Valley School District Awarded “Healthy Kids-Healthy Schools” Grant

Valley School District has received a Healthy Kids-Healthy Schools grant award in the amount of $128,796 as part of the State Legislature’s Healthiest Next Generation Initiative. Valley School District was one of 150 school districts competing for a share of $5 million allocated to the grant program. Awards were based on the merits of school facility improvement proposals in the areas of nutrition, physical education and activity, and easy access to water for students. The Healthy Kids-Healthy Schools grant program aims to help schools remove barriers and bridge gaps that stand between practices, processes and improved student health.

Superintendent Kevin Foster commends the contributions of the staff members involved in putting the grant proposal together. The school principals, kitchen manager, facilities supervisor, chief financial officer and executive assistant collaborated to research and compile information envisioning several improvement projects that would support healthier food alternatives, hydration and expanded learning opportunities for students. Three out of four proposed projects will become a reality with this award.

Valley’s grant monies are funding a water bottle filling station in the K-8 school, kitchen modifications allowing expanded refrigeration space and a new walk-in freezer, and a large greenhouse at Paideia High School. Staff members have been actively engaged in additional research, planning, and developing timelines for construction beginning this summer.

Students and staff have already been using the new Elkay water bottle filling station, which was installed in May in the Valley School foyer adjacent to the gymnasium. The filling station filters and cools local water sources which are dispensed via a unit attached to a drinking fountain. The filling station allows quick filling of reusable water bottles, saving time and resources. Kids are encouraged to drink more water and keep hydrated throughout the day, especially during physical activities.

The kitchen improvements involve rearranging work spaces, expanding refrigerated food storage, and constructing supports for installation of the new exterior walk-in freezer. The current freezer is over 30 years old and has failed multiple times (continued on page 3)
Message from the Superintendent

When Preparation Meets Opportunity

We really just don’t know what the future will bring, but we have to be ready for it. In the Valley School District, we work hard to develop the talents, skills and character of all students so they are ready to thrive in a constantly changing world. We do not know the specific work place skills they will need in the future, but we do know they will need to be creative and confident problem solvers. We also know they will need to be able to work effectively with others and be ready to embrace new ideas and learn new skills.

In all our Valley district schools and programs –Valley Early Learning Center, Valley K-8 School, Paideia High School, and Columbia Virtual Academy–we recognize that developing academic skills is very important, but not sufficient. Beyond academic skills, we are dedicated to developing the creativity, imagination, character and tenacity of each student. We understand that in order to be prepared for an uncertain future, our kids will need to have lots of determination and grit.

In Valley, we look forward to continuing to work with our families and the community to provide an excellent, relevant education that focuses not only on superior academic skills, but also important life skills all our students will need to fully open their futures. When opportunity knocks, we want all our students to be ready to open the door.

District Refinances Bonds

Valley School District has refinanced its callable 2005 and 2006 bonds in order to take advantage of lower interest rates. The recent refinancing will save the district’s taxpayers a total of $372,567 over the next 10 years.

Superintendent Kevin Foster emphasized that these savings flow directly to taxpayers through reduced tax levies and are not available for district expenses. “This is a direct savings to our community in the form of taxes they expected, but will not have to pay,” Foster said.

The Valley School Board accomplished these savings by approving the issuance of Refunding Bonds at its meeting held in April. Voters approved the original bonds via Special Election in 2005 to finance the modernization and expansion of the Valley School. Though the final maturity date of the bonds in December 2025 remains the same with the Refunding Bond, area taxpayers will begin to realize a reduction in assessments in 2017.

The district’s Chief Financial Officer, Eileen Harris, explained, “The property tax assessment associated with the debt service to repay the Refunding Bond will be approximately $2.14 per $1,000 of assessed property value compared to the 2016 rate of $2.40 per $1,000 of assessed property value.” The district has been actively monitoring bond market conditions and seized the opportunity to capitalize on current rates and exceed its savings target. The interest rate on the new bonds is 1.75% compared to varying interest rates which averaged 4.64% on the old debt.

