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Attachments: [image003.png](#)

...NewsLinks

A Web-based newsletter for the staff of Everett Public Schools

Nov. 15, 2013 (NewsLinks are [archived on DocuShare](#))

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Winter Break is from Dec. 23 through Jan. 3.** Students and staff return to school on **Monday, Jan, 6, 2014**. The printed calendar doesn't clearly show there is **NO SCHOOL on Jan. 2 and 3**. Enjoy!
- **[Support services departments are almost finished with move](#)** – Longfellow, Center and Jackson Elementary portables will be in the CRC by **Nov. 19**
- **[Mailman Mike asking for your help!](#)** – Please add department names to the intradistrict mail items
- **[Nov. 26 board meeting full of celebrations](#)** – Join in celebrating school and staff accomplishments at CRC meeting beginning at 4:30 p.m.
- **[Parents excited about expanded Highly Capable program options](#)** – District is opening Highly Capable testing to ALL first-grade students.
- **[Setting the record straight about cost of PSAT for all juniors](#)** – What does the district pay to offer this test free to all juniors?
- **[News around the district](#)** – Good news happening throughout the district
- **[Opportunities for staff and students](#)**
- **[Key dates and celebrations](#)** you won't want to miss
- **[Policies and procedures](#)** – [always available online](#)

LOOKING FOR SUPPORT SERVICES?

As of Monday, Nov. 18, all support services staff will be relocated to the Community Resource Center at 3900 Broadway. Some of the departments previously located at Longfellow will be unpacking on the 18th and will be open for business on Tuesday.

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MIKE MORAN IS ASKING FOR YOUR HELP!

Mike is now sorting all of the intradistrict mail coming into the CRC. He can better assure quick delivery of your items to the right person if you include the DEPARTMENT NAME with the person's name on the outside of the mail you are sending.

We all appreciate the quick and efficient service provided by Mike and the other maintenance staff who make this internal "Pony Express" work so well for us. They say

“please” and “thank you” for adding those department names on the envelopes.

NOVEMBER 26 IS FIRST BOARD MEETING IN COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER

This is also a meeting for a number of staff and school recognitions. North Middle and Silver Lake Elementary schools will be honored as [Schools of Distinction](#). Jefferson Elementary School's [Aaron Holmberg](#) will be honored as a KCTS 9 Golden Apple winner, and we will hear high school student vocalists who are headed to the all-state musical competition. Everett High School NJROTC students will present the flags in the new board room which is big enough for more than 100 people to sit comfortably!

The meeting begins at 4:30, and the festivities are early on the agenda. During this meeting, the school board will be discussing, and possibly deciding, what to put on a construction bond request and a replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy for February 2014.

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PARENTS EXCITED ABOUT EXPANDED ELEMENTARY HIGHLY CAPABLE OPTIONS

The district's Highly Capable elementary program begins in second grade. Up until this fall, first-graders tested for the program were limited to those nominated by parents and staff. This fall, to expand the program to more students, the district made the pretesting option available for all first-grade students who have parent permission.

“Parents are very excited and enthusiastic,” said Student Support Services Director Becky Ballbach who coordinated this year's expanded testing opportunities. “We've had more parents come to information sessions than ever before.”

The letter announcing the program to parents explained the rationale behind the expansion: “One of the district's strategic targets is ensuring that *each student has equitable access to rigorous curriculum content*. When more students have a chance to take the CogAT, it is likely that more will ultimately end up in more Highly Capable classes in the future.”

Ballbach further notes that the expanded rigorous options for elementary students is aligned with the high school efforts to encourage all students to complete the FAFSA (a process that helps uncover financial support for post-secondary education) and giving the PSAT free to all juniors. Both are ways to encourage students to aspire to life-long learning and the education or training beyond high school that increases chances for successful careers.

