

Edmonds School District News

A Community Supporting Success For All Students

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Serving Brier, Edmonds, Lynnwood, Mountlake Terrace, Woodway, and portions of unincorporated Snohomish County

Reaching a new “benchmark” in reading and writing

Building our students’ skills through engaging and exciting materials

New school year. New materials to learn reading and writing - for *all* students in *all* kindergarten through sixth-grade classrooms across the district. Even during this financially restrictive time in public education, this is one area where you try to avoid making concessions – teaching children to read and write through a combination of strong teaching and the best and most effective materials available.

And that is what the Edmonds School District has done: Invested in the foundational component of learning through the partial adoption and purchase of the Benchmark Literacy Program for Grades K-6 to further support our teachers’ instruction. “We finally have common materials to support our beliefs about what is most essential in early literacy development,” said Lara Drew,

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Patrick Henry’s “Give Me Liberty, or Give Me Death” speech was the focus of this Reader’s Theater in teacher Cindy Allred’s classroom at Westgate Elementary recently. Students practice building fluency through reading aloud while also strengthening their vocabulary.



For more information on our District’s literacy curriculum visit: www.edmonds.wednet.edu/elemliteracy

To learn more about Benchmark resources visit: www.benchmarkeducation.com

Outreach to All

Families in the Edmonds School District are getting involved, finding their voices, and speaking up about the issues that are important to them.

While all families are encouraged to have open communication with their student’s teachers and school, this can be more difficult for some families than it is for others. For several years, parents, teachers, school leaders, and district staff members have been discussing how the schools and district can reach out to parents who may not be native English speakers or who might not understand, culturally, that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their student’s education.

In 2009-10, the district founded its Equity Alliance for Achievement (EAACH) committee, with a parent representative from each school providing perspective to the

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Message from the Superintendent



Nick Brossoit, Superintendent

Dear Community Members,

I hope this new school year finds you doing well as we are off to another great start in the Edmonds School District. This message summarizes areas where we have focused efforts

to serve our 20,000 students with quality educational opportunities. We thank you for your continued support of our students and schools.

ABCs of Funding

The back page of this newsletter shares information about what we are doing to complete the work we promised voters and highlights/updates our funding and budgeting situation. Due to state reductions, for this year we again had to make significant reductions. We are already planning for budget conversations in the spring in preparation for 2011-12. Also, we are looking forward to announcing who the major tenant will be at the former Lynnwood High site.

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See back page for the ABCs of Your School Funding

- Voter support with the passage of local levies and bonds
- Old Lynnwood High School lease update - benefits future capital projects
- State funding shortfalls and budget reductions affecting our schools

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2009-10 Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) and High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) Results

Percent of Students Meeting or Exceeding Standard in the District and State

Grade	Reading		Math		Writing		Science	
	District	State	District	State	District	State	District	State
3	74.3	72.1	64.3	61.8				
4	68.2	67.2	54.9	53.7	62.8	61.1		
5	70.0	69.6	57.0	53.6			32.0	34.0
6	69.3	64.6	57.6	51.9				
7	67.3	63.4	58.6	55.3	73.8	70.3		
8	66.8	69.4	55.9	51.6			56.2	54.5
10	83.9	78.9	42.2	41.7	90.8	86.0	50.5	44.8

* Bold scores indicate the district average is more than 2 percentage points above state average. These scores are based on OSPI data as of Sept. 27, 2010.

“Benchmark” in reading and writing

continued from cover

director of elementary education. “These materials are really engaging and exciting for kids and support a wide range of learners. And there are a lot of tools to help the teacher monitor student progress.”

Due to budget restrictions, we were able to put the first of three phases of this adoption into place. The essential areas this program is built around are: comprehension, phonics and word study, vocabulary, fluency, writing skills, and speaking and listening. On any given school day, students are further developing their love of reading through group read-aloud time, mini-lessons, small-group and independent reading, and phonics/word study.

“Going from classroom to classroom I’ve seen our students working on the same foundational skills from class to class, level to level. I think this will have a positive impact on student learning,” Westgate Principal Rob Baumgartner said. “The program is right in line with the best reading practices we’ve been implementing for years, and the new materials help us with this.”



Outreach to All *continued from cover*

district and taking information from EAACH back to their school and families.

It is our district’s goal to have all parents be actively involved in their student’s learning experience. At College Place Middle School, this ideal is really taking root with support from a group of dedicated parents called Natural Leaders. Nine Spanish-speaking parents have begun meeting monthly with Principal Thea Gardner to discuss what is happening in the school and how they can assist in reaching out to other Latino parents. The student population at College Place Middle has become more diverse in recent years, and out of that growth has emerged this need.

“This group is passionate about parents and letting them know that there is a place in the school for them,” Gardner said.

Not only are these Natural Leaders present at school events, they are personally calling parents to invite them to participate in opportunities the school is offering. Gardner hopes the program will grow organically to include parents from other diverse backgrounds.

