

Newsletter

October 2026

Superintendent Caessens' Corner

October is a month full of learning, connection, and pride among our WJSD students. As we settle into the school year, I am continually reminded of what makes our schools and community such a special place. Our students, staff, families, and community are working together to help every student aspire to achieve their full potential. From the Fair to Homecoming, the end of September has been very busy.

October brings many opportunities for students to learn beyond the classroom, for families to connect with our schools, and for our staff to continue to grow professionally. From athletics to assemblies, plenty is happening across our district.

As the leaves begin to change, I encourage families to stay connected, attend events when you can, and take a moment to celebrate the accomplishments of our students and staff. The moments--big and small--are what make our school community strong.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support of our schools. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve our students, staff, families, and community.

Here is to a warm and cozy October!

--Amy Caessens, Superintendent



First Bovill School 1908, Potlatch Historical Society Collection, University of Idaho Library Digital Collections, <https://www.lib.uidaho.edu/digital/phs/items/phs70.html>

GENERAL NEWS:

- SUBSTITUTES NEEDED:**
 Are you ready to make a difference, have fun, and inspire the next generation of learners? Whitepine Joint School District 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.
- SCHOOL MEAL INFORMATION-** School meal payments can be made at the Deary School Office using cash or check. Please ensure that checks are written to "Whitepine Joint School District #288." Note that the free and reduced lunch program does not cover additional milk purchases, single milks without a full meal, or other à la carte items. District policy permits only 10 lunch charges, so it is important to manage any negative balances promptly. Please contact the Deary School Office with questions regarding student meal balances. *This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*
- Please be sure to check the District website - www.sd288.org - periodically for scheduled events and changes. Updates may also be found on our official Facebook page, [Whitepine Joint School District](#).

JOIN OUR
TEAM

IN THIS EDITION:

- General News
- School Updates
- Student Highlights
- Staff Spotlight
- Upcoming Events
- Athletics

Bovill School

- ☎ 208-826-3314 **Principal: Stacy Monk**
- ☎ 208-826-361 **Secretary: Mikayla Workman**

Deary School

- ☎ 208-877-1151 **Principal: Amy Caessens**
- ☎ 208-877-1366 **Secretary: Kelsey Sutton**

District Office

- ☎ 208-877-1408 **Superintendent: Amy Caessens**
- ☎ 208-877-1570 **Business Manager: Stephanie Fletcher**

Whitepine Joint School District #288

Elementary News

October 2026

Message from the Principal

Students in the Bovill and Deary Elementary Schools have enjoyed a great first month of school. The beginning of school is always an exciting time. We have new students coming to school, and our students are learning from different teachers. Our students and staff have once again created a welcoming learning atmosphere in our elementary schools.

The following are a few reminders for October. With cooler weather approaching, please assure that students have appropriate outdoor clothing. Students have learned and practiced new routines, and they are now experiencing more academic demands. We encourage good attendance and kindly ask that students are ready to learn daily. Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences will be held on October 28th and 29th. Parents will be receiving notifications soon.



Preschool All About Me Project

Mrs. Jensen and Mrs. Bogar's preschool students have been busy working on their "All About Me" project. This project allows students to express their creativity while sharing details about themselves and highlighting how their class functions as a family.

Constitution Week

During Constitution Week, Ms. Judy Goodson from the Daughters of the American Revolution visited the fourth and fifth-grade classes. Students explored the American Revolution, its causes, and the creation of the United States Constitution.

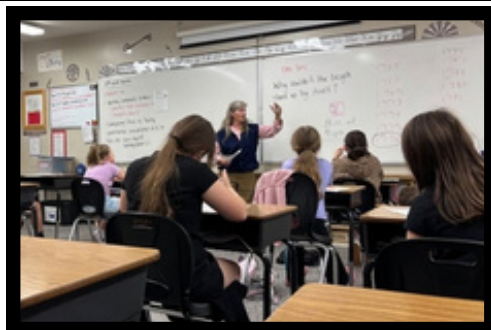
Elementary Students of the Month



Congratulations to our elementary students who were awarded student of the month for September:

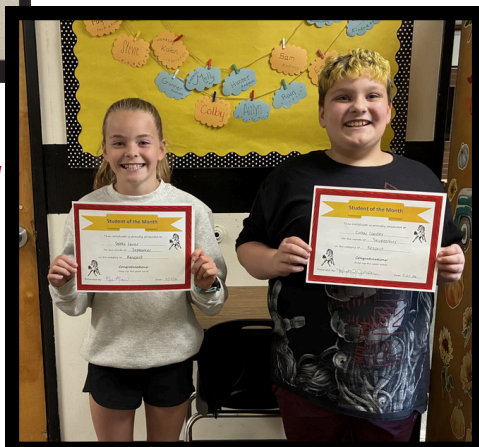
Klover Glessner- Kindergarten; Jackson Hank Jones- 1st Grade; Kynlee Anderson- 2nd Grade; Seamus Hill- 3rd Grade; Colby Candler- 4th Grade; and Gabbi Guier- 5th Grade. September's character trait was respect.

