



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND FAMILIES  
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November 8, 2024

**TO:** Green Hill School Staff & Residents

**FROM:** Jennifer Redman *Jennifer A. Redman*  
Green Hill School Interim Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** Green Hill School Update – Nov. 8, 2024

Good afternoon, Green Hill School,

This week, GHS hosted a Q&A session and tour for those prospective new employees unable to attend the meet and greet last week. We are excited to move forward with the hiring process for new employees and are looking forward to having them join our campus and start training soon!

All-staff training continues to occur weekly to ensure that the safety improvements we are making are sustainable. Last week, we shared updates regarding the second session in a three-part staff training on *Security Mindset and Structured Environments*. Staff participated in training exercises focused on professionalism and workplace perspectives. You can find this update and previous communications on our Juvenile Rehabilitation webpage.

This week, Unified Command conducted Part Three of the all-staff training on *Security Mindset*. About 40 staff members attended, learning about establishing presence and awareness. Your continued commitment to these trainings is appreciated and noticed. Knowing your physical environment is crucial to the safety and success of our staff, residents, and the overall structure at GHS.

Cypress Living Unit continues to participate in cleaning and infrastructure improvements. Contracted painters are currently painting the wings and common spaces in Cypress.

GHS continues to refine its visitation protocols while balancing the need to prevent contraband from entering the facility. Unfortunately, we are still experiencing challenges with the introduction of contraband. Safety remains a top priority, especially given our current level of overcrowding.

Due to a decrease in resident conflicts and improvements in staff response and vigilance, we have scaled back the ERT members' response on campus. They will remain on campus to provide support to GHS staff as backup when needed, and to continue to aid in sustaining the improvements made by GHS staff.

GHS hosted *Dia de los Muertos* over the weekend. Young people celebrated by sharing historical information, coming together with families for a shared meal, and creating a temporary ofrenda to honor the memory of their loved ones who have passed.

Earlier this week, a tour was provided to Legislators, legislative staff, staff from the Governor's office, and DCYF staff. The tour offered insight into our current population, campus residential units, and a focus on the capital improvements necessary for Green Hill.

On December 7th, GHS will host its annual holiday meal. This event is an opportunity for our residents to share a delicious meal with families and loved ones in our holiday-decorated central kitchen, followed by visitation with a photo booth, music, and other activities. Opportunity to participate in this meal will be tied to non-violence and abstinence from drug use in the 30 days leading up to the event. A schedule will be published soon for young people to share with their families.

DCYF continues to discuss options for a new facility. Discussions with partners and legislators are still underway to address various questions about programming, staffing, and operations. There are other possible options across that state the DCYF leadership our touring and assessing for viability. As I mentioned last week, DCYF is working hard to identify and prepare for new facilities because that is the only way we'll be able to safely reduce overcrowding at GHS. We all wish this work could move faster, but finding the right space takes time.

Thank you, as always, for being part of GHS. If you have questions, please address them with your supervisor. Residents can reach out to their living unit manager.