



# Garfield Bell

August 2017

**Fri. August 18**  
Booster Club  
Meeting 4:00

**Thurs. August 24**  
Meet and Greet  
12:00-3:00

**Mon. August 28**  
First Day of School  
8:30 start time  
Form Packets due  
Not a minimum day

**Fri. September 1**  
Whole School  
Morning Meeting  
8:30am

**Mon. September 4**  
No school  
~Labor Day~

**Thurs. September 7**  
Back to School  
Potluck  
5:30 pm

**Mon. September 11**  
1:00 Dismissal all  
grades

**September 14**  
Board Meeting  
4:00 Staff Lounge

**Sat. October 7**  
Pastels on the Plaza  
Barn Dance and Chili  
Dinner 4:30-7:00



**Garfield School**  
2200 Freshwater Road  
Eureka, CA 95503

PHONE:  
707-442-5471

**Board of Trustees:**  
Kathleen Moxon  
Nancy Frost  
Alison Talbott

**Superintendent:**  
Michael Quinlan

Greetings Garfield Families,

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year! We hope you all had a wonderful summer. We are looking forward to seeing you on August 28th for the first day of school.

Kind Regards,

Michael Quinlan

## Meet and Greet and Home to School Communication

As the new school year approaches, students, parents, and teachers alike can look forward to an informal visit before the school year begins. Classrooms will be open for a "Meet and Greet," Thursday, August 24<sup>th</sup>, from 12- 3PM. New TKs and Ks entering Early Primary will receive a separate invitation by mail, to set an appointment to visit with Mrs. Tollner and receive an orientation to the classroom and school during the week of August 21<sup>st</sup> -25<sup>th</sup>. 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 using the following email addresses:

Superintendent/Principal: Michael Quinlan [mquinlan@garfieldschool.org](mailto:mquinlan@garfieldschool.org)

School Secretary and Administrative Assistant: Kathy Blair [kblair@garfieldschool.org](mailto:kblair@garfieldschool.org)

Upper Elementary: Alaina Kelley [akelley@garfieldschool.org](mailto:akelley@garfieldschool.org) & Jenna Young [jyoung@garfieldschool.org](mailto:jyoung@garfieldschool.org)

Middle Primary: Marcia Brady [mbrady@garfieldschool.org](mailto:mbrady@garfieldschool.org)

Early Primary: Marliese Tollner [mtollner@garfieldschool.org](mailto:mtollner@garfieldschool.org)

## Enrollment

If you are receiving this Garfield Bell we are assuming that your child or children are attending Garfield School for the 2017-18 year. If this is not the case please contact Michael at [mquinlan@garfieldschool.org](mailto:mquinlan@garfieldschool.org).

## You're Forms are in the Mail

Every year form packets are sent home the first day of school. To ensure safety and open communication from the first day to the last, this year we will be sending the packet of forms to you in the mail before the first day. These packets contain emergency contact information and a variety of other forms such as Free and Reduced Lunch information and application. 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.

## Attendance and Tardies

It is important to your child's academic and social development that he/she attends school regularly and on time. Every classroom begins the day promptly at 8:30. Arriving a little bit early will give children time to put their things away, check in with friends and order lunch, if doing so. Every classroom begins their day with the morning meeting, which is an integral part of our daily program. Please prioritize your children arriving on time, or a little bit early, so they can have a smooth

morning transition. If your child is tardy, meaning she or he arrives after the school bell has rung, she/he must check in at the office.

If your child is unable to attend school, please contact the office and provide the reason for your child's absence. 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 5 or more consecutive days, please request an independent study packet. Independent studies keep your child from falling behind and if adequately completed count as attendance. Please send a note with your child or call the school to explain the absence or tardiness.

## **Teachers Attend Summer Classes**

Many people hold the perception that teachers have summers off. We do take some time, but Garfield teachers are committed to improving their practice through professional development courses taught over the summer. Summer trainings include: Mindfulness training, which provided lessons on health and well-being with a stress on mental health and social skills improvement through deep breathing techniques, stretching, stories and sensory awareness, all with the intent of improving strong emotion management, self-regulation, focus, and impulse control. The practices are research based and result in overall better attendance rates, academic and social success, lower rates of acting out and suspensions.

Every classroom teacher is currently attending classes through the Redwood Writing Project, with a focus on the writing process. Lessons, activities and research topics cover implementing and using a writer's workshop approach.

