

Second and Third Grade students visited the Chinese Lantern Festival in Spokane to learn about the culture and how the amazing art is created.

NOVEMBER 2016

Valley Voice



HIGHLIGHTED: Spotlight on STEM, pg. 2 | Student Stories, pgs. 4-5 | Learning Activities, pg. 6

Message from the Superintendent

Whole Family Education

One of the amazing strengths of the Valley Community is a culture that is remarkably family oriented. Family values guide our practices and decision making.

Many of our students and staff are part of family structures that run deep and wide in Valley. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, brothers, sisters, in-laws, half, step, 2nd twice removed, etc., all form a tapestry of support for our kids. We also have many children in the care of foster parents, orphans who have been adopted, and a smattering of homeless, drifting students living under the sheltering wings of teachers, counselors, social workers and other caring adults in our community. All are welcome and accepted into the family of the Valley School District.

We think of 'family' not only in the sense of blood relations, but extend that circle to include all our students and all the adults who support and care for them. Family is, in all its forms, a strong system for the immediate needs of our students and an incredible foundation for their successful futures as contributing and responsible citizens.



Kevin Foster

One of the Ethical Principles we try to live by in the Valley School District is as follows –

Family Oriented:

Respecting families as students' first and most important teachers and partnering with families to improve student success.

We recognize that our schools are already very welcoming and family-oriented. We also recognize that we can strengthen our partnership with families to improve student success. As an important part of our improvement planning, all district schools have established a goal to increase Parent and Family Engagement. Our belief is that the more engaged parents and families are with the learning and development of our students, the more successful our students, parents, families and school staff will be.

Parent and Family Engagement can and will be experienced in many different ways – participating on committees, volunteering for events and activities, donating professional expertise, monitoring and facilitating student learning at home, collaborating with teachers and other staff on student needs and concerns.

The opportunities for engagement are boundless. Working together in a spirit of mutual respect and partnership to support all the children in our community is significant and valuable. We are always stronger together –

Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable.



STEM Under the Lens

Valley Early Learning Center staff recently have been recognized for their work in the classroom using “Ready for School with STEM” program materials, made available through a grant awarded to the Spokane County Library District from Thrive Washington. The grant program developed and provided STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) curriculum kits to 23 early learning programs throughout Eastern Washington, including VELC.

In preparation for the school year, Lead Teachers Shellie Anderson and Christie Carter participated in a STEM training in Kennewick this past summer. During the workshop, the instructor was so impressed with their knowledge of how to implement the materials in class that he asked if it would be possible to come to the VELC campus to learn more about how to incorporate STEM into the Creative Curriculum.

A film crew from the University of Washington arrived in late September to record interviews with Director Candace Harris, Shellie and Christie. It was an opportunity for Shellie and Christie to shine as they described how they use the kits to teach early learners.

Harris, along with co-collaborator Katie Crise, Child Development Manager at Rural Resources, was involved in the development of the “Construction” curriculum for one of the kits. “I feel so fortunate to work with a great group of people,” commented Can-

dace. “It was evident throughout the video-taping how dedicated these two individuals are to bringing intentional and engaging activities to their classrooms so that children can learn through play.”

The STEM kits are designed to make science and math topics more accessible, deliver STEM training for early learning professionals and offer STEM Play

and Learn sessions to families. The idea was to have ready-to-go activities in a bag that can be checked out for free from the libraries in Eastern Washington. The short, 10-30 minute activities included in the kits are geared toward children ages 3 to 5, and promise to make learning Science, Technology, Engineering and Math fun.

Development of the 15 kits took almost a year with the help of these great organizations:

[Spokane County Library District](#), [NEW ESD 101](#), [Spokane Public Library](#), [Mobius Science Center](#), [Spokane STEM](#), [Rural Resources](#), [Spokane Public Schools](#), [Valley School District](#), [Herzog Family Center](#), and [Community-Minded Enterprises](#).

The kits are available for checkout at the Spokane County Library District, Spokane Public Library, Libraries of Stevens County and Valley School District. The lesson plans for the kits are available on the Spokane County Library District’s web page at <http://www.sclcd.org/getting-ready-for-kindergarten/ready-for-school-with-stem/>. That way, if a kit is unavailable at your local library, you can still access the plans and do the lessons at home.



