

### **Student Support Advocates Available in Summer**

All families go through periods of stress and/or a crisis in life. When these things happen, it is often hard to know who to go to for help. The Student Support Advocates are offered for all 6-12 grade students and their families in a variety of ways. Contact [Jackie Woolman-Morgan](#) or [Donna Noble](#) if you need assistance, or you may call 360-283-4485 and leave a message. Jackie or Donna will return your call. More information can be found in [the SSA Flyer](#) (.pdf).

### **Accelerated Reader Available Over Summer**

Accelerated Reader (AR) will be available at the Granite Falls Sno-Isle library & at the Granite Falls School District Summer Lunch Program (Literacy @ Lunch!). All GFSD students grades K – 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to participate! Help your child retain their reading skills over the summer by reading books and taking AR quizzes (from June 12-August 31). For more information, [see this attached flyer](#).

***We are still waiting for the legislatures to fully fund education. They still have not settled on the budget. It is not too late to [contact our local legislators](#) and encourage them to invest in our children. [June 29, 2015 statement](#) from State Superintendent Randy Dorn (.pdf)***

### **Summer Lunch Program**

The District is running the FREE Summer Lunch Program from June 15 – August 21 at the multipurpose building/Middle School lunch room located at 405 N. Alder Ave, Granite Falls from 12:00 – 1:00 pm. Lunch will be served Monday – Friday (*closed July 3rd*). All children ages 1-18 are welcome and encouraged to attend. Menus will be posted on the [Nutrition Services webpage](#). With questions, please contact Viki Perrault at 360-283-4310 or Tammi Sawyer at 360-283-4387.

### **Summer Camps/Workshops**

- Granite Falls Fire Department Hosts Summer Camps--[Click here for an informational flyer](#).
- Granite Falls Library Holds Summer Workshop Series--[Click here for an informational flyer](#), or call the library with questions 360.691.6087.
- Granite Falls Boys and Girls Club-- [Download the Summer Camp Registration form here](#).

### **Granite Falls Fire Department Hosts Summer Camps**

The GF Fire Department will host both a 1 and 4 day camp option (*in August*) for kids to learn about fire safety, bike safety, staying active & healthy, and participate in team-building activities alongside local Firefighters. [Click here for an informational flyer](#).

### **Granite Falls Library Holds Summer Workshop Series**

Work Source of Snohomish County will be hosting a series of workshops tailored to job seekers--Resumes & Correspondence (held June 17); Help for Existing Resumes (June 24); & Interviewing Techniques (July 1). For more information on each workshop, [download the flyer here](#), or call the library with at 360.691.6087.

### **Summer Lunch Program News**

The District is excited to announce that we are able to receive the Federal Summer Lunch program this year! As many of you recall, we were not eligible to apply for it last year. We will serve FREE lunch for ages 1-18. The program will be held at the Middle School Multi-Purpose Room as it has been in years past. It will be open from 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. starting June 15 and run through August 21 (***date change***). For more information, please see the [May Superintendent Letter](#). [The Herald wrote an article here](#)>

### **High School Sports @ State**

Congratulations to both High School teams in softball and track! Our Lady Tigers continued on to the state tournament winning the first game against Orting. In a grueling game 2 against Othello, the Tigers lost 3-4. The Tigers played their 3rd game (in one day) in the consolation bracket against Fife and won. Although they lost against Ellensburg in game 4, this is the farthest the softball team has advanced in school history. They took 7th

in state and completed the season with a 19-9 overall record. Impressive! In addition, our fierce track competitors placed at state in their individual categories, and here are the results: Dayana Diaz 13th 300 hurdles; Dante Gadbois 11th 400; Brenden Sanders 10th High jump; Ryley Repenn 16 High Jump. **Well done TIGERS!**

### **Last Day of School will be made-up on Friday, June 12**

**Early Release Schedule: MS/CR/HS- 10:50am & MCE/MWE- 11:50am**

For more info. on this change in schedule, please [visit here](#).

