

The GFS SD EXPRESS



ISSUE 6 • APRIL 2022



ECO CAR CHAMPIONS!
(SEE FULL STORY ON PAGE 6)

CALENDAR UPDATE!

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

JUNE 13



GRANITE FALLS
SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEWSLETTER

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LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear Granite Falls School District Families,

I know you are inundated with information; we all are in this day and age. I'm resharing my recent email to you in this newsletter because the topic is so important that if you missed last week's correspondence, here it is again. For those who did read and respond, I know it hit home and you are taking a more active role in your child's social media presence.

Save the date: May 31st - We are working on an in person parent forum on Social Media Awareness, Digital Citizenship and Cyber-Bullying. Details to follow once we get confirmation from speaker.

Email from April 15, 2022.

A few unrelated events have prompted me to write this email to you today out of a huge concern for our students. There have been some obvious impacts from the pandemic on children. One of the unintended consequences has been the greater engagement on social media by everyone, especially children. When school districts across the country pivoted to remote instruction, yes, most of our students adapted to Zoom instruction and participation which required lots of screen time. Remote learning left students just that, remote. We are social beings, so in a world already heightened with the use of devices and phones, the pandemic escalated the use of social media platforms, and perhaps drawing in more and younger students to sites whose existence and content you may not be aware.

Bullying, isolation, peer pressure, self-harm are topics on social media that some of our students are either reading or writing about even as early as elementary school. In school, we do not want students on social media or on their phones. It's a distraction and bluntly, bad stuff is happening. As a resource, I'm sharing some recent articles on parenting children with cell phones (and other electronic devices). The following links are informative and not an endorsement of any product that may be discussed.

Don't assume your children are avoiding these sites. In fact, assume they are on them and begin family dialogue about their potential dangers. Their well-being is being impacted. For those of us raised in the pre-phones era, our parents wanted to know where we were. Parents today know where their children may be physically, but it's important to know where they are in the cyber world. Our district is working to set up an internet safety class for parents later this spring. For now, check your kids' phones and devices!

[I Monitor My Teens' Electronics, and You Should Too by Christopher Null](#)

[The 12 Most Dangerous Apps for Kids: A Guide for Parents](#)

[10 Things to Check Your Child's Phone for Everyday by Joanna Mazewski](#)

[Here are the 15 Apps Dangerous for Children Newsweek](#)

[The best parental control apps for android and iPhone 2022 by Paul Wagenseil, Sean Riley](#)



Dr. M

REMEMBER TO VOTE!

**LEVY ELECTION APRIL 26TH;
BALLOTS ARE DUE ON OR
BEFORE APRIL 26.**

Your vote counts April 26!

- This is not a new tax.
- It renews the current levy that expires in December
- The Replacement Levy's continue our community's investment in our students
- It provides critical funding for student readiness, safety and security, educational technology and extra-curricular activities- music, arts, sports and activities. It also funds Special Education services and other unfunded mandates not funded by the state.
- Tax rate is projected to remain steady with approval of the renewal levies. The district will only collect up to the amount approved by voters.

It's not too late to vote in the April Special Election. Ballots need to be post-marked by Tuesday, April 26, 2022, in order to be valid. For the convenience of voters and our community, there is a ballot drop box located at the Granite Falls Sno-Isle library.



[The Daily Herald article released on Friday, April 15, 2022: Sultan, Granite Falls officials fear cuts if school levies fail again.](#)

NEW COMMUNICATIONS PLATFORM- BLACKBOARD

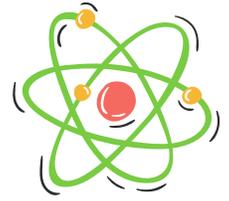
You may have noticed that the mass emails you are getting from your child's school building or the district have changed and are followed by @blackboard. The district has recently moved completely over to a new Mass Notification System with Blackboard.

These updates equip the district with COPE (Create Once Publish Everywhere) technology which is where we can write a message once and select as many delivery options that we use such as email, phone, website, social media, etc. The new system also allows us to select a specific area when sending messages, no more bus calls to the entire district! Blackboard is also TCPA (Telephone Consumer Protection Act) Compliant which means that parents and students will be able to opt-out of non-emergency phone calls and text messages sent by the district or school per TCPA regulations.

We are excited about these changes and hope you are too!



