

# Blue Ink



Garretson Weekly School Newspaper - Garretson, SD - Volume 2, Number 1

## This Week's Need to Know

**FACT OF THE WEEK:** This is the second year of Garretson's weekly school newspaper. There are all new staff writers this year.

**BRAIN TEASER OF THE WEEK:** Would you rather have a crocodile attack you or an alligator?  
*Answer on back page*

**JOKE OF THE WEEK:** Why is a river rich?  
*Answer on back page*

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

#### Friday, August 29

- Cross Country @ Beresford
- Football @ Chester Area

#### Saturday, August 30

- Volleyball @ Canton Tourney

#### Monday, September 1

- No School

#### Tuesday, September 2

- First day of Pre-School
- C/JV/V Volleyball @ SF Christian
- Cross Country @ MCM
- 7/8/JV Football @ Chester

#### Thursday, September 4

- 7/8/C/JV/V Volleyball @ Baltic
- Soccer v. Harrisburg @ 6:00

#### Friday, September 5

- Football v. Viborg-Hurley @ 7:00
- Whopper Feed @ 5:00

#### Saturday, September 6

- 7/8 Volleyball @ BEC Tourney



Scan for the full upcoming event schedule

Blue Ink student editor: Katie Giesler

## C-SPAN Bus Visits Garretson, Shares Knowledge

By Micah Mader and Tait Johnson

What do Bill Clinton, George Clooney, Nick Jonas, Katy Perry, Usher, and the GHS students have in common? They all have stepped foot on the one and only C-SPAN bus!

The C-SPAN bus rolled into Garretson on Monday, August 25, and offered tours to the seniors, juniors, and eighth graders.

Cable Satellite Public Affairs Network (C-SPAN) is a non-profit TV network that covers mainly house and senate issues year-round. C-SPAN is funded by cable companies like Alliance (only six cents of your cable bill goes to C-SPAN, as compared to companies like ESPN who take seven dollars).

Along with the house and senate, they cover major political events such as elections, passing of laws, and important military operations. These are covered by three TV stations: C-SPAN 1, C-SPAN 2, and C-SPAN 3.

The bus is split into two sections. The front is the education section. Several computers that allow students to see the broadcasts they have on their website are placed around the front end. The back of the bus is where interviews are conducted.

The bus costs about one million dollars. That includes all the technology on the bus. Although being beneficial for the knowledge it spreads, the fuel is a costly side effect. "I'm not sure how much fuel it uses on a yearly basis, but it can't be good," replied the C-SPAN representative.

The bus however has been to all 50 states. It reaches roughly 35 states

in one year. The C-SPAN bus has not made an appearance in the great state of South Dakota in roughly five years.

The C-SPAN bus makes its way around the country from election to election, meanwhile stopping at schools that happen to fall in their path.

The bus' purpose, besides covering elections, is to teach kids about the network and how to obtain viable political information.

Junior Jacob Ftizgerald mentioned that the most important thing he learned was, "The C-SPAN network has 200,000 hours of footage on their network that can be watched on their website."

Hopefully the C-SPAN bus will return in five years like it is scheduled. Senior Blake Severson said, "I would hope the C-SPAN bus will come back because it is a good thing for the little kids to experience."



Above: Blue Ink staff writers Tait Johnson and Micah Mader in front of C-SPAN bus.



Right: Students attentively listen as the C-SPAN reps explain the bus and its purposes.

## Volleyball Takes on Pre-Season Officials' Tournament

By Abriana Scholl

Just this past Saturday, members of the Garretson Blue Dragons volleyball team showed off their hard work at the officials' practice tournament in Madison.

The tournament is not only for the players to get ready for the season but also the officials. The referees have the opportunity to practice new calls as well as getting used to the pace of the game again before the regular season starts up.

The results from the tournament did not affect the Blue Dragons' official season record.

During this tournament, the Garretson netters squared off against Brandon Valley, Sioux Falls Christian, and host Madison.

The Lady Blue Dragons have been working hard this year and show lots of teamwork, a sign of a potentially great season.

"I assumed [our opponents] would be challenging, but they actually turned out to be playable games, jun-

ior Katie Giesler stated, giving her opinion on the practice games during the tournament.

Senior Shambree Smith told that she believes that talking and passing on court should improve, but other than that she sees lots of teamwork as well.

Not only coming from the players, but also the coaches as well. "I feel like they

have really good team chemistry this year," Coach Schotzko expressed.

Although Coach Schotzko believes they have some improvement, she has extreme confidence in the girls and their abilities.

High hopes are given to the girls this year, but knowing their capabilities



Members of the Lady Blue Dragons varsity volleyball squad who attended the pre-season tournament.

and their strong bond together as a team, they are definitely willing and able to bring home the gold.

