



# *Our Schools*

... where students achieve to high standards and learn to lead and shape the future.

Winter 2017





# Outstanding students

## Gov. Inslee visit

**Governor learns “what’s working” from district students and staff**

The governor visited classrooms at Garfield Elementary School Jan. 13, reading his book to students and inviting questions as he toured the school, recently recognized with a Title I Academic Achievement Award. He specifically visited a kindergarten classroom to learn about kindergarten readiness from students who have benefitted from the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP).

The governor met with counselors and teachers to learn about the district’s collaborative approach to applying social and emotional services to help at-risk students and close the achievement gap. Before his departure, the governor joined teacher Mary Ouedraogo and her fifth-grade students to hear about rigorous learning experiences and their hopes, aspirations and needs for the future. Read more at <http://bit.ly/InsleeAtEPS>.

*Below: Gov. Jay Inslee visits with Garfield Elementary School’s mascot during his visit in mid-January.*



## Shoelace Brigade

**Students teaching students at Penny Creek Elementary**



“Sixteen very excited fourth- and fifth-graders joined Penny Creek Elementary School’s newly formed Shoelace Brigade to help students learn to tie their shoes!” said Susan Wood, PE teacher.

The Shoelace Brigade is the brainstorm of Wood. “After noticing many students unable to tie their shoes in PE, I thought maybe we could use older students to assist the younger ones,” said Wood. “I had fourth- and fifth-graders apply to the Shoelace Brigade. They use their time in the morning before school, while students are waiting for class to begin, to work with students who need help practicing.”

Teachers hand out yellow passes to students who could benefit from help learning to tie shoes. Before school in the courtyard, the Brigade helps kids with a pass. “Each trainer collects the passes and is trying to teach 10 lessons. When we have worked with 160 kids they will get an ice cream party,” shared Wood. Students can get a pass each day until they feel confident tying their shoes.



## 2016 Board of Distinction award Second time in three years for board

Everett Public Schools Board of Directors has been named a Board of Distinction by the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA). It is one of 24 school boards across the state to receive this honor this year and was recognized in November during the annual WSSDA conference in Spokane.

The annual Boards of Distinction program honors school boards that demonstrate effective use of the Washington School Board Standards. The standards, developed and adopted by WSSDA in 2009, promote research-based governance practices that lead to high levels of student and district achievement, and help close the opportunity gap.

"We are honored to have received this distinction twice since 2014 for our school board governance and leadership," said President Ted Wenta. "Over the last several years, we have grown exponentially as board members. Board members have diverse opinions and ask difficult questions because we take our responsibility very seriously and want to demonstrate to our stakeholders the value and confidence in the decisions we make."

Everett's nomination highlighted many accomplishments aligned with WSSDA's standards and core principles, including accountability, seeking divergent perspectives in decision making, adopting a collaboratively developed district plan focused on learning and achievement, and employing and supporting quality employees.

Read news release at <http://bit.ly/2g2jJQq>.



Board of Directors, L-R: Traci Mitchell (Legislative Representative), Carol Andrews, Pam LeSesne, Ted Wenta (President), Caroline Mason (Vice President)

## Superintendent of the Year Dr. Cohn receives top honor from WASA



Dr. Gary Cohn was named 2017 Superintendent of the Year by Washington Association of School Administrators (WASA). The award recognizes outstanding leadership of active, frontline superintendents and pays tribute to those who lead public schools.

"It is a tremendous honor to be selected Washington's Superintendent of the Year," shared Superintendent Gary Cohn. "Anyone involved in schools today knows this type of recognition is an indicator of an outstanding team of professionals in a school district: teachers, principals, support staff, district leaders, and school board directors who are committed to the success of each student. Everett's team is truly exceptional in working with students, families, community, and partners to remove barriers to success, and in its unwavering commitment to continuous improvement in student achievement. It is a great privilege to serve as superintendent of Everett Public Schools, to be able to work with so many outstanding professionals committed to ensuring each student graduates career and college ready."

As the state's Superintendent of the Year, Cohn will be a candidate for the 2017 American Association of School Administrators' (AASA) National Superintendent of the Year Award. The national award will be announced in March at the AASA National Conference on Education in New Orleans, LA.

Read news release at <http://bit.ly/2g6ftMT>.



# Outstanding staff

## Gail Walters honored as a Conservation Leader of the Year

### Changing the landscape of sustainable growth at schools

Gail Walters, Henry M. Jackson High School's Project Green Team advisor, was honored by Snohomish Conservation District as a 2016 Conservation Leader of the Year.

"We're honoring a diverse set of local leaders this year – from commercial farmers to urban residents and children to elders," wrote the Snohomish Conservation District board and staff. "One thing is for sure, this year's recipients are an incredible group whose collective accomplishments are sure to inspire others to take action to make this world a better place."

