



**CHARTER
SCHOOLS**

July Newsletter 2021

A Message from Mr. Ron Cote:

Hello WPCS community,

I am honored to introduce myself as Director of Schools for White Pine Elementary and STEM Academy.

Following an exploratory visit to White Pine last month and considering how and what I can contribute to your great community, my wife of 25 years and I decided a change this great could not be passed up. We've visited the area several times - our eldest of two daughters lives nearby with her wonderful husband - and have been considering a move for some time to be closer to both her and her sister who is currently attending college in eastern Idaho.



Having just finished my 20th year in education - 17 years as a classroom teacher (10 of which were Department Chair) and 3 years as an Administrator at one of the top performing high schools in NH/New England - I am both excited and humbled by the opportunity to be part of what makes White Pine the best choice for families in the Idaho Falls area.

Upon accepting the invitation to Director of Schools I immediately began work on building, what I believe to be, an outstanding Administrative Team who went eagerly and immediately to work on some of the challenges I've already put before them. In this newsletter you will be introduced to the members who are in place so far as the development of the management of the schools is still underway and pending some processes and circumstances involving the Board of Directors.

In addition to managing all facets of the schools educational, formational, and functional operations the goal of the Administrative Team is to enhance support for the students and teachers of White Pine and ensure; the cultivation of a positive and productive culture, alignment with the charter, and challenging our students in order to prepare them for next steps at the Elementary School and college/careers at the STEM Academy. Providing high quality learning and formative experiences for the students of White Pine comes with a lot of work and many challenges but I am optimistic about how things have started and it is easy to find credit for those who helped to influence the foundation upon which we will be able build.

Impressive has been the support of the Board of Directors, the Administrative Team that is still coming together, and the teachers and staff that I've had the privilege of working with and talking to so far. It is clear that the professionals working in the schools are

passionate about education and helping students to become the best versions of themselves as future contributors to the ever changing world around them.

To finish, I reiterate the good fortune of being part of the developing management of White Pine schools. I look forward to serving the students in our charge, and am eager to be part of the brightening futures of the Elementary School and the STEM Academy.

Best,
Ron Cote, Director of Schools



PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW ADMINISTRATION TEAM

WHITE PINE STEM ACADEMY

Hello White Pine Charter School Family!

I am very excited to accept the role as WPCS STEM Academy principal and know great things are in store for everyone involved in this organization. I grew up in Idaho Falls, graduating from IF High in 1991. I went to BYU, served a mission in Chile, Antofagasta, married my sweetheart Shannon in Anchorage, Alaska and began my



Hello White Pine Families!

I feel exceptionally honored to be able to introduce myself as the Vice Principal of the White Pine STEM Academy. This will be my 8th year at White Pine and I consider this place my home. While this is my first year in an administrative position, I have been a classroom teacher for 10 years and have a total of 13 years working in education. I am very

teaching career in Eek, Alaska, a Yu'pik Eskimo village of around 300 people. After a couple of years in the frozen tundra, we moved to Bakersfield, California where I've taught English for the most part the last nineteen years. I earned a Masters of Education Administration from CSUB and a Masters of Teaching English from Columbia University. I also teach at Bakersfield College, Cal State University Bakersfield, and BYU-Idaho at various points of the year.

I love education! Having taught my own children makes teaching a very personal experience for me. We determine the standards and expectations in our classrooms, school, and community. From everything I hear, White Pine Charter School enjoys a successful and strong reputation, and I plan on sustaining and enhancing this reputation with exciting opportunities and changes to meet future needs and expectations. I look forward to working with the young, new, and bright administrative staff, and getting to know everyone as we forge a unified and clear vision moving forward. Thank you for welcoming me into your school and community and go Cougars!

Best,
Mark Olsen

fortunate to be part of this school and community. I wholeheartedly believe that amazing schools are the result of amazing teachers and my primary goal is to support the teachers of White Pine and provide them with the tools they need to continue to be successful in helping your children grow and prosper.