### **Congratulations Class of 2015!**

"Granite Falls is a tight knit community filled with compassionate people. Thank you for partnering with us to serve the students of our district. It truly takes a village to raise a child, and we thank you for showing your support at both graduation ceremonies," said Superintendent Hall. For a copy of the Crossroads program, [click here](#) (.pdf). For a copy of the High School program, [click here](#) (.pdf) *If you were unable to attend the high school ceremony, you may watch the whole event on [YouTube here](#).*

### **Next Year's 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
- **Winter Break:** December 21, 2015- January 1, 2016
- **Spring Break:** April 4-8, 2016

### **The District Refinances Bonds—Taxpayers Save as Result!**

The District has refinanced a portion of its outstanding bonds in order to take advantage of lower interest rates. The interest rates on the outstanding bonds from the 2008 authorization averaged a 4.93% rate. The interest rates for the new bonds issued March 11th will be averaged at 2.21%, a difference that will save property owners a total of \$4,508,364 during the next ten years. The Board authorized these savings by approving the issuance of \$26,470,000 in refunding bonds at their January 7, 2015 meeting.

### **Congratulations to the 2015 WASA Awards Ceremony Winners!**

As Student Achievement Leaders, the Middle School Science Department was honored and as a Community Volunteer, Barbara Belshee was honored. Thank you for providing exceptional service to our schools and for joining our district, among other Snohomish County districts to the luncheon on May 7! For more information about the ceremony and awarded individuals, [visit here](#) (.pdf).

### **The District announces its last 'Success in Education' award winners for the 2014-2015 school year!**

The District enjoys celebrating successes and civic progress. The School Board will recognize the winning recipients at the May 20, 2015 board meeting at 6:00pm. Congratulations to Student Winners: Hailey Murphy, Tyler Arp, Maia Whitley, Josef Kohout (**High School**); Sierra Tossberg-Nash, Morgan Maier, Elsa Mastrude (**Middle School**); Ryan Baron, Molly Amundsen (**Mountain Way Elementary**); Maddi Morehouse, Kiana Marchman-Ronne (**Monte Cristo Elementary**). Congratulations to Staff Winners: Larry Lawlis (**Classified at the High School**); Patti Skurski (**Certificated at Mountain Way Elementary**)

### **High School Scholarship & Awards Night**

This special evening will be held Thursday, May 21 at 7pm and held at the High School Commons. Please join us in honoring our outstanding students and celebrating the achievements of the Class of 2015.

### **Sexual Health Education Parent Curriculum Night**

Parents of secondary students and community members will have the opportunity to hear Beth Reis, the original author of our district-adopted sexual health education curriculum speak. There will be an opportunity to ask questions about the materials being taught, as well as preview the curriculum at the middle school and high school level. Representatives for sexual health education resources will also be available. Join us on Wednesday, May 13 from 6:00 - 7:30pm at the Middle School. [For an informational flyer, click here.](#)

### **Middle School Informational Night Re. New Course Offerings**

Attention all future 7th and 8th grade families! In the latest [Superintendent Letter](#), new developments at our Middle School were announced. The Middle School will be hosting an Open House night on Thursday, May 14 from 6:00 - 7:00pm for all 7th and 8th grade families. We will be sharing information on course offerings, CTE and other elective courses, a 7-period-day, math & other subjects, fall sports, etc. This is important to explain next years happenings, so we hope to see you there!

### **FBLA Conference Results!**

15 High School student competitors attended the [FBLA state competition](#) held in Spokane on April 15. The theme of the conference was *'Learning to be a Champion by Design.'* The students were able to hear from speakers such as Howard Behar, the past president of Starbucks Coffee, Robbie Bach, the creator of X-Box, and Candice Garza, Seahawks Email and Promotions Coordinator. Students were able to network with 2,000 other FBLA high school students. The results of the competitive events are:

- **Kenna Todd -- 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Word Processing**
- **Brady Tetrick – 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Help Desk**
- **Jeremy Miller – 4<sup>th</sup> place in Computer Problem Solving**

These students are now eligible to attend and compete at the national level in [Chicago from June 27<sup>th</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup>!!!](#) For pictures from the event, [visit our Facebook page.](#)

### **The District Refinances Bonds—Taxpayers Save!**

The District has refinanced a portion of its outstanding bonds in order to take advantage of lower interest rates. The interest rates on the outstanding bonds from the 2008 authorization averaged a 4.93% rate. The interest rates for the new bonds issued March 11th will be averaged at 2.21%, a difference that will save property owners a total of \$4,508,364 during the next ten years. The Board authorized these savings by approving the issuance of \$26,470,000 in refunding bonds at their January 7, 2015 meeting.

