

Summer Lunch - Starting on June 14th and running through August 19th from 12pm to 1pm (*closed on July 4th*) the Summer Food Service Program will serve FREE meals to kids and teens, 18 years and younger at the Granite Falls Middle School Cafeteria. For more information contact Viki Perrault at 360.283.4310 or Tammi Sawyer at 360.283.4387.

Reading Corps Positions (Full Time) Are you looking for a full time job working in Granite Falls? The Washington Reading Corps has full time positions available at both Mountain Way AND Monte Cristo! These positions are focused on improving the literacy of children in our community, directly in collaboration with the school district. For more information and to apply, visit the following links: [MWE Application](#) and [MCE Application](#).

HS Girls 800 Meter Relay Win 1st Place @ State

We have results from the GFHS Track athletes at state over Memorial Day weekend.. And the 4 x 200 Meter Relay team (Cassidy Collinge, Samantha Leitzke, Alexis Rackley, Dayana Diaz, and alternate Brittany Mayer) took FIRST PLACE with a time of 1:45.38! Way to go, GFHS Track & Field! Other place holders include: Dante Gadbois: 4th place in the 40; Dayana Diaz: 6th place in 300 hurdles; Kelsey Bassett: 6th place in the pole vault; Hayley Hansen: 11th place in shot put.

GFHS EcoTeams and FBLA Success This past week, two outstanding clubs from Granite Falls High School traveled to compete in annual competitions. The GFHS EcoTeams traveled to Detroit, MI to participate in the Shell Ecomarathon. The UrbanAutos took second in the diesel urbanconcept category, with an impressive 524 miles per gallon (mpg) - just one mpg less than the first place winner. The ShopGirls, one of just a few all girls teams to participate in the event, placed first in their category - achieving 1115 mpg with their diesel prototype car.

In FBLA news, 28 competitors traveled to Spokane, WA to compete in the 2015 Washington State Business Leadership Conference. This conference is the second in a three phase competition, starting with a regional conference, and followed by a national conference taking place in Atlanta, GA. Students who place in the top four positions in the events are eligible to move on to the next level. The students from our school who received such distinction are listed below. This is the first time in GFHS history that SIX students have been eligible to compete at the national level.

Tyler Arp - 1st Place in Personal Finance, 1st Place in Banking and Financial Systems (a team event), and 2nd Place in Accounting II

Laura Gilbertson - 3rd Place in Business Calculations

Jeremy Miller - 1st Place in Banking and Financial Systems (a team event)

Kenna Todd - 2nd Place in Computer Applications

Alex Turner - 1st Place in Banking and Financial Systems (a team event) and 3rd Place in Securities and Investments

Maia Whitley - 3rd Place in Computer Applications and 5th Place in Word Processing

Director #3 Position OPEN- The Granite Falls School District Board of Directors is accepting applications for Board Director District #3. To fill the District #3 position, applicants must (1)live within District #3, (2)be a registered voter and (3)be able to meet time commitments

established by the board. To determine whether or not you live in District #3, please see the [map of the area](#) or call the Snohomish County Elections Office at 425-388-3444. DEADLINE EXTENDED!!!... **Interested and qualified candidates must submit a letter of interest and qualifications by Sunday, June 12, 2016 to the Secretary of the Board** (see below). Interviews will be held the third week in June.

Linda Hall, Superintendent
205 N. Alder Ave.
Granite Falls WA 98252

OR lhall@gfalls.wednet.edu

IMPORTANT SCHOOL SCHEDULE REMINDERS:

-Friday, June 3 is not a 1-hour early release day-

-Friday, June 10 is a 1-hour early release day-

Monday, June 13 is the last day of school and a half-day early release (secondary @ 10:50am and elementary @ 11:50am)

2016 Graduation Ceremonies

-CRHS: Wednesday, June 1 at 7:00 p.m.

Crossroads Gymnasium 205 N. Alder Ave.

-Open Doors Program: Thursday, June 2 at 10:00 a.m.

Crossroads Gymnasium 205 N. Alder Ave.

-GFHS: Friday, June 3 at 7:00 p.m.

Granite Falls High School Gymnasium 1401 100th St. NE

Success in Education - The Granite Falls School District has announced its fourth quarter 'Success in Education' award winners! Congratulations to Student Winners! The recipients from Granite Falls High School are Mandalynn Scheffler, Brittany Mayer, Wyatt Long, and Shawn Fuller. The Middle School has nominated Kiana Marchman-Ronne, Taylor McCaughan-Schireman, and Carissa Cole as their 'Success in Education' recipients. The students recognized from Monte Cristo Elementary are Dylan Klepper and Alanon Brown. Mountain Way Elementary will be recognizing Tayler Soto and Albert Cubias. The award represents students that show an understanding of the importance of education and provide a committed and excellent service to other students, staff members, or the community. Candidates were nominated by staff and selected by the School Administrative team.

