

Garfield-Palouse

Palouse Schools Newsletter



THIS IS THE FINAL **HARDCOPY** NEWSLETTER.
Please find future newsletters on www.garpal.net
left side of homepage, as below:

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Call (509) 878-1921.

SEPT/OCT 2017

FINAL HARDCOPY

Palouse Schools

600 E Alder
Palouse, WA 99161

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PALOUSE, WA 99161

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DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL

I'd like to welcome everyone back for the 2017-2018 school year. I am excited at the opportunities we have for students this year and for the staff.

We continue to work to provide College experiences for HS students, adding English 101 to our curriculum, while continuing to service students this semester with International Studies and Environmental Science. EWU and CWU have been wonderful partners and continue to support staff and students.

One of our goals is to provide students with not only a sound education, but life-long experiences in areas of interest. Through FFA, AV, Robotics, College in the HS and other clubs/activities, we are partnering to provide positive educational opportunities. This year students will take on school portraits (September 19th), shooting, printing, and filling photo orders. This is a chance for students to gain experience and provide a service to the community and school. All of the money generated from this activity will then go directly to the students and be used for AV Club.

This year's high school ASB has developed the theme of: *We are ...* focusing on character education and school unity. We have a strong ASB leadership once again, and these students want to tackle issues they feel important to the school and student body. I'm excited to work with these students and Mr. Thompson to accomplish their goals.

The Gar-Pal staff is focusing on data and unpacking standards, aligning curriculum, and continuing to provide and ensure a high quality education for all students. Reaffirming reading and writing across the curriculum and providing students guided practice are areas we will be focusing on this year.

Additionally, a focus on Trauma-Informed Schools was the topic of our before school staff prep days. Mick Miller from ESD 101 presented on trauma and its impact on student achievement. We will be looking at implementing some of the ideas presented more closely as a school.

DESK OF THE PRINCIPAL (CONTINUED)

Lastly, football, volleyball and cross country have all started, and with the fair coming up we have a number of students involved and representing us around the area. Homecoming is the week of October 9th this year, with the Volleyball game on October 10th and the Football game on October 13th.

I look forward to an exciting year and thank you for your continued support of our students. GO VIKINGS!

Mike Jones
Principal



School website is where to find the daily news bulletin, calendar, lunch menu, contact info.

This will be our final hardcopy of the Palouse School newsletter, after which we will only be posting on the school website www.garpal.net. People who make the request will be placed on a mailing list and have a hardcopy mailed to them. Please call the Palouse School at (509) 878-1921 or email danderson@garpal.net.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

WELCOME TO THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR

OUR MISSION is to provide educational programs of the highest quality for all students in order to prepare them for their future.

As we head into this year we are excited about the direction our system is headed and the progress we are making in fulfilling that **MISSION to our students.** Students are our #1 priority and we will continue with efforts to provide our students with the educational opportunities they deserve and a facility in which they can be proud.

Similar to the movie "Field of Dreams" and the saying "Build It and They Will Come" our philosophy has been to provide our students a quality product and a modern pleasing facility, then they will come (or at least stay). I hesitate to mention programs because I will miss some, but in addition to the strong programs already in place for several years we are now providing our students with several new or greatly improved programs such as Music, Robotics, CADD (computer-aided design and drafting), Personal Finance, Floral Design, Building Construction, IT Academy (Computer Tech Training), Horticulture, Natural Resources, Vet Science, etc., just to name a few. We are also offering several classes for College Credit taught by our own staff that allows students to earn credits that can almost replace their entire first year of college and at a greatly reduced cost.

We are also striving to provide a more vibrant and modern appearing school similar to the newer constructed schools in the area by providing a functional and aesthetically pleasing facility conducive to a quality educational experience, in which our students can learn, enjoy and be proud of. The comment we hear the most is how clean, bright and inviting our school now looks, both inside and out.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (CONTINUED)

If you have not been in the building lately, please stop in for a visit. I will no doubt miss some items, but here are some recent updates.

1. Gym ceiling insulation: this exceeded our expectations both with sound control and the insulating value. On days when it was in the upper 90s outside Brian said the gym stayed in the 70s.
2. Gym Floor Refinish - Difficult to describe the beauty, you just need to see it!
3. All halls carpeted (& some rooms).
4. Halls and several rooms painted.
5. Restrooms and locker rooms upgraded (finishing touches still needed).
6. Weight room project in the old shop with walkway pavement recently installed and restroom facilities in future plans.
7. Parking lot repair - just a temporary fix as the proper long term redo will be very costly.
8. School Website Upgrade with several on-line communication enhancements such as registration, grades, paying of lunch and other fees electronically, thus saving cost in paper, postage and manpower.
9. Office remodel.
10. Exterior facelift (more needed).
11. Budget/program efficiencies which alleviate redundancies and outdated practices, thus allowing us to reinvest in more urgent areas while at the same time maintain a much healthier Ending Fund Balance than in recent years.
12. Heating/cooling upgrades are almost finished (more needed) which will allow for better comfort and cost efficiency.

