

Citizens of the Year: Valley Historical Society

Every year the Valley School Board selects a 'Citizen of the Year' to recognize notable contributions and achievements for the betterment of the Valley school district community. Superintendent Ben Ferney and long-time Board member Paul Voelker were pleased to present the 2020-2021 Citizen of the Year award to the Valley Historical Society during the school awards assembly on June 11th.

Through this award, the Superintendent and Board members pay tribute to the Valley Historical Society's persistent efforts and collaboration with the district over a 10 year period to utilize and find a permanent home for the hundred year old White School House, which was located on campus and used by the school district for many decades.

When the building was no longer serving the needs of the district and slated to be demolished, members of the Valley Historical Society presented a plan to move and repurpose the building as a museum and community gathering place, thereby preserving the heritage and artifacts of Valley's distinct history for present and future residents and visitors to our beautiful area.

The project to save the White School House had numerous reprises, starts and stops through the years, often lagging in funds and volunteers. In 2013, the district and Valley community groups worked with student designers from the WSU College of Design and Construction to conceptualize the future

museum's renovation, site layout and exhibits. Solidifying this vision on paper provided momentum and clout for seeking grants and grassroots fundraising promotions, such as sales of giftbags, a heritage cookbook and various raffles. The group succeeded in getting the building recognized as an Endangered Historic Property by the Washington Trust for Historic Preservation to advocate for the project statewide.

When, in 2017, it became apparent that no on-campus location would fit the goals of the school house museum project and the district needed the White School House site for its early learning program, the district asked the group to present a specific plan and timeline for moving the building off campus, or it would be demolished.

Through the persistent organizational actions of the group, the vision took a major step towards reality in July 2020. Amidst the pandemic, the building was moved down Highway 231 to its current location at the Valley fairgrounds.

In his presentation, Superintendent Ferney acknowledged the hard work of Valley Historical Society members, including Betty Holloway, Jackie Franks, Barbara Edwards, Dawn Dawson and, lastly, Melissa Silvio, who accepted the award on behalf of the group. Valley School District honors and applauds the accomplishments of the Valley Historical Society for its vision of bringing the past into the future for the benefit of the Valley community, residents, students, and visitors of all ages.



Betty Holloway and Melissa Silvio

VSD Board Meeting Notice

Upcoming VSD Board meetings are
July 21st, August 18th and September 15th
at 6:00 p.m.

School Board
Bill Wilson
(President)

Doug Elledge
Paul Voelker
Crystal Hubert

**Nancy Cocroft
Superintendent**
Ben Ferney

Non-Discrimination Statement

Valley School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained guide dog or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees of the Valley School District at 3030 Huffman Rd., Valley, WA 99181 are designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Danielle Tupek, Title IX Liaison; Ken Davis, Section 504/ADA Coordinator; Ben Ferney, Compliance Coordinator for State Law (RCW 28A.640/28A.642). A complaint regarding alleged discrimination may be made by e-mail to: compliance@valleysd.org, or by calling the district office at 509-937-2791.

Notable Moments, Achievements & Support

Looking back on the unwanted 2020-2021 school year experienced by our staff, students and families during the COVID-19 pandemic and encapsulating all that happened in a few brief news articles is nearly impossible.

Valley School District, among many, many other districts and agen-



In order to meet six foot distancing requirements between students and staff, rooms were cleared of nonessential furniture, equipment and items. In the photo, above, the Multipurpose Room serves as a repository for the huge collection of extra items.

cies throughout our nation, moved forward with no familiar roadmap under constantly changing directives and met unprecedented operational challenges head-on. Sifting through loads of information and guidance, our administrators and staff worked together to develop a multitude of

learning and health and safety plans, schedules, protocols, processes, documents and reports.

On the fly, staff shifted into revised duties and learned new ways to communicate, stay connected with each other, provide childcare services, feed and teach our kids, transitioning from no in-person contact to virtual meetings to cautiously coming together in limited circumstances in small groups for most of the year.

Our administrators strengthened alliances with neighboring districts, formed partnerships with county and state agencies and organizations, and offered input to state legislators. OSPI Health Services described it well in a recent news brief: "It has been a year of intense pressure, growth, and grace under fire." Kudos to *all* of us in our extended community for this incredible achievement!

Before we move ahead into anticipated challenges in student well-being and academic recovery, we offer a glimpse of notable moments, achievements and community support realized during the 2020-2021 school years on the next pages.

"We are full of gratitude and continually inspired by the generosity of our community..."

The **Chewelah Kiwanis Club** supported Valley School District through a \$5000 gift to assist students with technology needs. The monies helped the district to purchase mobile WiFi hotspot devices to give to families without internet service. Likewise, the district received a \$5000 donation from the **Loon Lake Health Association** for unanticipated expenses related to COVID-19.