In addition to students, two staff members will also be recognized for their commitment, dedication, and service to the Granite Falls School District. The Staff Success in Education winners are Nancie Wilder and Trevor Williams.

The Granite Falls School District Board of Directors will recognize the winners at the May 18th board meeting. Our District Vision is to see that our students are passionate in pursuit of their goals and aspirations. To that end, they are critical and inspired thinkers, adaptable, collaborative and committed to making a difference in their communities and to the betterment of society. Our District Mission is to inspire and facilitate a passion for life-long learning and the pursuit of

excellence in every student, every day. We enjoy celebrating student and staff successes and civic progress. We are very proud of our students and staff!

Coming Together for the Children - We are all here for the children, aren't we? It's time to celebrate it!

On Friday, May 20th (from 6pm - 8pm) the Granite Falls School District will be hosting the first "Coming Together for the Children" event, celebrating the reconfiguration of MWE and MCE - the district's primary and intermediate elementary schools. The event will be held at Granite Falls High School, and is an evening filled with food, fun, games, and educational resources about the elementary reconfiguration and the 2016-2017 school year. We hope to see you there!

Drama is back! The High School Drama Club is proud to present "The Actor's Nightmare!", on May 6th at 6pm and May 7th at 1pm. Directed by Mary Karns, Granite Falls High School students will take the stage to put on the performance of the year! The premise is simple - Bobby, Danni, and Christina are three high school students who share the same bad dreams of forgetting their lines, blanking on their monologues for a big audition, looking foolish in a death scene, or being in a really bad play where you don't even know what it is or any of the cast members in it! For more information, contact Granite Falls High School at (360) 691-7713.

Letter from the Superintendent - Good Morning GFSD Families! We're back from Spring Break! Summer is just around the corner, with just 2 more months until June. You can find the April Superintendent Letter [here](#). Make sure to keep an eye on social media (Facebook, Twitter) and the district website for updates on happenings in our district.

Board Member Resignation - The Granite Falls School District Board of Directors has received the resignation of Shana Hoople, the Community Liaison and Director of District #3. Shana Hoople has served as a member of the board for two years, first being appointed in January, 2014 and most recently receiving an elected position in November, 2015. Director Hoople acted as a voice of recognition and has always been a strong proponent of student success, as well as community involvement. Her strong community connections have brought outstanding insight to her fellow board members. Shana shared the board's excitement for innovation and progress in public schools, and will be sorely missed as Community Liaison and Director of District #3.

Filling the Vacancy:

The Granite Falls School District Board of Directors is accepting applications for Board Director District #3. To fill the District #3 term, applicants must (1)live within District #3, (2)be a registered voter and (3)be able to meet time commitments established by the board. To determine whether or not you live in District #3, please see the [map of the area](#) or call the Snohomish County Elections Office at 425-388-3444. **Interested and qualified candidates must submit a letter of interest and qualifications by Wednesday, May 25, 2016 to the Secretary of the Board:**

Linda Hall, Superintendent
205 N. Alder Ave.
Granite Falls WA 98252

Success in Education - The Granite Falls School District has announced its third quarter 'Success in Education' award winners! [Congratulations to Student Winners!](#) The recipients from Granite Falls High School are Keely Nash, Cheyenne Wesala, and Aleksander Dimitrov. The Middle School has nominated Jasper Kinnamon, Madelin Morehouse, and Brayden Smith as their 'Success in Education' recipients. The recipients recognized from Monte Cristo Elementary are Kaylenna Fryberg and Trey Dingman. Mountain Way Elementary will be recognizing Avery Slimak and Madison Sperry. Lastly, Crossroads High School will be giving their 'Success in Education' awards to Casey Ballard and Lauren Giebel. The award represents students that show an understanding of the importance of education and provide a committed and excellent service to other students, staff members, or the community. Candidates were nominated by staff and selected by the School Administrative team.

The Granite Falls School District Board of Directors will recognize the winners at the March 16th board meeting. Our [District Vision](#) is to see that our students are passionate in pursuit of their goals and aspirations. To that end, they are critical and inspired thinkers, adaptable, collaborative and committed to making a difference in their communities and to the betterment of society. Our [District Mission](#) is to inspire and facilitate a passion for life-long learning and the pursuit of excellence in every student, every day. We enjoy celebrating student and staff successes and civic progress. We are very proud of our students and staff!

