



Enumclaw School District
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Enumclaw School District Board of Directors

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Mike Nelson, Superintendent

Letter from the Superintendent

April, 2007

Dear Parents,

The language that many of our presidential candidates are using is that they are "launching an exploratory committee to run for the president of the United States." At our board work study in March, the board and I had a conversation regarding our aging facilities. The focus of this conversation was about building a process for determining the facility needs within our school district. It is time as a school system and the cities of Black Diamond and Enumclaw, that we launch an exploratory process for not only determining our facility needs, but also determining a plan for addressing them.

As a result of the board study, Tim Madden (our Director of Business and Operations) and I met with staff at all of our school sites and departments seeking their input regarding their building needs. Our goal is to use this broad base of input to determine our priorities. As a means to this goal, we are inviting parents and community members to an information gathering meeting. Below are options to attend one of these meetings.

Kibler	April 17th; 6:30 (PTA meeting)
Sunrise	April 5th; 6:30 (special meeting)
Southwood	April 24th; 6:30 (special meeting)
Black Diamond	May 8th; 6:30 (PTA meeting)
Westwood	May 10th; 6:30 (special meeting)
TMMS	April 26th; 6:30 library (special meeting)
EMS	May 3rd; 6:30 library (special meeting)
EHS	May 1st; 6:30 library (special meeting)

The information from these meetings will be synthesized and a list of prioritized projects will be developed. During the summer months, these priorities will be clustered and packaged with initial pricing and sketches created to visually show possibilities. Next fall, our school system will again provide multiple opportunities for staff, parents, and community members to give feedback to us on the package of prioritized projects.

Public Relations Facilitator Team

Jennifer Longmire	Dewey Sullivan
Diahn Boline	Mark Milat
Julie McGrath	Kristin Millard
Marilyn Collins	Elisabeth Carlson
Seth Polson	Terry Huizenga
Lynda Alley	Ruth Ann Vanassa

Our hope is that late next fall our school board of directors will use this feedback to come to consensus about the needs of our facilities in order to finalize a package that could be put before our voting public in the spring, 2008. I believe this open and transparent process will allow a two-way dialog to occur. The winners in this entire process will be our students, not only the students of today, but the students for many years to come.

Sincerely,
Mike Nelson, Superintendent

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

The Enumclaw School District will hold its 2007 kindergarten registration and orientations in April as follows:

Black Diamond	802-7573	April 26	6:30 p.m.
Byron Kibler	802-7263	April 17	6:30 p.m.
Southwood	802-7373	April 26	6:30 p.m.
Sunrise	802-7425	April 26	6:30 p.m.
Westwood	802-7620	April 17	2:00 & 6:30 p.m.

Registration requirements:

- Children must be five years old on or before August 31.
- A parent must present a child's birth certificate at registration.
- Washington State immunization requirements must be met.
- Proof of residence must be provided.

The kindergarten program in the Enumclaw School District is a full-day program, five days per week. For further information about registration or orientation, please contact your neighborhood school.

Enumclaw School District

Volume 1, Issue 5



All Students
Achieving at
High Levels

CONNECTION

Serving Enumclaw and Black Diamond

Calendar of Events

April 9-13 Spring Break

April 16 Board Meeting 7:00 p.m.

Kindergarten Orientation (see back)

April 18 TMMS 5th Grade Parent Info Night 7:00 p.m.

April 19 EMS 5th Grade Parent Info Night 7:00 p.m.

April 24 High School Choral Concert 7:00 p.m.

Facility Planning Meetings (see letter on back)

WASL Testing Window April 17 - May 4 (*Get plenty of sleep and eat a good breakfast.*)



An investment in
knowledge always
pays the best

interest.

— Benjamin Franklin



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

A very special lady retires after 28 years of service

The end of an era came when Dolores VanHoof retired at the end of March, 2007. Dolores has been with food services in the Enumclaw School District since 1979 when hot lunch was prepared daily in a 60 gallon steam-jacketed kettle.

