Message from the Superintendent

School is a seasonal enterprise. Each fall we kick-off another season of learning and growth. Over the summer, we have been busily making improvements to our facilities, hiring excellent staff, and developing our programs to better meet the needs of our students, families and community. Elsewhere in this edition of the Valley Voice you will find details about the ongoing improvements we have been making this summer throughout the district, as well as information about new staff members coming onto our team.

We are excited to be opening our doors to welcome our students back to school. Teachers, bus drivers, para-professionals, kitchen staff, facilities crew, secretaries, and administrators are all anxious to connect with our kids and develop strong, supportive relationships. Throughout our district we will focus on two big themes this year that will unify our work.

Theme #1: Strong, collaborative relationships with parents and families. One of the Valley School District’s Ethical Principles is to be Family Oriented. We are committed to “Respecting families as students’ first and most important teachers and partnering with families to improve student success.” As parents and family members, you can expect our doors to be open to you as important partners in ensuring successful student learning and development.

Theme #2: Balanced focus on both Academic Achievement AND Social/Emotional Development. Academic learning is certainly a primary function and obligation of our schools. At the same time, we recognize that our students are so much more than just test scores. They are unique individuals with amazing individual talents and aspirations. This year all of our staff will be learning more about how to respond to the unique developmental qualities of each student. In partnership with parents and family, we will continue to improve our focus on a personalized approach that supports success for all students.

We are honored to have the opportunity and responsibility to care for the most important people in the world, your children. We look forward to partnering with you for an incredibly successful year to come.

School starts August 30th!
Changes on the Horizon at K-8 School

Submitted by Principal Todd Smith

The Valley School staff participated in a number of problem-solving activities last winter and spring based on needs identified through the 2015-16 school year. This analysis process is part of our continuous improvement philosophy to best serve student needs with the resources available. As a result of this work, students and parents will see new class configurations and locations when school starts on August 30th.

Starting off, Valley School will offer two sections of kindergarten in the morning, with two teachers focusing on core math and language arts skills. The afternoon will consist of encore classes (P.E., music, and art), the Listening and Learning portion of Core Knowledge Language Arts, and intervention and acceleration time.

Additionally, we will offer two first grade teachers and classrooms and two fourth grade teachers and classrooms to support higher-than-usual student enrollment in those grades. In the middle school, we will split both the eighth grade class and the sixth grade class into two sections to create overall smaller classroom sizes during core subjects.

Creating space for the additional classes has kept our facilities team and teachers busy this summer. The kindergarten classrooms will be in Portable #7, which has been recently refurbished. The building has adjoining inside doors, bathrooms and sinks in both rooms, and allows the two groups to easily come together at any time.

The additional first grade class will be in Room 173 where the kindergarten class was previously located. The second fourth grade classroom will be located in Room 123, near the office foyer of the school. All other classroom locations remain the same.

Another area of change will be within the Master Schedule. The following groups will share recesses and encore times: kindergarten and first grade; second and third grade; fourth and fifth grade. This adjustment allows us to offer all of our encore classes (P.E., art and music) in a consistent five-day rotation. It also allows for overall smaller recess groups with more age appropriate interactions.

The staff at Valley School is looking forward to the many positive possibilities created by these changes in the coming school year. We try to best serve the students we have with the resources available to us. As always, Principal Smith is available to discuss any questions or concerns families might have about a child’s school experience, and can be reached through the Valley School office at (509) 937-2413.

The District Is Never Idle

While the students and staff are enjoying a long break from attending school, a core group of district office, early learning center and facilities staff remain on campus throughout the summer, diligently working on summer programs, processing student and operational data, and improving systems and technology, classes, facilities and buses to ensure a smooth start to the next school term. In addition to yearly maintenance and upkeep, the facilities team has been juggling construction projects and relocating and refurbishing several classrooms.

Facilities Supervisor Kraig Kalisch recently spoke about his team’s demanding schedule during summer months. “In June and July we hit cleaning tasks and special projects hard to accomplish as much as possible (continued on page 6)
Valley School District is pleased to welcome several new teachers this school year! Larger class sizes and several open positions resulting from staff leaving the district have prompted a flurry of hiring since early June.