State Bound FBLA - This past weekend, the Granite Falls High School chapter of Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) attended their annual regional conference in Sedro-Woolley, WA. At this conference, student-competitors spent the day interviewing and presenting, proving their employability skills to judges and volunteers. This conference followed a week of rigorous testing earlier in February, where students took the first step to confirm their spot at the Washington State Business Leadership Conference. At the end of the day, 30 students (more than ever before in Granite Falls FBLA history) were recognized for placing in the top 6 of their events. These events ranged from Word Processing and Spreadsheet Design to Public Speaking and Hospitality Management. Those top 30 students are all eligible to compete at the Washington State Business Leadership Conference this April in Spokane, WA. At the regional competition, Granite Falls was competing against larger schools such as Stanwood and Squalicum High School, making our performance even more outstanding. Congratulations to Granite Falls High School FBLA!

Inclement Weather Information - Issues such as temperature, power outages, downed trees, snow/ice in the forecast are considered during inclement weather. Decisions regarding school delays or closures are generally made in the early morning hours so that physical inspections of roadways can be made. Occasionally, conditions may be so bad that a decision will be made the evening before. Here are just a few reminders to help keep everyone safe and informed:

Every effort is made to have information available by 5:30am

When the decision is made, the information is listed on the district website, district [Facebook](#) and [FlashAlert](#) (you must register by clicking on the link). Local TV, radio and newspapers pulls

information from FlashAlert. Parents will also be notified of a closure/delay through the phone messaging system and school newsletter.

Parents and community members should be prepared for school changes. Each family should have a plan in place for their children.

[Limited Bus Routes](#) (pdf) are used throughout the year for snow, ice, or other situations that cause buses to alter normal routes. Always keep in mind snow routes/limited transportation may NOT be announced – light snow or unexpected ice may close roads without announcements. Visit the [Transportation page](#) for more information.

IMPORTANT! Always make sure schools have up-to-date phone numbers (home, work and cell) and email addresses for parents/guardians and emergency contacts. Please call the schools ASAP with any new contact information.

Elementary Reconfiguration Follow-up - During Thursday night's study session, the Granite Falls School District Board of Directors voted to continue planning for the reconfiguration of Monte Cristo and Mountain Way Elementary. The study session was well attended by parents and staff, with 26 people speaking from the floor after the district report.

The proposal aims to unite classes from Monte Cristo and Mountain Way Elementary. The proposal recommends that Mountain Way will house primary students (grades K-2) and Monte Cristo will house intermediate students (grades 3-5), as well as the multi-age program (grades 4-6).

The ultimate goal is to lower class sizes for ALL Granite Falls School District students in grades K-2. When we move forward with the proposal, the district will be able to lower class sizes to 17-18 students in grades K-2.

The Board of Directors indicated that administrative staff will need to work further in several areas of the proposal, specifically transportation, Special Education, and the financial impact of the reconfiguration.

The district is also working collaboratively with the GFEA to define the process for relocating classrooms in order to ensure a smooth transition for staff and faculty.

If you have any further questions on the elementary school reconfiguration, please direct them at the district office at (360) 691-7717.

Respectfully,

Linda Hall
Superintendent

Letters of Commendation - During the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office 2015 Awards ceremony, in which 60 county employees, volunteers, and citizens were recognized for their service to the community, two of our very own students received Letters of Commendation. Search and Rescue Explorer (and Granite Falls High School student), Emma Loney, received a Letter of Commendation for her endless support of Snohomish County Search and Rescue. Bret

Benzion, a student at Granite Falls Middle School was recognized for his response to an incident that happened earlier this year. Both of these outstanding members of our community were recognized for their bravery, critical thinking, citizenship, and perseverance. Emma Loney and Bret Benzion were the only students from our county to receive awards. The ceremony took place at the Everett Performing Arts Center on February 18, 2016.

GFHS Blood Drive - On Wednesday, February 17, Granite Falls High School hosted a blood drive, with the support of Bloodworks Northwest, in order to make a difference in the health of our community. They had a fantastic turnout with a total of 64 donors, 29 of which were first time donors. These donors gave more than 50 pints of blood! The blood donated will benefit roughly 159 patients across the county and state. This blood drive was made possible by Granite Falls High School students Hannah Holman and Audrey Seratte, with the generous assistance of the Leadership Class and their Advisor, Eric Dinwiddie. If you would like to donate in the future, check out [Bloodworks Northwest Online \(click here\)](#). The next donation opportunity is April 13th at the Granite Falls Fire Station!

National Signing Day - The Class of 2016 is planning for the future! Kelsey Bechtholdt, a senior at Granite Falls High School, has signed a letter of intent to play soccer at Central Washington University. With a GPA above 3.85, she will be a wonderful addition to the Central Washington University community. Kelsey signed her letter of intent on Wednesday, February 3, a day known across the United States as National Signing Day. From coast to coast, hundreds of schools and many more athletes committed to teams (and students) for the 2016-2017 school year. Congratulations, Kelsey! Check out a picture of this moment over on our [Facebook page](#).