Last, but certainly not least, Garfield teaching and administrative staff will attend a two day intensive training in Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports just before school starts up. We hope this addition to our Responsive Classroom training will provide us with more tools to address the individual and diverse needs of our students, keeping and improving upon Garfield's school climate as one that is safe, positive and productive for everyone. More information about Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) will be shared with parents and students as we begin implementing different aspects of this program this year.

## **Lunches and Snacks**

Garfield will continue to offer lunches and milk. A lunch menu will be provided each month with the calendar of events. In addition to the daily menu, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are always offered as an alternative. Milk is included in the lunch, but is also sold separately. To order lunch or milk students must do so with the morning duty staff member (usually Kathy) first thing before the 8:30 morning bell. If you know your child will be late for school, call in the lunch or milk order. The cost of lunch this year is \$3.50 and milk is \$.50. Lunch may be paid for in advance or daily. Be sure to look over the Free and Reduced Lunch application. Not only may your child qualify for the Free or Reduced Lunch program, Garfield School receives additional funding for each student who qualifies for free and reduced lunch, even if you do not choose to utilize the program. If you are eligible we encourage you to apply. Once the form is in and it is determined that you qualify, your child's free or reduced fee lunch can begin.

It is important to note that we do not provide snacks during the school day, even if you do receive free or reduced cost lunch. Parents are responsible for sending a nutritious (low sugar) morning snack for our morning snack break at 10:15. If your child stays from 1:00-3:00, send a second snack for break during afternoon instruction time. The GASP (Garfield After School Program) staff will provide another snack around 4:00 for all children enrolled at that time.

## **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; fun and

fundraising with the Booster Club; assisting with our Box Tops for Education, 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. Those able and willing to drive on fieldtrips should complete the Fieldtrip Driver forms included in the packet of forms.

For the safety and health of our students, state law requires classroom staff and volunteers, (including drivers for fieldtrips) to have a current negative TB test on file with Garfield. You can get a TB test from your health care 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 see if your TB clearance is still valid. Volunteers are also required to have live scan fingerprinting on file with the Humboldt County Office of Education. Please see the link below for information regarding this process. Should the fees involved create an economic hardship for your family, the Garfield Booster Club is available to reimburse families for the associated costs. Please submit receipts for reimbursement to Kathy in the front office.

<http://www.humboldt.k12.ca.us/pers-fingerprinting.php>

## **Booster Club and Barn Dance**

The Garfield Booster Club is always open to Garfield parents, grandparents and staff who are interested in fun and fund raising for our school. Our first organizational meeting is coming right up on August 18<sup>th</sup> at 4:00. Everyone is welcome to attend. Our Fourth Annual Barn Dance will be on the agenda. So far we know the dance will be held at the Freshwater Guild (formerly Grange), on Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-7:00. Fingal will provide the music with experienced caller Sue Moon teaching the dances. Chili and cornbread will be available for an additional cost. Watch for more details in the September Bell.

If you're new to our school, or returning, we hope you will always feel welcome to volunteer at any event. Even if you can't make Booster club meetings, you can help at events. Grandparents are welcome to help too! For nearly every Booster Club event, there will be task sign-up sheets posted outside of the multipurpose room. Sign up and show up and we will get you started.



## **Garfield Gardens are no longer a Secret**

You may notice something different about Garfield when you return to campus. The back wooden fence has been dismantled and replaced with a ranch style rail fence that allows us to see the back 40 (or so square yards that is). This has traditionally been our pumpkin patch, garden shed and green house area, but aside from the children planting and harvesting pumpkins, no one knew about it! It was more like a secret garden, but that has all changed. It will now be seen and it will include our raised beds and eventually a quad area for students wishing to gather and socialize in a pastoral garden setting. This fall students will begin work on clearing areas for the new raised bed boxes to be installed. Once again we would like to thank Fox Farms and The North Coast Community Garden Project for donating soil and fertilizer to help us get our gardening projects growing this fall. We hope to raise vegetables for in-class tasting as well as seasonal crafts and cooking projects for Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Chinese New Year to name a few. Parents and or students who are interested in volunteering in the garden should contact Marliese Tollner at [mtollner@garfieldschool.org](mailto:mtollner@garfieldschool.org).

## **Community Meeting**



Humboldt County Supervisor Mike Wilson will be hosting a community meeting on September 18 @ 6:00 PM to discuss concerns and solutions pertaining to traffic on Freshwater Road. Please mark your calendars in order to participate in the important conversation. More information will be provided as we approach the meeting date.