some more fun, eating pizza and drinking sodas and playing video games there at the restaurant. They returned home at 11:00 pm tired, but full and happy. This trip was sponsored by the Manson School District and GEARUP.