NEW Safety Tip Reporting Service - Safety is our district's top priority, that's why we're now using SafeSchools Alert, a tip reporting system that allows students, staff, and parents to submit safety concerns to our administration 24/7. Tips may be submitted anonymously if you prefer. There are 4 different ways to report: phone, text, email, or web. You and your child can easily and anonymously report tips on bullying, harassment, drugs, vandalism or any safety issue you're concerned about. You will receive an access code to which you will need for follow-up information. NOTE: SafeSchools Alert is not to be confused with 911 services. Please call 911 in the event of an emergency. Click [HERE](#) to view a short YouTube video of the system and how it works. Visit the [webpage here](#) for more information.

GFHS Football Classification - In the past few weeks, there have been a lot of questions surrounding classification (Which refers to the level of competition a school plays), and where Granite Falls High School will play its football schedule in the fall. I wish to bring those interested up to date with information concerning those issues.

In the past, every two years, the WIAA reviews the “enrollment figures of all of its member schools so that each classification can be adjusted to promote a more equitable distribution in the number of schools.” In the future this will be done every four years. This is an attempt to encourage schools with similar populations to compete against each other and to make post season play more equitable. The WIAA did this by taking the average enrollment from Jan 1 to May 1, October 1 and twice Nov. 1, 2015. Our enrollment came out at 461.25. Just under us was

a school with 461.13. That is a 0.12 difference. The next highest school's enrollment came to 476.75. The line is drawn from the top down. The top 17% become 4A schools, the next 17%, 3A, the next 17%, 2A and the next 17% 1A. For Granite Falls the line was drawn between 461.25 and 461.13. With encouragement from the community and school board members we made an appeal to the WIAA to change our classification to 1A. This appeal was based on declining enrollment, the difference between the two schools enrollment being only 0.12, and the concern for the safety of our players, especially in football. We submitted the appeal, had the hearing on January 24th, and were denied reclassification. We will remain a 2A school. In two years we have the right to another appeal. If our enrollment continues to decline as our current trends indicate, we will once more appeal to become a 1A school.

Additionally, The Everett Herald recently came out with an article describing a proposal that would combine both leagues in 1A, 2A and 3A divisions. The article made it sound as if this was going to happen. It was a proposal that was put forth by the Northwest league, and was still being discussed by the Cascade Conference. On Wednesday, January 27th the Cascade Conference ADs and principals met to discuss the football proposal. It was decided that The Cascade conference would remain intact and not join the Northwest league in 1A and 2A football. Next year Granite Falls will participate in the Cascade conference, as it has in the past and supplement our football schedule with 3 additional games with schools that are comparable to us in enrollment and experience. If you have further questions, please contact Joey Johnson, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director at Granite Falls High School.

PLU Honor Band - Congratulations to several High School band students who were selected as members of the 2016 Pacific Lutheran University (PLU) Honor Band! These students prepared audition pieces to compete for chair placings. Two of our students were selected to be the principal player for their sections - Kailin Pierce, flute, and Claudio Ventura, bassoon. John Cassel, trombone, was placed in 2nd chair for his section. The band performed on January 9th at the Mary Baker Russell Music Center in Tacoma. This band is comprised of 250 students from high school bands across Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. All musicians are held to an incredibly high standard by their band directors in order to receive a nomination for the PLU Honor Band. We are proud to have such talented musicians in our school district! *The Granite Falls High School Band is directed by Jared Sessink, who has been the recipient of several awards in excellence.*

School Board Appreciation Month - If you see any one of our board members during the month of January, please take the time to say thank you for their commitment to our schools. Governor Inslee signed [the proclamation](#) on December 1, 2015. School Board members are responsible for approving the District's financial budget, including contracts for teachers and other employees, hiring the superintendent, setting policy, providing accountability, and advocating for students and staff. We have an outstanding team of dedicated board members working hard for our students, staff, and community. Thank you Rick Short, Tom Eadie, Carl Cary, Shana Hoople, Robert Butler, and student representative Cooper Eadie!

Success in Education Awards - The District announces its second quarter 'Success in Education' award winners. Student Winners: Congratulations to MCE Winners: **Zoey**

Haverman, Shona Chigovanyika; MWE winners: **Nicole Lesh, Cassidy Washo**; MS winners: **Jamieson Haverfield, Michelle Greenlee, Orion Green**; GFHS winners: **Laura Gilbertson, Kelsey Bechtholdt**; CRHS winner: **McKayla Marie Olson**. Candidates were nominated by staff and selected by the school's administrative team. Staff Winners: Congratulations to certificated employee **Trudy Sullivan** (GFHS) and Student Support Advocate **Jackie Woolman-Morgan** (GFHS/MS). Candidates were nominated by staff and selected by a district committee. The Success in Education Award represents students and staff that show an understanding of the importance of education and provide a committed, excellent service to other students, staff members or the community. The Board will recognize the winners at the January 20, 2016 school board meeting.