VELC Director Candace Harris during filming; Below, Candace, Katie Crise and Shellie Anderson; not pictured: Christie Carter



VSD Board Meeting Notice

Upcoming VSD Board meetings are
December 21st, January 18th and February 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.

New Faces & Work Places in the District

Valley School District is pleased to welcome a few new staff members this fall, and announce that some existing staff members have shifted into new roles.

VELC

At Valley Early Learning Center, Jami Cox was hired as a Lead Preschool Teacher, filling one of two positions open this year. Jami is a recent graduate of Washington State University with a Bachelor's degree in Human Development with a Certificate in Early Childhood Education. This is her first year teaching preschool and she is excited to be working with this age group, saying, "I wholeheartedly believe that success starts with the beginning years of life." Jami grew up and resides in Deer Park. "Most of my family lives in the area and it's nice to be able to see them often," she states. "Working for Valley School District has been such a wonderful experience for me. I have truly enjoyed how welcoming and supportive the staff have been! I am very happy to be a part of such a wonderful community!"

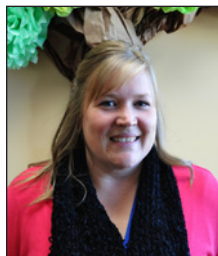


Additional staffing changes at VELC include Special Services Aide Shellie Anderson shifting from that role to fill the other Lead Preschool Teacher position, and Alyssa Franks moving from Childcare Aid to Pre-K Assistant Teacher. Shellie moved to the area from the Ozark Mountains region in Arkansas three years ago and received her associate's degree in Early Childhood Education from Arkansas State University in 2011. With a passion for education, she has worked with children and families for over 20 years. "I love this area and our school district!" she beams.



VALLEY SCHOOL

Misty Larson, who has been serving as a Lead Preschool Teacher in VELC, was hired for a second grade teaching position at Valley School previously held by Anna Pitt, who moved out of district. Through an innovative agreement with Whitworth University, she is completing her student teaching in the classroom alongside a long-term



substitute teacher, Megan Wilkes, and upon completion of her certification mid-year she will become the second grade teacher. Misty has worked in both Valley and Chewelah school districts in various positions for the past seven years.

Also at Valley School, teacher Becky Gregerson has left behind a unique dual role of teaching part-time in kindergarten and part-time in Columbia Virtual Academy (CVA) to step into a full-time kindergarten position. After teaching at CVA for seven years, she welcomes the opportunity to continue working in a traditional classroom setting to focus on "lighting that fire for learning." She shared, "I feel like kindergarten is where I am meant to be. I have loved every single day – even the really hard days!"

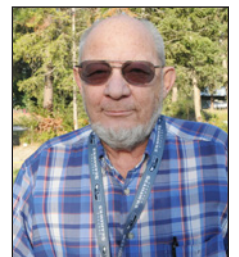


Long-time staff member Alice Ely is serving as the new school Librarian and Testing Specialist, filling the shoes of recently-retired Librarian Diana Carr. Alice has worked at Valley School in various roles since 1988. She began her career in the kitchen as the head cook and, after many years, wanted to serve students in new ways. She seized an opportunity to work at the school as part of the AmeriCorps team, and went on to utilize an AmeriCorps grant to further her education and obtain an AAS degree in Library and Information Services from Spokane Falls Community College. Most recently Alice worked in CVA as a special education para-educator and assistant to the curriculum director.



PHS

Paideia High School has hired 49-year veteran teacher Ashley Watson as the German, Math and History teacher. Mr. Watson is not an unfamiliar face at PHS, as he has taught part-time for the past several years. His impending retirement has been overshadowed by his *(continued on page 7)*



Foreign Exchange Students Enrich Our School Community

This year Paideia High School has had the privilege of welcoming two foreign exchange students to the school community: Laker Lin from Taiwan and Lucia Alvarez-Quintas from Spain. Each student is residing with a local host family for 10 months, during which time he/she will learn the American way of life, enhanced by bonds formed with teachers and peers and learning experiences in and out of class. From school spirit to free refills at the restaurant, the student is immersed in our western culture. Most students have had between six to eleven years of English language instruction to qualify to become exchange students, easing the transition and time away from their homeland.

