

Golden Eagle News

Sept. 2007

A Monthly Publication of Ferndale High School



What's Up?

Read on for . . .

- Insurance Information
- Bullying Legislation
- Voter Information
- Parent Advisory
- Updated Calendar
- Healthcare Access (WAHA)

Check out our website at www.ferndale.wednet.edu/fhs for more info about what's going on at FHS.

A Note from the Principal:

Welcome! We are off to a wonderful start this year. Building on our WASL score gains last year in science, our teachers continue to focus on instructional strategies to support increased student achievement.

This is a shared goal and parent support is essential. Be sure that your student has a specific time and location to do homework each day. If they do not have homework, encourage them to read for a half-hour instead. Talk with your student about their daily progress in each class and check on our new communication system - IMS- for missing assignments. Finally, we encourage you to be an active participant in the school community by volunteering, attending Open House and conferences, and by joining Parent Advisory and booster organizations.

With the challenges of high standards and state requirements, Ferndale High School has in place many supports to help ensure student success. These include free after-school tutoring in the Library, WASL enrichment classes, community liaisons, and technology to track and analyze student achievement. Together, we will continue to build a strong future for our students

Dawn Fairchild

Mark Your Calendar!

September 5
September 13
September 14
October 1
October 11
October 12
October 15-19
October 17
October 20
October 30-Nov 2

First day of school - BLUE DAY
Picture Day
Learning Improvement Day - No School.
Parent Advisory - Room 503 - 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Open House - 7:00 - 9:00 p.m.
Learning Improvement Day-No School
Homecoming Week
Picture Retakes
Homecoming Dance
Parent Conferences - Early dismissal



Student Accident Insurance

Student accident insurance brochures are available in the Athletic Office for students who need to apply. This brochure provides information about student accident insurance for voluntary purchase. Please review this information carefully to decide whether you need this medical insurance coverage for school related injuries. **Please understand that the Ferndale School District does not provide accident/medical insurance for students for school related injuries.** Should you have any questions about student accident insurance, please feel free to call Mark Deebach, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Support Services at 383-9203.

Reminder to Vote

An election is scheduled for November 2007, and it is important that you vote. 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.

Parent Advisory

We would like to invite all parents to attend our *Parent Advisory/Parent Forum* meetings. This is a positive link between parents and school and an excellent opportunity for parents to become involved with high school activities. Meetings are held the first Monday of the month, unless the date conflicts with a holiday or other large school events. The meetings are held in Room 503 from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. The first meeting will be October 1st. Mark your calendars.

Bullying Legislation

The 2002 Legislature passed and the governor signed a bill requiring school districts to adopt policy by August 1, 2003, prohibiting harassment, intimidation and bullying between students. Legislation states harassment, intimidation or bullying means any intentional written, verbal or physical act, including, but not limited to, one shown to be motivated by any characteristic in RCW 9A.36.080 (3), or other distinguishing characteristics, when the intentional written, verbal or physical act: a) physically harms a student or damages the student's property; or b) has the effect of substantially interfering with a student's education; or c) is so severe, persistent or pervasive that it creates an intimidating or threatening educational environment; or d) has the effect of substantially disrupting the orderly operation of the school.

The statutory reference noted above is to the criminal malicious harassment statute. The characteristics identified in RCW 9A.36.080 (3) are race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or mental or physical disability. Other distinguishing characteristics can include, but are not limited to: physical appearance, clothing, socioeconomic status, gender identity and marital status.

Harassment, intimidation or bullying can take many forms including: slurs, rumors, jokes, innuendoes, demeaning comments, drawings, cartoons, pranks, gestures, physical attacks, threats or other written, oral or physical actions.

Finally, the new law prohibits retaliation against those reporting bullying and false reporting of bullying incidents. Students, volunteers and staff are encouraged to report incidents of bullying.

In July 2002, Ferndale schools' board of directors adopted policy and procedures implementing the new law. The policy covers all bullying, regardless of motivation and regardless of whether or not the bullied student even has the characteristic for which he or she is being bullied.

The district is committed to a safe and civil educational environment for all students, employees, volunteers and patrons, free from harassment, intimidation or bullying.

Tobacco Products Illegal Anywhere Anytime

Effective June 11, 1998, state law made it illegal for students or any person under 18 years of age to possess tobacco products anywhere anytime. If students possess tobacco at school or school activities, the police will be notified. The penalty for a person under 18 to possess tobacco products is (1) \$50.00 fine; or (2) up to 4 hours community service; or (3) participation in smoking cessation program or all three.

Public Notice

The Ferndale School District complies with all state and federal rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex or disability. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extra curricular school activities. Inquiries regarding compliance and grievance procedures may be directed to the school district Title IX RCW 28A.640 Officer, Mr. Elvis Dellinger, Assistant Superintendent, P. O. Box 698, Ferndale, WA 98248 (360) 383-9206 and or Section 504 ADA Coordinator, Dr. Michael Berres, Director of Special Services, P. O. Box 698, Ferndale, WA 98248 (360) 383-9212.

Dangerous Weapons Policy Notice

Ferndale School District Board Policy 4315 includes the following information: It is a violation of district policy and state law for any person to carry (be in possession of) a firearm or dangerous weapon on school premises, school-provided transportation or other facilities being used for school activities.

Students who violate this policy are subject to district discipline policies and procedures, including the due process provisions regarding notification of parents. Students in violation of this policy are subject to a minimum one calendar year expulsion, with a possible case-by-case modification by the Superintendent.

School officials shall notify the appropriate law enforcement agency or juvenile authorities with the names of any violators.

Ferndale School District Calendar

For a copy of the Ferndale School District Calendar, go to <http://www.ferndale.wednet.edu/pdfcalendar/index.php>

Healthcare Access

The health care system can be
confusing and time-consuming.

Have questions?

Need health insurance?



a community-based,
non-profit can help.

715-6594

www.whatcomalliance.com

School Board Members

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

Mr. Norman Robertson
P.O. Box 104
Ferndale, WA 98248
384-3161 (home)

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

Mr. Bernie Thomas
4638 Lake Terrell Rd.
Ferndale, WA 98248
384-1035 (home)

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

Ferndale Schools . . . Our Students Come First!