Three Teachers

Retiring from Palouse School

Three long time employees of Palouse School District will be retiring at the end of this school year. Please join us for an open house reception on Friday, June 1, 1:00-3:00 pm in the Palouse School Library as we honor Sue Redman, Charlene Baldwin and Jim Stewart.

Please join us as we thank them for their many years of service to our school and community and for the influence they have made on countless students.
**From the Desk of the Principal**

May is upon us and with it comes a wide array of tests. Starting the first week of May, students in grades 3 through 11 will begin taking the state SBAC tests in English/Language Arts and Math. A schedule of tests is included in this newsletter to help you identify the tests your son/daughter will be taking. Please contact your son/daughter’s teacher and/or the school if you would like more information on testing. Grades K through 2 will once again take the MAPs test at the end of the school year.

Additionally, graduation is approaching quickly. This year’s ceremony will be June 2nd at 1:00 pm in the High School Gymnasium. I look forward to graduation and am excited to congratulate this year’s group of seniors. Our students continue to excel after high school and I look forward to the continued success of this year’s senior class. I have enjoyed working with them and wish them the best in their future pursuits.

As we look forward to next year and wrap up the current year, it is a time for reflection and an opportunity to appreciate the efforts of staff and students; the week of May 7 is staff appreciation. We are fortunate to have such a wonderful, caring staff; thank you to everyone who works at the school and cares for kids.

Lastly, information on summer school opportunities as well as end of the year activities will be coming out soon. The end of the year is always a busy time, between finals, school picnic, field trips, etc. Teachers will be sending out information and we’ll be utilizing the Blackboard email system, please check frequently and visit with teachers if you have any questions.

I would like to thank the communities of Garfield and Palouse for their continued support of our schools and students. I am excited to be part of the continued success of Gar-Pal and thank you all for a wonderful year. I hope you are looking forward to the next year as much as I am. Go Vikings!

Mike Jones
Principal
mjones@garpal.net

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**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.**

**SUMMER PROJECTS**

We are working on some smaller summer projects, but our major emphasis will be in trying to make our playground more ADA accessible. If funding and time allows we would like to address some safety concerns such as a new phone system, continuing with our coded access door upgrade and upgrading the fire alarm notification system. Now that the weather is finally nice, greenhouse progress is taking place and should be finished shortly.

**GYM FLOOR DAMAGE:**

As you are aware, we invested a significant amount of your tax dollars making improvements to the gym last summer and it looks great! Up until last summer the floor was dark from years of wax buildup and the thick wax protected the floor so we did not have to be very careful. But now that we basically have a new floor, we need to be extremely careful because it does not have years of wax for protection.

We are not necessarily being careless, but damage can occur from small things as scratches, dents, rocks in shoes, a stuck roller and even just walking across the gym floor. In order to protect our investment and maintain a great looking facility we must avoid the pitfalls that can cause lasting damage. There are several things we need to implement, but will start by no longer walking across the floor. We will also be visiting with gym use patrons (new or established/school or non-school people) when requesting gym use time so that we can point out needed precautions and provide additional information. Thank you for your care!

Have a great day!
Calvin L. Johnson, Superintendent, Palouse School

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During the last month or so, the Garfield-Palouse FFA has been doing a fundraiser in support of Michael Jeske, the Agriculture teacher and FFA advisor at Rochester High School. Jeske was diagnosed with a relapse of gray zone lymphoma cancer. With the relapse, the team at Seattle Cancer Care Alliance has determined that a care plan for him would include living in Seattle. The cost of living in Seattle is close to $3,000 a month for an apartment. To help contribute to the expenses the family may incur, the FFA has been selling birdhouses, which the Agricultural Mechanics class has been making. Our goal was $500 and as a community we collected $1,015! Thank you for your generous donations to this deserving family!

On March 10, Gar-Pal High School hosted about 60 participants at the Garfield Gun Club. With nice weather and lots of participants the day was very enjoyable! FFA Booster Club provided concessions for the day, which, when combined with registration fees, brought in a grand total of $650 to our FFA Boosters! Thank you to all FFA Booster supporters.

Happening next weekend in the Gar-Pal agriculture department is the FFA plant sale! We have lots of plants to offer the surrounding community this year! Please come and select your yard and patio décor while also supporting our students. We will be open for sales on Friday, May 4, from 10am-5pm and on Saturday, May 5, from 9am-12pm. We hope to see you there!

In just two weeks (May 10th-12th), the Gar-Pal FFA Chapter hits the “long” road to State Convention! This year we have 23 students competing at state contests including livestock evaluation, milk quality, farm business management, first year member, food science, and vet science. We are all looking forward to this great learning and networking opportunity.

