

Valley Voice



Valley Early Learning Center youngsters sing out joyfully as they celebrate the end of one school year and their transition into the next.

HIGHLIGHTED: New Superintendent, pg. 2 | Citizens of the Year pg. 3

Message from the Superintendent

A Fond Farewell, and Thank You!

I want to extend my most sincere gratitude to the staff, students, families and community of the Valley School District for the awesome four years I have had here serving as your Superintendent. The experience has been truly life changing. I have learned things from all of you about trust, compassion, integrity and family values that will influence me for the rest of my life.

I can honestly say that I wish I could stay longer and continue to be part of the Valley community.



Kevin Foster

However, the ongoing illness of our son Ben compels me to be close to him and help him through this very difficult time. He is a fine young man and I gain strength of heart by being in his presence.

So, I am ending my career as a school administrator on a high note. Valley School District is the best place I have ever worked. I am very proud of what the district has accomplished over the past four years. The district will continue to improve through the hard work of the excellent staff, the contributions of exceptional families, the support of a tight community, and the guidance of the great leadership team.

“Light precedes every transition. Whether at the end of a tunnel, through a crack in the door, or the flash of an idea, it is always there, heralding a new beginning.” –Teresa Tsalaky, Author

Superintendent Foster Recognized by Peers

After finishing his 32nd year working in the field of education, Kevin Foster leaves Valley School District and our corner of northeast Washington with high marks. He was recently honored with an “Award of Merit” by the Northeast Washington Association of School Administrators for

his leadership, significant contributions to this region and advocacy for its students.

Nominated by Educational Service District 101 Superintendent Michael Dunn, he describes Kevin as “a leader who deeply understands that ALL MEANS ALL; that education is a team sport and we must work together. Mr. Foster has been and continues to be instrumental in illuminating

not only needs and challenges, but solutions as well—to benefit students as they deserve. The Valley School District, the Panorama Superintendents Group, and our region in whole are all better and richer for all that Mr. Foster has done.”

In his weekly “Happy Friday” message to staff, Superintendent Foster always shared encouraging

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New Superintendent Ben Ferney Joins Valley Fold

Superintendent Ferney has been visiting the Valley School District campus and staff and attending district meetings as often as his other obligations have allowed since his hiring in March. In anticipation of his first official work day on July 1st, he sends this message to the Valley Community:

Hello!

It is extremely exciting to have been selected to serve as the Superintendent of Valley School District! Over the past numerous months, I have learned that Valley is a very special place because of the incredible staff, students, and community and I really look forward to being a part of this wonderful team. Because relationships are the most important part of a school district, getting to know each one of you on a personal level is a top priority.

To help you get to know me, I'd like to share a bit about my background. After graduating from Washington State University, I started my career as a science teacher at Lewis and Clark High School in Spokane for ten years and also coached football, baseball, and golf.

I completed my Master's degree at Eastern Washington University and then went to Bancroft Alternative School in Spokane Public Schools, serving as the Principal Assistant for three years. From there it was on to Cheney, serving as an assistant principal for two years— one year at Cheney Middle School and the second year at Westwood Middle School.

The past five years were spent as the principal at Freeman Middle School, and I just completed the

two-year superintendent program from WSU this spring. My educational philosophy is centered on relationships, teamwork, and continuous improvement.

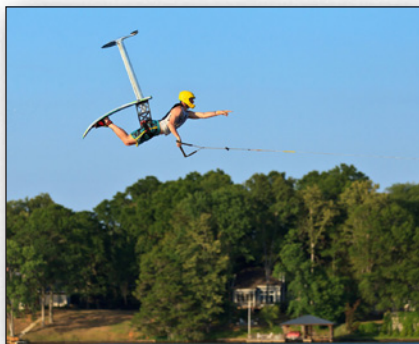
On a personal level, I have been married 19 years to my beautiful wife, Stacy, and we have two daughters, Isabel (14) in 8th grade, and Sami (11) in 5th grade. Stacy teaches math at Sacajawea Middle School in the Spokane Public Schools. Isabel goes to school with her at Sacajawea, while Sami attends Hutton Elementary.