### **Eco Teams Return From Detroit Competition**

The High School Eco-Teams return from [Shell Eco-marathon Americas](#) competition in Detroit! This high-profile event challenges high school and college-aged students to design and build a car that will travel the farthest distance using the least amount of fuel. The ShopGirls were awarded 1st place in the Safety Award, for the 5th time in 6 years! The team also achieved a new school record of 682MPG. The Urban Autos team got 223mpg. Both teams placed 4th in their category. They also got to meet and talk with celebrity Jay Leno. Congrats Eco teams! The Herald covered [the results here](#). For pictures from the event, [visit our Facebook page.](#)

### **Thank you! Community Survey Results**

Earlier this month, the Granite Falls School District published a survey allowing the community to provide anonymous feedback in a variety of areas. The District uses the information gathered to reevaluate district trajectory in terms of student opportunities, community involvement, and administrative decisions. The District would like to thank each and every one of you who took the time to respond to this survey! Here is the information we gathered from your collective responses. For the results, [please visit here.](#)

### **High School Registration, Orientation & Curriculum Night**

On April 21st at 6pm, the high school hosts this wonderful opportunity to introduce incoming freshman and returning students to curriculum of different classes and learning opportunities as well as advertise new classes

for the 2015-2016 school year. If you have any questions and/or concerns regarding this event, please feel free to contact Ginny Schlegel, counselor at GFHS at [gschlegel@gfalls.wednet.edu](mailto:gschlegel@gfalls.wednet.edu) or by phone at 360-283-4397.

### **Eco-Car Teams Return to Competition for 6th Year in a Row!**

The High School Eco Teams are busy with preparation for the highly anticipated international competition in Detroit, Michigan. The [Shell Eco-marathon Americas®](#) is from April 10-12. This high-profile event challenges high school and college-aged students to design and build a car that will travel the farthest distance using the least amount of fuel. In addition, there are several other awards to apply for including the Vehicle Design Award, Technical Innovation Award, Communications Award, & Safety award. Best of luck to both the ShopGirls and Urban Autos Teams! [Full Article Available Here>](#)

### **Common Core State Standards; What They Are & What They Aren't--**

- For answers to frequently ask parent questions, [read this handout \(.pdf\)](#).
- For a grade-by-grade explanation of learning standards, [read this handout \(.pdf\)](#).
- For all other Family Resources, [visit here](#).

### **Spring Conferences**

Conferences are coming up at the end of March. If you have a child in elementary school, this is an opportunity to visit with your child's teacher! If you have a child in Middle or High School, come watch your child lead a presentation of some of their best work! This is a great opportunity to track your child's progress and how to build on current successes. A [district-wide conference schedule](#) is available, or you may contact your child's school directly for a schedule.

### **Success in Education**

The District announces its 3rd quarter 'Success in Education' award winners! Congratulations to High School winners: Ariana Wyatt, Ricky Mueller, Alexis Brown, & Hunter Johnsen; Middle School winners: Victoria Rodenbaugh, Audri Stadelman, & Conner Maneval; Monte Cristo Elementary winners: Jenny Gill & Megan Walker; Mountain Way Elementary winners: Sadie Chatelain & Jared Yaretz; Crossroads winner: Savannah Welborn. The award represents students 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 recognized the winners at the March 18, 2015 board meeting.

### **Granite's Got Talent Results!**

The 3rd annual Talent Show was another success! The show, held on **Saturday, March 14**, had 16 different performances. While everyone showcased a variety of talents, the community judges selected the top three winners as follows: 3rd place winner, Casey Reid w/ Brandy Golston and Will Jannsen performing "Who Would Have Dreamed;" 2nd place winner, GF School of Dance performing "Wizard of Ahhhs" dance routine; and 1st place winner, Kelly James Durham performing "Missing in Action" on the piano. Among the judges were: Mayor Joshua Golston, Happy Norman (Happy's Coffee) and Jeanenne Hoyt (GF Key Bank Manager). A special thanks to GFHS, Advanced Multimedia Class and Marysville Gifts and Awards. [The full program can be viewed here.](#)

