

**Spring  
Music  
Concerts**  
Valley School  
March 24<sup>th</sup>  
Paideia HS  
May 18<sup>th</sup>



**MARCH 2022**

**HIGHLIGHTED:** WSU Health Sciences Mentorship Program, pg. 2



## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

*Ben Ferney*

**"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant." – Anne Bradstreet**

**T**HE sun is shining, and the days are getting longer. For me, this increasing shift away from darkness fuels more optimism, knowing the change will bring added opportunities to move outdoors and shake off the effects of long winter months.

Spring athletics and activities will set off in no time, providing valuable experiences for our students to stretch, grow and learn through teamwork and shared adventures. One of the best sounds in the spring is the sharp crack of a bat hitting a softball or baseball and the encouraging cheers from the crowd and players!

Our school community looks forward to games, spring concerts, the Drama Club production, and seasonal learning projects and field trips. Seniors are getting set for culminating project presentations and graduation, marking their

final months in the twelve-year journey toward independent adulthood, which is not far off.

These meaningful events and activities strengthen student and staff spirits and balance out our responsibilities. Thank you for your continued and unwavering support of our school district to make these enriching opportunities possible for our students. Together, we're taking a positive step into the best spring yet! ❖

## Steady at the Helm!

**E**ACH year (or decade, in the case of certain VSD Board members) school directors navigate a variety of state requirements and issues to guide and support the district's educational and operational goals. Valley's elected board volunteers link community interests and school district achievement, and through their continuing service demonstrate dedication and advocacy for the well-being of our youngest citizens.

Please join us in acknowledging and thanking each member of the Valley School District Board of Directors for their time and commitment:

**Paul Voelker**—40 years  
**Bill Wilson**—38 years  
**Doug Elledge**—19 years  
**Crystal Hubert**—10 years  
**Nancy Cocroft**—3 years  
(Cue the applause!)



This community publication is provided by the Valley School District | [Valleysd.org](http://Valleysd.org)

## News from Around Campus

### WSU Mentorship Program Is Developing Student Interest and Skills in Health Science

**T**HANKS to a WSU Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine mentorship program in rural eastern Washington, Valley School seventh and eighth grade science students are getting unique, hands-on learning experiences that may inspire them to pursue a career in health sciences.

Valley middle school science teacher Ivy Friedly facilitates lab sessions brought to campus by a team of WSU grad students throughout the school year. The labs expose students to a variety of career paths in health care, pharmacology, nursing, speech therapy, dentistry, and veterinary science by presenting a hypothetical patient case that they explore.

In 7th grade science, four labs introduce students to the health sciences, highlighted by a visit to the WSU College of Medicine campus in March. Eight lab sessions in 8th grade science provide a deeper dive into a healthcare issue or job-related task.

In each engagement, students work in small groups with their assigned mentor through four lab stations supported by informational displays and diagrams, 3D models, activities or experiments, and discussion. Students are encouraged to act and think like the healthcare professional and collaborate or problem-solve with their team to treat the "patient" or specific ailment, like diabetes.

Students are enthusiastic and grateful toward their mentors and for the experience. Through this unique program, students have deepened their understanding of not only science, but

many life skills such as teamwork, communication, empathy, and customer service. Principal Becky Parrill credits Mrs. Friedly's continuing efforts in bringing the mentorship program to Valley School. "Ivy's tremendous work has led to the success of the lab units and partnership with WSU." To learn more about the WSU Stevens County Mentorship Program, go to <https://news.wsu.edu/news/2022/01/07/outreach-program-aims-to-recruit-future-physicians/> ❖



### CLASSROOM CLIPS

**M**RS. Jackson-Selle's ENGLISH I class is deeply immersed in the study of "Julius Caesar" by William Shakespeare, and ENGLISH III/IV is beginning their study of *Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain. ENGLISH II students are working through research reports—finding information, assessing sources for accuracy and reliability, using academically rigorous formatting, and producing writing that reflects all these skills, while also answering their self-selected research question.

