

# Golden Eagle News

Dec. 2008

A Monthly Publication of Ferndale High School



## What's Up?

*Read on for . . .*

- WASL Grade Level Info
- Updated School Board Members
- Scholarships
- Academic Recognition

## A Note from the Principal:

December 10 was our first Early Release this school year. This time is valuable for our teachers to work together to develop the best instructional programs possible for our students. We meet in Professional Learning Community (PLC) groups to focus on alignment of curriculum, instruction and assessment to the standards and best practices. Our science team has met in a PLC for several years, and their work has contributed to our consistent increases in student learning as measured by science WASL scores.

The remaining Early Release days this year are: January 14, March 25 and May 13. Students will be released at 11:13 a.m.

If you are looking for a wonderful holiday event for your family, I highly recommend our Ferndale High School Seasonal Concert on December 18th at 7:00 a.m. in the auditorium. This year promises to be as moving and uplifting as concerts in past years. Our talented music directors and students will perform a variety of favorites.

Happy Holidays!

Dawn Mark  
(formerly Fairchild)

## Mark Your Calendar!

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| December 18            | Seasonal Concert, FHS Auditorium, 7:00 p.m. |
| December 22- January 4 | Winter Break, No School                     |
| January 5              | School Resumes                              |
| January 14             | Late Arrival/Early Release                  |
| January 19             | Martin Luther King Day, No School           |
| January 30             | Semester Work Day, No School                |



# WASL Testing

Students must meet four high school graduation requirements. One of those requirements is passing the high school WASL (Washington Assessment of Student Learning) or a state-approved alternative in reading, writing and math.

Some ninth-grade students are ready to take and pass these 10th-grade level tests and are given the opportunity to do so. Most students take the high school WASL as 10th graders.

If your ninth-grade student wants to take the high school WASL this spring, here's what you should know:

- Your student should be ready to take and pass the high school WASL. It should not be used as a practice test.
- Your student can register to take one or more of the WASL tests. For example, a student can take reading and writing, but wait until 10th grade to take math.
- Students have five opportunities to take and pass each of the WASL tests (reading, writing and math). Students who test as ninth graders use one of their opportunities.
- Students who pass any WASL test in ninth grade do not have to take that test again.
- All schools follow the same high school WASL testing schedule:
  - Reading: March 16-17
  - Writing: March 18-19
  - Math: April 13-14
  - Science: Not available to ninth graders because it's not yet a state graduation requirement.
- You will receive your student's scores in June.

Ninth graders who want to take the spring 2009 high school WASL need to register between Dec. 9, 2008 and Jan. 13, 2009. To register, go to [www.k12.wa.us/waslregistration](http://www.k12.wa.us/waslregistration) or call (866) 400-WASL (9275). Before registering, you will need your student's State Student ID number. You may call your student's counselor at 383-9252 to request your students' SSID.

If you have Internet access and would like learn more about the High School WASL, please visit: <http://www.k12.wa.us/Assessment/WASL/testquestions.aspx>.

Please feel free to call your student's counselor if you have any questions about this choice for your student. We're here to help you and want your student to be successful.

## Reminder

Students in grades 10, 11 or 12 who have either not taken or not passed the High School WASL will automatically be issued a test booklet for the Spring 2009 WASL testing. Students in these grades DO NOT have to re-register for testing. They will be required to test as part of the state requirements for being eligible for graduation. If you have any questions, please contact your student's school counselor at 383-9252.

# NW Washington Scholastic Chess Calendar

Details for events may be found at <http://mysite.verizon.net/kaech/>

- Jan 10 Whatcom County Championships K-12, Lynden
- Jan 24 Roosevelt Winter Chess Challenge, K-8, Bellingham
- Jan 26 Whatcom Jr. High and Middle Schools League, Ferndale
- Feb 7 International Chess Jam 2009, K-12, Ferndale
- Feb 21 F.E.S.T: Ferndale Elementary Spring Tournament, K-6, Ferndale
- Feb 27-28 State High School Chess Team Championships 2009, Mount Vernon HS
- Mar 14 3rd Assumption Open, K-8, Bellingham
- Apr 25 2009 Washington State Elementary Chess Championships, Spokane, WA

## WIAA Awards

The following Ferndale High School Fall Athletic teams received WIAA academic awards. Distinguished award winners had a team GPA from 3.0-3.49. Outstanding award winners had a team GPA of 3.5 and above.

|                     |               |       |                                  |
|---------------------|---------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| Boys V Tennis       | Distinguished | 3.207 | Coach Rudy Vendiola              |
| Boys JV Tennis      | Distinguished | 3.372 | Coach John Shaw                  |
| Girls V Soccer      | Distinguished | 3.399 | Coach Shelly Chambers            |
| Girls JV Soccer     | Distinguished | 3.143 | Coach Seth Carson                |
| Volleyball Varsity  | Outstanding   | 3.587 | Coach Patti Hoelzle              |
| Volleyball JV       | Distinguished | 3.482 | Coach Holly Hilton               |
| Volleyball C        | Outstanding   | 3.526 | Coach Katie Zukowski             |
| Girls Swimming      | Distinguished | 3.323 | Coach Sonya Zang & Jenny Richard |
| Girls Cross Country | Outstanding   | 3.759 | Coach Allison Porter             |
| Boys Cross Country  | Distinguished | 3.252 | Coach Allison Porter             |
| Football            | Distinguished | 3.115 | Coach Jamie Plenkovich           |

For further information please contact the Ferndale High School Athletic Office at 383-9249.

## Scholarship Information

Attention! High School Parents!

Grades 9-12

SCHOLARSHIPS are now available for ALL grades!

Send an email to the Career Center in order to receive weekly scholarship announcements! Key "Scholarships" in the Subject line of your email, and your name will be added to our list. It's simple!

For more information contact: [mrockwell@ferndale.wednet.edu](mailto:mrockwell@ferndale.wednet.edu)

# School Board Members

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