

...NewsLinks

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

Feb. 10, 2011 (*NewsLinks* articles are now [archived on DocuShare](#))

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OUR SCHOOL BOARD AT WORK, Feb. 8 meeting – (Have you visited [BoardDocs](#) yet? Background material, meeting minutes, agendas and historical documents are available online. Not only does this online system improve access to the board meeting process, it reduces the amount of paper and delivery costs previously associated with “board packets.”)

Prodigy for Peace essay winners honored

Ashley Murawski, eighth grade, from Gateway and Tessa Pimentel, sixth grade, from North were invited to read their Martin Luther King Prodigy for Peace winning essays for the board.

LaVendrick Smith from Mariner High was also invited to read his winning essay in the high school category. All three students had previously read their essays to resounding audience approval at the Feb. 12 Martin Luther King breakfast celebration, delayed from its original Jan. 12 date because of snow conditions.

Learning Management System (LMS) underway

With a deeply grateful nod of thanks to community support of the 2010 Capital and Technology Levy and to the staff who have so strategically shepherded this important project over the last three years, our board approved Global Scholar as the vendor for LMS.

As Chief Academic Officer Terry Edwards explained, “The new LMS software system will allow us to collect and share student learning data and use that to measure and plan student learning improvement. It will be the backbone for all of our work to continually improve, to meet increasing student learning expectations and to align, coordinate and articulate curriculum, assessment and professional development.

Background information about the vendor selection process and five year outlook for the project is on BoardDocs under the Feb 8, meeting agenda item entitled [Award of Learning Management System Contract.](#)

Board no longer considering the Frontier Communications site for educational service center consolidation

For two decades, the board has sought ways to consolidate the district’s separate and far flung educational support services into one cost efficient and operationally efficient location. On Tuesday night, the board eliminated one of the locations under consideration for that consolidation. ([Details are in Feb. 9 news release.](#))

The Frontier Communications business site was initially attractive because of financial terms and possibilities for business and educational partnerships with entities having missions similar to the district mission. It was also considered a possible location for a future four-year university in the city.

After thoughtful and responsible exploration of the Frontier site and careful consideration of the risks involved, the board will not continue negotiations for that location.

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WELLNESS MESSAGE – February is Heart Month

Know your numbers and get your blood pressure checked regularly. See www.heart.org or GoRedForWomen.org for more information.

Did you read this month’s [Hope Health letter](#)?

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FOUNDATION BREAKFAST

You are invited to the [17th annual Benefit Breakfast](#) on March 10, 7:15 – 8:30 a.m. Celebrity chef Graham Kerr of “Galloping Gourmet” fame will share his message of childhood health and nutrition as a key component of supporting the “whole child.” [Reserve your seat now!](#)

MILL CREEK ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL ANNOUNCED FOR 2011-12

Brenda Fuglevand has accepted Dr. Cohn's offer to become the principal at Mill Creek Elementary beginning July 2011. Although Brenda is very sad to leave the team at Forest View, she is also excited and enthused about the challenges a new assignment brings.

Brenda joined the district as assistant principal at Garfield and Cedar Wood in 2001-02. She became the principal at Lowell in the fall of 2003 and remained there through 2005-06. Brenda applied for the role of planning principal for "elementary school #17" which became Forest View Elementary with her leadership.

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NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT – information about good work everywhere

- 02.09.2011 [41st Street location no longer considered for educational service center](#)
- 02.09.2011 [Local church fundraiser helps support Hawthorne's Weekend Backpack Program](#)
- 02.07.2011 [Arts Council of Snohomish County to honor student artists](#)
- 02.07.2011 [Sixteen JHS musicians qualify for state competition](#)
- 02.07.2011 [Super Kid: Huy Hoang, CHS](#)
- 02.04.2011 [Kindergarten registration begins March 14](#)
- 02.04.2011 [Healthy bodies AND healthy minds](#)
- 01.31.2011 [Heatherwood student art on display at new medical center](#)
- 01.28.2011 [Everett High wins Wesco 3A wrestling title](#)

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OPPORTUNITIES – for staff and students

