

# ...NewsLinks

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

Oct. 23, 2009 (*NewsLinks* articles are now [archived on Docushare](#))

**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.

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- H1N1 immunization information – just announced “express” clinics just for pregnant women and children from six months to four years old
- Annual benefits enrollment information
- Wellness message
- Message from the Superintendent about district wide *Educational Effectiveness Survey*
- News from the Foundation
- Your school board at work – Joint resolution with EEA, honoring staff, a trip down technology memory lane
- News from around the district
- Opportunities for students and staff

## H1N1 IMMUNIZATION INFO

Late on Thursday afternoon, the Health District announced “express” vaccination clinics just for pregnant women and children from six months to four years old on Saturday, Oct. 14. That is a week earlier than previously announced. Three of the clinics are in Everett and are listed on the [district's home page](#). The Everett Clinic is dispensing vaccinations at Evergreen Middle School from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Consent forms and locations and times of other clinics in the county are at [www.snocoflu.com](http://www.snocoflu.com). The Health District advises everyone to check their Web site frequently because information and clinic dates are updated regularly.

Fever free for a day *then* back to school – a message for staff and students  
Remember that anyone sick with a temperature of 100 degrees or more must be fever free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medications) before returning to normal routines like attending school or after school activities. Additional time at home may be a hardship for families, but it is necessary to help keep our schools healthy.

## BENEFITS OPEN ENROLLMENT Oct. 20 – Nov. 16. New plan year begins January.

Information packets were sent to all work locations this week for all employees. If you did not receive a copy, the document is on the [District Web site](#). Call or e-mail [Arlene Vollema-Rich](#) (4115) or [René Boswell](#) (4116) for an electronic copy.

Unless you change medical plans or add or delete dependents, your cost for benefits will remain the same through Nov. 30, 2010.

For the first time, employees have the option to make changes to their medical plans using [Employee Online](#). The [instructions are online](#).

Employees who wish to access *employee online* from their home computers can do so by setting up their home computers with remote access to their district computers. Here is the link with [instructions for setting up remote access](#). Email the [Help Desk](#) if you need assistance with this process.

### WELLNESS MESSAGE – year round breast cancer information on the Web

October is [National Breast Cancer Awareness Month](#), but the NBCAM Web site is a year round resource for breast cancer patients, survivors, caregivers, and the general public. Visit the site regularly for updated breast cancer information and resources. Like many organizations, Everett Public Schools has been deeply affected by breast cancer. Be sure to read this month's issue of the *Hope Health Column*, written by one of our own breast cancer survivors. ***Ladies, let's remember that mammography screening remains the best available method to detect breast cancer early.*** Annual mammograms are a **covered benefit** with all EPS insurance plans.

### MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT – Educational Effectiveness Survey for staff, parents and students

Starting next week, we'll be launching a district wide effort to gather perceptual data about our district and schools. Conducted by the [Center for Educational Effectiveness](#), the surveys will be confidential. Survey handling, compilation, and tabulation will all be done by the professionals at CEE.

CEE is the same organization that now co-sponsors the *Great Schools* recognition program with Phi Delta Kappa. This fall Gateway Middle School earned this award, previously known as *Schools of Distinction*. Over 64,000 Washington school staff have taken these CEE surveys in hundreds of schools in Washington state. They are familiar with best practices and research-based programs that make a difference in student learning. This [Educational Effectiveness Survey](#) (EES) will replace the Nine Characteristics Survey that Everett staff has used in past years. The staff survey is designed to include everyone in a school, and there is a version for district staff as well.

Results will be available shortly after the first of the year to help all of us make better-informed decisions and support school improvement. As the accountability requirements we face together continue to increase, and as we face increasing budget challenges, the survey data will be even more important to ensure that our time and resources are used most effectively to improve student achievement.

The Educational Effectiveness Survey:

- Is a formative tool, *not* an evaluative tool

- Allows every voice in the organization to be heard
- Graphically displays characteristics of high performing schools
- Identifies strengths and opportunities within our organization
- Provides reliable data to stimulate conversations about improving student learning
- Supports data-driven decision making by providing perceptual and contextual domains of data
- Is in a friendly format that is easy to understand
- Provides a baseline of diversity perceptual data that we do not have today
- Meets requirements for special education parent input that we need for planning and compliance
- Comes in multiple languages to enable the majority of our non-English speaking families to participate

School principals have information about the timeline and administration of the survey for students, staff and parents and about the confidentiality that helps ensure the validity of the results and the value of the information we will have in January.

Thank you in advance for taking part in the survey, for helping your students voice their thoughts about their educational experiences and needs and for encouraging parents to do the same. This tool can make a significant difference in the success of our work together for student learning improvements for every student.

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## **NEWS FROM THE FOUNDATION – Flood of grant requests is great! *Write-In for Kids* going well**

**Thanks** to all of the individuals and teams who submitted 85 classroom grant applications last week! Our board members will review and score each of the submissions over the next two weeks. Final decisions will come in time for funding before the Thanksgiving break. You turned in so many creative and worthwhile submissions, and we will do our best to honor funding for each school that submitted an entry. Best of luck!!