The volleyball team sees its first action on Saturday at a tournament hosted by Canton. They are scheduled to play the host team as well as Parker and Dell Rapids in pool play.



## Blue Dragons' Excitement for Season Opener Uncontainable

By Beth Schmidt

As the first game of the season looms, the football team is anxious to get underway. Garretson will be traveling to take on the Chester Area Flyers in the season opener.

Chester is a team head coach Kevin Steckler has pegged as a rivalry, putting that much more emphasis on the game.

For the season, Coach Steckler has requested the boys to "have goals every day to improve individually which will help them improve as a team.

One improvement that needs to be made is "better team leadership and stronger communication as a team," stated Coach Steckler.

He has put the emphasis on team this year: working as a team, communicating as a team, leading the team.

Senior Bryce Wollmann thinks the Garretson Blue Dragons will be successful as long as they "work on the little things.

Even though the total number of players is slightly down this year, the effort and focus the boys have put forward has made up for it.

There are eight returning seniors, one junior, seven sophomores and seven freshmen.

Coach Steckler looks at the seniors to lead the team day in and day out,

stating that the team captains are the seniors that earn it each week.

Steckler has been coaching for 26 years; this is his second year in his current stint as the play caller for the Garretson Blue Dragons football team.

He is assisted by Tad Heitkamp, Matt Schrank, and Jerry Weiland.

The Garretson Blue Dragons look to start their year off strong. The game starts at 7:00 p.m. in Chester. Chester is also hosting a hamburger feed prior to the game.

The Blue Dragons have their home opener against Viborg-Hurley next Friday, September 5.

## New Faces for Garretson Staff

By Zeb Johnson

The school year has begun once again, and there are many new faces on the teaching staff for the Garretson school district.

Quite a few teachers and other staff members from last year resigned and/or retired from their positions, but these positions have been filled by new employees.

This year, nine new staff members have joined the school district. This list is comprised of seven teachers, one custodian, and the superintendent.

The school's superintendent position had been occupied for more than three decades by Mr. Ar-

end. The superintendent's position has been filled by Guy Johnson. Mr. Johnson has been the middle school princi-



New superintendent Guy Johnson joins the staff after nine years at West Central.

pal at the West Central school district for the last nine years.

Johnson said, "I decided to apply for the position at Garretson for three reasons. The location of the town in southeastern South Dakota is great; the reputation of the town and district is extremely positive, and the town, being the size that it is, makes a great place to live. And I have wanted to be a superintendent for a long time now. I decided to be an educator during college and I have the desire to teach and help kids. I believe I had a positive effect on the West Central school district, and I hope to have the same positive impact here as the superintendent."

The elementary principal, Ms. Johnson, middle and high school principal, Mr. Long, and the rest of

the veteran staff members have been working hard to get the new staff acclimated to the new school and district.

Mr. Long said, "It's always exciting to have new staff members here. Since they are new to our district, they often have new ideas and are open to new ideas themselves. And it's just great to meet new people. Working with the new staff has been easier and easier as time has gone on."

In addition to Mr. Johnson joining the ranks in the school district, Garretson also welcomes kindergarten teacher Alexa Hoefert, first grade teacher Samantha Eliason, second grade teacher Kayli Coburn, fifth grade teacher Lisa Danforth, choir director Kelby Robinson, computer and multi-media teacher Alex Wiese, Spanish teacher Brent Jung, and custodian Cody Wegner.

## Girls' Soccer Kicks Off Season

By Jared Fitzgerald

The girls are back! This is the second year as a sanctioned school sport for the Garretson soccer team.

After a good learning year last season, they are back and hungry for more. While the girls may lack some experience, they are all focused and ready to improve their game everyday!

The girls couldn't let the disappointing end to last year's season keep them down; they have all made drastic changes to improve their play since last year.

"Head coach Mitch Lynch stated, "We had a great fall camp and I'm excited about the year."

Girls' soccer had their season opener last Friday night at Tea. They felled up that game with a home match up against Brandon Valley on Saturday. Unfortunately the Lady Blue Dragons ended up on the losing end of both of

those games with a score of 0-3 each time.

Even though the girls had two rough games to start off the season, they were not going to let that keep them down. Garretson came into Tuesday's game against Sioux Falls Christian with high hopes.

Mara VanDeBerg played strong scoring the one and only goal of the game. The Blue Dragons' defense shut down the Chargers, keeping the scoreless the whole game.

Senior Lydia Olson commented, "We were more aggressive and played more like a team."

With Cassie Faber's solid goalie skills and help from the rest of the defense, Garretson walked away with a 1-0 victory!



Garretson and Vermillion soccer ready as the ball is about to be thrown in.

That gave the girls good momentum going into yesterday's match-up against Vermillion.