1. Thinking about becoming a **National Board candidate**? Have your questions answered by Julie Kang, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Support Program Manager at the University of Washington on **Feb. 15, 4-5:30 p.m. at Evergreen Middle School library**. This **FREE** session is designed to familiarize teachers with the National Board's five core propositions and the standards for teaching in the participant's certification areas. In addition, participants will explore the skills needed for successful candidacy. Questions? Contact Linda Adams, NBCT at 425-385-4323.
2. **Culturally Responsive Classroom Practice: Teaching and Learning in Our Changing World** with *Ilsa Govan of Cross Cultural Connections, LLC*
This series of three FREE workshops for **teachers and para-educators** will provide new information and strategies that can be immediately applied to working in culturally diverse classrooms. You will engage in a different type of activity, from specific lesson plans, to simulations, to curriculum screening for bias. Each session can also stand alone; however, staff are encouraged to attend all three. Clock Hours are available – you must attend two or more

sessions to qualify for clock hours. Sign up on the course registration system. Questions? Contact Gayle Watts, ext. 4101.

Session One: What does Culturally Responsive Teaching Look Like?

Tuesday, Feb. 15

4:15 - 6:15 p.m.

Heatherwood Middle School Library

Session Two: Negotiating Culture and Power in the Classroom

Tuesday, March 15

4:15 - 6:15 p.m.

Longfellow Large Annex

Session Three: Counteracting Stereotype Threat in Schools

Tuesday, May 17

4:15 - 6:15 p.m.

Evergreen Middle School Library

Ilsa Govan, has more than 15 years of experience as a classroom teacher. She has facilitated courageous conversations at workshops and conferences across the country and worked as an Equity and Race Specialist for Seattle Public Schools. She is co-founder of Cross Cultural Connections, working to help all people recognize their roles as change agents.

3. **March 5 is Garfield's scrap metal drive.** Students are helping to clean up the neighborhood and gather funds for fifth grade camp. They will be at the corner of 23rd and Pine from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. that Saturday, gladly accepting your old metal throwaways. More info from [Stephanie Van Driel](#) at Garfield.
4. **FREE preparedness training with City of Everett** – Who depends on you? Your family, pets, elders? Your neighbors? Your co-workers or students? Learn how to prepare for and cope with disasters.

[Sign up](#) for a **free** eight-week training course that will cover a variety of planning, prevention and key knowledge and skills necessary to survive and recover from a disaster. There is a requirement to attend all sessions. The course helps you establish a home survival kit. Cost for personal safety equipment is approximately \$30. The basic equipment information and where to purchase will be explained at the first class. CERT course graduates can choose to be certified to serve on response teams for the community in a disaster.

Class Schedule: Every Thursday, March - April 28 (no class April 7)

Time: 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Location: Everett Fire Department at 2801 Oakes Ave.

Participants must be at least 16 years of age.

Deadline: Feb. 11

For more information, contact Renee Darnell, Everett Emergency Management, 425-257-8111.

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OPPORTUNITIES IN BRIEF – quick reminders from past issues

1. **Dr. Cohn will drop the puck** on Friday, Feb. 11 at the Silvertips' match against the Spokane Chiefs. [Special discounted tickets for all EPS staff and students](#) that night. Tickets normally going for \$15 will sell to district staff for just \$10. This is the Silvertips way of saying "thank you" and "great job" for the important work we do each day. Order online early for the best seating available! Or call, 425-609-2804.
2. [Evergreen Middle School Health Fair for Teens, Tweens & Parents](#) **Feb. 19.** On Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011, first ever Evergreen Middle School Health Fair for Teens, Tweens and Parents is destined to draw families and teens from around the region for a free and activity-packed day focused on exercise, healthy eating, good habits and health awareness.

Basic health screenings – blood pressure, body mass index and more – will be free options that day for everyone. Vaccinations will be available for \$15 or less (cash or check only) and there is a fee adjustment available for families in financial need. It slides down to zero for high need families, so there should be no barrier to any child or youth who needs a vaccine.

At the "career corner," students can learn about future career options in health care. Zumba, ballroom dance, martial arts and other "get up and go" activities are also slated as are demonstrations and food tastings. [Read full news release ...](#)

3. **FREE Foundations of Early Literacy** mini conference, Saturday, Feb. 26, 2011, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. at Evergreen Middle School, for teachers and reading specialists, ELL specialists and principals who work with preschool, kindergarten and first-grade children. Clock hours available.

