

...NewsLinks

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

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

IN THIS ISSUE

- Message from the superintendent – holiday wish for all
- Schedule for Wednesday, Nov. 25 – today!
- Advice to change your password
- News around the district
- Message from the Foundation
- Opportunities for students and staff

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT – my reasons for gratitude and a holiday wish for you

“Gratitude bestows reverence, allowing us to encounter everyday epiphanies, those transcendent moments of awe that change forever how we experience life and the world.” – *John Milton*

Thank you for opening your classrooms, work spaces and offices to me over the last five months. Each day spent visiting schools and meeting this district’s extraordinary staff and students gives me pause for reverence and awe at the work you do.

My holiday wish for each of you includes joyful time with those you love, continued every day epiphanies, and those exceptional transcendent moments of awe in your work and personal lives that make our work with kids and our commitments to one other so very worthwhile.

Have a warm, wonderful and safe Thanksgiving break.

Gary

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 25 – What’s the schedule?

Nonsupervisory certificated employees (teachers, counselors, psychologists, etc.) may be dismissed on the workday before the Thanksgiving break (Wednesday, Nov. 25) as soon as the entire staff responsibilities for student instruction, supervision and safety have been met, with the understanding that an individual’s workday will not be shortened by more than two and a half (2-1/2) hours.

All other staff members may be dismissed on the workday preceding Thanksgiving break one (1) hour early. This early release does not apply to an employee who is critical to the safety and security of the district. Each department's supervisor will determine this. Department supervisors may adjust these guidelines as necessary to meet program needs.

Custodians should receive direction from Gary Jefferis' office.

Note: The Friday before winter break (Dec. 18) is a regular length workday for all staff.

And what about weather-related school delays or cancellations? Who reports when was outlined in an [October e-mail from Lynn Evans](#), executive director of human resources.

ADVICE FROM THE IT DEPARTMENT

Change your password frequently! Recently, the Kent School District's payroll system was hacked, resulting in staff members' personal information being compromised. As a result, that district is paying for credit card monitoring programs for staff. While Kent's system is different than the one we use, Ken Toyn, director of information systems and technology, urges everyone to take steps to protect passwords and to change passwords frequently. "It's as simple as pressing ctrl+alt+delete and choosing the "Change Password" tab anytime after you've logged in to your computer," says Toyn. And it could save you much angst in the future.

NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT – great things happening everywhere

1. School psychologists were honored by the Gov. Christine Gregoire during School Psychology Week earlier this month. [The Governor's proclamation](#) highlighted the many services school psychologists provide for all students.
2. The special services department is fostering partnerships that help students prepare for their futures. One lesson for 18-21 year old students in the program is learning to be independent bus riders. Community Transit sees this as an asset to the community and has allowed students' assistants to ride for free. Karen De Jong, special services specialist, is working with Everett Transit to put the same program into place.

Watch for more stories about this program and other community partnerships for students in the special services STRIVE program coming in the January 2010 issue of *Everett Schools*.

The November issue of *Everett Schools* arrived in homes this week and should be in school mailboxes by now.

3. **Congratulations to Gayla Jenner** who has been elected President-Elect of

the national users group for [Sungard/Bitech](#) which operates the district's finance software, IFAS, and the student data system, Pentamation. Having someone of Gayla's caliber so deeply involved in the workings of these systems helps ensure that district needs are being met – and it speaks to the high regard this company has for the expertise of our district staff.

4. **Everett PTSA Council Reflections Exhibition** is on display from Nov. 30 through Feb. 5 at the Educational Service Center on Colby. Come see the work of your students as they responded to the prompt "Beauty is ...". The show features artistic creations of students from district elementary, middle, and high schools. Entries include work in visual arts, literature, musical composition, film-video, choreography-dance and photography.
5. **Holiday projects underway.** This time of year (and well into the spring) thousands of district students gather food, clothing, toys, pet food and other items to help those less fortunate. Everett High School's Kristin Price describes the passion of her second period class.

As of today (written Nov. 20) we have raised nearly \$1,100 in cash and we are quickly approaching 1,800 cans as we enter the final weekend. These kids are competitive, but more than that, they are the best example of altruism I have witnessed in my 15 years in the district. They have collected food at grocery stores almost every day of the food drive (where they also played musical instruments to draw more attention to the cause). They have worked tirelessly to make sure that as many local families can/will be fed during these tough economic times. These young adults realize what it means to be part of a community and part of a solution. I am truly proud of every one of these students and believe that we should celebrate the fine young adults in Everett Public Schools.

