



Enumclaw SCHOOL DISTRICT

all students achieving at high levels

Serving the Students of Enumclaw
and Black Diamond

2929 McDougall Avenue, Enumclaw

- 360-802-7100

November 2013

CONNECTION

Serving Enumclaw and Black Diamond

- Fax 360-802-7140
- www.enumclaw.wednet.edu

Superintendent's Message



Dear Families,

I often wonder what parenting would be like without cell phones. I loved knowing when Hans and Anna were out seeing a movie or doing something fun with friends that we could always text or call them. I also loved that they could call us! I don't know how my parents were able to let us go out, only making sure we had a quarter in our pocket to use the payphone. Do our children even know about payphones?

I love this real time communication. As a school system, we are attempting to become better at providing parents with good, real time data about the progress of their child. My parents used to only receive information about my educational progress when report cards were distributed and during conferences. We still have these two structures in place in our system with conferences occurring in the next few days, but we also have a wonderful, electronic system that parents can access 24/7 to review information on their children.

On our Family Access system you can see:

- Attendance
- Lunch account information
- Current grades/missing assignment
- Discipline

If you have not signed up for Family Access, you can fill out the form located on our Enumclaw School District website.

<http://www.enumclaw.wednet.edu/families/familyaccess/default.aspx>

In addition to Family Access, each teacher has a Swift website where they post information about their class schedules and homework assignments. Both Hans and Anna really appreciated this feature when they were students. The Swift websites for teachers can be accessed directly from the home page on our website.

<http://www.enumclaw.wednet.edu>

Happy Thanksgiving to you and your families!

In Partnership with YOU! Mike

Tips For Parent Teacher Conferences

Follow these "Tips for Parents" to make your conference more effective!

- Check in with your child about school before his/her conference.
- Prepare questions in advance.
- Let the teacher(s) know if there is a particular topic you want to discuss.
- Take notes.
- Stay in touch with your child's teacher(s) through the year!

Board Chooses To Run Two Levies

This year has been an interesting one for education in the state of Washington. We have seen our legislators grapple with a ground breaking court decision that changed the funding of education and resulted in the recovery of some of the cuts our students and staff have experienced since 2008. Our economy seems to be in recovery and state revenues are projected to improve.

As you are probably well aware, it is election season once again. In serving the families of Enumclaw and Black Diamond, the Board of Directors has tried to be very responsible and thoughtful about the needs of our students and their families. Those needs are not simply tied to academics; there is a larger scope of values at work within any community and Enumclaw and Black Diamond are no different. We know that our local families understand value, whether we are talking about the price of groceries or a home in which to raise your children. In 2009, voters generously approved the first ever Instructional Technology levy to provide our students and staff with modern technology in Enumclaw School District classrooms. The voter approved levy funds provided badly needed upgrades to building infrastructure to support new technology and hardware. These upgrades have delivered a 21st century classroom experience to your children and grandchildren. We hope to continue to provide this value for your family as we educate them to succeed in an ever changing world.

This February, the Board of Directors will be requesting voter approval to maintain the generous support that this community has consistently demonstrated for a good value in education. There will be two levies for your consideration. A "replacement" Maintenance and Operations Levy and a "continuation" Instructional Technology Levy. The Maintenance and Operation levy will be needed for continued funding of approximately twenty percent of the district operating budget. The replacement M&O levy is crucial for continued day to day operational funding and does not represent any increase in taxes above current levels. The Instructional Technology levy will fund the continued use of technology in our schools as well as improvements such as online text books and software that will advance students' access to the latest information, delivered right to the classroom.

The Enumclaw School District Board of Directors, administrators and staff are committed to providing continued value to you and your family. We can and will advance the quality and value of educational opportunities available to students in Enumclaw and Black Diamond. Our partnership with you is crucial to the continued success of our students.

Corey Cassell (Board President), Tina McGann, Nancy Merrill, April Schroeder, Chris VanHoof

Our board meetings are now available for viewing at the following link:

<http://www.enumclaw.wednet.edu/board/minutes.aspx>

Our thanks to Bryson Michael at Enumclaw City TV for facilitating this for us and for being the videographer at our board meetings!



The Enumclaw School District Board of Directors would like to invite you to come by for coffee and conversation at 6:00 p.m. prior to their board meetings and board work studies which begin at 6:30 pm.

What Does Patriotism Mean To Me?



A poem montage written by EMS students Leah Blanchard, Victoria Richardson, Logan Breidenbach, Matthew Helmer, and Gabrielle DeMarco

Leah: What does patriotism mean to me? In jungles and deserts and mountains, from the deepest oceans to the tallest peaks, different countries flourish all over the earth. But there is one nation in particular that has won my love and devotion, a country which prospers due to patriotism: the United States of America.

Victoria: Patriotism is the true love and respect from within the heart that our soldiers have. It is a connection with our land and the beings that live here, a connection with the customs, tradition, pride in its history and devotion to its welfare. Willingness to defend our homeland shows the true patriot spirit.

Logan: Patriotism means not only being satisfied, but wanting more for your country. Patriotism is tears when 9/11 happened even though we are far away in Seattle, WA. It's sadness about the Sandy Hook Elementary tragedy even though you don't know anyone from that city. But you mourn the loss of your fellow countrymen because we are one nation.

Matthew: Being a veteran means you love your country so much, that you'd defend it, even at the cost of your life. But patriotism means you love it and are devoted to your country, even if your life isn't on the line. Anyone can be a patriot.