New at Valley School

Larger class sizes have necessitated adding an additional classroom in first and fourth grades. Veteran teachers Julie Sautter and Sandy Wayenberg will each lead first grade classes.

Ms. Sautter, daughter of long-time Valley teacher Leslie Kristiansen, came back to the Chewelah valley recently from Newport, Oregon, having had decided it was time to come home and raise her daughter, Scout, and be closer to her family. “I grew up in Chewelah and attended Valley School through third grade,” Julie shared. She attended Portland State University for both her undergraduate and graduate degrees, and taught sixth grade in Lincoln City before relocating to Washington.

Since Julie has been back, she has served as a certificated substitute in most grade levels in the Chewelah and Valley school districts. Julie seems eager to follow in her mom’s footsteps at Valley. “I look forward to becoming a part of this close-knit community and school. I’m excited to explore a new grade level and continue to grow as an educator,” she states.

Stepping in for Mrs. Bellevue, who was granted a one-year leave of absence, Sandy Wayenberg indicates she “can’t wait to meet my first graders!” Sandy and her husband, Darrell, also a teacher, came to Washington in 1996 from teaching stints in their hometown of Fresno, California. She has been a substitute teacher in the Deer Park school district while raising her two children, who are recent graduates from high school and college. “I am excited to dive back into full time teaching at Valley School,” exclaims Sandy.

Recent EWU graduate Laci Park will bring lots of enthusiasm to third grade as she advances into a teaching position vacated by Kallie Tilla. Laci is very eager to start her career at Valley School, having completed her student teaching in first grade at Deer Park Elementary. She is excited to be a new member of Valley School District.

A local gal, Laci grew up in Spokane and Deer Park, and has an affinity for the outdoors. She shared, “As I have grown up, I have fallen in love with small towns like Valley. I come from a big family – six brothers and one sister – who I love spending time with.” Laci says, “I love meeting new people and look forward to meeting staff, students and the entire community.”

Twenty-five year teaching veteran Karon Axtell will fill the new fourth grade position. A northeast Montana native, Karon has a variety of experience in positions and grade levels throughout districts in northeast Washington and New Mexico.

Karon and her husband have five children, two girls and three boys. She exclaimed, “The part of my life that is totally wonderful is having six grandchildren – one girl and five boys, ages 3-11. We are excited to be moving back home and to being closer to our extended family.”

“I always look forward to a new school year,” Karon says. “Returning to the fourth grade is going to be exciting. Working with other teachers and staff as we meet the challenges of our scholars is something I always look forward to.”

At press time, hiring was underway for the second grade class, previously taught by Anna Pitt, who moved out of district.

New at Paideia High School

The new Paideia High School science and math teacher, Pete Whittekiend, also has local roots, growing up in Elk and attending Riverside High School. He completed his degree in education with an emphasis on math and social studies at Eastern Washington University, and received a master’s degree.

(continued on next page)
New at Paideia High School
- Continued from page 3

degree through Lesley University in Massachusetts. Pete taught math, geography and other courses at Selkirk School District until 2014, and worked for K12, Inc. in assessment and research.

“My family and I are excited for a new challenge and a new community. I am eager to get back into the classroom and roll up my sleeves,” Pete shared, adding, “I found over the past two years that I missed teaching immensely. Math opens so many doors to youth and I am excited to communicate that to the students at Paideia High School.” He currently lives in Ione on a small farm with his wife of 16 years and eight children.

New at Columbia Virtual Academy

Rebecca Dulaney is joining the CVA teaching staff full time after serving as a CVA substitute teacher last year. For the past 10 years she taught at the St. Mary of the Rosary Preschool in Chewelah, as well as substituted in the Chewelah and Valley school districts.

In addition, Rebecca has also done contract work for North Carolina State University’s TOPS program, taught sixth grade world history and fifth and sixth grades in Wilmington, North Carolina. Rebecca came to northeast Washington ten years ago from the Carolinas and her hometown of Richmond, Virginia.