SCIENCE SCORES ON THE MOVE



Science Test Scores Soar at Crossroads High School

According to the OSPI data analysis, in the 2021-22 school year, 64 students (10 9th graders and 54 12th graders) took the Science State Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science in Crossroads High School. 60.9% of those students scored high enough to meet state standards for their grade level.

(Interview with science teachers, Jesse Nelson and Jeremy Rose)

Q.: What does science mean to you as a person?

A. Jeremy Rose: The ability to wonder, think, make connections, and explain how the world works.

A. Jesse Nelson: To me science is being able to ask questions and seek answers to better understand the world around you.

Q: How long have you been teaching? How long have you been teaching science?

A. Jeremy Rose: This is my 10th year teaching science, 5th at Crossroads High School.

A. Jesse Nelson: 3-4 years

Q: How do you get your students excited about coming to class?

A. Jeremy Rose: Labs, experiments, kindness, high but manageable expectations.

A. Jesse Nelson: I build relationships with the kiddos and foster an environment where the students feel safe exploring scientific concepts. I also (try) to relate what we are talking about to their lives as much as I can.



Q: Can you share an example of what a day looks like in your classroom (a scenario or situation)?

A. Jeremy Rose: In science we do a lot of inquiry-based activities, where the general pattern is “try this thing out, see what happens, and try to figure out the pattern”. I do a lot of circulating and talking in small groups, guiding students along, encouraging and giving immediate feedback. I try to make sure students create meaning and connections themselves rather than being “piggy banks” into which knowledge is deposited.

A. Jesse Nelson: Everyday we come in, grab what we are working on, put it in our notebooks and start learning! Some days start with some notes, break into inquiry activities (where we analyze a model or phenomena), complete a lab, or work on a concept check. Concept Check days are the Student’s opportunity to show they that can apply and critically think using the knowledge we obtained in our notebooks and skills we practiced together.

Interview with science teachers, Jesse Nelson and Jeremy Rose- Continued

Q: How did you prepare your students for testing?

A. Jeremy Rose: Honestly, not so much direct test prep. A lot of the pattern recognition, modeling/describing, and application questions that we do in class are represented on the state test.

A. Jesse Nelson: We practice the skills of science: asking questions, model interpretation, looking at data, critical thinking, using our resources, and problem solving.

Q.: What do you hope students take away from your class/science?

A. Jeremy Rose: A better understanding of how the world works and the tools for making connections between new experiences and the lessons from class.

A. Jesse Nelson: A positive view of science and the people who do science in addition to the ability to think critically about scientific topics (well, all topics) presented to them for the rest of their life.

Q.: Do you have anything exciting you plan to implement in the future?

A. Jeremy Rose: A multidisciplinary algebra/physics class for all incoming freshmen

A. Jesse Nelson: Not sure yet! It's always a work in progress.



Q: If I were one of your students, what would I say about you?

A. Jeremy Rose: Here are some of the things students said: Encouraging, supportive, kind, flexible. Will try different methods to make everyone understand.

A. Jesse Nelson: At Crossroads we fill out Kudos and send them to people we want to give a compliment or nice words to. So I will list some of those:

"To Mr. Nelson, thank you for being a silly fella"

"You make science and math such a fun subject. Along with making the class better with your humor"

"You are the coolest, your style is so drippy."



SKILLSUSA- HIGH SCHOOL CORE PLUS PROGRAM

Three Granite Falls High School students, Grant Stewart, Troy Lindquist, and Kaiden Shoneman, from the Core Plus Aerospace Program participated in the SkillsUSA Assembler Competition on Saturday, March 19, 2022, from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm. Kaiden Shoneman interviewed for an Assembler Position and passed the interview process.

Great work Tigers!



MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS VISIT THE HIGH SCHOOL MANUFACTURING PROGRAM



On Thursday, March 10, 2022, Mr. VonJentzen's middle school 8th-grade manufacturing class visited Mr. Gallagher's manufacturing program at the high school. Students toured the classroom and listened to Mr. Gallagher share student projects. This allows middle school students to get a glimpse into what the high school has to offer and to further their manufacturing experience.



Students also got the chance to visit with a few of the ECO Car students working on the cars as they are prepared for their upcoming trip to Indianapolis, Indiana.



ECO CAR TEAMS TAKE 3RD PLACE!

