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...NewsLinks

A newsletter for the staff of Everett Public Schools

Dec. 16, 2014 (*NewsLinks* are [archived on DocuShare](#))

IN THIS ISSUE

- [United Way pledge forms due Dec. 17](#) – That's tomorrow!
- [Three-minute Common Core State Standards tutorial](#) – CCSS explained in quick video; what are the standards, why they are good
- [Broadway bridge project to last longer than expected](#)
- [Hawthorne's loss and their 20-year-old scholarship program](#)
- [News around the district](#) – good news happening everywhere
- [Opportunities in brief](#) – short reminders about really good things
- [Key dates and celebrations](#) you won't want to miss
- [Policies and procedures](#) – [always available online](#)
- [Safety reminders](#) – from the friendly folks at the risk management pool. They have a sense of humor, a legal responsibility to remind you of these things – and they really do care.

UNITED WAY FORMS DUE WEDNESDAY, DEC. 17

Don't forget this last-minute opportunity to "do a good thing" for the year. Be sure your United Way pledge form is turned in to the friendly folks in the Foundation office at the CRC by Wednesday.

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS TUTORIAL

[In just three minutes](#), learn what the standards are and why they are good for students and communities. Share with others who have questions.

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BROADWAY CLOSURE COULD EXTEND THROUGH ALL OF 2015

Preliminary work began Dec. 15 and could extend into early 2016. (Earlier projections thought it would only last through fall 2015.) Traffic will be [re-routed around the bridge](#), so check out a new way around if you usually use Broadway. Read more about the construction and [detour and alternate routes](#) on the city of [Everett's Public Works website](#).

DO YOU HAVE CONNECTIONS TO HAWTHORNE ELEMENTARY?

For many years, the staff, family, friends and parents of Hawthorne have supported a scholarship program for students graduating from the district who attended Hawthorne. Most of the money has come from a goodie box/soda and water in the staff room, raffle baskets each month in the staff lounge and an end-of-the-year silent auction for staff and others who love Hawthorne.

This December, Hawthorne had five themed raffle baskets displayed and open to all who visit the school or have fond memories of having worked or attended there. The baskets were raffled off at their Hawthorne on Display event last week. You can also see the 20-year list of recipients of this generous school award. Want more details? Contact [Janet Loesche](#).

Now would be a good time also to extend your thoughts to Hawthorne staff who have lost a dear co-worker. Leticia (Letty) Simon joined the staff at Hawthorne in 2005-06. She was an ELL paraeducator at Hawthorne and brought a very special spirit and energy to that program, her students and to all who were fortunate to work with her. Letty lost a brave battle with cancer earlier this month.

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NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT

Like knowing what's happening in the district? The [Everett Public Schools Facebook](#) page is a great way to read [Points of Pride](#), [news releases](#) and learn about [events](#) (see photos as they happen). If you have a Facebook account, please **like** our page so you can stay in the loop!

2014.12.11 [Cascade High School automotive students win skills competition](#)

2014.12.08 [Elected officials gather to visit about schools](#)

2014.12.05 [47 grants, totaling over \\$35k, awarded to classrooms](#)

Coming in January – Robotics wins, musical group honors, P-3 certification, and more!

OPPORTUNITIES IN BRIEF – quick reminders of past notices

1. Eisenhower Middle School Rubrik's Cube Club will host a Rubrik's Cube competition on Saturday, Jan. 31 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. It is open to all students in Everett Public Schools and will include team and individual competitions. Students can earn trophies, awards, and gifts. Teachers, students or parents can register (registration is free) by contacting [Wayne Thomasson](#), Eisenhower Rubrik's Cube Advisor, at 425-385-7611.
2. **Know a student who is helping improve race relations** in their schools or communities? Encourage them to apply for **The Princeton Prize in Race Relations**. [Apply online](#) or by mail. Application deadline is **Jan. 31, 2015**.
3. If you or anyone you know is facing foreclosure, a state-run program may be

able to help. The [Foreclosure Fairness Program](#) (FFP) provides homeowner foreclosure assistance by offering FREE housing counseling, FREE legal aid to low and moderate-income households, and low-cost mediation for eligible households. Learn the [facts about foreclosure](#).

