

Our Schools

FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER



FEATURE ARTICLES

- Professional development builds equity and inclusion
- Website refresh
- Imagination powers remote teaching strategies



Superintendent message

What a great start to the 2020-21 school year!

Teachers and staff were prepared for 100% remote learning and have been engaging with students in new and exciting ways. We have seen high attendance and engagement from our students and wonderful support from our families. I want to take a moment to thank you. Thank you for continuing to give us your support, patience and grace as we work through the challenges of remote learning.

Of course, we look forward to the day we can bring all our students back into classrooms in a safe manner. As we phase students back into the classroom in a hybrid model, all families have a choice to have their child move back to the classroom or to stay 100% remote for the remainder of the year.

Thank you for continuing to give us your support, patience and grace as we work through the challenges of remote learning.

A large part of the planning for in-person instruction includes family and staff input. Thank you to those who have filled out surveys and participated in our "Let's Connect" monthly sessions with our regional superintendents.

Another great project underway, with more opportunity for community input, is the update of our strategic plan. You can read more about our strategic planning process in this newsletter. In October we conducted surveys to get community input on priorities and areas of focus and will be surveying again in February. I hope you take the opportunity to give us your thoughts as we strive to have our plan reflect the sentiments of our communities.

For all updated information, visit our new and improved website which launched on October 1. Feedback from families and the community were integrated into the redesign which provides reduced clicks, inviting visuals and a standard experience with navigation among all school sites.

There are a lot of things in the works, and all of it is in support of our students. Student health, safety and academic achievement is what drives our work. We appreciate your input, support and partnership on this journey.

Stay safe and be well.

Dr. Ian B. Saltzman
Superintendent



Family social media safety tip: slow down, don't be so quick to share



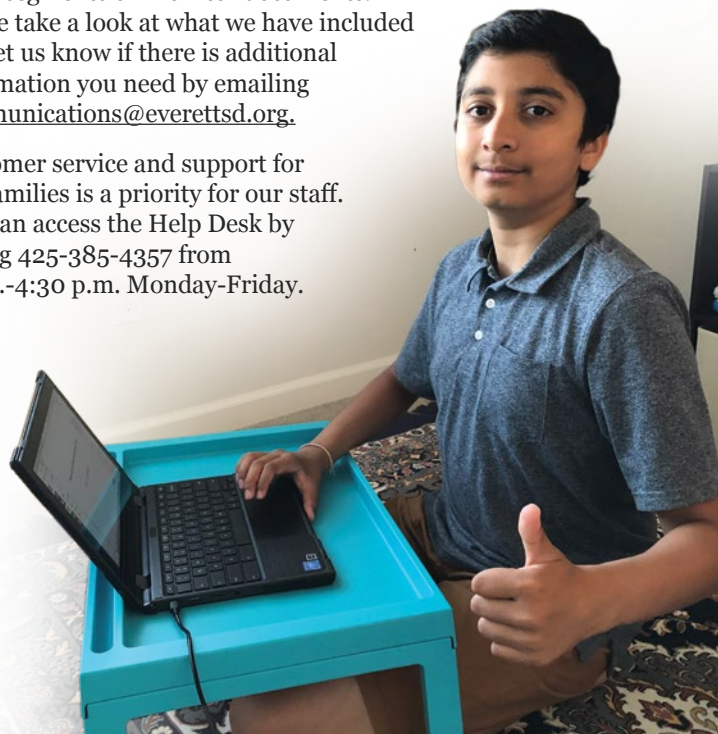
This tip covers your safety, but it also covers your reputation - both are very important. Always pay attention to what you are posting on social media. First, make sure you are not giving out any essential information which may help someone take advantage of you (even if it is in a private message to someone you think you can trust). Second, before sharing that meme or 'breaking news' learn how to view stories critically. Does it sound reasonable? Consider whether this same news is being reported by other credible, mainstream news outlets. If they are not, it doesn't mean it is not true, but it does mean you should dig deeper. Before you post any material, take some time, re-read it, cross-check and make sure what you are sharing is good information.

Technology update

We are off to an amazing start to the school year. Parents and students, along with their teachers, are navigating the sometimes complex world of remote learning. While for most, online learning is going smoothly, some issues persist for other parents and students. We regularly update frequently asked questions (FAQs) that provide technical resources within the Parent University section of our district website. We include information that covers some of the common topics we hear about from parents such as: how to log into a Chromebook for the first time, accessing Canvas, how to log into and use Zoom and navigating Google. Help is provided either through video segments or "how to" documents.

