

Valley Voice

Valley School District staff members—now 124 strong—gathered together for an All-District meeting to launch the 18/19 school year.



HIGHLIGHTED: Thank a Board Member! pg. 2 | New Life Skills Class, pg. 3



A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Ben Ferney

Together Is Better

I recently reread Simon Sinek’s book “Together Is Better,” a short inspirational, illustrated story book. If you haven’t had the chance to read it, I highly recommend it.

In this book, three children go on an adventure and discover that working together is better. “The ability of a group of people to do remarkable things hinges on how well those people can pull together as a team. You can’t do it alone. So don’t pretend. Together is better.” That “lesson” from the book really resonates with me as I think about our shared work in the Valley School District.

I have witnessed first-hand “remarkable things” in Valley School District in the past few months. Riding on buses illuminates the teamwork that goes into transporting our students (as well as Chewelah and Mary Walker students).

Visiting classrooms and attending staff meetings in our schools has shown me the incredible teamwork that occurs to best serve our students. Observing our kitchen staff arrive early to serve nutritious meals to our students, and our facilities/custodial team working throughout the campus to keep it clean and safe are further examples of effective teamwork. And working alongside our district office staff and the School Board that ensure we are financially and legally stable has provided yet another example of positive teamwork.

It has also been wonderful to see parents, grandparents, sisters, brothers, aunts, and uncles at the school for activities, athletics, and dropping off or picking up their child.

The Family Engagement Committee is a great example of the partnership between families and the school district—the committee meetings are open for any family to attend.

Coming together means that we are working together. We want to continue to serve Valley School District students and families in remarkable ways. Indeed, together *IS* better.



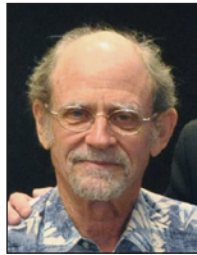


Expressing Gratitude for VSD Board Members' Service to the Community

Valley School District administrators invite everyone to join them in honoring our district's elected community members during Washington's **School Board Recognition Month** in January. The district will formally acknowledge the dedication and vision of our five directors at the School Board meeting on Wednesday, January 16th.

School Board members selflessly give their time and energy to benefit the well-being of our youngest citizens and school programs, teaming up with staff to navigate through innumerable decisions, issues and, often, a great deal of state-level education information.

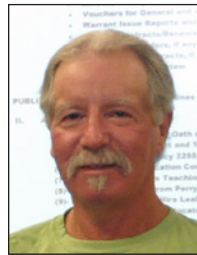
Valley's School Board is unique in that several of its directors have been serving for *decades* rather than years! Long-standing Board President Bill Wilson was elected in 1983 when his children attended Valley School, marking 35 years of participation and leadership. Paul Voelker began on the Board a couple years earlier than Bill, and reached 37 years of service last November. Director Doug Elledge was recently recognized by the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA) for his 15 years of service.



Bill Wilson,
President



Paul Voelker,
Legislative
Representative



Doug Elledge,
Vice President



Crystal Hubert



Nancy Cocroft

Relative newcomer, Crystal Hubert, has served seven years, and the Board recently appointed Nancy Cocroft to fill the position vacated by Renae Fitzgerald after 10½ years of volunteer service.

School Board members serve as a vital link between the Valley community and its schools. Among its many responsibilities, the Board is entrusted to establish policies, oversee budgets and provide input and advocacy for improving public education systems at a grass roots level. Together they contribute hundreds of volunteer hours to help manage and achieve the district's educational and operational goals. Please remember to thank our School Board members for their good work, not only in January, but every day!

Highly Capable Student Referrals

If you know a student who shows extraordinary ability, please recommend him/her for inclusion in the district's Highly Capable Program. This unique program helps K-12 students develop their special abilities, serving those who excel in school

subjects, the fine arts, creative thinking, problem-solving, or who learn very quickly.

Student referrals will be accepted from parents, community members, students and staff anytime during the school year. Highly Capable Program referral forms are available on the VSD website at <https://www.valleysd.org/highly-capable>, or at your

school's main office. Submit forms to the attention of the HCP Coordinator, T.O. Bakken, at the school office; by mail at 3030 Huffman Road, Valley, Washington 99181; or email at T.O.Bakken@cva.org. Referral for the program does not guarantee enrollment. If you have questions, please contact the Coordinator at 509-937-2793.