Under Gail's leadership, her Green Team students transformed a compacted patch into a sustainable landscape at Henry M. Jackson High School in Mill Creek. Her students have also removed invasive species behind their school and are currently evaluating potential green stormwater infrastructure projects to further reduce their storm water impact. Gail is an exceptional example for other teachers because of her outstanding commitment to engaging her students in relevant environmental projects."

In addition to the above projects, her students have worked on reducing energy use and emissions from stalled vehicles at the beginning and end of the school day. Gail's students have earned their school the distinction of being a Certified Washington Green School.

Conservation Leaders were honored at the Better Ground Showcase on Dec. 1, at the Rosehill Community Center in Mukilteo.

*Left: Henry M. Jackson High School teacher Gail Walters directs work as she and students build a sustainable garden on the school campus.*



Our **students** will **lead** and **shape** the future.



## Bond and levy projects underway

### More project updates to follow

As the projects funded by the 2016 capital bond and replacement levy approved by voters last April develop, we'll highlight one or two in each edition of *Our Schools*. More details on each project will be available on the district website.

### Technology



#### Equitable access to technology for all

In keeping with the community's expectation that "each" student achieve to high standards, district staff has presented an integrated technology plan to the board for review. The plan proposes replacing outdated technology and improving the infrastructure to accommodate new technology. The proposal would give teachers and students access to a computer device.

Today's successful workers are expected to come into their careers skilled using technology, doing research and using common software. The proposal is designed to give students experience and training needed to be successful in the modern economy and provide teachers with tools and training to use technology to stimulate learning.

The integrated technology plan is already in action. Beginning this school year, teachers received tablet devices and training on how to support learning and integrate technology into their instruction. Staff devices were funded by the last of the 2010 technology bond.

This coming fall, using funds from the 2016 bond and levy, about 2,000 students at Everett and Sequoia high schools will receive their devices as the first deployment in a six-year plan to rollout student devices. The district will also replace about 4,000 Chromebooks, a device students use for taking Smarter Balanced Assessments as well as for everyday learning.

District cybersecurity and network infrastructure will also be updated.

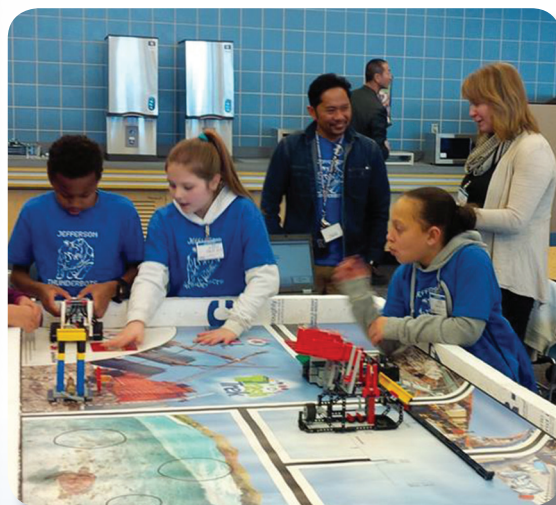
## Computer Science for all

### Student learn coding and more

Students all over the district participated in many activities during Computer Science Education Week, Dec. 5-9. Students, depending on grade level, participated in activities such as Bootstrap (think computer science meets math), coding, robotics and more.

The Beyond the Hour of Code event was cancelled due to bad weather, but will be rescheduled later this school year.

The annual observance, designated by the U.S. House of Representatives, is scheduled during the birthday week of computer science great Grace Murray Hopper. The district recognizes the transformative role of computing and the need to bolster computer science at all educational levels.



*Above: Every school in the district now has a robotics club. Last spring, Jefferson Elementary School demonstrated their robotics skills at The Boeing Company.*

# Growing pains

## Enrollment growth

### Focus on the high schools

Everett Public Schools is an ideal place to live as reflected by its growing enrollment. Over the next several years, we expect to welcome nearly 1,500 more students--more than 800 students at the high school level.

To accommodate the steady increase in enrollment, the district has adjusted boundaries and added portables to school sites. We currently have 15 portables at our high schools. The district would need to add up to 26 more portables at Cascade and Jackson high schools by 2023, if a long-term solution is not achieved. And, it is estimated that 1,049 high school students would be in portables by 2023.

