

From: [Waggoner, Mary](#)
To: [EPS.Maillist](#)
Subject: Jan. 14 NewsLinks for staff
Date: Monday, January 14, 2013 12:47:12 PM

...*NewsLinks*

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

Jan. 14, 2013 (*NewsLinks* articles are [archived on DocuShare](#))

IN THIS ISSUE

- [We have winners](#) in the Martin Luther King Jr. *Prodigies for Peace* contest
- What the [new marijuana law](#) means for school employees – schools remain “drug free” learning and work places
- [W-2 forms go green](#) – eliminate the paper; get your tax info faster!
- [United Way](#) – thanks for helping meet the district goal of more than \$120,000!
- [Students need shoes!](#) – Everett PTSA Council asking help for “shoe fund”
- [Wellness Challenge 2013®](#)
- [New IRS mileage rate](#)
- [Kindergarten registration](#)
- [News around the district](#)
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- [Key dates and celebrations you won't want to miss](#)
- [Policy and procedure updates](#) – always available [online](#).

WE HAVE WINNERS in the MLK art and writing contest ...

... but we can't tell you who they are yet. The winners will be announced at the city of Everett's [Martin Luther King Jr. celebration on Jan. 16](#). Watch the district homepage for the first place artwork created by one of our students.

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NEW MARIJUANA LAW CHANGES NOTHING ABOUT “DRUG FREE” SCHOOLS

When voters approved initiative 502, the new regulations about marijuana use changed nothing for public schools. It is illegal to have marijuana on school property, to be under the influence of marijuana at work, and for anyone younger than 21 years old to possess or use marijuana.

The initiative's removal of criminal sanctions for adults having small amounts of marijuana in possession does not make a bit of difference with federal law. The district receives federal funds and is required to abide by federal law and comply with the [Drug-Free Workplace Act of 1988](#) and the [Drug-Free School and Communities Act of 1989](#).

Also, the initiative does not affect the district's [Drug-Free Workplace Policy 5150](#). An employee who possesses, uses or is under the influence of marijuana on school district property or facilities or at any district events will be subject to disciplinary action and may put licensing or professional certification at risk.

Also, a Washington Supreme Court decision states that employers do not have to accommodate workers with a doctor's authorization to use medical marijuana ([Roe v. Teletech](#)). Having a medical marijuana card does not mean an employee may bring marijuana onto school grounds or come to school under the influence of marijuana.

Employees who must maintain a commercial driver's license (CDL) as an employment requirement remain subject to the drug testing provisions of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Act.

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W-2 FORMS AVAILABLE ON LINE, FOR FIRST TIME!

Employees can elect to receive 2012 W-2 Wage and Tax Statement electronically! Since your W-2 form contains your entire social security number and is sent through the mail, foregoing the paper copy reduces the possibility of identity theft.

Help secure your identify and be more sustainable; sign up to receive an electronic W-2 form today! You will also save our natural resources and money by eliminating the need to print and mail out W-2 forms.

You will still have the ability to view your W-2 form using the Employee On-line system. On-line delivery gets your W-2 to you earlier than the mailman.

If you consent to get an electronic W-2, you no longer have to hassle with a copy mailed to your permanent address. You can always get a paper copy from the friendly folks in the payroll office.

The W-2 consent form is [online](#).

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WE MET OUR UNITED WAY GOAL THIS YEAR!

Thank you to all who donated to help top \$120,000 this year and increase our staff participation to 20.15 percent! (Last year 19.53 percent of us donated \$116,143.) Lots of families in our district will benefit from your generosity.

SPEAKING OF UNITED WAY

United Way's free tax preparation workshops are happening now! Some of our donations help make these workshops possible for families and staff. Check out the [schedule and locations](#) for a workshop near you for FREE tax preparation for qualified households earning \$51,000 a year or less. Basic tax returns only. No appointment necessary.

Details about locations, hours, and what to bring are available [online](#). (And thanks again to the staff at North Middle School for hosting a tax workshop at their school again this year.)

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EVERETT 'S PTSA COUNCIL NEEDS "SHOE FUND" HELP

As of today, the PTSA Council has helped 361 students get new shoes - 250 to elementary students, 64 to middle school students, and 47 to high school students.

Right now, while we are experiencing the coldest winter weather, there is a waiting list of 71 students and no funds to purchase the shoes.

You can donate funds for shoes through your school's PTA or contact Michelle Sirkis at mandmsirkis@hotmail.com

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WELLNESS CHALLENGE® 2013

Enroll now in the new [Wellness Challenge® 2013](#) – To earn an incentive, it's best to get started early in each program cycle. If you enroll in the *Wellness Challenge®* by **Jan. 15**, you'll automatically be entered (but not obligated to participate) in the **[45 for 45 challenge!](#)** Need one-on-one support or have questions about the *Wellness Challenge®* 2013? Contact [Gail Buquicchio, Wellness Coordinator](#).

