

Dear Great Northern Families,

First off, I hope this letter finds you safe. The recent wildfire did a great deal of damage to our community. I know of two families who are directly tied to Great Northern lost their homes. I also know that several of you have helped or have offer to help anyone who had been impacted by the fire.

I just wanted to send you a quick update as we get ready to start the new school year. To begin, we will be starting school on Tuesday, September 1.

Though our school was not directly damaged by the fire, we did lose our pumphouse which means we lost water. We have since repaired the well and the building has water to wash hands and flush toilets. A new pumphouse will be built in early September. What is going to take some time is a new water filtration system. There are quite a few hoops that we have to jump through, but we have started the process.

The bad news is we will be under a boil order until the filtration system is in place. The good news is that this only applies to water we drink. Fortunately, we don't drink the tap water as we have bottled water throughout the building.

The forest behind the school suffered a great deal of damage. Trees that were identified as being the most dangerous have already been taken down. Any other trees that may need to come down will be dealt with after the school year begins.

Our floor project had a little setback. We were pretty excited to be giving the old basement floor an epoxy renovation, but it was determined that the floor itself had deteriorated to the point where it was no longer viable. So, we had the old floor removed and replaced it with a new concrete slab.

Unfortunately, our schedule was delayed by the fire so the epoxy coating will have to wait until Winter Vacation before it can be applied. In the meantime, we will just use the new concrete floor.

We were to have a new perimeter fence installed, but the fire delayed that project as well. There's still a chance it gets installed before school, but it will be put in sometime soon.

We are also putting in a new basketball hoop along with a funnel hoop. These will be done before school. And, we are having the blacktop on the playground and in front of the school sealed and repainted. Again, we are going to try and get it done before September 1, but the fire disrupted this project as well.

So, it has been pretty chaotic these past couple weeks, but we are in good shape and are looking forward to having everyone back as we kick off the 2026-2027 school year.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please send me an email (kshea@gnsd.k12.wa.us) or give the school a call. If anything new comes up, I will be sure to send you another note.

Enjoy the remaining days of summer!

Kelly