

BOARD REPORT

Flossie Went Viral

Allison Munch-Rotolo, Board president

As I write this piece in late August, I am reflecting on the end of summer and the beginning of a new school year. “Viral sensation **Flossie Lewis** still a spectacular teacher at 94” came at just the right time for me. Your favorite search engine will lead you to her. She’s worth seeing.

Flossie was originally profiled for the ongoing PBS News Hour series “Brief but Spectacular”. Flossie’s interest in going viral was perhaps a bit surprising for a nonagenarian, but these are the times we live in. We want everything at our fingertips and on demand. The PBS profile of Flossie in fact did go viral, and has been viewed over seven million times since its original airing in 2016.

Now here’s where the story gets interesting: Flossie is a retired high school English teacher and many of her former students saw her viral video and contacted PBS to share the ways this Bay Area educator changed their lives. PBS then put together a reunion with Flossie and a roomful of students from her 40-year career. That moment was captured by PBS and is a charming and emotionally-affecting sequel.

The idea that someone’s long life and career as an educator could be summarized in a viral video seems slightly ironic to me, perhaps almost oxymoronic. On the one hand we have something fluffy and temporal, an internet sensation, a viral video—and on the other

something enduring, a life’s work, a legacy. But the video surely would not exist without that legacy, and the legacy will linger longer because of being immortalized in the video. Perhaps they are actually better together.

Ancient Etruscans expressed the passage of time with the word saeculum. A saeculum starts the moment something happens and continues for as long as those who personally experienced it remember. If Flossie isn’t with us too much longer, her impact on her students marks a saeculum. Those human lives she helped to shape will intersect with other lives and Flossie’s legacy will continue to spread. Flossie went viral long before the internet.

Here in Pullman Public Schools, we have many professional educators, support staff members, and dedicated volunteers, who have changed and are changing the direction of students’ lives. They are deserving of their own viral videos. In a school district, late August is a great time to think about the year ahead, and our goals for growth in all areas including student learning, professional development, quality of support services, etc. But late August is also a great time to reflect on the bigger picture. What do we want our own legacies to be?

We’ve all had teachers who changed our lives. After watching Flossie, I want to give a fond salute to some of my memorable teachers

in Spokane Public Schools: **Ms. Jean Tavener** (elementary music specialist at Hamblen Elementary); **Mr. Gordon Ogo** (orchestra director at Sacajawea Junior High); and Joel E. Ferris High School faculty members **Mr. Paul Brueggemeier** (music), **Mr. Gary Finer** (language arts), Coach **Wayne Gilman** (physical education), and **Herr Jack Raney** (foreign language).

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The Pullman School District Board of Directors and the Pullman School District shall provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities programs without regard to race, religion, creed, color, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation (including gender expression or identity), marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, participation in the Boy Scouts of America or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The district will provide equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society. District programs will be free from sexual harassment.

The following employee has been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: **Roberta Kramer**, Assistant Superintendent, Pullman School District Administrative Offices, 240 SE Dexter Street, Pullman, WA 99163, 509.332.3144. Applicants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations in the application process by contacting the Personnel Coordinator at (509) 332-3584.

2018-2019 New Employees

We are so happy you’ve chosen Pullman Public Schools!

Robin Allan, Bus Driver

Linda Baldeck, Elementary Counselor

Mike Bessey, Bus Driver

May Bromley, Food Service

Kelli Dahmen, English Language Development Teacher

Cassie Eng, Speech Language Pathologist

Desiree Gould, Elementary Assistant Principal

Valarie Marchbanks, Bus Driver

Phillip Taylor, Bus Driver

Franklin Elementary:

Stephanie Bray, Interim Principal

Lonna Carrier, Kindergarten Teacher

Jennifer Escobedo, First Grade Teacher

Haylee Fishback, Physical Education Teacher

Ellen Kellie, Kindergarten Teacher

Marlin Mangels, Fourth Grade Teacher

Jefferson Elementary:

Jim Bruce, Principal

Jamie Bye, Fifth Grade Teacher

Breanna Gibson, Second Grade Teacher

Anthony Haynes, Fifth Grade Teacher

Chelsea Jones-Dinger, First Grade Teacher

Abby Liss, Fifth Grade Teacher

Brian Supowit, Third Grade Teacher

Abby Villeneuve, Counselor

Sunnyside Elementary:

Allison Bell, First Grade Teacher

Savannah Nelson, First Grade Teacher

Amanda Singh, Kindergarten Teacher

Natalie Walker, Fifth Grade Teacher

Lincoln Middle School:

Becky Adderson, Special Education Teacher

Nancy Anderson, Math and English Language Arts Teacher

Rachael Fisher, Social Studies and English Language Arts Teacher

Heidi Fluegel, Science Teacher

Lori Hersey, Special Education Teacher

Carone Jones, English Language Arts Teacher

Michele McCann, English Language Arts Teacher

Pullman High School:

Michael Ausmus, Special Education Teacher

Paden Carlson, English Teacher

Emma Hubbard, English Teacher

Deanna Kile, Counselor

Ken Swanger, Career Choices Teacher

Scott Thompson, Special Education Teacher

Christopher Weeks, English Teacher

Child Find 2018-2019

Early Childhood Developmental Screening

PULLMAN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ensuring Learning While Challenging and Supporting Each Student to Achieve Full Potential

