



Serving Enumclaw and Black Diamond



December 2016

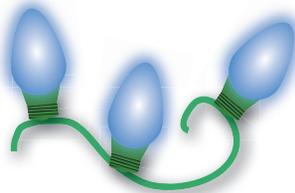
2929 McDougall Avenue, Enumclaw • 360-802-7100 • www.enumclaw.wednet.edu • f EnumclawSchoolDistrict YouTube

## In Partnership with You



One of my favorite things is seeing homes decorated with lights (both inside and out) during this time of year. I remember lying in my bed when I was a little boy seeing the colored lights through the drapes on my window. I also remember my dad not enjoying the process of hanging the lights! In our 30+ years of marriage, I have been relatively lucky with lights, but not this year.

Here are the Nelson's statistics for a few weekends ago:



- Number of trips to the store for additional lights: 3
- Number of strands of lights that didn't work coming from our closet to the outlet: 2
- Number of strands that needed work on pre-lit trees: 2
- Number of strands that didn't work after they were hung: 2
- Number of light bulbs broken while attempting to hang them: 2

Seeing the lights all work after many days and hours: Priceless

I've had the chance to read in all kindergarten classrooms during the last couple of weeks. As a former elementary teacher and literacy specialist, reading to students fills me with pure joy....a perfect gift for the season! Becoming a reader and writer happens at different times for our students. We may need to put in extra time and effort to develop strategies for helping a student unlock his or her personal literacy code.

Like putting up lights, helping students joyfully become proficient readers and writers takes patience and persistence. More importantly, it takes caring adults (like you) to share your passion for literacy with our students. My great nephew Henry just finished his first chapter book, Beverly Cleary's Ribsy. I loved reading Ribsy as a little boy and I am thrilled that Henry has discovered the joy of reading about this famous dog. Who is a "little one" in your life that you can interact with about a book?

Experiencing the literacy light bulb go on in our students: Better than Priceless!

## Be READY! For Kindergarten

**ATTENTION PARENTS:**  
Don't Miss the Bus



Our parent education series continues on January 12, 2017 with a focus on Math. The class is open to all parents of children ages 3-5 who are not yet enrolled in kindergarten. Every enrolled family receives:

- Free parent workshops!
- Free materials and toys!
- Free child care during the class!

Thank you to Enumclaw Schools Foundation who provides an educational grant to cover the costs of this series. The class is taught in English and Spanish. Call Sheila at 360-802-7125 or visit [www.ReadyforKindergarten.org/enumclaw](http://www.ReadyforKindergarten.org/enumclaw) to register.

## Construction Updates

Weekly updates are available on our website at [www.enumclaw.wednet.edu](http://www.enumclaw.wednet.edu) then click on "Capital Projects and Construction Updates."

### Black Diamond Elementary School

The construction crews have been busy! The front entrance along with a second floor balcony have taken shape on the west side of the building. To the south, the gabled roofline mimics the original two-story Black Diamond schoolhouse from the early 1900s. Historical photo is used with permission from the University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections (WAS0917).



### Enumclaw High School

Most teachers are packed up and ready to shift classrooms in preparation for the start of construction! Mr. Jacobson assured us he is only bringing the essentials into the newly renovated computer lab in the 1000 wing.

Phase 0: The 1000 wing remodel is still underway with sections nearly completed. The portables now have ramps and electrical, and will be ready for classes in January.



## Calendar of Events

For event details, visit [www.enumclaw.wednet.edu](http://www.enumclaw.wednet.edu) or contact the school.

12/19	School Board Meeting	1/17	School Board Meeting
12/21-1/2	No School, Winter Break	1/20	Child Find Screening
1/3	First day of school in 2017!	1/20	Early Release
1/3	School Board Work Study	1/26	State of Enumclaw Education Address
1/6	Early Release		
1/12	READY! for Kindergarten Class	1/27	Early Release
1/13	Early Release	1/27	High School: Semester Ending
1/16	No School - MLK Jr Day		

# Ready. Set. Robotics!

Shared by Thunder Mountain Middle School student, Katy K.:

Mrs. Horton's Robotics class went to the Washington State University branch in Spokane on November 4th to see the Da Vinci Surgical Robot. It was definitely worth the five hour drive.

