

**Waggoner, Mary**

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**From:** Lindenstone, Diane  
**Sent:** Friday, September 25, 2009 12:56 PM  
**To:** EPS.MailList  
**Subject:** NewsLinks Sept. 25

# ...*NewsLinks*

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

Sept. 25, 2009 (*NewsLinks* articles are now [archived on DocuShare](#))

## **IN THIS ISSUE:**

- 2009-10 district calendars to arrive next week
- Services for Allen Osmonson on Saturday
- Get ready now to thank the community for past support of technology levies
- School bus ridership week begins Oct. 12 – do you know how school transportation funding works?
- United Way campaign begins Sept. 30
- District now using Twitter!
- Early release Friday; Connect-ED message to parents and [early release times](#) for each school on the Web
- Your school board at work – planning for Feb. 9, 2010, ballot issues and celebrating highest ever high school graduation rate
- High school graduations on June 19 – a change from previous plans
- News from around the district
- Opportunities for students and staff

## **DISTRICT CALENDARS – to be delivered next week**

Each school year's calendar dates are established in negotiations with the Everett Education Association. Once the 2009-10 school year contract was agreed upon, final work to insert the dates began immediately thereafter. The next available open time at the printer was Sept. 23. On Friday, Sept. 25, 26,000 calendars will arrive at the maintenance offices for distribution to schools for families and staff during the week of Sept. 28.

## **FUNERAL SERVICE FOR ALLEN OSMONSON – Saturday, Sept. 26**

Services for Allen Osmonson, district master maintenance mechanic since 2002, will be Saturday, Sept. 26, at 2 p.m. at Floral Hills Cemetery, 409 Filbert Road in Lynnwood.

## **ANNUAL STUDENT TECHNOLOGY AND LEARNING CELEBRATION – a**

### **demonstration and “thanks” to the community, Jan. 20, 2010**

In 2002, district voters overwhelmingly said “yes” to supporting technology that has transformed how students learn, how teachers teach and how the district operates more efficiently and cost-effectively. On Feb. 9, 2010, voters will again be considering a levy supporting technology and capital projects to preserve the community investment in schools.

Even though it’s only September, it’s not too early to start thinking about celebrating technology and learning at the district’s annual demonstration. The annual Student Technology & Learning Celebration at Cascade High School is Jan. 20, 2010, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. This year, we’ll showcase examples of students gaining insight and solving problems through technology and teachers using technology to enhance their professional practice. Submit your presentation ideas to [Tracy Manspeaker](#) by Oct. 30, 2009.

### **ARE YOUR STUDENTS ELIGIBLE TO RIDE THE SCHOOL BUS? – ridership count week begins Oct. 12; counted riders “set” the transportation funding for the year**

The state fall “nose count” of school bus riders determines how much money each school district is paid to safely transport students to and from school each day. Students who are eligible to ride the bus, but not “counted” that week, are not factored into what the state pays toward the cost of transportation here. As it is, Everett Public Schools receives less than 60 cents for each actual transportation dollar cost. The remaining amount comes from the general fund which is the fund used to cover classroom costs.

### **UNITED WAY CAMPAIGN AHEAD – a chance to do a “good thing”**

The United Way campaign for the district will start Sept. 30 and run through Nov. 20. Please watch for meeting opportunities at your school and department site. The Foundation is also running our ["Write-in-for-Kids"](#) campaign that encourages families and community members to designate a portion of their United Way donations to the Everett Public Schools Foundation. Dollars raised during this effort will help to fund the Classroom Grant program.

### **FOLLOW [DISTRICT NEWS ON TWITTER](#) – have notices sent to home e-mail or phone**

We’ll use Twitter for quick news announcements and as an additional way to send emergency notifications.

### **FRIDAY EARLY RELEASE – announced in Connect-ED**

**On Wednesday night, Sept. 23, district parents received the following Connect-ED message from the communications department:** *(schools which sent a similar message to their own parents were not included in this message)*

*This is Diane Lindenstien with Everett Public Schools reminding you that Friday, September 25 is an early release day for all students. Please check with your child's school for their exact release time.*

*Also, did you know that you can register to vote at your child's school?*

You can also [register to vote online](#) from our district Web page under the Community tab.

Lastly, if you would like to [volunteer in the school district, you can now apply online](#) in just 5 to 10 minutes. Visit our volunteer page under the Community tab on the district Web site. Thank you for your time. Goodbye.

## **YOUR SCHOOL BOARD AT WORK – Feb. 9, 2010, ballot issues and celebrating high school graduation**

### **Considering two ballot issues**

At their meeting on Sept. 22, the board discussed the possibilities of asking voters to consider two finance issues in February 2010.

1. A maintenance and operations replacement levy to continue local support to the district's general fund. Putting the significance of a potential M&O levy into perspective for the board, Business and Operations Executive Director Jeff Moore noted that if all central office staff (\$8.5 million), all school office staff (\$8.9 million), all maintenance and custodial staff (\$11.4 million) and all school bus transportation were eliminated (\$6.8 million), those cuts would not equal the cuts necessary if there were no M&O levy funding available – projected to be about \$37 million in future years.

During discussion of the M&O levy funds, Dr. Cohn noted hearing how challenging it was for this district to cut \$9 million last spring. "Having to cut \$37 million is unimaginable. Fortunately, Everett Public School students have benefited tremendously by past voter support for school levies and bonds."

