

Valley Voice



School starts
August 30th!

HIGHLIGHTED: New Staff, pg. 2 | New Payment Options, pg. 3 | PHS Update, pg. 4

Message from the Superintendent

Cultivating Community

As we prepare to welcome students and families back for the 2017-18 school year, I am reminded of all the positive aspects of our Valley Community. As I write this on August 4th, I am looking forward to working at our Snow Cone Booth next weekend at the Valley Fair. There we will see dozens of our students showing their livestock, displaying 4H projects, participating in the parade, providing musical entertainment, and just generally running around and having fun. It is rare in our fast-paced, complicated culture to have a community where kids can thrive and grow up through wholesome, family-oriented experiences. Our community is indeed precious.

Valley School District is dedicated to cultivating the strengths of our community by partnering with families to develop the skills and character of our students. We know that today's students are the



Kevin Foster

community leaders of the future. Not only will they need strong academic skills, but also the creativity and strength of mind and body that are developed through art, music, and athletics.

This past year, we organized a Parent Steering Committee. That group provided great input on how we can improve our communication with families. The work of the Parent Steering Committee is reflected in the complete re-organization of our district web sites and the implementation of several new tools for providing timely, useful information to our families. The Parent Steering Committee will continue to meet this year. All families are welcome and encouraged to participate.

All the learning programs of our district – Valley School, Paideia High School, Valley Early Learning Center, and Columbia Virtual Academy – provide great choices for excellent, personalized learning. We are committed to working closely with the Valley Community to cultivate the quality of our programs to meet the needs of our students and families. We are looking forward to a great year of learning and growth.



VSD Staff Update: New Faces & Places

District students and staff beginning the 2017-18 school term on August 30th will meet a few new teachers who have been recently hired, and will see familiar faces in new places as some teachers shift to new positions.

The Valley K-8 School is pleased to welcome **Sydney Lee**, who will lead a 1st Grade class in addition to Mrs. Sandy Wayenberg's class. Sydney graduated from Mead High School in Spokane and received her B.A. in History at Eastern Washington University in Cheney. She went on to receive a B.S. in Applied Developmental Psychology; an M.S. in Applied Psychology: School Counseling, and a Master's degree in Elementary Education.

Kristynne Cranford joined VSD third quarter last year as a Kindergarten teacher. She will be teaching a 5th Grade class in addition to Mr. Kenny Rindlisbacher's class. Along with teaching Kindergarten, Mrs. Cranford has worked in 2nd, 4th and 5th grade classrooms. Kris says of her experiences so far in Valley, "I have had a wonderful experience working with such caring and supportive staff." She is looking forward to her new assignment.

Julie Sautter is shifting from teaching 1st Grade to 4th Grade this year, replacing Sherry Tilla, who left the district. Julie is excited to take her skills and experience to a higher level classroom. "I believe that upper elementary is where I thrive and am able to give better support to students," she states, adding, "I look forward to delving deeper and having thoughtful discussions with students."

Karon Axtel is stepping into the K-8 Intervention Specialist position, which was vacated by veteran teacher Jean Delong's retirement last year. "Karon has had much success as an Intervention Specialist, in working with other teachers, implementing interventions, in leadership roles, data analysis and staff training and implementation," commented Principal Todd Smith. Karon previously led a 4th Grade classroom, and states, "The Intervention Specialist position will allow me to use my experience and be an asset to help all students, staff and families at Valley School."

Also at Valley School, the K-8 Music Program will be provided by **Melanie Gray** teaching the K-5 portion, **Brian McDougall** teaching the middle school choir, and **Tom McLain** teaching

keyboard and guitar class one period each as a middle school elective.

Litcelle Prouty is excited to join the staff at Paideia High School and hopes to make her first year as a teacher a memorable one. Mrs. Prouty was born and raised on the island of Saipan in the Northern Marianas Islands. She moved to the U.S. in 2008 when she was 14 years old and subsequently joined her newly adopted family in Spokane to finish high school. In 2011, Mrs. Prouty graduated as salutatorian of her class from Wellpinit High School. She attended the University of Montana Western in Dillon, Montana, majoring in Secondary Education and Broad-field Science. She recently received her Bachelor of Science degree in Education this past May.