Taught by David Matteson, a former classroom teacher and a Reading Recovery Teacher. He presents a research-based program on creating early readers and writers. David has been working with Edmonds School District and a number of districts in Skagit and Whatcom Counties along with their Pre-K partners.

Primary teachers are thrilled with what they are seeing in student progress and learning. The workshop is funded by a Gates grant supporting alignment of early literacy practices Pre-K through grade 3.

Foundations of Early Literacy is presented through a partnership between the NWESD, Everett Public Schools, and VOA Child Care Resource & Referral.

Questions? Email [Lynn Lahey](mailto:Lynn.Lahey@voaww.org) or call x4089. Preregistration required - send name, phone number, email, address, school and position to cwebb@voaww.org or mail to Volunteers of America, P.O. Box 839, Everett, WA 98206.

4. **[Opportunity for educators to travel to China](#)**. Applications due Feb. 28. In addition to guided tours of historical landmarks, this program includes many opportunities to meet Chinese school teachers, educators, parents and students. As noted by many past participants, these informal interactions with Chinese people allowed them to gain a better understanding of modern China and Chinese people - a perspective that cannot be provided by any textbook.
5. **“Dare to Dream” Students of Color Career Conference – scholarships available!** Middle and high school students of color are invited to attend EvCC's annual [Students of Color Career Conference](#) (SOCCC) on **Thursday, March 24, from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** Encourage students of color to complete the [SOCCC scholarship](#) – it just may that extra help for students to achieve their educational and/or career goals! Contact Esther Moss at 425-388-9306 for more information.
6. **Life in a Fish Bowl** – a WAEOP workshop, Saturday morning, Feb. 26, at Shawn O'Donnell's restaurant in south Everett. Guest speaker is Kathy Lech, President of NAEOP (National Association of Educational Office Professionals) presenting “Life in a Fish Bowl.” Great opportunity to earn points toward Professional Standards Program Certification.
7. **PUD art contest for K-12 students.** *Guess My Renewable Resource* poster contest. Entries due March 18. [Details and entry forms online](#).
8. **[WSU 4H Experiential Education workshop](#)**, April 1, 2 and 9, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day at Adopt A Stream, McCollum Park. [Full details](#) about this three day intensive workshop designed to increase your knowledge about facilitating team building and leadership development.
9. **[Camp Invention](#)** to be held again this June at Cedar Wood Elementary. Elementary students will be taking home copies of the [flier now online](#). Think about students in your class who might benefit by this summer enrichment.
10. **Upcoming retirement seminars** are held at Cascade High School. No reservations are required. Spouses are welcome.

Session II — Wednesday, Feb. 9 (4-6 p.m.)

WSSRA (Washington State School Retirees' Association)
Social Security Retirement and Medicare

Session III — Wednesday, March 2 (4-5:30 p.m.)

State Retirement Plan 1

Session IV — Wednesday, March 9 (4-5:30 p.m.)

State Retirement Plans 2 and 3

11. New online courses now available

- **Google Quick Start** - Google Docs is a perfect tool for classroom collaboration. You can create research groups so students can share their findings easily at home and school, use it for group projects or peer review. You will learn how to create spreadsheets, documents, presentations and surveys for your classroom as well as how to share finished products with parents and other classrooms.
- **Creating a Student Portfolio with Google Sites** - Portfolios can serve as a vehicle for enhancing student awareness of the processes and strategies involved in writing, solving a problem, researching a topic, analyzing information, or describing their own observations. Electronic portfolios that use digital storage processes allow students to present information, sound, motion, and color. Learn how you can use our EPS Google Sites to promote students creating a personal portfolio that can be private or shared with a limited audience.
- **Delving into Design** - Want to make your print or Web project effective and user friendly? Explore the four design principles: proximity, alignment, repetition and contrast as well as the design elements of images, color and typography. Hands-on projects will reinforce the concepts as you learn them.

Register on the [Course Registration System](#). Navigate to June 30 on the calendar and enroll in the course of your choice.

Other available courses include:

- Blog Blog Blog
- Building a CMS website
- Moodle Magic
- Working with Digital Images

Questions? [LauriBeth Hull](#)

KEY DATES – [important dates and celebrations](#) you won't want to miss planning for now!

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

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