We are a very active family, as we go out to Coeur d'Alene Lake in the summer and snow ski at Silver Mountain. The girls are involved with competitive gymnastics, track and cross country. Stacy is an active runner and has been to the Boston Marathon three times and ran the New York City Marathon last fall.

I compete professionally on a hydrofoil (an Airchair or SkySki that is towed behind a boat) both nationally and internationally, and have recently picked up river surfing.

I'm looking forward to meeting you!

—Ben



VSD Board Meeting Notice

Upcoming VSD Board meetings are July 11th, August 15th and September 19th at 6:30 p.m.

School Board
Bill Wilson
(President)

Doug Elledge
Rena Fitzgerald
Crystal Hubert

Paul Voelker
Superintendent
Kevin Foster

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; Kevin Foster, 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.

Citizens of the Year: Orla Colvin & Kathy Flatau

Long-time Valley/Springdale area community members Orla Colvin and Kathy Flatau were named the 2018 Citizens of the Year for their volunteer work and many contributions to the Valley School District and local community.

The “dynamic duo” was nominated by Valley Early Learning Center Director, Candace Harris, who noted “these two outstanding women have always given freely of their time and talents and have been incredible mentors to many in our district.”

Neighbors for years with mutual interests and acquaintances, Kathy and Orla also worked together at the Springdale Head Start program where they first met Candace and her young daughter.

Fast forward a few years when Candace, as the new Director of VELC, was developing the program and looking for assistants. Knowing their past work in Head Start, she encouraged Kathy and Orla to join her and each agreed to work as a substitute para-educator for the district.

The trio’s deep respect for each other became apparent when both Orla and Kathy remarked that they “jumped at the chance to work with Candace,” who likewise indicated, “I was lucky as a young manager to have two women who could teach me so much about working with young children, and about how to give grace to myself and others. I have learned so much about generosity and kindness during our 10-year relationship.”

Candace went on to explain that Kathy and Orla have given well beyond what was expected. During the early years at VELC, Kathy and Orla lent their abilities to whatever task was at hand. They did everything from teaching preschool, to cooking, to volunteering their extra time and talents to



bring music to the children.

Kathy and Orla also have supported the Valley School music and arts programs in recent years, providing accompaniment at winter and spring music concerts, demonstrating art techniques, and teaming up to help Candace provide Summer Kids Camps activities.

Working together on projects and helping people in the process is gratifying for the duo. Besides her work in the schools, Orla spreads her musical and artistic talents around the community. And naturally, as good friends do, Kathy never hesitates to join in when prompted. She ex-

plained, “My mom raised me to help out others, and volunteering with friends is so much fun!”

Orla serves as the Fine Arts Supervisor for the Valley Fair, a role that, simply stated, includes checking in fair entries and organizing the kids’ Arts and Crafts Booths. The two also share a love of music, combining Kathy’s beautiful singing voice with Orla’s banjo in a local band that has performed at the Valley Fair.

Both Orla and Kathy conveyed surprise and graciousness at being selected as Citizens of the Year and, as Orla expressed, “we are privileged to live in such a beautiful valley with equally lovely community members.”

The ladies were recognized for their efforts at the Valley School Awards assembly on June 11th and each received a keepsake award. Orla confessed that she teared up when listening to Candace’s remarks, rendering her speechless for a moment. Kathy, who shared her regrets about being unable to attend the assembly due to previously-ar-



Candace, Orla and Principal Smith

committed, feels deeply honored to receive this award and extends her appreciation to all. Congratulations, ladies!



Distance-Learning Program Changes To Better Support Students and Families

The Valley School District Board of Directors closed out 2017 by putting their full support behind a three-to-five-year strategic plan for its Alternative Learning Experience program, Columbia Virtual Academy (CVA), a plan that changes CVA's operational model from a multi-district cooperative partnership to a single partnership with Kettle Falls School District beginning with the 2018-19 school year.

The primary rationale for the decision to reduce partner districts from eight to one is to better serve students and families. In CVA-Central's continuous efforts to improve student achievement

and delivery of distance-learning services, a System Improvement Team consisting of Principal Dave Vail, Assistant Principal Eldon Palmer, Support Services Manager Melanie Bailey and Executive Director Dennis Killmer was formed early in the school year to determine how best to reach this goal.