Paideia High School also welcomes **Angela Kordahl Rapp** as the new Math and English teacher. Mrs. Rapp comes to Valley School District from Spokane where she taught middle school classes. She has previous high school teaching experiences in Atchinson, Kansas, and received her B.A. from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa and her M.A. at the University of Kansas.

VSD Board Meeting Notice

Upcoming VSD Board meetings are
September 20th, October 18th and November 15th
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.



Welcome Students & Families!

VALLEY K-8 SCHOOL

Principal: Todd Smith
 Phone: (509) 937-2413
 Toll Free: (888) 284-5719
 First day of school: Wed., Aug. 30th
 First day of Kindergarten: Sept. 5th
 Breakfast: 8:05-8:25 a.m.
 First bell: 8:25 a.m., classes begin 8:30
 Lunch:
 K-1 11:10-11:45 | 2-3 11:20-11:55
 4-5 11:30-12:05 | 6-8 11:45-12:20
 Dismissal: K-2 3:21 p.m.
 3-5 3:25 p.m.
 6-8 3:26 p.m.

MONDAY LATE START: 9:30 a.m. - all

PAIDEIA HIGH SCHOOL

Principal: Matt Cox
 Phone: (509) 937-2655
 First day of school: Wed., Aug. 30th
 Classes begin: 8:30 a.m.
 Lunch: 12:10-12:40 p.m.
 Dismissal time: 3:25 p.m.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER

Director: Candace Harris
 Phone: (509) 937-2638
 Hours: 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
 Breakfast: 8:30 a.m.
 Lunch: 11:45 a.m.
 Snack: 2:30 p.m.

COLUMBIA VIRTUAL ACADEMY

Executive Director: Dennis Killmer
 Principal: Dave Vail
 Phone: toll free (855) 525-2270

VL TRANSPORT CENTER

Supervisor: Steve Templeton
 Phone: (509) 937-4021

FALL SPORTS

Athletic Director: Josh Clemmer
FOOTBALL

Coach: TBD
 First Practice: Wed., Aug. 30th

VOLLEYBALL

Coach: Rhea Ross
 First Practice: Wed., Aug. 30th

Families Can Now Pay Online for School Meals

Valley School District is excited to offer families a convenient way to make payments throughout the school year using a new online payment system called **e-Funds for Schools**. Now parents can eliminate the worry that their kids could lose checks or cash designated for school meals by having funds electronically withdrawn from a checking account, credit or debit card. Best of all, this service is free for families.

e-Funds is a sophisticated and secure payment service accessible 24 hours a day through Skyward Family Access. The service requires a simple, one-time registration and has continued ease of use for families. Besides the ability to make single payments whenever needed, automated payments can be activated by parents to assure meal account funds are replenished on a scheduled basis, reducing stress caused by students arriving at school without lunch money and overdue payments for meal charges.

Step-by-step guidance for activating accounts and options is available on the school website under Families/Online Payments. Student meal account balances can be monitored through Skyward Family Access, and when a notification of low funds is received, simply click "make a payment" to access the e-Funds system and process a payment. Each time a payment is made, the system sends an email to the parent with a payment confirmation. Parents may view online payment history for the entire school year. Remember to check out the school website for more information about this new option. Give **e-Funds** a try, and move smoothly through your school days!

2017-18 Meal Prices

Breakfast and lunch are served daily and available to all students. Application forms for free or reduced price meals are available in the school office or online at www.valleysd.org in the Student Registration packet.

BREAKFAST PRICES:

Students Grades K-5 = \$1.35 Extra Milk: \$.25
 Students Grades 6-8 = \$1.65 Juice: \$.30
 Students Grades 9-12 = \$1.70
 Adults = \$2.35

LUNCH PRICES:

Students Grades K-5 = \$2.25
 Students Grades 6-8 = \$2.55
 Students Grades 9-12 = \$2.65
 Adults = \$3.75

Reduced rate for breakfast Grades K-12 = \$0
 Reduced rate for lunch Grades K-3 = \$0
 Reduced rate for lunch Grades 4-12 = \$.40

**SCHOOL
REGISTRATION PACKETS
AND STUDENT-PARENT
HANDBOOKS**
 available online at
www.valleysd.org

Parental Involvement Contributes to Student Achievement

The Board of Directors views the education of students as a cooperative effort among schools, families and the community. Parental involvement in learning activities contributes to student achievement.

