



Garfield Bell

August and September 2024

Wednesday, August 21

Classroom Visitations
9:00-10:00

Thursday, August 22

First Day of School
8:30 start time
Form Packets due

Monday, August 26

Minimum Day: 1:00

Monday, Sept. 2

~Labor Day~
No school

Thursday, Sept. 5

Booster Club Meeting
8:45
Back to School Potluck
5:00

Thursday, Sept. 12

School Board Meeting
4:00

Garfield School

2200 Freshwater Road
Eureka, CA 95503
PHONE:

707-442-5471

Board of Trustees:

Nancy Frost
Alison Talbott
Erika Benson

Superintendent:

Michael Quinlan

Greetings Garfield Families,

Welcome to the 2024-25 School Year! We hope you all had a wonderful summer. We are looking forward to seeing you on August 22nd for the first day of school.

Kind Regards,
Michael Quinlan

Meet and Greet: Classroom Visitations

Are you and your child feeling the anticipation of a new school year? If you or your child find yourselves wishing for a sneak-peek of the classroom or a chance to visit the teacher before school starts, "Meet and Greet" is for you! Meet and Greet is an informal visit to the classroom, and with the regular classroom teachers, before the school year begins. Classrooms will be open for Meet and Greet, Wednesday, August 21st, from 9:00-10:00 A.M.

Home-to-School Communication

If you need to contact your child's teacher or the administrative staff, you may do so by calling the school phone 442-5471 or through email. We do our best to respond as soon as we are able.

Superintendent/Principal: Michael Quinlan mquinlan@garfieldschool.org

School Secretary and Administrative Assistant: Kathy Blair kblair@garfieldschool.org

Grades 5-6 : Alaina Kelley akelley@garfieldschool.org

Grade 3-4 :Stephanie Brown sbrown@garfieldschool.org

Grades 1-2: Marcia Brady mbrady@garfieldschool.org

TK-K : Jill Wernert jwernert@garfieldschool.org

Resource: Hayley Serrine hserrine@garfieldschool.org

Speech Pathology: Janine Redwine jredwine@garfieldschool.org

Garfield After School Program (GASP) Jessica Hoffschmidt jhoffschmidt@garfieldschool.org

Enrollment

If you are receiving this Garfield Bell we are assuming that your child or children are attending Garfield School for the 2024-25 year. If this is not the case please call the office at 442-5471 to let us know.

School Forms Arriving Soon

To ensure safety and open communication from the first day to the last, you should have received a Back to School Packet in the mail. These packets contain emergency contact cards and a variety of permission forms and information. The Free and Reduced Lunch applications, which are now sent to everyone as part of the Universal Meals Program, are included. It is important to complete all forms, update changes, print legibly, and **check both sides** of each form. **Please return the completed packet to the office or your child's teacher, on or before the first day of school.**

Back to School Night and Potluck

Mark your calendar now for our Back to School Picnic-Style Potluck and Teacher Presentations, Thursday, September 5th starting at 5:00. The start of the year is exciting and often questions arise as children begin new grade levels and enter new classrooms. It is our hope that the potluck and teacher presentations will offer you a time to meet and reacquaint with Garfield families while receiving information about expectations for the coming school year from your child's teacher. For this event, we ask all families to provide a potluck entrée or side dish. The school will provide dessert. In addition to your potluck dish, this year we are requesting and thank you in advance for taking an eco-friendly approach by bringing your own reusable plates, utensils, cups, and a blanket for picnicking on the grass. (Back-up paper and plastic products will be available if you forget or are unable) The potluck will be held for the first hour, followed by informative presentations given by our classroom teachers. Each teacher will provide an overview of their grade-level programs, student expectations, and finish with a question and answer session.

School Supplies

Back to School, school supply sales are everywhere. This signal to the new school year often sparks a desire to buy up everything you think your child or the school might need for the coming year. Currently, Garfield provides most of the student school supplies, including art supplies. If you wish to contribute, check with your child's teacher to find out what is needed to bolster their program. Classroom teachers may also provide information about additionally needed supplies at our Back to School Potluck and Information night. In the meantime, here are some supplies to consider purchasing now depending on your child's individual needs:

- Backpack (big ones are better, even for Early Primary)
- Lunch box (even if your child orders every day, we request parents provide two snacks daily)
- Water bottle with sports top
- Running shoes for Physical Education and Running Club
- School supplies for home use, (pencils, pens, markers, paper, printer ink)

Attendance – What You Need to Know About Absences and Tardies

It is important to your child's academic and social development that they attend school regularly and arrive on time. Every classroom begins the day promptly at 8:30. Arriving a little bit early gives children time to put their belongings away, check in with friends and if desired, order lunch. Every classroom begins the day with a Morning Meeting. Morning Meeting is an integral part of our daily program and front loads students with information about the day ahead. Children who miss this part of the curriculum, enter the classroom at a disadvantage because they miss critical information about what is happening that day. Please make it a priority to arrive on time, thus ensuring a smooth morning transition and successful day for your child. If your child is tardy, meaning they arrive after the school bell has rung, be sure to have your child check in at the office and order lunch if needed. If you know you are going to be late and your child would like to order lunch, feel free to call the office or text Kathy regarding the late arrival and put in a lunch order.

If your child is unable to attend school on a given day, please contact the office and provide the reason for your child's absence. Teachers appreciate an email as well for planning purposes. The only excused absences are illnesses, doctor appointments, and court appearances. If you know in advance that your child will be absent, please let us know the reason and the dates for the absences. If your child is going to be absent for 3 or more consecutive school days, it is in everyone's best interest to request an independent study packet. Independent studies keep your child from falling behind and if adequately completed count as attendance. You can put a call in to the office for short notice Independent Studies, however, an email to Kathy and your child's teacher ahead of time is most helpful. Be sure to include the exact span of

dates your child will be out of school. The State of California allows for 14 independent study days per year for an individual student before they must be unenrolled from their regular classroom and enrolled in an independent study course. Please plan accordingly.