### **High School Registration, Orientation & Curriculum Night**

This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce our incoming freshman and returning students to curriculum of our different classes and learning opportunities as well as advertise new classes for the 2015-2016 school year. The following is the order of events for the [April 21, 2015](#) event:

- 6:00pm-6:25pm                    **Leadership students giving tours**
- 6:30pm-7:00pm                **Registration, Orientation College Readiness**
- 7:00pm-8:00pm                **Department curriculum represented (Commons)**

If you have any questions and/or concerns regarding this event, please feel free to contact Ginny Schlegel, counselor at GFHS at [gschlegel@gfalls.wednet.edu](mailto:gschlegel@gfalls.wednet.edu) or by phone at 360-283-4397.

### **Amazing Opportunity for Tutoring**

Online homework help, skills building, practice tests and writing lab for all ages. GED, US Citizenship, Resume, and Microsoft Office help is also available. Sno-Isle Libraries offers the [HelpNow](#) resource providing one-on-one, live tutoring for all subject areas. Tutors are available from 1-10pm, every day, though questions can be submitted 24/7. All you need is a [Library Card](#) and internet connection. If you have questions, please contact the GF Library at 360.691.6087.

### **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. Please take a moment to complete this brief survey about the District. Last day to complete the survey will be March 20. A synopsis of the survey results will be posted on the website and published in the District's March Newsletter. The [Strategic Plan](#) may serve as a good resource as you continue with this survey, [available here](#)

### **Granite's Got Talent Show!**

The Granite Falls Education Foundation is getting ready for their annual Talent Show. The Talent Show is open to all ages. The final show will be held **Saturday, March 14**. The performances start at 6:00 p.m. in the HS PAC. You don't want to miss this event! It will be full of entertainment and a lot of fun! The adult tickets are \$8.00 and the student tickets are \$5.00 (preschool free). Proceeds go toward the scholarship funds.

### **Classified Staff Appreciation Week is March 9-13**

There are so many people that support our students and facilities each day. An enormous thank you to our support staff: cooks, secretaries, custodians/maintenance workers, bus drivers, paraprofessionals, health, library and playground assistants, and office employees. Staff members transport students to and from school each day, make sure our schools are clean, safe and conducive to learning, provide breakfast and lunch, administer first aid, support academics, help students cross our busy streets, answer phones, track student records, pay the bills, make sure all employees are paid, supervise the playground and so much more! Thank you to our classified staff for the great care and support they give all our students!

### **We Are Proud of Super Kid, Dansil Green!**

Dansil Green, 17, is a senior at Granite Falls High School with a passion for science, math and space exploration. She juggles advanced classes with music and volunteer activities, while maintaining a 4.0 grade point. After a nomination by the High School Administration, she has been honored as the Herald's pick for "Super Kid" this week. What doesn't she do? She is a junior member of the American Legion, a manager of the *Shopgirls* Eco Car Team, Band President, a leadership intern at Camp Invention (STEM camp) and actively involved at her church. She was accepted to Purdue and is presently waiting to hear back from MIT and Cal Poly. She plans to continue her education after high school studying Astronautical Engineering. [Herald Article Here>](#)

### **Class of 2015 Graduation Information**

This year, Crossroads High School and Granite Falls High School will have two separate commencement ceremonies for the Class of 2015. Crossroads is now an accredited high school. We look forward to honoring each high school individually, and celebrating the 2015 graduates along with their valedictorian(s) and salutatorian(s)! **June 4**-Crossroads High School Graduation at the CR Gymnasium located at 205 North Alder Ave. Granite Falls, WA 98252. **June 5**-Granite Falls High School Graduation at the HS Gymnasium located at 1401 100<sup>th</sup> St. NE, Granite Falls, WA 98252. Both ceremonies will begin at 7pm.