The Valley K-8 School participates in the federally-funded Title I program and state-funded Learning Assistance Program (LAP), both designed to serve the unique academic needs of students through customized instruction and support. As part of the Title I, Part A program, the district and Valley School encourage the engagement of parents and guardians in its related parental involvement activities, plan and policy development.

Information about Title I/ LAP support services and district policies are provided to families throughout the year and upon request by calling the Valley School Office, (509) 937-2413.

In compliance with Title I, Part A school requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Valley School District would like to inform parents or guardians that they may request information about the professional qualifications of a student's classroom teacher(s) or instructional paraprofessional(s). For information, please contact the district administrative office at (509) 937-2791.

Paideia High School Campus Grows Along with Students

The Paideia High School campus will look a bit different to students and families when they return for the start of the 2017-18 school year. The district has added another classroom building to support increased student enrollment in grades 9-12, and a greenhouse has been assembled for expansion of the instructional

program, enabled by the Healthy Kids-Healthy Schools Grant the district received in 2016.

The "new" classroom building was purchased from the West Linn School District in Oregon and will be refurbished to blend well with the six other portable buildings on campus. Facilities Supervisor Kraig Kalisch coordinated the site excavation work in preparation for the mid-August delivery of the building, which ran about a month later than expected. The facilities crew will be working diligently to get the building

ready for teachers and students this fall.

A local supplier in Kettle Falls provided the new greenhouse kit, featuring a straightforward design of metal framing, doors and windows, and plastic shell that was constructed this summer by the Facilities Team. The plan is to use the greenhouse as a classroom for



students to learn how to plan for and grow vegetable starts and annual flowers as part of instructional opportunities in the career cluster area of agriculture, food and natural resources, marketing and health sciences.



Earth Science Gets Cosmetic

Submitted by Emma Selle, Grade 11

Most students would agree that Earth Science is not their favorite class. A requirement for high school graduation, it is rarely one of the beloved classes—but, for last year's class, Earth Science became quite engaging.

Earth Science Teacher Pete Whittekiend came to students with a proposal: how would they like to

landscape the front of their building? The Earth Science classroom is in Paideia's 7/8 Building, which had a scraggly patch of grass out front. A bit sad and dusty, it wasn't exactly an eyesore, but not nice to look at, either.

When asked in early May about his inspiration, Mr. Whittekiend said, "When I first came here, I looked at the aesthetics of the

(continued on next page)

Science Gets Cosmetic—continued from pg. 4

building and thought it was kind of 'blah'. As we got more into winter, I started thinking of ways to channel the energy that comes [from students] at the start of spring into something productive and interesting."

Over the course of second semester, each student completed a variety of assignments contributing to the landscaping planning process. In May, Mr. Whittekiend had his concerns about the pace of the class's project, but everything seemed to be going well. "The slower pace has given us some more time to think and be scientific about our approach. It will be smoother next year, but I think it's going as well as I could have expected for a first time. We have a month to get our plants and get them in the ground, which I think is reasonable. The class seems to be engaged with the project."

The next steps in the plan needed to be thought of, too, and Mr. Whittekiend was on top of it. "Students will get to take their plants and place them and get a visual design. The next step will be to make sure we have a plan for the water, especially going into summer. The maintenance staff has told us they're willing to help irrigate, so we need to figure that out, but the students have also done a good job researching and finding plants that don't need a lot of water."

The Earth Science class worked hard to beautify their space, and everyone was involved in one way or another. The goal is, when they come back next fall, Building 7/8 will have some new color.

Now the plants are in the ground, irrigated, and have been laid with decorative rock to promote healthy drainage and easy maintenance. Toward the end, deadlines spurred everyone's work ethic, and everything was finished before the end of the school year.

While all the Earth Science kids are relieved to be out of school for the summer, they're also proud of the project they devoted months of their time to. Whatever the final product looks like, everyone can agree that this experience was rewarding in some way or another for everyone involved, sowing seeds of work ethic, planning, drive, and project follow-through, all valuable lessons necessary for all kinds of success.



PHS 7/8 Building before landscaping, at left, and after landscaping, below.

For Your Information...

Child Find

Valley School District offers many academic programs and services for all children residing within district boundaries, including developmental screenings and comprehensive assessments for those suspected of having a disability which could adversely affect their success in school. Early identification and intervention helps children become more independent and achieve at higher levels.

