

Serving Enumclaw and Black Diamond



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In Partnership with You

Construction Updates



Our Leadership Team typically gathers around tables in the District office a couple of times each month to discuss goals and plans of action, but not a few weeks ago! The emblem of school districts across the nation, the bright yellow bus, arrived at 7:30 a.m. to transport our District Leadership Team into the community. We visited four sites and heard from nine community agencies that provide health and wellness services to our local families.

This year Enumclaw School District is embracing the tenets of ASCD's Whole Child Initiative by fostering quality connections with local service providers. The mission of the trip was to fully

understand the services that are accessible to those who need support: tutoring centers, youth centers, senior centers, counseling services, food banks, clothing banks, showers, laundry facilities, transportation, drug and alcohol education, utility assistance, emergency housing... and the list could go on.



Unfortunately many families are still unaware of the many services and agencies that are available to them in times of need. Students still arrive at school hungry, cold, and distraught – in short, these foundational needs prevent and distract them from learning at their highest levels. In studying the data of our students, our district leaders saw a need, so they sought better connections and deeper understandings with the community service agencies that provide assistance.

During the visits to the agencies on a chilly October morning, questions about communication between agencies, timelines for service, making referrals and appointments, along with sliding scale and free services were asked. We learned over and over again that our community service agencies care deeply about respect, dignity and wellness for every family in our community.

The trip was incredibly successful. Our leaders gained a greater understanding of individuals we serve and the opportunities to connect with community service providers who truly care about the well-being of the whole child. The lively chatter as we loaded the bus back to the District office focused on sharing this information with other professionals in our District – from teachers to counselors to support staff. The response from our Leadership Team was overwhelming, greater than anticipated, and the experience will be replicated in late November for another bus load of caring professionals from the Enumclaw School District.

This edition of our Connection focuses on our work in helping the whole child. I hope you feel a sense of pride knowing that professionals across our school district are building partnerships to support all kids!



Weekly updates are available on our website at www.enumclaw.wednet.edu then click on "Capital Projects and Construction Updates"

Black Diamond Elementary

The view of Mt. Rainier is spectacular from the future library! It's amazing to envision students using the newly constructed spaces at the opening of the next school year as we watch the raw materials set in place. Walls are going up around the site with most progress in the area of the future library and gym, which is also where the second story is being framed. The construction of stairs was recently completed and gym walls are the focus this week. Trusses are set in place as sections are ready.



Enumclaw High School

Phase 0: The framing is complete and insulation going in on the 1000 wing modernization. Electrical vaults will soon be set and fire lane access restored. Behind the EHS campus near the city pool, portable classrooms are placed (for use during Phase 1 and 2 construction) with ramps, electrical, and finishing touches scheduled for completion over the next month.



Phase 1 and 2: October's focus was the bid opening and now moving through the process to award the contract to a General Contractor. Construction crews will begin mobilizing in December 2016. Principal Jill Burnes shared information about moving teachers to prepare for construction, "Many teachers will be teaching in new locations and perhaps sharing a room with another staff member. We will be communicating with students prior to winter break so that when they return on January 3rd they will know where their classes are being taught. This will probably feel a lot like the first day of school!" The great news is that the remodeled 1000 wing will be open in January for classes.

Calendar of Events

Visit our website for details: www.enumclaw.wednet.edu or contact the school.

11/17	High School: Winter Sports Parent Night	12/5	School Board Work Study at Enumclaw High School
11/17-23	Conferences, Half days	12/6	Southwood: Magic Strings Concert
11/18-20	EHS Drama presents "44 Plays for 44 Presidents"	12/9	Early Release
11/21	School Board Meeting	12/15	Thunder Mtn: Holiday Concert
11/24-25	No School, Happy Thanksgiving!	12/15	Enumclaw Middle: Winter Concert
12/1	Enumclaw Middle: ASB Winter Social	12/16	Child Find Screening
12/2	Early Release	12/19	School Board Meeting
12/2	Trimester Ends for grades 6-8	12/21-1/2	No School, Winter Break

Thunder Mountain Goes Beyond the Expected

Making meaningful connections between students and staff is paramount at Thunder Mountain Middle School. Staff recognize the benefits of students who are connected beyond classroom interactions -- so teachers and counselors created opportunities that are unique to the students needs and interests. The staff are engaging students at high rates and the benefits are boundless.

Nurturing Empathetic Titans

NET is a building-wide program that fosters connections between 8th grade NET Leaders and all 6th graders throughout the school year. Each month small groups of sixth graders meet with an 8th grade mentor who leads discussions that range from creativity to career options to bullying prevention. Created by Counselor Sandy Wright, Nurturing Empathetic Titans is a student-to-student mentorship program in which students take the lead. The program allows 8th grade mentors, or NET Leaders, to be both a friend and role model, while developing leadership skills. Sixth graders benefit from connections that foster feelings of connectedness and safety. NET is going strong in its seventh year, and students continue to apply to be mentors at outstanding rates.



Positively Charged Titans

The goal of PCT is to promote a positive school environment through community service and highlighting positive happenings at Thunder Mountain. Current service projects include organizing the "Helping Hands Food Drive", part of a District-wide food drive to benefit 100 families, and planning a Pink Spirit Day on November 16th to support breast cancer research. Students will sell pink cookies and pink ribbon tattoos with all proceeds benefitting breast cancer research.



Club creator and teacher-leader Kamele Kimball shares, "I love the opportunity to work with students outside the regular classroom setting. The kids are so eager to help. PCT is great opportunity for them to have a positive impact on the school and engage in positive peer interactions." Students who participate practice leadership skills while serving their community, which is a win for all.