“I am very happy to be part of such a welcoming and helpful group of people that work at Columbia Virtual Academy!” she exclaims. She is looking forward to expanding her skills and learning all there is to learn about being a teacher at CVA, and can’t wait to work with all the families and students that are enrolled in the program.

Also joining the CVA staff is Jason Harrison, who has served at both Valley School and CVA as a substitute teacher in past years. Jason grew up in the area and attended Valley School and Chewelah High School. He has a wonderfully varied background in environmental studies, outdoor education, wildlife and marine biology and other natural sciences.

“I love the staff at Columbia Virtual Academy and am excited to learn from and be among such wonderful people,” he stated, adding, “I look forward to working with my new families and helping my students develop a love for learning.”

Returning to CVA in a new position titled Technical Support Representative, Linda Farrington will assist students, families and staff with technology processes and issues. Linda worked as a para-educator in the CVA special education department last year, and has previous experience in CVA, both as a classified staff member and as a CVA parent.

Please join us in welcoming our new and returning staff!

Healthcare Reminder
Parents: Before the first day of school, be sure to have your child’s immunization form and, if applicable, physician’s orders form and necessary medications and form that will be brought to school.

VALLEY K-8 SCHOOL
Principal: Todd Smith
Phone: (509) 937-2413
Toll Free: (888) 284-5719
First day of school: Tues., Aug. 30th
First day of Kindergarten: Sept. 2nd
Breakfast: 8:05-8:25 a.m.
Lunch:
K-1 11:10-11:45 | 2-3 11:20-11:55
4-5 11:30-12:05 | 6-8 11:45-12:20
Dismissal: K-2 3:21 p.m.
3-5 3:25 p.m.
6-8 3:26 p.m.
MONDAY LATE START: 9:30 a.m. - all

PAIDEIA HIGH SCHOOL
Principal: Matt Cox
Phone: (509) 937-2655
First day of school: Tues., Aug. 30th
Classes begin: 8:30 a.m.
Lunch: 12:10-12:40 p.m.
Dismissal time: 3:25 p.m.

EARLY LEARNING CENTER
Director: Candace Harris
Phone: (509) 937-2638
Hours: 7:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Breakfast: 8:30 a.m.
Lunch: 11:45 a.m.
Snack: 2:30 p.m.

COLUMBIA VIRTUAL ACADEMY
Executive Director: Dennis Killmer
Principal: Dave Vail
Phone: toll free (855) 525-2270

VL TRANSPORT CENTER
Supervisor: Steve Templeton
Phone: (509) 937-4021

FALL SPORTS
Athletic Director: Josh Clemmer
FOOTBALL
Coach: Eric Blackburn
First Practice: Tues., Aug. 30th
VOLLEYBALL
Coach: Rhea Ross
First Practice: Tues., Aug. 30th

REGISTRATION PACKETS AND STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOKS:
available online at www.valleysd.org
For Your Information...

VELC Preschool
Preschool enrollment closes on August 31st, and families will be scheduled for beginning conferences September 5th-9th in preparation for the first day of class on September 12th. Preschool is Monday-Thursday 8:20 a.m.-3:20 p.m. Parents with additional questions are encouraged to contact Director Candace Harris at (509) 937-2638.

Kindergarten Registration
Valley School is still accepting registration for students turning five years old before September 1st. For information, call the school office at (509) 937-2413.

Daily Summer Activities Reward
Participating students can bring their booklets and/or work to the Valley School Open House on Sept. 14th at 5:30 p.m. to collect their final reward coupon and be entered into the drawing for prizes. For more information, call the Valley School office at (509) 937-2413.

Parental Involvement
The Board of Directors views the education of students as a cooperative effort among schools, families and the community. Parental involvement in learning activities contributes to student achievement.

The Valley K-8 School participates in the federally-funded Title I program and state-funded Learning Assistance Program (LAP), both designed to serve the unique academic needs of students through customized instruction and support. As part of the Title I, Part A program, the district and Valley School encourage the engagement of parents or guardians in its related parental involvement activities, plan and policy development.

Information about Title I/LAP support services and district policies are provided to families throughout the year and upon request by calling the Valley School Office, (509) 937-2413.