Please take a look at what we have included and let us know if there is additional information you need by emailing communications@everettsd.org.

Customer service and support for our families is a priority for our staff. You can access the Help Desk by calling 425-385-4357 from 7 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.



Equity & Access: Building inclusiveness through land acknowledgement

In the district's sustained work to build a culture of inclusive belonging for students, teachers, staff and the community, we join local, state, national and international efforts to acknowledge Native land.

According to the U.S. Department of Arts and Culture, "In countries such as Canada, New Zealand and Australia, it is commonplace, even policy, to open events and gatherings by acknowledging the traditional Indigenous inhabitants of that land." Our Equity & Access Department encourages opening school and district events with this impactful Native land acknowledgment:

"We respectfully acknowledge that we gather today on the traditional lands of the Coast Salish Peoples, who have lived in the Salish Sea basin, the San Juan Islands, and the North Cascades watershed since time immemorial. You are on Coast Salish Tribal Land."

"Everett Public Schools is committed to improving the relationship and identifying Indigenous people, exploring our true selves," says Joi Grant, director of Equity & Access. She explains we "express our deepest respect and gratitude to the ancestors of this land." Recognizing this land is an expression of gratitude and appreciation for those whose territory we reside on, and a way of honoring the Indigenous people who have been living and working on the land from time immemorial.

Learn more at Everett Public Schools Equity & Access webpage or at www.usdac.us/nativeland.



District-wide professional development builds *equity and inclusion*

On June 9, Everett Public Schools leadership team collectively shared their personal commitment to anti-racism and racial equity following the unjust death of George Floyd. The same day, our Board of Directors adopted Resolution No. 1237, "Affirming our Commitment to Condemning Racism and Supporting Peaceful Protest."

Furthermore, each of us in Everett Public Schools shares the responsibility for ensuring every student is safe, healthy, engaged and supported. Our district is committed to providing and requiring anti-racism professional development for all staff so no student will be marginalized.

The district Equity & Access Department leads our efforts on diversity and equity making sure each student and staff member has access to resources to support students reaching their dreams and goals and achieving success. This summer, district leadership and staff engaged in professional learning opportunities focused on bias awareness, culturally responsive leadership and strategies for building an anti-racist culture facilitated by Bill de la Cruz.



A highly respected leader, de la Cruz has been guiding individuals and groups through the process of personal transformation as a mediator and workshop facilitator for 30 years. His programs and workshops build self-awareness, enhance relationships and foster positive, sustainable personal growth.

De la Cruz served as the keynote speaker for the district-wide Learning Improvement Day on October 16 as well as the Everett Association of Paraeducators "return to work" professional development. Participants received in-depth content on bias awareness, belonging and inclusion. In addition, he facilitated four-hour training sessions for paraeducators on current issues and impacts of systemic racism.

The Equity & Access Department and Bill De la Cruz will be providing further professional development opportunities for staff this year designed to create a culture of inclusion and belonging. Future opportunities will include professional development with a "train the trainer" model which will support and strengthen awareness and understanding of equity as an action word to create a system of equitable outcomes and inclusive belonging.



Everett Public Schools launched a new resource for families this fall called Parent University

Families now have access, at their leisure, to important resources online or via mobile to help support their student's remote learning and become full partners in their child's education.

The goals of Parent University are to increase collaboration and involvement between schools, families and community; to educate, empower and connect families with resources that build parent and student confidence and promote life skills to increase likelihood of family success in academic endeavors.

Families now have access, at their leisure, to important resources online or via mobile to help support their student's remote learning.

Parent University helps parents learn how to log in to the district online learning platform, find remote learning schedules, how grading and attendance are handled, about special services for students, how to access meals during remote learning, about Social Emotional support resources, step-by-step "how to" resources and more. Videos are also available subtitled in the top five languages for our EL families and resources will continue to be added throughout the school year.

Parent University, and all other information related to remote learning, can be found at www.everettsd.org/COVID2020-21.

Website refresh

This past June, the district started evaluating and planning a refresh of our website. Work included a usability review, setting standards, revising navigation and refreshing the look and feel of the website. The last refresh was in 2013 and it became clear that in those seven years, the navigation structures and ease of use for the community and families had become confusing and difficult.