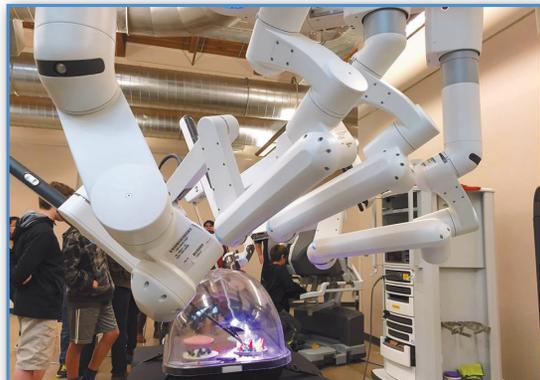
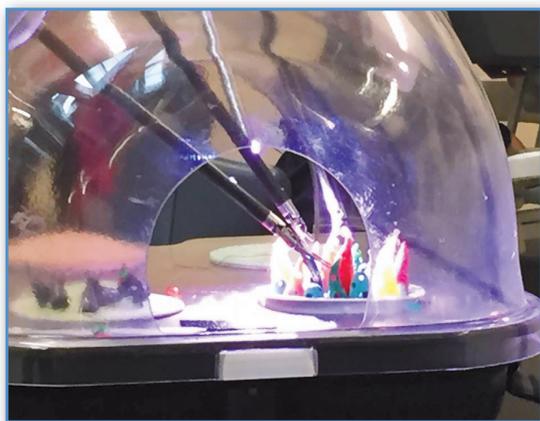
One of the many things we got to do was use a robot that would simulate what it was like to run the real Da Vinci surgical robot, using virtual reality. It was the same robot surgeons use to train for surgeries! The goal was to take these little rubber rings and place them over some cones that were color coordinated. The computer then graded us on our how well we did and gave us our skill level, a score out of 100. We had competitions to see who could get the highest score. I got 80.8 when I tried which was the high score for the day!

Then we got to go operate the real Da Vinci robot. We could maneuver the camera and arms just by using our hands and feet. You put fingers into little slots that attach to the robot, and move your arms to reach out and grab objects on the table. With that we could move our hands around to manipulate the arms, and the actual arms of the robot would mimic what our hands did. In order to feel like you are actually in the surgery you also put your head into these glasses on the robot that make everything three-dimensional. So as I would reach out and grab something I saw on the screen, the actual robot would do exactly what I would.

They had a penny on the table that I could pick up and with the camera I could zoom in on it and even see the little Abraham Lincoln on the back. As I played around with the robot there was a monitor so other people could watch was I was doing.

As we got to run it, some surgeons who actually use the Da Vinci robot showed us videos of real surgeries. I learned that the reason they have two different types of claws on the arms is because one works to pick up things, while the other is used to pull and hold tissue. They also showed us the engineering in the arms and how they move and operate. The robot we run sends signals to the arms as we operate the machine. The actual robot that is performing the surgery then uses these signals to control the arms performing the surgery.

I want to be an engineer when I grow up, which made it really fun to learn about how the Da Vinci works. While others were running the robot I got to talk to a surgeon that trains people to use the robot. The whole experience made me think about all of the ways we could innovate this robot in the future, and make it capable of doing even more.



# With Gratitude

Thoughtful donors made a positive impact for students and staff across the District. We would like to formally thank: Mutual of Enumclaw, Southwood PTSO, HELAC, TMMS PTSO, Enumclaw Schools Foundation and two anonymous donors who made significant donations that strengthen our schools. In addition, our generous community, students and staff provided Thanksgiving meal baskets for 90 local families, and there were additional food items shared with food banks in Enumclaw and Black Diamond.



# Moments to Enjoy

We are four months into the 2016-17 school year, and we thought it was a wonderful time to pause and reflect on the many students and staff who make Enumclaw School District a great place to learn and work.

## Sunrise Elementary

On a chilly Friday evening, Sunrise Elementary families and staff gathered to participate in their annual Family Holiday Reading Night. Everyone received cookies and drinks while enjoying a holiday read-aloud and other entertainment. Each family received a free book and encouragement to make a habit of reading together through the holidays and beyond. Thank you Sunrise PTA!



## Byron Kibler Elementary

Elementary teachers and principals throughout the District gathered together to focus on professional development. The five principals shared their knowledge and hearts as they facilitated the events. Check out the video on Facebook and our website of this remarkable event!



A few days later, Kindergarten teachers engaged in a special training focused on teaching math concepts through hands-on activities. Teachers created a variety of colorful, engaging materials for classroom use.

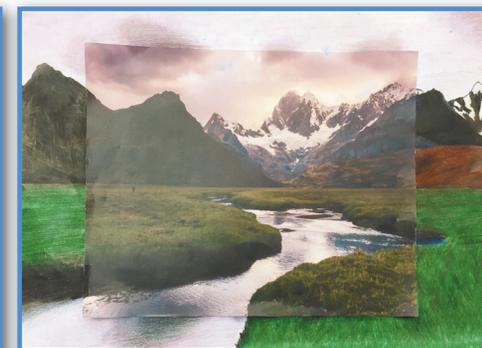
## Black Diamond, Westwood and Southwood Elementary



Students across the District challenged themselves while learning new coding skills (and refreshing their knowledge from the past two years' practice) during December's The Hour of Code™, which took place during Computer Science Week. What would seemingly be a solitary activity was a collaborative effort as students shared strategies and tackled difficult challenges together while working on their own devices. Parents and students can practice at home - visit [www.code.org](http://www.code.org) to give it a try.

When it's cold, do some code!

## Enumclaw High School



Artists from EHS share their talents on the courtyard retaining wall at Southwood Elementary. Four students dedicated two days painting the mural featuring salmon. The mural artists belong to the National Art Honor Society and received funding through a grant from Enumclaw Schools Foundation for the supplies.

Digital Media students selected a photo, printed and mounted it to a larger paper, then 'continued' the scene using cues from the original photo. The skill of making evidence-based predictions is applied to nearly all content and classes throughout the District.