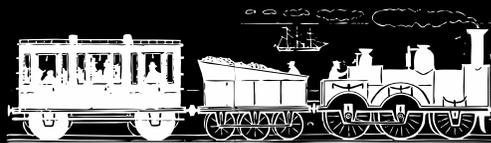


GFS

EXPRESS



SPRING BREAK, NO SCHOOL APRIL 4 - 8

◆ Mark your calendars! Spring break is April 4th through the 8th with April 1st being a half-day school day for all elementary and secondary students.



GRANITE FALLS
SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEWSLETTER

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LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



National Reading Month

February is considered "I Love to Read" Month and March is celebrated as National Reading Month. The truth is every day is a great opportunity to read.

Parents, as we move into the spring and summer months, regardless of the age of your child, begin setting aside each day for reading. The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our nation's students' trajectory on learning especially in reading and writing. Give your child the gift of daily reading time that will pay off in the short term and long term. Such benefits include:

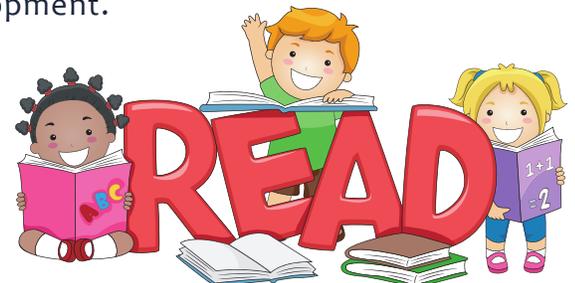
- A) Enhanced brain activity and increased development of the ability to focus
- B) Improved vocabulary
- C) Develop critical thinking skills
- D) Increase empathy and ability to understand others
- E) Academic improvement
- F) Good readers become good writers



There are some additional benefits to actually holding a book to read versus reading a book on an electronic device, but at this point, getting more kids reading just 15 minutes a day at home will pay dividends in their school work and their own individual development.

Celebrate reading every day!

Dr. M



LEVY ELECTION APRIL 26TH; LOOK FOR BALLOTS BEGINNING APRIL 8TH.

MARY THORS 4TH GRADE CLASS - WRITING A STORY OF THEIR OWN

Books and a tragedy brought a story to reality for many 4th graders at Monte Cristo Elementary. Some of the best stories are not always found in a book and many fourth-grade students in Mrs. Thor's class at Monte Cristo Elementary discovered this when they heard of another elementary school in their state that had many of their books destroyed by a flood. They decided to host a book drive to collect books for the Sumas Elementary School which were victims of major flooding throughout their community. Sumas suffered from two back-to-back severe floods that affected several families and businesses in the area. The elementary school had 2-3 feet of water in their school building where many books and supplies were destroyed by floodwater.

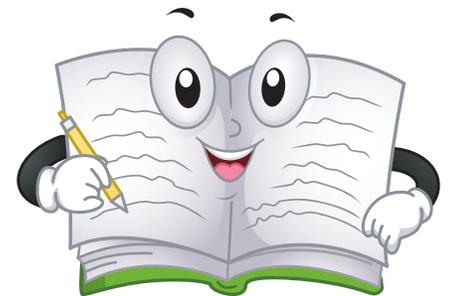


"It would be devastating to see good stories get lost. My mom would have been in tears," said Tessa Houghton, a 4th grader in Mrs. Thors' class.

After hearing about the tragedy students, staff and the community at Mountain Way Elementary, Monte Cristo Elementary and the Boys and Girls Club came together to round up over 3,000 books.

"My family donated at least 20 nonfiction books," said Ryder Isdell.

Mary Thor's 4th graders took on the task of collecting the donated books and keeping track of the numbers of books. Starting November 23rd students made signs to hang around the school, collected and counted books each day. There were math lessons completed through math with numbers and students got to partner up when working on the poster projects and collecting books. The posters were hung throughout Monte Cristo Elementary as well as Mountain Way Elementary. Several books would pour in every day. "Sometimes there would be huge piles," shared fourth-grader, Malina Neuman.



Casey Mummy shared that he is sorry about their loss of books and hopes the donation will help.

Nice work Monte Cristo 4th Grade Miners!



STUDENT SUCCESS IN EDUCATION AWARD WINNERS

Congratulations Success in Education Winners!!