Flight Simulator Club

Teacher Dan Rogel shares his skills as a certificated flight instructor with a commercial flight certificate with students who join the Flight Simulator Club. Students engage in simulated flight experiences learning different control systems from joy sticks to full yoke and throttle controls while learning the basic principles of aerodynamics and flight; they also cleverly apply what they learn in science, math and technology classes to real world applications. The FS Club has inspired students to pursue aviation training by visiting the Museum of Flight and taking introductory flights in real aircraft. By providing opportunities for students to connect through an area of interest, staff continue to engage and challenge students in meaningful ways.



Building Principal Steve Stoker shared, "I want Thunder to have a thriving clubs program. Clubs are a wonderful opportunity for students to connect to our campus that may not 'fit' into a traditional offering of sports and standard school clubs." Clubs and student organizations provide meaningful experiences for students to connect with adults, an essential element of school safety. In a recent survey of Thunder Mountain students, 85% reported that they could name at least one adult at school who they could talk to if they didn't feel safe. Thunder Mountain staff inspire and lead students every day to make lasting connections with one another while building life-long passions and skills.

With Gratitude: Downtown Business



We greatly appreciate the leadership of the Enumclaw Chamber of Commerce, along with the downtown businesses, for making the Downtown Trick or Treating happen in our community! Superintendent Mike Nelson wrote, "I love walking up and down the street seeing thousands of our students excitedly receiving sweet treats from various businesses in a safe environment" in a thank you letter. Families commented that this event is part of their Halloween tradition. Thank you for making a positive difference in our community!

Attendance During the Holiday Season

Excused and unexcused absences easily add up to too much time lost in the classroom. Wondering about the impacts of absences? Check out this online tool that connects the research on absenteeism and its educational impacts: getschooled.com/dashboard/tool/343-attendance-counts

ATTEND. ACHIEVE. SUCCEED.
EVERYDAY COUNTS. EVERY STUDENT MATTERS

Absences add up more quickly than you realize, given that just two days a month can mean 18 absences a year.

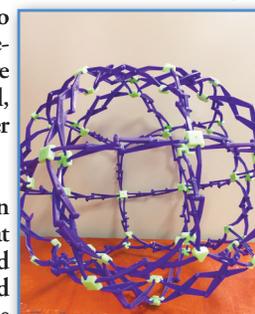
- Students are at risk academically if they miss 10 percent of the school year, or about 18 days. Once too many absences have occurred, they can affect learning, regardless of whether absences are excused or unexcused.
- Sporadic, not just consecutive, absences matter. Before you know it – just one or two days a month can add up to nearly 10 percent of the school year.
- Avoid unnecessary absences. Some absences are unavoidable. Occasionally, children get sick and need to stay home. What is important is getting children to school as often as possible.

Building Resiliency



Director of Student Support Services Keri Marquand teamed up with Rainier Foothills Wellness Foundation to bring focused mental health trainings to Enumclaw School District staff. Trainings focused on Adverse Childhood Experiences, or ACEs, which are traumatic events in a child's life involving abuse, neglect and/or dysfunction in the household (chemical dependency, incarceration, etc). Depending on the severity and frequency, these events can impact brain development, thereby changing the way a child exposed to trauma responds to other stressors in life. The purpose of Sound Discipline's "Building Resiliency: Working with Students exposed to stress and trauma" is to educate teachers and support staff about the foundations of ACEs research while introducing techniques for supporting students who have experienced stress and trauma.

"We need to understand that the behavior we see in some kids isn't always telling us the story of what the problem is," explained Enumclaw Middle School Principal Steve Rabb. The ACEs training emphasized to better understand a student, we must do our best to build relationships with all students. Mr. Rabb continued, "Nothing addresses the issues better than building trusting relationships with kids and being willing to have them test you on it to prove you mean it." Associate Administrator Paul Dumontet further explained, "It is really important to be empathetic to the needs and issues that students are dealing with. In most cases, a student's circumstances are out of their control and very difficult to navigate. It is our role to provide opportunities for decision making and empowerment. As these students experience a lack of control in their world outside of school, it is our role, as educators and coaches, to provide opportunities for students to gain control in productive, confidence-building ways. School is a place where teachers offer access to self-potential, that may not be communicated in other aspects of our students' lives."



The training emphasized de-escalation techniques, such as using a toy ball that expands (see picture). Expanding and collapsing the ball along with regulated breathing can help a person who has "lost it" regain the connection between multiple parts of the brain, resulting in calmer behavior and better thought processing. For building relationships, a recommended strategy is 2x10s, offering two personal compliments or encouragements a day for 10 days, which helps build trust and rapport over time. The partnership for mental health training with Rainier Foothills Wellness Foundation is in its first year with extensions and follow ups planned.

Helping Hands FOOD DRIVE

YOUR DONATIONS OF BOXED AND CANNED FOOD ITEMS WILL PROVIDE MEALS TO **100** HOUSEHOLDS

DONATION LIST

- ☆ Cash donation to purchase 100 turkeys
- ☆ Foil roasting pans
- ☆ Canned sweet potatoes
- ☆ Boxed mashed potatoes
- ☆ Canned vegetables (variety)
- ☆ Boxed stuffing mix
- ☆ Cranberry sauce
- ☆ Canned pumpkin

Please deliver donated food **NOVEMBER 15-16** to the High School portable by the tennis courts. Call Mr. Stokke to arrange drop off s7722 or s7673

Contact HR at s7112 with any questions or if you want assistance with transporting donations!

Enumclaw SCHOOL DISTRICT