



Enumclaw School District
2929 McDougall Avenue
Enumclaw, Washington 98022
Phone: (360) 802-7100
Fax: (360) 802-7123

Website:
www.enumclaw.wednet.edu

Enumclaw School District Board of Directors

Dale Holland, President
Lorianne Taff
Cathy Dahlquist
Nancy Merrill
Chris VanHoof
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Open Books, Open Minds HOMETOWN BOOK CLUB

Who: All interested READERS!!
What: Read *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak and come together for conversation about the book.

When: March 26, 2007 at 7:00 p.m.



From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Grades 9 and upward—Zusak has created a work that deserves the attention of sophisticated teen and adult readers. Death himself narrates the World War II-era story of Liesel Meminger from the time she is taken at age nine, to live in Molching, Germany, with a foster family in a working-class neighborhood of tough kids, acid-tongued mothers, and loving fathers who earn their living by the work of their hands. The child arrives having just stolen her first book—although she has not yet learned how to read—and her foster father uses it, *The Gravediggers handbook*, to lull her to sleep when she's roused by regular nightmares about her younger brother's death. Across the ensuing years of the late 1930s and into the 1940s, Liesel collects more stolen books as well as a peculiar set of friends: the boy—Rudy, the Jewish refugee—Mac, the mayor's reclusive wife (who has a whole library from which she allows Liesel to steal), and especially her foster parents. Zusak not only creates a mesmerizing and original story but also writes with poetic syntax, causing readers to deliberate over phrases and lines, even as the action impels them forward. Death is not a sentimental storyteller, but he does attend to an array of satisfying details, giving Liesel's story all the nuances of chance, folly, and fulfilled expectation that it deserves. An extraordinary narrative. —Francisca Goldsmith, Berkeley Public Library, CA

Where: EHS Library

Public Relations Facilitator Team

| | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| Jennifer Longmire | Mark Milat |
| Dianne Boline | Kristin Millard |
| Julie McGrath | Elisabeth Carlson |
| Marilyn Collins | Terry Huizinga |
| Seth Polson | Ruth Ann Vanassa |
| Lynda Alley | |

How to Prepare: Purchase and read the book (Books are also available at the Enumclaw Public Library and Enumclaw High School Library.)

Please come prepared with 2-3 excerpts (and page numbers) of the text that you feel strongly about (powerful writing, connects to their own personal experiences, etc). Be prepared to discuss in a small group setting.

COLLABORATION

Collaboration is an important foundation piece within the Enumclaw School District. Every building K-12 meets in some form of collaborative group. What these groups look and feel like are different from building to building. Some meet in grade levels, some by departments, communities, mixed grade levels, or by subject. However, no matter how a team is made up, the primary goal is to improve student achievement. All work is focused on students and how to help them succeed at higher levels. That means that the center of attention is on student work, as well as teaching practices. Groups are always striving to implement the best teaching practices in order to meet the needs of all students. Areas of focus range from how to teach one lesson better all the way to improving WASL scores. These collaborative groups also act as a problem-solving team. No longer are teachers teaching in isolation, not knowing how to meet the needs of a certain child. Now, they have a whole team to help them find solutions. Collaboration has helped to focus the goals and work of all Enumclaw Schools in finding student strengths and areas of improvement. Students and faculty benefit when collaboration is a part of the norm.

All Students
Achieving at
High Levels

Enumclaw School District

Volume 1, Issue 4

CONNECTION

Serving Enumclaw and Black Diamond

Calendar of Events

January 30-31 Superintendent Interviews

February 2 K-8 Early Release

February 6, 7, 8 Community Forum with Superintendent Candidates 5:30-7:00 Enumclaw High School library

February 19-23 Mid-Winter Break

February 19 President's Day -- District Office Closed

February 26 Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

March 26 Open Books, Open Minds - Community Book Club 7:00 p.m. Enumclaw High School Library

Due to snow days, our last day of school will be Monday, June 18.



