

From: [Cohn, Gary](#)
To: [EPS.Maillist](#)
Subject: Gifts of Joy & Holiday Wishes
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Good morning!

It's a wonderful Friday: our last school day before winter break! How fast this fall has gone! Now 2014 is slip sliding into 2015, and "the season" is upon us. What a good year 2014 has been for us as a district, and how I anticipate what 2015 holds for each and all of us!

We've enjoyed some remarkable honors and tremendous blessings this year. Our kids have done well if not exceptionally on any measure I can think of, our incredible staff continues to lead the state in so many truly meaningful ways, and several of our district leaders have received exceptional accolades. We have strong, principled, and collaborative leadership in our school board, and there isn't a day I walk into schools that I'm not tremendously impressed with the quality and character of the staff and student leadership with whom I meet and am privileged to work.

My anticipation for 2015 includes great eagerness to be in schools, on fields and at courtside, and in conferences with individuals like you who value our work and the impact we have on our communities' children. When I think of the selflessness with which our counselors gave to our neighbors in Marysville, when I observe the awesome gift of food our students (at every level) collect and give to those in need, when I see student leaders jump at the opportunity to set positive, caring examples for their peers and younger students who look up to them, I am overwhelmed with a sense of gratitude, of pride, and of awe at what I have the privilege to witness here. Ok, yes, and there is the occasional tear when the musical performances are so outrageously good they make your bones just hum and fill you with the blooming warmth of pure joy.

It's difficult to think of a better blessing for the season than knowing we each make such a difference, one student at a time. Than knowing we're contributing to a better day and a better tomorrow for a kid who looks up to us, or a colleague who depends on us. Than seeing high school students tell a library full of middle school students not to waste a single day because the experience at high school is so good you shouldn't miss any of it ... and that there is always, always, always someone who is there for you ... just ask. Wow. What a gift to be present in and part of our schools on such a day.

Please, enjoy your very well-deserved winter break and cherish the time with those you love. Whatever challenges await us will still be there when we return. May 2015 bring you and those you love good health, good fortune, and bountiful joy from your daily acts on behalf of those for whom you care. Sue and I wish you and yours the very, very best of the holidays, and I look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Take good care.

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Dr. Gary Cohn

Superintendent

gcohn@everettsd.org

425-385-4009 | 425-385-4002 Fax