January 4, 2016 - GFSD schools are open and operating on a normal schedule. Due to inclement weather, the Burn Road bus will be operating on a limited snow route. All other routes plan to operate as normal. Always keep in mind - snow routes/limited transportation may NOT always be announced. Should a road be determined unsafe to drive, the bus will not drive it. Please call Transportation (425-335-1508) with any questions about your child's bus route.

GFSD Food Drive Results... Thank you to all of the people/organizations that provided generous donations and time toward the GFSD food drive and/or giving tree program. This is an amazing program coordinated by the Granite Falls High School student leaders that gives 100% of the proceeds to local families. This year, the drive totaled 18,509 in food items and \$12,280 in monetary donations. Staff, students, and volunteers, have been working tirelessly the last few days sorting through items and delivering all the food and presents! GFHS Student and Food Drive Activities Coordinator, Dannica West, presented these numbers at a board meeting held on December 16. She shared a few heartwarming stories about her experience, and other's experiences, while out on deliveries. They served 190 families with a total of 509 kids this year!

Highly Capable Program Seeks Nominations... GFSD is committed to providing a full range of services for all students, including enrichment for students who are identified as Highly Capable. HiCap services begin in Kindergarten and are available through graduation. HiCap identification assessments are conducted annually, and students may be nominated by parents, peers and members of the community. Nominators will complete a behavioral characteristics [questionnaire](#)(.pdf), and teachers will provide information that includes classroom performance and general achievement levels. The District will screen each nominee using reading, cognitive and math measures to identify students who qualify for further assessment. Nominations forms for students in Grades K-11 will be accepted through December 30, 2015. You can read more information in policy 6094 or you can read briefly about the screening process, cognitive testing, academic testing and service model, here. Please submit the questionnaire to your school office or Kathy Silveira at 205 N. Alder Ave or ksilveira@gfalls.wednet.edu.

GFSD Annual Holiday Food Drive!

The Food Drive is here and our goals are high at \$11,000 and 22,000 non-perishable items! This is an amazing program coordinated by the Granite Falls High School student leaders. We hope you will join us in donating food, money and gifts for local families in need. Last year, over 200

families were adopted and 501 children received donations and gifts for the holiday. The drive raised 22,443 items and totaled \$10,527.25 in monetary/gift cards. This year's theme is, "**Our branches reach far and our roots run deep**," visit the GFSD [Food Drive Facebook page](#) for more information. Check out the promotional video on [YouTube!](#) All donations can be dropped at the High School during regular school hours from November 30 - December 14. All checks should be made payable to: Granite Falls High School Food Drive and are accepted year round. If you have any questions or you would like to help, please contact the student leaders at fooddrive@gfalls.wednet.edu or Eric Dinwiddie at edinwidd@gfalls.wednet.edu or (360)-283-4393. The Herald published an [article here](#)>

Community Survey

The District seeks feedback from the community. Your opinion is extremely important to us as we strive to continually improve our services and student learning opportunities. One of the District's foundational beliefs involves strong communication that is informing, encouraging, intentional, and collaborative, with the community. Please take a moment to complete this brief survey about the District. A synopsis of the survey results will be made available in February. The District's [Strategic Plan](#) is a process for organizing strategy and direction, and may serve as a good resource as you continue with the survey [available here](#).

Concussion Awareness & Education Night on Dec. 3

Granite Falls Physical Therapy and the Granite Falls High School have partnered to host an educational night for all athletes and their parents. Jared Anderson, MD, of the Everett Clinic will be the presenter for the evening. Join us at GFHS on Thursday, December 3 at 7pm! [Informational Flyer](#)>

November Conferences

Parent-Teacher Conferences begin the week before Thanksgiving. A District-Wide Conference Schedule is available [HERE](#), or you may contact your child's school directly for a schedule. The communication between home and school is very important to us. Family involvement that supports student learning at home is directly linked to improved student achievement. Over 90% of parents attend conferences and our goal is to have 100% participation this year!

There are many areas to be concerned about in terms of fallen trees and power lines. We want our families to be safe. Here are some [power outage safety tips](#) for our families.

We have district drivers checking the road conditions multiple times a day. Should a road be unsafe to drive, the bus will not continue with that route. When that is the case for drop-offs, bus drivers will return any un-deliverable students back to the school. The school will call the parents/guardians for pick-up. In the mornings, the buses will exercise the same caution and not continue if it's unsafe. Always keep in mind snow routes/limited transportation may NOT be announced. If you live in an area that's been affected by the storm and your road may have unsafe conditions, please use snow routes (alternative pick-up and drop-off locations) —OR— arrange for alternative transportation to/from school for your child(ren).

