

Our Schools

WINTER 2019 NEWSLETTER



FEATURE ARTICLES

- The new elementary school has a name
- The "drive" to help others
- Digital Learning Ambassadors





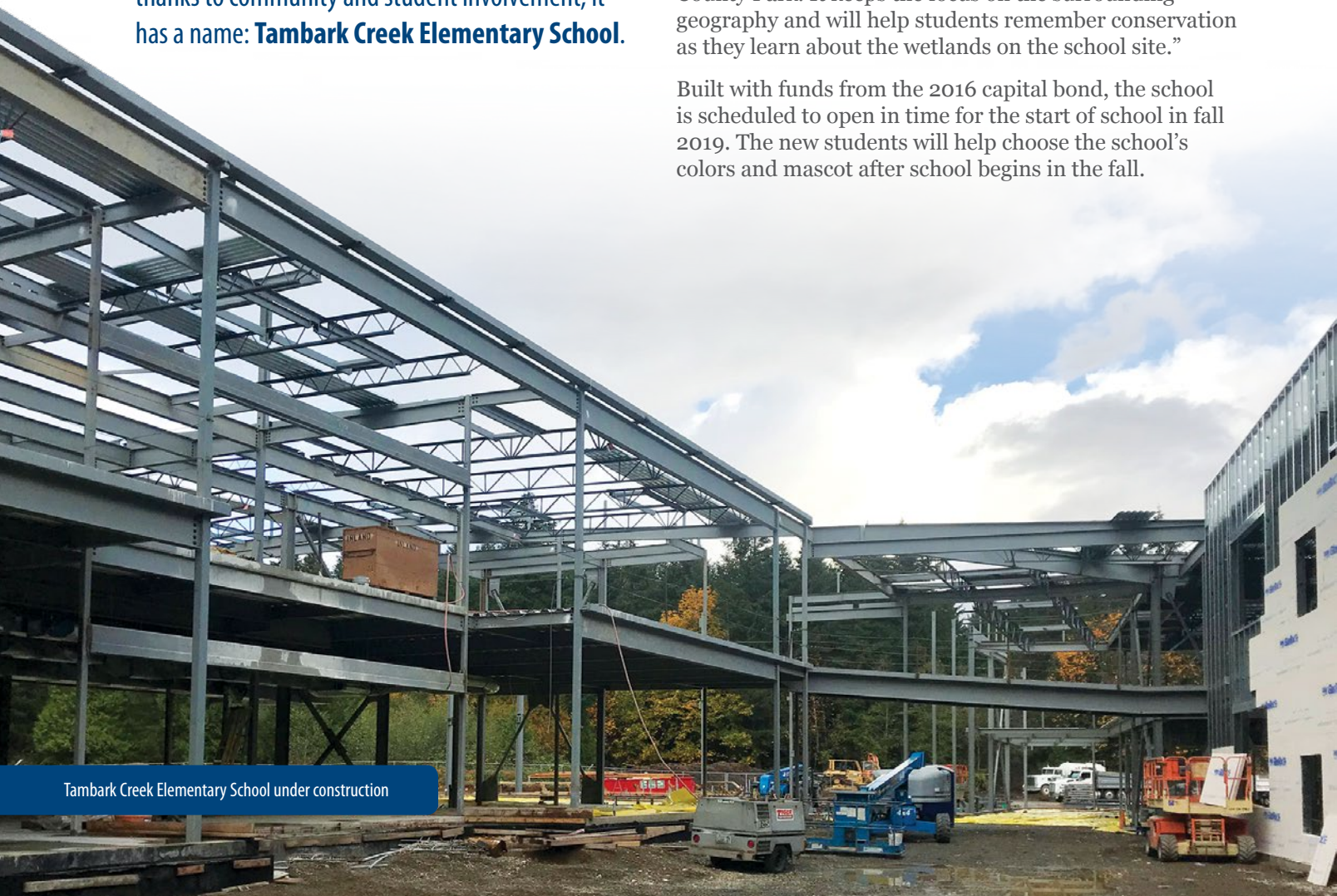
The new elementary school has a name

Since the June groundbreaking, there has been nonstop work in the area east of Sunset Road on 180th St. SE, the site of the new elementary school. It is starting to look more like a building now, and thanks to community and student involvement, it has a name: **Tambark Creek Elementary School.**

At the December 4 board meeting the committee provided to the board of directors the top eight names generated by the public process with rationale for each. The board considered the names and had the opportunity to consider other names in their final selection.