VSD Board Meeting Notice

Upcoming VSD Board meetings are
January 16th, February 20th and March 20th
at 6:30 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, honorably discharged 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; Janet Williams, 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.

Focusing Learning for Life

Contributed by Ken Davis, Psychologist and Special Services Co-Director

If you have visited Valley School this year, you may have noticed quite a bit of active learning happening right in the center of the school. The vibrant activity of children singing and learning essential skills for daily living are part of our new Life Skills class! Life Skills is a Special Education program created to promote learning beyond typical academic instruction in reading, writing, and math for our growing population of children with developmental needs.

Last year it became apparent that our students with developmental and health challenges were in need of a program that would create opportunities for learning basic skills for daily living.



The Systems and Supports Team, led by Todd Smith, Janet Williams and Ken Davis, collaborated with Valley School and Early Learning Center staff and therapists to explore ways to offer students more intensive levels of support. The team identified six domains of developmental instruction and therapy that would benefit these students: functional communication, fine and gross motor skills, self-care/self-help, functional academic, and social interaction skills.

Following months of planning, a Life Skills Pilot Project began in the middle of the 2017-18 school year to allow our team to discover and develop additional skills

for teaching essential life skills.

A team of special educators visited a similar program in Kettle Falls to observe first-hand new ways to teach life skills, and this exploration helped us create our current Life Skills program.

The Life Skills class is a team effort lead by Janet Williams, and includes a dedicated group of para-educators, including Dori Bergman, Christine Broderick, and Kim Goot. Tina Welsh is our program nurse, who at-

tends to our medically fragile stu-

dents. Speech Therapist Shawna Jamison, Occupational Therapist Lila Zander, and Physical Therapist



Mikita Hellie round out our Life Skills team.

To highlight class activities focusing on skill development, Para-educator Dori Bergman shared, "We start each morning with smiles, singing with our friends during Morning Circle.

This fall, we've exercised our gross motor skills with exciting obstacle courses, and put our fine motor skills to use cutting, coloring and painting a variety of projects: making foxes from leaves, painting cute pumpkins, and gluing together spooktacular ghosts! We also started using new communication schedules with each student, thanks to our Speech Therapist, Ms. Shawna. We've had many accomplishments and are ready for more!"

New Book Drive in Gear This Year

When you see a big hole, fill it! Valley School's Reading Intervention teacher Karon Axtell is doing just that to replace expired grant funding that has sustained the "Page Ahead" reading program during the previous four years. Karon, with help from staff members Kathy Janssen and Sharlene Clemmer, have organized a Book Drive to support 150 students with free books to continue fostering their excitement and love for reading.

To reach this goal, Karon is taking advantage of \$1 book sales offered every month through Scholastic. The plan is to purchase and provide each kindergarten through fifth grade student with nine books to take home at the end of the school year. Karon shared that contributions collected so far are enough to benefit 45 students. That's 405 books out of 1,350 needed to fill the summer reading program hole.

What a great investment—only \$9 to fill one young student's imagination and thinking "tank"

for several months. "Our Valley School parents are working hard to support their families the very best they can, but unfortunately new books cannot always be a priority," shared Karon.

Access to reading materials is a vital element in enhancing a child's reading development, and a decline in skills often occurs during breaks from school. The more students read, the better readers they become. Having books of their own available anytime can fuel a child's interest and engagement, and support family reading time at home.

Karon invites all staff and community members to participate in the Book Drive to keep Valley students on the road to reading achievement.

If you are interested in sponsoring a child's summer reading, you may drop a check made out to Scholastic Book Club at the Valley School Office, or mail it to Valley School, Attn: Karon Axtell, 3034 Huffman Road, Valley, WA 99181. We appreciate your support!



School Climate Survey Results Positive

Valley K-8 Principal Todd Smith is pleased with feedback received from parents and guardians on a recent School Climate survey provided to families attending the Valley School Open House on September 13th. The information from this important survey, which is distributed twice a year, provides an anonymous way for parents to express their opinions about the school environment and helps guide staff and administrators on areas that may need improvement.

The survey poses questions about how kids and parents feel regarding school safety, relationships with friends and staff, handling conflicts and communication. Mr. Smith commented, "It's a good sign that, from those responding, all are in agreement that their child feels safe and have friends at school."

The survey shows very positive indications overall, with high percentages of parents agreeing or

strongly agreeing that the Valley School learning environment and staff are supportive—91% feel staff have built a strong relationship with their child(ren). A majority of respondents agree that students are learning how to treat others with respect and to solve conflicts, and staff value the input of parents.

