

CONNECTION

Serving Enumclaw and Black Diamond

2929 McDougall Avenue, Enumclaw

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• www.enumclaw.wednet.edu

Superintendent's Message



Dear Friends,

Ten years ago, our school system began a school and community campaign entitled, What Book Are YOU Reading? This campaign asked that all students and community members engage in reading a book and talking about it. This led to the beginning of many small private book clubs as well as a quarterly/semi-annual community-wide book club. During this two-year campaign our students and community members kept track of their reading minutes. The first year we read over 10 million minutes and the second year we read nearly 25 million minutes. At the end of each year, we had a huge community celebration unveiling the minutes we read as a community. We are modeling our current Rachel's Challenge Initiative of creating a community of kindness and compassion after this successful reading endeavor.

As a school district, our reading and writing scores at the high school remain among the very top at the regional and state levels. Students currently in our high school were elementary students during this intense focus on literacy. The staff and I have talked on many occasions about renewing and re-energizing the importance of literacy to all our students to not only become proficient readers and writers, but to nurture the desire to read and write.

I am often asked to speak at regional and state level meetings and conferences. Whenever I do this, I am questioned about our literacy efforts in Enumclaw and Black Diamond. During these very public campaigns we were recognized in several publications, including the book "500 Ways to Change the World". Together with the Enumclaw Regional Healthcare Foundation we started the Books for Babies Program where every baby born at St. Elizabeth Hospital receives a new book. In addition, the parents receive information on the importance of reading aloud to children. We do have a reputation as a school district with a focus on literacy.

In this month of Thanksgiving, I am grateful for your support in building a literate community. In sharing a bit of history in the previous paragraphs, I would now like to ask for your help. We would love for you to join us in recommitting and sustaining our desire to be a literate school district and community. We would encourage you to talk with your children and grandchildren about the books they are reading and then share what you are reading. If you haven't been to the Enumclaw Library or the King County Library in Black Diamond recently, set a goal to visit one in the next week. And consider picking out the perfect book for a loved one during the holidays.

I'm currently reading, "Coach Wooden: The Seven Principles that Shaped his Life and Will Change Yours". What book are YOU reading?

In Partnership with you, *Mike*

Sunrise Veterans Day Assembly



Students at Sunrise Elementary learned about Veterans Day recently at their annual schoolwide Veterans Day Assembly. The program, organized by community member Lori Noel, featured honored guests who represented the armed services and helped students learn about the meaning of this national holiday. An honor

guard of students from Clover Park High School also demonstrated an impressive display of honoring the symbols of American freedom with a ceremonial bringing in of the colors and a skillful demonstration of precision drill team maneuvers.

Students learned about the history of Veterans Day from the end of World War I at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, then known as Armistice Day. Students were impressed by the idea that this year's celebration was to take place on 11-11-11!

Classroom teachers at all levels also conducted age-appropriate classroom discussions and activities to help students learn about the reason behind this important holiday. Sunrise appreciates the support and presence of these special guests at this year's Veterans Day assembly.



Contact Us

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Black Diamond Elementary (Grades K-5)

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Byron Kibler Elementary (Grades K-5)

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Southwood Elementary (Grades K-5)

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Sunrise Elementary (Grades K-5)

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Middle Schools Launch New Pre-A.P. Language Arts Curriculum

Since the start of this school year, our students at Thunder Mountain and Enumclaw Middle Schools have been sharpening their reading, writing and thinking skills by utilizing our new *Springboard* curriculum in their language arts classes.

We are now utilizing the *Springboard* program in all 6th, 7th, and 8th grade language arts programs because it provides our students with extremely rigorous reading and writing activities and emphasizes higher-order thinking skills that challenge our students to aim higher and achieve more. Early observations from our teachers indicate our students are reading and writing more frequently - and with a higher level of demonstrated skill!

The *Springboard* program was intentionally developed by the College Board to serve as the official national Pre-Advanced Placement (Pre-A.P.) curriculum. This research-based program embeds Pre-AP and AP teaching and learning strategies inside the curriculum, and is designed to prepare our middle school students for AP, college, and career success as they enter Enumclaw High School. The implementation of the *Springboard* language arts curriculum reaffirms our continuing commitment to the value and growth of the Advanced Placement programs in our school district.

If you're interested in learning more about the *Springboard* curriculum, feel free to contact Terry Parker, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, at 360.802.7124.

Tips for Planning Beyond Enumclaw High School!

