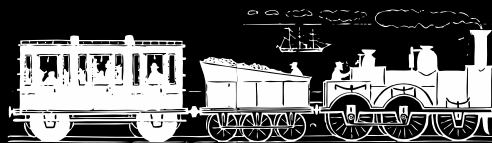


GFS

EXPRESS



COMMUNITY SURVEY- GOING ON NOW!

◆ The district is running our Annual Community Survey from now until November 30. Your feedback is very important to the future planning of the district and lets us know how we are doing. Please take a moment to complete the survey by visiting the [Community Survey](#).

TAKE SURVEY



GRANITE FALLS
SCHOOL DISTRICT
NEWSLETTER

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LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Dear GFSD Families,

I'm returning to a theme that I had shared previously, and that is the importance of reading and family game nights for our students.

Our teachers are happy to have their students back in classes this year, and through our fall assessments, we certainly are discovering some learning gaps for some students as a result of the COVID-19 closure and learning models that were in place last year. I know this is stating the obvious, but more importantly, I want to encourage a couple of ideas to promote a growth mindset; increased student reading and family game nights.

Below are the top 10 reasons students need to increase reading, especially at home.

1. Their vocabulary is larger and more extensive.
2. They perform better academically.
3. Their imagination can run wild.
4. Their creativity skills develop.
5. They develop empathy.
6. They gain a deeper understanding of their world.
7. Their concentration levels improve.
8. The parent and child bond improves.
9. Their cognitive development is supported.
10. Their social skills and interaction improve.



Playing board games also offers numerous benefits for students. Scholastic reports that they include:

1. Board games offer opportunities for early learning.
2. They get older kids' brains buzzing, too.
3. They boost their language skills.
4. They sharpen your child's focus.
5. They teach the value of teamwork.
6. Board games are an alternative to time out.
7. Board games soothe anxiety.
8. They show kids how to be a good loser.
9. Board games are a great way to unplug.



With the shorter days, rainy weather and upcoming holidays, unplug the electronics and encourage your students to get into books and enjoy family time by playing board games. You'll quickly see the benefits these two fun strategies will yield.

Dr. M

NATIONAL HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

September 15 through October 15 was National Hispanic Heritage Month. At Granite Falls High School students were celebrated in several ways. Principal Kniseley hosted a Hispanic heritage lunch for all students of the Hispanic/Latino culture where they enjoyed a meal of enchiladas, chips and salsa, dips, desserts and shared stories. The students shared ideas on how to improve awareness around their heritage and improvements that can be made around the school to help them feel more accepted.

Principal Kniseley stated, "It's great to give students a place where they can build relationships and feel like they belong while giving them an opportunity to have a voice."

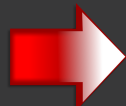


**ADRIANA BRAMBILA SHARED,
"I HOPE WE DO MORE THINGS
LIKE THIS AND FOLLOW
THROUGH ON IMPROVING
THINGS IN OUR SCHOOL."**

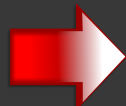
IMPORTANT INFO



Student Handbooks are available on the district website.



November 17 board meeting canceled. The Granite Falls School Board will attend the Annual WSSDA conference this week.



Insights For Parents: Cell phone use among kids and teens. (Provided by WSSDA)

ANNUAL STUDENT INFORMATION UPDATE

Every year students need to have their information updated in case of changes. The district used to send a paper packet home for each student to be completed and returned. Now those forms are available online for a much easier and quicker process. These forms include the annual FERPA form, emergency contacts, HIPAA, and other mandatory forms that must be completed by October 1 of each year. We ask that you complete this process as soon as possible for a smooth start to the school year. It's vital that we have up-to-date contact information (phone numbers and emails) for your child. This information is used in communicating with our families in times of emergency. If you have any questions, please contact your child's school or the district office.



NOTABLE NEWS

- Gallagher Manufacturing Article
- Granite Falls High School Football Goes to Playoffs!



Photo courtesy of Mr. Wood, Granite Falls High School Yearbook.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Wood, Granite Falls High School Yearbook.

HELP STOP BULLYING!

Safety is the top priority at the Granite Falls School District. This is why we use Safe Schools Alert, which is a tip reporting system that allows students, staff, and parents to submit safety concerns to our administration in five different ways:

Phone: 855-742-6957

Text: 855-742-6957, then follow instructions.

Email: 1433@alert1.us

Web: [HTTP://1433.alert.us](http://1433.alert.us)

App: Download the APP!



Anyone can easily report tips on bullying, harassment, drugs, vandalism or any safety issue of concern 24/7. Tips may also be submitted anonymously.

Please note: Sharing identifying information is at your discretion and is not required, but is VERY helpful for administrators when investigating the tip. If you don't want to share your name, please share as much information as possible so we can proceed with the investigation.

HARASSMENT, INTIMIDATION, & BULLYING (HIB)

The Granite Falls School District recognizes that bullying is a widespread and persistent problem that can happen anywhere despite education and prevention efforts. We ask you to partner with us to address this problem and to ensure that our schools are safe and positive places for growing and learning.