2. A technology/capital levy that would continue the district's technology plan and history of facility maintenance that protects the community investment in school buildings.

Although plans are not final, and the board has not approved ballot resolutions, they are intensely dedicated to a finance proposal that would maintain a flat tax rate for residents rather than a tax increase.

### **Celebrating graduation rates**

Six years ago, the district's high school graduation rate was dismally close to just 50 percent. Today it's the highest it has ever been – topping 80 percent. This year's graduation class was 1,189 students, the largest class ever. Cascade High School won the "super senior" prize by graduating a student whose original graduation year was 2005, but who stayed with the program to graduate in 2009. "When they graduate is not as important as graduating, and keeping students engaged is part of our mission," said Board President Sue Cooper as she congratulated staff for good work. The high school principals' *On Time Graduation* efforts are paying off, but the work still continues to get the next 20 percent across the stage.

Summer school programs designed specifically for freshmen and

sophomores already off graduation trajectory were successful this summer. Twenty-seven whose diplomas were at risk in just the first two years of high school are now back on track after a summer of concentrated work to change that trajectory. “This work changes lives!” said Chief Academic Officer Terry Edwards during his presentation.

“On time” graduation refers to those who graduate during their designated graduation year – usually four years after entering as freshmen. (It can be a longer time for special education students who may be students until the age of 21.) “Extended graduation” refers to those students who remain or return to school after their designated graduation year and who graduate later.

The high schools are continuing to work with students who did not graduate “on time.” “We are connecting individually with them, providing incentives and relevancy to encourage them to continue. We are finding out exactly what they need to graduate and providing those learning opportunities,” said Edwards.

### **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION TO BE JUNE 19 – a repeat reminder for all staff**

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 has moved from June 12 to June 19. Sequoia High School’s graduation will take place on Thursday, June 17.

### **NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT – extraordinary work happening everywhere**

- Each day, the cooks in Everett Public Schools prepare more than 2,000 breakfasts and 9,000 lunches. They do so on a shoestring budget and manage to serve healthy and nutritious foods. Just how this is done successfully was the focus of a Sept. 22 article in the *Everett Herald*, with an interview of [Food and Nutrition Services Manager Debbie Webber](#) and a host of her satisfied school nutrition program student customers.
- [Some of the state’s best girls’ soccer players](#) are coming from this region’s high schools. See who they are and how the sport is generating high caliber players whose high school talent will help them gain entry into college. The story first appeared in the Sept. 22 issue of the *Everett Herald*.
- [Everett High School’s volleyball star, Molly Burton](#) is featured in the Sept. 22 *Everett Herald Timeout* sports feature.
- The district’s [community services department received hearty “thank you”](#) for the support they gave to the Seattle Breast Cancer walk which involved 2,200 participants and raised more than \$5.5 million.
- Schools welcomed and benefited from dozens of [United Way Day of Caring volunteers](#) on Friday, Sept. 18.
- [CHS Wind Ensemble continues its winning streak](#), learning of an award from last spring’s trip to New York City.
- [EHS hosts second annual College Day](#) to jump start students’ attitudes

that *college is a plan, not a dream*.

- Silver Lake Elementary highlights its [African Experience Project](#).
- [H.M. Jackson HS music department](#) is *Making Magic* this weekend.

## OPPORTUNITIES – for staff and students

### 1. **Fall tech classes** – [check them out online!](#)

A full slate of workshops is available for you as you begin your new classes with new ideas and renewed energy and commitment. Workshops will help you learn new technology skills to use throughout the curriculum. Classes will give you time to prepare materials and lessons you can use all year.

Check out the [Course Registration System](#) or look through this [listing of workshops](#) to find one or several that meet your needs! You'll begin this school year with powerful new tools in your "teacher's toolbox" to help you manage your classroom and make learning even more exciting!

For more information, contact [Tracy Manspeaker](#).

### 2. **Attention all Everett School District office support professionals**

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

For more info, e-mail [Pam James](#), CEOE or call 425-385-6610.

### 3. **Math is Cool championships** are held throughout the state for students in grades four through twelve. If you are a teacher or coach, [register online](#). If you are a supervisor or administrator, encourage your colleagues to start a club. For more information, contact [Annie Bouscal](#) or call 509-738-7000.

### 4. **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.

### 5. There is a **Sno-Isle Libraries levy measure** on the Nov. 3 ballot, which combined with additional library budget cuts, would offset a projected \$2.5 million shortfall in 2010. Information on the levy measure is available at [www.sno-isle.org](#).

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

- [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.
- 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.](#)
- **Search and Rescue classroom presentations** offered by Deputy Bill Quistorf. For more information or to schedule a presentation, e-mail [Deputy Bill Quistorf](#) or call 425-754-5489.
- The **Seattle Times Newspapers in Education (NIE)**, 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).
- **Lights! Camera! College!** Student film contest open until Oct. 19.
- **Adopt-A-Stream events** between now and November.

**POLICY & PROCEDURE CHANGES – links to existing policies are online; revisions or additions to be listed here.**

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

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.

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From [www.everett.k12.wa.us](http://www.everett.k12.wa.us), sign up for [InTouch](#) e-mail messages; choose the school information you want most.