

News Release

Everett Public Schools

February 12, 2009

For more information:

Mary Waggoner, 425-385-4049

Joyce Stewart is Sno-Isle Region Middle Level Principal of the Year

The Board of Directors for Everett Public Schools honored Evergreen Middle School Principal Joyce Stewart at their meeting on Feb. 10 and thanked her for her work and dedication.

Peter Scott, formerly Evergreen's assistant principal and now principal at Gateway Middle School wrote in his nomination, "While she holds staff accountable for creating an optimal learning environment, she also rolls up her sleeves to help struggling students. Without exaggeration, every day Joyce works with students for whom school is difficult: cleaning out binders, calling mentors, buying meals, arranging rides home, advocating in court, making home visits, and the list goes on."

Stewart is well known and respected for her tireless efforts to ensure that all students are successful. She is also no stranger to state honors for her work. Last year Evergreen was one of 86 of the state's *Schools of Distinction*, so named because student achievement under her leadership has consistently increased over time. In the same week she learned of that 2008 honor, Stewart was surprised by her staff's presentation of the state's Outstanding Administrator by the Washington Organization for Reading Development.

Not only does Stewart inspire students to succeed, her personal energies and dedication inspire her staff. Scott's nomination describes how: "From drama club (which Joyce created) to athletics to study clubs, extended learning opportunities makes Evergreen a happening place in the afternoons. It is truly a 'second shift' for Dr. Stewart, who limits her paperwork/office work until most students are safely home. Staff cannot help but be inspired by this commitment to practicing what she preaches: all students can learn to high standards, and hard work, focused attention, and strategic interventions will get us there. As a result, many staff members stay late and take an active role in these learning opportunities."

"As her assistant principal, she mentored me and developed my leadership skills like no other supervisor I have had. I have worked with some amazing people, but none have been as intentional, detailed, constructive, and persistent as Joyce. She makes people better at what we do - a hallmark of great leadership."