It is the policy of the Granite Falls School District to be committed to maintaining a safe and civil educational environment for all students, staff or others involved in School District programs or activities free from harassment, intimidation, and bullying. Individuals will not be harassed because of their race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, including gender expression or identity, mental or physical disability, or other distinguishing characteristics. This means any image or message (written or electronically transmitted), verbal or physical act that is intended to harm or intimidate and has the effect to physically harm a student or substantially interfere with a student's education or create an intimidating or threatening educational environment, or substantially disrupts the orderly operation of the school. Harassment, intimidation, and bullying in any form are unacceptable and are against District policy and state and federal law. Students who engage in such activity on school grounds or off-campus, and disrupts school operations or the learning environment, shall be subject to school disciplinary action and possible criminal prosecution. Any student who believes he or she has been the target of harassment, intimidation, or bullying is strongly encouraged to report incidents verbally or in writing to a parent, guardian, staff member or a trusted adult. The student, parent, or other adult, should notify school officials as soon as possible and complete an incident report form- these forms can be found on the District website. The District's Compliance Officer, Elizabeth Mills or designee, can be reached at 360.691.7717 or emills@gfalls.wednet.edu

EMERGENCY/INCLEMENT WEATHER



Every effort is made to make the decision on late start/school closure by 5:30 am.

When the decision is made to close or delay school, the information will be listed on the district website and sent via FlashAlert. Parents will also be notified of a closure/delay through the phone messaging School Messenger system, District Facebook page, & posted on the SR92 Electronic Reader Sign.



SAFETY FIRST! WINTER WEATHER SAFETY TIPS

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:

- **BE VISIBLE.** Wear bright/light clothing. Put reflective tape on your child's backpack. Stock up on glow sticks that are on sale for Halloween and use those as flashlights while walking in the dark.
- **Be on Alert.** It's not safe to wear headphones because you may not hear approaching vehicles.
- **Stay on Route.** Always use a sidewalk or crosswalk. Do not walk in the road, especially county roads where cars are traveling faster and turning corners. Don't take short cuts through dark/wooded areas.
- **Obey Traffic Signals, Signs and Crossing guards.** Always look both ways, behind and in-front before crossing a street.
- **Do Not Walk Alone.** Walk in groups of two or more.
- **Do Not Talk to Strangers or Approach a Strange Vehicle.** If a stranger asks you to get into their vehicle—fight, shout, scream, kick, bite, run and tell a trusted adult what happened.
- **Stay Away From Deserted Places—**do not go alone into empty buildings or parking lots or places where there aren't any people around.
- **Immediately Report Suspicious Activity.** Tell a trusted adult about any suspicious activities or people encountered by giving as many details as possible. Call 911.

We attempt every precautionary measure to inform parents of safety guidelines and help students be safe when walking or biking to and from school.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

NOVEMBER

10 - Early Release

11- No School, Veterans Day



17 - Early Release

24 - Early Release

25 - No School, Thanksgiving Break

26 - No School, Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER

1 - Early Release

1 - School Board Meeting

7 - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

8 - Early Release

15 - Early Release

15 - Bill of Rights Day

17 - Half-Day Early Release

20-31- No School, Winter Break



ANNUAL NOTIFICATIONS TO FAMILIES & THE COMMUNITY

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

Granite Falls School District Policy 3232 outlines information related to parent/student rights in administration of surveys, analysis or evaluations in accordance with the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), formerly Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) legislation, requires school districts to annually report on progress outlining specific information and include state assessment results. The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has compiled all the data from all schools in the State of Washington. The reports include:

- State Assessment Test Scores (Smarter Balanced, MSP/HSPE, EOC, WA-AIM & WaKIDS)
- Student Demographic Information
- Staff Information

The Granite Falls School District reports may be viewed on OSPI's website at Washington State Report Card. The School's Performance Reports and Improvement Plans are posted on the website.



DEALING WITH DANGEROUS WILDLIFE

It is always a good time to review safety tips with your children if they should encounter wildlife in the area:

- Stop, don't run. Pick up small children so they will not run. Stay calm and avoid direct eye contact.
- Never approach the animal but do not take your eyes off the animal or turn your back.
- If you cannot safely move away, try to appear larger than the animal. Do not crouch down or try to hide.
- If the animal displays aggressive behavior, shout, clap your hands, wave your arms or throw rocks.
- If the animal attacks, fight back and try to stay on your feet, do NOT play dead, do NOT run and climb a tree.
- If a bear attack continues, as a last resort, protect yourself by curling into a ball or lying on your stomach and playing dead.

Please tell your child to be alert for any wildlife while waiting for the bus or walking home from bus stops or out in the backyard playing. The Department of Fish and Wildlife has developed information specific to dangerous wildlife and what to do, and not do if you encounter wildlife. Report wildlife encounters to the Department of Fish and Wildlife during regular business hours call 425.775.1311 or after hours call 911. If you site wildlife in the area--near the schools or bus stops-- please contact the Superintendent's Office at 360.691.7717. Remember to note the location, time, and date of the sighting for reporting.



SEXUAL HARASSMENT PROHIBITED

Students and staff are protected against sexual harassment by anyone in any school program or activity, including on school campus, on the school bus, or off-campus at a school-sponsored activity.

Please refer to policies 3210, 3205, 3207, 5010, 5011 on the district website for more regarding Harassment Intimidation and Bullying or Sexual Harassment information.