The character trait we will be focusing on for October will be honesty. Honesty is being truthful in all situations, even when it's difficult, as well as not letting others influence you negatively.



*Bovill Students of the Month for September
Left to Right:*

*Kynlee Anderson Gr. 2; Seamus Hill Gr. 3;
Klover Glessner Gr. K; & Jackson Hank Jones Gr. 1*



*Deary Students of the Month for September
Left to Right:*

Gabbi Guier Gr. 5; Colby Candler Gr. 4;

Important Dates

- 10/7: School Pictures
- 10/12: Late Start 10/12
- 10/28 & 10/29: Parent Teacher Conferences
- 10/30: In-Service - No School

GREAT JOB!

Whitepine Joint School District #288

Secondary News

October 2026

Message from Principal Caessens

October Attendance Focus: Every Day Matters!

October is a great time to remind everyone that every day of school matters. Regular attendance allows students to build relationships, participate in learning, and stay connected to their teachers and classmates.

As we move into the colder months and the start of cold and flu season, we also want to encourage healthy habits that help students stay in school.

Washing hands, covering coughs and sneezes, getting plenty of rest, staying hydrated, and avoiding the sharing of food and drinks can reduce the spread of illness. We understand that students need to stay home when they are sick. Our goal is not to have them attend when they are ill, but to reduce avoidable absences and help students return when they are ready to learn.

This October, let's work together to make "**Every Day Matter**" more than just a slogan. When students are here, they are learning, growing, connecting, and preparing for their future.

--Amy Caessens, Secondary Principal

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Regular attendance helps
students be successful.
Every day matters.

PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

We are currently scheduling Parent-Teacher conferences for students in grades 6 - 12. The conferences will be held on October 7 and 8 from 3:30 - 7:00 p.m. Please call the school office at 208-877-1151 to schedule your meetings.

Teachers will not be available from 5:15 p.m. to 5:45 pm, as they will take a dinner break.

Student Opportunities from Mrs. Guier

On October 14th Sophomores will take the PSAT/NMSQT, which is a preliminary version of the SAT used to practice for college entrance exams and to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program. Juniors interested in taking the test will need to notify Mrs. Guier as soon as possible. The test lasts two hours and fourteen minutes, and it is divided into two main parts: Reading/Writing and Math.

We also have our Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) night coming up. It will be held on October 27th in the Deary School Library. Any student who wants to be considered for Federal, State, or school financial aid programs should attend. The application process can be completed in 15 minutes or less, and we will have Haylie Bethan from Lewis-Clark State College here to help navigate the system and answer questions.

Please be sure to check the District website - www.sd288.org - periodically for scheduled events and changes. Updates may also be found on our official Facebook page, [Whitepine Joint School District](https://www.facebook.com/WhitepineJointSchoolDistrict).

Mustang Homecoming 2026

High school students celebrated homecoming week September 21-25th. Students engaged in a variety of fun activities as classes competed for the highly sought-after "Mustang Spirit Stick." The dress-up themes for each day included:

- Monday: First Name Letter Day
- Tuesday: Teacher Twin Day
- Wednesday: Pirates vs. Princesses (upper classmen vs. lower classmen)
- Thursday: Throwback Thursday
- Friday: Lip Sync/Spirit Day



Homecoming King & Queen
Blake Clark & Allie Vincent

MUSTANG



Judged competitions during the week included cake decorating, hall signs, lip syncs and parade floats. Students also participated in the car push competition, a class relay competition, and the Word-Song Association Challenge against teachers. School spirit was high throughout the week, and boosted by our volleyball team's victory over Timberline on Thursday and our football team's win against Lewis County on Friday. The festivities culminated on Friday with Class Lip Sync performances, float building, the homecoming parade, the assembly, and the football game against Lewis County. The competition for the Spirit Stick was close throughout the week, but was ultimately won by the senior class.



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IDAHO YOUTH WELL-BEING SURVEY

This school year, Deary Middle and High School students will have the opportunity to participate in the Idaho Youth Well-being Survey (IYWS). The IYWS is a survey for students in grades 6-12 that helps schools and communities improve youth well-being. Schools that participate gain highly useful insights about their student populations and what students need to succeed. The information can be used to help the staff provide healthy, safe, and supportive environments for the young people in our community.

The IYWS was created by Idaho education experts, parents, and youth well-being stakeholders. It is offered free of charge through a partnership with Communities for Youth and the Idaho Department of Education. In accordance with state law, all students who would like to participate in the Idaho Youth Well-being Survey must first obtain parent permission/consent. If you would like to provide consent now, [please click here](#).

DEARY STUDENTS HONOR 9/11

The students of Deary came together to remember those who were lost and affected by the events of September 11, 2001. High school and middle school students created a variety of signs to display throughout the school and at that evening's home football game. The theme for the game was "First Responder Night," with free admission for all first responders, sponsored by the Student Council.