“All of the names presented to the board had merit,” stated Carol Andrews, newly-appointed board president. “In the end, the board felt Tambark Creek Elementary was the best representation for our new school. The school overlooks Tambark Creek and Tambark Creek County Park. It keeps the focus on the surrounding geography and will help students remember conservation as they learn about the wetlands on the school site.”

Built with funds from the 2016 capital bond, the school is scheduled to open in time for the start of school in fall 2019. The new students will help choose the school's colors and mascot after school begins in the fall.



Tambark Creek Elementary School under construction

The “drive” to help others

Blowing on their cupped hands, breath frozen in the air, Cascade High students were ready to deliver donations of food and gifts throughout the community just before winter break.

These students, gathered in the cold, dark, early morning hours, were the lucky ones whose names were pulled by lottery from the over-full sign-up list.

Many schools throughout the district hold food drives and do tremendous good in the community. But for the high schools, the food drives can be a highly-coveted community experience with students “canning,” or gathering donations at local grocery stores. They also sign up to “shop” the gathered donations, putting together hundreds of holiday packages for families in need. Students clamor for the experience of delivering the goods to families, arriving at school in the dark, crisp early morning hours to pack their cars with donations.

Cascade High School held their 57th annual food drive just before winter break. They gathered 79,432 cans of food, \$29,884, and over 1,850 gifts to help families.

Obadiah Ortiz-Miglorie has helped with the food drive all three years he’s attended Cascade. “The first time I was a freshman and I came in during shopping day and I saw the whole gym filled with food. It’s like nothing I’d ever seen before. It’s like our own, like, little grocery store.”

Cascade junior Irie Aburto shared, “It’s really important for our community because some people are less fortunate, especially during the holidays. We should give back as much as we can.”



Would you like to help at a School?

Consider volunteering. You can apply online at www.everettsd.org/volunteer. As an approved volunteer, you can volunteer anywhere in the school district that needs support.

Contact your neighborhood school to see what volunteer opportunities might work for you. You may be a classroom helper, day field trip chaperone or library helper in-the-making.



Watch the video at
<http://bit.ly/CHSfooddrive2018>



Some history

In March 2016, Student Technology Summit students had strong opinions and clear advice.

- There aren't enough computers in schools; each student should have access to one all the time – at school and at home.
- Not everyone has internet at home; it is a learning "basic" every student needs.
- School networks must be more reliable and robust.
- Some students are more tech-savvy than others, or even the adults; students and adults need training.

The district took student advice and expertise of the Technology Advisory Council to heart.



Voters approved the April 2016 capital levy, making it possible to act on both groups' advice.

- 2018-19 is year two of the one-computer-to-each-student plan, also known as 1-to-1. By 2022, each student will have access to a technology device. Middle and high school students take one home each day. Elementary students have a dedicated device waiting at school each morning.
- Students in low income families may qualify for FREE internet service through a program with the Sprint Foundation.
- The network can now reliably handle demands of students, families and staff accessing online resources.
- Student Digital Learning Ambassadors (DLA) work side-by-side with teachers to troubleshoot, teach, and support students and adults using technology.

Digital Learning Ambassadors – an idea is born!



Sarah Pewitt is a High School & Beyond Facilitator, with responsibilities tied to helping students graduate. Anne Carnell is a Director in the Learning and Information Technology Department. Pewitt and Carnell are each Microsoft trainers and have taught students and adults.

Pewitt explains an "aha" moment. "In summer 2016, we were working with the first batch of teachers whose students would get a laptop along with textbooks that fall. Jeff Utecht was here, sharing his internationally recognized expertise with the teachers – helping us change how we teach from the time of computers-in-the-back-of-the-room to computers-on-every-desk. We realized while teachers were getting training for the 1:1 shift, some students might be left thinking, 'Now I have a device ... how do I use this to learn?' That was an 'aha' moment for us."

Pewitt and Carnell note it can be a mistake assuming all students are tech savvy just because they grow up surrounded by technology. Students need help learning to use the tools, just as teachers do. So while the district had a plan and process for teacher training, Pewitt and Carnell set out to augment that with a system to help students too.