■ LIBRARY Specialist Dori Bergman coordinates the twice-yearly Scholastic Book Fair, with books aplenty for sale on racks in the Valley School library. The fall fair was well-attended, and a similar turnout anticipated for the spring fair February 28-March 4<sup>th</sup> during school hours. Ms. Bergman added fun to the spring event with special props for student photo-ops. Thank you, families, for participating!

■ The PHS SCIENCE classes are hopping! Students in Physical Science (9<sup>th</sup> grade) and Chemistry (11-12th) will be conducting a series of labs this semester. Students in Environmental Science (10th) are starting the annual biome project to study habitats. The animals will be living in the Horticulture Center until April 1<sup>st</sup>, with class visits welcome upon request. Students in Plant Science/Horticulture (11-12th) are in full swing in preparation for the annual Greenhouse Plant Sale with Ms. Thompson leading the class this year.

(continued on next page)

### VSD Board Meeting Notice

Upcoming VSD Board meetings are  
March 16<sup>th</sup>, April 20<sup>th</sup>, and May 18<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:00 p.m.

**School Board**  
Bill Wilson  
(President)

Doug Elledge  
Paul Voelker  
Crystal Hubert

Nancy Cocroft  
**Superintendent**  
Ben Ferney

### Non-Discrimination Statement

Valley School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, 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, 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; Ken Davis, Section 504/ADA Coordinator; Ben Ferney, Compliance Coordinator for State Law (RCW 28A.640/28A.642). A complaint regarding alleged discrimination may be made by email to: [compliance@valleysd.org](mailto:compliance@valleysd.org), or by calling the district office at 509-937-2791.



■ Residents at Buena Vista Assisted Living in Colville and Quail Hollow Assisted Living in Chewelah received an outpouring of love for Valentine's Day from MS. LARSON'S 2nd GRADE and MS. RIGSBY'S 3rd GRADE classes. Students delighted in making the 66 colorful cards and spreading a lot of kindness and cheer.

■ To build reading, writing and social skills, CVA teacher Ruthanna Frizzell initiated "Pen Pals" to personally connect her students from around the state. Students eagerly check the mail for *real, handwritten* cards and letters each week. The valuable practice



of organizing thoughts, writing them down on paper, and sharing about their school and family activities gives students a chance to form special relationships and better understand the lives and cultures of new friends.

■ MR. RINDLISBACHER'S 5th GRADE students have been tasked with creating cell models at home, using a variety of materials, to learn about cells and cell parts. They are learning about the microscope and will use the equipment to explore a variety of prepared slides of plant and animal cells. ❖

## In the dark, snowy early morning hours, VSD staff work hard to keep everyone moving safely

VSD's long-time Transportation Supervisor Steve Templeton knows he will have a long night—or rather, very early morning—when winter storm advisories hit the airwaves. Between late October and early March, Steve is constantly checking the National Weather Service website, local travel forecasts and temperatures, and looking out the window to determine if road conditions indicate safe travel for school buses under his charge.

When adverse weather is predicted or upon us, Steve's day starts at 2:30 a.m. and by 3:00 he and his wife load up in their front-wheel drive car and traverse 70+ miles on roads around Valley, Loon Lake and Mary Walker school districts to experience road conditions first-hand.

He's constantly communicating and comparing notes with the county road crew and neighboring district supervisors. By 5:00 a.m., he contacts VSD Superintendent Ben Ferney to discuss conditions and decide if school buses can run safely on the regular schedule, on the Late Start schedule, or if school will be canceled for the day. Media outlets and families are generally notified by 6-6:30 a.m. of any schedule changes.

"We make the best decision we can with the information at hand," Steve

shared, but increasingly heavy snowfall, quickly changing temperatures, or shifts from snow to freezing rain later during the morning hours can make it difficult to make the "right" call for the range of time when staff and students need to head to school.

They must also coordinate with other school district schedules to



account for students riding multiple buses across district boundaries, and consider family and staff abilities to navigate safely in their own vehicles, as many travel long distances.