Mr. Smith encourages all parents to be involved in their child's school activities and to continue communicating with staff in person, online or through future surveys.





Driver Training

Of the many ways VSD seeks continuous improvement, one is realized through ongoing staff training and skill development. In mid-October, bus drivers got a chance to test their driving acumen in a Driver Training Simulator (DTS) provided by Clear Risk Solutions, the district's United Schools Insurance Program (USIP) risk manager.

VL Transport Center Supervisor Steve Templeton arranged the on-site training for his staff to practice decision-making and response time *before* they find themselves in an actual hazardous situation on the road. The Clear Risk virtual technology simulated driving in all weather conditions and road types. Drivers practiced responding to a front tire blow-out, maneuvering through busy intersections and avoiding accidents through various on-screen replications of city streets filled with motor vehicles, bicycles, pedestrians and wayward animals.

This pro-active approach to developing and enhancing skills ensures our bus drivers are prepared to handle the unexpected.

Oh, the Stories These Buildings Could Tell!

Contributed by PHS Senior Emma Selle

One of the most notable things about Paideia High School is its seven separate buildings. They each have their own stoop and awning. The exposed wood of the porch eaves and underside, being subjected to the weather all day every day, has begun to show some wear, and it hasn't



gone unnoticed. Mrs. Jackson-Selle proposed to her Art II class that they do something about it, and they ran with it.

The idea for the mural design—quotes and scenes from the books of Paideia's English curriculum—was formally proposed by Art II student Stephene Palmer. When asked how she came up with the idea, she shared, "Mrs. Jackson-Selle suggested we use quotes in the mural, and so I said that we should use quotes from the books we've read over the years. Then I suggested we put the quotes on painted covers of the books."

The idea was met with approval from the rest of the class, so they began collecting all the books from Paideia's English curriculum to plan the mural and select quotes.

When asked about the project, Mrs. Jackson-Selle said, "The students made plans of what scenes to paint, made stencils of book covers, made orders for paint colors. They collaborated with the Paideia and Valley School maintenance/facilities staff to come up with the idea of painting boards and then putting them up on the eaves, rather than directly painting the eaves. I gave the prompt, and they went from there. So far, the students have painted the boards their base color

and started to outline the mural design."

As they get closer to putting the mural up, a tradition gets closer to being formed; after all, Paideia has seven other buildings—all without murals.

Celebrate the Season!

You are cordially invited to attend the...

WINTER CONCERTS

Wednesday Dec. 12th–6:30 p.m.

Featuring Paideia HS Students

and

Monday Dec. 17th–2:00 p.m.

Featuring Valley K-8 Students

In the Valley School Multi-Purpose Room

News From Around Campus

Fire Safety Awareness

Members of Stevens County Fire District No. 4 visited Valley School classes during Fire Safety Week this fall to share guidance with students about what to do—and not do—during a fire. Students looked over the fire trucks and equipment, checked out a fireman in head-to-toe safety gear, and received a ‘goodie’ bag to take home. This day is always a hit with the kids, and we truly appreciate our local fire crew volunteer presenters: Angie Cook, Pat Purdy, Tom Evers and Frank Dillard. Thank you, Fire District No. 4 for your time, dedication and know-how!



Parents and Guardians are invited to join the

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Help plan activities and be involved in school happenings!

Meetings the second Thursday of every month in the Broadcast Studio

9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

OR

5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Childcare available by request for the evening meeting

The mission of the Family Engagement Committee (FEC) is to build strong partnerships with families, staff, and the community to strengthen and support students to reach their full potential. This committee serves as an advisory group for the district.

If you are interested in participating, please contact Candace Harris at 937-2638.

The annual Fund Run to benefit Valley School ASB projects and class activities that traditionally occurs on Halloween was delayed due to wet, soggy conditions on the course. Sunshine prevailed over the rain and fog on the day of the event, November 5th, and students from all grades rallied to pull in a total of \$3666. Thank you, staff, parents and community members for sponsoring the kids and supporting our program!

Getting College and Career Ready

Paideia students and staff participated in a “Career Carousel” on campus in late October, giving students an opportunity to hear ‘real world’ views from professionals within the job force as they investigate potential career pathways. The event was organized by PHS Teacher Pete Whittekiend.