First, the team developed a list of characteristics that define the ideal learning environment for distance-learning students and examined both positive and neg-

ative forces that affect that environment. From this analysis, the team developed a clear problem statement on which to formulate possible solutions:

"The number of partner districts in the CVA organization is a major barrier to implementing the ideal learning environment for CVA families."



Dennis Killmer explained, "There are two reasons the multi-district model impedes our goal of providing optimal educational services."

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Superintendent Foster –continued from pg. 1

words and endearing, insightful reflections about life and being our best selves. Pondering the Valley School Class of 2018 Motto (see page 9), Superintendent Foster wrote these parting thoughts, "Yes, every moment is incredibly precious. I encourage each of you to pause, take a breath and notice the beauty of the life we have." In tribute to Superintendent Foster's good words and work these last four years, his colleagues at VSD shared the following expressions of appreciation:

Thank you for leaving the Valley School District at an even better place than where you found it. There is no question that you've cared deeply for the staff, for the health of the district, and especially for the students! –Facilities Supervisor Kraig Kalisch

I appreciate that Kevin believes in helping each and every person focus on their strengths rather than pointing out and fixing weaknesses. We have seen over and over that he wants to help each individual learn and grow. Through his leadership, I am better both personally and professionally. –Principal Dave Vail

Kevin Foster has been a great "Super" to work with. He is a fellow thespian who appreciates the art of theater and supports the kids in their adventures. For me, he has been the kind of leader who has no need to lead—because he is content to just point the way. –K-8 Lead Secretary Theresa Carr

What I appreciate most about working with Kevin is his ability to rally those around him to a common purpose. His approachable demeanor and communication style inspired confidence in his leadership. I wish him well on his new adventures. –CVA Executive Director Dennis Killmer

Kevin Foster has been an incredible leader. His love for educating and his tireless work with families has been nothing short of inspiring. I have appreciated his work for our most vulnerable students and advocacy for the importance of the special and magical years of young children. –VELC Director Candace Harris

Kevin is skilled at recognizing opportunities for growth through his observations and conversations with people, and finding ways to make that growth happen. He helped me grow in better managing my time, and in learning to be a facilitator of teaching staff and students about self-regulation and the impacts of social emotional learning. Additionally, I appreciate the value Kevin places on the importance of family. His support to me will always be treasured. –Principal Todd Smith

VSD was graced with the kind of leader it needed most when the Board hired Kevin Foster. Experiencing his leadership through his genuine sense of caring about students, families and staff has helped all of us grow and make the district an even better place. The words 'thank you' are not enough to express my gratitude and respect for Kevin and what he has accomplished during his time at Valley. –Chief Financial Officer Eileen Harris

Life's Little Wonders

Contributed by Second Grade Teacher Misty Larson

One of the units we teach in second grade is "Life Cycles." To make this learning experience meaningful, we decided to hatch baby chicks. I borrowed an incubator from Ms. Gregerson, received eggs from Kindra Tapia and Cortney Burya, and our class got busy observing nature in action.

Every day students had to graph the humidity and temperature of the incubator. They checked our "babies" before school, at recess, and said goodbye each day. Their enthusiasm was GREAT!

In fact, almost everyone in the school was interested in our project. With all this eagerness, we welcomed a lot of visitors to our classroom which, in the 21 days it takes to hatch chicks, was a lot of traffic! To curb interruptions, I elected a new "Chicken Expert" every day to answer visitors' questions and share the wonderful facts students were learning.



And then right on schedule, on Day 21 we heard our first peeps. But not without some extra drama—that day, our power went out! With the help of our great staff, extension cords were strung from the Multi-Purpose Room to the incubator so the tem-

perature would hold steady. Without help, I'm not sure our chicks would have survived.

It took 23 long hours for our first chick to fully hatch. When we arrived on Day 22, it was chirping away! Somehow (because my kids are rock stars) we managed to teach and learn through all the extra excitement! We even witnessed the next chick emerging out of its shell, which proved to be an awesome experience for us.