Columbia Virtual Academy Teacher Pat Schneider and his wife, Mara, have hosted twelve European exchange students over the years. Through his extensive, first-hand experiences, Pat attests that the benefits of hosting foreign exchange students

are reciprocal, as the youth “really do become part of your family, bringing their own unique gifts and talents.” His family has learned a great deal of German from previous students.



As Regional Coordinators of the Education First High School Exchange Year program, he and Mara help bring foreign exchange students to the U.S. to attend high school by working with 15 local International Exchange Coordinators in Eastern Washington and North Idaho. Together they find hosts and match families with students that fit the families’ activities, habits and lifestyle. As EF representatives, they communicate often with students throughout the year, offering support and counseling as needed.

The Paideia students’ experiences in the district seem to be positive and fulfilling so far. Below is a glimpse into what motivated each to come to the United States and our district.

Laker

Though Laker Lin is a long way from home, he has been enjoying his educational experience as a sophomore at Paideia and the small school atmosphere because, “You can get to know everyone and everyone is kind,” he says. His main objectives in the program are to learn fluent English while continuing his education and to be immersed in local American culture, which is quite different than in his native Taiwan. “Education in Taiwan is very demanding,” he states, adding, “class time is from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and then there is night class until 8 p.m. every day with several hours of homework every night!”



One aspect of America he values is the time available to socialize with friends. Laker feels that learning to build relationships is a very important tool to be successful in business. “In Taiwan, education is very intellectual,” he says. “I want to use my experiences in the United States to learn a different way of thinking that I can apply to building my future.”

Once he completes his education, those plans include owning his own company or business. His field of interest is electronics or robotics. “Learning English is important in business because it expands opportunities globally.”

When asked what advice he would have for American students, he does not hesitate to answer: “Don’t complain about everything!” adding, “Be thankful you are born in your family and respect your family because grownups have a different way of thinking and family elders have more wisdom that is good guidance.” Laker is not shy about acknowledging that American students have a lack of respect. “In Taiwan, *(continued on next page)*”



Celebrate the Season!

You are cordially invited to attend the...

WINTER CONCERTS

Friday Dec. 9th – 2:30 p.m.

Featuring
Valley School Students

and

Thursday Dec. 15th – 6:30 p.m.

Featuring
Paideia High School Students

In the Valley School Multi-Purpose Room

A Time for Sharing

The holiday season is quickly approaching! The Valley Tree of Sharing program provides gift-giving assistance to local families in need, and community donations in support of this effort are truly appreciated.

A gift tag identifying a child's wish may be selected from the Tree of Sharing between Nov. 14th and Dec. 7th. Presents must be returned to the Valley School office or Program Coordinator Natalee Reid no later than Dec. 9th. Gifts will be handed out to families on Dec. 12th at the Valley Fire Hall. For more information, please contact Natalee at (509) 937-2696.



On behalf of all the kids who benefit from your generosity, WE THANK YOU!

families are supportive and their expectations are that you give something back for that support, like good grades," he concludes.

Lucia

Lucia Alvarez-Quintas is from Barcelona, Spain, and she has wanted to come to the United States since a child. She had the opportunity to visit New York City and fell in love with the people and the language. She has returned as a foreign exchange student and is now enrolled as a sophomore at Paideia High School. Lucia (pronounced Luthia) knows the importance of learning English and she is here to improve her English language skills. She stated, "I want my English to be perfect!"

Coming from a school of over 800 students, Lucia enjoys the small class sizes at PHS, saying, "I

can develop a working relationship with the teachers," and adding, "Teachers here have the time to help me to make improvements."



When comparing her education to what she was receiving in Spain, she stated, "High school in the U.S. is easier because you get to go slower. In Spain education is mostly lectures, lots of exams and over two hours of homework every night."

