



# The Garfield Bell

*September 2022*

## September 5

No school.  
~Labor Day~

## September 6

Back to School  
Potluck 5:30-6:15 pm  
Presentations:  
6:15-6:45  
6:45-7:15

## September 8

School Board Meeting 4:00  
Staff Lounge

## September 12

Cross Country Practice begins

## September 15

Booster Club Meeting  
8:45 am

## September 20

Picture day

## **Garfield School**

2200 Freshwater Road  
Eureka, CA 95503  
PHONE:  
707-442-5471

## **Superintendent's Message:**

I wanted to take a moment to thank all of our families for a smooth transition into the 2022-23 school year. It has been a genuine pleasure to see all of our families this first week as you return from your summer adventures, for what looks to be another wonderful year at Garfield School! We look forward to working together to provide a safe, successful learning experience for every student. Thank you very much for being such an important part of all we do!

Best regards,  
Michael Quinlan

## **Back to School Potluck and Classroom Teacher**

**Presentations-** All staff and families of students currently attending Garfield are invited to our Annual Garfield Back-to-School Potluck next **Tuesday, September 6th beginning at 5:30**. The potluck will be followed by informative presentations given by classroom teachers who will provide an overview of their grade-level programs and student expectations, topping the presentations off with questions and answers.

For those new to the school, the potluck portion of this event will be from 5:30-6:15. We ask that every family bring a main dish or side to share with other families. It is helpful to bring your own picnic supplies: dinnerware, eating utensils, and a picnic blanket. At 6:15, the school bell will ring, signaling parents to head to the classrooms for classroom presentations. For parents who have children in more than one class the bell will ring again at 6:45 and you will have the opportunity to head to your 2nd classroom presentation.

While parents are getting an overview of their child's grade level program, the children will remain on the playground having an extended recess under the supervision of Garfield Staff. When your child's teacher has finished her presentation, we encourage you to head home and put children to bed. This event is on a Tuesday and we still have three more days of school that week.

**Parent-Child Homework** The 2022-23 Garfield Handbook will be provided to families next week. We would like families to review the handbook with students and then return the signature page with signatures of both parent and child. Thank you for the support you provide at home with these and other assignments. Parent involvement and participation in their child's education are two of the strongest indicators relating to a child's success in school.

**School-To-Home-To-School Communication.** Communication is the key to success in any relationship. That is why we place a high value on reaching out to our families to keep lines of communication open between home and school. Please familiarize yourself with each of our means of communication.

**Family/household folders in the office –** Every household has a folder in the office. These folders will be used for GASP bills, independent study packet retrieval and return, specialty teacher and resource teacher communications and other notices from Mr. Quinlan or Kathy may be placed in this folder. We recommend checking this folder *at least once a week*..

**Email** - Email is used to send out newsletters, the calendar, lunch menu and signup form, and messages from your child's teacher that may be specific to your child's day at school. Please check your email regularly.

**Phone calls-** Phone calls are certainly another way we can quickly communicate an absence, a tardy, a forgotten lunch order, or a change in pick-up plans. We have just one phone line to the school. For that reason we do ask that you use phone calls for quick communication. If you get the answering machine Kathy we will do our best to get back to you in a timely manner.

**Homework folders –** Every student receives a homework folder. These folders usually come home once a week, or every day, depending on the teacher. The folders have homework and notes that may require signing that are to be returned in the folder. They also may have finished work for you to look over, notes and fliers about special events, field trip permission slips, Good News postcards, library overdue book notices, etc. Be sure to look through the folder early in the week to learn of any notes needing immediate attention (like a field trip permission slip, or so you can celebrate a Good News Postcard).

**Notes to Celebrate and Notes to Provide Guidance** Sometimes your child may deserve special recognition for a job well done, so a staff member may send you a special note card called a "Good News Postcard." Other times your child may experience a challenge at school for which they seem unequipped to manage. In this case, you may receive an email called a "Room for Improvement" notice. We hope that when parents receive either positive news or a request for improvement, it becomes an opportunity to make some time to reinforce the positive behavior, or provide guidance to navigate the challenge.

When celebrating successes, use specific praise about the effort made to earn the recognition. When celebrating, keep it proportional and appropriate to the accomplishment. For instance, the teacher sent a Good News postcard praising your child for sitting and reading in a focused manner during a reading time, even though others around the child were off task. The reward might be to choose a story to be read aloud at bedtime or allowing the child to choose the movie for family movie night.

When it comes to concerning behavior communicated in the form of an emailed "Room for Improvement" notice, we hope parents will support us and their child through calm guidance that involves talking, asking questions, listening and working on tools or better solutions for the next time. If necessary, you may need to help your child with a restorative action, such as an apology letter, or following through with a necessary connected consequence. Help your child build the skills to navigate the challenge. To get started, here are some questions you might ask:

- What do you know about (name the challenging behavior)?
- What were you thinking when you did that? or, Did you think before you acted?
- How did your choice affect the other people around you?
- How did your choice affect you?
- Let's work together to come up with some better choices for the next time you are faced with this challenge. Write them down in list form.
- Let's examine what might happen with each idea if we actually tried them in a similar situation.
- Let's choose the best answer for making a better choice. Explain this is now a tool for their toolbox

## Enrichment Opportunity

**It's Cross Country season!** We'd like to invite students who have permission and are interested in developing their distance running stamina to go for an off campus run with a parent volunteer, Heidi Macdonald, on **Mondays beginning September 12th**, immediately following the new 1:00pm whole school dismissal. Students should wear proper footwear and meet on the field. The route will take the runners from the field, out the east gate, south on Grange Road, east on Apple Valley Lane to the Blair's property and back. Accumulated miles can be added to those accrued during GASP running club. A schedule of County run cross country meets will be emailed home. Parents may choose to take their children to these meets if they wish. Official meets will be on Tuesdays or Thursdays at various locations. Once the meets start, practice runs will continue except on weeks with more than one official meet scheduled. For example, if there are meets on both Tuesday and Thursday one week there will not be a practice run that week. Please email Kathy if your child has permission to run off campus with Heidi. Cross country season and this opportunity will continue through the months of September and October.

## School Board Meetings

We have a regularly scheduled School Board meeting on **Thursday, September 8th 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 to attend.

## Booster Club

Much of what makes Garfield School such a special place to be is made possible by our booster club. The 1st 2022-2023 Garfield Booster Club meeting will be held **Thursday, September 15th at 8:45 AM**. All are welcome to attend.

## Parent Advisory

We have scheduled a meeting for the Parent Advisory Council for **Thursday, September 22nd at 4:00 PM**. The goals of this meeting are to review Garfield's Safety Plan and to consider any changes to security measures at Garfield School. Parents, guardians and stakeholders are encouraged to attend. An invitation will be sent out to all families prior to the meeting.