Back in 1984, when Dolores started as the food service supervisor, things were done differently. There were only 6 schools that served lunches in the Enumclaw School District. The food service staff included 19 people; the central kitchen was at Kibler Elementary; and, nearly all the food was prepared from scratch. Typical lunches were macaroni and cheese (from scratch), spaghetti, chili (from scratch) and cornbread, chicken noodle soup, mashed potatoes, turkey, chicken and beef gravy to name a few. (This was before the school district had any computers.) In those days, Dolores worked alongside her staff preparing food for the school lunches. She also managed the ordering of supplies and preparing the menus, in addition to her main job, making sure the meals served every day met the government guidelines.

Now the job has evolved into being almost exclusively a computer-driven job. There are 8 schools that now serve lunches in the Enumclaw School District. Dolores' staff include 31 food preparers, servers and cashiers spread out among all the schools. The central kitchen is now located at the high school. The move was made in September, 2000, after the remodel of the facility was complete. Typical lunches now include, hamburger & French fries, chickwich, pizza, cheese bread sticks with marinara, nachos, corn dogs, hot dogs, burrito, teriyaki dippers with rice, chicken nuggets, deli sandwiches, and Brunch for Lunch. All the food is cooked on the site at each school just before lunch to insure that it is fresh and hot. Lunch always includes a salad bar of fresh fruits and vege-

tables with condiments and nonfat chocolate or 1% white milk. Two of the student favorites, macaroni & cheese and chicken noodle soup, are still made from scratch at least once a month. Dolores just couldn't give up all of the cooking.

One of the biggest changes in the school lunch program was the introduction of breakfast about 10 years ago. Typical breakfast items



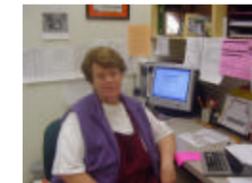
include cheese toast, hard-boiled egg, cheese omelet, yogurt, sausage links, cinnamon roll, French toast, bagel, English muffin, berry muffin, or a selection of no-sugared cereal. Fruit or juice and milk is also included with breakfast. The introduction of the special order lunches at the elementary schools 2 years ago gave the stu-

dents the option of ordering a variety of salads and sandwiches, or a "Grab & Go" lunch which includes a bagel, cream cheese, yogurt, string cheese, carroteenies, and fruit. This gives the students another 8 choices daily as well as what is offered on the menu.

The middle and high school breakfast and lunch programs, with more food service staff on site, offer a wider selection of menu items daily.

Since 1979 lunch is no longer served in the hallways and classrooms. Three schools have been built since then. The lunch participation has gone from an average of 800 a day to over 2,500. The elementary schools have added convection ovens and self-serve salad bars.

All this will change soon for Dolores, as she ends her 28-year career with the school district, 23 as the food services supervisor. She will be busy exploring different adventures with her newly acquired free time. Family, gardening, and traveling will no longer take a back seat to her responsibilities with the school district.





Westwood students are working hard on their assessment skills.

Westwood Elementary, like other schools in this district and throughout the state, is working hard to prepare students, parents, and staff for the WASL in April. Not only are children working hard during the school day, but they have the opportunity to attend additional activities offered outside of the classroom as extra help. These services benefit both students and parents.

During the months of January and February, Ms. Wahl (WW school counselor) and Ms. Weir (counselor intern) offered a class on Monday evenings to help parents better understand the requirements on the WASL and to give tips on how they can help their children be more successful. Some of the handwritten comments from parents were, "they appreciated the two-fold approach of the series which covered both the nuts and bolts of the WASL, as well as applicable interventions for at-home support." Parents viewed the hands-on and internet resources as helpful.

Also currently being offered to students

after school, is a math computer lab held at Thunder Mountain Middle School. The program includes assessment, skill-based lessons, and games for additional math practice. Each student is assessed and plugged into lessons tailored to meet their individual needs. Westwood staff is there to monitor student progress and assist any students who may need technical help. Over sixty 3rd-5th grade students signed up to attend either a Monday/Wednesday session or Tuesday/Thursday session. So far this class seems to be a big hit!