College and Career Fair

Get a jump start on your future! On Thursday, November 19, from 7:00-8:30 p.m., GFHS will be

hosting the [2015 College & Career Fair](#). There will be representatives from businesses, 2- and 4-year colleges & universities, technical/vocational schools and branches of the military at the event. In addition, there will be financial aid, scholarship and important senior information shared that evening.

Hot Shower & Meal Opportunity For Those Without Power

There are still plenty of families without power due to the storm fallout. The Community Coalition has come together to help families get a hot shower and meal! The Middle School locker-rooms will be open today from 5-8pm, Saturday from 9-11am & 5-8pm, and possibly Sunday from 5-8pm (depending on the need Sunday

<[Informational Flyer Available Here](#)>

ALL SCHOOLS ARE CANCELLED on Wednesday, November 18, due to power outages throughout the District. All after-school activities are cancelled. Schools are open on Thursday, November 19.

November Board Meeting Cancelled

The second regular board meeting in November (the 18th) will be cancelled due to the Board attending the Annual WSSDA Conference held in Bellevue, WA from November 19-22. The [WSSDA Annual Conference](#) is the premier annual event for school directors and superintendents. It is the largest gathering of education policymakers in the state of Washington.

Mentor Program Looking for Mentors

We have several students that are on a waiting list. Do you have an extra 30-45 minutes a week? Do you want to give back to your community? Become a mentor! The primary role of a mentor is to promote positive self-esteem and success in school. A mentor is a role model that listens, encourages, and guides. Contact Kayla Lehman at 360-283-4353 for more information. Join the Mentor Program! For an informational brochure, [go here](#)

GFHS Teacher Named 'Regional Teacher of the Year'

A BIG Congratulations goes to Granite Falls High School Manufacturing Teacher, Michael Werner, for being named the "Regional Teacher of the Year" by the Northwest Educational Service District #189. Teachers of the Year are recognized across the state from each region's Educational Service District. Werner was selected unanimously by the NWESD that serves 30 other school districts. As a state finalist (1 of 9) in the running for WA State Teacher of the Year, Werner attended a ceremony on September 21st at the EMP Museum in Seattle. Although he did not receive the honor, he was recognized as a top ambassador for the teaching profession in the state. Read [more about Michael here](#).

Veterans Day Assemblies

Each of our schools have planned Veterans Day assemblies in the coming days. All veterans, families and community members are welcome to attend any or all of these events. Contact [one of the schools](#) for more information. There will be no school on Veterans Day.

Assessment Information Night on Nov. 9

Since the SBAC is new and more rigorous than previous assessments, OSPI predicted state

passing rates for ELA and math to be around 35%. With the new format this year, the reports can be very confusing, and we want to help you interpret these results. If you are a parent/guardian of a student who took the state assessment this past spring OR if you wish to learn more about the Common Core, Smarter Balanced testing and implications, then please attend our upcoming Assessment Information Night will be held on Monday, November 9 from 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. for grades K-8 and 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. for grades 9-12 at Mountain Way Elementary School.

Halloween Safety Tips & Daylight Savings!

All of us at the Granite Falls School District want everyone to have a safe and fun Halloween. [Using these safety tips](#) will help make Halloween most enjoyable for you and your children. Daylight Savings ends at 2:00am on Sunday, November 1. Don't forget to set CLOCKS BACK 1 hour on October 31. Also, remember to change your batteries in smoke detectors.

Vote Today!

With the General Election on November 3, remember to vote! Are you new to Granite Falls? Have you recently moved? Your vote counts! [Register today and vote!](#) You can register to vote at any school, the district office or any public library. Citizens may also download registration forms [HERE](#) to register by mail.

The District Seeks Substitute Staff for All Positions

Granite Falls School District is the largest employer in Granite Falls. We are always looking for talented, dedicated individuals to assist us in providing a quality learning experience for our students! There are a variety of ways to become involved. That being said, we seek substitutes for all positions. Did you know that a person with a college Bachelor's degree can be an emergency substitute teacher? Did you know that a person with a high school degree can be employed in a classified position? Please contact Susan King in Human Resources at sking@gfalls.wednet.edu or call 360-283-4309 for more information.

Flu Vaccination Clinic on October 27

The District is committed to helping our students, parents and our community keep healthy throughout the entire flu season. That's why we have partnered with the Seattle Visiting Nurse Association to provide a "flu shot clinic" for our district. The clinic will be open to all Granite Falls School District staff, families and their children (4 years+). Patient Consent Forms are available [here](#) (.pdf). All participants will be asked to provide their health insurance information (card) to receive an immunization. Join us Tuesday, Oct. 27 at the District Multi-Purpose Room, located at 405 North Alder Ave. from 3pm-7pm. [Information for Parents](#) (.pdf); [A Guide for Parents](#) (.pdf); [Make Sure Your Child is Protected](#) (.pdf).