... I really think that their efforts and those of all students giving back at all schools should be celebrated as much as possible.

Kudos to Jefferson Elementary for mixing learning and generosity!

Inspiring food donations equal to the weight of an elephant was the school's goal two weeks ago when they launched their seasonal food drive. Not only did students, staff and families bring in 2,633 pounds of food for Volunteers of America, but everyone learned just how big a pachyderm is.

6. Recent new stories published on our district Web site:
 - 11.24.2009 [Cedar Wood students enjoy Disney's *Fantasy on Ice*](#)
 - 11.23.2009 [IKE students pledge to live drug free during Red Ribbon Week](#)
 - 11.17.2009 [EHS students are agents of altruism](#)
 - 11.13.2009 [Heatherwood welcomes Princess Kasune Zulu](#)
 - 11.12.2009 [JHS swimmer Alana Pazevic](#)
 - 11.10.2009 [Jackson High School teams have an amazing fall](#)
 - 11.09.2009 [Penny Creek's Becky Azure wins backpack in drawing](#)
 - 11.09.2009 [CHS senior Minhtam Nguyen is a leader in school's food drive](#)

MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDATION – thank you for your grant applications!

Campaign for Kids continues with our [Write-In for Kids](#) efforts through the United Way presentations. We extend a sincere thank you to all of the staff who have given of your time to attend a presentation. 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 is Dec. 4, 2009**, for turning in your pledge forms to the Foundation office at Hawthorne Elementary.

Thank you to all of the individuals and teams of teachers and staff who submitted 89 classroom grant applications. Our team of board members has concluded their review and we will be sending notification out to all applicants before the end of November. We were able to fund over \$30,000 in grants with representation from all 25 schools who applied. A full list of grant recipients will be available on our Web site after we are sure that each teacher and each school has been notified.

OPPORTUNITIES – for students and staff

1. **Monday, Nov. 30, Map Your Neighborhood project.** MYN helps organize neighbors in a timely response to disaster when 911 is not available. Learn a nine-step Neighborhood Response Plan that helps you know what to do in response to injuries, leaking natural gas, and helping others.

A two-hour session from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. will be held in the upstairs training room of the Everett Fire Department at 2801 Oakes Ave., Everett. RSVP to jmarsh@ci.everett.wa.us or 425-257-7979.

2. **How did you do on Nov. 19?** This was the national day to quit smoking. If you missed the day or didn't do so well, you should know that the Everett Public Schools Employee Benefit Trust provides a **FREE** (\$375 value) smoking cessation program to EPS employees participating in one of our benefit plans (Group Health, PacifiCare, Regence PPO). **Free and Clear** is nationally renowned.

An estimated 47 million adults in the United States currently smoke, and approximately half will die prematurely from smoking. Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for men and women, and this year alone, there will be about 169,500 new cases diagnosed in the U.S. More than 80 percent of lung cancers are thought to result from smoking.

3. **WAEOP members** – Your [November newsletter](#) is stored on DocuShare as is an introductory letter and an important membership survey. WAEOP Area President [Pam James](#) asks that you complete the survey to help the organization understand what professional development and growth opportunities would be most helpful for you.

4. **Highly Capable Program [testing nominations](#)** are being accepted by categorical programs through Dec. 11.
5. **Washington State Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development (WSASCD), Whitworth University and Leadership Innovation Team** announces a new school culture and climate initiative in Washington state. Schools are invited to submit an application to be recognized as a Washington State School of Character by Tuesday, Dec. 1, in two easy steps:

Step 1: Go to <http://www.character.org/nsocapplicationprocess> to get started.

Step 2: Go to <http://www.character.org/washington> to learn:

- Where to send your application
- Who to call with questions or application help

For additional details visit www.character.org.

6. **Essay contest for students in grades fifth through eighth.** Sponsored by the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, this essay contest involves savings bond prizes from \$250 to \$1,000 for the winning students. [Application form and rules are online.](#)
7. **A \$100,000 federal grant funds free marine workshops for teachers and field experiences for students.** Whidbey Island-based Service, Education and Adventure (SEA) and Edmonds Community College in Lynnwood have received a \$100,000 Watershed Education Grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Working with NOAA scientists and local community organizations, teachers will receive hands-on, on the water, free workshops and continuing education credits. **April 17-18** is reserved for Snohomish County teachers in Everett.

For more information call or e-mail [Amy Johnson](#) at Edmonds Community College's Center for Service-Learning at 425-640-1882, or go to www.serviceeducationadventure.org.

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

- [5430P has been updated](#)
- [2232P has been updated](#)

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.