The concept for the first student group started at Everett High School. They worked with EHS librarian Deb Payne and a group of eight eager students. They recruited more from the student body leadership, DECA and AVID. "In January 2018, we trained some ninth- and tenth-grade AVID students," said Pewitt. "The next month, our group had a logo and the official name Digital Learning Ambassadors. They worked side-by-side with Jeff Utecht at a parent technology information night. They were a huge hit with the parents – and with a very-impressed Mr. Utecht."

The Children's Internet Protection Act



The Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) requires K–12 schools and libraries in the United States use Internet filters and implement other measures to protect children from harmful online content as a condition for federal funding. Everett Public Schools includes filters on all computers and works with students and families to emphasize digital safety and citizenship.

The program is growing and expanding

By summer 2018, the duo had a solid plan to expand DLA to Cascade and Jackson high schools and to train those students before school began in September. Students who signed up and were accepted into the DLA program were assigned laptops before school started and began training sessions in August. The response was greater than expected, so they created a waiting list and set up more training sessions to coincide with the days just before computer distribution to students at each school.

The planning and ideas for program expansion continues as Pewitt explains, “At Everett High School, we are working to have DLAs co-teach device orientation sessions for incoming ninth-graders and for new students. And we are working on a Level 2 DLA program. In concert with Deb Payne, we will continue training new DLA members.” During the school year and in the summer students attend a series of training sessions Carnell and Pewitt – and students – lead.

The benefits are more than they expected, Carnell explained. “Our vision was to train and empower students to be digital leaders wherever they were, whether in one-to-one classrooms or one-to-many. That is happening. Students in the DLA program have digital tools and are gaining leadership skills. They are empowered to be technology leaders, helping peers and adults. In this collaborative, community-oriented program, students AND teachers working together are opening doors to new learning opportunities that extend beyond classroom walls.”

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The DLA concept drew national attention. In December, Carnell and Pewitt spoke about the program at the AVID National Conference in San Diego because other districts want to emulate what is happening here. Their session was so popular, conference organizers asked them to present a second time so more attendees could learn about students’ roles in Everett’s technology program.

WHAT ARE STUDENTS SAYING?

“As a high school student, I have never witnessed or been a part of ‘behind-the-scene’ district processes. I now attend the Technical Advisory Council which discusses ideas, plans, and projects for implementing technology into schools in the district, so I find it very interesting as a student to see how this process works. I enjoy having a voice and a say in what technology will be used in the district.”

— Sara Bibbs

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“The thought of helping myself and others better understand technology just sparks a light in me. I am always for learning something new and using it to help others become better.”

— Dorcas Wairera



GRADUATION RATES JUMP TO 95.7%

Our graduation rate jumped even higher. Now 95.7 percent of our students graduate on time! Learn how strategic staff actions helped bring the graduation rate from 53 percent just 15 years ago to this year's all-time high. <http://bit.ly/2018gradrates>



Innovation Expo June 5

Join us for interactive booths from every school in the district at this year's Innovation Expo June 5, 5-8 p.m., at Angel of the Winds (formerly Xfinity) Arena. Each school's booth showcases something the students at that school are learning. Community partners join in the fun with their own interactive booths representing innovation of regional industry.

The STEM competition gathers the best student projects from around the district and students share what they learned by doing them.

This event is free and open to all ages. Learn more at www.everettsd.org/expo.



We're hiring!

If you've ever wanted to help in a classroom, or lend your talents at a school, apply to be a classroom paraeducator, a food and nutrition employee or a school office professional! Everett Public Schools is hiring both substitute and regular positions, full- and part-time.

- **Paraeducators** in Everett Public Schools provide instructional and functional support to classroom teachers to support student learning. They may assist with playground supervision, small group instruction, student hygienic or nutritional needs or assist a student with mobility in a school.
- **Office professionals** assist school staff, parents and others in school offices as well as the district central offices.
- **Food and nutrition** staff prepare and serve student breakfasts and lunches.

Substitute rates of pay have the potential to increase with long-term assignments. Beginning rates are:

- **Paraeducator** substitute: \$14.95/hour
- **Office personnel** substitute: \$14.94/hour
- **Food and nutrition** substitute: \$14.24/hour

Look for the employment icon on www.everettsd.org to apply.