Next, Baby Chick Adoption Forms were shared with families. So many requests were returned that we had to draw sticks to choose the families that would

get to take the chicks home. Our Chicken Life Cycle project was so fun! Many visiting first grade students expressed, "I can't wait until we get to do this next year!" Not wanting to disappoint, I guess I will be carrying on the tradition of hatching chicks in the classroom from here on out!



CVA Changes

—continued from pg. 4

One, operationally CVA must appear to families as a single entity with a single voice. Over the years, CVA-Central has implemented many initiatives to infuse the CVA culture into partner district programs and applied standard operating procedures, but geographical separation and partner district autonomy continue to prevent CVA from having a single voice. Secondly, CVA programs with less than 100 students lack the additional resources to implement the ideal learning environment for CVA families."

To address the problem, five possible solutions were developed and the one recommended to the Board was to reduce the number of partner districts. An impact analysis determined that this action would resolve many recurring problems.

Communication between CVA and families will be more direct and consistent, improving family support and student retention. By working closely with just one partner district to minimize program variability, confusion for parents with students of varying ages enrolled in CVA through disparate districts with different teaching practices and expectations for

students will be mitigated, and eighth grade students will experience a smoother transition to high school.

Next year, CVA-Valley will serve all K-8 students and CVA-Kettle Falls will serve all high school students. In anticipation of increased enrollment numbers, the Board recently opened five additional teaching positions. CVA-Central staff is working diligently on aspects of the new operational model, training new staff, and looking forward to offering families and students a greatly improved alternative learning experience in the years to come.

PAIDEIA High School



Class of 2018

Staff, students and families gathered on Thursday, May 31st to acknowledge graduating Paideia High School students and wish them well in their future endeavors. The Class of 2018, fifteen in all, marks the largest cohort to graduate from Valley's unique, innovative high school.

Former teacher Brett Sweet, who served as a founding educator in the Paideia program, addressed the students in an encouraging speech, touching on three types of courage: the courage to think, the courage to keep your word and the courage to take calculated risks.

The PHS staff members who have mentored the students were introduced and individually com-

mended each graduate. Four students—Andrea Franks, Kylor Rose, Nasus Schmidt, and Garret Willey—were recognized for attending PHS for the full four-year program.

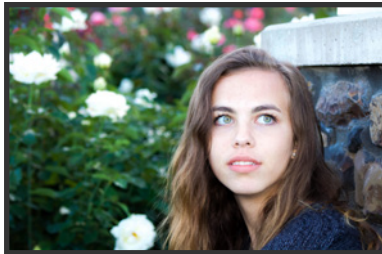
The revelry of the occasion burst out during the ceremony as staff and students serenaded the seniors with a special rendition of Rob Thomas's "Little Wonders."

Superintendent Kevin Foster presented diplomas and each graduate was greeted by his/her chosen family members, who ceremoniously "turned the tassel" on the traditional cap, to signify successful completion of high school.

Congratulations, Graduates!



Andrew Clark

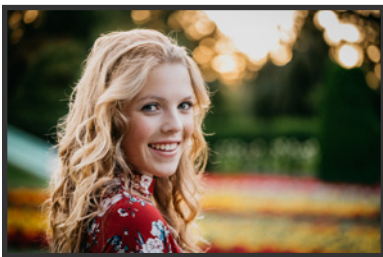


Madelyn Clifner



Wyatt Crockett

"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view...until you climb in his skin and walk around in it."
— Atticus Finch in *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee



Andrea Franks



Cassandra Rogerson



Nate Clifner



Nova Kelly



Sean Mendez



Classmates line up center stage while awaiting diplomas.



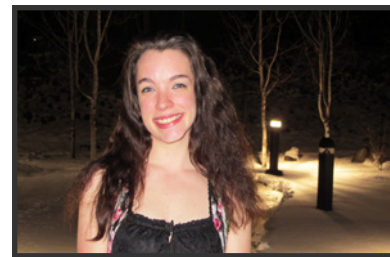
Rose Sather



Meghan Loer



Garret Willey



Tylea Francis-Murphy



Kylor Rose



Nasus Schmidt



James Austin Highfill



At far left, an orderly display of keepsake stands for each graduate to claim. Left, former graduate Brett Sweet shares encouraging words.