4. **Do you know an exemplary math or science teacher in grades 7-12?** 2015 Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) nominations are now open! More information is on the [website](#). Deadline is April 1, 2015.

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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](#).

Recent revisions include:

[2410](#) and [2410P](#) High School Graduation Requirements

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SAFETY REMINDERS – From the friendly folks at the Risk Management Pool

Winter break and inclement weather bring added safety risks. Provided below are some friendly tips and reminders to keep you safe and prevent theft and vandalism over this holiday season and throughout the school year, brought to you by the Washington Schools Risk Management Pool. While these thoughts are intended for schools, they are good reminders for our homes and cars too.

Putting the brake on theft and vandalism

- **Lock all interior doors** and **keep your window coverings closed** so no one outside is tempted by what you have inside.
- **Lock up portable electronic equipment** when you aren't using them.
- **Don't keep student valuables** and turn in all cash and checks at the end of each day.
- Report any graffiti immediately. Remember, the motto is, "Report, record and remove." All you need to do is the "report" part, so someone else can do the rest.
- Do not leave school files and records unattended. (This might seem like a "duh," but there is big money in data breach business.)
- Give visitors a friendly reminder to check in at the front office if you see someone wandering without a badge.

Damping the possibility of a fire

Did you know that half of school fires are set intentionally and that one fourth of

those are set in easily accessible trash bins?

- Keep flammable materials to a minimum and **take flammable wastes** to an outside metal trash can or dumpster.
 - **Don't let waste materials and trash accumulate** inside or outside. Do you use oily rags for school projects? Then put them in metal trash cans with self-closing lids.
 - (Another “duh” here) **Keep the fire exits clear** so that you and everyone else can get out.
 - Do not cover hallway walls with more than 20 percent combustible items. That puts a damper on paper displays and also cuts down on what can flame up if there is a fire.
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Preventing “slip sliding away”

Almost a quarter of the risk management pool client losses are because of trips, stumbles and falls. It's not that school folks are clumsy; we just need to be better at “86ing” the most common causes of falling:

What can make us fall when inside

- **Wet floors at entrances** -- because people track in mud, rain and snow. Wipe your feet on those walk-off mats, and tread lightly in the Jimmy Choos.
 - If you don't see the walk off mat at the doorway, let your friendly custodian know it's missing.
 - Watch out for each other. If the weather is bad, consider extra cautionary signs to catch people's attention.
 - Walk, don't run, and remind kids to walk too.
- **Extension cords** and other trip hazards.
 - If you have to run an extension cord, always tape it down. The custodian has supplies and is happy to help.
 - Keep coats, backpacks and other items out of walkways. Those empty arms and random straps are wicked ankle grabbers.
- **A chair is not a ladder**
 - Never use chairs or other furniture as substitute for a ladder – even for short people. Use a stepstool, or get someone taller to help you, or forget the task.
- **Drinking fountain leaks** or dropped food
 - If you see spilt milk (or any other liquidy stuff) report it. Be sure others in the area know it's there. (It's icky to fall, and some stuff is icky to fall in.)

Things outside that can be dangerous

- **Watch for/report trip hazards** such as exposed footings, ruts, holes, rocks,

debris, tree roots, and uneven surfaces on playgrounds, recess areas, parking lots, walkways and athletic fields. (Surely, the list is not 100 percent complete. Some of us can trip on anything! Be careful out there!)

- **Is the light too low to see well?** Are there pot holes, lack of curb and speed bump markings or ice? Let someone know BEFORE someone gets hurt.
- **Watch for gaps, inadequate railings, and general maintenance issues** in the grandstands and bleachers.
- **Match your footwear** to the weather conditions. (What does that say about those Jimmy Choos?)

Thank you for your ongoing support (and sense of humor) to maintain facilities that are safe for our students, staff, and visitors. Have a wonderful and safe holiday season!

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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 Office – Carol Stolz, cstolz@everettsd.org, 425-385-4106

Title IX Officer – Randi Seaberg, rseaberg@everettsd.org, 425-385-4104

504 Coordinator – Becky Ballbach, rballbach@everettsd.org, 425-385-4063

ADA Coordinator – Kristine McDowell, kmcdowell@everettsd.org, 425-385-5250

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