

**From:** [Cohn, Gary](#)  
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**Subject:** Happy Spring Break!  
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*"I can see clearly now the rain has gone."* This [Johnny Nash classic](#) has mysteriously become a pleasant little "ear worm" this week – probably because of the incredible sunshine and anticipation for some rest and relaxation coming with our spring break.

I do wish you and yours ONLY pleasant little ear worms and lots of well-deserved rest and regeneration over these spring break days – whether you are on duty during spring break or enjoying some time away from our work.

Our school board and I will spend four days during spring break at the [National School Board Association annual conference](#) in Boston (where the temp will dip into the 30's while our area is basking in almost 70). We will be concentrating our learning from national education leaders and successful schools on policy and community leadership to support technology infusion into classrooms, more successful ways to overcome the impact of poverty, expanding equity and access for all students, what the new federal *Every Student Succeeds Act* means for our schools, and more.

Typically, several directors attend this national conference as a part of their professional development, and come away having learned from what other leading districts in America are doing. As important, our directors gain affirmation of the positive power of continuous improvement work in which we're successfully engaged here in our Everett Public Schools. What you do every day inside the classrooms and around our schools far surpasses what is happening in so many of the schools in our nation. We always learn something at the conferences, and we always share something that helps other districts succeed – and often entices them to come visit our district to see your work first hand. This is a measure of the quality of your collaborative efforts with colleagues, the commitment to **each** student on every day we give to our profession, and our belief in the importance of always learning from others and being willing to share.

Thank you for the work you do, the examples you set, and the differences you make for **each** child in our school district. Enjoy your spring break, and delight in the time you are able to spend with family, friends, and colleagues. Each day we are together is a gift, and I am grateful for your gift to our community.

Warm regards,

Gary

p.s. After break, the tangled results of this Washington State legislative session should be unraveled enough to portray a picture of how legislative decisions have helped – or **not** helped – support our work and our communities' children. I'll be in touch, maybe with a different ear worm by then. Take care.



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