### **Electronic Message Board Information**

The electronic message, installed on SR92 near the entrance to Granite Falls, has been a concept of the Fire District for the past four years to provide our community with an efficient means of notifying citizens about upcoming events and emergency notifications. More recently the partnership included the City and the

District. The three agencies are finalizing guidelines for message board use, as well as, procedures for use. *Citizens with inquires about the sign may contact City Hall for information.*

### **Congratulations GFHS Wrestling Team @ State!**

Jacob Bates (junior) wrestled tough this weekend ending his wrestling season with a 25-7 record. Way to go! Alternates, Arlyss Jenkins (junior) and Logan Corbin (senior), both placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the open tournament held the day after the state tournament. Nice Job to the entire team this season!

### **FBLA Regional Competition Results**

Great work High School FBLA students! On Saturday, February 7th, fifteen students qualified from the regional competition and will move on to the state competition in Spokane in April. Congratulations to: Kylie Alseth, Tyler Arp, Anna Beach, Rudy Engstrom, Dansil Green, Will Kamins, Jeremy Miller, Ricky Mueller, Hailey Murphy, Hailey Nelson, Brenden Sanders, Brady Tetrick, Kenna Todd, Alex Turner and Maia Whitley.

### **Granite Falls High School Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees**

Joelle Wright and Peter Kirchgessner inducted into GFHS Alumni Hall of Fame. The "Alumni Hall of Fame" was established to promote and honor positive role models who were active in school activities, graduated from Granite Falls High School and have gone on to be positive, productive citizens and role models. The induction ceremony was held on Thursday, February 5, 2015. [Read more about the inductees here>](#)

### **Success in Education Winners Announced**

The District announced our 2nd quarter and 1st semester student 'Success in Education' winners, along with two staff recipients of the staff 'Success in Education' award. The awards represent 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. Candidates were nominated by staff and selected by the School Administrative team. We enjoy celebrating successes and civic progress! Congratulations to High School Winners: **Tessa Montgomery, Chris Cervarich, Taylor Arndt, Megan Woldstad**; Middle School winners: **Emily Wicks, Erich Whitely, Brittany Mayer**; Mountain Way Elementary: **Kyle Allen, Samuel Morrison**; Monte Cristo Elementary: **Taylor McCaughan-Schireman, Kaitlyn Cramer**; District Staff: **Cassie Irvin, Margaret Janes**. The School Board recognized these individuals at the January 21 board meeting at 6:00pm. [The Herald covered the student winners here>](#)

### **Gear Up & Go! Winter Games Awards**

[Gear Up & Go!](#), an initiative of the [Snohomish County Health Leadership Coalition](#), aims to increase physical activity among the county's youth to improve academic performance and create lifelong healthy habits. Students participating in the initiative receive technology, which, when worn on the wrist, records the duration and intensity of their physical activity and awards them with virtual points in an online game. The 2014 *Gear Up & Go!* Winter Games ran Dec. 20 through Jan. 3. Congratulations to Super Sqrer Winners: 1st Place – Morgan White (Monte Cristo Elementary); 2nd Place - Maccoy Christy (Mountain Way Elementary); 3rd Place - Karely Rhodes (Monte Cristo Elementary). Congratulations to Super Syncer Awards: 1st Place - Connor Lozensky (Mountain Way Elementary); 2nd Place – Emmalee Thomas (Mountain Way Elementary); 3rd Place - Ms. Joelle Wright (Mountain Way Elementary).

### **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 (Hi-Cap). Hi-Cap services begin in Kindergarten and are available through graduation. Hi-Cap identification assessments are conducted annually, and students may be nominated by parents, peers and members of the community. The District will screen each nominee using reading and math measures to identify students who qualify for further assessment. Nominations forms for students in Grades K-11 will be accepted through **January 30, 2015**. You can read more info. regarding the Hi-Cap program in [policy 6094](#) or read briefly about the screening process, cognitive testing, academic testing and service model, [here](#). Please submit [nominations](#) to Carol Panagos at 205 N. Alder Ave or [cpanagos@gfalls.wednet.edu](mailto:cpanagos@gfalls.wednet.edu).

### **Financial Aid Night**

The High School invites seniors and their parents to attend the upcoming Financial Aid Night, Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 at the high school. This presentation is a must for seniors interested in career training or college after graduation. You will learn valuable information on the FREE Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form, plus information on grants, loans, scholarships, and other aid opportunities for college! For more information, [click here](#) or contact Dr. Rebecca Delaney at [delaney@gfalls.wednet.edu](mailto:delaney@gfalls.wednet.edu) or at 360-691-7713.