Feedback from families and the community were integrated into the redesign which provides reduced clicks, inviting visuals and a standard experience with navigation among all school sites. The new site went live on October 1.

Some changes to the district home page include:

- Icons for most viewed topics
- Finding your school is easier
- Continued ability to translate the website into any language
- Dropdown menus are horizontal
- Multimedia gallery

Some changes to the school home pages include:

- Consistent icons from the district home page
- Second row of school-specific icons
- Consistent look among all schools for ease of navigation

The mobile view with our new site is a big improvement as well. It is clean, crisp, clear and easier to navigate. We are excited for you to explore the look and feel of our new website.

www.everettsd.org



STAY CONNECTED

Everett Public Schools believes communication with parents and the community is important.

We recently published a chart available on the communications overview page on the district's website, which will show you the different ways you can regularly keep informed.

With the increase of communications due to remote learning, it is very important we have an updated phone number and email in the district's communication system.



www.everettsd.org/communications



Imagination powers remote teaching strategies

Kayla Grundl teaches a kindergarten class

As a rule, teachers are creative, passionate and resourceful. But during remote learning, teachers are reaching even further into their imaginations to innovate like never before. Teachers at every grade level in every remote classroom are connecting with students in different but effective ways.

Kayla Grundl teaches kindergarten at Jackson Elementary and is incorporating movement, songs and dances into instruction. During live and pre-recorded lessons, her class uses hand motions and song chants to learn letters and sounds with visual aids and whole-body movements connected to almost every subject.

the class enjoys a teacher read-aloud and on Fridays there are “calming activities” like yoga videos, coloring, breathing or sensory exercises. Since each student in the class has unique instruction and academics based on their Individualized Education Plan (IEP), consistent daily routines are one way the class stays connected.

Stecher credits her classroom paraeducators, Katrina McNaughton and Joylyn Ward with making remote learning work for her students. They provide one-on-one instruction, record read-alouds and activities and give individual attention and support to students. Similarly,

“Madeleine Stecher approaches her work as a special education teacher from a team approach—partnering with her paraeducator staff, colleagues, and students’ families to tailor her instruction to best support her students’ growth,” explains View Ridge Principal Tina Farias. “Whether it’s through sign, song, or story, Madeleine’s passion to reach and teach each of her students keeps a love of learning alive, even from a distance,” she adds.

“A big win has been seeing the students participating, dancing and doing the activities with me,” Grundl explained. Watching the kids laughing, dancing and responding to questions is what keeps her going each day. Even if technical difficulties arise, the class can communicate with each another using hand motions and movements. Activities like “show and tell” and “student of the week” continue to build community, just as they would in a physical classroom.

“Ms. Grundl is working hard to make learning interactive and engaging for her students; her work is a great example of the high level of creativity and thoughtfulness all our teachers are putting into their planning and instruction,” said Principal Darren Larama.






Consistent daily morning circle and calendar activities help connect Madeleine Stecher’s multi-grade Life Skills class at View Ridge Elementary. For example, every Monday,

parent involvement has become more important than ever, especially in maintaining structure away from school. “Life Skills classes are very structured so the structure in the classroom cannot be mirrored in the home environment,” explained Stecher.

Although remote learning doesn’t fully replicate the classroom experience, our teachers, staff and families are showing resilience as they work together to support students. Even though there are challenges, silver linings are discovered every day. For both Stecher and Grundl the silver lining is the close relationships they are developing with students and families. “Relationships can still happen, even online, and it is beautiful to experience,” shared Grundl. For Stecher, the enhanced family connection allows staff to provide “even more supports they can use at home, helping students be as independent as they can be.”

Engagement events – what things were asked for, what we learned, how we improved

We value your input and have provided more opportunities than ever to engage families in planning. Thank you for your feedback and partnership and watch for more opportunities!

TOPIC	FAMILY & COMMUNITY FEEDBACK OPPORTUNITIES	RESULTS
 Review of remote learning in Spring 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ April family survey ■ June family survey 	Identified several areas of improvement which were implemented for Fall 2020 remote learning, including a single platform for assignments, a set schedule for remote learning and clearer definitions of attendance and grading.
 Plans for Fall learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ June 25 and 30 community forums ■ July family survey ■ September family survey ■ September "Let's Connect" 	Helped inform ongoing improvements for remote learning as well as what is important as students begin to move back into the classroom.
 Website refresh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ User experience assessment ■ Small group input ■ Technology Advisory Council feedback 	Refreshed website with improved navigation, fewer clicks, inviting visuals and standard experience with navigation throughout the site.
 Return to school buildings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ October family survey ■ October "Let's Connect" 	Informed district which students will be returning to the school building in hybrid model and who will elect to stay 100% remote.
 Strategic Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ October Survey ■ Small group interviews 	Provided guidance on priority topics and areas of focus for the new strategic plan.

