



The Garfield Bell

September 2026

September 3

Booster Club Meeting
8:45 am

Back to School
Potluck 5:00-6:00 pm
Presentations:
6:00-7:00

September 7

No school.
~Labor Day~

September 10

School Board Meeting
4:00 Staff Lounge

September 14

Cross Country Practice
begins Mondays @ 1:00

September 15

Great CA ShakeOut
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 2026-27 school year. It has been a genuine pleasure to see all of our families 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 members and the families of students currently attending Garfield are invited to our Annual Garfield Back-to-School Potluck on **Thursday, September 3rd beginning at 5:00**. The potluck will be followed by informative presentations given by our classroom teachers, who will provide an overview of their grade-level programs and student expectations in their classrooms. Each session will be topped off with a questions and answers time.

The potluck portion of this event will be from 5:00-6:00. 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 and eating utensils. At 6:00, the school bell will ring, signaling for parents to head to the classrooms for presentations. For parents who have children in more than one class the bell will ring again at 6:30 and you will have the opportunity to attend your 2nd classroom session.

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 Thursday and we still have a full day of school the following day.

Parent-Child Homework The 2026-27 Garfield Handbook will be provided to families soon. We would like families to review the handbook with students and then return the signature page with signatures of both parent and

children. Thank you for the support you are providing at home with this 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 to disperse information, hand out GASP bills, complete independent study packet contracts, leave homework when it is requested, and special education teacher communications. We recommend checking this folder *weekly*.

Email - Email is used to send out newsletters, the calendar, lunch menus, signup forms, 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 you can quickly communicate an absence, a tardy, a forgotten lunch order, or a change in pick-up plans. We may also call to communicate a child's concern or solicit your advice. We have one phone line to the school, 707-442-5471. 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. We also have a fax number. 707-443-1932.

Homework folders – Every student receives a homework folder. These folders usually come home once a week, but may come home daily, depending on the teacher. The folders have homework and notes that may require signing and often need 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 a Good News Postcard that will be fun to celebrate with your student).

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 these cases, you may receive an email or a phone call to help to create a more positive outcome. We hope that when parents receive either positive news or a request for improvement, it becomes an opportunity to take 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, we hope parents will support us and their child through calm guidance that involves talking, asking questions, listening and working on strategies to help them find better solutions (tools) 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 it out 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 Mr. Merrill on **Mondays beginning September 14th**, immediately following the 1:00pm whole school dismissal. Students should wear proper footwear and meet on the field. The practice 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 on Monday that week. Please email Kathy if your child has permission to run off campus with Heidi. Cross country season and these practice opportunities will continue through the months of September and October.

School Board Meetings

We have a regularly scheduled School Board meeting on **Thursday, September 10th 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 3rd at 8:45 AM**. All are welcome to attend.

Parent Advisory

We have scheduled a meeting for the Parent Advisory Council for **Thursday, September 24th at 3:00 PM**. The goals of this meeting are to review Garfield's Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). Parents, guardians and stakeholders are encouraged to attend. An invitation will be sent out to all families prior to the meeting.