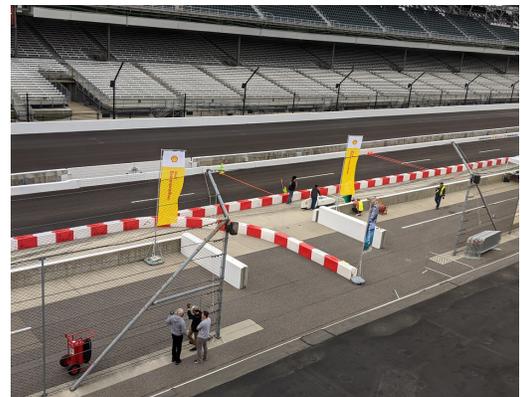
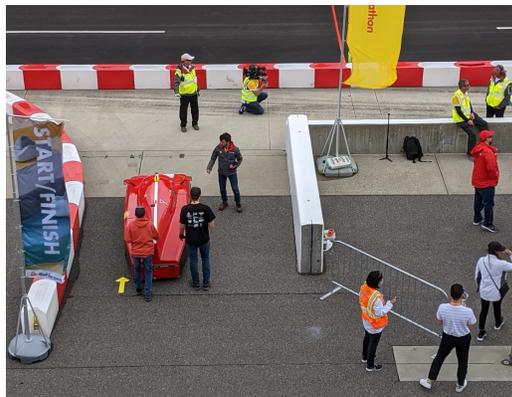
Congratulations to the Eco Car Students who competed at the Annual Shell Eco-Marathon Competition Monday through Wednesday, April 11 -14.

The teams competed against 44 other schools in the country consisting of major engineering schools and high schools.

They placed 3rd in the Urban Concept Internal Combustion Engine event with the diesel-powered red car. They also placed 3rd in the Prototype Battery Electric event with the white car. The battery-electric conversion was done to the white car this year.

The red car team for Urban Concept: Mr. Gallagher-Team Manager, Kaedin Schoneman -Team Leader/Driver, Max Williams - Back-up Driver, Troy Lindquist, Grant Stewart, and Kaylee Forsman.

The white car team for the Prototype: Mr. Gallagher Team Manager / Team Leader, Reghan Ferguson - Driver, John Webb, Jeremiah Umanzor Ugalde, Logan Moffat, Andrew Dee, and Cailin Miller.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MAY

- 1 - National School Principals Appreciation Day
- 2-6 Teacher Appreciation Week
- 2-6 National Music Week
- 2-6 School Lunch Hero Week
- 4 - Half-day Early Release
- 4 - Regular School Board Meeting
- 8 - Mother's Day
- 10 - HS National Honor's Society Induction
- 11 - Early Release
- 12 - MS National Junior Honor's Society Induction
- 12 - National School Nurses Day
- 13 - School Communicators Day
- 17-21 Educational Bosses Week
- 18 - Early Release
- 19 - MS Success Fair
- 21 - Armed Forces Day
- 25 - Early Release
- 30 - No School, Memorial Day

May



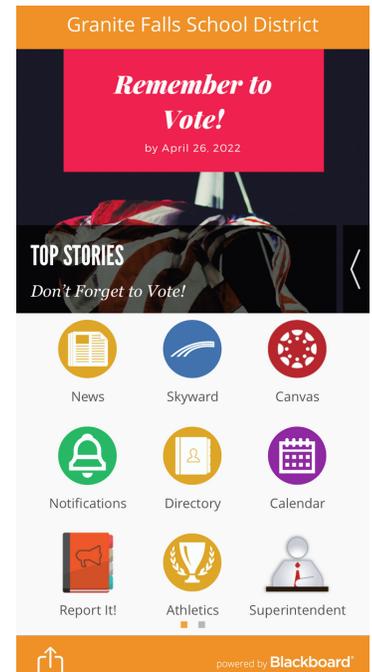
TENTATIVE 2022-23 SCHOOL CALENDAR DATES

- SEPT. 7 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
- DEC. 19 - JAN. 2 WINTER BREAK
- FEB. 17 MID-WINTER BREAK
- APR 3 - 7 SPRING BREAK



DOWNLOAD THE DISTRICT APP!

As part of the communications package with Blackboard, the Granite Falls School District has updated our App! Now you can have the convenience of checking for updates directly related to your child's school at your fingertips. You can download the app by visiting the app store or google play.



"THE KEY TO SUCCESS IS TO START BEFORE YOU ARE READY."

- MARIE FORLEO

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