Schools provide educational support programs such as Title I, Learning Assistance Program (LAP), special education and speech, physical and occupational therapy. Families experiencing homelessness or with low-income, foster children, and/or children with developmental delay or disability, including speech difficulties, may qualify for preschool services (ages 3-5) at no cost. If you have concerns about your child's development, contact the school to arrange a free screening for speech, hearing, language, motor, social and learning skills. Individuals from birth to twenty-one (21) years of age may be screened and eligible for district services. For more information or to arrange an appointment, please contact the Special Services Director at (509) 937-2859, or the district administrative office at (509) 937-2791.

For Your Information...

VELC Preschool

Preschool enrollment closes on August 21st, and families will be scheduled for beginning conferences August 30th, 31st and September 1st in preparation for the first day of class on September 11th. Preschool is Monday-Thursday 8:20 a.m.-3:20 p.m. Parents with additional questions are encouraged to contact Director Candace Harris at (509) 937-2638.

Kindergarten Registration

Valley School is still accepting registration for students turning five years old before September 1st. For information, call the school office at (509) 937-2413.

Healthcare Reminder

Parents: Before the first day of school, be sure to have your child's immunization form ready and, if applicable, prepare the physician's orders form and medication administration form plus any medications that will be brought to school.

Daily Summer Activities Reward

Participating students can bring their booklets and/or work to the Valley School Open House on Wednesday, Sept. 13th at 5:30 p.m. to collect their final reward coupon. For more information, call the Valley School office at (509) 937-2413.

Management of Student Information

Student records contain information which is collected and maintained by the school on a routine basis for educational or operational purposes. Student records are considered confidential and, generally, personally identifiable information may not be disclosed to an individual or agency ("third party") without written parent/guardian consent, unless there exists a legitimate educational interest or other exception as allowed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). One such exception is the transfer of student records and information to an official of another school or institution where the student has enrolled or intends to enroll.

Accessibility to student records is guided by Valley School District policy in accordance with state and federal laws. Parents, guardians and adult students have the right to: inspect and review their child's record, and seek to amend information if they believe the record is inaccurate or misleading; consent to disclosures of

personally identifiable information, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent; and to file a complaint with the U.S. Dept. of Education.

Student Directory Information is the portion of the education record that generally would not be considered private information and which may be included in district or community publications such as newsletters, theatrical playbills, yearbooks, honor roll or award lists and sports programs.

Directory information may be released publically without parental consent, though a parent/guardian has the option of restricting the release of such information without prior consent by providing written notice to the district administrative office within ten (10) business days of enrollment or first day of school.

Additionally, secondary schools must provide military recruiters and postsecondary educational institutions, upon request, with student names, addresses and telephone numbers, unless a parent/guardian "opts out" in writing of the release of this information.

Valley School District identifies the following as directory information:

- Student name, address, phone number
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Major field of study
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- Most recent previous school attended

For a copy of policy and procedure 3231-Student Records and a full understanding of the types, accessibility guidelines, maintenance and disposition

Be Sure to Attend Valley School's Open House!

**ALL FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL
OPEN HOUSE ON WED., SEPT. 13TH AT 5:30-7:00 P.M.**

This annual tradition offers students and their parents an opportunity to connect with staff and teachers and learn about anticipated learning activities this year. Principal Todd Smith will discuss the new and improved Student-Parent-Teacher Compact and how parents can help their child with goal setting. Parents can visit their child's classroom and collect library cards, *What Your "Nth" Grader Needs to Know* books, Skyward Family Access logins, plus useful information about Renaissance Home Connect, WIN Time and other programs. Watch for more information, or call the school office at (509) 937-2413.

We look forward to seeing you!

of student records, please contact the district administrative office at (509)937-2791 or visit www.valleysd.org.

For more information about student privacy from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, visit <http://www.k12.wa.us/DataAdmin/DataSharing>.

To register a complaint with the U.S. Dept. of Education concerning alleged failures of compliance with the requirements of FERPA, you may write to:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act *Assisting Children in Need*

If your family lost permanent housing and now live in a temporary shelter, inadequate housing, and/or lack a fixed, regular nighttime residence, your children might be able to receive help through a federal law called the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act.

Under this Act, children and unaccompanied youth in homeless situations have the right to receive a free, appropriate education and immediate enrollment in the school of choice (even if they are missing a permanent address, required records or documents); to receive free meals at school and transportation assistance; to access the same academic program and school services for which he/she qualifies as available to non-homeless students.

