

# Valley Voice

HIGHLIGHTED: Facility Improvement Work, pg. 2 | Classroom Clips, pg. 3

## Unwavering Community Support

OUR district and students have greatly benefitted from a steady history of community involvement and support from folks living within Valley School District boundaries, and we are optimistic that residents will continue this long-standing tradition by renewing the current four-year levy, which funding cycle ends in December 2022.

Locally generated levy funds support school programs and services that the state does not fund or fully fund as part of Basic Education Apportionment (BEA): Valley Early Learning Center; full-time counselors; enrichment programs such as art, music, and drama; sports; facility maintenance and repairs; technology and security enhancements; additional support staff, and small class sizes.

Since state basic education funding does not cover all the actual costs to operate a school district, local levies bridge the gap. Passage of a local levy also ensures the district will receive additional revenue from the state called levy equalization funds (Local Effort Assistance or "LEA funds"). LEA funding assists districts that have widely varying property values and tax rates with enhancing equity in students' access to locally determined enrichment programs and services.

Following state rules, the district has submitted a levy proposal and expenditure plan to the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for approval in a February ballot measure. **The renewal of this Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy will replace cur-**

**rent tax assessments at the same or lower rates over the next four years—meaning residents will not pay any new taxes.** In a four year cycle, the levy amount assessed per \$1,000 of property value will potentially decrease slightly each year as property values rise.

In 2022, the levy is generating \$152,000 in local funds at a tax rate of approximately \$0.93 per \$1,000 of assessed property value, with the state providing approximately \$1,160,000 in matching LEA funds. In other words, for each \$1 of levy funds the community provides (*continued on page 2*)

### CURRENT 4-YEAR EPO LEVY RATES

Levy Year	Maximum Levy Collection Amount	Tax Rate
2019	\$152,000	\$1.08/\$1000
2020	\$152,000	\$1.00/\$1000
2021	\$152,000	\$0.98/\$1000
2022	\$152,000	* \$0.93/\$1000

\* Projected Tax Rate

### PROJECTED 4-YEAR EPO REPLACEMENT LEVY RATES

Levy Year	Maximum Levy Collection Amount	Projected Tax Rate
2023	\$152,000	\$0.92/\$1000
2024	\$152,000	\$0.91/\$1000
2025	\$152,000	\$0.91/\$1000
2026	\$152,000	\$0.91/\$1000



# School Facilities Under Constant Care

**T**HE wheels of progress on facility improvement projects are steadily circling forward, even with additional health and safety duties and other challenges brought on by the pandemic.

District Facilities Supervisor Jim Blair and his “teammates” (as he fondly refers to the facilities crew) are in constant motion, handily keeping care of the district’s two main school buildings, six Early Learning Center portables, seven Paideia High School portables, six ancillary buildings, surrounding parking lots, recreation fields, and VL Transport Center up the hill on Bulldog Road. Jim recently commented, “If I could invent one thing, it would be more time in a day.”



A lot of facility and infrastructure work has been accomplished in the last year and a half, some visible to passersby but most largely unnoticeable to the community. Each year the district invests staff time and funding in regular facility maintenance, repairs and upgrades, and long-term campus improvement projects, striving to be good stewards of public resources and proud representatives of the Valley community.

Four recently undertaken capital investment projects now benefitting students include the enclosure and heating and

lighting of the Paideia multi-use court, the build-out of the locker room/concession stand near the football field, the addition of dug-outs on the baseball fields, and the creation of a flat playground for the early learning kids.

Late this summer, Valley residents also may have witnessed the installation of cyclone fencing and gates around auxiliary buildings, the VL Transport Center, campus boundaries and safe walking path by Northwest Fence Company.

Besides performing daily and seasonal tasks, the Facilities Team collaborated with local companies on an upgrade to the “DDC” control units of the HVAC system, asphalt paving and repairs, gravel surfacing on the PHS grounds, conversions to LED lighting throughout district buildings, repair of the school zone sign on Huffman Road, and upgrade to the fire alarm system.

The huge fencing project and other facility improvements mark the district’s commitment to safeguarding district assets and enhancing working and learning environments well into the future. ❖



## Technology Updates

**E**ACH fall brings a flurry of technology work requests for the two-man team of IT Manager Forrest Miller and Systems Technician Bryan

Lentes, who adeptly keep students and staff plugged in and operating efficiently. Forrest and Bryan are wizards at troubleshooting, and staff are continually wowed by their technical knowledge and ability to get things working.