Outreach efforts taking place in our schools vary. A sample of these efforts include:

- Parent information nights and dinners offered at Lynnwood Elementary,
- Islamic Natural Leaders at Cedar Way Elementary holding teas to build understanding and welcome parents,
- A Young Women of Color club for female students at Lynnwood High,
- Monthly English Language Learners (ELL) nights for parents at Martha Lake Elementary,
- Spanish-speaking parent information nights at Edmonds-Woodway High, and
- A district-wide student leadership development club for all students of color.

Message from the Superintendent

continued from cover

Student Scores: Above the State Average

Our students have again tested and made gains when compared to the state, on the state assessments at almost all grade levels in all four core subjects. A chart summarizing the Measurements of Student Progress (MSP) and High School Proficiency Exam (HSPE) is on this page. These results are a reflection of the work of students, parents, and staff in our school community; though we are making progress, we remain committed to closing the achievement gaps where they exist.

Math and Literacy Adoptions are Key

We are in our third year of using the same math materials across our schools. With all classrooms and grades utilizing the same curriculum, we are seeing steady progress in our students’ successes. We are pleased to say that with our continued efforts to focus funding on the most important needs, we put into place the first of three phases of literacy materials across K-6. Please read our cover story to learn more on how teachers and principals are seeing what these materials allow them to do with instruction.

Enrollment

State funding for schools is, in part, based on enrollment numbers, beginning with the “fourth-day count” each September. Our enrollment projections were accurate, meaning we staffed correctly and will not have to impact budgets as a result of enrollment. Thanks to our district business office staff who work to ensure we are accurate.

Capital Projects

Also featured on the back page is a roundup of what we are doing to keep our promise to the taxpayers for the voter-approved 2006 Capital Construction Bond and 2008 Technology/Capital Levy. Bond-funded Meadowdale Middle is on budget and on time to open one year from now. We are continuing to replace classroom-based technology tools and equipment through our levy to ensure there is not a disruption to student learning. The work we are doing to lease some of our surplus properties is also moving forward and we are close to being able to announce the major tenant who is signed up to lease a sizable part of the old LHS site.

Invitation to Participate

I encourage you to get involved with us and our work this school year. Volunteer at your neighborhood school. Simply reading to or with a child for 30 minutes one time a week can make a difference in their educational growth. To get connected with your neighborhood school either contact it directly or call Community Relations at 425-431-7044 to make arrangements.

You are invited to attend one of our Monthly Superintendent’s Roundtables typically on the first Wednesday of each month from noon to 1 p.m. at the Educational Service Center (ESC), 20420 68th Avenue, Lynnwood 98036. Our program for Nov. 3 is “How Do we Preserve Arts and Athletics in our Schools When we Cannot Fund Basic Education?” Topics are generated by community members. For a full list visit: www.edmonds.wednet.edu/roundtable. Also, see our calendar of events on page 3 for a partial listing.

I encourage you to visit our website (www.edmonds.wednet.edu) to learn even more about the topics I discussed or that are featured in this newsletter. Your understanding of the work we do to serve students and their learning is important. We need your support to provide students with the positive learning experiences that will assist them in life. Thank you.

Nick J. Brossoit
Superintendent



Picture yourself at our new District Information Fair!

How will it be new?

We are in the process of evolving and further improving our annual event showcasing our programs. One of the changes will include the addition of community groups!

Join us ...

Saturday, Jan. 22, 2011

9 a.m. – Noon

at Lynnwood High School,
18218 North Road, Bothell, 98012

Kindergarten registration begins Feb. 7, 2011 at each neighborhood elementary school.

Mark Your Calendar!

- Oct. 25-29** **K-6 Parent-Teacher Conference Week**
Early Dismissal for Every Day Kindergarten and Grades 1-6. No Alternating Day Kindergarten.
- Oct. 27** **Superintendent's Meeting with Parents,**
7 p.m. at College Place Middle School Commons,
7501 208th St. SW, Lynnwood
- Nov. 2** **School Board Meeting at the ESC*,** 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 3** **Superintendent's Roundtable at the ESC*,**
Noon to 1 p.m. Program topic, "How Do We Preserve
Arts and Athletics When We Cannot Fund Basic
Education?"
- Nov. 4** **Community Showing of "Including
Samuel",** 7-9 p.m., at ESC*
- Nov. 11** **No School, Veterans' Day**
- Nov. 12** **No School, Professional Development Day**
- Nov. 16** **School Board Meeting at the ESC*,** 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 25-26** **No School, Thanksgiving Break**
- Dec. 1** **Superintendent's Roundtable at the ESC*,**
Noon to 1 p.m. Program topic, "Working Together to
Keep Our Schools Safe"
- Dec. 14** **School Board Meeting at the ESC*,** 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 20-31** **Winter Break**
- Jan. 4** **School Board Meeting at the ESC*,** 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 12** **Superintendent's Roundtable at the ESC*,**
Noon to 1 p.m. Program topic, "Role of the Feds in Our
Schools: AYP and Stimulus Money"
- Jan. 22** **District Information Fair,** 9 a.m.- Noon
at Lynnwood High School, 18218 North Road,
Bothell, 98012
- Jan. 18** **School Board Meeting at the ESC*,** 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 11** **In-District Transfer Forms for 2011-12
Now Accepted**

* The Educational Service Center (ESC) is located at 20420 68th Ave. W, Lynnwood, 98036 (just south of Edmonds Community College).

