

Whitepine Joint School District #288

SEPTEMBER 2025
NEWSLETTER



General News:

- **IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Are you ready to make a difference, have fun, and inspire the next generation of learners? Whitepine Joint SD is seeking enthusiastic and dedicated substitute teachers to join our team! Whether you're an experienced educator or just looking for a rewarding way to give back to the community, we welcome you to be part of our small, vibrant school district. Step into the classroom and help students discover their potential.
- Please be sure to check the District website - www.sd288.org - periodically for scheduled events and changes. We also post updates on our official Facebook page, [Whitepine Joint School District](#).



In this newsletter
you can expect:

General News

School Updates

Student Highlights

Staff Spotlight

Upcoming Events

Contact
Information

District News

Late Start Day Information

One of the most significant changes for the upcoming school year is the introduction of seven *Late Start* days, strategically scheduled throughout the year to provide educators with dedicated time for professional collaboration. These structured sessions will focus on key areas such as:

- Cross-curricular planning
- Vertical alignment
- Response to Intervention (RTI) development
- Targeted student growth strategies
- Focused interventions

While this is a new initiative for our district, we are confident that these dedicated collaboration periods will strengthen instructional practices, optimize resources, and ultimately support student success. All *Late Start* days will take place on Mondays. On these days, the school bell schedule will follow the *2-hour Delayed Start* model. You can access specific bell schedules by visiting the school website.

The scheduled *Late Start* days are: 10/6, 11/3, 12/1, 2/9, 3/9, 4/6, and 5/4.

Elementary Highlights

Bovill ES - Cardinal Groups

- Bovill students are off and running with their brand-new *Cardinal Groups* project! This exciting activity brings together students of all ages to learn, grow, and support one another. From practicing self-control to tackling problem-solving challenges, these peer groups are all about building strong skills—and stronger friendships. We can't wait to watch the amazing growth and teamwork that will come from this adventure!

Deary Elementary

- The 4th graders rolled out for a quick trip to the Deary Fire Station this week! They got to test out real firefighter gear, explore the trucks, and learn all about fire safety from our local heroes. Big thanks to the Deary Fire Department for making this an unforgettable, hands-on adventure for our Mustangs! 🐾



- A huge “Thank-You” to all the families who joined us for the Bovill and Deary Elementary Back-to-School Nights! 🎉 The playground was buzzing with laughter, friendships were rekindled, and of course, ice cream made everything sweeter. 🍦 Here's to kicking off another great year together!
- Congratulations to all of the Bovill and Deary Elementary 4-H students who participated in the Latah County Fair.

Elementary Students of the Month

Bovill and Deary Elementary Schools will have their September student recognition assemblies Friday, Sept. 26th. Students will be recognized for character and attendance.

Secondary Highlights

2025 Latah County Fair

The Deary FFA rocked at the Latah County Fair this year! Check out these amazing highlights:

- Karmen Griffin snagged a purple ribbon for quality and earned a finals call-back with her swine.
- Karmen Griffin, Kyleigh Eastman, Vada Jensen, and Addi Jensen all earned purple ribbons for showmanship and made it to the final drive for swine.
- Vada Jensen brought home the Grand Champion title in showmanship with her steer - Way to go, Vada!
- In livestock judging, Deary FFA placed 2nd as a team, with Vada shining again, placing 4th overall.



And let's not forget our Deary 4-H students - so many fantastic showings and ribbons galore! Let's go, Mustangs - you've made your school and community proud!

Parent-Teacher Conferences

- Conferences for Deary Middle/High School are scheduled for Wednesday, October 1st and Thursday, October 2nd. You can schedule a time to meet with your student(s) teachers by contacting the Deary School office at (208) 877-1151 and speaking with Kelsey Sutton. A messenger alert will be sent Monday, 9/22 with more information.

Homecoming Week

- Monday, September 22nd
 - Dress Up Theme: Class Country Day
 - Activity: Hall Signs & Cake Decorating
- Tuesday, September 23rd
 - Dress Up Theme: Rhyme Day
 - Activity: Car Push
 - Volleyball vs Nezperce 6:00pm/7:00 pm
- Wednesday, September 24th
 - Dress Up Theme: Favorite Celebrity/ Movie Character Day
 - Activity: Class Competition in the Gym
- Thursday, September 25th
 - Dress Up Theme: Class Lip Sync
 - Activity: Class Lip Sync Practices
- Friday, September 26th
 - Dress Up Theme: Spirit Day
 - Lip Syncs: Deary School Gym 8:30am
 - Homecoming Parade: 2:30pm
 - Homecoming Football Game vs Potlatch 7:00pm
 - Homecoming Royalty Halftime



Mustang Athletics Updates

HIGH SCHOOL SPRING SPORTS

Fall sports are off to a good start. Our student athletes are ALL competing very well, and we are so proud of them. Here are where they stand:

- HS Volleyball - Overall record: 4-3, 2-2 in WPL Conference play
- HS Football - Overall record: 2-2, 1-0 in WPL Conference play
- MS Volleyball - Practice began on Friday, September 19th! First game 10/6 @ HOME, vs Genesee.
- MS Football - Overall/League record: 0-2, but have competed well!
- HS/MS Cross Country - Competed in 4 meets thus far.

