

# Golden Eagle News

Oct. 2008 A Monthly Publication of Ferndale High School



## What's Up? *Read on for . . .*

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## A Note from the Principal:

October ends with conferences during Early Release days. If you have not yet had an opportunity to sign up for parent/teacher conferences, please sign up online at [www.ferndale.wednet.edu/conferences](http://www.ferndale.wednet.edu/conferences). We look forward to meeting with you and recognize that by working together we maximize the opportunities for student achievement.

Already we have held numerous sporting events, concerts, and activities. Thank you for your involvement and attendance! You are an integral part of our school community. We invite you to our Fall Orchestra Concert on October 30th and post season play which starts on the 30th in Girls Soccer, Volleyball, Swimming, Cross Country, Tennis and Football.

One of the strengths of Ferndale is the rich array of opportunities and programs that we offer students. Your participation and support is encouraged and valued.

Dawn Fairchild

## Mark Your Calendar!

October 15  
October 28-31  
October 30  
November 3  
November 4  
November 7  
November 11  
November 17  
November 27-28

Picture Retake Day- Both Lunches  
Parent Conferences- Early Dismissal - 11:13 a.m.  
Fall Orchestra Concert-Auditorium -7:30 p.m.  
Parent Advisory - Room 503 - 7:00-8:00 p.m.  
REMINDER TO VOTE  
Veteran's Day Assembly - TBD  
Veteran's Day - No School  
FHS Winter Sports Practice Begins  
Thanksgiving Break - No School



## Parents of Running Start Students

If your student is attending WCC and is not taking English at the high school, then Mrs. Hawkinson is your contact for the Culminating Project. Please contact her at, [ghawkinson@ferndale.wednet.edu](mailto:ghawkinson@ferndale.wednet.edu) and leave your email address to receive project information, project updates and due dates. Communication is of the utmost importance during this project and that is why you are also encouraged to check IMS, [ims.ferndale.wednet.edu/fsdstudent](http://ims.ferndale.wednet.edu/fsdstudent), frequently for grades and the progress of your student's project.

## Senior Photos for Yearbook

This will be the last chance for seniors to have their photos taken for the yearbook. Photographers from Donette Studio will be in the auditorium foyer immediately after school Wednesday, October 15, to photograph those seniors who did not yet have their yearbook pictures taken. If seniors want to be in the senior section of the yearbook, this is it!

## Reminder to Vote

A reminder that an election is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4, 2008. If you are not registered to vote, you may do so by picking up the appropriate form at any Ferndale schools' office or from the Whatcom County Auditor's Office in Bellingham. To register to vote in Washington, you must be 1) a citizen of the United States of America, 2) a legal resident of the state of Washington, and 3) at least 18 years old by election day. You must be registered to vote 30 days prior to election day in order to vote. If you miss the deadline, you may register to vote in person at the county elections office up to 15 days before an election.

If you need voter registration information or assistance, contact the county auditor at 360-676-6740 or call the secretary of state voter hotline at 1-800-448-4881; TDD service 1-800-422-8683.

## District Completes Asbestos Management Plan

On October 22, 1986, President Reagan signed into law the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA). AHERA required all schools in the United States to identify the location and condition of asbestos-containing building materials in their facilities. Additionally, the regulation required all schools to develop and begin the implementation of a management plan by July 9, 1989. Asbestos is a natural-occurring, chemically inert fibrous material. It is an excellent insulator and is virtually non-combustible. For many years, asbestos was used in public buildings because of the benefits provided as a thermal and acoustical insulating material.

The AHERA legislation required all local education agencies, including the Ferndale District, to conduct inspections to locate asbestos-containing building materials. The inspections were conducted by certified asbestos inspectors and accredited laboratories analyzed samples. Based on the results of the inspections and laboratory analysis, the district has developed a management plan, which includes reports of inspections, training for maintenance and custodial staff, and summaries of asbestos abatement activities. The plan is now on file with the Superintendent of Public Instruction. A copy of the plan is also available in the office of Mike Murphy, Director of Facilities. Individual building plans are on file in each school building.

