

## News release



Everett Public Schools

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### **Fifth-graders give warmth to patients**

The crochet club at Jackson Elementary started last November as a way for Claire Baker's fifth-grade class to relax when they were feeling fidgety. "Everyone had to crochet a small section, and then they could turn in their hooks and quit forever," recalls Baker. "But at the end of the project, most of them wanted to keep going."

Students began meeting during lunch and rainy recesses to crochet. There were about 15 fifth-graders who were attending regularly, so the group decided to make it an official club. Now they meet weekly in the morning, before school. The club is committed to learning to crochet, and to donating their creations to those in need. The students are donating their first set of projects to Children's Hospital.

Heidi Zentz from Children's Hospital came by Jackson Elementary to pick up the donations on April 13, but before heading back to work, she was getting a few crochet lessons from the students. Heidi sat at the table, learning to crochet her own creation with the guidance of the students around her. "I'm so excited! EJ taught me to 'turn the corner' this morning."

Heidi presented certificates of appreciation to the students for their donations to Children's Hospital and shared how much the young patients would value their gifts. "Many patients keep the gifts they receive while they are in the hospital for many years after they are released."

As the boys and girls count rows of stitches, interpret patterns and plan their designs, they help each other learn new techniques. "It's great to see them get along so well during club meetings," shared Baker. "The focus is truly on the crocheting and helping others."

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