

Whitepine Joint School District #288

FEBRUARY 2026
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](#).
- Next *Late Start Day* - Monday, Mar. 9th.

In this newsletter
you can expect:

General News

School Updates

Student Highlights

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District News

Fortifyyourkids.com- Parent Resource for Online Safety

Fortifyyourkids.com contains information and resources parents need to fortify their children's online activity. It provides parents with videos and blogs made to teach and to understand environments to protect their home and train their children to navigate online danger more effectively. Idaho Residents may access this resource for free and are encouraged to sign up.

Important School Nutrition Program Reminders

Beginning this year, all meal payments, regardless of which school your child attends, need to be sent to the Deary School, PO Box 9, Deary, ID 83823. Furthermore, all checks need to be written to "Whitepine Joint School District #288" or "WJSD #288". Families with multiple students are welcome to pay balances for all children on one check.

Because meal balances are only mailed once per month, balance letters will be sent to all students with balances owed and as well as full-price students who have \$30.00 or less remaining on their meal account. Please be aware of our policy, that a student should have no more than 10 charges on their account at a time. In order to avoid more than 10 charges, it is recommended and encouraged to maintain a positive balance on your child's account. Maintaining a negative account balance places an unnecessary financial burden on the district. We hope these adjustments will simplify the meal payment process for families within our district. Please contact the Deary School (208)877-1151 if you have questions regarding your child(ren)'s meal balance.

Elementary Highlights

1st Grade Celebrates 101 Days of School

On Monday, February 9th Mrs. Olson and her first grade students celebrated 101 Days of School! Students were invited to wear black and white or dress as dalmations for the festivities and ended the school day watching *101 Dalmatians* and snacking on "mini spots" (mini oreos). The students also crafted fun hats and received certificates from Mrs. Olson to commemorate this special milestone.



3rd Grade Frog Research Projects

Earlier this month, Mrs. Johnson's third-grade students completed their frog research projects. The projects concluded with the third graders sharing their insights and reading about their findings to the younger students.



Elementary Students of the Month

For **January!** The category for Deary Elementary was responsibility, and the category for Bovill was positive attitude.

Bovill

Kindergarten: Karlie Thompson

1st Grade: Chloe Heustis

2nd Grade: Seamus Hill

3rd Grade: Jack Allan

Deary

4th Grade: Colt Grogan

5th Grade: Esko Larsson



Secondary Highlights

Deary High School Girls Basketball Team Wins State Championship...

On Saturday, February 21st, the Lady Mustang Basketball team, under the guidance of coaches Kendra Keen, Kenadie Kirk, and John Sutera, triumphed over the Nezperce Nighthawks with a score of 55-42, making history as Deary's first Girls 1A State Basketball Champions. Coach Sutera helped coach the last team to reach the final state game back in 1982, where they claimed 2nd place.

Junior, Allie Vincent led the team in scoring with 19 points in the championship game, followed closely by Kaylee Wood and Payton Reynolds who both scored 13 points. Community members, parents, students, and Mustang fans lined the street to welcome home our state champions on Saturday afternoon. The bus entered town with a special Fire & EMS escort to the school. We are very proud of this team and our wonderful coaching staff for this huge accomplishment. These young women are outstanding representatives of our school, great role models for our younger students and the true embodiment of what it means to be a Mustang. Congratulations!



Mustang Athletics Updates

HS Boys Basketball our high school boys basketball team is currently competing in the district tournament. They had an amazing win in their district play-in game against Genesee where they came back from behind to defeat the Bulldogs 55-50. They were defeated by Timberline last night, but are back in action tonight, February 24th in Lapwai against Nezperce at 6:00 in a loser-out game. If they win, they will play again on Thursday in Lapwai.

