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From: Lindenstein, Diane
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...NewsLinks

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

Oct. 9, 2009 (*NewsLinks* articles are now [archived on DocuShare](#))

NEW!!! We are trying something new. Scan the topics listed below and “click” to jump to those that grab your interest. Then “click” *back to the top* for the rest of the stories. Please let us know if this feature worked for you by using the voting buttons on the toolbar above this message. Thank you!

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ANNUAL STUDENT TECHNOLOGY AND LEARNING CELEBRATION – a demonstration and “thanks” to the community, Jan. 20, 2010

On Feb. 9, 2010, voters will again be considering a levy supporting technology and capital projects to preserve the community investment in schools. The annual Student Technology & Learning Celebration at Cascade High School is Jan. 20, 2010, 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT – Kudos for the Secondary Reading and Writing Assessment scoring

I was deeply impressed with the sixth- through tenth-grade reading and writing assessments earlier this fall. Everett Public Schools teachers truly came together collaboratively and professionally on behalf of students for this important work. Let me list a few ways:

- Kudos to each school's assessment coordinator who ensured that teachers had the information and materials needed to use every available minute of the time for scoring student work.
- Having onsite data entry staff (Milissa Jones, Ailene Diaz and Trish Sweeney) was brilliant and popular with teachers who saw their scores immediately entered and

were often able to leave with their students' papers in hand.

- Way to go for meeting the goal *number of papers scored* for each session!
- And thanks to the "power scorers" who came through with overnight scoring and to those who entered the scores first thing the next morning.
- Accolades to Loretta Comfort, Cindy Foster and Tessa O'Connor for their leadership in the administration and scoring of these assessments.

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ARE YOU LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS? Each [volunteer can register online!](#)

We are saving paper, time and money with the new online registration system. With one click and a few easy questions, your volunteers register without using paper or the fuel required to ship paper from your hands to the Colby office where the old paper forms were then hand-entered into a database. Once the background check process is completed, your school is notified of cleared volunteers, and you have extra hands available to help you with your important work.

NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION – Oct. 14 is grant application deadline!

For a grant application and information, visit www.epsf.org.

The Foundation runs the district's United Way campaign, going full force now and running through Nov. 20. The Foundation is also running our "Write-in-for-Kids" campaign that encourages our 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 our Classroom Grant program.

United Way message from Dr. Cohn: Between now and Nov. 20, our schools and departments will be visited by community leaders inviting us to "give back to the community" with whatever we can to support United Way. Every one of us has been touched in some way by United Way programs – whether we have directly accessed a service or have worked with someone who has.

Our welcome and warm reception to these non school community members is the right thing to do and a demonstration of how much we appreciate their support for our schools and our students.

We all win when a student succeeds in school. [Click here for an example](#) of how United Way's work makes a difference for school children.

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ATTENTION, CERTIFICATED STAFF – clock hour forms deadline, Oct. 10!

Please note that HR will not be open on Saturday. Use the drop box by the front door of Longfellow (3715 Oakes Ave.) if you need to submit paperwork on Saturday.

Completed paperwork must be received in HR ready to process on or before Oct. 10. A big thank you to all who have already submitted your paperwork!

YOUR SCHOOL BOARD AT WORK – Save Nov. 5 to thank Sue Cooper!

1. [Save Thursday, Nov. 5, at 4:30 p.m.](#) at Evergreen Middle School as a time to say "thank you" to board member Sue Cooper who is stepping down after a quarter century as an educational leader on the board of directors. Sue was appointed to the board in August of 1984 and re-elected in 1985, 1991, 1997 and 2003.

Students who entered kindergarten during Sue's first year on the board graduated from high school in 1996. For the last 14 years, high school graduates in this district have enjoyed an education that was influenced by the wisdom and commitment of Sue Cooper. The majority of staff working in the district today have never known a time when Sue was not advocating quietly for each of us – whether that was at the legislative level in Olympia or as a highly regarded member of this community.

2. Sue Mills from the Center for Educational Effectiveness, Inc. officially presented representatives from Gateway Middle School with their *Great School* award. In a [news release of Sept. 11](#), the district announced Gateway's selection as a *Great School* in the state of Washington.
3. "We have an explosion of excitement about reading! Now we have collaborative learning at schools with PLC's and the reading specialists and principals working together on this. None of us is as smart as all of us. This pulls all of us together with the same focus." That is how Lowell principal Colleen Welsh summarized the excitement teachers are feeling about [Good Habits; Great Readers](#).

The new reading materials are being field tested at three elementary schools, Forest View, Garfield and Lowell, to ensure there is a seamless launch next year at the 14 remaining elementary schools.

Holly Martinez, Garfield's reading specialist, thanked the board for allowing the adoption of the program in the first place – especially during difficult economic times – and for choosing Garfield as a field test site. "You hear staff talking about the program and using terms such as 'reading diet.' For the first time we have the same words to talk about what we are doing from first- through fifth-grade! This is so good for teachers and for students who are now believing that they ARE readers."

