MARCH 12th IS A DAY THAT COULD BE A NO SCHOOL DAY
Watch website and email notices as that day approaches.

SAVE THE DATE! – March 30th Grandparent’s/Special Person Day
There will be a free lunch provided for people who are interested. It will begin with an assembly at 10:30 AM in the Palouse gym with music provided by 4th/5th grades band followed by the carnival. Students will leave with their guests. Flyers will be sent home with your elementary student soon.

Garfield-Palouse

Gar-Pal HS Knowledge Bowl Team I

Daily Gar-Pal School Website

• VIKotics Fundraiser, Knowledge Bowl to State, Wrestling 4th in State, Seniors Photos Needed, 4th Grade Girls Info, Softball and Baseball season begins
• Daily News Bulletin – what is my student doing today?
• Skyward Family Access for grades and lunch account

www.garpal.net

MARCH/APRIL 2018

SPRING BREAK!
April 2nd through 6th, 2018
January and February have flown by, congratulations to all of our students who have participated in winter activities! Both boys’ and girls’ basketball had successful seasons, robotics is well on their way with their new challenge, the Band just finished with the Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival, and FFA has started their Spring competitions; taking 2nd at District in Ag Mechanics.

As we look ahead toward March and April, our kids don’t slow down with Baseball, Softball, Track, FFA, Robotics, Drama and Band performances. We will once again be hosting the Middle School Choir/Band Festival for the SE Washington Music Association (March 15), the public is welcome to attend and contact the school, or visit our website for more information.

The elementary is just as busy as we plan for Grandparent’s Day on Friday, March 30th. Lunch for student guests is provided and we look forward to having a lot of visitors. The end of the second trimester is March 9th, and report cards will be mailed by March 16th. If you would like to conference with your son/daughter’s teacher please contact them to set up a date.

Spring Break is the first full week of April (April 2-6) this year. Toward the end of April, students in grades 3rd-11th will begin state assessments and testing. May 4th we will also participate in College Signing, celebrating those who are moving on with further education, apprenticeship and/or trade school. During March and April, many are receiving acceptance letters and we want to acknowledge their choices as they enter this next stage.

One of the goals of our ASB has been to incorporate more Character Education, utilizing speakers and including all students in assemblies. This fall James Layman of AWSP Leadership visited with students about making a difference and taking on leadership. We are looking to follow that up with a speaker in March/April, focusing on the electronic world and how Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram and other mediums have changed the world around us. When we confirm the date we will provide more information and the public is welcome to attend.

As you can see we are not slowing down. Our kids continue to do great things and we are excited at the opportunities we are able to afford them. Thank you for all of your continued support, GO VIKINGS!

Mike Jones

From the Principal’s Desk

Office of the Superintendent

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

THANK YOU PALOUSE FOR YOUR GREAT FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Our local voters continue to faithfully support our schools and provide the financial support needed. The Enrichment Levy (old M/O) was approved by 76% and Capital Projects Levy by 73%. Support has always been extremely strong in the Palouse community and you are to be commended. Thank you Palouse!

GREENHOUSE

As you may have noticed we suspended the construction of our greenhouse when the weather turned inclement late last fall. The plan was to finish up the first of March when the weather turned nice, but winter just does not want to let go, so we are still on hold.

BOARD POLICY can now be found on our school web site by going to Districts dropdown list, Gar-Pal School Boards, Board Policies.

HELP NEEDED

We are in need of your assistance in a rather delicate situation in the area of on-line social media comments (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, etc.). While we cannot control what goes out on your personal media, the school can (and does) end up dealing with the repercussions. When an administrator from another school contacts us concerning comments on-line, it is difficult to defend and our entire community looks bad. It is especially difficult to defend when the comments are from adults, which they often are. It is not just the posting complaints from other schools, but it encompasses hurtful comments within our own local community that we end up trying to resolve.

It is amazing how an online comment, like or dislike, can spread and get to the parties about whom the comments were made. Please be extremely cautious with your online comments and keep in mind, there are no secrets in today’s world. An old adage goes “If you don’t have anything good to say, then don’t say anything at all.” Thanks for your help!

Staff/Student Training: Along the same lines as the above comments, we have scheduled Bullying/Cyber Bullying training for March 21st. Tentative schedule is 6th-8th grades training at 9:00 am, 9th-12th grades training at 10:30 pm and combined Garfield-Palouse Schools staff training here in Palouse at 1:00 pm.