An ongoing challenge has been improving internet and phone connections at VL Transport Center. Lumen (formerly CenturyLink) re-spliced the lines that connect the VL Transport building to the Valley School building network. (continued on page 3)

## Unwavering Support

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the state will provide another \$7.64 to the district. The combination of levy funding and LEA funding are an important element of the district’s annual budget. Without passage of the local levy, the district will not receive the approximate \$1,160,000 in state levy equalization (LEA) funds *each year*, which would result in a significant cut to district programs and staffing.

Valley School District’s Educational Programs and Operations Levy of \$152,000 per year is one of the lowest in the region, both when measured against other districts in the county and when compared to districts with similar property values in the state.

Watch for more levy information to be shared by the Valley community Committee for Children in coming weeks. ❖

## VSD Board Meeting Notice

Upcoming VSD Board meetings are  
November 17<sup>th</sup>, December 15<sup>th</sup>, and January 19<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.



## News from Around Campus



### Middle School Athletics

Valley School District is teaming up with Mary Walker School District to provide opportunities for grade 6-8 students to participate in football, wrestling, cross country, and track and field. Valley's new athletic director, Donny Miller, is optimistic this 3-year agreement will work well and encourage students to join Mary Walker sports teams when, locally, difficulties in filling team rosters and finding coaches limits selections or perhaps cancels these extracurricular activities.

This fall Valley was able to serve up volleyball for girls, while some boys have joined football in Springdale. The Lady Eagles had a strong showing and

played well against Wellpinit, Cusick, and Selkirk.

The district will continue to support athletics and make sure students have options to play. As student interest in other sports shifts or increases, the school will assess if offering additional Valley sports or combining more sports with Mary Walker are workable options. Transportation for students to and from Springdale is provided by our district.

### Classroom Clips

NEW colorful Pop It game boards are a hit in Ms. Larson's 2<sup>nd</sup> grade class. The games help kids practice math addition while engaging the senses and relieving stress. One student commented, "Doing math like this is fun!" (and the popping sound is cool, too!) ■ Students have been learning the scientific method process. Mr. Rindlisbacher's 5<sup>th</sup> grade



class first observed plain 2-liter bottle "rockets" get propelled then launched their self-designed bottle rockets and measured distances. Next steps included learning, changing, and improving before another rocket launch to gauge any differences. ■ Eighth grade science students are learning about respiratory viruses with WSU medical stu-

## Notable Events

### November

- 1** Scholastic Book Fair  
Nov. 1-5 | Valley School
- 5** End of First Quarter
- 11** Holiday – NO SCHOOL  
Veterans Day
- 17** School Board Meeting  
6:00pm | VSD Broadcast Studio
- 18 19** K-8 Drama "Rudolph Jr."  
6:30pm | Valley School MPR
- 22 23** Student-Parent Conferences  
PHS, VS, VELC
- 24** Holiday Break – NO SCHOOL  
Thanksgiving | Nov. 24-26

### December

- 4** Winter Craft Fair  
Valley K-8 Multi-Purpose Room
- 6** Winter Music Program  
Valley K-8 | Time TBD
- 15** School Board Meeting  
6:00pm | VSD Broadcast Studio
- 20** Winter Break - NO SCHOOL  
Dec. 20-Jan. 2

### January

- 3** First Day of School in 2022
- 17** Holiday - NO SCHOOL  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

dents. ■ Learning school routines by working through "expectation stations" is helping K-5 students practice positive behavior, simply expressed in the school motto "SOAR" which stands for *(continued on pg. 4)*

### Tech Update – continued from pg. 2

Along with this work, Hoss from Lumen also replaced the hardware at either end with newer equipment that should help keep the equipment online in stormy weather, which tends to cause interruptions in connectivity.

To help with the issue, a Cradle-Point device will be installed soon to allow a Verizon cell signal to turn into a normal network connection and provide internet service. We are

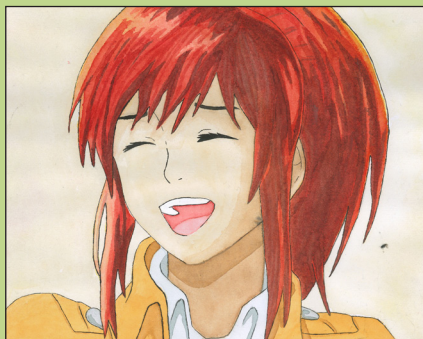
hopeful this wireless connection will increase internet reliability and speed dramatically.