Other things to make note of:

- **Ciel Sattler** won 1st place at district wrestling and is headed to the state tournament this week. **Best of luck, Ciel!**
- **Scarlet Donigian** is headed to State Cheer in Idaho Falls with the Troy High School Cheer Team. Scarlet and her team will compete in the 3A Division this Saturday morning, February 28th. **Best of luck, Scarlet!**
- **MS Basketball** - Practice began on February 11th, and their games begin next week. A copy of the full schedule is available on our website.
- Track practice begins on Monday, March 2, with meets beginning in mid March. We will host the annual Leah Swanson Memorial Meet at Lapwai on Saturday, April 11th.
- Softball practice begins on Friday 2/27 at Kendrick High School. Baseball practice will start up soon as well. Links to both the schedules are on the website.

Super Staff Spotlight

Autumn Heath



Lightning strikes twice – and in this case, it comes with a soundtrack. Ms. Autumn Heath is back in the Super Staff Spotlight, and her second year of leading music at Bovill and Deary has been nothing short of impressive. What she’s building isn’t just a program – it’s momentum.

This year marked a major milestone: for the first time in several years, Deary hosted a separate Middle/High School Band Concert. And the result? Outstanding. Considering many of the 6th graders only recently picked up their instruments, their confidence and growth were on full display. The progress speaks volumes about Ms. Heath’s instructional skills and the culture of excellence she is cultivating.

Even when faced with a curveball – rescheduling the Elementary Christmas Concert from December to January – she didn’t miss a beat. The performance was polished, joyful, and well worth the wait. Students from Bovill and Deary filled the room with classic carols and holiday spirit, reminding us that great teaching shines through regardless of timing.

And she’s not slowing down. Next week, some DHS musicians will travel to Lewiston High School to compete in the *Solo & Ensemble Festival* sponsored by Idaho High School Activities Association. Opportunities like this expand students’ horizons by showcasing their individual talents and reflect the elevated expectations Ms. Heath has set for her program.

Perhaps the strongest endorsement comes from her students themselves. When nominating Ms. Heath for this super spotlight, a student had this to say... *“She has been the best teacher we have ever had. She has taught us how to use the instruments, and she is so fun and funny!”*

Fun. Skilled. Driven. Impactful. Whitepine Joint School District is fortunate to have an educator who blends high expectations with high energy – and who continues to elevate music education for our students.

Congratulations, Ms. Heath! The music program isn’t just back... it’s thriving. 🍌🎵

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

Upcoming Events

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3/2: MSBB @ Potlatch G: 4:30/5:30 B: 6:30/7:30 • 3/3: MSBB @ Genesee B: 4:30/5:30 G: 6:30/7:30 • 3/4: HS & MS Parent/Teacher Conferences • 3/5: HS & MS Parent/Teacher Conferences • 3/9: Late Start at 10:30 • 3/9: School Board Meeting, Deary 6:30 • 3/10 MSBB v. Troy G: 4:30/5:30 B: 6:30/7:30 • 3/12: MSBB v. Potlatch B: 4:30/5:30 G: 6:30/7:30 • 3/17: BB v. Grangeville • 3/17: Track @ Kamiah • 3/17: MSBB v. Genesee G: 4:30/5:30 B: 6:30/7:30 • 3/18: SB v. St. Maries • 3/19: MSBB @ Kendrick B: 4:30/5:30 G: 6:30/7:30 • 3/20: SB v. Prairie • 3/20: BB v. Prairie | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3/20: MSBB @ Troy B: 4:30/5:30 G: 6:30/7:30 • 3/21: SB v. LC • 3/21: BB v. Nezperce • 3/21: Track @ Lewiston • 3/23: SB v. CV • 3/23: BB v. CV • 3/24: SB v. Grangeville • 3/24: MSBB v. Kendrick B: 4:30/5:30 G: 6:30/7:30 • 3/25: Elementary Parent/ Teacher Conferences • 3/26: Elementary Parent/ Teacher Conferences • 3/26: End of Quarter 3 • 3/27: SB v. Troy • 3/27: BB v. Troy • 3/27: Teacher In-Service/ No School • 3/30-4/3: Spring Break/ No School |
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Contact Information



School Board Trustees	Zone 1 - Sarah Stanton - sstanton@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