

From: Superintendent
Sent: Sunday, December 08, 2013 5:57 PM
To: EPS.MailList
Subject: Warm Thoughts during Cold Times
Importance: High

Dear Colleague:

Some of us have been tucked inside and warm this weekend -- or deliberately enjoying the crisp, sunny weather. Other district staff have been making sure our schools and support facilities are holding up in this unusual, bitter cold. Please join me in thanking our maintenance and custodial crews for their diligence in protecting our facilities and doing their best to make sure students and staff have fully functioning and warm learning and work places on Monday morning and through next week.

Throughout the cold spell, all facilities will remain at 69 degrees at night. That will help keep systems from freezing and shorten the "warm up" time required for student and staff arrival each morning. Our security staff have been carrying out their routine rounds AND checking inside and out for weather-related issues.

Crews have been on duty at Silver Lake this weekend as a result of a fire sprinkler leak, and a staff member will stay at the school all night on "fire watch" until the sprinkler system is again functioning.

You may already know of the great teamwork at Madison Elementary on Thursday when utility problems shut down the school's heating system. School staff, transportation staff, maintenance crews, food service staff and others rallied immediately. They diverted bus students to View Ridge for the day, where instruction continued as usual, but in a new location. Other Madison students and staff gathered together with space heaters rounded up by maintenance. They also continued with instructional activities "in community." Students learned much that day -- certainly their academic subjects and also about the benefits of having good plans, a sense of humor, resilient and flexible responses to the unexpected and about how school adults safeguard their welfare.

Madison parents learned quickly Thursday morning that students were safe and warm, and we kept parents "in the loop" throughout the day. Eventually we were able to tell folks that "... all is well; the heat is restored, and school will resume as usual on Friday."

This collective and immediate response is an example of what many Everett staff first described to me four and a half years ago as *The Everett Way* ... and I continue to be thoroughly impressed at how strongly that *anything-it-takes* value thrives in our culture. Thanks to all of our colleagues who pulled together in these instances, and thanks in advance to all who will respond to what will certainly be future instances of doing the right thing, at the right time, in the right way for the people who need us at that moment.

Very, very warm wishes -- and wishes for a warm spell,
Gary