GREENHOUSE

The construction of the Greenhouse has not followed the schedule we had anticipated, but now that the students are back in school we are putting Mr. Sawyer's construction class to work. We now believe the Greenhouse will be up and functional by the 2nd week of October.

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (CONTINUED)

GRADUATION PHOTOS

About a year and a half ago we started updating the interior corridor walls of the school. This involved skim coating, repairing holes and other surface imperfections, making needed plate cover/thermostat alterations, spray texturing, sealing and painting, with the final paint coat being applied this summer.

As the hall project proceeded and we transformed to a brighter décor, people started noticing additional items that now stood out and might need some attention such as the floors and the ceilings. They also started questioning if the graduation photos would or should go back up exactly as they were before or if some other options could be considered. We continued the upgrading with a new ceiling grid, LED lighting and carpet. Although requiring much time, expense, effort and organization these solutions were fairly obvious. However, the solution for the photos was more complicated as they represented decades of history and meant much more to the school than just a simple paint job.

From the beginning some felt graduation photos should go back up as they were before, while others expressed options should be explored to see if photos could be displayed in a format more in tune with the new look. Not a simple task! Although simply rehanging the photos would have by far been the easiest and fastest option, that did not necessarily make it the right thing to do; so we chose the more difficult path that left all options open. Why did we make this decision? Because a decision to rehang the photos as they were gave no consideration of other views or the opportunity to explore options that might both retain history and compliment the aesthetics of the facility.

The Challenges:

The challenges we had to consider were much more in-depth than just the one question of whether the photos could be displayed attractively in the building now. In addition to that one question,

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (CONTINUED)

we also had the challenges we were already facing, which the remodel just brought to the forefront; so now was the logical time to attempt an solution.

1. We are running out of wall space and simply do not have room to continue hanging graduation photos on our current walls in perpetuity.
2. We had no organized format or guidelines for size or style of frames.
3. Photos were not all displayed in a chronological manner mainly due to wall space limitations, remodels, fires etc., and things beyond our control.
4. Do they all match our current aesthetics?

(Maybe a lengthy explanation, but in vehement defense of the past when the photos were first hung I'm sure it was difficult to predict or even envision the future of the school or the facility needed to accommodate increased enrollment, community expansion, fires, etc. In the late 1800's and early 1900's I'm sure no one in their wildest dreams were concerned with or even thinking of 2017, let alone considering if there would be ample room for graduating photos. I'm sure that day to day existence was on their minds and issues such as drought, crop yield, which crops to seed, city lot plotting and street planning, will we have a railroad, electric power, natural gas, wolf issues, WWI, are motorized contraptions allowed on the streets or just horses etc. dominated their thoughts. But they did persevere and numerous adjustments/improvements have been implemented over the decades. It is now 2017 and we need to plan for 2117! WOW- that sounds impossible, just as in 1917, I'm sure 2017 would have sounded.)

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (CONTINUED)

Research:

In researching options we arrived at an idea of digitally reproducing the photos (if possible), which would allow us to meet most of these challenges in the following fashion.

- a. Make all photos available on the school website;
- b. Place photos in a flip folder here at school for all to view;
- c. Print copies of similar size and shape to hang on the walls.

In order to even consider these ideas we had to first see if it was possible; our initial efforts did not produce any viable options. Thankfully as we continued the research we did find a photographer that said it could be accomplished. The bad news was the process would be very labor and time intensive, thus very costly. Costly to the point that we didn't feel we could continue in this direction, thus limiting all of these options. However, along with disappointing news sometimes there can also be good news. This was the case when the photographer shared with us how to perform the digital reproduction process. Then after visiting with Mr. Gehring concerning this new information, he felt that our AV students could tackle this project. And as we had updated our electronic capabilities and just recently purchased a specialty printer/plotter, we now had the capability to print large photos, so there went the cost issue.

Mr. Gehring and the AV students started taking digital images of the class photos last spring, starting with the oldest pictures first. They are making images of the entire photo and also of each individual separately. This is what will allow them to adjust the class photos to a uniform size so they can be reprinted for the website, flip folder or wall. As we were originally advised, this is a very time consuming process and with producing the yearbook in house this year along with numerous other demands of the AV students, they will need most of the first semester to complete the

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT (CONTINUED)

imaging portion before the printing or the Web access can be realized.