We are updating our Strategic Plan!

Strategic planning is the process our district uses to define our long-term strategic goals, priorities and the allocation of resources. This helps us focus our energies and strengthen our operations as we work together with our community toward common goals and outcomes.

Our current strategic plan was first adopted in May 2011, and board policy requires we revise our entire strategic plan at least every 10 years.

To comply with this, in September our district began a 10-month process to develop a new or refreshed strategic plan that will guide our work for the next five years or more. We conducted online surveys with community members, parents, students and staff at the end of October to find out what they thought was most important for us to focus on.

In January there will be another opportunity for input as we refine and prioritize input from the fall. We hope you engage with us and provide your thoughts.

By June 2021 this process will produce a written and graphic representation of the strategic outcomes, themes, and objectives of the district along with an implementation plan and formation of implementation teams.

For more information on our strategic planning process, visit www.everettsd.org/StrategicPlan

Everett High School

The project to preserve and enhance the detailed historical façade of Everett High School's main building was completed on September 8. Work included washing the exterior of the building and in selected areas, removing and replacing mortar joints and repairing broken terra cotta elements. All windows and doors were painted, and a sealer was applied to the exterior of the building.



Woodside Elementary School

The renovation at Woodside Elementary School is well underway and ahead of schedule due to remote learning. The new two-story office and library building (building G) is complete and occupied by staff, as well as the modernization of classroom buildings A and B. Work on the covered play structure and the play equipment has also been completed. Modernization of the gymnasium/cafeteria (building D) and work in the courtyard is nearing completion. Work on classroom building C is underway with completion anticipated later this winter.

School closure and delay resources

- ◆ **FlashAlert.net** You can subscribe to receive notices at the same time those notices are sent to media outlets, or you can bookmark this site to check for a listing of regional school emergency schedule information.
- ◆ **Media news reports** (Media get information from FlashAlert)
- ◆ **Everett Public Schools website** www.everettsd.org
- ◆ **Mass communication system** message to school families typically beginning at 5:45 a.m.
- ◆ **Everett Public Schools social media** Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages.

“No announcement” means schools have normal schedules. More resources are available at www.everettsd.org/safety.





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<http://everett-wa.safeschoolsalert.com>



Board of Directors: (back row) Pam LeSesne, Traci Mitchell, (front row) April Berg, Caroline Mason, Andrew Nicholls

Board of Directors

- Caroline Mason
- Pam LeSesne
- Traci Mitchell
- April Berg
- Andrew Nicholls

Superintendent

- Dr. Ian B. Saltzman

Nondiscrimination statement

Everett Public Schools does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

**Title IX/Civil Rights
Compliance Officer:**

Mary O'Brien
425-385-4106
MO'Brien@everettsd.org
PO Box 2098
Everett WA 98213

Section 504 Coordinator:

Dave Peters
425-385-4063
DPeters@everettsd.org
PO Box 2098
Everett WA 98213

ADA Coordinator:

Randi Seaberg
425-385-4104
RSeaberg@everettsd.org
PO Box 2098
Everett WA 98213

If there is reason for concern about safety on a designated walkway to school, **call 9-1-1 immediately** for authorized, quick help. We have strong partnerships with local law enforcement who share our interest in safe schools and neighborhoods.

Student safety is a priority for all of us. Working together, we can help make our neighborhoods and schools nurturing places for students to safely learn and grow.

Download District Mobile App



www.everettsd.org/Page/4744

Follow district leaders on social media

See what's happening in YOUR school and the district. Visit our Social Media Directory at <https://www.everettsd.org/SocialMediaDirectory> to search for your principal, school, district leaders and more.



#EPS_AlwaysLearning



#EPS_OurStudentsRock



#EPS_OurStaffRocks



Our mission is to inspire, educate and prepare each student to achieve to high standards, contribute to our community and thrive in a global society.

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