Please feel free to stop by for a visit at any time! Calvin L. Johnson
ATTENTION! Parents of Seniors!!

The A/V Class is putting together the senior slideshow for graduation. If you have a child graduating this June, please be sure to get your pictures in to Mr. Gehring’s class so they can prepare for the slideshow. The pictures they need include a baby picture, a picture between the ages of 2 and 6, and a senior picture. Additional pictures you have of your child growing up are appreciated, especially pictures that show groups of kids who will be graduating together. Digital pictures are preferred, but hard copies are fine as well and will be returned after we take pictures of them. Please send any digital pictures or questions via email to jgehring@garpal.net.

It is amazing how fast this year has gone by and before we know it we will be heading out on the senior class trip with graduation right around the corner! Senior families, letters have been sent to you via snail mail, with much of the following information, plus more! Keep an eye out for follow-up information that will be sent to you next month!

Senior Trip: Plans are being set for the senior class trip to Seaside, OR, which will take place May 27th – 30th.

Senior Pictures: Students need to submit a 3”x5” (vertical) senior photo (on photo paper) by April 9th. From there, the senior class will begin to create their composite that will be hung in the high school hallway. If a student does not submit a photo by the April 9th deadline, their school photo taken at the beginning of the year will be used. *** These are different than the photos requested by Mr. Gehring that will be used for the senior class slideshow.

Concession THANK YOU: Thank you to all the students and parents who put in hours to help run concessions smoothly this year. Thank you to our community for supporting the senior class through concessions at the home basketball games. This was our first year running “concessions” and we are pretty pleased with how it went overall and we could not have done it without all of you!

Ready or not graduation craziness, here we come! Email bsawyer@garpal.net.

Big Opportunities in Agricultural Career and Technical Education

Last semester the research and development department of SEL donated an upright vertical milling machine to our shop. This prompted a change to add a Precision Machining class held 6th period this spring. A special thanks to Dugger Farms for loading a telehandler on a semi to bring to our school so we could get the 3500-lb machine into our shop safely.

Our FFA Ag Mechanics Team has been representing our community in a strong way this year. We’ve had 11 students involved. Pictured at the WSU competition from L-R: LJ Peringer, Kristian Gibler, Morgan Hobbs, Chad Hansen, Tanner Anderson, Jaedan Askins, Austin Stockert, Jordan Paddock, Ty West and Steven Peterson (Not pictured is Ely Hawkins). We hosted a competition at the Gar-Pal Ag Shop on February 7th where our team took 3rd place. We then received 4th at Walla Walla High School, 3rd at WSU, and 2nd at the district competition held at WWCC. Next is state on April 13th hosted in Yakima at Perry Tech Institute.
Another fun opportunity for the Ag Mech team was visiting WWHS and learning about their drone program where our students had the chance to fly drones in a park with capabilities of flying 1.5 miles away at speeds of over 30mph.

VIKotics Update: I doubt the entire process was enjoyable, however, we have learned patience and our 12 member robotic team took on some major advancements this year with our new robot built to play this year’s FRC game “Power UP”. In the picture to the right, you will see our robot is much taller and heavier than previous years. Our build season took only 6 weeks and we felt the time crunch as we approached our Bag-N-Tag day on February 20th. This year we designed, prototyped, constructed, and many times started all over to create a robot that could pick up “power cubes” which are plastic milk crates to put on different teeter-totters in the game to score points. This year our advances include using onboard pneumatics, new motor controls through CanBus controls, a new programming language of Java Script, encoders, and a linear lift to create a gantry system that can lift the cubes to different heights and shoot them out both sides of our robot. Our students worked extremely hard this year and the parents should be very proud. We have 2 district competitions including Yakima on March 15-17, and Spokane on March 22-24. If we qualify we will then play at Portland for the PNW championship over spring break.

VIKotic Mentors include from L-R: Mike Milano, Mark Sawyer, Robert Lopez, Andrew Nelson, Kris Gibler, Dave Tharp, Richard Link, and not pictured is Moses Boone & Don Schaffer. These mentors donate multiple hours as they teach/encourage our students in STEM fields. The VIKotic boosters are hosting a spaghetti dinner on Friday March 9th at the high school gym if you’d be interested in supporting our team and helping them earn money for travel. They have big hopes to qualify for competition at Houston, Texas, in the world championship this spring. Our VIKotic team includes: Seniors- Josh Heithe, Kristian Gibler, and Cortney Finch. Sophomores- Joey Link, Braden Schafer, Danielle Reeve, Jocelyn Whitesell, Logan Diets. Freshmen- Christian Burt, Ethan Cook, Jacob Maurin, and Patrick Orfe. Photo of team members presenting to Joint School Board 2/22/2018.