I was born and raised in the southeast, but have been in Idaho for many years now. While I'm still not accustomed to the cold weather, I have grown to love it here as it has shaped who I have become as a person and an educator. I hope to continue to grow as I work together with the STEM Academy principal, Mark Olsen, to build White Pine into something great. Lewis Howe said, "Greatness is a lot of small things done well everyday". We can't do it alone, but if we each take these small steps together, we can accomplish our goals.

I look forward to listening to your ideas and vision for our school, learning from you about our community, and leading with you as we enter this journey together. I can't wait to see my former elementary students as they become STEM Academy scholars. I promise to work hard to continue the legacy that has been built by this amazing community of people.

Be great,
Alysa Trust

WHITE PINE CHARTER SCHOOL

Hi White
Pine
Families:

I am
incredibly
excited and
honored to

be serving as your elementary principal next year! This will be my third year with White Pine, and my second year as an



administrator. This marks my 11th year in education overall. I taught middle and high school English for the past ten years.

I grew up in Boise, Idaho, and moved to eastern Idaho to take a teaching position a little over a decade ago. Even before working in education, I worked with children through the summer camp and after-school programs through the Treasure Valley YMCA youth development program. My wife and I have four children, and we also own Eagle Rock Gymnastics Academy, though my wife is much more active when it comes to managing the gym.

My relationship with White Pine began as a parent. My wife and I have always been incredibly impressed with the quality of education our children have received from the faculty at White Pine. I am so excited to--along with our new Vice Principal, Lisa Russell--work to continue to deliver the world-class education you expect from White Pine. I look forward to meeting with you and discussing how we can work together to ensure that White Pine is the premiere charter school in our community!

Very truly yours,
Geoff Stubbs



Hello White Pine Families,

It is with great excitement that I write this letter of introduction to you as your new Vice Principal. I am committed to working in a partnership with Principal Geoff Stubbs, the students, the parents, and staff to nurture the academic, social and emotional developments of each of our students. I am excited about the possibilities that this school year will bring and proud to be part of the WP admin team.

I am a native to Southeast Idaho and graduated high school from Bonneville. My four older children also graduated from Bonneville. I have 15 years teaching experience spanning grade K-8. I am passionate about learning and have a Masters in Education. I have thoroughly enjoyed teaching at WP, for the past 2 years, and am excited to support our families at a higher capacity.

I believe that with a positive attitude, a growth mindset, and good character anyone can achieve great things. I strive to help build those qualities in our young people and to be a positive role model as well. It is my goal to provide a safe and nurturing educational environment that challenges our students to reach beyond their expectations to become lifelong learners who will make the world a better place. As we continue to encourage families to be partners in the educational process, my door will always be open.

Let's have a great school year,
VP Lisa Russell

August 2nd

Special Board Meeting

- Tuesday, July 13th - 6:00PM

July Regular Board Meeting

- Tuesday, July 27th - 6:30PM

Back to School Event

- Tuesday, August 17th - Details below!

We are excited to announce that we will be launching our new website at the beginning of August!

This new site is updated, organized, user-friendly, easy to navigate and represents the direction White Pine is headed in. Thank you to all of the employees that have helped with this undertaking. Stay tuned for more details. We will notify you when the site launches!

Parent Club Update

Hello WPSA Community! The Parent Club is excited to announce that they have a back to school event in the works for August 17th.

It will be held at McCowin Park at Shelter #2 from 5-8:30PM.

Grit League has their course set for all of the kids to run. We will also have various food trucks there. They will be returning a portion of the proceeds back to White Pine.

This event is for the entire White Pine Family - all grades at WPCS and WPSA.

The High School has the Ammon Pool reserved from 7:00-8:30PM.

This will be a great opportunity for the kids to meet their teachers before school begins!

If you are interested in helping the parent club next year we have great opportunities for you to get your 20hrs of volunteer time in. We need individuals to help plan and coordinate events that will build our schools morale and boost a positive atmosphere.

Activities to plan include: Homecoming, Dances (working with Student Council), Parent Teacher Conference meals, Teacher Appreciation, Spirit Wear/Store, and Fundraisers. You can reach me at WPSAparentclub@gmail.com

-Murissa Morgan



SUCCESS FOR EVERY STUDENT

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