The District announces its 2nd quarter 'Success in Education' award winners! Congratulations to Crossroads High School winners: Tatyana Alme & Chaz Cordell; High School winners: Parker Elsbree, Ava Combs, Miah Manibusan & Trever Laymance; Middle School winners: Pimchanok Rungruangsatian, Hailey Skarvan & Georgia Natseos; Monte Cristo Elementary winners: Chloe Foreman, Mason Graham & Rose Di Vittorio; Mountain Way Elementary winners: Averie Gomez, Fay Butler & Elaina Redman-Noble. 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's administrative team.





STAFF SUCCESS IN EDUCATION WINNERS ANNOUNCED

The district announced its third-quarter certificated and classified staff 'Success in Education' award winners at the March 16th board meeting. The award recognizes staff members for creating a thoughtful and exemplary learning environment through committed, excellent service to our schools. The third-quarter certificated staff winner is: Brian Moen (Teacher at Monte Cristo Elementary); Classified staff winners are: Elizabeth Fish (Paraprofessional at Monte Cristo Elementary).

Candidates were nominated by staff and selected by the district's administrative team.

Congratulations to Brian and Elizabeth!



MUCKER AWARD WINNER

Superintendent, Dr. Middleton announced the award winner for the Mucker Award at the board meeting on March 16, 2022. The third quarter award goes to Deanna Haviland, a paraprofessional at Crossroads High School.

In hockey the term "mucker" refers to those players who dig the puck out of the corners along the boards while being checked, elbowed, and speared. Their goal is to pass the puck to a teammate in front of the net for a possible score. It is taken from the mines and the muckers who shoveled rock into the trams. In any organization there are those who go above and beyond, especially when the work is difficult but needs to get done. The Mucker Award is an award that recognizes those individuals who tend to go unnoticed but always seem to be doing the dirty work in the corners or in the background.



Congratulations Deanna Haviland!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION- CLASS OF 2035!

Welcome Class of 2035!

On March 21 and 22, Mountain Way Elementary hosted the Annual Kindergarten Round-Up. This event is a great time for families to come register their children for Kindergarten, ask questions, meet staff and take a tour of the building. There were over 90 students who enrolled during the 2021-2022 event.



Did you miss Kindergarten Round-Up? Will your child be 5 years of age on or before August 31, 2022?

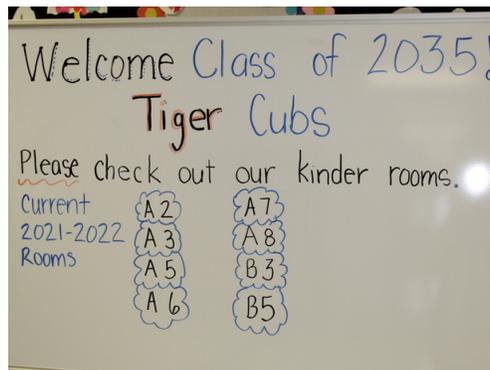
There is still time to register your child for Kindergarten starting in the fall of 2022. You can register your child online using our online enrollment tool. In the fall there will be more opportunities to tour the school and meet the teachers.



Granite Falls School District offers full-day kindergarten programs. Research shows that students who attend full-day programs make greater gains both socially and academically. Full-day kindergarten provides young learners the time they need to engage in learning in ways that effectively support them in building the foundational social and academic skills they need to support learning throughout their education. Research shows that children who participate in kindergarten have: stronger foundations and skills for elementary grades, greater overall academic achievement, improved attendance, enhanced literacy and language development and math, and better social and emotional development.

We look forward to meeting your child and family!

For more information visit the [Granite Falls School District website](#) or call 360-691-7719.



CONGRATULATIONS FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA!



FFA students making a difference by donating time!

On March 18, members of the Granite Falls FFA Chapter traveled to Seattle for the Make-A-Wish Office to help prepare for their annual gala. These members moved items from the Make-A-Wish Office to Weston Hotel. Their help in moving items for the auction led to \$2.3 million dollars being raised for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Thank you to Ellie Schoch, Hunter Mallery, Aurelia Crockett, Ava Lester, Ayla Gill, Kathryn Harmon, and Rylinn Buchholz for all your hard work!