In preparation for the morning carousel, each student created a schedule enabling him or her to rotate through four 40-minute descriptions presented by guest speakers about their career fields. Students were informed about seven different professions, including the medical field, sales, and technical skills and trades. During the presentations, students had the chance to ask questions, interact with guests, and even eat lunch with folks after the morning sessions were completed.

Feedback from students was extremely positive after the event, with over 80% indicating by survey that, “Today I found at least one person I could contact about a future career,” with many also acknowledging they now have a clearer understanding about their future direction.

Paideia staff and students extend their appreciation to these community members for taking time to share their practical knowledge and experiences: Mr. Roger Honshiko (Border Patrol); Dr. Heather Skinner (Veterinarian); Mr. Jake Wolfe (Department of Fish and Wildlife); Mr. Casey LeDoux (Sales); Mrs. Rita Davis (Medical); Sgt. Justin Robertson (U.S. Army); and Mr. Jim Culverwell (HVAC, owner of Systech Mechanical).



The annual Valley Tree of Sharing program provided gift-giving assistance to 50 students and 20 families this year.

This community service project is coordinated by school counselor Natalee Reid and Valley resident Marty Brooks who, in addition to many staff and community participants, extend their personal time and effort each year to coordinate details and purchase, wrap and deliver gifts.

We extend our gratitude to all of Santa’s Elves in Valley for selecting gift tags from the tree and making holiday magic happen for those families in need.

Pep Club Rallies Eagles

Mid-season, members of the Eagles football team were pitted against the Lady Eagles volleyball team in a series of crowd pleasing contests that exercised the value of good sportsmanship. The Pep Assembly rally culminated in a comedic pie-eating contest between boys and girls, drawing enthusiastic cheers from fans. The boys were victorious, winning possession of the Spirit Stick and bragging rights—for now. The girls will be determined to recapture the stick at the winter sports Pep Rally in February. Watch out, boys!



News From Around Campus



Literary Pumpkins

Ms. Larson's second grade class brought storybook characters to 3D life in a fanciful, creative project this fall. Each student chose his or her favorite character from a book and then transformed a pumpkin into that character with arts and craft supplies.

Along with dressing up their pumpkin, students filled out a character trait report and

presented their 'literary' pumpkin during a lively Pumpkin Parade on October 30th. Visiting family members, staff and students from other classes were able to interact with the student storytellers – and they received a sweet treat as a thank you gift for participating in the activity.



Students Take Part in Autumn



Bounties and Richness of the Season



The Carr family grew plenty of pumpkins this year—one for every Valley School student! Some classes went to the Carr residence for fall fun, games and pumpkin decorating, others went to the Colville Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch. Everyone basked in the mild and sunny weather!



Veterans, Students, Staff and Community Come Together

Prior to the traditional Veterans Day Assembly on Nov. 7th, school staff prepared and served a wonderful breakfast during a 'meet and greet' social time for visiting service men and women. Local veterans were highlighted in a colorful "Wall of Honor" display, and PHS and Valley School choirs performed patriotic musical tributes at the event. Representatives from Chewelah VFW Post 2047 presented awards to student essay contest winners, and excerpts from selected essays were read during the assembly.



Representatives from Chewelah VFW Post 2047 presented awards to student essay contest winners, and excerpts from selected essays were read during the assembly.



Cell Study

Mrs. Cregger's sixth and seventh grade Science classes studied cells during the first quarter and ended the unit with a creative challenge. For this at-home assignment, students were asked to create a 3D model of either a plant or animal cell using materials of their choice to depict the working parts of the cell. "It was our big project from first quarter and students were proud to have their models on display in the hall during conferences for everyone to see," shared Mrs. Cregger.

Vineyard Field Trip

Opportunities for observational learning happen regularly at PHS, recently at a private vineyard located in the Chattaroy area. Students were hosted by business owners Dave and Monique Smith, who grow red Leon Millot grapes, a French-American hybrid cultivated for our colder climate. Below, PHS Sophomore Joseph Selle describes what he learned on this field trip.



On Monday, October 15th, the Paideia High School Horticulture and Health classes went on a field trip to the Grapehouse Vineyard to learn about the growing and juicing process for grapes. First up, they thought we should know that there is a lot of overhead getting into the grape business and you need to manage your resources wisely.

