From: Cohn, Gary
To: EPS.MailList

Subject: Happy New Year & Welcome Back!

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Dear Colleagues:

It happens every time I return home from a trip. It happens every time I return to school after a break.

I experience that welcome, warm "ahh" one feels when travels and celebrations are over and I'm nearing home and seeing familiar landmarks and places again. It is good to be away for a time, to reconnect with family and friends, to see new places and people, and to see and experience different perspectives. And it's singularly pleasant to return to the comforts of home – to the sweaters and slippers that fit so well, to the greetings of neighbors, and to the familiar aroma of the coffee maker and comfort of that favorite couch.

I used to feel the very same way when I opened my classroom after a long break and my kids returned from their break, and I felt the very same when returning to the office this morning to the greetings of people I know and with whom I am so very proud to work in Everett. The familiar here is comforting, and encouraging, and supportive; and I know the challenges ahead are invigorating and that my colleagues and I will rise to them.

I look forward to the New Year with you, and hope you are as happy to be back in our schools as am I. Welcome back, and Happy New Year! It's a pleasure to be here with you.



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