The girls played well holding Vermillion scoreless for the first half and half way through the second.

Unfortunately a few mistakes toward the end of the game allowed the visitors to score and Garretson was not able to recover.

The Lady Blue Dragons dropped the game 0-4, bringing their record to 1-3.

## The Lunch Box Diaries

By Sylvia Larson

What did you eat for lunch the first day of school? Country fried steak or chicken nuggets? You were probably surprised that you got a cookie with your meal and could also buy one if you wanted. Do you like the new lunch program or is it just not working for you?

Lunchtime Solutions is making its debut in Garretson this year, and they plan to stay.

"Our recipes are developed by a culinary team for complete student satisfaction." Heather Wahl, one of the new lunch helpers, says. "We're all about managing the school lunch with a variety of entrees and fruits and veggies."

Many students seem to like the changes and wish they would have done this sooner.

Justin Stoterau, a fifth grader, noticed, "Last year everybody just wanted chef salad because there wasn't much to pick from. This year there are three different choices every day, and different stuff every week."

It's a miracle! We have gone through a whole eight lunches without chicken patties or hot dogs; foods we have had quite often in previous years.

Sixth grader Abby Tomanio said, "I LOVE the changes. The chicken fajitas on Monday were amazing. I hope they keep the program!"

Some people, though, don't know what to feel yet or like it but not all the aspects.

"I think that the vegetarian and deli wrap options aren't necessary here. I didn't even know we had vegetarians

in Garretson," stated Hunter Carver, a freshman.

Chryssie Anderson, a senior, remarked, "I like [the new lunch options] because there are a lot more options. Also, the portions are bigger so you're actually full at the end of lunch."

Anderson also mentioned, "The way the condiments bar is set up makes it rather messy though."

Though there are some flaws, like any other thing, Lunchtime Solutions is here to stay. This seems to be the healthier lunch program we've all been looking for at Garretson School. With dessert twice a week, and fresh fruits and veggies, what's not to like?

## New Kids on the Block

By Lana Braswell

Rumor has it that there are some new kids that have joined the Garretson district.

Each student from the ages K-12 is making our district even bigger than it already is.

"I honestly think that coming to Garretson has helped me a lot more with the educational and social skills," stated seventh grader Madison Kruger,

a new student this academic year.

"The kids are nicer and the teachers seem to help us out more than I remember from my other school."

Some of the new kids have been wandering around speaking with the other kids of our Garretson group asking questions about our district and what we stand for.

"I think that this district stands for

sticking together and helping each other out when needed," mentioned sophomore Allison Kruger.

This gives the district (staff and students alike) high hopes that the new kids in our district know they will have a great year, make new friends, and take advantage of the wonderful educational programs offered.

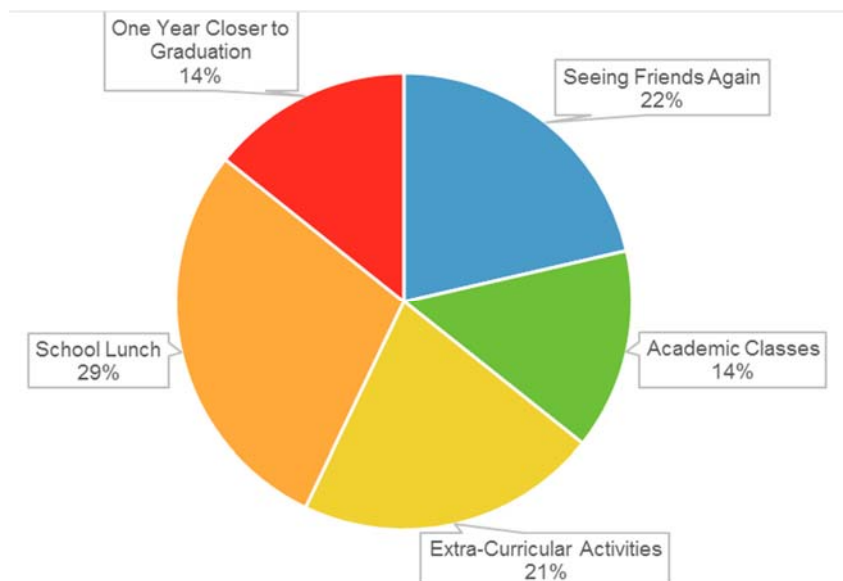
Welcome to Garretson!

## Student Opinion Poll

Students were asked what they were most excited for concerning the start of school.



Take a moment to vote on the student opinion poll for next week's *Blue Ink*. Polls are located inside Mr. Hughes' room and Mrs. Buchholz's room.



**ANSWERS: Brain Teaser:** Most would probably want the croc to attack the gator.

**Joke:** Because it has two banks