These are just a couple of the extra boosts parents and kids have been able to take advantage of!

Sunrise students are on track with Kasey Kahn

The students at Sunrise love to read and love Kasey Kahne. The PTA is sponsoring an activity that combines those two loves. Students are being asked to keep track of their at-home reading between March 2nd and April 6th. For every 10 minutes that a child reads at home, the Kasey Kahne car gets to go one mile on our Sunrise reading track. Our goal is to encourage students to read at home and help Kasey reach his goal of making it around the school by April 6th.

The Sunrise fifth graders, along with all fifth graders in Enumclaw, had the amazing opportunity to spend a day at Crystal Mountain. Every year the students in Enumclaw are given this gift. Crystal Mountain invites the students up for a day of free skiing, lift tickets, and lessons. A representative from Crystal comes down and talks to the students about the job opportunities available at Crystal. This is a great partnership and community connection. This opportunity is only given to the fifth graders in the Enumclaw School District. Thank you, Crystal Mountain and Terry Ryerse (teacher at Black Diamond) for making this happen every year.

King 5 Weather Station

About thirteen years ago, King 5 TV provided our district with free weather station equipment; and, the district purchased the necessary computer for this purpose, which was setup at Enumclaw Middle School. This allowed the community to see the weather appear on the SchoolNet scrolling banner at the bottom of the screen during King 5 news.

During the December windstorm, our weather station equipment was damaged to a point that repair is not an option. King 5 TV is no longer providing districts with the weather station equipment. They are now using a company called WeatherBug Achieve for their SchoolNet (weather station) information and equipment. We have received an estimated replacement cost of \$4,700.00 for new weather station equipment.

Because of other technology commitments and priorities, we are unable to replace the weather station equipment at this time. We continue to watch for grants or donations to fund these kinds of purchases to make replacements possible.

Behind the complex issues of a normal school day, stand the everyday wonders of teaching and learning at Black Diamond Elementary.

There are monthly birthday dinners for the social group but there are also amazing classes, trips, assemblies, extra classes, discussions, etc. Here we'll visit some to get a glimpse of what it is to try to fulfill the mission of all students succeeding.

For fifth grade math students who are not meeting the state standards there is a special class with retired teacher, Jim Meisner, which is intended to assist students in overcoming math deficiencies.

All grades are participating in a counseling program designed to enable students to remove barriers to learning. Students are learning to identify when they are upset; how to calm down; how to resolve their problems; and, how to develop strategies for relating to other students.

PTA is sponsoring READ ACROSS THE WORLD, Friday, March 9, as a multi-cultural event to engage students and adults with books, stories, and food from around the world. Meg Lippert will be the guest author.

Improving balance, stamina, and strength are some of the goals of the sessions available at the climbing wall in the gym during lunch recess. Susan Smith will continue this opportunity for four weeks. It is available to a different grade level each day.

In keeping with the everlasting goal of improving literacy, nine teachers traveled to the Bond Literature Conference at Western Washington University on Saturday, March 3rd, to meet and listen to four terrific authors—Lois Lowry, David Wiesner, Pat Mora, and Candace Fleming. Many of the same teachers are meeting weekly for a building discussion of *Comprehending Math: Adapting Reading Strategies to Teach Mathematics, K-6*.

Fourth and fifth grade students will compete with their counterparts from the Auburn School District for the local championship of the *Global Reading Challenge* sponsored by King County Library System on March 21.

Southwood students, staff, and family are in the midst of enjoying many learning opportunities!

The 5th grade went skiing and snowboarding on March 16. Crystal Mountain provided the ticket, rental, and lesson free for all of Enumclaw's 5th grade students.



The PTA hosted a dance for families on Friday, March 16.

Our staff is reading Comprehending Math.

We have been learning about the benefits of spreading "Random Acts of Kindness" thanks to our Student Council. They implemented a program to encourage the spreading of kind

words and deeds, and how this impacts our learning community.