The **Second Harvest Food Cooperative Bite2Go program** was established at Valley School District just before the pandemic hit. The school/community partnership program provides healthy, kid-friendly weekend food supplies that are safe and nonperishable for children to easily handle on their own. Bite2Go kits have been discreetly delivered to students experiencing food insecurity this year. *(continued on page 5)*



Facility Improvements Underway

Transitioning the previous site of the White School House into a new playground for Valley Early Learning Center students required demolition and removal of the old foundation and debris, and construction of a concrete block retaining wall to create a level site (top and middle photos). New playground equipment was installed in March (bottom photo). The large play area will be landscaped, fenced and ready for VELC kiddos come September.



PAIDEIA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Class of 2021

Fifteen Paideia High School students were presented diplomas by School Board Director Nancy Cocroft on Saturday evening, June 5th, joined by Superintendent Ben Ferney, Principal Kellie Martinez, and former principal Matt Cox in a blustery evening ceremony at the school football field.

For the second year in a row, COVID-19 pandemic health and safety regulations altered the traditional event format, but, luckily, this time staff, families, and friends gathered in chairs instead of cars to cheer on graduates. Staff members who mentored the students during the past four years were introduced, commended the graduates' accomplishments and, in a heartfelt send-off, serenaded the group with the song "Forever Young."



At right, Principal Kellie Martinez addresses the graduates, and other scenes from the ceremony.

Seniors in group photo, below:

BACK ROW – Harley Holt, Dustin Church, Isaac Cook, Dalas Yokum;
CENTER ROW – Joseph Selle, Kylee Crain, Heather Petty, Mandolin Farneman, Jenesis Borg, Michael Leibfried;
FRONT ROW – Axel Hegel, Xavier Greenway, Kolya Levy, Joseph Duke, Elijah Ray

Not Pictured: Emilee Waldvogel



Staff on the Move

The closure of schools for the spring in 2020 curtailed our customary farewells to retiring staff members and those resigning to pursue other aspirations. VSD has had considerable movement of employees in and out of the district, mostly brought on by the pandemic with fluctuations in school enrollment, virtual learning, and as well-being became a top family priority.

Notable retirements include long-time Valley School teacher Janet Williams, Principal Todd Smith, and teacher Peggy Neal; Columbia Virtual Academy Executive Director Dennis Killmer and teacher Janet Mosby; business office member Teri Sassman; and Facilities Supervisor Kraig Kalisch, groundskeeper Tommy Clark, and custodian Helena Smith-Franke.

The district also said goodbye to Paideia High School Principal Matt Cox, counselor Natalee Reid, teacher Michelle Cregger, and preschool teacher Shellie Anderson, all who had worked in the district for many years.

New district employees are Jim Blair (Facilities Supervisor), Becky Bylund (special services teacher), Cindy Court-Zmuda (special services teacher), Sarah Stevens (district support), Brittany Weinstein (business manager), Ivy Tietsort (science teacher), Molly Brown-Pulido (teacher), Donny Miller (counselor), Kimberly McNees (counselor), Leah

Meet Our New Principals!



Kellie Martinez

Working at innovative Paideia High School is a perfect fit with Mrs. Martinez's

varied work history in Colville schools and nonprofit social services and her passion for enabling student pathways to success. A local high school and college grad, Mrs. Martinez has four children between the ages of 20 and 6, giving her plenty of homegrown experience.

Becky Parrill



With educational roots in Ohio, Arizona, the Idaho Palouse and Washington, Ms. Parrill

brings layers of experience in teaching, coaching, advising and administering to the Valley K-8 School. She is thrilled to be working and recreating in our area, and building positive, strong school-family partnerships.

McNeil (paraeducator), Guadalupe "Lupita" Lopez (asst. preschool teacher), Denise Smith (groundskeeper), Dan Kerbs (custodian).

Several staff members moved into new positions, including teacher Tricia Patterson (language arts) and para Dori Bergman, who filled Tricia's position in the school library, Dawn Summers in the kitchen, and Alyssa Frank-Dixon, who jumped from VELC to a CVA paraeducator position.

Due to the high enrollment in the district's online program, CVA hired a multitude of staff for one-year positions, some of which will continue in 2021-22: teachers Alissa Nacca-

rato, Jane Nelson, Klarissa Schneider, Wendy Stenbeck, Mike Naccarato, Nicole Disque, Nicky Rigsby, and Krissy Hendrickson. This year also included long-term substitute positions for Chris Broz at PHS, and internships for psychologist Sandra Douville and counselor Elisabeth Roberts. VSD welcomed Mental Health Therapist Tara Soske late in the year.

