

# ...NewsLinks

## **A Web-based newsletter for the staff of Everett Public Schools**

Sept. 15, 2009 (*NewsLinks* articles are now [archived on DocuShare](#))

### **IN THIS ISSUE:**

- Superintendent's kudos for first week and script of his Sept. 13 Connect-ED call to parents
- Becky Ballbach to assume school counselor leadership
- Graduation date moved from June 12 to June 19
- Board approves district 2009-10 budget, plans meetings with legislators and learns about Wellness Program
- News from around the district – Gateway Middle School earns recognition and more students are succeeding in AP classes
- Opportunities for students and staff

### **MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT – great start in so many ways!**

More than 1,000 of our students from kindergarten through high school received backpacks and school supplies this year because of the generosity of businesses and organizations including Boeing, Costco, Office Depot, Puget Sound Labor Agency, American Medical Response and Volunteers of America. Longfellow and Colby staff gathered \$400 in just three days and invited me to help with a “backpack” stuffing event.

Local merchants told us that “school staff” came in to shop the summer sales for classroom items and supplies for families in need. Thanks to all of you and to our partners for this extra help to get students off to a good start!

Throughout the district in these first few days you have held students' hands, gently directed them and their parents to the proper locations, patiently responded to phone calls and e-mail queries, welcomed the returning students and those who are new with us. Thank you for this seamless opening and all the learning days to come.

Since opening day, I've enjoyed visits to nine of our schools. These to-be-continued visits have brought some interesting surprises – including seeing one of my former students brilliantly instructing students at a middle school. I've met kindergarten students and watched teens loading onto school buses, eaten lunch with high school students, visited AVID classrooms and counseling offices. I've seen students fully engaged in art, language arts, P.E. science and in libraries. Learning is professionally and compassionately supported by custodians, maintenance workers and smiling lunch ladies. This is a great school district!

Early enrollment counts show that projections made last spring are very close to the numbers of students coming to us in these first days of the fall. As of Monday, we had 18,755 students; this is actual headcount vs. Full Time Equivalent (FTE). This is 39 more than projected and aligns with last spring and summer's budget planning.

**On Sunday night, Sept. 13, district parents received the following Connect-ED message from Dr. Cohn:**

*Hello, this is Superintendent Gary Cohn with three important messages for school families.*

*First: Are you ready for flu season? Information about how to protect your family is on the district Web site and available at each school. Please check back often; we are partnering with health experts to make sure the latest flu information is always available.*

*Second: Do you know that WASL scores are available on the Web? Please call your school to learn how to sign on to your student's account.*

*Third: Is your contact information up to date? Please be sure your school knows when you change addresses or phone numbers so that we can reach you quickly in emergencies.*

*Thank you for entrusting your student's education to us, and best wishes for a great school year!*

### **STAFF ASSIGNMENT CHANGE – Becky Ballbach to work with school counselors and drug/alcohol intervention specialists**

Part of Becky Ballbach's time (.2 FTE) has been reassigned to lead the work of school counselors and drug/alcohol intervention specialists. Associate Superintendent Matt McCauley will work in partnership with Becky to support school counselors and drug/alcohol intervention specialists, and continue the work of serving students, staff, and parents.

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION TO BE JUNE 19**

To comply with the state-required number of days high school seniors must be in school and to allow a bit of "wiggle room" in case of school closures from winter weather, the graduation dates for Cascade, Everett and Jackson high schools is moved to June 19. The date previously announced and now changed was June 12. Sequoia High School's graduation will take place on Thursday, June 17.

### **YOUR SCHOOL BOARD AT WORK – 2009-10 budget and legislative conversations**

Each week before a board meeting, you can review the board agenda on DocuShare. Sign up for an [InTouch subscription](#) to receive Friday afternoon agenda announcements, or login to [your InTouch account](#) to add this feature to your existing subscription.

The board approved the budget for 2009-10 at their regularly-scheduled Aug. 25 meeting. The new budget incorporates \$9 million in cost reductions made as a result of

budget cuts last spring. This district's budget and other county school budget cutbacks were featured in a region wide story in the Sept. 7 issue of the *Everett Herald* entitled [Many laid off teachers rehired, but cuts still felt](#).

Board meeting discussions have included ways to engage local legislators in conversations about school funding, including to-face meetings this fall, prior to the winter legislative session.

On Sept. 8, "Dr. Gail" reviewed the past one-and-one-half years of her work as the district wellness coordinator. District employees are exercising more, eating more healthy foods, losing weight and loving the wellness program. Ninety percent of those who responded to last spring's survey *agreed* or *agreed strongly* that there has been a positive shift in district culture as a result of the wellness program.

Gail Buquicchio outlined for the board the exciting programs planned for this year:

- Go to the [wellness](#) page to learn about this year's programs. including [fitness classes](#), [group hikes and bike rides](#), [gym discounts](#), [healthy cooking classes](#), [Eight Weeks to Wellness®](#) and [Weight Watchers® at Work](#). Don't delay, classes are filling up!
- [Hope Health Letter](#) is now online! (See what our new superintendent thinks of the wellness program by reading his message in this year's first issue.)
- Worried about the flu? Exercise is a great way to keep your immune system healthy. [Fall into Fitness with WALKTOBER](#) is the new fall fitness campaign. Gather up to five of your colleagues, and form a team to support each other in getting fit this fall!