## Whatcom 2031 Vision Workshops

Elected officials and county and city planners are planning how Whatcom County will grow and develop in the next 20 years. Residents, business owners and all interested citizens are invited to the Whatcom County 2031 Vision Workshops. You will have your first opportunity to tell the county about your vision for Whatcom County's future at the workshops below. Have a voice in shaping Whatcom County's future!

Wed., Oct 15, 6-8 pm, Bloedel Donovan Park (Multi-purpose Room) • 2214 Electric Ave • Bellingham  
Thurs., Oct 16, 9-11am, Bellingham Public Library (Lecture Room) • 210 Central Ave • Bellingham  
Thurs., Oct 16, 6-8 pm, Lynden Community Center • 401 Grover Street • Lynden

For More Info Kate Koch, Public Involvement Coordinator Whatcom County Planning & Development Services, (360) 676-6907 • pds@co.whatcom.wa.us

## Meningococcal Disease

September 2008

Dear Parent:

As of July 2005 schools in Washington are required to provide information on meningococcal disease to parents or guardians of all students entering grades 6-12.

Meningococcal disease is a serious infection of the brain (meningitis) and blood caused by a bacteria. Fortunately, this life-threatening infection is rare -- only about 75 people are infected each year in Washington. Adolescents and young adults are most likely to get meningococcal disease, especially those living in group settings such as college dorms.

The Department of Health wants you to be aware of meningococcal disease and how you can protect your child against it. A vaccine is available that can prevent up to 65 percent of meningococcal disease among adolescents and young adults. The vaccine is recommended for all children 11-12 years. It is also recommended for unvaccinated teens age 15 years and college freshmen who will be living in a dorm. The meningococcal vaccine is not required for school or college attendance.

Here are some other ways to prevent the spread of meningococcal disease:

- Practice good hygiene (regular hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, etc.)
- Do not share items that may spread meningococcal disease and other bacteria and viruses, such as eating utensils, glasses, cups, water bottles, drinks, lip gloss or toothbrushes.

We encourage you to learn more about meningococcal disease and how to prevent it. More information on meningococcal disease is available on the following web sites:

- **Washington State Department of Health Immunization Program**  
Meningococcal information: [www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/meningococcal.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/meningococcal.htm)
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**  
Meningococcal vaccine information: [www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/vis/vis-mening.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nip/publications/vis/vis-mening.pdf)

Disease Information: [www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/meningococcal\\_g.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dbmd/diseaseinfo/meningococcal_g.htm)

Fact sheets: [www.cdc.gov/nip/vaccine/mening/mening\\_fs.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/nip/vaccine/mening/mening_fs.pdf)

- **Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Vaccine Education Center**

Meningococcal Questions & Answers: [www.chop.edu/vaccine/images/vec\\_mening\\_tear.pdf](http://www.chop.edu/vaccine/images/vec_mening_tear.pdf)

- **National Meningitis Association**

Parent & Teacher Awareness Program: [www.nmaus.org/programs/pta/index.htm](http://www.nmaus.org/programs/pta/index.htm)

Sincerely,

Dr. Michael Berres

Director of Special Services

## HPV Letter

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The following information is being provided to you at the direction of the Washington State Legislature to help reduce cervical cancer rates in Washington by protecting girls from HPV.

### **What is Human Papillomavirus (HPV)?**

HPV is a very common virus that is spread through genital contact. At least 50 percent of sexually active people will get HPV at some time in their lives. There are many types of HPV. Some types can cause cervical cancer or genital warts. Both women and men can get HPV and easily spread it to others without knowing they have it.

### **What are the symptoms of HPV?**

Most people with HPV have no signs or symptoms. Some people know they have HPV because they have a symptom like genital warts. Women may find out they have HPV through cervical cancer screening (Pap tests) and HPV testing. Health care providers do not usually test for HPV unless abnormal cervical cell changes are detected by a Pap test.

### **How can HPV infection be prevented?**

The best way to prevent HPV infection is to abstain from all sexual activity. People with only one lifetime partner can get HPV if their partner had previous sexual partners. It is uncertain how well condoms protect against HPV infection. However, condom users do have lower cervical cancer rates. The HPV vaccine is a very effective way to prevent four types of HPV that can cause cervical cancer and genital warts.