Life-long Learner, Teacher Retires

Paideia High School staff and students said goodbye to another beloved teacher at the close of the school year.

Jon Heflick announced his retirement in February after working in Valley School District for eleven years, the last eight at PHS.

Mr. Heflick's stint as a teacher (his second career) has been somewhat short compared to veterans in the education field. In fact, Jon has had plenty of experience sitting on the other side of the desk. Jon divulged that, as a young college student, he had a couple false starts due to a lack of passion about his studies. After his first go-around in college, Jon



worked for many years in sales before trying his hand in education again. "I came to be a high school teacher almost as an after-thought. My first teaching experience was as a pre-calculus tutor in the math lab at WSU, where I attended in 2001-04 following a mid-life career crisis."

"After earning a degree in English (with a minor in Mathematics) at WSU, I was pursuing a Masters in Creative Writing at PLU. I soon realized that creative writing was not really my forte, and it didn't seem to be promising me that second career I was so desperately seeking. A close friend suggested I look into teaching, which led me to the teacher instruction program at Lewis Clark State College in Lewiston, Idaho."

Jon went on to get a Master's in Education at Gonzaga University. *Continued on page 11*

Young Scholar Pens Winning Essay

Paideia junior Emma Selle's essay and audio recording was selected as a local winner of the 2017-18 Voice of Democracy Program sponsored by the Chewelah VFW Post 2047, advancing to the District Level competition where she was awarded Third Place.

Emma received a certificate of recognition, medal and a monetary scholarship from a VFW representative at a recent event honoring finalists.

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Voice of Democracy Program is an annual national youth scholarship competition dedicated to encouraging a better understanding and appreciation of America. Every year, a different prompt is given for the middle school and high school divisions.

This year's high school writing prompt was "American History: Our Hope for the Future," a topic that, as Emma explained, "happened to be pretty well tailored to what I like already. Revolutionary-war era history is one of my favorites. I'm a huge history and literature nerd!"

When asked to summarize her response to the essay prompt, Emma replied with an incredibly well-written explanation, almost writing a second essay! She articulated how her essay expounds on the premise that the U.S. can never have a tyrannical government and used historical examples of our country's foundation to support that opinion.

Referencing the achievements of the Revolutionary War and Declaration of Independence, the writing of the U.S. Constitution and the Federalist Papers, she also "quoted sections of the Constitution to show the fail safes in place to protect from a tyrannical government."



As it turns out, Emma is well-practiced in writing and in this competition, and this year her passion for history did not go unnoticed. Entering the essay contest is an optional assignment in class, but with a mom who's also an English teacher (Mrs. Angela Jackson-Selle), Emma admits, "I've entered the VFW contest almost every year. I've won three times at the school-level, once as a middle-schooler and now twice as a high-schooler. Both my high school

essays went to the district-level contest, but this is the first time I have placed at that level."

But she isn't taking all these "wins" lightly. "I am unbelievably happy and honored to have ranked at all, and to receive third place. I was surprised and extremely grateful to have my essay selected as a winner."

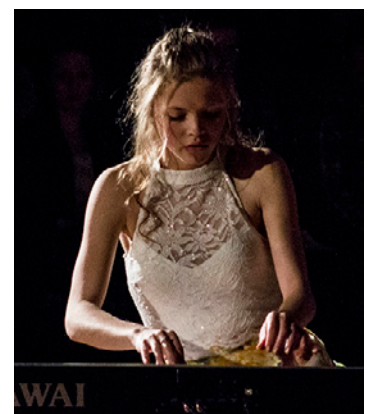
Emma plans to incorporate writing in her future career, and looks forward to exploring journalism and writing novels and expository or historical pieces. "My love for writing is born of a love for reading," she shared, "I love to study and write about the lives of people who lived before us. The inherent qualities shared by humanity, regardless of the time in which we live, will never cease to fascinate me."

For information about the VFW Voice of Democracy Program opportunities, visit www.paideiahs.org, and search for Scholarship Resources/VFW.