To finish off the year we are in the midst of planning our annual FFA Banquet to recognize the individual, team, and chapter accomplishments that have been made this year. It will be held on June 4th at the Gar-Pal High School in the lower gym. All are welcome to come and enjoy! More details to follow.
Congratulations to our new high school National Honor Society members! These outstanding students were inducted into the Garfield-Palouse High School chapter of NHS at a county-wide ceremony at Tekoa H.S. on March 21: (left to right) Lauren Welch, Lizzie Stout, Blake Jones, Lexi Brantner, and Brooke Bankus. These are the guidelines for NHS membership:

Students in grades 10–12 who meet the requirements for membership outlined by their school’s chapter are eligible to be invited for membership. Each chapter is required to publish its qualifications for membership, which is based on the four pillars of NHS:

- **Scholarship**
  Per national guidelines, at a minimum, students must have a cumulative GPA of 85, B, 3.0 on a 4.0 scale, or equivalent standard of excellence. (Each school chapter is allowed to require a higher cumulative GPA.). OUR CHAPTER REQUIRES A 3.5.

- **Service**
  Service involves voluntary contributions made by a student to the school or community, done without compensation.

- **Leadership**
  Student leaders are those who are resourceful, good problem solvers, and idea contributors. Leadership experiences can be drawn from school or community activities while working with or for others.

- **Character**
  The student of good character is cooperative; demonstrates high standards of honesty and reliability; shows courtesy, concern, and respect for others and generally maintains a clean disciplinary record.

The Garfield-Palouse National Honor Society will be teaming up with the Palouse School District and the Palouse (Whitman County) Community Library in helping to develop the new “Rocket to Reading” literacy program. The idea behind Rocket to Reading is to connect our schools and local libraries to families with newborns and young children. Research demonstrates that a good start at school begins with early literacy at home. Book bags will be available to young families at various events throughout the year, and the NHS will be instrumental in both book collection and distribution. The NHS also looks forward to inviting other local groups and nearby communities to join us in promoting early childhood literacy. Rocket to Reading is still in its infancy, but the NHS is excited to help get the program off the ground this spring!

**NHS Helps Rocket to Reading Take Off!**

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**HONOR ROLL BANQUET**
**May 7th @ 7:00 PM, HS Gym**

**Medicine Career**

Several students interested in medicine as a career accompanied Mr. Landle to the University of Idaho Cadaver Lab. Lexi Brantner, Miranda Richards, Olivia Knauff and Austin Jones had the opportunity to examine three different cadavers with other science students from Lacrosse and Oakesdale. Special thanks to the University of Idaho for hosting, and to Matt Wysock for organizing the event.

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Dr. Seuss Read In

As part of a week-long celebration, our elementary students gathered in the school gym on March 2nd to read with high school students. The elementary students dressed up each day in accordance with Dr. Seuss books. This is an annual event at Palouse School celebrating Dr. Seuss and bringing our older and younger students together to encourage the important life skill of reading.

Grandparent’s/Special Person’s Day

We had a great turn-out for our elementary grandparent’s and special person’s carnival on March 30. Lots of fun was had in the photo booth posing in dress-up clothes, getting faces painted, and many more interactive activities.

Elementary Knapping

Jimmy Cooper teaches the fourth and fifth graders about early man made tools. Flint knapping is the age-old art of making arrowheads and other edged stone tools. Hunter-gatherers relied upon this key wilderness survival skill to create important tools.

Palouse School District - Child Find

Parents with children ages 3 to 6 years are invited to join us at the Palouse School Library to participate in the screenings for: vision, hearing, fine/gross motor skills, speech and language, and early developmental milestones. These screenings are offered to families at no cost. During the Child Find, parents are also welcome to begin the registration process for students who will be attending preschool (age 3 by August 31) or kindergarten (age 5 by August 31) in the fall of 2018! If you would like to begin this process, please bring your child’s birth certificate and immunization records. Kindergarten screening for school readiness is suggested for children who have not been previously enrolled in preschool.

Date: Tuesday, May 15, 2018
Place: Palouse Elementary School Library
Time: 9:00am to 1:30pm by appointment.
To make an appointment, please call Debbie Anderson (509) 878-1921.

Any child, birth to age five, whose family or care givers would like more information about their child’s development. All school districts within Washington have Child Find screening available. If your family is in a temporary living situation, you may contact the school district where you are staying to attend a screening. Please call the Palouse School office at (509) 878-1921 between 8am and 3:30pm if you have any questions.

PRESCHOOL DATES

Kindergarten Tour–meet Ms. McMurtrie, May 1st
Kickoff Summer Reading @ downtown Library, May 2nd
LAST DAY May 10th Celebration at 10 am in cafeteria, parents/family welcome to attend!
The Gar-Pal Knowledge Bowl team came home from the state tournament in Arlington, WA, with a 4th place trophy. They ranked first of all 1B public schools. Mr. Landle and Mr. Akin are proud of the varsity squad of Seth Thompson, Travis Knauff, Emily Bagott, Daniel Orfe, Christian Burt and CJ Brantner. Way to go Vikings! Special thanks to Kelly Brantner for being our volunteer chaperone, snack mom, and also for hosting the end-of-year celebration.