High School Teacher Named 'Regional Teacher of the Year'

A BIG Congratulations goes to Granite Falls High School Manufacturing Teacher, Michael Werner, for being named the "Regional Teacher of the Year" by the Northwest Educational Service District #189. Teachers of the Year are recognized across the state from each region's Educational Service District. Werner was selected unanimously by the NWESD that serves 30 other school districts. As a state finalist (1 of 9) in the running for WA State Teacher of the

Year, Werner attended a ceremony on September 21st at the EMP Museum in Seattle. Although he did not receive the honor, he was recognized as a top ambassador for the teaching profession in WA State. Nathan Gibbs-Bowling of Tacoma School District was named Teacher of the Year and during his acceptance speech, he recognized Michael and his exemplary CTE work in our district and commended the eco-car program. Read more about the [Teacher of the Year and ceremony here](#) -or- [more about Michael here](#)

Printable District Calendar Available

A "cleaner-looking" version of the calendar has been created as a .pdf for those interested in printing a hard copy, [available here](#). This will be published once at the beginning of the year so it will not reflect changes made throughout the year. **For the most up-to date calendar and events, please see the live version posted on the homepage or contact the schools.** If you don't have access to a printer, please visit the Administration Office at 205 N. Alder Ave. to get a hard copy.

October is Disability History Month

RCW 28A.230.158 requires that all Washington public schools conduct or promote educational activities that provide instruction, awareness, and understanding of disability history and people with disabilities.

On September 8, we lost a Crossroads High School student. William Ramirez (17), from the Lake Stevens community, was involved in a fatal accident as a pedestrian on his way to school. We are all very saddened by this tragic loss. Please keep the family in your thoughts

FREE Tutoring Opportunity for Eligible Families

The District is offering opportunities for additional instruction (tutoring) called supplemental educational services (SES) which are designed to increase academic achievement. Families who qualify for the free and reduced meal services are eligible to [apply](#) for the free tutoring service. Selections will be determined based on student test scores. **[For the first enrollment period, applications are being accepted through October 2, 2015.](#)** More information about SES and tutoring services is available [HERE](#) or find our district contacts in this [OSPI flyer](#).

Railroad Days is Just Around the Corner!

Celebrate the Granite Falls' 50th Annual Railroad and Reunion Days event on Saturday, October 3rd! Local businesses and street vendors will be ready to welcome everyone with fun things to do and good things to eat. The Granite Falls Historical Museum is always a must see for visitors and locals alike! Bring the whole family and have a great day together in Granite Falls! Enjoy the carnival, alumni breakfast, 5K, street fair, parades and much, much more! Further information is available on the [Chamber's website](#) or by phone at 360-691-7733.

Inclement Weather Communication

When the decision is made to close or delay school, the information will be listed on the district website, facebook page, and FlashAlert. When you sign up w/ [FlashAlert](#) (by clicking on the link), you can choose to receive a text message notification. Local TV, radio and newspapers pulls information from FlashAlert. Parents will ALSO be notified of a closure/delay through the phone messaging system.

Important Back-to-School Information

- Are YOU prepared for school to start? Check out this [back-to-school check list](#) with helpful suggestions to get back in the swing of things.
- Are you new to the District? Are you transferring schools? Visit the [Student Registration/Enrollment webpage](#) for materials needed. All new and returning students need to register. Variance forms are available under the [Choice Transfer webpage](#).
- Looking for school start and dismissal times? Visit the [school hours](#) webpage.
- MS/HS fall athletic sign-ups started August 17! For more information, visit the [Athletics page here](#)>
- 2015-2016 free and reduced price meal applications are posted on the [Nutrition page here](#)>
- School newsletter subscription preferences - More than 2,500 parents and staff have subscribed to receive our district emails. Have you? If you would like to receive district "SCHOOL NEWS," please [subscribe](#) here.
- When the decision is made to delay/close school, the District will use the FlashAlert system (in addition to the website, FB page and School Messenger) to provide text message alerts. Click one of the following to [establish](#) or [update](#) your subscription to FlashAlert or read more information about school delays/closures [here](#).
- 2015-2016 School Supply Lists are available on your school's webpage or by clicking on the following links: [MCE supplies](#), [MWE supplies](#), [MS supplies](#).
- The 2015-2016 Student Handbooks are [posted here](#)>
- The 2015-2016 Calendar is part of the negotiations process with the teachers' bargaining unit. For tentative important dates, [please visit here](#).
- Bus Schedules/Routes are posted. Please check the [Transportation webpage](#) for more information.