### **School Board Recognition Month**

January is School Board Recognition Month—a great time to focus on the crucial role an elected/appointed board of trustees plays in our community and schools. Please help us in thanking our school board members for their dedication and hard work. They are extraordinary people who voluntarily tackle the enormous job of governing school districts. Their actions and decisions affect the present and future lives of our children. [January has been declared as School Board Recognition Month by Governor Jay Inslee.](#)

### **School Closure & Delay Information**

When the decision is made to close or delay school, the information is listed on the district website, district [Facebook](#) and [FlashAlert](#) (register to receive an email and/or text). Local TV, radio and newspapers pull information from FlashAlert. Parents will also be notified of a closure/delay through the phone messaging system, School Messenger. For more information regarding school closures and delays, please visit the [emergency information page here](#). Have you visited our transportation page regarding [limited bus routes](#) during inclement weather situations?

### **Change a Child's Life... Become a Mentor!**

Do you have an extra 30 minutes a week? Do you want to give back to your community? Become a mentor! Mentoring is a valuable tool for helping youth live up to their potential and discover the best in themselves. The Granite Falls Mentoring Program serves approximately 35 students in grades 4-12. Students meet with an adult from the community once a week. Contact Kayla Lehman for more info 360.283.4353. or [klehman@gfalls.wednet.edu](mailto:klehman@gfalls.wednet.edu)

### **High School Accepting Nominations for Hall of Fame**

The High School is now accepting [nominations](#) (pdf) for the Alumni Hall of Fame. Awards will be presented at the High School girls' basketball game on **February 5, 2015**. The program was established in 1994 to honor past graduates that were active in school activities who are now positive role models. Please send your nomination forms to Debbie Lindahl at the Granite Falls High School 1401 100th St. NE Granite Falls, WA 98252 or email them to [dlindahl@gfalls.wednet.edu](mailto:dlindahl@gfalls.wednet.edu). **Nomination forms are due Friday, January 16, 2015.**

### **Food Drive Final Count & Delivery Dates!**

The high school leadership team, along with staff and many volunteers, spent two full days sorting and organizing all the generous donations from our community's people. This year, the drive has raised a grand total of 22,443 items and totaled \$10,527.25 in monetary/gift card donations. 204 total families were adopted by GFSD and over 500 children received gifts for the holidays. The local food banks each received a large moving-van-load of food as well. A HUGE thank you to all those who shared in the love by volunteering their time and/or donating toward this cause. It took two days to deliver all the items. THANK YOU!

### **Superintendent Shares Appreciation**

"Here, in our district, we have outstanding staff members who work hard every single day to engage and inspire every student through powerful and innovative instruction and high expectations. We continue to deepen student's understanding and increase critical thinking skills. During the month of December, I encourage you all to give a high five to an administrator for the organizational feat they choreograph each year or say "thank you" to a teacher for their active partnership with parents and students..." Read more from the Superintendent Letter>

### **Granite Falls School District Food Drive Underway**

The Food Drive is an annual event that makes a HUGE impact on our town. Visit the [GFSD food drive Facebook page](#) to learn more or watch a [short YouTube video](#) the student leaders put together. All donations can be dropped at the High School during regular school hours (7:30am-2:00pm). All checks should be made payable to: "Granite Falls High School Food Drive" and sent to: Granite Falls High School 1401 100th St NE Granite Falls, WA 98252. **Last day to donate is THIS MONDAY--December 15!** If you have any questions or if you would like to help, please contact the student leaders at [fooddrive@gfalls.wednet.edu](mailto:fooddrive@gfalls.wednet.edu) or Eric Dinwiddie at [edinwidd@gfalls.wednet.edu](mailto:edinwidd@gfalls.wednet.edu) or (360)-283-4414.

### **Teen Events at Granite Falls Library**

Want to make Granite Falls YOUR library? Join us for our monthly Teen Advisory Group and tell us what you think! Meet new people, discuss teen concerns, help us develop programs, and discover what the library has to offer- all while earning volunteer credits and having fun. Snacks generously provided by the Friends of the Granite Falls Library. Contact the Granite Falls Sno-isle library for more information (360.691.6087). For a list of upcoming events in December [please visit here](#).

