

From: [Cohn, Gary](#)
To: [EPS.Maillist](#)
Subject: Happy Spring Break!
Date: Friday, March 28, 2014 10:22:00 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
Importance: High

Dear Colleague:

This is the time of year that we get a little more tense, our kids get a little more squirrely, and we all breathe a sigh of relief when the last bell sounds before the break. No matter how much we love what we do, how dedicated are we to our work, our profession, our kids, we revel in the relief and relaxation that spring break brings to our lives.

This year, though, spring break comes this year tinged with sadness and compassion for families and neighborhoods in the Darrington and Arlington school districts, where good folks just like you and I are coping with the unimaginable devastation of the 530 slide. As a school community, we know the emotional impact of losing an adult or student. The news reports tell us that slide has taken at least two dozen people, left dozens more unaccounted for, and sent waves of grief with each new release of information.

On Tuesday our school board took a moment of silence to remember the lost, the surviving, and those who are called to service in the Oso communities. Our students and staff have already launched a number of relief and fundraising efforts.

We can all help the relief efforts in ways that we choose – whether large or small. One small way is to adhere to the county's request to rely on their [Snohomish County website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages for the latest and most correct information. With today's electronic communications methods, information both correct and incorrect spreads in thousandths of a second. Snohomish County frequently updates their information to help us appropriately help others – and to keep us accurately informed.

From a purely objective perspective, the massive response, relief and communications effort is a logistics wonder. From my perspective as a superintendent relying on such partnership support in the event of a community tragedy, the effort is reassuring and heartening. We are indeed fortunate for the high caliber and professional emergency response network in this region.

Whether you are taking time off during this year's spring break or are working during those days, I hope you take some quality time to rest and rejuvenate – and perhaps to reflect upon people in your life and the many gifts we sometimes take for granted. I hope you remember, even if only for a few minutes, how important it is to make each day matter – for ourselves and those around us.

I look forward to your safe return on April 7!

Warm wishes,

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p.s. We do not have the authority to lower the U.S. or state flags on our own; it takes presidential or gubernatorial orders.