The Veterinary Science Team competed Tuesday, March 22 at Stanwood High School for a District One Contest. Our team competed in 4 practicum events, Math test, Knowledge Exam, Identification test, and a team activity where they had to create a plan for animal biosecurity. Congrats to Sadie Chatelain for making the Top 10 individuals. Granite Falls FFA did an amazing job taking 5th place overall! Congrats to Sadie Chatelain, Hunter Mallery, Ava Lester, Ellie Schoch, and Aurelia Crockett for a job well done.



On March 23rd, Ellie Schoch and Kathryn Harmon traveled to Mount Baker High School to compete at Districts for Creed Speaking. These two have been working for months to memorize the FFA Creed and articulate answers to a variety of questions. Kathryn Harmon placed 2nd and Ellie Schoch placed 3rd. These two members have qualified for state and will be traveling to the Tri-Cities in May to compete! Nice Job!



GRANITE FALLS HIGH SCHOOL BATTLE OF THE CLASSES - HALLWAY DECORATIONS COMPLETED

The Granite Falls High School annually competes in Battle of the Classes which is a series of events that take place leading up to the main events. During the week of March 14 - 18, 2022, classes decorated a specified hallway at the high school with a selected theme of the year that coincides with their class color. Freshman are green, Sophomores are purple, Juniors are red and Seniors are blue. The senior theme for this year is Pixar, Juniors is Medieval, Sophomores is Space Jam and Freshman is Shrek Enchanted. Staff and volunteers take part in the voting process rating the decorations in several categories and then add the points up to find the winner. There is amazing talent amongst our Tigers. Congratulations Seniors who took the win!

Placement:

1st Place: Seniors

2nd Place: Sophomores

3rd Place: Tied between Freshman and Juniors

Main event is Saturday, March 26 @ 6:00 PM.





ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

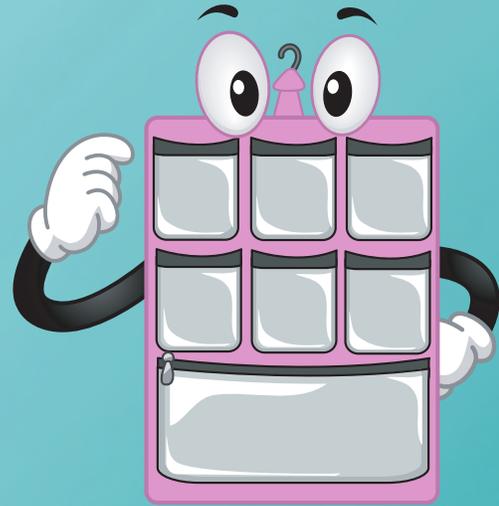
Registering to vote has never been easier. The state has a simple online voter registration process that only takes a couple of minutes. You can also register by mail or in-person. It's not too late to vote in the April Special Election. The last day to register to vote is April 18, 2022. Ballots need 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. Please contact the Snohomish County Elections Department at 425-388-3444 with questions. To register, click on the "Register to Vote" button on the right.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

APRIL

- 1 - Half-day Early Release
- 4-8 No School, Spring Break
- 11- Levy Informational Night
- 11-15- National Library Week
- 13 - Early Release
- 17- Easter
- 18-22- Public School Volunteer Week
- 20- School Board Meeting
- 22- Earth Day
- 26- Voting Day
- 27- Early Release
- 29- National Arbor Day



** April is: School Library Month, National Autism Awareness Month, National Occupational Therapy Month



ANNUAL COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS

An educational reform bill passed by the Washington state Legislature in 2010 required that school districts seek feedback from parents and community members and summarize the responses in the annual performance reports. The survey was conducted in November 2021 and provided the following results:



The district scored highest (based on a five-point scale) in Safety: commitment to safe facilities/classrooms and following safety procedures; Embracing Technology: where the district provides technology that supports student growth, instructional integration and operational efficiency; Positive Image: celebrating student success, working closely with community partners, countering perceptions & stereotypes; Positive Culture: welcoming and encouraging environment that celebrates student success at all levels.

The district scored the lowest in Innovative Instruction: providing advanced, differentiated, rigorous and inspiring instruction; Student Preparation: helping students transition between grades, schools and/or post-graduation; Parent/Teacher Partnerships: informing and collaborative communication regarding student progress; Communication: that is informing, intentional, encouraging and collaborative.



"CHANGE IS HARDEST AT THE BEGINNING, MESSIEST IN THE MIDDLE AND BEST AT THE END."

- ROBIN S. SHARMA

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