Non-Discrimination Statement

Valley School District does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained guide dog or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees of the Valley School District at 3030 Huffman Rd., Valley, WA 99181 are designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Danielle Tuptek, Title IX Liaison; Janet Williams, Section 504/ADA Coordinator; Kevin Foster, Compliance Coordinator for State Law (RCW 28A.640/28A.642). A complaint regarding alleged discrimination may be made by e-mail to: compliance@valleysd.org, or by calling the district office at 509-937-2791.

VSD Board Meeting Notice

Upcoming VSD Board meetings are July 20th, August 17th and September 21st at 6:30 p.m.

School Board
Bill Wilson (President)
Doug Elledge
Renae Fitzgerald
Crystal Hubert
Paul Voelker
Superintendent
Kevin Foster

www.valleysd.org
Citizen of the Year: Natalee Reid

B eing selected as “Citizen of the Year” came as a complete surprise to Valley School and Paideia High School Counselor Natalee Reid. “I feel like I’m just doing my job,” Natalee modestly confesses. She sees her position as a career, but also as an opportunity to fulfill her passion to mentor and advocate for children and families. That passion caught the eye of Board members and administrators, who affirmed her worthiness for this special recognition.

Paideia High School Principal Matt Cox commented, “Natalee is a deserving recipient because she has empathy for everyone that crosses her path, is willing to assist with duties outside of her normal responsibilities, and is pleasant beyond measure to work with.” Teacher and colleague Alyssa Bellevue concurred, “Natalee, or ‘Miss Natalee’ as the kids say, is a true leader in our school. She finds ways to comfort and support all of our students, ranging from lunchtime buddy groups, helping with ASB, to specialized support for students with intense emotional needs. She has also played an integral role in getting PBIS [a positive behavior program] up and running at the Valley School; no small task! Because she is so good at what she does, it allows us to be able to have more success with our students in class.”

Besides counseling duties, Natalee also teaches Life Skills and Careers classes, and she has implemented a conflict management skills program called Kelso’s Choice. She uses these opportunities to model positive behaviors and believes that character has as much value to students as good grades do. “Being a good person with an open mind, being kind and recognizing the value of good communication is invaluable,” she emphasizes.

Working with families of students and helping to grow the “family unit” also impassions Natalee. “Having empathy for students and realizing the importance of good communication within families is key to helping kids shape their futures,” she emphasizes.

(continued on page 5)

Healthy Kids Grant
– continued from page 1

in the past two years, leading to loss of food. The rehabilitated freezer will be converted to a refrigerator to double the kitchen’s cold food storage capacity, allowing increases in the amount of fresh produce that can be incorporated in meals and utilized for scratch cooking. These improvements, coupled with an on-site food growing operation, will provide the groundwork for the district’s future participation in local farm-to-school feeding efforts.

The idea for a greenhouse or food growing operation at the high school has been percolating for several years. Paideia Principal Matt Cox and kitchen manager Connie Dollar have been developing a list of produce varieties that could be grown on campus. Mr. Cox and Facilities Supervisor Kraig Kalisch recently visited school district greenhouses and commercial operations in the area for insight into facilitating planning and development of the produce growing operation and related programs. Besides supporting practices to improve the nutritional quality of the meals served, the greenhouse will provide instructional opportunities in the career cluster areas of Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources, Marketing, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and Health Science.

As noted by Supt. Foster, this state grant is opening many doors of opportunity for the district, a prospect that should directly benefit our kids. “It is exciting to be awarded the Healthy Kids-Healthy Schools grant, since so many larger school districts had also applied,” states Supervisor Kalisch, “It is a ‘pie in the sky’ award.”
A Good Plan in Hand

Tyler Radonski, a junior at Paideia High School, spoke recently about his plans for the future, confidently sharing, “I’m planning to enter a police training program with the aim of becoming a sheriff.” Part of what feeds his motivation is his desire to do his part to keep his community safe. He also wants to be a good communicator and plans to take the advanced Spanish III class offered at Paideia in order to become bilingual and serve a larger community.