New Administrators to Lead MCE & GFHS

Three administrative vacancies were filled at Monte Cristo Elementary & Granite Falls High School. With contracts that began July 1, we welcome Heidi Thaut, Kevin Davis and Joey Johnson to the District! We invite the community to join us for an evening of introductions, snacks and socializing! This is an opportunity for you to meet our new principals, as well as mingle amongst other administrators, staff and board members. The District will host a community 'meet and greet' open house night on [September 22 from 6:00 – 7:30pm](#) at the High School Commons. Please stay tuned for more information. [Read more about the new principals here](#)>

WELCOME BACK!!!! School Starts September 2

We are pleased to announce that all tentative dates shared by the District for the 2015-2016 school year are officially confirmed dates. The start date will be September 2nd for grades 1-6 & 9 and September 3rd for grades 7, 8 and 10-12. For Crossroads students, the first day will be September 8th. The first day of Kindergarten is on September 11th and preschool/ECEAP is on September 14th. **For more details on the [Kindergarten schedule](#), please see an attached letter from the principal for [MWE](#) / [MCE](#).** If you have any questions regarding your child's school schedule, please [contact your school office](#). The full district calendar is available on the right-hand side of this page.

Fall Athletic Sign-Ups/Schedules

The High School and Middle School athletic sign-ups began August 17. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's principal for scholarships if needed to help with participation fees. The [Activities Handbook](#) for all schools can also be found on the website (where students will find all the forms needed for eligibility). Schedules are subject to change throughout the season so all conference/league schools have changed over to the [Cascade Athletics](#) website. All High School Athletic schedules will be posted on this site, so please refer there for the most current information. You can even sign up to get SMS and email alerts of changes!

- Middle School: contact [Lee Ann Draggie](#) (Athletic Secretary) or [Dave Bianchini](#) (Principal) with questions.

- High School: contact [Debbie Lindahl](#) (Athletic Secretary) or [Joey Johnson](#) (Athletic Director) with questions.

2015-2016 Calendar

The calendar for next school year is part of the negotiations process with the teachers' bargaining unit. During negotiations, the school calendar will be established. The District will use the website, email, as well as media announcements to announce the calendar when contract negotiations are complete. The *TENTATIVE* 2015-2016 Important Calendar Dates (NOTE: subject to change by the teacher's union and school district) are as follows:

- Start Day: September 2, 2015 (Kindergarten- September 11; Preschool/ECEAP- September 14)
- Winter Break: December 21, 2015 - January 1, 2016
- Spring Break: April 4 - 8, 2016

School Supplies Giveaway!

The Granite Falls Family Resource Center & Community Coalition will be distributing FREE school supplies for lower income families on Thursday, August 20, from 4 - 6pm. Those families who are eligible for the [free/reduced lunch program](#) qualify (click link for more information). If you would like to donate supplies or volunteer on distribution day, please contact the Family Resource Center at 360.386.9282 or lize@lcsnw.org.

Register Your Child for FREE All-Day Kindergarten

Granite Falls School District merits early learning and recognizes the importance of full-day kindergarten for our students. All students who will be 5 years of age by August 31 are eligible to enroll in Kindergarten at Granite Falls School District. We offer a free tuition full-day program at both Monte Cristo and Mountain Way Elementary schools. Registration is available through August 28, 2015. Please visit the [Kindergarten Readiness page here](#) for more information.

2015-2016 Budget Hearing

The Granite Falls School District Board of Directors will meet thirty (30) minutes before the regular board meeting scheduled Wednesday, August 19 to conduct the 2015-2016 School District Budget Hearing, with the proposal presented by Director of Business and Operations, Mike Sullivan. Although the contents of the budget were disseminated in the board packet last

Friday, the Board will hear the proposal and are expected to adopt the budget during its regular meeting starting at 6pm.

Have a Safe & Healthy Summer!

The end of the school year brings summer vacations and a more laid-back way of life. This change in routine and reduced structure can also make summer a time of stress and anxiety for others in our community. We each play a key role in looking out for one another, so here are some reminders and resources to help students, friends and families enjoy a safe and stress-free summer. Reach out and stay connected during the next couple months. There are resources available 24/7--Call. Text. Chat. Get the help you need, when you need it most. For a list of other resources available 24/7, open the [Snohomish Health District](#) website here.

We are now offering Early Entrance to Kindergarten! For those students turning 5 years of age with birth dates between September 1 and October 15, Early Entrance may be permitted based on results of assessments and observations administered by the District. For more information on Early Entrance to Kindergarten including eligibility, the application and assessment process, please visit the [Kindergarten Readiness page here>](#)