



GARFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS AND STAFF DECEMBER 2015

Building Confidence and Culture at Garfield

All students at Garfield will begin a multiple unit of study about solving problems, how to respond to unwanted behavior and what to do if you have a serious problem with another person.

In conjunction with our Lifeskills and Second Step Instruction provided by our counselor, Mrs. Carbonneau, students will be learning and practicing some new strategies when presented with unwanted or unsafe behavior. These skills are essential components to our students' development and the culture at Garfield.

Since you might see some of these strategies employed at home as well, we thought it important to tell you about the programs. When students are presented with unwanted behavior, we are instructing them to use a hand signal and follow this three-step procedure:

- 1) Stop,
- 2) Talk and
- 3) Walk.



**Congratulations
to October's
Lifeskill Award
winners!**

Students begin with saying "enough." If this does not solve the problem they then walk to an adult and talk to them. Our staff will ask them if they have employed the strategies and will support students' use of these strategies. We will then follow-up with problem-solving and consequences as needed. The lessons then continue to become more specific and cover bullying, inappropriate remarks, gossip and cyber-bullying. This focus directly relates to our Positive Behavioral Intervention System, Kelso's Choices and Lifeskills focus.

We hope you will ask questions, have your children explain what they are learning and reinforce how we can support a healthy and safe environment.

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Site Council message for families

We are seeking a few parents to join our Site Council. This group brings together parents and staff to discuss, problem-solve and make recommendations regarding school issues and initiatives. We are hopeful that we can build a committee that represents the great diversity that comprises our school.

Site Council meets once a month for about an hour -- 4:30-5:30 p.m. the first Tuesday of the month -- in the Garfield office conference room. Childcare for school-aged students is provided. Please let Principal Brendan Chertok know if you are interested; you will be contacted by early January.

Garfield Site Council Function

Garfield's Site Council is comprised of school staff and community members who represent the diverse perspectives of the Garfield community. The Site Council serves several functions in our school:

1. Works in concert with Garfield staff and the PTA to provide opportunities and experiences that enhance the lives of students and families in our attendance area and the greater community. In this regard, the Site Council has a significant role in establishing, implementing and reviewing our yearly school improvement goals in the area of Parent and Community Involvement.
2. Provides representation of Garfield Elementary at Olympia School District Board meetings. Each member selects one meeting to attend during the course of the year and reports back to the Committee. When appropriate, the members will also provide the Board with information that promotes the needs of students and families in our attendance area.
3. Reviews and provides input in regard to building initiatives and procedures during monthly meetings.

Garfield Student Behavior Management Plan

Section 2

School-wide protocols and procedures:

- All classrooms and teaching spaces post and teach behavior expectations
- We have a school-wide incentive program for common areas
- Teachers consistently reinforce behavior expectations in a positive way
- Classrooms have their own behavior-monitoring systems that: a) individualize; b) escalate; c) include warnings, recognition/reinforcement and natural consequences; d) include a buddy class system; e) are utilized to the fullest extent possible before making a principal referral
- All students, staff and parents are informed that extraordinary disrespect, noncompliance and/or physical or emotional harm will result in a principal referral and/or a communication home and may result in suspension
- More specific individualized plans may be created for some students
- Recess-specific: basic recess expectations and rules will be taught; students are taught that breaking a recess rule or expectation will result in consequences: warning, problem-solving, natural consequence, brief timeout, extended timeout, referral to alternative recess activity, and/or principal referral.

Free and Reduced Meals is a win-win for our Garfield community

If you haven't already completed one, please pick up an application for reduced or free meals. These applications are confidential and can provide families with low- or no-cost lunches and breakfasts for Garfield students.

This also benefits our school. As a Title 1 school, Garfield receives about \$3,000 per student who is enrolled in this program. That money pays for many of our staff, who play an integral role in our reading and math intervention. It is an essential part of Garfield's success.

I encourage you to fill out the application, even if you believe you may not be eligible. The cut-off for families is quite high. Please see a sample of the income chart below:

Household Size	Monthly Income
2	\$2,456
3	\$3,098
4	\$3,739
5	\$4,380

More information can be found in our office and along the main hallway on the wall. Look for the dark blue application form.



Ms. Beattie presents the Assembly Trophy to Mrs. Mock's class.

Garfield Cheetahs are online at
<http://garfield.osd.wednet.edu>

Children's Holiday Store

Garfield is excited to provide a Children's Holiday Store this year. The holiday store provides an opportunity for students to pick out gifts for family members who live in their household. It will be open to students Tuesday - Friday, Dec. 15-18. Students will be bringing a sign-up sheet home after Thanksgiving break.



THE GARFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER is published monthly, September-June, by Garfield Elementary School. Submission deadline is the third Monday of each month prior to publication. Photos should be high-resolution digital files. Please send submissions to Rosetta Reinemer, Secretary, at rreinemer@osd.wednet.edu or Norah West, parent volunteer, at norah.m.west@gmail.com. Thank you!

Garfield Elementary School
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December

1	5:30 p.m.	Site Council Meeting
2	11:45 a.m.	Early Release
3	6 p.m.	Winter Concert – Grades K-3
9	6 p.m.	Winter Concert – Grades 4-5
10	3 p.m.	Cookie Dough Pick Up
11	6:30 p.m.	PTA Holiday Bingo
16		Holiday Spirit Gift Pick-up
17	1 p.m.	Performing Arts Assembly – Alex Zerbe
21		Winter Break

January

4		School Resumes
5	4:30 p.m.	Site Council Meeting
6	11:45 a.m.	Early Release
8	2 p.m.	Life Skills Assembly
18		No School - MLK Day
22	9 a.m.	Performing Arts Assembly – Mazigazi



Stories from veterans.



Alanna and her stepdad, Miguel Pineda, pose in front of our Elvis poster.



Local veterans reading stories in Mrs. Yusko's 1st grade classroom.