

From: [Cohn, Gary](#)
To: [EPS.Maillist](#)
Subject: Celebrations and Giving Thanks
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Good morning! I hope you had a great weekend and have started your week anticipating great pre-holiday days with kids and then a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. I can tell you for certain that I did, and I am. And after a tense and very slippery drive over Stevens Pass this last weekend, I am reminded that you and I enjoy more blessings than we know.

By now it's likely you have learned that our school board was honored by their peers at [WSSDA](#) not just once, but twice this month. First, the [Board of Distinction](#) honor was awarded to our board and to 16 other large and small Washington state school district board.

Second, our board was selected [Board of the Year](#) in the large school district category. (The honor was also awarded to two other district boards: Union Gap, a small district, and University Place, a medium-sized district.)

Our directors were quick to acknowledge the foundations for earning these state honors were laid over several years, reflecting years of community-minded governance by past board members. The award also reflects the quality staff in our schools and our support operations.

School board members know that many long meetings and public scrutiny come with their positions. Those challenging aspects of school board membership vanish when directors visit classrooms, when they attend SOSRs, when they witness our work to support each child's learning, and when their neighbors share a story about how well school is going for their children.

I know from listening to board members that they are humbled by our work and terrifically grateful for what you do each day.

When they attend a conference to learn about successes across our state, and they receive compliments and questions about how we accomplish what we do, our board members give credit to you, to our families, to our supportive community, and to our amazing students.

Our board members are very grateful for your having helped to make our students' successes possible. They extend their gratitude for your work and dedication to making Everett Public Schools such a superb school district in our state.

At the same time, I extend my thanks to these dedicated elected leaders for their remarkable, steady, and principled leadership over the past several years, and to you for making this another great year for each of us.

It's only a matter of hours before we depart for a holiday with warm family traditions and deep meaning – one in which giving thanks for our many blessings is the center of our time with loved ones.

I wish you the very best for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Warm regards,

Gary



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