For assistance and more information about how you and the school can work together to provide the support your child needs to be successful, contact the Valley School District homeless liaison, Natalee Reid at (509) 937-2696 or visit www.valleysd.org/forms-and-notices/.

Play Spins A Golden Tale

The Valley School Drama Program is pleased to announce the upcoming fall production of "Rumpelstiltskin Is My Name" on November 2nd and 3rd at 6:30 p.m.

Based on the book by Vera Morris and directed by Theresa Carr, the play features music by Arne Christiansen and lyrics by Ole H. Kittleson.

The story begins when Rumpelstiltskin, that abominable peewee sorcerer, must possess an infant of royal birth because of a challenge from Griselda, a 400 year old witch. Plotting and scheming, he spreads the word that the miller's daughter, Laura,

can weave straw into gold. Because the country is bankrupt, she's swept off to the palace and ordered to spin and spin. With Rumpelstiltskin's help she delivers the gold. But Laura has a high fee to pay. She must give Rumpelstiltskin her first born child! When

Laura marries the prince and produces an heir to the throne, she

has 24 hours to guess the wizard's name or give her child up. The play ends hilariously when Griselda shows up and forces Rumpelstiltskin to pay for his failure. We hope to see you all at the show!



Check out the newly redesigned Valley School District website!

You will find lots of school and district news, program information, events, public notices, links to classroom pages, photos and more on these sites:

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



Want School Notices?

If you would like to receive phone call notices from Valley School District about school activities, events and important emergency information, just let us know! Contact (509) 937-2413 and we will add your name to the auto-call list.

Citizen Complaints Concerning Federal Programs

Anyone may file a citizen complaint concerning special service programs against a school district or school service provider. A complaint is a written statement that alleges a violation of a federal rule, law or regulation or state regulation that applies to certain categorical federal programs. For more information about citizen complaint procedures, visit www.valleysd.org; call the district administrative office at (509) 937-2791 to request a copy; and/or visit the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction website at www.k12.wa.us/TitleI/CitizenComplaint.aspx or call (360) 725-6100.

Notable Events

September

- 4** Labor Day - NO SCHOOL
- 5** First Day of School - Kindergarten
- 11** First Day of School
VELC Preschool and CVA-Valley
- 13** Back-To-School Open House
Valley K-8 School
- 20** School Board Meeting
6:30-8pm | VSD Broadcast Studio
- 27** School Picture Day
Staff & Students

October

- 18** School Board Meeting
6:30-8pm | VSD Broadcast Studio
- 25** School Picture Retakes
Staff & Students
- 27** Staff In-Service - NO SCHOOL
Valley K-8 & PHS
- 31** Valley K-8 Annual Fund Run
VELC Trick or Treating
End of First Quarter

November

- 2** Valley K-8 Fall Drama Production
"Rumpelstiltskin Is My Name"
- 3**
- 8** Parent/Teacher Conferences
Valley K-8, PHS, VELC
- 9**
- 10** Veterans Day (*Observed*) NO SCHOOL
- 15** School Board Meeting
6:30-8pm | VSD Broadcast Studio
- 22** Thanksgiving Break
- 23** Wednesday Early Release @12:30
- 24**

Creative Campers on Campus

*Submitted by Candace Harris,
Valley Early Learning Center Director*

Valley School District held two fun-filled activity Kids' Camps this summer, with a great turn-out of 32 children each day, ranging in ages from 2-12. The first Arts and Activities Camp let kids explore different art mediums; the paint "spinners" were a big hit. Our "Growing Up Wild" STEM camp incorporated Science, Technology, Engineering and Math into activities such as making kites, solar powered s'mores ovens, worm farms, habitat dioramas, and boats for racing.

A big THANK YOU is extended to the volunteers that helped with the camps! This is the second year in a row Orla Colvin has donated her time,

talent, and materials to the camps. Also volunteering for the camps: Misty Larson, Karen and Ed

Sanders, Kathy Flatau, Miranda Harris, Kaylee Paul, Heather Petty, Makayla Erickson, Pat Pastushin, Laurie Kuhn and Mary Jansen, and AmeriCorps volunteers Jessica Franco and Leah Ray. An extra effort by VELC staff Shellie Anderson, Cyndi Lane and substitute Shelbi Northington was commendable.



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



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