- WHO:** Children - Birth through 5 years of age who are living in the Pullman School District. If your family is living in a temporary situation, you may contact the district in which you are currently staying for a screening.
- WHAT:** This screening is an opportunity to identify, locate, and evaluate children who might have a disability and to address potential concerns.
- WHEN:** **Friday mornings during the 2018-2019 school year:**
- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| * September 7th | * February 1st |
| * October 5th | * March 1st |
| * November 2nd | * April 12th |
| * January 11th | * May 3rd |
- WHERE:** **Community Child Care Center/Head Start**
530 NW Larry Street (aka Greyhound Way) (behind Pullman High School)
Pullman, WA



For more information or to schedule an appointment please contact:
Instructional Programs Office
Pullman School District
Phone: 509-332-3144



The Pullman School District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veterans or military status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to designated youth groups. This holds true for all district employment and opportunities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the Assistant Superintendent, Pullman School District Administrative Offices, 240 SE Dexter Street, Pullman, WA 99163, 509/332-3144. Applicants with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations in the application process by contacting the Personnel Coordinator at (509) 332-3584.

Highly Capable Program Referrals for Current Kindergartners and Some Transfer Students Will Be Accepted October 22-26, 2018

Referral forms for current kindergarten students to receive highly capable services during the current school year will be accepted October 22 – 26, 2018. Parents/guardians, teachers, students, and anyone else with direct knowledge of a student's abilities may refer a student for highly capable services.

Students who have transferred to the Pullman School District since March 1, 2018 from a district that does not offer highly capable testing and/or services are also eligible to be referred for highly capable services during this time.

For more information on the referral process or to obtain a referral form, contact the school psychologist at the student's school or the Instructional Programs Office at (509) 332-3144. Additional information, as well as the referral form, can also be found at <http://bit.ly/2htubQG>.

سيتم قبول إحالات لبرنامج الطلاب ذوي القدرة العالية لطلاب الروضة الحاليين وبعض الطلاب المنقولين بين 22 و 26 أكتوبر/تشرين الأول
سيتم قبول مستندات الإحالة لطلاب الروضة الحاليين لتلقي الخدمات خلال العام الدراسي الحالي بين 23 و 27 أكتوبر/تشرين الأول. يستطيع أي أستاذ أو أهل/ولي أمر أو طالب أو أي شخص على معرفة بقدرات الطالب أن يتقدم بطلب إحالة إلى خدمات الطلاب ذوي القدرة العالية.

الطلاب الذين انتقلوا إلى منطقة بولمان المدرسية منذ 1 مارس/آذار من منطقة لا توفر اختبارات القدرة العالية و/أو خدماتها مؤهلون للتحويل إلى خدمات الطلاب ذوي القدرة العالية في خلال هذا الوقت.

للمزيد من المعلومات عن عملية الإحالة أو للحصول على مستندات تحويل، الرجاء الاتصال بعالم النفس المعين في المدرسة في مدرسة الطالب أو بمكتب البرامج التعليمية على الرقم (509) 332-3144. يمكن أيضاً الحصول على المزيد من المعلومات وعلى مستندات الإحالة على العنوان: <http://bit.ly/2htubQG>



Attendance Matters

Jim Bruce, Jefferson Elementary Principal

Pullman School District students, parents and staff have settled back into the various routines associated with the return to school from summer break. The most impactful routine on a child's education is regular school attendance. Across the country, more than 8 million students are missing so many days of school that they are academically at risk.

Chronic absenteeism is defined as missing 10 percent or more school days due to absence for any reason—excused, unexcused absences and suspensions. When a student misses out on instruction they are much more likely to fall behind.

The research tells us that:

- Chronic absenteeism in preschool, kindergarten and first grade is a predictor of a student being much less likely to read at grade level by 3rd grade.
- Students who cannot read at grade level by the end of 3rd grade are four times more likely than proficient readers to not graduate.
- By 6th grade, absenteeism is one of the three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- A student that is chronically absent in any two years between 8th and 12th grade has >50% chance of not finishing high school.
- A few misperceptions about being absent or tardy from school:
 - "Absences are only a problem if they are unexcused." Regardless if the absence is excused or unexcused it impacts a child's education.
 - "It's okay to miss a day here or there." A child can be chronically absent even if they only miss a day or two every few weeks.
 - "Attendance only matters in the older grades." Good attendance matters in ALL grades. Whether it's kindergarten or 12th grade, too many absences can cause a child to fall behind in school.
 - "Being tardy doesn't impact a child's education." Being consistently tardy may eventually lead to chronic absenteeism. Additionally, being tardy not only impact that child's learning, but it also impacts the other students in the class when the teacher must stop instruction to assist the tardy student. Arriving on time every day makes children feel good about themselves.

We realize that there are unavoidable circumstances (sickness and family emergency) occur that make coming to school impossible. We are often asked "When is sick too sick for school?"

Send your child to school if:

- They have a runny nose or just a little cough, but no other symptoms.
- Haven't had a fever for 24 hours.
- Haven't thrown up or had diarrhea.

Keep your child home if:

- They have a temperature higher than 100 degrees even after taking medicine.
- Throwing up or have diarrhea.

What can you do? Make school attendance a priority.

- Talk with your child about the importance of showing up to school every day, make that the expectation.
- Try not to schedule dental and medical appointments during the school day.
- Don't let your child stay home unless truly sick.
- Avoid extended trips or vacations when school is in session.

Consistent school attendance has a significant impact on a child's academic success starting in kindergarten and continuing through high school. Even as children grow older and more independent, families play a key role in making sure students get to school safely every day and understand why attendance is so important for success in school and on the job. All Pullman School District schools are committed to providing the very best educational opportunities to all students. To make this possible our goal is getting ALL students "In School, ON TIME, Every Day."