Once she completes her sophomore year at PHS, Lucia plans to

return to Spain to finish two more years of high school and stay on track for attending a university. Lucia wants to study science, her favorite subject, and apply her education in the field of nutrition. "I love science and to cook, as well as to help people feel better, so nutrition is the perfect choice!" she asserts.

When asked what advice she had to offer to American students, she replied "Be brave!" adding that she notices a lack of confidence in students here. "Though things look very difficult and the future may seem daunting, don't be afraid to be older," she heartens.

If you would like more information on how to host foreign exchange students, contact Pat Schneider at 509-936-2991 or by email at p.m.schneider@efex-changeyear.org.

Learning Ways and Wonders

Musical Encounters

Submitted by Music Instructor Susanne Griep

As part of the Valley School music program, all Kindergarten through 5th grade students study the orchestra: its instrument families, sections in the orchestra, as well as a variety of major influential composers. Each October, 4th grade students from the region have the opportunity to hear the unique sounds of the orchestral instruments in person at an interactive concert presented by the Spokane Symphony.

This year's Musical Encounter program was designed by the Symphony's Assistant Conductor, Jorge Luis Uzcátegui, on the theme "History through Music." In the beautifully restored Martin Woldson Theater at The Fox, Valley's 4th grade classes and teachers were serenaded with musical pieces from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Modern and current periods.

Prior to the field trip, we watched instructional videos on the Spokane Symphony website to introduce students to Conductor Uzcátegui and some of the orchestral works featured in the Symphony's program. We also practiced singing a section of Beethoven's 9th Symphony Chorus, "Ode to Joy," which we sang with other attendees at the concert.

We are grateful to the Washington State Arts Commission, the Inland Northwest Community Foundation, and Art Works, among the several organizations who fund this annual program for area 4th grade students.



The Jr. ASB Officers and Class Representatives have been selected! ASB members started out the year with some team-building and trust-building activities, and now are planning some fun activities that will help kids want to come to school. Classes are voting on some of the group's ideas.

President: Kya Dorris
Vice President: Dean Noel
Secretary: Megan Newkirk

Class Representatives:

3rd Grade (Ms. Parks)
Hailey Klemish
Emily Aken

4th Grade (Mrs. Axtell)
Raylyn Balduff
Jacob Day

4th Grade (Mrs. Tilla)
Emma Evers
Kadence Weitensteiner

5th Grade
(Mr. Rindlisbacher)
Daylin Logan
Jessica Rindlisbacher

Nature Excursion

Submitted by Teacher Sherry Tilla

Valley School's 4th graders experienced an amazing day of extended learning in the great outdoors at the annual Lake Roosevelt Water Festival in Kettle Falls on September 13th. Students attended a variety of classes led by different agencies from our community,



including the National Park Service, Avista, the Spokane Tribe, the Conservation District, and Department of Fish and Wildlife.

One of the student's favorite stations was "Kids in the Creek." Students got to put on tall orange rubber boots and search Sherman Creek for water bugs, then determine if those bugs are tolerant or intolerant of pollution.

They found many intolerant bugs, which indicates that Sherman Creek is not polluted.

They also learned about hydro power, and how power travels from Grand Coulee Dam to our homes. During the "Squirrel Story" class, they played a game to learn about predators and prey and what it takes for a squirrel to survive. They especially enjoyed getting to touch and look close up at many pelts from animals around our area, and learn facts about those animals. One group got to learn about the sturgeon that inhabit Lake Roosevelt and that these fish are considered prehistoric.

"We even stopped for ice cream cones on our way home! What a treat the day was!"

Honoring U.S. veterans with the "13 Folds of the Flag" ceremony at the district Veterans Day Assembly on Nov. 8th. A list of student essay winners may be viewed at www.valleysd.org/news/

New Faces & Places – *continued from page 3*
 continuing desire and passion to teach students and work with their families as a team. When he first taught at Paideia, to fill in for an ill teacher, he was overwhelmed by the experience. “The staff and students awakened a new spirit in me that I believed to be long dormant. In my opinion, this program is a profound and positive venture into curing what is wrong with the American educational system,” he stated. “I am grateful for the opportunities to meet with parents and help determine the highest possibility of success for their children,” he says.