During the long months of winter, the Facilities Team has a similar routine of tracking weather advisories and, sometimes on short notice, start their shifts at 4:30 a.m. in order to get the myriad of sidewalks and parking lots scraped, plowed, de-iced, and sanded for safe passage of buses, cars and foot traffic.

Facilities Supervisor Jim Blair indicates that his seven team members work constantly to keep snow and ice off campus walkways, roof edges, out of gutters and drains, and manage huge piles of snow that clog lots. They must also keep equipment and heating systems operating well in frigid temperatures. He and the team are gathering input to improve efficiency and better adapt their work and snow removal plans to ever-changing conditions and staff levels.

Both supervisors commend the hard work of their crews and collaboration between districts during



challenging winter conditions. With staff shortages caused by surges in COVID-19 infections, many bus drivers and staff have stepped up to fill different work assignments and ensure the jobs get done on time to bring students and staff safely to school. ❖

## Expressing Patriotism!

**E**ACH year, the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary (VFW) sponsors youth scholarships with monetary awards through Essay, Art, and Music competitions that promote patriotism. Valley School District students, including Columbia Virtual Academy students throughout the state, may participate through a local VFW organization in eastern Washington.

In the fall Essay contest, several CVA students placed in writing contests at the local level and one student also placed second at the District level:

**Patriots Pen**—1<sup>st</sup> place/VFW Post, Taden Lockard (7<sup>th</sup> grade), earning 2<sup>nd</sup> place at district level;

**Youth Essay Local Post**—1<sup>st</sup> Place, Faith Gibson (3<sup>rd</sup> grade) and 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Charlis Hwang (5<sup>th</sup> grade);

**Voice of Democracy**—1<sup>st</sup> Place/VFW Post, Ainsley Brown (High School).

Spring Art and Music competitions are open now with submissions due by March 25<sup>th</sup>. Students are encouraged to participate in either the high school 'Patriotic Art' contest, or the K-8 'Illustrating America' contest. A new music contest called 'America Sings' is also open to all K-12 students. Students must submit a video of themselves singing the U.S. national anthem, "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Please contact CVA teacher Lynnette Franks for submission guidelines and entry forms. Submissions must be provided to Mrs. Franks at the VSD administrative office, 3030 Huffman Rd., Valley WA 99181, no later than March 25<sup>th</sup> for timely delivery to the local VFW Post for judging. If you have additional questions, please contact [Lynnette.Franks@cva.org](mailto:Lynnette.Franks@cva.org) or to learn more go to <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>. ❖

## March

- 10 11** Spring Drama Production  
"Honk Jr." | 6:00pm | Valley K-8
- 16** School Board Meeting  
6:00pm | VSD Broadcast Studio
- 24** Spring Music Program  
VS | 2:00 Gr. K-2; 2:30 Gr. 3-5
- 29** PHS Senior Culminating Project Presentations
- 31** Student-Parent Conferences  
NO SCHOOL-PHS, VS, VELC

## April

- 1** Student-Parent Conferences  
NO SCHOOL-PHS, VS, VELC
- 4** Spring Break  
NO SCHOOL April 4-8
- 20** School Board Meeting  
6:00pm | VSD Broadcast Studio

Join **Family Engagement Committee**  
monthly meetings the second Thursday,  
9:00 a.m. online through TEAMS!  
Go to [www.valleysd.org](http://www.valleysd.org) for login info.

## Heartwarming Tale Celebrates Being Different

**T**HE Valley School Drama Club spring production of "Honk Jr." presents a reimagined classic tale sure to entertain with its wit and memorable songs. In opening scenes, the animals on the farm are quick to point out that a young duckling isn't like the other paddling ducks and merciless teasing begins. Ashamed, Ugly sets out on a search for self-discovery and must outwit a very hungry Cat during various adventures and interactions with other unique characters. Valuable lessons help Ugly realize that being different has advantages and how important it is to believe in yourself. ❖



**HONK!**

**Thurs-Fri – March 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:00PM VALLEY SCHOOL MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM**  
**TICKETS \$5 AT THE DOOR**



Valley School District #070  
 3030 Huffman Rd.  
 Valley, WA 99181-9749  
 (509) 937-2791

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