### **What is the HPV vaccine?**

The HPV vaccine, Gardasil, ® protects against four types of HPV which cause 70 percent of cervical cancers and 90 percent of genital warts. The vaccine does not protect against all types of HPV or other sexually transmitted infections. The vaccine also does not protect against any type of HPV that someone already has. Current studies show that HPV vaccine protection lasts up to 5 years. Research will continue to determine the length of the HPV vaccine's protection.

### **Who should get the vaccine and when should they get it?**

The federal Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends the HPV vaccine for all girls

age 11-12 years. The vaccine can also be given to females as young as nine and up to 26 years, if their doctor recommends it. HPV vaccine is given as a series of three shots over a six month period. The vaccine is not currently recommended for boys or men. The HPV vaccine is a preventive vaccine and will offer the best protection if given before sexual activity starts. HPV vaccine is not required for school entry in Washington.

**Are Pap tests still recommended for females that get the HPV vaccine?**

Yes. The HPV vaccine does not protect against all of the types of HPV that can cause cervical cancer, so females will still need Pap tests.

**Where can I find the HPV vaccine?**

Ask your doctor, nurse, or local health clinic to find out whether your daughter needs the HPV vaccine and where you can get it. Most providers in Washington will have state-supplied HPV vaccine and there will be no cost to parents (of girls under 19 years) for the vaccine. Providers may charge an office visit and/or administration fee. The HPV vaccine is available to providers at no cost through Washington State's Universal Childhood Vaccine Program.

**For more information on HPV, the Vaccine, and Cervical Cancer:**

Centers for Disease Control & Prevention  
Washington State Department of Health

[www.cdc.gov/std/hpv](http://www.cdc.gov/std/hpv)  
[www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/documents/hpvpvaccinefactsheet.pdf](http://www.doh.wa.gov/cfh/immunize/documents/hpvpvaccinefactsheet.pdf)

American Social Health Association  
American Cancer Society

[www.ashastd.org](http://www.ashastd.org)  
[www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org)

## Parents' Access to Student Records

### NOTIFICATION REGARDING PARENTS' RIGHT OF ACCESS TO STUDENT RECORDS

September 2008

Dear Parents and Students:

Each year parents and students must be reminded of the Student Records Policy of the Ferndale School District. Parents of students or 18-year-old students have the right to inspect and review the student's educational records within 45 days of the day the district receives a request for access.

If the parents or adult students believe something in the records is inaccurate or misleading, they may request in writing that it be corrected or they may have comments added to the record. If the principal and the parent or adult student cannot agree, the latter may contact the superintendent for a hearing.

Record information will not be released to most persons or agencies without the written consent of parents. Nonetheless, it is the policy of this District to forward school records, without parent consent, to schools in another district to which a student transfers. This is to facilitate the prompt placement of the student in the new school. Similarly, without parent consent, the District forwards

transcripts or other information, requested by high school students, to colleges and other educational institutions to which the student is applying.

Also, federal law permits a school district to identify certain information as "directory information" which may be publicly released without the permission of the parents. Ferndale School District identifies this information as the following: student's name, address, telephone number, date and place of birth, grade, school of attendance, most recent school attended, major field of study, record of participation in officially recognized activities (sports and school events) - weight, height and team number.

Release of information is for school-related purposes. Information and photographs are sometimes released in district, school and community newspapers or on broadcast media when students receive awards or participate in school activities. If you do not want this information released, please notify the school principal in writing within fourteen (14) calendar days. If we do not receive your notice by that date, we will assume that you have no objection to the release of this information.

Ferndale School District makes an effort to protect each student's privacy. Please contact your school if you have further questions on this matter. Complaints may be filed with the Family Policy Compliance Office, U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20202-5920.

Sincerely,

Dr. Roger L. Lehnert  
Superintendent

## Ferndale School Board Members

Mr. Stu McKay  
2950 Aldergrove Rd.  
Ferndale, WA 98248  
384-5372 (home)

Mrs. Lee Anne Riddle  
5039 Waschke Rd.  
Bellingham, WA 98226  
384-9051

Dr. John Hruby  
7401 Valley View Road  
Ferndale, WA 98248  
366-5059 (home)  
384-1511 (work)

Mr. Bernie Thomas  
4638 Lake Terrell Rd.  
Ferndale, WA 98248  
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