AMERICORPS

The district also welcomes two new AmeriCorps volunteers this year, both working as classroom aides at Valley School and VELC. Jessica Franko grew up and lives with her family in Colville. She has just returned from a one year experience of living and working as an au pair for a family with two children in Barcelona, Spain. Before her return to the U.S., she interviewed via Skype for an AmeriCorps position in the district. Jessica is continuing her schooling at Whitworth University



in pursuit of a bachelor’s degree in teaching which she hopes to attain within two years. “I love serving through the AmeriCorps program here at Valley,” she says, adding, “It gives me an opportunity to immerse myself in the career in teaching that I’ve chosen.”



Leah Ray volunteered in Mrs. Pitt’s class last year, where she heard about the AmeriCorps program. She applied knowing she would be working with children at Valley School and Valley Early Learning Center. “I love being here in Valley School district!” she exclaims, “I want to work with these kids.”

Leah will seek a degree in Early Childhood Education in the near future. Helping people is a joy for Leah and she has dedicated herself especially to children. She assists with recess and with conflict mediation at the school, and helps at VELC. “Children are a joy to be around because they teach us so much,” she says. Born in western Washington, Leah moved to Chewelah in her senior year of high school. Leah has three children that attend Valley School and is married to her high school sweetheart.

Uplifting Story Pleases Audiences

The Valley School Drama Club’s fall presentation of the heart-warming childhood favorite, *The Velveteen Rabbit*, in early November proved to be a crowd favorite. The production included a huge cast donned in creative and colorful costuming amidst the backdrops of a lively, magical playroom and creature-filled woodlands.

Student performers and participants received acknowledgement for their efforts and many



hours of rehearsals at the Drama Awards Ceremony on November 8th. The list of winners and photos of the production may be viewed online at www.valleysd.org/drama/.



The Valley School Drama Club is pleased to present:

“The Musical Adventures of Oliver Twist”

March 1st, 2nd & 3rd

Mark your calendars and come watch the action!

News From Around Campus

Horticulture Center Construction Is Progressing

Construction on the new Horticulture Center on the Paideia High School campus has been underway since mid-September. The site was leveled and foundation poured and prepped for insulation



in anticipation of delivery of the Curvco Quonset Hut building, which arrived at month's end.

The uniquely-shaped metal building was fully erected by the end of October by the Facilities Team, who have been working tirelessly on door framing and finishing tasks. Superintendent Foster reports that the team's dedication and enthusiasm for the project has kept the project on schedule and saved the district at least \$20,000.

In anticipation, the PHS Biology students are studying horticulture-related learning goals, using dirt in preparation for the hydroponics systems that will be used in the Horticultural Center. Princi-

pal Matt Cox is testing a working hydroponics unit at his home that can grow up to 15 lettuce plants. The plan is to have students build five more units as a starting point to the program.



New Wheels Hit the Road Running

VL Transport Center has a new family member! Newly-acquired Bus #5 has replaced well-used and now retired Bus #9 on the Waitt's Lake Route.

Bus driver Kathy Enyeart has the pleasure of driving this new bus, although she misses driving the old International.



Kathy did share, however, that "it's got a really good heater!"

Catching the Kindness Bug!

There's something downright warm and fuzzy going around campus, and if you're not paying close attention, you might catch it! A "kindness movement" instigated by a few Valley School staff members has been going viral, leading to rash cases of good manners, feelings of compassion and acts of kindness. What in the world is going on?

The seed for the movement germinated early in the school year when Teacher Julie Sautter shared an upbeat YouTube music video, "Kindness Boomerang" featuring the song "One Day" by Matisyahu, with music teacher Susanne Griep, who then presented it to her vocal students to focus on the importance of kindness in their learning environment. The students have responded well to the catchy tune and message of encouragement.

The feel-good bug spread, infecting Para-educator Kim Goot and one special student, who listens to it daily. The song's message inspired Kim to search out more information about the video posted by Life Vest Inside, a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting goodwill. Kim was moved by the LVI mission and immediately registered to become a group leader and Kindness Ambassador.