High school boundary change work

The High School Growth Mitigation Planning Committee was formed to help reduce enrollment at Jackson High School, and there is still opportunity for your input.

Last fall the board of directors requested revision recommendations to high school enrollment boundaries beginning fall 2020. They noted the recommendations might also include complementary and practical program changes, portable classrooms, and minor schedule changes.

The committee consists of community members from each of the three comprehensive high school regions: Cascade, Everett and Jackson. It will make its recommendations to the superintendent by March 31, 2019, with no changes implemented before fall 2020.

The committee held a forum at each high school at the end of November. After reviewing community input from the approximately 140 participants at those forums, the committee is developing a preliminary high school boundary change proposal to present to the community for comment at two evening community forums. The same information will be shared at each forum.



FORUM 1



FEBRUARY 6th

**Gateway
Middle School**

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

FORUM 2



FEBRUARY 7th

**Cascade
High School**

6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

An ongoing link is available for community members to provide additional feedback to the committee based on suggestions recorded in the posted meeting minutes.

For information and feedback visit
<http://bit.ly/HSgrowthcommittee>



Family resources

Could you or a family you know use some help? Find information and links to helpful resources on the district's Parent Tools webpage:

- ★ Washington State Library – local and regional information about services and agencies offering help to families in a variety of ways including food, shelter, clothing, childcare, legal services, employment opportunities and counseling
- ★ Everett Public Schools Kids in Transition (KIT) program – supports homeless children and youth to continue their education
- ★ Help for military families
- ★ Snohomish Health District for Snohomish County community dental resources for children and adults
- ★ United Way of Snohomish County – 2-1-1 is a free telephone number that is your best “first call” to quickly find the right source of help. The information line is staffed by trained operators from Volunteers of America Western Washington who can connect you to a wide range of community services.



Parent Tools: www.everettsd.org



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Board of Directors: (back row) Pam LeSesne, Traci Mitchell,
(front row) Caroline Mason, Jamyang Dorjee Nhangkar, Carol Andrews

Board of Directors

- Carol Andrews
- Caroline Mason
- Traci Mitchell
- Pam LeSesne
- Jamyang Dorjee Nhangkar

Superintendent

- Dr. Gary Cohn

**Designated to handle inquiries about
nondiscrimination policies are:**

Affirmative Action Officer
Randi Seaberg, rseaberg@everettsd.org
425-385-4104

Title IX Officer
Mary O'Brien, MO'Brien@everettsd.org,
425-385-4106

504 Coordinator
Becky Ballbach, rballbach@everettsd.org
425-385-4063

ADA Coordinator
Becky Clifford, rclifford@everettsd.org
425-385-5250

The district 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.

Board of Distinction

In 2014, 2016, 2017 and again this year, Everett Public Schools board of directors earned high honors from its peers – the designation as a Board of Distinction.

At the annual Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) November conference in Spokane, Everett's school board once again was among the state's Boards of Distinction. Of the state's 294 school districts, only 29 were honored with this award.

Each year the WSSDA awards program establishes criteria upon which boards will be judged. This year, boards were required to report their progress in areas deemed as essential or "standard" for highly effective school boards. These standards of effectiveness include narrowing the opportunity gap, providing rigorous curriculum for all students and giving students access to technology and high quality learning facilities. Everett's 2018 nomination highlighted the board's work to increase students' math skills and the community-involved process of selecting math curriculum materials. In May, the board approved Illustrative Mathematics and earmarked \$126,000 per year to buying replacement and consumable materials for the program. The board also established teacher training and family outreach to streamline the materials' use and success at school and at home.

Everett's 2018 nomination highlighted the board's work to increase students' math skills and the community-involved process of selecting math curriculum materials.

This year's nomination also noted the district's K-12 Integrated Technology Plan and the impact of putting individual learning devices into the hands of each student between now and 2022.

When learning about the award, then Board President Caroline Mason recognized the board as part of a team that works on behalf of each student in the district. "As board members, our focus is on governance which provides the framework for each of our students to learn to high standards. We are successful only when school staff, parents and our community partner together to work toward this common goal."

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Our mission is to inspire, educate, and prepare each student to achieve to high standards, contribute to our community, and thrive in a global society.