First, depending on where you're operating, you need to find the number of degree days you have for particular varieties of grapes, so you know what you can realistically grow and harvest. It is also good to remember that you can't grow grapes in good soil. Grapes like crappy dirt, because they are adapted to a drier climate and if the soil is too moist around the root system, the roots will actually rot, killing the plant and giving you tart, even bitter, grapes.

Once grapes have been picked, they are put through a device to remove the stems and other forms of wood from them. They are then put in a kind of barrel with slits in between the boards and have a lid placed on top of them and blocks stacked Jenga-style on top of the lid. From here, a lever-fulcrum device is screwed on top to help press the lid down and juice the grapes. Then you can ferment them if you want, unless you're under 21. This is the folks at Paideia HS saying 'Don't break the law, kids!'



Paideia High School 2018-19 Student Leadership Team



Peter Nelson
President, Gr. 12



Rachel Dawdy
Vice Pres., Gr. 12



Willow Wells
Secretary, Gr. 9



Heather Petty
Photographer, Gr. 10

Paideia Campus Paving Project Completed This Fall



Students, staff and visitors are able to navigate between PHS buildings more safely via newly-paved walkways. The new surfaces allow easier removal of debris and snow, as well as cleaner floors with a reduction in the amount of dirt and grit being brought indoors.

“Be Our Guest” at Disney’s Beauty and the Beast Jr.

Disney’s *Beauty and The Beast Jr.* is being presented at the Valley School on Thursday and Friday, March 7th and 8th at 6:30 p.m.

This 60-minute musical is based on the 1994 Broadway production and Disney’s 1991 animated feature film.

The Valley School cast includes 50 plus students and is directed by Theresa Carr, and features music by Alan Menken, lyrics by Howard Ashman and Tim Rice, and book by Linda Woolverton.

Beauty and the Beast Jr. tells the story of Belle, an adventurous

young girl, and the Beast, her hideous captor who is actually a young prince trapped under a spell. In order to break the spell, the Beast must learn to love another and earn her love in return – before time runs out.

With the help of the castle’s enchanted staff, including a loving teapot, a charming candelabra, and a nervous mantel clock, Belle and the Beast find a beautiful friendship and love that neither knew was possible. The play features



classic songs from the award-winning film score as well as original songs from the Broadway musical. Old and young alike will enjoy this magical and uplifting story!



A towering T-Rex proved to be not-so-scary after all on Halloween, but instead drew a throng of enthusiastic admirers! Eighth grade student Hunter Gilroy wore the costume, spreading good-natured fun throughout Valley School.

Visit us at...

- valleysd.org
- velc.org
- valleyk8.org
- paideiahs.org
- cva.org
- vltc.org

Notable Events

December

- 12** Paideia HS Winter Concert
6:30pm | Valley School MPR
- 17** Valley K-8 Winter Concert
2:00pm | Valley School MPR
Santa Visits in the morning!
- 19** School Board Meeting
6:30-8pm | VSD Broadcast Studio
- 19** Winter Break Begins
NO SCHOOL until Jan. 3
- 24 25** Holiday
VSD Offices Closed

January

- 1 2** Holiday – NO SCHOOL
PHS, VS, VELC
- 2** Winter Break Ends – First Day of School 2019 | CVA
- 3** Winter Break Ends – First Day of School 2019 | PHS, VS, VELC
- 9** Paideia HS Parent Meeting/Dinner
6:30pm | Paideia Center
- 16** School Board Meeting
6:30-8pm | VSD Broadcast Studio
- 21** Holiday – NO SCHOOL
Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 25** Staff In-Service Day – NO SCHOOL
PHS, VS | Last Day of 1st Semester

February

- 18** Holiday – NO SCHOOL
Presidents’ Day

March


- 7 8** Valley K-8 Drama Production
“Beauty and the Beast Jr.”
6:30pm | Valley School MPR
- 15** Staff In-Service – NO SCHOOL
VS, VELC
- 18** NO SCHOOL – Tentative
Snow Day make-up day as needed
- 28** Spring Concert
VS, VELC
- 28** PHS Senior Culminating Projects
Presentations | Paideia HS

"YOU HOLD THE KEY TO OPEN THE DOOR TO KINDNESS"



Valley School students and staff demonstrated the importance of practicing kindness during the "Freeze Mob/Flash Mob" portion of the Dance for Kindness on November 13th.

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

 Valley School District #070
3030 Huffman Rd.
Valley, WA 99181-9749
(509) 937-2791

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
VALLEY, WA
PERMIT # 3

**Carrier Route
Presort
Postal Patron**