The District Leadership Team acknowledges the huge effort, persistence, and dedication of all district employees who worked through unique and challenging circumstances during the ongoing pandemic.

Full of Gratitude *(continued from pg. 3)*

PHS Boosters for Bears parent volunteers continue to raise and donate funds to support student activities at PHS. Thank you to PHS families and community members who participated in and monetarily backed the fall firewood and spring plant sale fundraisers. Booster funds help provide welcome kits to incoming freshman and new students, senior gifts, school dances, vending machine, and scholarships for yearbooks, and educational needs in families experiencing hardship.

The **Judy and Terry Davis Scholarship Fund and Teacher Innovation Award** were launched to benefit VSD students with financial need and/or unusual circumstances seeking education beyond high school, and new or experienced VSD teachers to enhance their practices to ensure that innovation plays a constructive role in improving edu-

cational outcomes. PHS senior Mandy Farneman is the first Davis Scholarship recipient with an award of \$4000, which will enable her to attend SFCC in the fall.

Stevens County Commissioners Mark Burrows, Wes McCart and Greg Young took time to visit the Paideia Washington State History/Civics classes to share information about county government and answer questions.

It is difficult to include herein the **many parents, businesses, and community members that support Valley students** in countless ways throughout the school year; the list will be long. School staff appreciate ongoing contributions to classroom activities, the K-8 Fund Run, annual Tree of Sharing, Read Across America, drama productions, and Book Fairs. These acts of giving, such as Grandma Donna Gregerson's handmade hats donated to kindergarten students the past three years to help keep little noggins warm, make Valley a special place.

VALLEY SCHOOL

Class of 2021

8TH GR. GRADUATION



Twenty-six eighth grade students successfully completed their studies at Valley School and were recognized for achievement on June 5th in an outdoor ceremony at the school football field.

School Board Director Paul Voelker and Superintendent Ben Ferney joined Principal Becky Parrill and teachers Josh Clemmer and Tricia Patterson to acknowledge the class and their accomplishments by presenting individual awards and certificates of completion.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, students honored their parents or family member for their support by presenting a single white flower in a gesture of gratitude. Graduated eighth grade students will choose a local area high school for continuing their studies next year.



Valley School 8th grade Valedictorians Ben Patterson and Kaiyana Hill say a few words to classmates, families and friends during the pleasant outdoor ceremony on June 7th (above and left).

CO-VALEDICTORIANS:

Kaiyana Hill & Ben Patterson

CO-SALUTATORIANS:

Kadence Weitensteiner & Caleb Eberly

CLASS of 2021:

- Thomas Adams
- Justin Bailey
- Violet Ballard
- Raylyn Balduff
- Cole Benninger
- Andrew Church-Brown
- Theron Daily
- Kya Dorris
- Caleb Eberly
- Mary Fazio
- Kaiyana Hill
- Caden Hitch
- David Holt
- Jace Lovato
- Joel Kircher
- Austin Lane
- Mylow Langford
- Gavin McCloskey
- Jordan Mendez
- Jenacy Oldham
- Ben Patterson
- Ellinor Plunkett
- Keanna Powers
- Johnathan Templeton
- Rob Walsh
- Kadence Weitensteiner

Valley School 2021 Awards

SUPERINTENDENT'S AWARD:

Grade 2: Ruby Tupek
Grade 5: Ethan Johnson
Grade 8: Benjamin Patterson

KINDNESS AWARD:

Kindergarten: Liam Hodgden,
 Vivian Tupek
Grade 1: Sophia Schnebly
Grade 2: Ashlynn Merryman,
 Taylen Herrington
Grade 3: Jayce Bylund
Grade 4: Cooper Nash
Grade 5: Emery pace
Grade 6: Kaden Fiola
Grade 7: Riley Van Doren
Grade 8: Rob Walsh, Kadence
 Weitensteiner

PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

recognizes academic success by letter grade A or 3.5 on 4.0 scale plus high achievement on state/national reading and math exams or staff recommendation.

Grade 5

Destin Carter: *Reading, Math*
 Marissa Rindlisbacher: *Reading*

Grade 8

Raylyn Balduff: *ELA, Science, Math*
 Cole Benninger: *Science*
 Andrew Church-Brown: *ELA, Math, Science, History*
 Theron Daily: *ELA, Math, History*
 Kya Dorris: *ELA*
 Caleb Eberly: *Math, Science*
 Mary Fazio: *ELA, History*
 Kaiyana Hill: *ELA, History, Math, Science*
 Caden Hitch: *Math, History*
 David Holt: *Science*
 Jace Lovato: *Math*
 Gavin McCloskey: *Science*
 Jenacy Oldham: *Math*
 Ben Patterson: *ELA, History, Math, Science*
 Rob Walsh: *ELA, Math, Science*
 Kadence Weitensteiner: *ELA, History, Math, Science*