Adding to his proficiencies, Tyler has discovered that his math classes teach more than... (continued on page 8)
Air Monitors Are Coming to Valley

While students and staff are enjoying summer break, air monitors will be hard at work in Valley. The Washington State Department of Health and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) are coming to Valley this summer to conduct an air monitoring investigation. This type of work, also called an exposure investigation or EI, will help them find out if breathing silica dust could impact your health. To do that, they’ll set up air monitors at Valley School District and a few nearby locations to collect air samples for six-to-eight weeks. The air monitors will look for crystalline silica particles small enough to enter your lungs.

After they collect the samples and analyze the results, the Department of Health will make recommendations about the best way to protect your health. Their recommendations may include things you can do. They may also suggest actions that Valley School District, Lane Mountain Company, or other local and state agencies can take to protect your health.

Although the whole project may take up to two years to complete, the Department of Health will keep you updated throughout the process. To learn more and get up-to-date information, you can:

• Visit a webpage Department of Health set up about the air monitoring investigation at www.doh.wa.gov/ValleySchool.

• Attend an open house session on Wed., June 29, 2016 from 6:30–8:00 PM in the Valley Grange, 3091 Waitts Lake Rd., Valley, WA 99181.

• Keep reading the Valley Voice. We’ll provide updates about the work in future editions.

Watch for open house reminders on our Facebook and Twitter accounts, on the Valley School District news page, in The Independent, and at the Valley Store.

If you have questions in the meantime, contact Department of Health at 1-877-485-7316.
Making Good Choices

Taya Tapia, an 8th grade student at Valley School admits that studying is not her strength. She realizes that, as she looks ahead to high school and college, she will have to buckle down and study more to be successful. Her goal is to go to medical school to become a surgeon. “I want to help people to feel good and live happier lives,” she revealed in a recent interview.

Science is her favorite subject because she likes to know why things happen. Taya especially loves her science class with teacher Michelle Cregger. “Mrs. Cregger always supports me with testing challenges, she really knows my needs and is (continued on page 8)

Future PHS Student Preparing Early

Aspiring to earn A’s and B’s in class has not always been on Valley School 8th grader Skyler Phillip’s agenda. When he realized that 7th and 8th grade GPA also reveals your academic track record to potential colleges and universities, Skyler stepped up his game.

With aspirations to obtain a Master’s degree as an electrician from Vanderbilt University in Tennessee or Stanford University in California, he knew the time had come to set himself on the path toward his goals. “Valley School has been a great school experience for me because teachers really prepare you for high school,” he acknowledged. (continued on next page)
Valley School End-of-Year Awards

Principal’s Award:
- Taya Tapia, Grade 8
- Naomi Ruiz, Grade 7
- Michelle Navarro, Grade 6
- Haidyn Parker, Grade 5
- Gary John Plunkett, Grade 5
- Nataya Heine, Grade 4
- Travis Wellhausen, Grade 3
- Rhylinah Moore, Grade 2
- Titan Tapia, Grade 1
- Aimee Weitensteiner, Grade K

Superintendent’s Award:
- Andrea Wellhausen, Grade 8
- Miah Christen, Grade 5
- Virginia Gilmer, Grade 1

Perfect Attendance:
- Taya Tapia, Grade 8
- Eli Johnson, Grade 4
- Brenden Clifner, Grade 4
- Miles Johnson, Grade 2

Year-end awards are based on overall success in academics, work ethics, behavior and citizenship.

Kindness Award:
- Hannah Kircher, Grade 8
- Elijah Ray, Grade 7
- Shanelle Dorris, Grade 6
- Kylene Palmer, Grade 5
- Kaelyn Slaughter, Grade 4
- Travis Wellhausen, Grade 3
- Emily Aken, Grade 2
- Kaden Fiola, Grade 1
- Olivia Aparicio, Grade K

For a complete list of various student awards and photos, visit www.valleysd.org/news

Future PHS Student
- continued from page 6

“My math teacher, Mrs. Andres, always tells me that what she teaches may not be used every day, but it will be needed professionally and in life,” Skyler affirmed. “All teachers here want me to succeed.”