Helping Hands

Enumclaw School District Clothing Bank.

The clothing bank is located at J.J. Smith, 1640 Fell Street and is open every Tuesday 4:30 - 6:30. p.m. We are here to help you out.

Gerrie Garton

Enumclaw School District
360.802.7105

The Transportation Department—a well-oiled machine

Imagine trying to control a group of up to 60 children (equivalent to 2 to 3 classrooms) with your back to them. Then, add driving a 40-foot long bus safely down the often wet or icy road at the same time. That is what bus drivers face every day. Safety being their first concern, a bus driver might find it necessary to pull off the road to handle an escalating discipline problem even before delivering the kids to school.

The transportation department is run like a well-oiled machine. Bus drivers typically begin arriving between 5 and 6 a.m. to start their first run. The farthest a bus goes is to Crystal Mountain and back 2 to 3 times a day. Several special needs students are bussed to Lakewood or Mercer Island with those drivers making 2 trips a day. Many bus drivers drive 2 routes in the morning, often add a field trip in the middle of the day, make 1 or 2 more routes in the afternoon, and then they might take an athletic team to their event for the evening. This is not typical, but it happens occasionally. Usually, drivers make 2 routes in the morning and 2 routes in the afternoon, with a 4 to 4 1/2 hour break in the middle. With a split shift, some drivers work on crafts in the staff lounge during their "off" time.

The last bus into the garage in the evening usually arrives at 5:40. The dispatcher leaves

have the capability for tremendous learning, and the full-day program is allowing them to utilize this ability because they are not rushed.

My son is now in first grade, and once again I have had the opportunity to volunteer and see the wonderful work they are accomplishing in class. I expressed to his teacher my surprise that this is only the start of a first grade year, and her response was that this is the result of full-day kindergarten. I am very thankful that our district was innovative in bringing such a wonderful program to our schools. Since there is such a tremendous difference between the half-day and full-day programs, I am also grateful that the teachers were provided with the training to teach full-day kindergarten classes. I feel very fortunate to have two more children who will benefit from this program.

—Lynn Nitsche

Lynn and her husband Joel, are the parents of Bradley, William, and Emma.

A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark.
—Chinese Proverb

District Librarians – ensuring students are effective users of ideas and information

Looking for action words? Here are some that might come in handy: define, select, brainstorm, collaborate, use, determine, formulate, list, generate, identify, follow, teach, consider, seek, assess, examine, choose, distinguish, locate, note, read, extract, understand, respond, communicate, etc. These are all part of the components of the Enumclaw School District Information Literacy Guidelines that drive the instruction of the district librarians. Martha Blodgett at EHS, Marilyn Deahl at TMMS and EMS, Patty Carlson at Kibler, Janie Ingroum at Southwood and Sunrise, and Dewey Sullivan at Black Diamond and Westwood all work “to ensure that all students and staff are effective users of ideas and information”; and, how do they do it?

Librarians collaborate with staff to provide up-to-date materials for research and pleasure reading. They work daily to be sure all library patrons understand what they are seeing,

Student Support Services offers a wide range of services.

The Enumclaw School District is proud to support student learning with a SUPERB special education program. The programs that support student learning are as diverse as our students. We offer a range of services at all levels throughout our system.

Sometimes behind the scenes, but essential to the functioning of our program is a fantastic team of school psychologists. Our team of psychologists works with students, teachers, and parents to help determine the best program that meets the individual needs of students.

Another team that works diligently for the well being of our students is the therapists. The Enumclaw School District offers Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech/Language Pathology. These services are essential in promoting life-long success for our students. It is amazing to watch the students shine while they are gaining a wide array of skills with their therapists.