Conclusion:

All options mentioned above (rehang original, resize & hang, website, flip folder) and/or some combination of these are all still viable. No firm direction has been established other than to keep all options open while we work to make the reproduction images possible and see how they actually look. The only firm direction we feel fairly safe in voicing is that the older original photos of the first few decades and other historic photos of the school need to be displayed, regardless if any reproductions are made or not.

The originals are housed next to the AV department for convenience and are organized by decade. If someone would like to view them, this can be arranged. The class of 1997 had a reunion this summer and we pulled their class photo for them to view. Regardless of the options utilized, the originals will be maintained even if all of them are not placed back on the wall.

We currently keep the last 4 years of Senior Photos on display in the HS hall, rotating the older one out as a new class graduates.

Website Communications

We are increasing our utilization of the school website for communicating and performing routine items such as registration, paying fees, receiving newsletters, grades & report cards etc.

Please feel free to stop by for a visit at any time!

Have a great day!

Calvin L. Johnson, Supt.

cjohnson@garpal.net

406-781-0738

DESTINATION CHANGES

For elementary students riding the bus, please make destination changes BEFORE 2:30 PM on the day of the change to allow time for drivers, teachers, and students to be notified. Call 509-878-1921.

COUNSELOR CORNER

IMPORTANT DATES!

(Tentative date) Financial Aid Workshop – Wednesday, September 27, 5:30-6:00 pizza dinner, workshop from 6:00-7:00p.m. This event is for juniors and **seniors**.

FAFSA application opens – October 1 – *Seniors* who will be applying for 2 or 4 year college, career/technical school or specialty school for next year should file a FAFSA as early as possible.

PSAT – Wednesday, October 11 – Primarily Grades 10 & 11 – Cost is \$16 – Fee waivers are available for eligible **juniors** – Registration will begin the week of Sept. 11.

Construction Careers Fair – Thursday, October 12 – Juniors or seniors may attend this annual event in Spokane.

Spokane National College Fair – Wednesday, October 25 – Juniors will attend and have an opportunity to meet with college representatives from various schools located throughout the country.

Whitman County Career Fair – Wednesday, November 1 – GPHS will be the host site for this event. The county-wide career fair has been on hiatus for approximately 5 years and we're bringing it back!

ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) – November date TBA – This is both a skills assessment and a career exploration program. Taking the ASVAB does NOT obligate anyone to join the military.

Additional information regarding all of these events/activities will be communicated to students' homes and posted in the bulletin.

COUNSELOR CORNER (CONTINUED)

Elementary and high school Smarter Balanced, EOC and MSP assessment results from last spring will be mailed home in mid-September.

Sophomore and Junior parents: Students that were in the freshmen and sophomore classes last year utilized a new, on-line program to do their High School and Beyond Plan. You can access and review your child's HSBP with your Skyward username and password. On the address line type **myschooldata.wsipc.org**. DO NOT type in www or use the search line. You will not be able to access the correct login page if you do. Your son/daughter *may* be able to assist you with this, as they have experienced the glitches with signing-in. Additional information and instructions were mailed home in June. Please contact me if you have any questions or have difficulty accessing your child's plan. I will be making additional contact with parents throughout the year in regards to student HSBP's.



DID YOU KNOW?

You can download the Skyward app for your student's lunch account and HS student's grades on your mobile device by simply searching for "Skyward app" using a web search engine, then install.

FAIR

2017 Boots Buckles & Spurs

PALOUSE EMPIRE FAIR – September 7-10

We wish all Garfield and Palouse students and families participating in the fair to have fun!!

DAILY BULLETIN- READ IT DAILY!!

Keep informed by reading the DAILY BULLETIN on our website every day. It lists all programs daily throughout the school year with lunch details; schedule of events (sports, FFA, fieldtrips, concerts, college visits, etc.); a look into the following couple of weeks for dates of upcoming events, and special announcements. In addition, you can find out whether a high school game has been rescheduled or cancelled, when a bus for an event is scheduled to depart and from which town, etc. The DAILY BULLETIN is just one click away from this information. The DAILY BULLETIN is listed at the right side of homepage on www.garpal.net website.

VIKOTICS @ FAIR & PALOUSE DAYS

Check out the VIKotics booth at the Fair & Palouse Days!
The robot will be present! Beautiful quilt for raffle too!



