

News release



Everett Public Schools

Sept. 7, 2012

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New school year begins in brand new school

View Ridge Elementary, originally built in 1954, is new, two-story learning home, thanks to voter-approval of 2006 bond

On Sept. 5, approximately 450 elementary students entered their brand new View Ridge Elementary School for the very first time. All but the new kindergarten students attended school last year while the old View Ridge was being demolished and the new View Ridge was being created. Excitement, surprise, delight, oohs and aahs were the norm from the parents as well as the students.

The new 67,000 square foot, two-story structure replaces the former building built in 1954. The \$16 million construction was possible thanks to voter approval in 2006 of a construction bond. Immediately noticeable is the prevalence of natural daylight everywhere in the school. No matter where one stands, windows welcome daylight.

"Throughout the design process, people spoke of the need for light and openness," explains Principal Kert Lenseigne. "We love the fact that we can stand in the hallway and see outside and that light bathes every corner of the school."

Lenseigne reports that parents are just as impressed as the students. During the Sept. 4 open house when families got a sneak preview of the school, the general opinion was, "What a great place for my child to come to school."

The new school was deemed ready for staff on Aug. 20, and View Ridge teachers and support staff came well before the school year began – making sure the walls and halls were decorated and welcoming from day one.

Staff members are excited about the storage space that helps reduce clutter in classrooms. Here is a room dedicated to the elementary reading curriculum materials. "Everything is in one place and visible, instead of in various classrooms."



This group of first graders is excited to meet the school's construction project manager and giddy in anticipation of showing rousing "thumbs up" and echoing "thank you!"



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Although the school building is new, parts of its old self are still visible. Gone is the iconic circus tent covered play area. In its place, however, is a much larger, expansive play area that better meets today's school needs. And the pillars holding up the new roof are the original pillars that held up the circus top. Lenseigne is coy about the location of the big top's "whirligig," that once twirled in the high breeze. He will only say, "It's in a safe, undisclosed location and will be returned at a time and place to be announced."

Stay tuned for the "Return of the Whirligig!"

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