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

- Make visitations to college campuses and technical schools. Like reading to your child, it's never too early to start. Make a day trip to walk around a campus, go to the college bookstore and have lunch in their student union center.
- Conduct web searches on university and technical schools and/or military organizations and search their offerings, degrees and certifications. Often you are able to put your child's name on a mailing list.
- Find out any prerequisites that your child will need in order to be accepted into a university, technical school or the military. What entrance tests need to be taken? Are their certain course requirements (for example: number of years of a foreign language)? Some of these decisions need to occur far before a senior year.
- If you are looking outside the state of Washington, make a contact with the school's or military's regional representative. Make sure they have contact information for your child.
- Contact the university your child plans to attend for financial aid information, how to complete the FAFSA forms, and find out what scholarships may be available. Often, to be considered for academic scholarships, a student must apply early in his/her senior year. Deadlines vary with schools, but usually fall in November. Also, visit a bank or lending institution regarding college loans.
- ACT and SATs can be taken late in a student's junior year so test scores are available for applications.
- If you are applying for college, explore what the "common application" looks like. Many universities are using this single application form that can be easily looked at by our underclassmen so they can see what is being asked.
- 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. <http://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!

Teachers Utilize CEL/5-D Instructional Playbook

Just like a championship football team, the teachers and administrators of our school district are now united behind a proven, research-based playbook that promises a pathway to successful performance. In this case, the playbook outlines high-quality instructional practices we can utilize to improve the learning of our students!

For the past two years, our administrators and teachers have been working closely with the Center for Educational Leadership, at the University of Washington, to learn about the 5-Dimensions of Teaching and Learning. The purpose of this 5-D framework is to provide our leaders and teachers with the skills necessary to support excellent classroom instructional practice.

The 5-D framework is comprised of five research-based core elements that constitute high-quality teaching – Purpose, Student Engagement, Curriculum and Pedagogy, Assessment for Student Learning, and Classroom Environment and Culture.

Currently, each of our schools are conducting various training activities to familiarize teachers with the 5-D framework and are beginning to implement the key teaching and learning strategies with their students. Similarly, district and building administrators are continuing their work with CEL as a means to further improve their own instructional leadership skills.

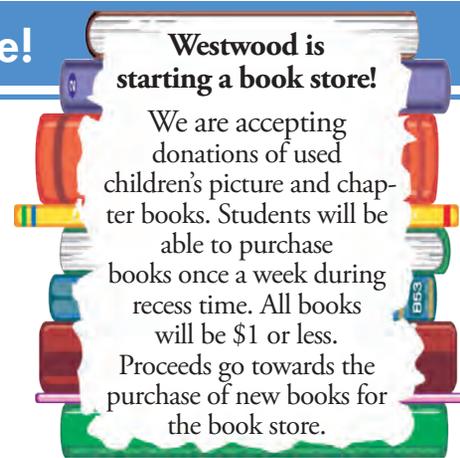
We believe that uniting behind this effective, research-based 5-D playbook will provide our teachers with a clear vision of what high-quality instruction looks like and enhance the learning of our students!

Westwood Book Store!

Bring Books During January

What kind of books?
Childrens picture books
Chapter books up to a middle school level

Where:
Book drops are located at the District Office and Westwood Elementary



Upcoming Events November & December

<u>What</u>	<u>When</u>
November 15-18	Food items for Thanksgiving Baskets deliver to EHS Main Office
November 18	Staff Collaboration – Early Release
November 17-22	K-12 Conference Days – early release
November 21	Board meeting at 6:30 pm
November 23	K-12 Early Release
November 24-25	Thanksgiving break – District Office closed
December 1	Magic Strings Concert at the EHS Auditorium – 7:00 pm
December 2	Staff Collaboration – Early Release
December 2	Middle school trimester ends
December 5	Board Work Study at Sunrise Elementary at 6:30 pm
December 8	Black Diamond Elementary Winter Music Program – grades K-2
December 12	EHS Band Concert
December 13 & 14	EHS Choir Concerts
December 15	Black Diamond Winter Music Program – grades 3-5
December 19	Board Meeting at district office boardroom at 6:30 pm
December 20	EMS ASB sponsored dance at 2:45 pm
December 20	TMMS Holiday Program at 7:00 pm
Dec 22-Jan 2	Winter Break
January 3	First day back from Winter Break

Calendars for events at each of our buildings can be accessed at the district website: <http://www.enumclaw.wednet.edu>