Thirty Apple iPads have arrived to replace those too old to run current math and reading applications in K-2 classes. Industry-wide supply and shipping issues means delivery of the iPads took much longer than typical, but after two months the devices are here and in use.

Interactive displays (giant touch-screen TVs) have been installed in Mr. Griep's classroom, the Resource

Room and the new Transitional Kindergarten classroom. These units replace older projectors and smartboards no longer serviceable. The cost of a 75" interactive display is equal to or even a little less than the cost of a projector/smartboard combination and is expected to easily last 10-12 years, which is roughly double what a projector will last (in reality the interactive displays are rated for 50,000 hours of use which translates to 20-25 years in the classroom). ❖

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



Paideia High School senior **Seleana Capoeman-Yniguez** is an amazing artist—she was born with a gift, but she also diligently and consistently works to develop her technique and plan her pieces. Although her preferred medium is pen and ink, she worked last year to learn layering techniques in order to use watercolor with finesse—as demonstrated by her watercolor piece here. Seleana's preparation and patience show in the high quality of her finished work. What makes Seleana an exceptional artist is that she chooses to pursue excellence.

— PHS teacher Angela Jackson-Selle

## Classroom Clips

— continued from pg. 3

Safety, Ownership, Achievement, Respect. ■ Paideia students are researching historical figures who contributed


## Referrals Accepted for Highly Capable Program

**I**F you know a student who demonstrates advanced achievement, aptitude or potential in academic and creative areas, please recommend them for inclusion in the Highly Capable Program (HCP).

The HCP helps students develop their special abilities, and serves students in the Valley K-8 School, Paideia High School, and Columbia Virtual Academy who exhibit learning characteristics such as unusual depth of understanding and retention; creative, abstract, or complex thinking; and/or who learn quickly with intense focus.

Student referrals are accepted from the community anytime during the school year. HCP referral forms are available on the district website at [www.valleysd.org](http://www.valleysd.org) under "services" or at the school offices, and may be submitted to the attention of the Highly Capable Program Coordinator T.O. Bakken at any school office; by mail at 3030 Huffman Road, Valley, Washington 99181; or email at [T.O.Bakken@cva.org](mailto:T.O.Bakken@cva.org). Referral for the program does not ensure enrollment. For information, contact the coordinator at 509-640-6880 or the district office at 509-937-2791. ❖

to the field of chemistry, like Aristotle and Dmitri Mendeleev, the creator of the periodic table of elements. ■ English-I students have been reading *How to Read a Book* by Mortimer J. Adler (author of the Paideia Principle). They ranked a list of these "rules for reading" and determined how each will benefit their studies. ■ To involve families in their youngsters' lessons, the Early Learning Center team is utilizing a program called "ReadyRosie." On Fridays, preschool teachers send a playlist of

short videos to families that connect to the study unit they are working on in class. Parents and kids can login, watch the video and do an  **ReadyRosie** activity together.

VELC Director Candace Harris shared that family participation in ReadyRosie is active and appreciated. The Center also will be focusing on health and safety topics such as dental hygiene and poison awareness, and will be sending home supporting resources to families (toothbrushes, Mr. Yuk stickers). ❖

Capture the "holly jolly" spirit of the season by attending the Valley School Drama Club's production of

## Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer



Adapted from a story by Robert L. May with music and lyrics by Johnny Marks. Licensed by Musical Theatre International. Directed by Theresa Carr

**THURSDAY Nov. 18<sup>th</sup> and FRIDAY Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>**

6:30PM IN THE VALLEY SCHOOL MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM  
TICKETS \$5 AT THE DOOR

All VSD Parents and Guardians are invited to join the

## Family Engagement Committee

FEC meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month  
9:00a.m. hosted online through TEAMS

Help plan activities and be involved in school happenings!

This committee serves as an advisory group for the district. Meetings include district/school program updates, information, and discussion of topics of interest to families.

Meeting links/numbers and agendas are posted at [www.valleysd.org](http://www.valleysd.org) and Facebook. For assistance, please contact Candace Harris at 937-2638.



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