MUSIC

Greetings from the GarPal Music Universe! The students are all fired up and I've got some really exciting plans for the year. Congratulations to GPS alumni Emily Stout and current students Lizzie Stout, Lauren Welch and Danny "Backbeat" Laughary for their outstanding performances at this year's Palouse Music Festival. Every year students are asked to perform a few songs in between the bands. These students contributed to the success of that event.

Our Performing Arts Boosters held a fundraiser in August to raise money for their scholarship program. The evening was MC'd by Lauren Welch and Brandon Hallan, and kicked off by the mellow saxophone sounds of Tuli O'Neill; last year's Arts Boosters Scholarship winner. Student performers ranged in age from elementary through high school and included vocal and instrumental performances with everything in between. Thanks so much to the Arts Boosters for organizing and executing this and a huge thumbs up to the students that participated.

The Pep Band is bigger and has a bunch of new tunes. Come cheer on Gar-Pal athletes with the band.

I also hope to expand the jazz program to include 2 ensembles this year, giving a wider range of students an opportunity to perform in this style. We will be going to the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival in February and I'm sure we will have several students participate in the WSU Jazz night honor band in late January.

For concert band and choir our numbers are very strong and our talent is even stronger!! I have some challenging music picked out this year and can't wait to see and hear where the students go with it. High School mass band and choir will be October 25th in Waitsburg this year and the middle school Symphonic Band will participate in mass band November 7th. The HS Wind Ensemble will perform at the Veteran's Day Concert in Garfield, thank you Becky Hemphill for letting those folks be a part of that special event to recognize, show respect, honor and perform for our Veterans and our communities.

Our winter concerts are scheduled for the last two weeks of school in December.

We can use your support for a great year in school and community events to help preserve the Arts in our community to help thrive and grow our community and draw us closer together.

Matt Zook, Band and HS Choir



EMMY GREGG PHOTOGRAPHY



**TONY KETTEL
SKATE GARDENS**

PALOUSE, WASHINGTON

THANK YOU GPHS

FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR
BUILDING EFFORTS!

Students have volunteered over 170
hours clearing debris, pulling weeds,
loading trucks, and building benches for
the Parisian Avenue Design Concept.

WWW.PALOUSESKATEPARK.COM/GARDENS



ATTENDANCE

If your student is **absent or late for any reason**, please call the school 878-1921 or email danderson@garpal.net; you can also pre-arrange a known absence. Otherwise they will be marked unexcused without a call or note from parents. This may impact eligibility and participation.

Also, frequent absences make the educational process unnecessarily difficult. Learning is rarely as effective as when students are in attendance.

It is our goal to keep students in school and with their regular classroom teachers. Attendance is an integral part of the learning process.

GAR-PAL HIGH SCHOOL FALL ATHLETICS



Check our website under Gar-Pal High School Athletics to see schedules for our Football and Volleyball games and Cross Country meets.

Garfield-Palouse High School

Homecoming
2017

Homecoming week of wacky school days and great athletics
October 9-14

Volleyball game: OCTOBER 10 vs Pomeroy

Football game: OCTOBER 13 vs St John/Endicott

FAILING CLASSES - SUSPENSION

Participation in extra-curricular activities is an important part of High School. At GPHS we are able to offer a wide variety of opportunities for our students, ranging from Future Farmers of America, Audio/Visual, Robotics to a variety of Athletics, Band/Choir and Drama and Knowledge Bowl. Each provides a unique opportunity for our students to participate and learn life skills while representing our communities and school.

It is our belief that extra-curricular activities should not take away from the academic experience of students. Students who are failing classes are not eligible for participation in extra-curricular activities. Grades are monitored weekly by the office, and for eligibility purposes at 3-week intervals throughout a semester. Students failing a course will have a one-week suspension (Monday-Monday) providing an opportunity to correct the grade and become eligible for the next week competition(s) and/or activities.

Students unable to participate in contests and/or activities should still participate in practice and are part of the team/club. Coaches and advisors are notified weekly of eligibility issues and parents will be notified if a student is deemed ineligible. Parents and students should check grades frequently via Skyward Access on the website or your electronic device Skyward app, and check in with teachers. It is our goal to have all students eligible for participation, but ultimately to have students passing all of their classes.

SATURDAY SCHOOL

For those students failing classes or for those who would like further assistance, GPHS offers Saturday School from 9am to Noon. Saturday School Requires:

*Students failing classes are assigned to attend.

*Parents/guardians are responsible for transportation.

Letters will be sent to parents and students notified if they have been assigned. First Saturday School is SEPTEMBER 30.