The Fall Campaign for Kids continues with our *Write-In for Kids* efforts through United Way presentations. We have completed well over half of the meetings and extend a sincere thank you to all staff who have attended. Your support of our community through United Way and the Foundation is wonderful and most appreciated. Each school and department is creating their own deadline for submission, but please know that the ultimate deadline for turning in your pledge forms is Dec. 4, 2009. We are eagerly awaiting them in the Foundation office at Hawthorne Elementary.

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## **YOUR SCHOOL BOARD AT WORK – Board and teachers oppose 1033**

1. ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED***, that the Board of Directors of Everett Public Schools and the Executive Board of the Everett Education Association/United Teachers of Everett [do hereby oppose Initiative 1033](#).

That is the ending statement of a joint resolution approved and signed by the executive board of the Everett Education Association and the school district board of directors.

Board member Karen Madsen applauded the collaborative effort to oppose an initiative “that is not good for kids and not good for staff. This board rarely signs resolutions,” Madsen noted. “We save resolutions for big items. This is a big item, and it is a wonderful thing that board and staff are signing it together on behalf of students.”

2. The board shook hands with and commended:
  - Rick Wigre for the [accomplishments of his student team](#) at last summer’s technology competition, for his “Advisor of the Year” award and for having a [student’s work selected for display in Washington, D.C.](#)
  - Diane Kinch for having earned the GLADS teacher of the year award last summer
  - Debbie Webber and other nutrition staff for having earned a Gold Star rating from Children’s Alliance.
  - Cynthia Gaub, art teacher at North Middle School, was not available for the board meeting, but the board also congratulated her for having been selected as the state’s Art Educator of the Year.
  - Lillian Ortiz-Self, counselor at Everett high, also was not available at the board meeting. However, the board thanked her for the time she has served on the State Commission of Hispanic Affairs and congratulated her for being selected as Chair of the commission.
3. The board approved the design specifications for modernizations of View Ridge and Monroe Elementary schools – projects approved by voters in the 2006 construction bond. Monroe is slated for completion by the fall of 2011, and View Ridge a year later.
4. Ken Toyn introduced Scott Jenkins and Jeanne Willard, who presented the draft of the district’s 2010-13 *Curriculum & Technology Plan for Student Learning* to the board by taking a walk down memory lane to illustrate how far we’ve come and how important technology is for teaching and learning today.

**How much do you know about the district’s technology history?** Check the [online answers](#) to the questions below:

1. 1992 was a significant year in the district’s technology history. Why?
2. When did the district launch its first e-mail system, and what was it called?
3. How many years ago did the district begin installing Pentamotion and Cognos to start tracking student learning data?

4. What is the name of the district's online document management system, and how long has it been in existence in the district?
5. In what year were special education staff able to write IEP's online for the first time?
6. When was it possible for district job applicants to apply for positions online?
7. What are COWS, and when did the herds begin to appear in schools?
8. Bar codes are familiar on grocery store products. Why do we have them on high school textbooks, and how long has that been going on?
9. Those who have worked in the district for three to five years will notice how much faster the system operates now. Why is that?
10. What's next?

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

1. National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) [Linda Adams from Whittier](#) was one of only 100 teachers statewide to meet with 100 legislators last week in the state's first *NBCT Policy Symposium* to discuss the state's recent overhaul of its education financing system.
2. Rivals Cascade and Everett team up against cancer. The two schools' volleyball squads unite to raise money for a cure. Born of a former Cascade student-athlete's desire to spread breast cancer awareness and honor head coach Wendy Close, a breast cancer survivor, Cascade's third annual Dig for the Cure event and match against rival Everett High took place Tuesday night at Cascade High. [More...](#)
3. Everett girls clinch division soccer title. Seagulls' 4-0 victory over crosstown rival Cascade secures Wesco North championship. Thanks to a 4-0 victory over Cascade Tuesday night, Everett remained perfect on the season and more importantly secured their second straight Wesco North title with three games remaining in the regular season. [More...](#)
4. Please congratulate Eric Bush as he accepts the position of interim assistant principal at Everett High School. Eric came to Everett Public Schools from the Tumwater school district as an English teacher at Sequoia High School in 2002. In the fall of 2004 he joined the team at HM Jackson and in 2007 became an Instructional Facilitator for Literacy. Eric's background in literacy, his experience at the high school level and his commitment to student achievement will be an asset in his interim position at Everett High.

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

1. Save Thursday, Nov. 5, 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.

2. *Kids at the Rink* Program, sponsored by: Everett Silvertips, Everett Rotary, Everett-Port Gardner Rotary

Thanks to generous donations of the Rotary groups from Everett and Everett Port-Gardner this season, the Everett Silvertips are proud to present the Kids at the Rink Program. Students in grades 2-8 will be eligible to win two tickets to a Silvertips hockey game. The Silvertips will take nominations from teachers and educators at elementary and middle schools throughout the Everett School District. [Nomination form online.](#)

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

5. **Annual Student Technology and Learning Celebration** is a demonstration and “thanks” to the community. Jan. 20, 2010. Send questions and your presentation ideas to [Tracy Manspeaker](#) by Oct. 30, 2009.
6. **In a hurry for your volunteers to be cleared?** [Have them register online!](#) Save the paper trail time and the time it takes to hand enter the data before background checks can be completed.
7. [Follow district news on Twitter](#)
8. VOTE Nov. 3
9. **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](#).
10. **WSU Wallace River Hatchery field trips, Nov. 2-6** [Click for details](#)

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

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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.