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SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT – THE COST OF GIVING FREE PSAT TO ALL JUNIORS

The College Board charges \$14 plus tax to anyone (school district or commercial vendor) who administers the PSAT to students. For students who qualify for free and reduced lunch, the College Board fee may be waived, or cost approximately \$5 plus tax.

When the **district** gives the PSAT test to high school juniors, those juniors pay no test fee because the test is given during the school day by staff who are working that school

day and in district classrooms. The district pays \$14 plus tax for each of the majority of students and the reduced (or waived) fee for each student who qualifies for free and reduced lunch.

Commercial PSAT vendors rent school district space during non-school hours and hire proctors to administer PSAT. Those vendors pay the College Board \$14 plus tax for each test and a reduced (or waived) fee for students of low-income families. To cover the rental cost and pay proctors, **the vendor adds more to the basic College Board test cost**. In our region, the going rate commercial vendors charge for taking the PSAT is \$25.

Before 2012, all juniors who took the PSAT paid either the \$25 rate or a reduced or waived rate, depending upon economic status – because the PSAT was only available during non-school time from vendors who charged the basic fee PLUS operational costs. **For two years now, the district has saved families that \$25 fee (or the reduced rate) by making the test available to EACH student at no cost.**

A recent newspaper article erred in reporting the district paid \$25 per test. Once the tally of how many free or reduced qualifying students took the October test is complete, the College Board will bill the district – an amount estimated to be about \$9,000.

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BING FOR SCHOOLS LAUNCHED INSIDE THE DISTRICT

If you use the search engine BING, you will notice that the interface on district computers looks different than it used to. What's different about it? There are no ads!

Bing for Schools offers ad-free search results with enhanced adult filtering and privacy protections and easy activities to help kids learn search skills.

There are even lesson plans for teachers to use for grades K-4, 5-8, and 9-12 – all aligned with Common Core standards to make them easy to use. Bing's home page activities also promote digital literacy and critical thinking.

Watch for more information coming about *Bing for Schools* and how Bing's rewards program enables students, staff or parents to collect "points" to earn a Surface RT 32GB computer for your school.

NEWS AROUND THE DISTRICT

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

11.07.2013 [Four seniors from Henry M. Jackson High School signing letters of intent](#)

11.01.2013 [Common Core is a living wall at Hawthorne Elementary School](#)

11.01.2013 [View Ridge Elementary School celebrates October 31 a different way](#)

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS AND STAFF

1. Snohomish County Human Rights Commission is hosting a celebration of [International Human Rights Day](#) on Tuesday, Dec. 10, and students in grades 3-5 can share in this festive event.
2. [Winter 2013-14 Fifth-Grade Ski & Ride Free Program](#). Falling in love with the mountains through skiing and snowboarding can be life-changing, and that's why Stevens Pass and Carter Subaru have teamed up to offer FREE season passes to Washington state's fifth-graders.
3. [Suicide is preventable](#) – Know the warning signs and get help. About 80 people take their own lives every year in Snohomish County. Each suicide could have been prevented. By comparison, Snohomish County traffic deaths average about 53 every year.
4. Mill Creek Lions Club is hosting a [Craft Bazaar](#) tomorrow, Nov. 16, at Penny Creek Elementary School. Mill Creek Lions Club supports our students with college scholarships, international youth exchange, health screenings for underprivileged kids, and more!
5. [Free in-person help to enroll in affordable health insurance](#). *Good choices available in the Washington Health Benefits Exchange*. In-person assisters housed at Snohomish Health District & 17 other sites in the county.
6. **Prodigies for Peace 2014 Essay Contest Grades 3-12**. The Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Celebration Committee is proud to announce the [Prodigies for Peace](#) Writing Contest for the 13th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration in January 2014.

The **Prodigies for Peace** Writing Contest helps students draw connections between the people and the events that shaped the civil rights movement and the social issues that influence their lives today. Participation in this contest helps our local community remember and celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Entries are due no later than 5 p.m., Dec. 13, 2013.

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](#).

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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:

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