Students are in good hands in Enumclaw because of the outstanding work of the special education classroom teachers and educational assistants. One group of special educators that strives to meet the individual needs of our students is the resource room staff. These teachers work in small

New Science Curriculum

Our system has adopted a new science curriculum for the Elementary schools. A team of teachers came together last year to research, gather information, and decide on the best tools to help our students understand important science concepts based on state standards. The team chose a curriculum that was geared

reading, and listening to. The librarians are all certified teachers and thus collaborating with teachers is crucial to the mix of providing current and appropriate materials and practices for instruction.

As we grapple with the burgeoning technological advances in information gathering and the necessity for advanced hardware to utilize these innovations, librarians must also keep informed of and apply innovative library automation software to make the most efficient use of the library and the staff.

Above and beyond all this is the patron. School librarians are trained to help students. Giving book talks, teaching tech lessons, sponsoring programs, attending author discussions, ordering materials—these are only part of what the school district's librarians do. “All students achieving at high levels”—that is the goal.

groups or offer support in the general education setting. Each student is looked at individually and an appropriate program is created. The resource teachers offer instruction in reading, writing, and math. Also, these passionate educators work with students on preparing for the “real world” after high school, social skill development, and providing behavioral support. A day in the life of a resource room teacher is an incredibly dynamic experience. Because of a true passion for kids and belief in their ability to succeed, the educators in this program approach each day with enthusiasm!

The self-contained program is another piece of the Enumclaw School District special education program. Students can participate in the self-contained program as young as pre-school and continue until high school. The self-contained program is truly a labor of love and it is evident in any classroom throughout the system. The self-contained staff provide the students with experiences that promote academic and daily living skills. The elementary self-contained program is at Westwood. They are excited to begin swimming lessons this month. Also, they are studying concepts related to winter by going outside and experiencing the beautiful Enumclaw winter. The Middle School self-contained program is at Thunder Mountain. The TMMS Titans are enjoying community outings all over the

place to learn daily living skills such as using money and safety.

Enumclaw High School proudly houses the self-contained program appropriately called the “Transition Program.” The program is designed to assist students in being prepared for life after high school. The program provides students with access to social service agencies, which can provide ongoing assistance to them as adults. Teachers continually seek to match students with work experiences in areas that match their skills and interests. These experiences teach students to be self-advocates. There are many local businesses that are partners with the EHS Transition program:

- Skills, Inc. in Auburn
- Top Foods in Auburn
- Plateau Outreach Ministries and Pennies From Heaven
- Desi Derata's Essentials
- Goodwill Industries
- Brock's Salon
- Enumclaw Wellness Center
- Art Gamblin Motors
- Work Sports and Outdoors in Orting
- Enumclaw Police Department
- Orting Floral and Greenhouse
- Happy Trails Resort and Spa
- SKCAC Industries
- Voight's Creek Hatchery

for kindergarten through second grade and one that was appropriate for third through fifth grade students.

The curriculum that was chosen for K-2 is called FOSS (Full Option Science System). The primary grade tool kits include hands-on activities and books to support student learning. Students get to learn about everything from animals and plants to balance and motion in a fun and

meaningful way.

The third through fifth grade curriculum is centered on a reference book by the publisher, Harcourt. Students read about key science concepts and get to do experiments that show the concepts in action. Each classroom has books and equipment to support the main science text book. Students are actively involved in science discovery.

Magic Strings — A Program for Students in Grades 2, 3, 4 & 5

Magic Strings is currently accepting applications for students entering grades 2, 3, 4, and 5. Magic Strings is a set of four, self-contained classrooms housed at Southwood Elementary School. Each year, a new class of second graders is enrolled, and there are sometimes a very few openings in grades 3, 4, and 5. In addition to the required Enumclaw School District curriculum, each student in Magic Strings learns to play a violin or a cello during the regular school day.

Magic Strings has been in the Enumclaw School District for seven years. It was originally begun with a grant from VH-1 Save-the-Music Foundation, and

is maintained through parent fund raising and district support. There is a large inventory of violins and cellos available for students to use, and students also sometimes rent an instrument.

Transportation to Southwood from other schools is available. If necessary, Magic Strings siblings may also attend Southwood to consolidate families in one school.