When asked who inspired him to think about his future, Skyler responded with a definitive answer, “My mom! – she is doing all she can to support me now and she is preparing to help me go to college.”

Coming from a K-8 district, Skyler gets to select which high school he will be attending next year; Paideia High School was his choice. He opted for PHS because, “I like that teachers work with you one-on-one and co-teach classes, so you get a lot more attention and more value.” “My mom researched schools and Paideia is one of the best,” he said.

Skyler explained what he thinks success is: “Success doesn’t always have to be big. Small goals and reaching or completing a goal is important.” His advice to future middle school students is, “Don’t miss your opportunities.”
President’s Challenge Fitness Awards

Each participant must score in or above the age group score in every category in order to receive an award. The categories are shuttle run, V-sit and reach, sit-ups, push-ups and running (1/4, 1/2, or 1 mile by age group)

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<th>Presidential Physical Fitness Awards (scoring above 85% overall)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Julian Henn, Grade 4</td>
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<td>Lucas Stahl, Grade 4</td>
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<td>Taya Tapia, Grade 8</td>
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<td>Andrea Wellhausen, Grade 8</td>
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<th>National Physical Fitness Awards (scoring above 50% overall)</th>
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<td>1st Grade:</td>
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<td>Titan Tapia</td>
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<td>2nd Grade:</td>
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<td>Emily Aken</td>
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<td>Max Anderson</td>
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<td>Cal Bellevue</td>
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<td>Elaina McDougal</td>
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<td>Logan Medrano</td>
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<td>3rd Grade:</td>
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<td>Travis Wellhausen</td>
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<td>4th Grade:</td>
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<td>Arianna Hatch</td>
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<td>Ashton Medrano</td>
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<td>Emma Simpkins</td>
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<td>5th Grade:</td>
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<td>Hazel Cloud</td>
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<td>Morgan Fitzgerald</td>
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<td>Hunter Gilroy</td>
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<td>Elijah Phillips</td>
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<td>6th Grade:</td>
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<td>Mia Bellevue</td>
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<td>Miranda Harris</td>
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<td>Cole Henn</td>
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<td>Shayla Slaughter</td>
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<td>7th Grade:</td>
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<td>Jeffery Horton</td>
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<td>Faith Goforth</td>
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<td>Sean Mulcahey</td>
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A Good Plan - continued from page 4

numbers. “Math provides skills in memorization which develops the ability to access information easily and to calculate skillfully,” he said, noting that his other classes at Paideia are helping him develop many more aptitudes and competencies.

His formal education is not the only resource for his developing abilities. His personal interest in Kendama, a skill game, “helps to develop my capacities by increasing my hand eye coordination, concentration and attention, which are useful tools,” Tyler explained.

Tyler also acknowledged the value of being a Boy Scout with the goal of attaining Eagle Scout, the highest honor. With one rank to go to reach his goal, Tyler understands the importance of the practical knowledge imparted by being a Scout, “I have learned to communicate better and developed ‘people skills’ as well as complete a job application.”

When considering the most influential person in his life, the honor goes to his mom. “She helps me make good decisions and to chart a course not only through the rough times but to a direction in life,” he said, adding that his faith in God helps to guide him to “do what is right.”

As he looks to the future, Tyler expressed his concerns about the lack of confidence in the government and the urgency of world affairs. “My future feels threatened because there are no answers to the mounting problems of the refugee crisis, national debt, corruption and the threat of Isis.” “To make the world a better place, each of us needs to be a contributing member of our society and we all must help each other, caring for one another starting with our families, friends and community,” Tyler said.

Searching his thoughts for the definition of success, Tyler readily concludes that “success comes through accomplishments in life that benefit oneself and the community.”

Making Good Choices - continued from page 6

always willing to help,” she explains.

Although Taya has been attending Valley School since 3rd grade, she plans to go to Jenkins High School in Chewelah next year. “My dad’s family all went to Chewelah and I know a lot of people there,” she says. She noted that she relishes the idea of additional community support while in Chewelah.