Child Find
Valley School District offers many academic programs and services for all children residing within district boundaries, including developmental screenings and comprehensive assessments for those suspected of having a disability which could adversely affect their success in school. Early identification and intervention helps children become more independent and achieve at higher levels.

Schools provide educational support programs such as Title I, Learning Assistance Program (LAP), special education and speech, physical and occupational therapy. Families experiencing homelessness or with low-income, foster children, and/or children with developmental delay or disability, including speech difficulties, may qualify for preschool services (ages 3-5) at no cost. If you have concerns about your child’s development, contact the school to arrange a free screening for speech, hearing, language, motor, social and learning skills. Individuals from birth to twenty-one (21) years of age may be screened and eligible for district services. For more information or to arrange an appointment, please contact the Special Services Director at (509) 937-2859, or the district administrative office at (509) 937-2791.

Management of Student Information
Student records contain information which is collected and maintained by the school on a routine basis for educational or operational purposes. Student records are considered confidential and generally personally identifiable information may not be disclosed to an individual or agency (“third party”) without written parent/guardian consent, unless there exists a legitimate educational interest or other exception as allowed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). One such exception is the transfer of student records and information to an official of another school or institution where the student has enrolled or intends to enroll.

Accessibility to student records is guided by Valley School District policy in accordance with state and federal laws. Parents, guardians and adult students have the right to inspect and review their child’s record, and seek to amend information if they believe the record is inaccurate or misleading; consent to disclosures of personally identifiable information, except to the extent that FERPA authorizes disclosure without consent; and to file a complaint with the U.S. Dept. of Education.

Student Directory Information is the portion of the education record that generally would not be considered private information and which may be included in district or community publications such as newsletters, theatrical playbills, yearbooks, honor roll or award lists and sports programs. Directory information may be released publically without parental consent, though a parent/guardian has the option of restricting the release of such information without prior consent by providing written notice to the district administrative office within ten (10) business days of enrollment or first day of school. Additionally, secondary schools must provide military recruiters and postsecondary educational institutions, upon request, with student names, addresses and telephone numbers, unless a parent/guardian “opts out” in writing of the release of this information.

Valley School District identifies the following as directory information:
- Student name, address, phone number
- Photograph
- Date and place of birth
- Dates of attendance
- Grade level
- Major field of study
- Participation in officially recognized activities and sports
- Weight and height of members of athletic teams
- Degrees, honors, and awards received
- Most recent previous school attended

(continued on page 6)

Come to Valley School’s Open House!
ALL FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO ATTEND THE BACK-TO-SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE AT VALLEY SCHOOL ON WED., SEPT. 14TH FROM 5:30-7:30 P.M.

This annual tradition offers students and their parents an opportunity to connect with staff, teachers and Principal Smith to learn about anticipated learning activities in the upcoming year. Parents can visit their child’s classroom and collect library cards, What Your “N”th Grader Needs to Know books, Skyward Family Access logins, plus useful information about Renaissance Home Connect, WIN Time and other programs. Watch for more information, or call the school office at (509) 937-2413. We look forward to seeing you!
Never Idle - continued from page 2
before teachers begin to prepare their classrooms in August," he explained, adding, "In the weeks before school starts, it gets pretty stressful as we try to finish our work and also be available to assist staff with rearranging furniture, repair or install fixtures and handle a multitude of other requests."

Yearly facility maintenance and deep cleaning begins right after school lets out in early June. All the walls receive touch-up painting and repairs, and classrooms, halls and offices are scrubbed from ceiling to floor. Kraig emphasized that all this upkeep and extra care is necessary to extend the life of our buildings and furnishings.

Sixteen classified staff in district administrative offices have been focused this summer on completing state reports and program applications, preparing budgets, ordering supplies, hiring staff, updating forms and handbooks, and improving student data management systems. The early learning center staff provided daycare, hosted three kids’ camps and served a ton of free lunches to local kids. Though one might assume that school district operations are slow during the summer hiatus, the exact opposite is true!