A Distinguished Young Woman

Recent Paideia High School graduate Andrea Franks received special recognition for her volunteer service as Chewelah's Distinguished Young Woman for the Class of 2018. Local DYW Program chairperson Brenda Gregerson attended the graduation ceremony and presented Andrea with a substantial scholarship, earned for winning individual awards in the Scholastic, Interview, Self-Expression and Spirit portions of the competition.

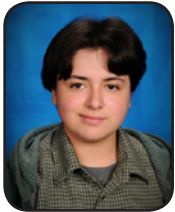
In her dual role as a Distinguished Young Woman and representative of the City of Chewelah, Andrea attended various local and regional community events in 2017, and truly enjoyed riding on the Chewelah float with fellow DYW honorees, including friend and former Valley School District student Rachael Larsen. Though attending PHS, Andrea qualified for the Chewelah



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Valley School

Class of 2018



Seleana Capoe-man-Yniguez



Richard Collins



Shanelle Dorris



Kylea Fitzgerald



Kaylee Gilbert



Andrew Goforth

Class Motto:

"Sometimes you never know the value of a moment until it becomes a memory."

– Dr. Seuss



Garrett Hallgarth



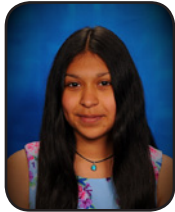
Laynie Haskell



Kylee Howder



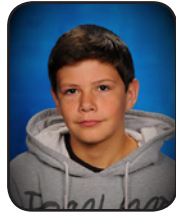
Riley Martinez



Michelle Navarro



John Palmer



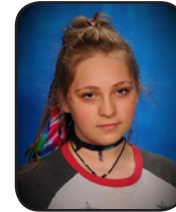
Noel Rodriguez



Shayla Slaughter



James Summers



Mina Wallen



Talia Winfrey

Superintendent's Award:

Michelle Navarro, *Grade 8*
 Travis Wellhausen, *Grade 5*
 Aimee Weitensteiner, *Grade 2*

Principal's Award:

James Summers, *Grade 8*
 Johnathan Merryman, *Grade 7*
 Dean Noe, *Grade 6*
 Austin Lane & Thomas Caden Hitch, *Grade 5*
 George Broderick, *Grade 4*
 Joshua Kassa, *Grade 3*
 Brooklyn Lane, *Grade 2*
 Ana Broderick, *Grade 1*
 Miley Cliett, *Grade K*

Valley K-8 End-of-Year Awards

Perfect Attendance:

Andrew Goforth, Michelle Navarro, *Grade 8*
 Johnathan Merryman, Kaelyn Rogerson, Elisha Thompson, Braiden Parret, Jacob Bunting, Logan Fort, Samuel Toompas, *Grade 7*
 Ripley McNab, Daylin Logan, Brenden Clifner, *Grade 6*
 John Templeton, *Grade 5*
 Billy Gotheridge, *Grade 3*
 Naomi Iaukea, Miah Kircher, Brody Parret, *Grade 2*
 Bradley Merryman, *Grade 1*

Kindness Award:

Garrett Hallgarth, *Grade 8*
 Johnathan Merryman, *Grade 7*
 Kaelyn Slaughter, *Grade 6*
 Kya Dorris & Kadence Weitensteiner, *Grade 5*
 Riley VanDoren, *Grade 4*
 Hailey Parret, *Grade 3*
 Julie Goana, *Grade 2*
 Asher Culler & Meirahn Wafford, *Grade 1*
 Miley Cliett & Jamason Erck, *Grade K*

Year-end awards are based on overall success in academics, work ethics, behavior and citizenship.

DYW – continued from pg. 8

DYW program by being a member of the Jenkins High School volleyball and track teams her sophomore more through senior years.

Andrea plans to use the schol-

arship to attend Trinity Western University in Langley, British Columbia, and looks forward to continuing her music studies nurtured at PHS, and exploring other creative arts fields to help determine a future career.

Flourishing in the small school environment of Paideia, she chose Trinity Western to duplicate that intimate experience. Andrea is the daughter of Valley residents Hugh and Lynnette Franks, a teacher in the Valley School District.