Gabrielle: Patriotism is found in people of every religion, creed, gender and color. The dates on their graves show patriotism is found in people of every age, willing to stand, fight and defend the country they love. It is a feeling. I feel it as I watch the graves lined up side by side as the red, white and blue flags next to them wave violently in the strong winds. It's rain dripping off of gravestones like tears rolling down a soldier's face as he stares into the face of a friend who won't be coming home. I feel it when I stand at attention in a parade, watching veterans proudly march by. These are the people who have risked their lives for us. I feel it inspire me to voice my beliefs, stand for my country and protect my liberty.

Matthew: A country prospers because of its patriotism. Everyone cares for the sake of the country. So, to me, patriotism is what makes a country, a country, and what lets it succeed.

Logan: Most of all, it is waving the 50 stars and 13 stripes high above your head and letting everyone know you are a proud American, ready to defend, love and support your country.

Victoria: Patriotism inspires hearts for noble and good deeds. Patriots rejoice in the glory of their country. They can truly say, "I love my country, and I'm proud to show it!" I feel the love for our nation fill the air with a sense of connectedness, keeping families motivated and strong. It's the foundation filling our country with a much deserved sense of pride.

Leah: I find that people demonstrate patriotism without even knowing it. It is the small everyday deeds that people do for each other. These actions build trust, and when we trust each other we can accomplish so much more. It creates a commitment and a passion that makes us stronger. This is America. The land of the free, the home of the brave. This is love, devotion and loyalty at its best.

All: And that's what patriotism means to me.

EHS & WRHS Drama Team up for...

"The Diary of Anne Frank"

By Frances Goodrich & Albert Hackett

Adapted by Wendy Kesselman

November 21, 22, 23 @ 7:30pm

November 24 @ 2pm

Admission: \$8

Students w/ASB: Free

Performances at EHS Auditorium

Info: 360.802.7807

During WWII, a girl hides in an attic to escape death...and discovers what it means to live. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award for Best Play, this powerful production features actors from Enumclaw High School and White River High School. Don't miss it!

Upcoming Events November & December

When

November 20	Elementary Report Cards Sent Home
November 20-27	Black Diamond Book Fair
November 21	EHS Winter Sports Parent Meeting, 7:00 pm
November 21–26	Parent/Teacher Conference Half-Days
November 21–23	EHS Drama
November 27	6-8 Grades Trimester Ends
November 27	Early Release Day for Thanksgiving
November 28-29	Thanksgiving Break
December 2	Board Work Study at Westwood Elementary, 6:30 pm
December 2-6	Sunrise Book Fair
December 3	Kibler Family Craft Sale, 6:30 pm
December 5	Kibler Holiday Reading Night, 5:30 pm
December 6	Staff Collaboration – Early Dismissal
December 6	Sunrise Holiday Family Reading Night, 6:30 pm
December 7	Black Diamond PTA Craft Bazaar, 8:00 – 4:00
December 9	EHS Band/Orchestra Winter Concert, 7:00 pm
December 10	EHS Choir Concert, 7:00 pm
December 11	Westwood Kindergarten Concert, 2:30 pm
December 11	Black Diamond – 1st/2nd Grade Concert, 6:30 pm in the Gym
December 11	EHS Choir Concert, 7:00 pm
December 13	Staff Collaboration – Early Dismissal
December 16	Board Meeting at District Office, 6:30 pm
December 16	Magic Strings Holiday Concert, 7:00 pm
December 18	Black Diamond Community Sing Along, 6:30 pm in the Gym
December 19	TMMS Holiday Program, 7:00 pm
December 20	Early Dismissal
December 23 – January 1	Winter Break
January 2	First day back to school

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Tips For Planning Beyond EHS

For those of you who are thinking about or currently involved with your student in the beyond EHS transition process, here are a few things that you might find helpful in preparing your student to make an informed decision about his/her future:

- Start researching now! It's never too early to look into colleges and technical schools. Use search engines to help pick out institutions that might have your interest in their programs. Visit their websites, and if possible, take a campus tour. These are always free and give you and your student a good "feel" for the kind of school they are looking at.
- Find out any prerequisites that your student will need to be accepted into a university, tech school, apprenticeship or the military. What entrance exams do they require? Is there an interview process? Are their course requirements, such as, how many years of foreign language they need? These questions can help you plan their high school path, which often needs to be started much earlier than their senior year.
- Find out about financial aid at the institutes you are looking at. Often their websites will show how much financial aid most freshmen will receive on average. Do they have early admission? This can sometimes open up opportunities for your student to apply for more scholarships. Visit the FAFSA website and attend a financial aid planning workshop locally. Seniors file for financial aid after January 1st.
- Have you looked into scholarships? Did you know that there are scholarships out there for middle school students? You just need to start the search. Make a profile on a scholarship search engine online and they'll start sending scholarships that match up to your student. Apply for as many as you can!
- Is your student planning on taking the SAT or ACT? These are tests required by most colleges and universities. Most juniors begin taking them in the spring of their junior year. Also, juniors have the opportunity to take the PSAT in October each year as a "pre" SAT score base. Encourage your sophomore or freshman to also take the PSAT.
- How do colleges want you to apply? Do they use "The Common App," the generic application that you can send to more than one college, or do they have their own?
- Be sure your student accesses the College and Career Center at EHS. There they'll find the latest information on scholarships, colleges, careers, as well as helpful resources for whatever path your student may choose. Follow them on twitter @EHS_Career_Ctr . Also, check out their Swift website <http://swift.enumclaw.wednet.edu/ehs/ccenter>
- Some prestigious universities ask for a high school's profile. This profile contains specific data points that universities are looking for. Our Enumclaw High School profile can be accessed in the EHS Main Office, through our EHS Counselors or downloaded from our district website.

www.enumclaw.wednet.edu/schools/highschool/default.aspx

Our desire is that all of our students find incredible success upon leaving our system. We will continue to seek ways to connect students and families with opportunities to learn what is available after Enumclaw High School!