Healthy Kids-Healthy Schools Grant Projects Update
The new walk-in exterior freezer in the Valley School kitchen has been installed and is ready for use! This multi-step, complicated construction project commenced in June and was completed by mid-August. The site preparation and installation went smoothly, thanks to the great work of Norvell Construction and Spokane Restaurant Equipment. The 12’ x 16’ freezer arrived onsite and was installed in sections on a substantial, insulated concrete slab foundation. The facilities team completed the interior framing and remodeling of adjacent kitchen work spaces. The frozen and cooled food storage capacity has been doubled, and the allowance of food deliveries on pallets placed directly inside the freezer improves staff organizational time and work efficiencies.

Groundbreaking for the new horticulture center on the Paideia High School campus is underway. Earlier this summer, Principal Cox and Facilities Supervisor Kalisch worked together to finalize the project plan. The center will be located on the northeast side of the PHS campus, near the student parking area. A Quonset hut metal building, scheduled for installation in October, will form the backbone of the horticulture program.

FYI... - continued from page 5
For a copy of policy and procedure 3231-Student Records and a full understanding of the types, accessibility guidelines, maintenance and disposition of student records, please contact the district administrative office at (509) 937-2791 or visit www.valleysd.org.

For more information about student privacy from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, visit http://www.k12.wa.us/DataAdmin/DataSharing. To register a complaint with the U.S. Dept. of Education concerning alleged failures of compliance with the requirements of FERPA, you may write to:

Family Policy Compliance Office
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20202

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act
Assisting Children in Need
If your family lost permanent housing and now live in a temporary shelter, inadequate housing, and/or lack a fixed, regular nighttime residence, your children might be able to receive help through a federal law called the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act. Under this Act, children and unaccompanied youth in homeless situations have the right to receive a free, appropriate education and immediate enrollment in the school of choice (even if they are missing a permanent address, required records or documents); to receive free meals at school and transportation assistance; to access the same academic program and school services for which he/she qualifies as available to non-homeless students. For assistance and more information about how you and the school can work together to provide the support your child needs to be successful, contact the Valley School District homeless liaison, Nathalee Reid at (509) 937-2696 or visit www.valleysd.org/forms-and-notices/.
Citizen Complaints Concerning Federal Programs

Anyone may file a citizen complaint concerning special service programs against a school district or school service provider. A complaint is a written statement that alleges a violation of a federal rule, law or regulation or state regulation that applies to certain categorical federal programs. For more information about citizen complaint procedures, visit www.valleysd.org; call the district administrative office at (509) 937-2791 to request a copy; and/or visit the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction website at www.k12.wa.us/TitleI/CitizenComplaint.aspx or call (360) 725-6100.

www.valleysd.org/valley-community
On Becoming “Real”

The Valley School Drama Club is pleased and excited to offer the play, *The Story of Velveteen Rabbit*, for its fall production.

Like a favorite stuffed animal from childhood, this delightful musical will touch your heart and remain forever in your sweet memories. The magic begins as the toy cabinet comes to life when the lights go out in the nursery. Timothy Lion (played by Elijah Phillips), Train Engine (played by Kaelynn Rogerson), Skin Horse (played by Miah Christen), Model Boat (played by Bailey Jones) and other toys all spring to life each evening. The story unfolds as youngster Andi (played by Audrey Wellhausen) and her toy Velveteen Rabbit (played by Chloe Fechner) are inseparable until she comes down with scarlet fever, and the doctor proclaims that the germ-ridden toy must be destroyed. Luckily, Velveteen Rabbit escapes and finds himself among the wild rabbits and the beautiful nursery magic fairy. The story engages as actors represent the spirit of each toy in their entertaining and touching interactions on stage. With a Victorian flavor, this fun and heart-warming musical creatively captures the magic of the original story about a stuffed animal made real by a child’s love.

*The Story of Velveteen Rabbit* is being directed by Theresa Carr, and the screenplay is based on the book by Margery Williams, adapted by Anita Larsen. Music and Lyrics are by Bill Francoeur; produced by special arrangement with Pioneer Drama Service, Inc. Englewood, Co. The production will be on November 2nd, 3rd and 4th at Valley School. Showtime is 6:30 p.m. each evening, and admission is $5.00 at the door.