

From: Superintendent
Sent: Friday, November 08, 2013 3:57 PM
To: EPS.MailList
Subject: Veterans Day wishes and celebrations

Dear Colleague:

On the eve of Veterans Day weekend, we have those who sacrificed on our behalf to be grateful for. Throughout the district this week, students and staff have honored our country's veterans. Each year I hear from guests and speakers at these assemblies who are impressed by our students and the respect given to veterans in our district. Thank you and congratulations for these annual events which make positive impressions on those who attend.

This season, there is also much good news in our region and our district – some of which we will celebrate on Nov. 26 at the first school board meeting to take place in the new Community Resource Center at 3900 Broadway.

Jefferson Elementary is justifiably proud of fourth-grade teacher [Aaron Holmberg](#) who was just named by KCTS 9 as one of this year's Golden Apple Award recipients. Described as a kind of "Academy Award" for teachers, the Golden Apple Award recognizes extraordinary teachers – those who "transform lives" as Aaron is described as doing by Principal Elizabeth Nunes. I hope you can plan to join us on Nov. 26 at 4:30 when the board will also recognize Aaron for his work and his representation of all of the good work happening in our schools.

North Middle School and Silver Lake Elementary are both [Schools of Distinction](#) this year, and staff from both schools will be among honorees at the Nov. 26 board meeting. With this state honor, the schools are recognized as being in the state's top five percent of all schools. When you visit the Community Resource Center (CRC) to be part of this recognition program – or for any other district business – you will notice a long list of our district schools that have earned state honors since 2005. It's an impressive list that shows our improvement over time – and our commitment to each student's learning success.

Although not yet a "done deal," the potential for Everett's building the **777X** is also good news for many reasons. Boeing is one of our district's biggest supporters and strategic partners, and its families bring students and staff to our schools. Boeing team members play key roles in our volunteer force – just talk to a student or staff involved in a robotics program, for example. In fact, on Nov. 15, the Boeing Bluebills are being honored by the district science team – because of the thousands of hours they spend helping to assemble the science kits distributed to each of our schools.

Today (Nov. 8), the staff in the Educational Service Center on Colby are packing. My office, special services, curriculum, communications, categorical programs, teaching and learning, payroll, facilities and planning, some of the information systems department and some of the human resources department will be unpacking on Tuesday, Nov. 12 at the CRC to be ready for business on Wednesday, Nov. 13. Phone

lines will be up and connected, although you may find more options for voice mail on that Tuesday as information systems and maintenance connect the wires and systems to link equipment and phones to the network.

The Nov. 12 regularly scheduled school board meeting will take place at the Educational Service Center on Colby at 4:30 p.m. At the end of that meeting, Everett High School's NJROTC Cadets will retire our flag and officially close this building's service as a district support service center. *(Did you know the Colby office was built in 1964 specifically as a support service center? Contrary to what many have thought when first seeing it, this building was not built as a school.)*

Next Friday (Nov. 15), the remaining staff at Longfellow – the rest of human resources, finance, food services, wellness – and the staff in the portables at Jackson Elementary (assessment, STEM and CTE) will pack up in readiness for being open at the CRC on Tuesday, Nov. 18.

The staggered moving schedule means someone will always be available to respond to your needs and questions or those of the public – even during the move. I am excited to welcome you to the CRC for a casual visit or for official school district business – and I look forward to seeing many of you for the board meeting recognitions on Nov. 26. Everett High School NJROTC Cadets will present the colors at the beginning of that meeting and will be accompanied by the voices of other students helping us to open business in this new facility appropriately – with students at the center.

Last week I heard a story about a student hero. The story has been celebrated by the staff at Eisenhower Middle School, and today I share it with you as an example of what our students can teach us. In the words of coach Kirk Forsyth at Eisenhower about an incident at the All-League Championship meet:

During the race, an Alderwood Middle runner tripped a Heatherwood runner to the ground. Eisenhower's Gerardo Lopez was passing, yet stopped, helped the fallen runner to his feet and encouraged him by saying 'just keep running, and stay with us.' So they kept running, and both finished first for their teams and in the top 10 out of 119 runners.

Even though Gerardo led his team to victory that day, he chose sportsmanship and unselfishness over winning. That should make us all proud. In honor of this, consider your challenge today to carry out an act of simple kindness. Find out and remind yourself how it feels to affect someone in a positive way.

I am humbled and inspired by that story and suggestion as others have been – as I am humbled and inspired by all of the recognized and unsung accomplishments you are making every day for students. Again, thank you for all you do. I wish you time this weekend to relax and reflect on the importance of our work – and the significance of the sacrifices made by the veterans we celebrate with this holiday weekend.

Warm wishes,

Gary