Breakfast, Lunches and Snacks

Garfield will offer both a School Breakfast and a School Lunch Program this year! These are sponsored by the National School Lunch Program and the State of California Universal Meals Program. This year all students may order meals at no cost to their families. The distinct, however, must purchase the lunches from a vendor and can only be reimbursed if we follow the program guidelines. That is where your help comes in. **The application for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch program still functions as the information gathering mechanism for not only the new CA Universal Meals program but many other types of State and Federal funding. The district is instructed to request that all families fill out this form. The information is completely confidential and the forms do not leave the school, but the percentage information remains a vital component in allowing the District to qualify for all available funding. The information gathered also allows the District to offer discounts on District Programs such as the Garfield After-Care Program. Please fill out the form even if your income is substantial, that does not hurt our cause.**

Each month a lunch and breakfast menu will be provided to families. It can be accessed via our website, will be posted at school and you may also request a paper or emailed copy from the office. In addition to the daily menu, sunbutter and jelly sandwiches or another vegetarian option are offered as an alternative. Milk is included with the lunch. Students must order same day lunches and the following day's breakfast daily. The meals will be prepared in the Freshwater School Cafeteria and Garfield personnel will pick them up daily. The pickup can only include the number of lunches we order that day so students cannot add orders after the initial count has been sent in at 9:00 a.m.. If you know your child will be late for school, please call in the lunch order.

Garfield School **does not** provide snacks during the school day. Parents are responsible for sending nutritious (low sugar) morning snacks for our morning snack break at 10:15 for their students as well as a snack for the afternoon.

If your student/s are staying for the Garfield After School Program (GASP) from 3:00 to 5:30 daily, GASP personnel will provide a snack around 4:00pm for children who are still enrolled at that time.

Breakfast or Lunch on the First Day of School

If your student would like breakfast or lunch on the first day of school, Thursday August 22nd, please help the cooks out by ordering now. Please place your order by email Kathy Blair at kblair@garfieldschool.org. Remember they must be at school by 8:05 for breakfast service. Thank you

Minimum Day Mondays

Garfield will have a 1:00 dismissal each Monday. Garfield staff will use these afternoons for weekly staff meetings, staff training, curriculum development and long term planning. The Garfield After School Program will be available for those families who require child care on these afternoons.

Kindercare and Garfield After School Care

Morning Care, Kindercare, and After School Care will be available everyday. This year we are excited to use these Care Programs as part of our expanded learning opportunities for students:

Morning Care: The gates will open at 7:45am. Breakfast will be offered to students who ordered it the day before from 7:45 to 8:05. Students will be dismissed for outside play at 8:10 and to their classes at 8:20.

Kindercare: Kindercare runs daily from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. The fee is \$4.00 per hour. Your kindergarten student will likely wish to consume a second snack at this time, please be sure to send one on the days they stay. If parents do not pick up at 3:00 their student will transition to GASP.

Garfield After School Program (GASP): After care runs from 3:00pm to 5:30pm daily. The fee is \$4.00 per hour.

Volunteers Are Welcome

Garfield welcomes and encourages parent/family volunteering. We offer a variety of ways for you or an interested family member to volunteer, including: helping in the classroom; driving on fieldtrips; presenting or teaching a skill or craft; creating activities and fundraising with the Booster Club; assisting with our Box Tops for Education, prepping materials, shopping for special events, supplying materials, and helping with the garden. Please fill out the volunteer interest form in your form packet to indicate your areas of interest and contact your child's teacher for specifics. Please read Volunteer Requirements below so you can begin the process.

Those volunteers who are able and willing to drive on field trips should complete the Field Trip Driver forms included in the forms packet sent to you. We occasionally utilize parent drivers for classroom field trips as well as at the end of the year for swim lessons. It can be a scramble to get enough qualified drivers at the last minute. We would like to have this first step completed early in the year.

Volunteer Requirements: For the safety and health of our students, state law requires classroom staff and volunteers, (including drivers for field trips) to have a current negative TB test and Live Scan fingerprints on file with us. You can get a TB test from your healthcare provider or go to the Humboldt County Public Health Office at 529 I Street in Eureka. TB tests are good for 4 years. If you are a returning volunteer, please check in at the office to ensure your TB clearance is still valid.

Live scan fingerprinting must be on file with the Humboldt County Office of Education. Please see the link below for information regarding this process. If the Live Scan fee is too great for your budget, the Garfield Booster Club has offered to defray the cost. Please submit a receipt for reimbursement to Kathy in the front office. For information on fingerprinting through Humboldt County Office of Education, go to: <https://hcoe.org> ; click on Personnel, then scroll down to "fingerprinting."

Booster Club

The Garfield Booster Club welcomes all Garfield parents, grandparents and staff who are interested in becoming involved in our fun-raising and fundraising events. Watch for meeting dates in the sidebar of our monthly newsletter and lunch/events calendar. Even if you can't make the meetings, you are always welcome to volunteer to help with events. Our first Booster Club Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 5th at 8:45am. Watch for Booster Club events, sign up, show up and you will meet new families, make new friends, join a wonderful community, and make a difference for our school.

School Board Meetings

We have a regularly scheduled School Board meeting on **Thursday, September 12th at 4:00 PM**. The agenda for the meeting will be posted at Garfield School and can also be found on our school website prior to the meeting at <http://www.garfieldschool.org/>. Parents, guardians and stakeholders are always welcome!