She recruited colleague Gail Churape to become a LVI ambassador, and they are dedicating themselves to "taking an

Oh, Baby, It's Cold Outside!

How cold is it? Check out the PHS Weather Station at www.paideiahs.org/phs-weather-station/ for up-to-minute information about the temperature, humidity level, wind chill, speed and direction, and barometric trends. You can find out how hard it is raining and see monthly and yearly precipitation levels measured on campus. The PHS Weather Station data is used by Earth Science students to observe and record meteorological characteristics for the Valley area.



active role in implementing kindness into life on a daily basis to improve the world around them." Through communications with the LVI founder and an ambassador in Brazil they were encouraged and motivated to set goals, one of which is to "bring something about kindness" to their work every day.

In honor of World Kindness Week, Kim and Gail rallied students and staff to participate in a "Dance for Kindness" on Nov. 14th, a worldwide event organized by LVI, focusing on the power of kindness to unite us all. Thanks to generous contributions from Dawson Trucking and The Valley Store, the kindness message will be visible around campus all year *(continued on page 10)*

PHS Multicourt Keeps Students Active

Paideia High School is sporting a new multi-sport outdoor facility on the south side of the campus across from the Paideia Center. The recreation area includes a regulation basketball court as well as tetherballs, and has recently has been outfitted with paint, nets and poles. The court is ready for play!

In addition to the court installation, the current archery range was upgraded by filling and leveling, which vastly improved its condition. All PHS students participate in the archery program throughout the school year and have a chance to compete with other schools. The archery area is cabled off permanently and surrounded with netting during archery season to accommodate safe, light-weight archery target shooting.

We appreciate Fitzgerald Excavation, Norvell Concrete

Thanks for Joining Us!

The Valley School staff appreciate everyone who attended its annual Open House on Wednesday, September 9th, when families were officially welcomed back for another exciting school year. The Open House is a great opportunity for parents and guardians and



Students and staff gathered on the first day of school for a heartfelt celebration of life.

staff to meet, reconnect and establish a positive working relationship.

The evening began with Principal Todd Smith greeting students and their families as he and other volunteers dished up beef stew, coleslaw and cookies, feeding approximately 175 people.

After sharing a meal, the group was encouraged to explore the school environment and visit classrooms. Each teacher gave a 15-20 minute

presentation and answered questions. Parents and guardians were offered the K-8 Curriculum Guide and an overview of what their children are learning this year. Anyone interested in Core Knowledge and other curricular programs may view more information on the school Curriculum page on the district website at www.valleysd.org/curriculum/.

Janet Williams, Co-director of Special Services, and Pamela Harrison, Special Education Teacher, were also on hand to answer questions and talk to parents about the many resources available to enable student success, including details about the math and reading intervention, Gifted and Talented and Special Education programs.

It was a great night visiting with old friends and meeting new ones. The school would like to thank all the volunteers who helped prepare and serve food and make quick work of cleaning up at the end of the evening.

Construction and the district Facilities Team for their efforts on these improvement projects. Families and the community are welcome to enjoy the new features.



Kindness – continued from pg. 9

via bright blue and orange t-shirts worn by students and staff.

To spread the message, Kim sends out the LVI “Daily Kind” emails to district staff each morning, conveying short, inspirational quotes, positive affirmations and recommended acts and examples of kindness. Gail is focusing her kindness promotional work online, communicating with other leaders around the world through Facebook and sharing student stories.

The daily messages have had a trickledown effect around campus. The ASB at Valley School adopted kindness as the theme for this year. Each month they select a way that the students can promote kindness. In October, the kids focused on improving manners by saying “please and thank you” more often. During November, students were encouraged to be kind to their teachers.

Kim shared that her involvement with the kindness movement has “changed my life and it has been absolutely inspiring knowing that individuals around the world are working on the common goal of spreading kindness. We have a very important job of preparing children for the future. Two of the most important skills we can give them are kindness and empathy.”

Gail wholeheartedly agrees, stating, “I am very excited about our school embracing kindness this year. It just feels right and fits into all the Positive Behavior work we started last year and the resiliency training we’ve done this year.”



