



GARFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS AND STAFF JANUARY 2016

Thank you for the time

This year we have scheduled early release days for the first Wednesdays of the month. We also spent a recent Friday without students to focus on Garfield and Olympia School District initiatives. We understand that this can be a challenge for families. When we are with students, each moment is filled with important opportunities for learning. This commitment is strong among our staff, so time to work professionally among colleagues is a rare and coveted time. On behalf of our entire staff I want to thank you for these gifts of time so we can improve our work that, in turn, improves student learning.

So, what did we do with this time?

During the morning of the nonstudent day on Oct. 16, Garfield teachers worked together in grade-level teams to develop goals in English Language Arts, Math and Science that are part of our School Improvement Plan. Additionally, teachers developed specific strategies for how those goals would be reached. The plan is now complete and submitted to the school board for approval. During the afternoon of Oct. 16, all elementary teachers gathered at the Olympia Regional Learning Academy to focus

on the new report card. After an overview presentation by members of the report card committee (including our very own Amy Koster), teachers met in grade levels to discuss the specific features of the new report card and the accompanying guide for parents. Even though it doesn't happen often enough, it is powerful to bring teachers from across the district together for new learning, problem solving and discussions about how to best serve our students and school communities.

Our early release days will all focus on implementing, monitoring and evaluating our efforts in regard to the School Improvement Plan. This can take many forms. For example, in November we split this time into two sections: safety and using student data to inform instruction. We had a presentation from Thurston County regarding lockdown procedures. This information helped us in understanding how our safety plans match with local law enforcement practices. The next part of our day focused on reviewing recent assessment data that directs future areas of focus in reading and math.

This month we will be working in grade-level teams to review student



data and plan instruction. We will also be working on the new teacher evaluation system.

Collaboration is extremely important to the work that we do in schools. Please know that the time teachers spend collaborating on the early release and nonstudent days is invaluable. And it is all done in an effort to support student growth.

Again, we thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Inside:

**Garfield Student Behavior
Management Plan ... 2**

Junior Programs ... 3

Calendar ... 4



Teacher Lori and Zayden taking a “momentary break.”

Garfield Student Behavior Management Plan

Section 3 - Miscellaneous

- All principal referrals include as-immediate-as-possible communication from the referring staff member.
- Principal referrals will be handled during the student’s recess when possible.
- All principal referrals activate a progressively escalating system of consequences.
- Staff will refer to the principal for both negative and positive behaviors.
- Students are always supervised by a staff member.
- During a crisis any staff member may appeal directly to the principal or office for help.
- The counselor will create a plan to connect “significant adults” with small numbers of students for whom this benefit might prove crucial.

Learn all about kindergarten

On Saturday, Feb. 20, the Olympia School District will hold its annual "Learn All About Kindergarten" information event starting at 10 a.m. in the Capital High School Commons. If you know of anyone in your neighborhood who has a child entering kindergarten in fall 2016, please share this information with them and encourage them to attend.

During the event, parents will learn about a variety of topics related to kindergarten and school in general, such as how to register for kindergarten, riding the bus and how to use the district's Skyward information system to stay updated on everything from grades to lunch accounts.

The event is geared for adults of incoming kindergartners in the Olympia School District. Childcare is not provided.





A full house for Garfield's K-3 Winter Concert.



Garfield fifth graders, led by band teacher, Mr. Holder, perform at our Winter Concert.

Junior Programs

This year Garfield students will once again have the opportunity to attend Junior Programs. This is an incredibly affordable way for students to see performing arts by professional groups.

This year first through third grades will see Jim West's *Aesop's Fables* and *Jack and the Beanstalk* in March. Fourth and fifth grades will see *The Lightning Thief* in February and *Let's Go Science Show* in April. These performances blend really well with Garfield Performing Arts assemblies and continue to provide all of our students with a rich and entertaining art experience.

Cost is \$12 for each student to attend two performances. All forms (including first-of-the-year registration packets) must be returned to the office in order for students to attend. Our office will resend those forms to those who have not returned them.

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

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
Brendon Chertok, Principal
325 Plymouth St NW
Olympia, WA 98502
360-596-6900

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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
23	10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	OSD Tech Fair – Olympia High School Commons

February

2	4:30 p.m.	Site Council Meeting
3	11:45 a.m.	Early Release
5	9:30 a.m.	Lifeskills Assembly
8	6:30 p.m.	PTA Meeting
15 & 16		Mid-Winter Break – No School
18	noon	Olympia Junior Programs – Grades 4 & 5
20	10 a.m.	Kindergarten Roundup – Capital High School
25		Math Night at Garfield

The OSD Tech Fair 2016 is coming!

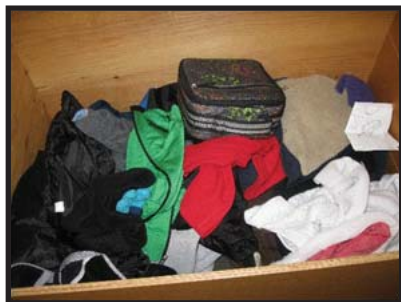
Mark your calendars! The second annual Olympia School District Technology Fair takes place 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 23 in the Olympia High School Commons.

Come out and join teachers and students as they showcase how they use technology for teaching and learning. Featured will be: librarians and online resources; teaching and learning: Headsprout; CTE-Big Cool Stuff; School of Rock Interactive Presentations with Poll Everywhere; food services; transportation; instructional tech: Chromebook Cart/Google Drive and Docs; Maker Space-Crafts with TechBits; robotics; school booths; large-group presentations; black box presentations; and vendor tables.

Projects do not have to be completed in order to be showcased. Admission is free.

Lost and Found

Our lost and found is overflowing with clothes! Please check it for any missing items. We will donate any unclaimed clothes to The Little Red Schoolhouse at the end of the month.



Tech Fair ideas include:

- Mobile Apps
- 3D Modeling
- Multimedia
- Video Editing
- Graphic Design
- Case Modification
- Non-Multimedia Applications
- Digital Photography Project
- Coding/Programming
- Digital Video Production
- Robotics
- Game Design
- Web 2.0 Internet Application