News From Around Campus

Elevating Challenges

Mrs. Harrison's sixth, seventh and eighth grade classes broke out of their comfort zones this spring on the Challenge Course at the Chewelah Peak Learning Center. The group spent a balmy May day outdoors, working together and individually on a series of obstacles requiring active team-building and communication skills.



Mrs. Harrison reported "the students were awesome" as they tackled both the Low and High "Ropes" Courses, which are designed to engage participants physically and men-



tally. As they worked through the various course challenges, students had to collaborate, give their best efforts, and build trust in each other. Some students harnessed up and climbed 12-25 feet into the trees, reaching new highs in self-confidence and ultimately conquering their fear of the unfamiliar.

Boosting Creativity

Contributed by Para-educator Gail Churape

Valley School was lucky enough to receive two Rainbow Grants from the Chewelah Arts Guild this year, providing K-8 students with extra creative exploration in clay and marbling techniques. The Fall grant covered the cost of all the clay, glazes, plus a few new tools to use. The Spring grant supported guest artist, Orla Colvin, who demonstrated the art of paper marbling and collage.

Orla is quite a talented artist and musician, and her enthusiasm and love of her work was inspiring to the students. The surprise on students' faces when they pulled the uniquely marbled paper from the water was priceless, and the papers they made are beautiful! Orla visited a second day to work with the



middle school students on using the marbled papers in collage pictures. She showed them the process she uses to do her beautiful collage work and assisted them in creating their individual pieces. Clay is also one of our students' favorite art projects, so I

am happy to incorporate it at least once a year in our Encore Art classes. Students made everything from Grecian bowls in second grade to medieval castles in fourth grade, and wind chimes in middle school.

Thank you, Chewelah Arts Guild, for supporting the Arts in our schools!

Early Explorers

Valley Early Learning Center preschool students didn't have to go far to see how a fish can help plants grow in water or to get a whiff of pungent peppermint—just a little way out their classroom door.

To support studies about nutrition and recycling, the class participated in an enrichment field trip on campus to the Paideia horticulture center, greenhouse and nearby recycling bins. Mr. Cox showed the kids the hydroponics system and how a plant takes in nutrition through its roots from fish fertilizer to help it grow. A stop at the greenhouse next door allowed students to explore how different plants also grow in enriched soil from seeds. Before leaving, the students were given zucchini, strawberries, and kale plants to take back to VELC and plant in their new mini-garden.

VELC Director Candace Harris commented, "It is a wonderful thing to be able to expand the knowledge of our children right here on the Valley School District campus. VELC would like to extend a very special thank you to Evan and Amanda Schalock for donating materials to make our little garden possible."



Teacher Retires

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After explaining his journey through WSU, PLU, LCSC and GU, he jokingly stated, “That’s a lot of alma maters!”

As a new teacher, Jon was a 2007 recruit in the district’s fledgling alternative learning experience program, Columbia Virtual Academy, where, he explained, “I could transition into teaching and not immediately face the challenges of classroom management, an ability of which I was most uncertain.”

After three years with CVA, Jon took another leap into the newly formed Paideia High School, becoming a founding teacher in the innovative program. There, he taught Algebra, Geometry, College In High School Math, English and Music, and found a passion for “working with kids from all walks of life.”

PHS Principal Matt Cox shared, “Mr. Heflick has not only developed the math curriculum, but has

also been a key figure in both the English and Music departments. He will always be remembered for his great work ethic, desire to individualize education for each student and commitment to the guiding principles that have shaped Paideia High School.”

Teaching seems to have become a good fit for Jon. CVA Principal and former colleague, Dave Vail, affirmed, “Jon’s devotion for teaching came through as he always found ways to make connections with his students and their

families.” Possibly Jon’s school and life experiences have made him so relatable to students. He confessed that he “was a good student neither in high school nor in my first bout with college. I goofed off a lot and was a real pain for my teachers!”

