

From: [Communications](#)
To: [EPS.MailList](#)
Subject: NewsLinks for staff | December 2018
Date: Thursday, December 6, 2018 2:19:42 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[image013.png](#)

...NewsLinks

FOLLOW US!

Our students will lead and shape the future.

A newsletter for the staff of Everett Public Schools

Dec. 6, 2018 (NewsLinks are [archived on DocuShare](#))

IN THIS ISSUE

- [Tambark Creek Elementary School!](#) – *new name chosen for elementary school*
- [School Employees Benefits Board \(SEBB\) Program](#)
- [Dial “0” phone function](#) – *creates better customer service*
- [Congratulations, Wellness Coordinator](#) – *Shelly Henderson inaugural recipient of award*
- [It’s Snowcember!](#) – *worth repeating*
- [News around the district](#) – *good news happening throughout the district*
- [Opportunities](#) – *for students and staff*
- [Opportunities in review](#) – *still-current opportunities from previous issues*
- [Key dates and celebrations](#)

TAMBARK CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Elementary 18 has a new name – Tambark Creek Elementary! Built with funds from the 2016 capital bond, our 18th elementary school is scheduled to open in time for the start of school in fall 2019.

Many thanks to the advisory committee, students and community for all the suggestions!

Read [news release](#)

[Back to top](#)

SCHOOL EMPLOYEES BENEFITS BOARD (SEBB) PROGRAM

In 2017, the Washington State Legislature directed the Health Care Authority (HCA) to administer health care and other benefits (such as life insurance) for all Washington State school employees through the School Employees Benefits Board (SEBB) Program.

Starting January 1, 2020, all K-12 school districts, educational service districts, and charter schools will be required to participate in the SEBB Program. The SEBB Program will obtain health care and other benefits for eligible school employees statewide, and the benefits structure may change at that time.

The School Employees Benefits (SEB) Board studies, designs, and approves comprehensive and cost-effective insurance benefit plans for school employees and establishes eligibility criteria for participation in these plans. The SEB Board is separate and independent from the Public Employees Benefits Board.

If the Legislature funds the SEBB program, Everett Public Schools will move to SEBB for all benefits. More information will come once decisions are made by the Legislature and on the [SEBB website](#).

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[Back to top](#)

DIAL “0” PHONE FUNCTION

The dial zero (0) feature is a current function in the voice mail system to ensure great customer service to our callers. If someone calls and is unable to reach you, therefore getting your voicemail, the “0” function gives them the option to reach someone else that may be able to help them. Schools go to their school’s main office line and departments go to their department’s main office line.

In order for the caller to know that pressing “0” for help is an option, you need to add that message to your voicemail greeting. With this in mind, we would recommend you add a comment at the end of your normal greeting similar to the below.

“... If you would like immediate assistance, please press zero (0); otherwise, please leave a detailed message, and I will return your call at my earliest opportunity”.

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[Back to top](#)

CONGRATULATIONS, WELLNESS COORDINATOR!

Congratulations to our wellness coordinator Shelly Henderson for being one of the inaugural recipients of [Washington’s Kaiser Permanente Thriving Schools Honor Roll Award](#)! She was nominated for her work focused on taking a holistic approach to improving staff well-being, promoting mindfulness in school environments and championing healthier school communities for staff, teachers, and students.

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[Back to top](#)

IT’S SNOWCEMBER!

Brrrr, it’s really cold out there! Just a reminder – if no school closure or delay announcement appears on the website, social media or Blackboard Connect, school is happening as usual.

It’s a good time to review the information [on the web](#) about how school delay and closure decisions are made and how those announcements reach staff and families.

Stay warm; charge your phones!

[Back to top](#)

NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT

Like knowing what's happening in the district? The [Everett Public Schools Facebook](#) page is a great way to read [news releases](#) and other district and school highlights. **Like** us on [Facebook](#) and **follow** us on [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#). Want eflyers of student and family opportunities? Go to [Peachjar](#) and register a free account. Then you'll get eflyers emailed directly to you!

2018.12.05 [New elementary school name announced](#)

2018.11.27 [Advanced Placement participation is up](#)

2018.11.27 [Deputy superintendent to retire](#)

2018.11.15 [Graduation rates jump higher](#)

2018.11.14 [Let's talk about high school growth](#)

2018.11.07 [Everett Public Schools joins other districts in announcing pending cuts](#)

Do you have news to share? – It's easy; use this [simple form](#).

[Back to top](#)

OPPORTUNITIES – for students and staff

1. **Scholastic Book Holiday Warehouse Sale – BOGO | Dec. 13-15, 2018**

Scholastic is offering a [buy one, get one free](#) customer appreciation event for all staff.