PRINCIPAL'S AWARD:

Kindergarten: Orin Janssen, Eric Navarro
Grade 1: Stephya Kassa, Charlie Stroyan
Grade 2: Teddy Graves, Ranger Phillips, Rion Louthback, Emma Johnson
Grade 3: Roman Buchholtz, Xaviar Buche
Grade 4: Donnie Capoeman, Meirahn Wafford
Grade 5: Khloe Pratt, Marissa Rindlisbacher
Grade 6: Faith Knight, James Borst
Grade 7: Hailey Klemish, Riley VanDoren
Grade 8: Mylow Langford, Kadence Weitensteiner, Ellinor Plunkett, Caleb Eberly

PRESIDENT'S AWARD FOR ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

recognizes student who show outstanding education growth, improvement, commitment or intellectual development in their academic subject.

Grade 5

Ethan Johnson: *Reading, Math*
 Emery Pace: *Reading*
 Marissa Rindlisbacher: *Drama*
 Aimee Weitensteiner: *Reading, Math*

Grade 8

Thomas Adams: *Science*
 Violet Ballard: *ELA, Math*
 Theron Daily: *Drama, Science*
 Kya Dorris: *History*
 Mary Fazio: *Science*
 Kaiyana Hill: *Drama*
 David Holt: *ELA*
 Jace Lovato: *Science, History*
 Gavin McCloskey: *ELA*
 Jenacy Oldham: *ELA, Science*
 Ben Patterson: *Drama*
 Rob Walsh: *History*
 Joel Kircher: *History*
 Austin Lane: *Drama, Science, History*
 Mylow Langford: *Math, Science*
 Ellinor Plunkett: *ELA, Science, Math*
 John Templeton: *ELA, Math*

Notable Events

August

- 18** School Board Meeting
6:00pm | VSD Broadcast Studio
- 26** Back-to-School Open House & BBQ
All District Schools
- 30** First Day of School
Valley K-8 | Paideia HS

September

- 2** First Day of Kindergarten
(TK and K) Valley School
- 6** Holiday – NO SCHOOL
Labor Day | VSD Offices Closed
- 7** First Day of School
VELC Preschool
- 9** First Day of School
Columbia Virtual Academy
- 15** School Board Meeting
6:00pm | VSD Broadcast Studio
- 24** Student/Staff Pictures
All District

October

- 20** School Board Meeting
6:00pm | VSD Broadcast Studio

November

- 11** Holiday – NO SCHOOL
Veterans Day
- 17** School Board Meeting
6:00pm | VSD Broadcast Studio
- 17 18** Valley K-8 Drama Production
"Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer"
19 6:30pm | Valley School MPR
- 22 23** Student-Parent Conferences
PHS, VS, VELC
- 24 25** Holiday Break – NO SCHOOL
Thanksgiving
26

Introducing
Transitional Kindergarten

For kids who would benefit from a year of quality learning prior to kindergarten

A Program of Valley School District

Transitional Kindergarten is a free, full-day early entrance program for children who are scheduled to enter kindergarten the following year. TK students must be four (4) years old by September 1st. TK provides basic academic and social/emotional skills to help students prepare for traditional kindergarten.

ENROLLMENT is NOW OPEN at VALLEY EARLY LEARNING CENTER!

Class size is limited to 16 students – act now!
 Contact VELC Director Candace Harris at (509) 937-2638

To learn more, go to www.k12.wa.us and search **Transitional Kindergarten**

Is your youngster not quite ready for Kindergarten?

Transitional Kindergarten is for kids turning four years old by Sept. 1st who need help building skills to prepare for entrance to school. Contact VELC Director Candace Harris at 509-937-2638 for enrollment information.

FREE SUMMER MEALS

FOR KIDS AND TEENS AGE 18 AND UNDER

PARENTS, “GRAB AND GO” MEALS WILL BE AVAILABLE EVERY MONDAY THIS SUMMER BEGINNING JUNE 14TH

- Pick up meals in the Valley School Bus Loop
- Served Mondays 8:00am – Noon
- Packages include lunch food for 5 days
- Enjoy meals offsite
- Meals for children only
- Available through August 23rd

To find more meals near you:
 Text “FOOD” or “COMIDA” to 877-877 or Call 1-866-348-6479

Valley School District is an equal opportunity provider.
 3030 Huffman Road, Valley, WA 99181 | (509) 937-2791

The Valley Voice is a publication of Valley School District #070. For information, please contact Diane Monasmith at (509) 937-2759 or by email at Diane.Monasmith@valleypsd.org.

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