Several opportunities exist for families and students to learn more about the Magic Strings Program. On February 5, 6 & 7, some of the Magic Strings students will be visiting the other elementary schools to play for the students and introduce the program. On February 8,

Magic Strings will present their annual midwinter concert at 7:00 p.m. at the EHS auditorium. An open house will be held on Tuesday, February 13, at Southwood Elementary. Parents and students will also be able to schedule visits to the classrooms in late February/early March if they so desire. Applications for the 2007-2008 school year will be due on March 9.

If you want more information or want to submit an application, call Southwood Elementary at 802-7370 or go to www.enumclaw.wednet.edu (scroll down under “Headings” to Magic Strings).

Highlights from our PE Programs

Physical Education is an integral part of the total education of every child for K-12. If students enjoy physical activity at an early age, they are more apt to develop good habits that will carry over into adulthood. There are National Standards for Physical Education. These standards help us develop curriculum, instruction, and assessment. In the spring of 2008, the WASL will have a Health and Fitness component.

Elementary

In August, Bud and Sue Turner, very well-known P.E./fitness educators from Seattle, spent a day with Elementary P.E. specialists. The middle school specialists joined the group later that day. They actively participated in cooperation games, fitness activities, dance and more. It was described as “the best workshop”.

Enumclaw was very well represented at the Seattle Kid's Marathon in Seattle on November 25th. We had runners from Kibler, Westwood, South-

wood, EMS, and TMMS. The kids all ran 25 miles at their home school and ran the final 1.3 miles on the street around the Seattle Center. It was a great celebration of fitness!

Southwood also had their own finish to the marathon. This was their 2nd annual finish. Many kids that do the 25 miles at school are not able to get to Seattle on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Their “celebration finish” was Monday, December 18th. The kids each received a t-shirt and lots of cheering from their student

body. Fifty kids participated in that event!

At Black Diamond, many students will be involved in the Mileage Club. From March-June their students are invited to walk, jog, or run on their field. They keep track of their laps and miles. Rewards of tokens will be given. Parents and staff will occasionally join their child or student at lunch recess. Last year, their students logged over 2,400 miles! Black Diamond Elementary has also been fortunate to have their PTA provide a climbing wall which helps their students to work on teamwork, perseverance, strength, and balance.

Middle School

At EMS, the specialists are working to instill the importance of and the desire to live an active lifestyle. To reach this goal, they present a wide variety of activities. Their hope is the students

will discover at least one or two activities they like and will continue to participate in it for the rest of their lives. These include information on which to base healthy choices. This includes information on drug use and abuse,

nutrition, human growth and development, basic first aid/CPR, and developing lifelong fitness plans. Their program introduces vocabulary students will need to be successful on the WASL in 2008.

High School

Three classes are offered at the high school. They are *Intro to PE & Weights, Sports and Fitness, and Weights and Conditioning*.

The *Intro to PE and Weights* include units on badminton, basketball, weights and conditioning, soccer, and flag football. They have been re-testing for the Presidential Fitness Test. They alternate sport and fitness days. For their intro class, they also had a fun guest appearance from “The Wave” PE

program in early December. The students were all introduced to the “street surfing” board which is a combination of skateboarding, surfing, and snowboarding. Each period one student’s name was drawn for a FREE board! Winners included Scott Leavens, Perla Saborio, Jerrod Winter, Riley Williams, Dara Lancaster, and Jeremy Sleezer. Congratulations!

In the *Sports and Fitness* classes the students have been in basketball tournaments, badminton, soccer, flag football, and tennis. In the basketball

class, the students have been quizzed on rules of the game.

In the *Weights and Conditioning* class, the students have been in small lifting groups that rotate daily between upper body, lower body, and plyometrics. This year, the PE specialists have decided to recognize their outstanding students in the PE program. Their students of the month are chosen for their daily effort, positive attitude, and teamwork. Their pictures are posted in the PE hallway.