Mr. Sawyer led the Ag Mechanics team to take advantage of visiting new places and arranged for special tours including the Cougar Shop where students learned about CNC machines, mastercam software, and the use of a CO2 laser (in picture) to cut plastics and engrave on glass, or other solid surfaces.
Elementary students have several reading incentives happening now and in the past few months. The Kindergarten thru 5th grades are currently reading to earn a free ticket to Silverwood Theme Park through the program “Reading is the Ticket.” Students must read 600 minutes to earn a ticket. The deadline is March 7th to turn reading logs in.

The school library is sponsoring an Olympic Reading Challenge to coincide with the Winter Olympics. Students who choose to take on the challenge can earn a bronze, silver or gold medal depending on the number of reading activities completed. The challenge includes reading different types of genres, reading about countries participating in the Olympics, reading about different sports and athletes among other activities.

Students are also reading to make a purchase at our first Accelerated Reader Store! There are some very fun prizes to choose from that are on display in the showcase at the top of the school hall ramp. The store will be open February 28th.

We will be celebrating the wonderful books of Dr. Seuss the week of February 26th through March 2nd! We will have dress up days that match up with some of Dr. Seuss’s books. For example, we will read The Sleep Book while students are wearing their pajamas! On Friday, March 2nd (Dr. Seuss’s birthday), the elementary students will read in the gym with the high school students. It is sure to be a fun week!
After multiple fundraisers were held this year, the A/V Club was able to purchase two new cameras and some audio equipment for both A/V Club and A/V class. In addition to purchasing equipment, the students raised enough money to offer an A/V scholarship. While the amount for the scholarship is yet to be determined, the students were unanimous in their decision to use extra funds toward a scholarship for a graduating senior interested in film, photography, or graphic arts. Requirements and applications for the scholarship will be clarified as those details get ironed out this spring. The A/V Club would like to thank the community for their support and feedback throughout the year with our photo sales, as well as helping to contribute to our new scholarship program.

If anyone has additional feedback about our process or has a question about their order, please email A/V advisor John Gehring at jgehring@garpal.net.

Scholarship Offered by Audio/Visual Class

The Gar-Pal Knowledge Bowl varsity team wrapped up the 1B season undefeated and headed to the regional tournament on Friday 2/23 at Whitworth U. in Spokane. GarPal Team I won the 1B competition and finished 3rd overall of all schools. Mr. Landle and Mr. Akin will be taking that team to the state tournament in Arlington, WA on 3/17. Team members include CJ Brantner, Christian Burt, Seth Thompson, Travis Knauff, Emily Bagott, and Daniel Orfe (not in photo). Good luck Vikings!!!
The Garfield-Palouse boys' basketball team ended their season Saturday, February 24th at a state play-in game at Pullman High School versus the Mount Rainier Lutheran Hawks. After a shaky start, the Vikings found themselves down 14 points at halftime to the athletic private school squad from Tacoma. The Vikings came out in the second half and went on an impressive run, cutting the Mount Rainier lead to 5 in just four minutes. By the waning minutes of the third quarter, with excellent defensive hustle plays and assertive attacks against the Hawks' zone defense, Gar-Pal managed to tie the game. Unfortunately for the Vikings, Mount Rainier was able to recover, and both teams went back and forth for the remainder of the fourth quarter. In the end, the Hawks managed to sink key free throws down the stretch to put the game just out of reach; Daniel Orfe’s late basket pulled the Vikings to within two points, but it was just as the final buzzer sounded. Had Gar-Pal won, they would have had a chance to even the score with Pomeroy in the first round of the state tournament in Spokane. The Viking boys closed out their season 18-7 overall.

To make it to the regional tournament, the team traveled to Oakesdale in the first round of the district tournament as the #3 seed and defeated the Nighthawks to advance to the district tournament championship in Walla Walla, where they lost to Pomeroy on February 16th. They defeated Colton the next day to earn the 2nd berth to the regional tournament, where they faced Mount Rainier Lutheran and lost 55-57.

Players Ely Hawkins and Blake Jones were voted onto the All-League team, while Tanner Anderson was awarded honorable mention. Lone senior Daniel Orfe closed out a successful high school career with another winning record and a second state regional appearance.