Beanie Babies Donated to SOAR Store

Mr. Robert Janssen Sr. found the perfect home for his late wife’s vast collection of Beanie Babies – he donated them to the Valley School SOAR Store for kids to enjoy. He has dropped off the first bunch and plans to donate up to 100 more! Students will be able to “purchase” these cuddly gems at the SOAR Store, where a variety of items are available in exchange for their well-earned SOAR cards. Students are rewarded with SOAR cards when caught being good! SOAR stands for Safety, Ownership, Attitude, and Respect, which are the key aspects of good behaviors encouraged at school.



Keeping the SOAR Store stocked is a challenge, so the school is gladly accepting donations of small, gently-used toys and other items kids would like – which is just about anything, such as jewelry, stuffed animals, games, cards, cars, posters, or books. *If you are going through your closets or children’s toys and want a great place to donate unused items, we would be happy to pass them on to our students that are soaring with good behavior!* Donations can be brought to the Valley School Office during school hours.

Thank you, Mr. Janssen, for helping reward our students for their great behavior!



Thank you for supporting our ASB Fund Run!

Valley Community Almanac

December

MEETINGS

- 1** Chamber of Commerce
11am-12pm | Springdale Fire Station
- 5** Valley Historical Society Meeting
9-10am | VSD Broadcast Studio
- 5** Valley Community Fair Meeting
5:30-7:30pm | Valley Grange
- 12** Valley Grange #1048 Meeting
5:30-6:30pm | Valley Grange
- 12 26** Springdale Town Meeting
7-8pm | Springdale Town Hall
- 12** Mary Walker School Board Meeting
6:30-8pm | Springdale
- 13** Loon Lake School Board Meeting
6:30-8pm | Loon Lake
- 21** Valley School Board Meeting
6:30-8pm | VSD Broadcast Studio
- 21** Community In Progress Meeting
10-11:30am | VSD Broadcast Studio

GATHERINGS

- 3** Winter Craft Fair
10am-4pm | Valley School
- 9** Winter Concert
6:30pm | Valley School
- 15** Winter Concert
2:30pm | Paideia High School

SCHOOLING

- 7 14** ESL Workshop - By Appt. Only
Wednesdays | 4-6pm | Valley Skills & Resource Center @VL Transport Center
- 21 28** ESL Workshop - By Appt. Only
Wednesdays | 4-6pm | Valley Skills & Resource Center @VL Transport Center
- 3 10** Open Computer Lab & Coaching Saturdays | 10am-12pm
Valley Skills & Resource Center | VLT
- 17 24** Open Computer Lab & Coaching Saturdays | 10am-12pm
Valley Skills & Resource Center | VLT
- 31** Cash Mgmt. Workshop-By Appt. Only
Saturdays | 12:30-2:30pm | Valley Skills & Resource Center @VL Transport Center
- 19** VSD Winter Break | NO SCHOOL
December 19-30th

January

MEETINGS

- 5** Chamber of Commerce
11am-12pm | Springdale Fire Station
- 9** Valley Historical Society Meeting
9-10am | VSD Broadcast Studio
- 9** Valley Grange #1048 Meeting
5:30-6:30pm | Valley Grange
- 9 23** Springdale Town Meeting
7-8pm | Springdale Town Hall
- 16** Loon Lake School Board Meeting
6:30-8pm | Loon Lake
- 17** Valley School Board Meeting
6:30-8pm | VSD Broadcast Studio
- 18** Community In Progress Meeting
10-11:30am | VSD Broadcast Studio
- 23** Mary Walker School Board Meeting
6:30-8pm | Springdale