### **Winter-Weather Safety Tips/School Closure & Delay Information**

With the winter weather approaching, we urge you to use this opportunity and talk with your child about safe walking/biking to and from school:

- Teach your child **safe walking routes** and [review safety tips](#) here.
- Review [safety tips](#) with your children should they happen to encounter **wildlife**.
- Snohomish County Sheriff's Department Child [Safety Flyer](#)

When the decision is made to close or delay school, 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. For more information regarding school closures and delays, please visit the [emergency information page here](#).

### **First Quarter Success in Education Winners Announced**

The District announced our 1st quarter Success in Education winners. The award represents students that show an understanding of the importance of education and provide a committed, excellent service to other students, staff members or the community. Candidates were nominated by staff and selected by the School Administrative team. We enjoy celebrating successes and civic progress! Congratulations to High School Winners: **MiKayla Engstrom, Jeremy Miller, Cassidy Collinge, Rudy Engstrom** AND congratulations to Middle School winners: **Georgia Andrew, Grace Rinaldi, Megan Woldstad**. The School Board recognized these students at the December 3, 2014 board meeting at 6:00pm.

### **District-Wide Lockdown Drill A Success!**

The Granite Falls School District underwent a full lockdown drill on November 18, 2014. The drill was initiated by the District Office as a part of our ongoing commitment to ensure a safe environment for our staff and students. All staff and students practiced locks, lights, and out of sight procedures well according to the Snohomish County Sheriffs. The Granite Falls Fire Department remained 'on deck' in the event they were needed during the drill. Classrooms were checked by officers who then gave feedback to the building administrative team, as well as, District Office Administrators. The District will follow-up with staff and students on what we can improve on, but overall the drill was a success! Thanks to all involved in the drill!

### **High School Band News**

High School freshman band student, **Erik Schmiesing**, was accepted into the Western International Band Clinic Honor Band, which is held from November 21-24. This is an elite honor band and getting a spot as a high school student (especially as a freshman) is an impressive feat! Erik plays the saxophone. We also have two



high school students that have been selected to participate in the Northwest High School Honor Band January 9-10 at Pacific Lutheran University south of Tacoma. The ensemble is comprised of the finest HS band students from Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. Congratulations to students: **Claudio Ventura**, who plays the bassoon, and **Kailin Pierce**, who plays the flute.

### **Parent/Teacher Conferences**

All schools have parent/teacher conferences scheduled during the last weeks of November, prior to Thanksgiving break. Please take a moment to view your child's [school conference schedule](#) so you can plan accordingly. Also included in the schedule are the early release times for each school. Thanksgiving break is from November 27-30.

### **Transforming Professional Learning Grant Received**

Our district was awarded the [Transforming Professional Learning](#) grant by the Gates Foundation which provides leadership from Learning Forward and supplementary support from OSPI. Recently, our district was one of six districts selected to participate in a National Instructional Materials Task Force Conference which enabled few of our staff to attend and curriculum that aligns with the Common Core. This was an amazing opportunity for our district! By receiving the Transforming Professional Learning grant, our district can use the funding to enhance the work being done that connects our vision with an optimal learning system in support of staff and student success.

### **Scholastic Book Fairs!**

The Book Fairs are here and at the Middle School, Monte Cristo and Mountain Way Elementary schools! An amazing selection of books is available at our schools! At the Book Fair you will find the latest and finest titles for kids, as well as books of interest to parents. For more information about dates and school locations in Granite Falls, [visit here](#) or contact your school.

### **College and Career Fair**

Get a jump start on your future! On Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, from 7:00pm-8:30pm, GFHS will be hosting the 2014 College and Career Fair. There will be representatives from business, 2 and 4-year colleges, technical schools and branches of the military at the event. In addition, there will be financial aid, scholarship and important senior information shared at 7:15pm. [View an informational flyer here.](#)

### **WIAA Athlete of the Week, Sept. 28-Oct. 4**

High School Junior, Emily Hodges, receives Athlete-of-the-Week from WIAA! Emily racked up 10 kills, nine digs, and was 19 for 19 with serving vs. Cedarcrest last week on October 7th. The Tigers defeated Cedarcrest 3-2! Additionally, Kailey Larsen had 16 kills and 4 digs and Alexis Wyatt had 10 kills, 10 assists and 5 digs! The WIAA recognizes twelve varsity athletes each week, a male and a female, from each of the six classifications (1B, 2B, 1A, 2A, 3A & 4A), who exhibited an outstanding performance for the previous week. To continue seeing Granite Falls Athletes recognized, please nominate an athlete by going [HERE](#).

