

From: [Cohn, Gary](#)
To: [EPS.Maillist](#)
Subject: Welcome Back!
Date: Monday, April 10, 2017 9:31:14 AM
Attachments: [image003.png](#)

Dear Colleague:

"How did it get so late so soon? It's night before it's afternoon. December is here before it's June. My goodness, how the time has flown. How did it get so late so soon?"
--Dr. Seuss

Welcome back from spring break! Did you know that last month the world celebrated Dr. Seuss' 113th birthday? Our schools and libraries were rockin' in rhyme in honor of the man, his genius, the Lorax, the *green eggs and ham* and the places we'll all go. Every time I hear those memorable quotes from a Dr. Seuss character whose trials and travails enthrall children and adults, I can't help but chuckle. Don't you?

The man's genius is evident in lesser known comments about his art. He once said about writing a book in verse, *"... to be successful, it has to sound like you knocked it off on a rainy Friday afternoon. It has to sound easy ... "*

Good results are seldom "easy" or knocked off on a wet or dry Friday afternoon. In fact, it took Dr. Seuss, nine months to perfect *Green Eggs and Ham*. While I won't compare our nine-month school year to his classic book, I would like to acknowledge what we achieve in a single school year (and over the 13 years most students are with us) may seem "easy" to non-educators looking in. I know, and you know our work is anything but easy.

Graduation rate increases, soaring numbers of students in Advanced Placement and College in the High School classes are results that took years of an entire pre-K-12 system to achieve. Those results will take more effort and more people to maintain so our graduates are ready for *"the places they will go"*.

Another year of outperforming the state on all SBA tests at every grade resulted from thousands of hours (including hundreds of Learning Improvement Fridays) by teams determined to help our kids shine. We are about to start those SBA tests again this year. I am eternally grateful (and so is our community) for the teams who have been working months to ensure the students (and the systems) are ready for yet another smooth testing season this year.

We know fully educating our communities' children takes more than schools, and it takes more than 13 years in schools. That's why the district's next community symposium is about **Early Learning** – and that's why the symposium includes community partners and parents. AND that's why I hope you'll consider attending.

On Saturday, April 29, at Evergreen Middle School, we will spend from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. learning together about how to capitalize upon the fact **90 percent of a child's brain growth happens**

BEFORE age five. Every dollar invested in high quality early childhood education **SAVES** at least \$7 on social costs later and **INCREASES** economic and educational outcomes. More information about the symposium and its speakers [is online](#). If you want to join the conversation, please RSVP **by April 14 at EarlyLearning@everettsd.org or call 425-385-4024**. As Dr. Seuss would say, *“Nothing is going to change, unless someone does something soon.”*

Planning for and building schools is also considerably more than a Friday afternoon knock-off project. In 2016, voters approved funds to build more classroom space, and many more projects. Just how we do that and how we prepare for much needed additional space after the 2016 bond funds are expended is another long-range planning process. As I mentioned in the message I sent you before spring break, we are once again using Thoughtexchange to gather community and staff ideas for future classroom needs – and to find out which ideas resonate the most with stakeholders. The “Star” process is underway now. Even if you missed out sharing ideas, you can weigh in online about what others think.

Our facilities and planning staff and our school board truly must keep many balls in the air to ensure current bond funds are spent wisely to get desired results AND to think ahead to anticipate what the community expects and students need for schools in the future, AND how we can pay for those schools. They appreciate and incorporate the ideas and perspectives you and others share through Thoughtexchange and other community engagement activities.

Thanks for your focus this year and for your continued day-by-day love of the work, and the fun, ahead in our less-than-three months of this most important work.

And, because I love Dr. Seuss’ wisdom so much, here’s a parting thought: *“Children want the same things we want. To laugh, to be challenged, to be entertained, and delighted.”*

Welcome back, happy spring, and sunny good wishes!

Gary



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