GO MUSTANGS!



Super Staff Spotlight



Jalen Kirk

If you've spent any time around Deary Middle/High School, chances are you've seen Jalen Kirk in action. Born and raised a Mustang, Mr. Kirk always dreamed of teaching, coaching, and leading athletics in his hometown. Today, he's living that dream to the fullest – doing all of these things and inspiring students every step of the way.

What sets Mr. Kirk apart is his *unmatched* energy and dedication. Whether he's in the classroom, courtside, or running an event, Mr. Kirk pours his heart into everything he does. Students love him because he brings a sense of fun and excitement that makes every day brighter. Colleagues love him for the same reasons and say he connects so well with younger kids because, at heart, he's still one of them – just taller, louder, and slightly more responsible. You may even spot him in one of his signature red suits – he seems to have one for nearly every occasion – and somehow, he makes each look perfectly natural.

Another of Mr. Kirk's superpowers is his ability to organize and run athletic events that bring the entire school together. From mapping out the details to handling last-minute curveballs, he makes sure every Mustang event is smooth, spirited, and unforgettable.

Just as important is his role as a family man, which Mr. Kirk treasures above all else. The same energy and dedication he gives to school life are matched at home, where he's every bit as committed, playful, and present. And of course, no spotlight on Mr. Kirk would be complete without mentioning his obsessive devotion to the Philadelphia Eagles. His fandom runs so strong that if you ask him who's the best, you might just get a spirited rendition of *Fly, Eagles Fly*.

Mr. Kirk's story is one of true Mustang Pride and hometown commitment, and his passion continues to shape the culture of our school. We're lucky to have this incredible individual on our team.

If you have a super staff member to nominate, please visit our Homepage at www.sd288.org.

Upcoming Events

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">9/23 - VB vs. Nezperce, 6:00/7:00 (Home)9/24 - Elementary Math and Literacy Night, 6:00 at DES9/25 - MSFB vs. Troy, 5:30 (Home)9/26 - FB vs. Potlatch, 7:00 (Homecoming)9/30 - School Picture Day, Deary9/30 - VB @ Genesee, 6:00/7:00 (Away)9/30 - XC @ Spartan Invite, 4:00 Deyo Reservoir, Weippe10/1 - School Picture Day, Bovill10/1 - MS/HS Parent/Teacher Conferences,10/2 - MSFB @ Genesee, 5:30 (Away)10/2 - VB @ Highland, 6:00/7:00 (Away)10/2 - MS/HS Parent/Teacher Conferences,10/3 - FB vs. Lakeside (Senior Night), 7:00 (Home)10/4 - XC @ Inland Empire Championships, TBD Lewiston Orchards | <ul style="list-style-type: none">10/6 - Late Start Day (Buses on two-hour delay)10/6 - MSVB vs. Genesee, 5:30/6:30 (Home)10/6 - VB @ Potlatch, 6:00/7:00 (Away)10/8 - MSVB @ Logos, 5:30/6:30 (Away)10/9 - MSFB @ Potlatch, 5:30 (Away)10/9 - VB vs. Genesee, 6:00/7:00 (Home)10/10 - FB @ Coeur du Christ, 7:00 Coeur d' Alene HS10/13 - VB vs. Kendrick, 6:00/7:00 (Home)10/13 - School Board Meeting, 6:00 in Deary10/14 - VB vs. Timberline, 6:00/7:00 (Senior Night-Home)10/15 - MSVB vs. Potlatch, 5:30/6:30 (Home)10/17 - FB @ Lewis County, 7:00 in Craigmont10/18 - VB Districts, TBD10/21 - MSVB vs. Troy, 5:30/6:30 (Home) |
|--|---|



Contact Information



School Board Trustees	Zone 1 - Shawna Winter - swinter@sd288.org Zone 2 - Mandy Kirk - mkirk@sd288.org Zone 3 - Brittany Griffin - bgriffin@sd288.org Zone 4 - Marc Manni - mmanni@sd288.org Zone 5 - Bev Clark - bclark@sd288.org
District Administration	Superintendent/Secondary Principal: Joshua Hardy – jhardy@sd288.org Elementary Principal: Stacy Monk – smonk@sd288.org