

CONNECTION

Serving Enumclaw and Black Diamond

2929 McDougall Avenue, Enumclaw

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Superintendent's Message



I recently revisited a book I had not read in a few years. The book, entitled *Choice Words* written by Peter Johnston, gives multiple examples of the importance of words or phrases that we use... questions we ask... responses we give... in opening the minds and hearts of the learner(s). In my copy of Peter's book, I had some notes written from a time that I heard Peter speak at a conference. The sentence that caught my attention was:

The Children are our Present.

As a classroom teacher, I had a huge poster above my classroom door that read, "We believe the Children are our Future." Of course, Whitney Houston's song in the 1980's made this phrase relatively common. In re-reading this book, however, this author gave me a passionate message that included the phrase "the children are our present."

You can look at the word "present" in many ways. For Britt and me, our greatest gift (present) that we have been given is our two children. The message I heard from *Choice Words* also included another definition of "present." He shared that the children (our students) are with us now (in the present). Our students have many gifts to share NOW... we don't have to wait for them to grow up to contribute to our society. We also need to develop systems of support for each child now rather than in the "future."

Our K-12 parent conferences begin this week. This is an incredible time that is built into our school calendar. The important conversations between families and our school system should reflect the word "present"... the gift and privilege it is for our school system to work with the students in our community and the "now" of how we can partner to support each and every child as a learner.

In partnership with you,

Mike

Alumni Luncheon!

This year's annual Alumni Luncheon is scheduled for December 21st at 12:00 pm in the high school library. We look forward to welcoming home our high school grads who will have the opportunity to share with current high school and middle school students their experiences transitioning to post-high school.

For those of you who are thinking about or 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 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 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. More and more universities are using this single application form that can be easily looked at by our underclassmen so they can see what is being asked.

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!

Contact Us

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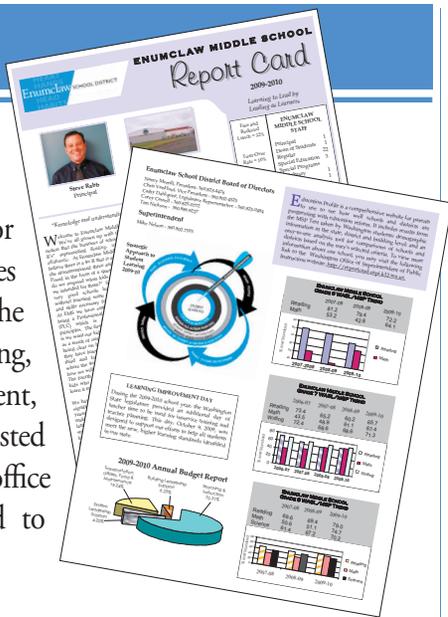
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School Profiles

Enumclaw Middle School

School Profiles are produced annually for every school in the district. These Profiles are based on information compiled for the previous school year and include staffing, free and reduced lunch numbers, enrollment, and assessment data. The Profiles are posted on the Data Dashboard in the district office board room. They are also distributed to parents in each building.



Work in Mathematics Continues

These past few weeks, teachers and administrators throughout our school district continue to focus on the important work of improving the mathematics learning of our students. Recently, the math teachers at Thunder Mountain Middle School, working with Principal Ginger Callison, and Director of Curriculum/Instruction Terry Parker, have outlined the math skills foundation that middle school students



Thunder Mountain math teachers (left to right) Dan Rogel, Jason Patterson, Shirley Rhodes and Matt Gaynor discuss strategies to support their students' learning in math.

need in order to perform successfully throughout the school year. Related to this math improvement initiative, plans are underway for after-school classes that will strengthen these identified math skills for students in need of support.

CORE/Choice Program

Superintendent Mike Nelson and Principal Jill Burnes discuss the newly implemented Enumclaw High School CORE/Choice Program during the November "Superintendent Update". Each month, Mr. Nelson chooses a relevant subject to keep the community updated on current programs and events in the district. The "Superintendent Update" can be viewed at the following website: <http://www.enumclaw.wednet.edu/ourdistrict/videos.aspx> (click on ECTV Streaming Video on Demand). The "Superintendent Update" is also shown on the local ECTV Channel 21. We are so appreciative of ECTV Media Services Manager Jon Funfar for doing this service for us as well as videotaping the board meetings.



Superintendent Mike Nelson and Principal Jill Burnes discuss the CORE/Choice Program.

Climate Survey

Please Participate In The Enumclaw School District Survey

The annual Climate Survey is now open! The survey will be open on the district web site (www.enumclaw.wednet.edu) through the end of school on November 19.



Parents and community members can go to the web site link and take the survey from any computer with internet access.

Students and staff will be provided with a link through the schools.

This is an important tool for making decisions and is highly valued by the Board of Directors. This information will be compiled and presented at the December board meeting.

We value your input and thank you in advance for your participation.

In Honor of our Veterans

In Honor of our Veterans, assemblies were held in many of our schools

Veterans were honored at Westwood Elementary Veteran's week.



Upcoming Events November & December

When	What
Nov. 18 – 23	K-12 Conference Days (Early Release for Students)
November 24	K-12 Early Release
Nov. 25 – 26	Thanksgiving Break
December 2	Magic Strings Concert at the EHS Auditorium – 7:00 pm
December 6	Board Work Study at 6:30 pm
December 7	Kibler Craft Sale Family Night – 6:30 pm (proceeds go to "Cops for Kids")
December 9	Kibler Holiday Reading/Math Family Night – 7:00 pm
December 13	EHS Band Concert
December 14	EHS Choir Concert at 7:00 pm
December 15	EHS Choir Concert at 7:00 pm

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