

From: [Waggoner, Mary](#)
To: [Waggoner, Mary](#)
Date: Sunday, December 01, 2013 3:08:56 PM

From: Superintendent
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2013 12:49 PM
To: EPS.MailList
Subject: Reasons to celebrate
Importance: High

Dear Colleague:

Although last night's school board uber-celebratory atmosphere coincided with the eve of a holiday break, the fact is, there is much to celebrate in this school district and community – **all year long.**

Celebrating STEM and a new STEM center

Last night we introduced and thanked five community partners for making it possible to launch a district [STEM Center](#) – a program that will have lasting impact all year and into the future. With a \$70,000 Boeing grant written by the Everett Public Schools Foundation and supplemented by donations from the city of Everett, Providence Health and Services and Frontier Communications, we are further solidifying Everett Public Schools as a STEM district.

John Aultman, who comes to us with an impressive and successful classroom and business track record, begins work as Everett Public Schools STEM Director next Monday. His responsibilities include creating internships and externships for students and staff. He will develop, launch and monitor partnerships among the district, businesses, public and private organizations, and post-secondary educational and training institutions, helping to leverage district and community talent and resources and provide hands-on experiences for students and staff.

Celebrating STAFF and student success

Last night, we also recognized staff for exemplary work:

- [North Middle and Silver Lake Elementary](#) schools as 2013 *Schools of Distinction*. Follow that hyperlink for more details about these schools' state recognition and to find a list documenting the district's strong history of having high achieving schools recognized with this and other state awards.
- [Aaron Holmberg](#) of Jefferson Elementary School as a *Golden Apple Award* winner – an award given by the public television station KCTS-9 to those who “are making a positive difference in Washington state education.” When we know the time and date of the special featuring Aaron and the other state awardees, I will share it with you.
- [Sonja Delefosse](#) as one of the WORLD's Microsoft *Expert Educators*. Sonja is one of only 250 chosen from among 23,000 applicants from more than 150 countries. When you watch the [video](#) Sonja produced about the STEM project she helped coordinate with Barney Peterson of Monroe Elementary and Darcy Walker of our Facilities and Planning Department, you see why she was selected – and how STEM teaching and learning is being infused by staff and

students.

Celebrating STUDENTS and leaders who came before us

As befits a student-centered organization, this first board meeting held in the new Community Resource Center began with district students as keynote performers. Cascade High School vocalists, led by Laurie Cappello, sang *The Star Spangled Banner* and *America the Beautiful* as the backdrop to Everett High School's NJROTC Cadets' presentation of the colors.

Also fitting was the attendance last night of 10 former school board members and one former superintendent (Bob Anderson, Paul Baldwin, Sue Cooper, Ed Diamond, Kristie Dutton, Paula Kelley, Mark Nesse, Ed Morrow, Paul Roberts, Shirley Vandermeer, Roy Yates, Paul Sjunnesen)

Together, these individuals have given 98 years – almost a century of service – laying the foundation for our successes today. Their vision, leadership, fiscal stewardship and commitment are among the reasons we have modern, safe, technology-infused schools in which to work, learn and grow.

Celebrating FUTURE WORK, the planning to make it possible and WHAT that work will make possible

The board approved [two crucial resolutions](#) that place two finance issues on the ballot for Feb. 11, 2014:

1. Resolution 1072, Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy. This four-year levy provides \$1 out of every \$4 of the district's operating budget and provides funding for textbooks, curriculum materials, salaries and programs that support student graduation success and academic rigor.
2. Resolution 1073, a Capital Bond which will make it possible, among other things, to modernize, replace and/or upgrade existing facilities (including Woodside Elementary and North Middle and Cascade High science building), begin phase 1 of a larger high school in the south end of the district, build elementary school number 18, add elementary classroom space in preparation for full day kindergarten and K-3 class size reductions authorized by the state legislature. More details about other bond specifics, including educational technology, heating, ventilation, roofing and security projects will be available on the website and in district publications beginning in December.

Celebrating and thanking YOU

Last night, when Aaron Holberg was being honored as a *Golden Apple* honoree, he summed up the spirit of the meeting – and the spirit of the district beautifully. He acknowledged gratitude for his designation as an “apple” and added that apples are only possible because of the tree that supports them.

Thank you, Aaron, for that image. We are all apples sometimes and supportive branches at other times. May each of you enter this joyous season with those most dear to you and in celebratory knowledge that your work makes a difference now and far into the future.

Looking forward to seeing you in December!

Warm holiday wishes,
Gary