Additionally, the High School Student Council created kindness and resilience pins to distribute to peers of all ages throughout the day. They encouraged all students to engage in random acts of kindness in tribute to Patriot Day. Students also interviewed various staff members about their experiences and where they were on 9/11. These interviews were compiled into a video that was shared on social media.



Important Dates

- 10/1: U of I Forestry Days for Juniors
- 10/6: School Pictures
- 10/7 & 10/8: Parent-Teacher Conferences
- 10/12: Late Start
- 10/14: PSAT/NMSQT
- 10/23: Future Educator Conference at LCSC
- 10/27: FAFSA Night in the Deary School Library (6 p.m.)
- 10/29: End of Quarter 1
- 10/30: No School: Teacher In-Service
- 10/30: North Idaho Youth Leadership Summit (LCSC)
- 10/30: Veterans of Foreign Wars Essay Deadline: Voice of Democracy & Patriot's Pen Scholarships - ***Return before 10/30**
- 11/2: Idaho Youth Well-being Survey
 - Parental Consent must be provided before the date of the survey.
- 11/05: Fall Sports Banquet - 6pm at the Deary Community Center

Forms Available

There are forms available for reporting Universal Grievances and Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying Behavior on the website. You can also report issues via the See, Tell, Now platform, which is linked on our website or through the banner below:

YOUR VOICE IS YOUR SUPERPOWER.



Mobile App



STNI

SPEAK UP, STAY SAFE
See, Tell, Now Confidential Tip Line



www.seetellnow.org

Office of the State Board of Education
School Safety and Security

1-800-593-2835

Whitepine Joint School District #288

Secondary News

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OCTOBER IS NATIONAL BULLYING PREVENTION MONTH

October is National Bullying Prevention month. Bullying can occur in many different forms and roughly 20% of students grades 6-12 report being bullied during their school years.

In effort to spread awareness and prevent bullying in all forms, High School Student Council members will be working to raise awareness this month through special morning announcements, signs throughout the building, encouragement to take the "Idaho Kindness Pledge," and the participation of Unity Day on October 21st. In honor of Unity Day all students will be encouraged to wear the color orange in honor of bullying prevention. If students see something, we urge them to say something. A single act of kindness can make all of the difference in someone's day.



WE ARE HIRING!

- **Assistant Coach for High School Boys' Basketball**

If you are interested, please submit an application to Stephanie Fletcher through the District Office (208) 877-1408.



Mustang Athletics

ATHLETIC NEWS FROM MR. KIRK:

The Mustangs are currently in the 'thick' of fall sports, and our student-athletes are BATTLING. They are striving to give every ounce they have, but while doing that, they keep their MAIN focus on being great teammates and making sure to exemplify top-notch sportsmanship throughout all phases of athletics. Postseason is coming QUICK; here is the information we have currently:

- **HS Football:** 'Play-in' and State Playoff dates are October 30th/31st. There is a lot of season left, so the date(s) are currently the only thing we have set.
- **HS Volleyball:** District tournament dates are October 14th, 15th, 17th, and 19th. All games are played at LCSC. The bracket is also on the district website.
- **HS Cross Country:** The District Meet will be held on one of the following dates: October 20th or 21st.

Save the Date: The *High School Fall Sports Banquet* will be held on **November 5th at 6pm** (Deary Community Center). We please ask that only immediate family members attend, as we are providing a catered dinner like we have in the past. Thank you.



UPCOMING ATHLETIC EVENTS

- 10/1: Volleyball vs Genesee 6:00 pm/7:30 pm
- 10/2: Football @Wallace 7:00 pm
- 10/5: MS Football vs Potlatch 5:30 pm
- 10/6: Volleyball @ SJB 6:00 pm/7:30 pm
- 10/6: MS Cross Country Pirate Run @ Cottonwood TBD
- 10/7: MS Volleyball vs Kendrick 5:00pm/6:00pm/7:00pm
- 10/8: MS Football @Genesee & @Colton 5:30pm
- 10/8: Volleyball vs Highland 6:00 pm/7:30 pm
*Senior Night/ Pink Night
- 10/9: Football @ Kendrick 7:00 pm
- 10/10: Cross Country Spartan Invite @ LCSC XC Course
- 10/12: JV Football @ Troy 6:00 pm
- 10/12: Volleyball @ Nez Perce 6:00 pm/7:30 pm
- 10/13: MS Volleyball vs Troy 5:30pm/ 6:30 pm
- 10/14-10/15: Volleyball Districts TBD
- 10/15: MS Football North v South 5:30pm
- 10/16: Football vs Genesee 7:00 pm
*Senior Night/ Pink Night
- 10/17: Volleyball Districts TBD
- 10/19: Volleyball Districts TBD
- 10/20: Volleyball Districts TBD
- 10/20: MS Volleyball @Kendrick 5:00pm/6:00pm/7:00pm
- 10/22: Cross County Districts TBD
- 10/23: Football @ Troy 7:00 pm
- 10/24: Volleyball State Play-In TBD
- 10/27: MS Volleyball @Potlatch 5:00pm/6:00pm/7:00pm
- 10/29-10/31: State Volleyball
- 10/31: State Cross Country