**VIKotics Fundraiser & Season Wrap-up**

Wow! Spaghetti feed brought in net $2,967 and doughnuts brought in $479!! Thank you community for your support of the robotics students inspired to design, build, program, compete and so much more! VIKotics ranked 38th out of 154 teams in the Pacific Northwest District going into the district championship. Only about 60 teams advance to district. They came out at 40th place - excellent effort!

**FFA Envirothon Bound for State Competition**

Congratulations to our winning Gar-Pal team who won the Regional Envirothon at Klemgard Park. As a teacher (Mr. Sawyer), I have come to really appreciate this competition, because there are many layers to a successful team. Beyond demonstration of their knowledge in the areas of forestry, wildlife, soil science, and aquatics, our team has to learn a different environmental issue each year to give an oral presentation on. The topic for this year was rangeland management. The winning team (pictured left to right) consists of Austin Jones, Chad Hansen, Daniel Orfe, Eddie O’Neill, Ethan Cook and coached by Mark Sawyer. This team will be competing later this month at the state competition that will be hosted in the Okanogan District.
Gar-Pal High School Theater Club

This year, Garfield-Palouse High School Theatre Club performed a rendition of Shakespeare’s ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’. The cast performed the comedy on April 27th and 28th at the Palouse Grange. Pictured: Olivia Knauff as Snug, CJ Brantner as Puck, Lauren Welch as Bottom, Christian Burt as Peter Quince, Danny Laughary as Oberon, Hailey Beckner as Cobweb, Tianna Gregg as the Director, Elvis Gregg as Francis Flute, and Emmy Gregg as Titania.

Baseball and Softball End of Season

This year’s Viking Baseball and Softball teams are wrapping up the season. We are glad to see softball back at our school. This year was a young team led by 2 seniors (Katie Arrasmith, Payson Griner). Girls had 3 wins and 12 losses so far. Their last game is May 1 versus Colton.

Baseball will finish in 3rd place in the league. They were led by seniors Seth Thompson and Evan Weagraff, with a total of 12 members. The Vikings will play on May 8th at 11:30am versus the 4th place team out of District 7. It has been a good season. Good luck at playoffs boys!

Check out the playoff bracket updates on www.garpal.net.

Literature 170 Class Attends Argonautika

As part of the “EWU in the High School” class offered here at Gar-Pal, the Literature 170 class attended a dramatic performance of Argonautika at Whitworth University. The performance was held on April 19 and several area schools were invited. Argonautika is a dramatic retelling of Jason and the Argonauts, and Jason’s quest for the golden fleece. Students who take Literature 170 can earn 5 college credits from Eastern Washington University. It is a great opportunity for students to get a head start on their college education. A special thanks to Mike Jones and Angie Griner for accompanying the group to the event. Our students, of course, represented our communities very well.

ASB’s “Silver Sabotage”

The high school ASB sponsored a “silver sabotage” fundraiser to raise money for the humane society in Pullman, Washington. On April 20, Officers Emmy Gregg, Katie Arrasmith, and Emily Bagott accompanied Mr. Thompson to the animal shelter to present the check and visit the animals. By emptying their piggy banks, students raised $201.95 to support the local animal shelter. The seniors also won the competition, and received a pizza party. Great job Gar-Pal students! Your efforts are greatly appreciated.
On Wednesday, April 25th, we were fortunate to have Travis Mallett, a former GPHS and home school student and current hardware engineer at SEL come to discuss the question “Does Math = Music?” The presentation was attended by 35 students in the music room here. Travis did a masterful job of leading the kids through a series of questions and answers, using video clips and his incredible piano playing skills to help the kids to better understand the problem posed. He showed the relationship between math and music as “abstractions”. Travis ended his presentation by telling the kids that the two most important classes they will take in school are math and music because: 1) both are abstractions, and if you can abstract you can do anything; and 2) both require “hard work”, and hard work is always the key to success.

HIGH SCHOOL
JUNIORS:
- The last SAT date this spring is June 2. The registration deadline is May 3. The last ACT date is June 10. The registration deadline is May 4. There are also summer testing dates now. There’s an ACT in July and a SAT in August.
- You should be researching colleges this summer if you haven’t already done so. You will need to start completing admissions applications in early fall! It will be easier to complete those applications on-time and relatively stress-free if you know which schools you are going to apply to.

FRESHMEN & SOPHOMORES: It’s certainly not too soon for you to begin your college/post-secondary planning. Spend some time this summer looking on-line at colleges and majors/careers that you may be interested in. Remember...you can still access your WOIS account on-line during the summer. This is the program that we have used during advisory.

ELEMENTARY
Personal safety lessons have been completed in kindergarten, 1st grade and 3rd grade. Safety lessons are presently being taught in the 2nd grade.

STATE TESTING
State Assessments for the high school will be the week of April 30 for ELA and May 14 for math. The new science assessment will be given to juniors on May 30. State Assessments for the elementary will be the week of May 7 for ELA and May 21 for math. Notices have been sent home to the students/families involved in this year’s state assessments.