Jon’s life-long penchant for fun is endearing. “Jon’s sense of humor always brightened up every day, even when he didn’t mean too,” shared Mr. Vail, recalling a playful incident with a balance ball. Mr. Cox concurred, “Jon is the reason all after-school events began at 6:30, because a joke he shared became the memory tool that everyone else was able to use.”

Mr. Heflick eventually embraced school and, for his students, he hopes he has likewise instilled a sense of joy in the learning process and conveyed the importance

of striving to be a life-long learner.

While he is “looking forward to spending time with family, traveling, playing golf and music (and not necessarily in that order),” he will miss “the joy of

seeing the light bulbs come on in the minds of the kids.”

Mr Heflick is concerned for the future of today’s youth especially, given the earlier ages that they seem to lose their innocence, stating, “These kids must make choices that they should not yet be faced with.”

When asked what words of advice he would leave for students, Mr. Heflick shared, “Be willing to work hard to develop the intellectual skills of logic and discernment of fact from fiction,

Notable Events

August

- 15** School Board Meeting
6:30-8pm | VSD Broadcast Studio
- 27** Family Meeting & BBQ
6:30pm | Paideia High School
- 28** FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
Valley K-8, Paideia HS
- 30 31** VELC Family Conferences
- 31** FIRST DAY OF KINDERGARTEN

September

- 3** NO SCHOOL – Labor Day
- 10** FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
VELC, CVA
- 13** Back-To-School OPEN HOUSE
Valley K-8
- 19** School Board Meeting
6:30-8pm | VSD Broadcast Studio
- 26** School Pictures

NOTICE:

SCHOOL BELL TIMES ARE CHANGING!

Parents, stay tuned for more information in August about slight adjustments to school schedules!

Find lots of school and district news, information, schedules, photos and more on the Valley School District website @www.valleysd.org

truth from falseness, right from wrong. Be willing to stand up for what you believe while seeing the world and accepting others with an open mind. We are not all the same, nor need we be.”

Wise words. We wish Jon the very best as he moves into the next phase of his life.

The thing that has always struck me about Jon is the depth of his caring: He cared to make sure he understood the system and what was going on, he cared to know his students and what their needs are, he cared deeply that his students were learning and were successful. He was willing to do what students needed to succeed and was a dedicated team worker with parents, other staff, outside services, and the students themselves.

–CVA/PHS Colleague, Angela Jackson-Selle

Join the fun at Valley School's
SUMMER KIDS CAMPS!

FREE! Three-day camps in June, July and August from 9:00-11:30 a.m.
Lunch will be provided at 11:30-12:30, courtesy of the USDA Summer Meals Program.
For reservations and information, call Valley Early Learning Center at (509) 937-2638.
Registration requested by June 15th. Hosted by Valley Early Learning Center and Valley School staff,
plus Americorps and community volunteers.

June 26-27-28th
FUN & FITNESS CAMP

Let the games begin!
Play along in field games,
soccer and basketball.

FOR AGES 1-12.
Children 8 years old and younger
need an adult chaperone.
Volunteers and donations for materials
are welcome and appreciated!

July 23-24-25th
STEM CAMP

Explore the wonders
of science and math through
creative projects.

August 7-8-9th
ARTS & ACTIVITIES CAMP

Prepare an entry for the Valley Fair
or just experiment with art!

A Fit Bunch

Valley School students showed determination, dedication and incredible effort during year-end fitness testing this year. The following students had outstanding performance in all six events (sit ups, push-ups, sit and reach, shuttle run, mile run, and the PACER test). Each achieved above and beyond what their peers did around the nation. Kudos, kids!

- 1st grade: Riley Cregger, Meirahn Wafford
- 2nd Grade: Neil Benninger, Emery Pace, Ayden Posey
- 5th grade: Rick Phillips
- 6th Grade: Emma Simpkins
- 8th Grade: Shanelle Dorris

Come Visit the VSD Booth at Valley Community Fair!

FRIDAY, AUGUST 10th


Registration & Judging of Exhibits

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11th

Livestock Exhibits & Judging, Booths & More!
Music, Kiddie Parade & Main Fair Parade

For fair information, contact Theresa Carr at 509-937-2635
www.valleycommunityfair.tripod.com

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@valleysd.org.

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