Mrs. Davis' second grade class has been working on describing their feelings using color, sound, taste, smell, touch, and what it looks like. Here are some beautiful examples of how second graders look at the world:

HAPPINESS

It is white like an angel.
It tastes like hot cocoa.
It smells like cotton candy.
It looks like a baby puppy.
It sounds like a cat purring.
It feels like a soft cloud.

— By Kristin Podolak

FRUSTRATION

It is red like a flaming fire.
It tastes like hot peppers.
It smells like coal burning in the fire.
It looks like fighting in the dark.
It sounds like a storm with no light.
It feels like someone bullying you.

— by Alex Noehl

HAPPINESS

It is brown like a soft kitten.
It tastes like apple pie.
It smells like fresh cinnamon rolls.
It looks like my dog in the field.
It sounds like a violin playing.
It feels like a warm bath.

— by Alexa Demarco

Kibler Students Read Across America

We have been putting our hearts into our work here at Kibler Elementary! In February, our school was preparing a school-wide theme to tie in with Dr. Seuss's birthday. Our theme, as it was in many schools, was *Read Across America*. Each classroom was assigned a different state to display in the hall. Teachers then designed lessons to learn about their state or to tie their state in with the grade-level curriculum. Classrooms also added cars on which students wrote titles of books that they read. If you walked down the Kibler halls, you would get a sense of our school-wide theme.

In addition to our school-wide theme we hosted our annual Dr. Seuss Family Reading Night on Thursday, March 1. We offered various fun literacy activities. This year, we invited students from the Enumclaw High School drama department to join us for our evening. Throughout the evening they presented small versions of *Peter Pan*, *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, and *Shreck*. Thing 1 and Thing 2 rode their scooter and Monkey Bike in and out of the gym and they posed for pictures too. Each student left our program with a new book after having their name drawn from a raffle.

Teachers and students in grades 3-5 have been working hard to get ready for the WASL which will be given after spring break. Just as teachers teach different genres in reading students are

learning about the genre of test taking.

Our after-school math class which is called *Mad Money Math*, is in the third phase. This phase is concentrating on assessment literacy and released WASL prompts as well as math games to increase number sense. At the end of each Tuesday session students are awarded money based on attendance, participation, and attitude. Students will be able to use their money to buy popcorn and other donated items at two scheduled shopping sessions. The shopping sessions help students learn real life math skills.

Math consultant, Janis Heigl, returned to Kibler on March 22. Janis modeled lessons in a first and second grade classroom. K-2 teachers and specialist had the opportunity to observe the lessons. During the afternoon in-service Janis and staff debriefed the morning model lessons. As teachers, we know that we can learn from one another in a Professional Learning Community. Great things are happening at Kibler!

Thunder Mountain Implements Bully Prevention Program

Thunder Mountain is pleased to announce a new school improvement effort. We are working on implementing the Olweus (pronounced Ol-VAY-us) Bully Prevention Program. This is a comprehensive school-wide program created for use in elementary and middle schools. The goal of the program is to reduce and prevent bullying between peers, improve relationships between

peers, and improve overall school climate. We are excited about this research-based program, as it has already been shown to reduce bullying and improve school climate in schools worldwide.

So far, we have formed a committee at TMMS that is working with Olweus trainers. We have established a timeline and are excited to begin the program in the fall of 2007. By September, the entire TMMS staff will be trained in the Olweus program. The TMMS students will be taking a survey on April 5, 2007, to gather baseline data about bullying at TMMS. Some of the other program highlights are:

- ? Development of a coordinated system of supervision
- ? Adoption of school-wide rules against bullying
- ? Development of appropriate positive and negative consequences for students' behavior
- ? Holding staff discussion groups related to the program
- ? Holding regular classroom meetings with students to increase knowledge and empathy
- ? Interventions with students who bully and students who are being bullied
- ? Involvement of parents and community

The staff at Thunder Mountain is committed to promoting a positive academic culture. We are excited for this opportunity to work with our students and community in order to help all students achieve at high levels in the safest environment possible!