2. **'Teach Writing Well' with Ruth Culham | Jan. 19 at Eisenhower Middle School**

Snohomish Reading Council invites you to learn how with Ruth Culham, champion of improving writing using 6 Traits. Ruth will lead two workshops: 'What's in Your Writing Wallet' and 'Becoming a Writing Thief'. With her expertise, you can bring to your classrooms the renewed excitement for integrating the writing process and 6 Traits in our instructional practices. This Mini-Conference is free to WaSLA members and \$30 for non-members (payable by check or money at the door). Learn more at ['Teach Writing Well' with Ruth Culham](#).

3. **FREE books for Read Across America**

The Literacy Empowerment Foundation (LEF), a nonprofit organization, invites to [apply for FREE books for Read Across America Day](#). During the past year, LEF has distributed over 3,000,000 books to schools all across the country for Read Across America Day and other literacy projects. Resources are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. Orders must be received by Feb. 11, 2019. Use the [order form](#) to get your books.

4. **Multi-cultural training tour | Saturday, Feb. 9, 2019**

Did you know that many languages are spoken in our cities? Join in for a fascinating and enriching training tour of a Muslim mosque, Hindu temple, Buddhist temple and a Sikh temple.

- Discover global cultural communities in your neighborhood
- Learn effective cross-cultural communication styles and techniques
- Discover how to build bridges with diverse cultural communities
- Beating racism with education and increased cultural tolerance

Register [online](#).

6. President's Environmental Youth Awards | Deadline Feb. 1, 2019

This award application is open to students of all ages, with a chance of recognition by the President of the United States. [Find details and applications online](#).

The President's Environmental Youth Award (PEYA) recognizes outstanding environmental projects by K-12 youth. The PEYA program promotes awareness of our nation's natural resources and encourages positive community involvement.

[Back to top](#)

OPPORTUNITIES IN REVIEW – still-current opportunities from previous issues

1. Evergreen Arboretum & Gardens Society is seeking donations for a stone sculpture in memory of Andy Sudkamp

As a biology teacher at Everett High School, Andy Sudkamp was infected with a love of the natural world. He shared that love with everyone around him, often exclaiming, "[Isn't nature wonderful?](#)" He cultivated nature in the showcase garden that was his backyard, featured more than once in the Evergreen Arboretum's Gardens of Merit Tour.

The Evergreen Arboretum & Gardens Society is seeking donations for a stone sculpture that captures the spirit of Andy Sudkamp. "Our goal is to raise \$10,000. The Arboretum Society is hoping for installation by mid-April, 2019, in the South Area of the Arboretum at 145 Alverson Blvd in Everett's Legion Park. We hope you will consider this project worthy of your support. There are two way to donate, via our [website](#) or on our [GoFundMe page](#)." More details about the sculpture can be [found online](#).

2. 2019 Classified School Employee of the Year nominations are open.

Every year Washington's State Classified School Employee of the Year program recognizes nine school employees from across the state. OSPI accepts one finalist each from Washington's nine educational service districts. A committee selects the winner from these nine regional finalists. Nominees are invited to complete the application. Nominations close Jan. 25, 2019. [Learn more or nominate someone](#).

3. Calling all writers in grades 5-8! Deadline is Dec. 15.

The National Elks Foundation invites your students to submit an essay following the theme of "What Makes You Proud of America?"

[This writing contest is open to students enrolled in grades 5-8](#). Questions can be forwarded to [Jocelyn Sievers-Bailey](#).

4. UW vs. WSU – discount men's basketball tickets for staff appreciation!

Husky men's basketball is offering the game on Saturday, **Jan. 5 against Washington State** at a discount for staff appreciation. Get [discounted tickets](#) before they go on sale to the general public in early December.

5. Girls in STEM nominations

Educators, counselors, people from nonprofit organizations and other community members may nominate a high school girl for STEM workshops in Seattle. ChickTech is specifically looking for girls who might not find tech on their own, girls who might never think of a career in tech on their own. More information and [nominations are online](#).

6. The NWESD Education Connection course catalogue is online.

The Northwest Educational Service District 189 (NWESD) offers a wide range of high-quality Professional Learning opportunities for educators, administrators, and educational support staff. If you have any questions about the courses you see listed, please contact the course facilitator directly or call 360-299-4043.

7. NCCE Conference registration is now open

The Northwest Council for Computer Education (NCCE) conference will be Feb. 26-28, 2019. Find details and [register online](#).

[Back to top](#)

KEY DATES – [important dates, observances and holidays](#)

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES – All policies and procedures are [available online](#).

Nondiscrimination statement

The district shall provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, veteran or military status, the presence of any physical, sensory or mental disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a student with a disability.

Designated to handle inquiries about nondiscrimination policies are: **Affirmative Action Officer** – Randi Seaberg, rseaberg@everettsd.org, 425-385-4104; **Title IX Officer** – Mary O'Brien, MO'Brien@everettsd.org, 425-385-4106; **504 Coordinator** – Becky Ballbach, rballbach@everettsd.org, 425-385-4063; **ADA Coordinator** – Becky Clifford, rc Clifford@everettsd.org, 425-385-5250; Address: 3900 Broadway, Everett, WA 98201