When asked what she considers success to be, she replied, “Whatever you personally think success is, and success is not based on any one standard.” Taya feels that everyone should find something to do that brightens life for everyone. She declares that, “All kids who struggle should find their own happiness and develop their own way.” She adds, “If you are not having a perfect day, think positive and it will boost your mood.” Her words of encouragement to fellow students: “When you’re being hard on yourself, take a deep breath, calm down and choose to be happy.”
Valley School Says Goodbye to Two 30 Year Veterans:

Wendy Farquharson and Diana Carr Retire

“Both of these wonderful ladies will be greatly missed!” – Principal Todd Smith

A

lthough she insists she is ready for retirement after spending 30 years in Valley School District, Wendy Farquharson let slip that she won’t be straying too far away from education. She is considering her options and mentions substitute teaching, but her face lights up most when speaking about ideas percolating that will combine travel, a GoPro camera, writing a blog and developing curricula for kids. It’s clear that she has a passion for education that will not easily be set aside.

Wendy Farquharson

herself.

We learned about her shifting roles from para-educator, score keeper and coach, to computer teacher and, eventually, librarian. Diana explained that she had often helped then librarian Helen Metlow and, in 1999 about the same time Helen retired, the school received a grant for the library and Renaissance program and Superintendent Mark Selle asked her to step into the role. It’s funny how one experience leads to another.

With her aptitude for technology, teaching computer and typing to students prompted her to “learn by doing” and the skills she’s picked up in photography, Photoshop and other software programs have been shared with others and used daily for the benefit of a variety of school programs.

Principal Smith spoke about Diana’s contributions, stating, “The job she has done in maintaining and growing our library is impressive, as is her willingness to take on the many other tasks she

Diana Carr

I

t’s difficult to summarize a 31 year career in a single conversation, especially for Diana Carr, who seems hesitant about tooting her own horn. Diana, the Valley School librarian, retired at the end of the school year and is anxious to get to “all the projects I haven’t had time to do.”

She will enjoy working in her incredible flower gardens and spending time restoring old photos to document and share her family’s history. Diana’s behind-the-scenes work and many talents will have made a mark in the annals of Valley School, remaining visible through photographs, pages of yearbooks, student award certificates, and the 8th grade graduation videos she has created for many years.

Diana’s contributions to the school and Valley-area children were lauded a couple years ago when she was honored as 2014 Citizen of the Year. At that time, friend and colleague Jean DeLong described Diana as “a silent hero and work horse” of Valley School and the community, giving 150% of herself.

We learned about her shifting roles from para-educator, score keeper and coach, to computer teacher and, eventually, librarian. Diana explained that she had often helped then librarian Helen Metlow and, in 1999 about the same time Helen retired, the school received a grant for the library and Renaissance program and Superintendent Mark Selle asked her to step into the role. It’s funny how one experience leads to another.

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(continued on page 10)
Wendy Farquharson - continued from page 9

experience snippets of life during the Great Depres-
sion or medieval times.

Wendy’s hallmark laugh bubbles up as she re-
calls being asked to also cover science her first year
at Valley. She had no experience in that subject, and
quickly had to learn how to teach it and scrambled
to keep one step ahead of the kids as she learned
beside them. She shared, “My best experiences
have been watching the same kids learning from
a young age, getting older, and seeing their in-
credible growth.” The district has witnessed similar
growth in Wendy as an educator, too, as she transi-
tioned out of the classroom into more managerial
roles.

As Curriculum Coach, Wendy shared she “has
enjoyed investigating how to help students and
teachers be success-
ful,” and she worked
for the past eight years
with administrators
to implement and ex-
pand the schoolwide
intervention program,
and develop screening
methods and supplemental learning services in
reading and math. “Wendy has been instrumen-
tal in the development of our educational pro-
grams. Her reliability and attention to detail are
unmatched, and she has been a great benefit to
our whole school community,” confirmed Principal
Todd Smith, who has worked with Wendy since she
joined the staff.