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT – extraordinary work happening everywhere

- **Congratulations to Kelly Clapp** who will be moving from her current position as assistant principal at EHS where she has been since 2002 to the same position at North Middle. Kelly's background in instruction and classroom management, her prior experience at the middle school level and her strong rapport with a diverse population of students, parents and staff will be an asset in her new position at North.
- **[District saves taxpayers \\$15 million in sale of bonds](#)** At their meeting on Oct. 6, the directors of Everett Public Schools discussed the success and historic significance of their latest bond sale which is estimated to save taxpayers over \$15 million. The sale was possible because of financing tools authorized in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).
- Through the translation of his Cuban-American godfather, [Osvaldo Alonso of the Seattle Sounders](#), spent an hour and a half sharing his story, answering questions, and signing autographs for fifth-graders at Lowell Elementary.
- **[Cascade's senior cross-country runner](#)**, Dylan Hopper, was featured in the *Herald* on Sept. 29, as a team leader and scholar athlete. When he graduates in 2010, he will have almost a full year's worth of college credits for courses he has been taking at Everett Community College while also attending high school.
- **Children's Alliance** has awarded the [district's food and nutrition department](#) with a "Gold Star" rating. The award comes from Children's Alliance and their partners in *End Childhood Hunger Washington*. The prestigious rating, along with a certificate of

appreciation, was recognition of the department's work to serve meals more than 40 days this summer when regular school was not in session and when most school food service staff would be enjoying a summer break.

- [Emerson's Pam Thomas is recognized by Adopt-a-Classroom](#) and receives \$1000 in office supplies from Office Max.
- **EHS students** are enacting [Gorilla Acts of Goodness!](#) Check out the blogs of students doing good things for others and learn about the [BoomBoomCard energy](#). (Be sure to scroll down the page to read the student blogs.)
- **Eisenhower Middle School is looking for a few business-savvy volunteers** to help with the third annual Business Exposition for seventh-grade students. Students will experience real world entrepreneurship by developing a business idea, writing a business plan, creating advertising and strategizing ways to get financing for their burgeoning business. Willing community leaders are key to the success of this project taking place Nov. 12. Contact [Carrie Holeman](#) if you know of someone willing to share their knowledge with students for a day.
- **Cynthia Gaub of North Middle School and Diane Kinch of Sequoia** each has earned top state honors as *teachers of the year* in their subject areas. Diane was honored as the state's top Graduation, Reality and Dual-Role Skills (GLADS) teacher of the year in August. Cynthia learned this week that she is Washington state's Middle School Art Educator of the year. More information about these incredible teachers is coming in November.

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OPPORTUNITIES – for staff and students

1. **Fall technology classes**, great ideas and new classroom instructional skills:

Inspiration: Beyond the Basics	Oct.13	4-7 p.m.	Emerson
Connecting Curriculum to Internet Tools	Oct.14	4-7 p.m.	Penny Creek
Collaborative Research using Google	Oct.15	4-7 p.m.	Penny Creek
Teaching for tomorrow --- Wiki's and Webquests Check CRS for additional class dates and times.	Oct.19+	4:15-7:15 p.m.	Penny Creek
PD21 – Once you finish this course, you can complete other online workshops for clock hours.	Oct. 20	4:15- 6:15 p.m.	Silver Lake
Building a Classroom Web site	Oct. 21	3:30- 6:30 p.m.	Lowell
Telling Our Stories with MovieMaker	Oct. 22	4-7 p.m.	Emerson
Teacher Blogging through EPS Edublogs	Oct. 22	4-7 p.m.	Cedar Wood
Learn More about Discover Health	Oct. 29	4-7 p.m.	Woodside

2. Oct. 19 begins National School Bus Safety Week, (NSBSW) now being coordinated through the American School Bus Council (ASBC). The theme of this 43rd annual NSBSW week is **Avoid Harm, Obey the Stop Arm**. [Educational materials are available online from ASBC.](#)
3. **WSU Wallace River Hatchery field trips, Nov. 2-6**
[Click for details](#) about how to take your classroom to the site near Sultan and how teachers can train to be salmon tour guides.

4. **Wellness Webinars:** Learn more about the Swine Flu (H1N1) and how to keep your immune system strong with these FREE Webinars offered through the *EPS Employee Wellness Program*.
 - H1N1 - Knowledge is Power: Join Snohomish Health District Health Officer Dr. Gary Goldbaum, M.D., MPH for this 20 minute Webinar chock-full of useful, information on H1N1 from one of our county's experts. Sign up through the [Course Registration System](#). Mark your calendars for: Oct. 19 at 2:30 p.m. or 4:00 p.m.
 - Keep your Immune System Strong: Join Wellness Coordinator and naturopathic physician Gail Buquicchio for this 20 minute Webinar to learn practical tips on how you can keep your immune system strong throughout the year. Sign up through the [Course Registration System](#). Mark your calendars for: Oct. 13, 2:30 p.m. or 4:00 p.m., and Oct. 27, 3:30 p.m. or 4:00 p.m.
5. **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](#).
6. 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](#))

- [Follow district news on Twitter](#)

POLICY & PROCEDURE CHANGES – links to [all policies and procedures are online](#)

[Procedure 4333P](#) has been updated.

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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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