### **Flu Season**

For the latest, most accurate information go to the [Snohomish Health District](#), [Washington State Department of Health](#), or basic information from the [Center for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#). For specific questions, call your family doctor (call before going into the office). Recent studies suggest that the nasal spray flu vaccine may work better than the flu shot in younger children. For more information about the new CDC recommendation, see [Nasal Spray Flu Vaccine in Children 2 through 8 Years Old](#) or the [2014-2015 MMWR Influenza Vaccine Recommendations](#).

### **Community Service Opportunities**

There are many community service opportunities available, many of which are local. The most up-to-date list is posted at the high school commons, or you can download the [Granite Falls High School Community Service](#)

[Form and preview a full list of opportunities here](#). Please contact your school secretary or Jan Macomber at the High School with any questions, 360.691.7713.

### **Join Us For Family Literacy Nights on Monday**

Literacy Nights provide an opportunity for Monte Cristo, Mountain Way & Middle School families to access the school library outside of the school day. Families can check out books, return books, access Accelerated Reader (AR), read together as a family, earn AR points to win a bike, learn how to find books to meet individual reading and interest levels, and receive help to access Sno-Isle library resources. See the [District Calendar](#) for time/location info.!

### **FREE Flu Vaccination Clinic on October 17**

The District is committed to helping our students, parents and our community keep healthy throughout the entire flu season. We have partnered with the Seattle Visiting Nurse Association to provide a “*flu shot clinic*” for our district. Clinics will be open to all Granite Falls School District children (4+) and their families. Please note that students under the age of 18 will need a Patient Consent Form signed by a parent or guardian. Patient Consent Forms will be available at the clinic site or you can download the [form here](#) (.pdf). Join us on Friday, October 17th at the District Multi-Purpose Room, located at 405 North Alder Ave. from 3pm-7pm.

- [Clinic info.](#) (.pdf)
- [Guide for Parents](#) (.pdf)
- [Influenza/Vaccine info.](#) (.pdf)

### **Healthy Youth Survey**

Granite Falls School District will participate in the Washington State Healthy Youth survey in which grades 9th-12th graders will take the survey. The survey will be administered on Friday, October 17, 2014. Many Washington school districts like Granite Falls administer this voluntary and anonymous survey to students. For more information (including a parent/student flyer of FAQ), please visit the "[Promoting Student Wellness](#)" page.

### **PSAT Opportunity on October 18**

Juniors and interested Sophomores, please sign up for the PSAT-preliminary SAT/national Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. This test will get you familiar with the criteria that is considered for college admission, eligibility requirements for college scholarships, as well feedback regarding critical academic skills. The PSAT will be held in the GFHS Commons on Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. The cost is \$14.00. Payments are accepted in cash, or check payable to GFHS. For questions, please contact the GFHS counseling department at 360-283-4394. Crossroads students should see Mrs. Berg at the main office to sign-up or call 360.283.4407.

### **Boys & Girls Club Offering Before School Program**

The Granite Falls Boys & Girls Club is offering an affordable before school program this fall, serving Mountain Way Elementary, Monte Cristo Elementary and the Middle School. The B&GC is taking registrations for the 2014-2015 AM now. Please contact the club at 360.386.1583 or stop by today to learn more. Drop-in hours are from 6AM to 6PM Monday through Friday during the summer. To register you must first fill out this [2014-2015 AM Program Registration Form](#). Scholarships available for those who qualify.

### **Back-to-School Preparation List**

Getting ready for school can be a lot of fun as long as everything doesn't happen at the last minute! Beat back to school stress by spreading out everything that needs to get done over these next few weeks of summer so that by the time school starts, you and your kids can relax and step confidently into the new school year! For a helpful list of ways to prepare for the upcoming year, [GO HERE](#).