MILEAGE – IRS increases rate per mile

If you use a personal vehicle for official district travel, please note that the Internal Revenue Service has announced a change in the standard mileage rates. As of Jan. 1, 2013, the mileage reimbursement rate for miles driven while conducting official district business is **56.5 cents per mile**. This is a 1 cent increase. Full details are in the [Business Information Manual Section 1.05](#). Questions? 425-385-4170.

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KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration will begin at EPS elementary schools on Monday, March 11. Registration materials will be available on our [district website](#) on Monday, March 4, and in hard copy at schools on Wednesday, March 6. Contact [Lynn Lahey](#).

NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT

01.11.2013 [Heatherwood Middle School Advanced Band to perform at Northwest Conference](#)

01.04.2013 [Totem poles mark 50 years at Cascade High School](#)

01.03.2013 [Get FREE help applying for college and technical school financial aid](#)

12.13.2012 [Everett High School choir wows holiday crowds in Leavenworth](#)

12.11.2012 [Everett Special Education PTSA making a difference](#)

12.04.2012 [Nine members inducted into Cascade High School Athletics Hall of Fame](#)

12.04.2012 [Everett Public Schools Foundation awards 44 classroom grants](#)

12.04.2012 [Everett High School choir may appear on TODAY show. Dec. 25](#)

12.03.2012 [Two schools are Schools of Distinction for math and reading gains](#)

Two great articles in today's *Everett Herald*

- Sequoia's Enrique Gonzalez is "[Super Kid](#)"
- Cascade's students headed to D.C. for [Inauguration](#)!

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

1. **The League of Education Voters forum** Tuesday, Jan. 22, 7- 8:30 p.m. at King County Library Administrative Building with Representative Ross Hunter (D) and Senator Steve Litzow (R).

This is an opportunity to learn more about the competing visions for funding Washington state's public education in Washington -- the central challenge in the 2013 legislative session. This forum will give you an insider's view of the upcoming debate.

Topics to be covered:

- A brief explanation of the current budget shortfall in this biennium
- A brief explanation of the costs of meeting McCleary by 2018
- Contrasts in approaches from two legislative leaders to

address the issue and meet the Supreme Court's mandate.

Please RSVP to info@educationvoters.org.

2. [Students of Color Career Conference](#) (SOCCC) “Dare to Dream” – **Thursday, March 28 from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** EvCC’s 11th annual conference is geared towards middle and high school students of color in the Snohomish County area, but all Snohomish County middle and high school students are invited to participate. Last year, EvCC welcomed 1,400 students and anticipate more attending this year. There is no limit to the number of students you can bring. [Registration and scholarship applications](#) are due **Friday, March 1**.
3. [FREE whooping cough and flu vaccination clinics](#) for adults, Jan 18 and 26, courtesy of the Snohomish Health District. Available for low-income and uninsured adults only – first come, first served.
4. Would you or one of your students like to know more about volunteering? United Way is holding [volunteer training in January](#).
5. [University of Washington Math Day 2013](#) – Save **March 25** for Math Day fun with your high school students. Online registration for this popular event will open **Jan. 15, 2013**. You'll receive more details on this event once registration is underway.
6. [Recycle holiday trees for FREE at Everett Community College](#) - Community members can recycle their holiday trees for free at EvCC between 7:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. on weekdays, Jan. 2 through Jan. 30. Details available [online](#).

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OPPORTUNITIES IN BRIEF

1. [Sno-Isle TECH Skills Center](#), **Open House, Jan. 15, 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.** Sessions begin on the half hour and will involve interactive curriculum stations where students get a true feel for “a day in the life” of each of four popular programs. New applications for 2013-14 will be available on the [website](#) 7 p.m. Jan. 15, 2013, after the open house. Because of the popularity of Sno-Isle programs, they can guarantee interviews only for applicants who submit applications before Feb. 8, 2013 at 4 p.m.
2. Providence Regional Medical Center’s [2013 Summer High School Volunteer Program](#) takes place from June 24 through August 30 for interested sophomores, juniors and seniors between the ages of 16-18. This commitment requires 60 hours of service within their

hospital setting as well as one week of service at Camp Providence (a day camp in Everett for special needs children). Students can contact Volunteer Services at 425-261-4580 during the month of January 2013. **Deadline to sign up is Jan. 31, 2013.**

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

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES – All policies and procedures are [available online](#).

[New policy 6640](#), District Owned Vehicles, was approved by the board on Jan. 8, 2013

[New policy 8321](#), Care of District Property, was also approved by the board on Jan. 8, 2013

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Everett Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Designated to handle inquiries about nondiscrimination policies are: 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; 504 Coordinator, Linda Tyrrell, 4730 Colby Ave, Everett, WA 98203, 425-385-4064; ADA Coordinator, Kristine McDowell, 4730 Colby Ave, Everett, WA 98203 425-385-5250. (Email address for each is FirstInitialLastName@everettsd.org)