Registration deadline for [WALKTOBER](#) is Wednesday, Sept. 23. All participants will receive a free WALKTOBER strobe light for safe walking in the dark. [Learn more about WALKTOBER](#). [Sign up for WALKTOBER](#) (go to Sept. 23 in the Course Registration System).

### **NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT – students doing well, thanks to great staff work!**

- [Gateway Middle School earns state honors](#) for the second year. Principal Peter Scott credits past and current staff for good work.
- [More students taking more AP classes and tests](#) – and benefitting financially. Goal set by the school board five years ago for more challenging options is being met.
- [Jackson High's Riley Carr](#) was featured in the Herald, Sept. 2

### **OPPORTUNITIES – for staff and students**

1. **Attention all Everett School District office support professionals:** The local Washington Association of Educational Office Professionals (WAEOP) affiliation of Snohomish County Association of Educational Office Professionals (SCAEOP) is hosting a kickoff dinner and professional development night on Tuesday, Sept. 22, at the Inn at Port Gardner Banquet Room on the Everett Marina (next to Lombardi's).

The evening begins at 5:30 with a catered Italian dinner followed by a presentation by retired superintendent Carol Whitehead, presenting *Leading and Supporting: Understanding Leadership*.

Earn one professional development hour toward your PSP (Professional Standards Program) certification. [Register early; there is room for just 50!](#) Cost is \$25.

Oct. 9-10 is the WAEOP [Fall Summit in Yakima](#), another great way to earn PSP hours.

For questions about WAEOP or SCAEOP, please e-mail [Pam James](#), CEOE or call 425-385-6610.

2. **Third Annual Staff and Faculty Arts and Crafts Show** – open to all district staff. Take this opportunity to show your arts and crafts talents to the public. We are looking forward to a lobby decorated with paintings, photography, ceramics, sculptures, quilts, carvings, drawings and more.

Art will be displayed for public viewing at the Educational Service Center on Colby from Oct. 6, 2009 through Nov. 13, 2009.

[Entry forms are on the Web site](#). Forms and artwork are due by Monday, Sept. 28. Deliver or send them to [Theresa Webb](#) (extension 4060) in the curriculum office.

3. Ticket discounts to Sept. 26 **Silvertips vs. Vancouver Giants** are available to district staff. Deadline for ordering tickets is Friday, Sept. 25. [Use the form online](#).
4. **Search and Rescue classroom presentations** offered by Deputy Bill Quistorf, the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office Chief Pilot.

The presentations last about 45-60 minutes, include a PowerPoint presentation, and are geared toward children 10 years old and above. Two presentations:

- A. *Search and Rescue Operations Involving Air Support* covers the basic functions of the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Operation, the units involved, what a typical search and rescue operation looks like, the equipment used to save lives, and a profile of the rescue helicopter team.
- B. *Helicopter Flying as a Career* covers what it takes to become a helicopter pilot or crew member and helps students connect the importance of a good education with their future careers. This includes a detailed description of helicopter aerodynamics to help students understand how helicopters fly.

For more information or to schedule a presentation, e-mail [Deputy Bill Quistorf](#) or call 425-754-5489.

5. **Our YMCA partners are offering Zumba** classes at [Penny Creek and Mill Creek Elementary schools](#) starting in September and lasting through December.

6. The **Seattle Times Newspapers in Education (NIE) Department** provides teachers and students free electronic newspapers and standards-based educational material. Available are daily e-mailed lesson plans, curriculum guides, weekly serial stories, and in-paper content for a variety of topics and grade levels aligned to state and national standards (including CBA's, GLE's and EALR's).

The Program and Outreach Specialist is available to conduct trainings at your school or to host trainings for a cohort from your school at The Seattle Times. Visit the NIE Web site or e-mail [nie@seattletimes.com](mailto:nie@seattletimes.com).

**Briefly, OPPORTUNITIES from past issues** (for details see [NewsLinks archives](#))

- [Clothes for Kids](#) and [Operation School Bell](#) can help families needing help with school clothing.
- [Classroom grants from Everett Schools Foundation](#) are due Oct. 15. Last year, 63 classroom grants were funded to all 26 school sites for over \$31,500. The Foundation would love to have the same reach as last year and look forward to reviewing all of the wonderful ideas for bringing extra funding to our students' classroom experiences.
- [Be sure to Write-In for KIDS](#) during the United Way drive this fall. When you sign your pledge form, you can *write-in* the Everett Public Schools Foundation as a designated agency.
- [Lights! Camera! College!](#) Student film contest open until Oct. 19.
- [Adopt-A-Stream events](#) between now and November.

**POLICY & PROCEDURE CHANGES – links to revisions online**

To save the cost of printing and distribution, district policies and procedures are stored on Docushare. *NewsLinks* will include periodic notices of policy changes.

[7231P](#) – Purchasing bids and contracts. This procedure identifies the state and federal requirements for procurements at the various dollar thresholds identified by law.

Everett Public Schools complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, veteran status, or disability. This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. Inquiries regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the school district's Affirmative Action Officer, Title IX Officer, ADA District Coordinator, or Section 504 Coordinator. Affirmative Action Officer, Carol Stolz, 3715 Oakes Ave., Everett WA 98201, 425-385-4106, Title IX Officer, Randi Seaberg, 3715 Oakes Ave., Everett WA 98201, 425-385-4104, ADA Coordinator, Kristine McDowell, 202 Alder St., Everett WA 98203, 425-385-5250, Section 504 Coordinator, Becky Ballbach, 4730 Colby Ave., Everett WA 98203, 425-385-4086.