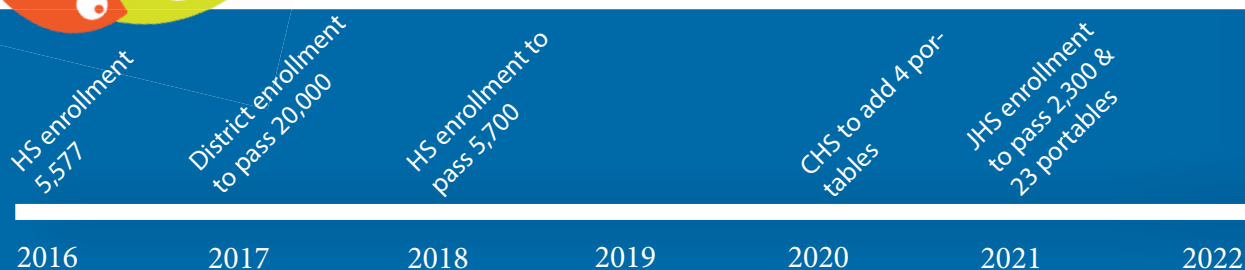
By 2025, Cascade and Jackson high schools would be over capacity by more than 900 students and Everett High School would be nearing building capacity. High school enrollment is projected to steadily increase well after 2025 as the district continues to grow.

There are many possible solutions to handle the growth in schools, including a new high school, boundary adjustments, busing to other schools, and schedule changes. See facing page for opportunities to learn more and share your thoughts about planning for current and future growth.

## Did you know?

- More than 800 high school students will join the district over the next several years.
- Enrollment at Jackson High School is over permanent building capacity now.
- Jackson High School will be over 2,300 students and require 14 more portables by 2021.
- Cascade High School will have over 2,100 students by 2023.
- 1,049 high school students will be in portables by 2023.
- Everett High School will be near building capacity by 2025.
- Nearly 1,500 more students will join the district by 2025.

High school capacities and enrollment			
High School	Capacity	2016 Enrollment	2025 Projected Enrollment
Cascade	1,801	1,774	2,089
Everett	1,897	1,461	1,661
Jackson	1,765	2,133	2,387
Sequoia	336	195	274
Totals	5,799	5,577	6,411



It takes four years to design and open a new high school.





## Your input is important!

The Board of Directors will be asking you to share your thoughts this spring:

### ThoughtExchange, beginning March 1

Join the online conversation facilitated by sharing YOUR thoughts through a company called ThoughtExchange. Share your thoughts on the district, impacts of enrollment growth and long-term solutions. You'll have a chance to see what others are saying too, and "star" the comments you agree with or like most.

### Telephone Town Hall

This winter, the school board will host an opportunity to call or log in online and provide input and ask questions related to the district, enrollment growth and long-term facility needs.

### Board work session, March 30

The school board will conduct a special session to receive updates on enrollment trends and high school capacity. An opportunity will be available for community members to speak one-on-one with board members. Location: Henry M. Jackson High School, 1508 136th St. SE, Mill Creek, WA 98012

## Music4Life

### Have musical instruments to share?

*Music4Life* is a nonprofit that acquires "lovingly used" musical instruments from adults who no longer need them, repairs them and provides them to participating public school districts for use by students who need them. Everett Public Schools is now partnering with *Music4Life* with the goal of making our band, strings, and orchestra programs accessible to children whose families cannot afford instruments.

Check your basement and attic to see if you have a buried musical treasure that can be repurposed to enhance a student's experience in our school district. Learn more about *Music4Life* and how to donate. Be sure to let them know you are supporting Everett Public Schools' music program. Thank you!

For questions related to the *Music4Life* program in Everett Public Schools, please contact Georgia Lindquist, Humanities and Literacy Curriculum Specialist, 425-385-4064.

*Below: North Middle School band students help unload the first delivery of 40 instruments from Music4Life.*



CHS exceeds  
2,100 students  
& 13 portables

2023

JHS exceeds  
2,400 students  
& 28 portables

2024

EHS near  
capacity of  
1,661

2025





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**Leanna Albrecht**, *Director, writer, photographer*

**Diane Bradford**, *Coordinator, writer, photographer*

**Linda Carbajal**, *Administrative Assistant, writer, photographer*

Everett Public Schools shall provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, veteran or military status, the presence of any physical, sensory or mental disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a student with a disability.

Designated to handle inquiries about nondiscrimination policies are:

Affirmative Action Office – Carol Stolz,  
[cstolz@everettsd.org](mailto:cstolz@everettsd.org), 425-385-4106  
Title IX Officer – Randi Seaberg,  
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Everett Public Schools is celebrating its 125th year. Share your stories and photos with [communications@everettsd.org](mailto:communications@everettsd.org) or on social media channels (Facebook: @EverettPublicSchools; Twitter: @EverettSchools). Use hashtag #EPS\_125 to include your posts in the stream!

## Grad rates inch even higher over 90%

### Laser-like focus and innovation pay dividends

Everett Public Schools graduation rate for students who graduated in four years has risen from 90.2 percent in 2015 to **90.9 percent for the class of 2016**. More than nine out of 10 students graduate on time.

For students who chose a five-year path to graduation, the rates are equally impressive. A year ago that number was 94.5 percent. This week the state confirmed Everett Public School's **five-year graduation rate in 2015 as 94.7 percent**.