GATHERINGS

- 18** PHS Family Meeting/Dinner
6:30pm | Paideia Center

SCHOOLING

- 4 11** ESL Workshop - By Appt. Only
Wednesdays | 4-6pm | Valley Skills & Resource Center @VL Transport Center
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- 7 14** Open Computer Lab & Coaching Saturdays | 10am-12pm
Valley Skills & Resource Center | VLT
- 21 28** Open Computer Lab & Coaching Saturdays | 10am-12pm
Valley Skills & Resource Center | VLT
- 4 11** Cash Mgmt. Workshop-By Appt. Only
Saturdays | 12:30-2:30pm | Valley Skills & Resource Center @VL Transport Center
- 16** Martin Luther King Jr. Day
NO SCHOOL
- 20** Parent/Teacher Conferences
Valley Early Learning Center
- 27** Staff Training | NO SCHOOL
Valley School, PHS

February

MEETINGS

- 2** Chamber of Commerce
11am-12pm | Springdale Fire Station
- 6** Valley Historical Society Meeting
9-10am | VSD Broadcast Studio
- 6** Valley Community Fair Meeting
5:30-7:30pm | Valley Grange
- 13** Valley Grange #1048 Meeting
5:30-6:30pm | Valley Grange
- 13 27** Springdale Town Meeting
7-8pm | Springdale Town Hall
- 15** Valley School Board Meeting
6:30-8pm | VSD Broadcast Studio
- 15** Community In Progress Meeting
10-11:30am | VSD Broadcast Studio
- 21** Loon Lake School Board Meeting
6-7:30pm | Loon Lake
- 21** Mary Walker School Board Meeting
6:30-8pm

SCHOOLING

- 1 8** ESL Workshop - By Appt. Only
Wednesdays | 4-6pm | Valley Skills & Resource Center @VL Transport Center
- 15 22** ESL Workshop - By Appt. Only
Wednesdays | 4-6pm | Valley Skills & Resource Center @VL Transport Center
- 4 11** Open Computer Lab & Coaching Saturdays | 10am-12pm
Valley Skills & Resource Center | VLT
- 18 25** Open Computer Lab & Coaching Saturdays | 10am-12pm
Valley Skills & Resource Center | VLT
- 4 11** Cash Mgmt. Workshop-By Appt. Only
Saturdays | 12:30-2:30pm | Valley Skills & Resource Center @VL Transport Center
- 20** Presidents' Day | NO SCHOOL

program during the open referral window, January 1st through April 1st of each year, by filling out a Highly Capable Referral form, which can be found on the Valley School District website at <http://www.valleysd.org/highly-capable196/> or picked up at your school's main office. Forms may be submitted to the attention of the Highly Capable Program 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 Highly Capable Program Coordinator at 509-937-2793.

Refer a Student for the Highly Capable Program

If you know a student who shows extraordinary ability or promise, please recommend him or her for inclusion in the Valley School District Highly Capable Program. This unique program helps students develop their special abilities. It serves students in the Valley K-8 School, Paideia High School, and Columbia Virtual Acad-

emy who excel in science, history, writing, mathematics, the fine arts, creative thinking, problem-solving, or who have the ability to learn very quickly.

Student referrals may come from parents, community members, students, teachers, and other school staff. **You can refer a student for the**



Valley School

Winter Craft Fair

December 3rd

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Valley School Multi-Purpose Room

Blown glass ornaments

Wood crafts, Hats, Jewelry, Soaps
and so much more!

Lunch, Live Entertainment & Kids Craft Corner

Santa will be here from 11:00-1:00



Sponsored by Valley Pep Club

Santa and Food by Valley Grange



Former Valley Student Succeeds

Congratulations to former Valley student Jeffrey M. Carr, Attorney at Law! He graduated cum laude from Thomas Jefferson School of Law in December 2015, earning his Juris Doctorate. He sat for the Universal Bar Exam in July of this year, passing with a score high enough for him to practice in 21 states, including Washington. Jeffrey was sworn in and immediately began to practice on September 20, 2016.



Jeffrey is the son of Marty and Diana Carr of Valley. He graduated from Valley Middle School in 1992 and from Mary Walker High School in 1996. Jeffrey has also earned a Bachelor's of Science in History as well as a Bachelor's of Science in Social Science from Portland State University. – Submitted by Theresa Carr

The Valley Voice is a publication of Valley School District #070. For submission information, please contact Gabriele von Trapp at (509) 937-2783 or by email at Gabriele.vonTrapp@valleysd.org.



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