Adding the Title I/LAP, and Assessment Coordi-
nator duties to her task list has given her additional
perspective. She laments, “There is a lot going on
in public education that I’m not happy with,” point-
ing to drastic changes in state and federal rules
on data collection, assessments and reporting re-
quirements in recent years. One gets the sense that
she longs to get back to the singular joy of helping
kids learn after focusing
for many years on test-
ing, student data and
paperwork – and, with
the freedom granted
by retiring, she plans to
do just that, but on her
own terms.

Diana Carr
- continued from page 9

does to make sure our
students are positively
recognized.”

This spring, she
organized her 34th
Scholastic Book Fair (two per
year for 17 years). “The fairs
supplemented my book bud-
get, and allowed me to get be-
tween $1,000-$1,200 worth of
books,” explained Diana about
the events.

“I hope they continue the
fairs after I’m gone. The kids
look forward to them and par-
ents use books as a reward for
good report cards.”

When asked what her favor-
ite experience has been, Diana
automatically answered, “Work-
ing with the kids through the
years,” especially seeing them
reach the milestone of 8th grade
graduation.

Principal Smith emphasized,
“Diana demonstrates an abun-
dant love for the many students
she has served over the years.
She has a special place in her
heart for each one.”

Her affinity for students be-
came apparent when she spoke
about coordinating the “Reading
is the Ticket” program, wherein
students can earn a ticket to Sil-
verwood theme park for reading 600 min-
utes. Recognizing that
some families can’t af-
ford to go even with
a free ticket, Diana
added to the program
this year. “For every hour stu-
dents read, they received one
SOAR card to spend,” she shared
about wanting to reward kids for
their efforts.

Diana commented, “My leav-
ing will be bittersweet. I told you
I will miss all of the students, but
what I didn’t say is that I will miss
the staff as well. They have been
my second family for 31 years.”

Diana will carry a myriad of
experiences and memories of
Valley School with her as she
ends this chapter of her life story.

www.valleysd.org
world affairs will affect her future. She explains, “Obstacles and sadness are not forever; just walk through them and know that others have problems that are worse. Just choose to keep going,” adding, “I feel my future is promising because I feel that I can contribute to making the world a better place by staying positive and doing my part. Everything happens for a reason.”

When asked what suggestions she would offer to other high school students, Cynthia responded with, “Do what makes you happy and quit trying to please everyone else. At the end of the day, you really only have yourself.”

Preparing to step out into the world, Cynthia is not convinced that
Join the fun at Valley School's
SUMMER KIDS CAMPS!
FREE! three-day camps in June, July and August from 9am-3pm. Lunch provided.
For reservations and information, call Valley Early Learning Center at (509) 937-2638.
Reservation deadline: June 20th
Hosted by Valley Early Learning Center staff, Americorps volunteers, Springdale Arts & Crafts Co-Op staff, and WSU College of Nursing faculty and students.

June 28th-30th
STEM CAMP
Explore the wonders of the animal world with science and math.
For ages 1-12.

July 12th-14th
ARTS & ACTIVITIES CAMP
Be creative, experiment in art and join in a game! For ages 1-12.

August 2nd-4th
HEALTH & SAFETY CAMP
Learn about healthy habits, dental care, safety and much more! For ages 1-8.

Don’t miss the 2016
Valley Community Fair!
– Highlights –
FRIDAY, AUGUST 12th
Registration & Judging of Exhibits
3-on-3 Basketball Tourney
Bingo@Valley Station Square
SATURDAY, AUGUST 13th
Fun Run & Kiddy Run
Livestock Exhibits & Judging
Kiddie Parade & Main Fair Parade
Plus Apple Pie Contest, Live Entertainment,
Children’s Carnival, Contests, Bingo,
Cakewalk & much more fun!

For fair information, contact Jackie Franks at 937-2054 or
Theresa Carr at 937-2635
www.valleycommunityfair.tripod.com

The Valley Voice is a publication of Valley School District #070. For submission information, please contact Gabriele von Trapp at (509) 937-2783 or by email at Gabriele.vonTrapp@valleysd.org.