Save the Date Community Budget Meetings:

March 30, 7:00 p.m.
Lynnwood HS Theater

April 13, 4:00 p.m.
Mountlake Terrace HS Theater

April 20, 7:00 p.m.
Meadowdale HS Theater

April 27, 4:00 p.m.
Edmonds-Woodway HS Theater

An opportunity
to provide input
on the district's
2011-12 budget.

Are you interested in receiving more detailed information about the events and news from our district?

Become a "Key Communicator"

– and receive news directly in your inbox!

Visit us online at www.edmonds.wednet.edu and click on the "Register" button in the top right corner of the screen. Once you have created a username and password, you will begin to receive regular updates. Questions? Please call the Community Relations Office at 425-431-7044.



Thank you for your support of the Edmonds Public Schools Foundation's 5K Street Strut on Oct. 9!

Learn more about our Foundation:
edmondspsf.org



Edmonds School District Board of Directors



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Dr. Nick Brossoit
Superintendent and
Board Secretary

Comprising five director districts, the Board of Directors conducts the business of the Edmonds School District. The board meets alternate Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Educational Service Center, 20420 68th Ave. W., Lynnwood, 98036. Study sessions, at which the board does not vote on matters, are held as needed on alternate Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

ABCs of Your School Funding

Aa

August 17 Voters approved a Supplemental Levy – thank you!

How will this money be used?

Communitywide budget discussions begin in March (see page 3).

See Winter 2011 newsletter for more information on how you can participate.

Bb

Budget Reduction Recap

What was cut for 2010-11?

\$6.4 million that directly impacted:

Use of One-Time Dollars

Used \$4.5 million in federal stimulus funding to maintain rather than enhance programs.

District:

Reassigned central administrators to school support positions;

Reduced staff in most district support departments (Student Learning, Warehouse, Custodial, Maintenance, Human Resources, Business, Technology, Transportation).

Schools:

Reduced building budgets;

Eliminated on-site police (SRO) at high schools.

Cc

Cypress Equities

Who will be its major retail tenant on the old Lynnwood High property?

Announcement expected soon!

Letter of Intent signed with major retailer;

It will be located on the north side of the property;

Retailer will use about 15 acres (half) of the developable site.

Estimated annual revenue from this ground-lease tenant alone? \$1 million per year.

But remember... state law requires this revenue remain in the capital projects fund. It cannot be used for classroom support.

and Dd

State Funding

What is the latest revenue forecast?

The Legislature convenes this Winter to set the biennial budget.

Current state revenue forecasts indicate our district could face at least another significant reduction for the 2011-12 school year.

CONTINUED PROGRESS:

Voter-Approved 2008 Technology/Capital Levy Update

Summer months are busy in our school district with equipment replacements, building improvements, and other upgrades taking place at a number of our schools. Coordinated by our Technology, Instructional Technology, Capital Projects, and Facilities Operations Departments, these projects are completed while school is out to minimize disruptions to student learning.

The 2008 Technology/Capital Levy is providing our students with an opportunity to have continued access to technology tools that will assist in their learning and help them meet state requirements for technology competency. We have a system in place to replace older equipment and are continuing to infuse new techniques, programs, and equipment as needed into our schools. While textbooks and other printed materials are vital to the learning process, we are finding that today's students are using multiple media, including technology, to find the information they need and expand their knowledge base.

Projects completed this summer include:

- Teacher instructional laptop, projector, and document camera replacements, which is an ongoing project.
- Technology Computer Lab replacements at Alderwood, Brier Terrace, College Place, and Meadowdale Middle Schools.
- Additional Mobile Laptop Labs for elementary and middle schools – high schools completed next year.
- Capital Partnership Projects at Maplewood, Mountlake Terrace High, Terrace Park School, and Westgate Elementary. Funds raised by outside groups supporting this work are matched by 2008 Technology/Capital Levy dollars.
- Energy-efficiency improvements to HVAC digital control systems for Brier, Meadowdale, Seaview, Sherwood, and Westgate elementaries. Seven additional schools will receive these upgrades in the coming year.
- Roof replacement for the gym and carpet replacement for the library at Mountlake Terrace High.



New Meadowdale Middle School Building Takes Shape

With funds from the voter-approved 2006 Capital Construction Bond, the Meadowdale Middle School construction project is on track to be completed and open as scheduled in Fall 2011. This project is taking place on the site of the current school building, 6500 168th Street SW, Lynnwood, 98037. The main and auxiliary gymnasiums were completed during Summer 2010 and are currently in use and being enjoyed by the students and staff of the school.

The rest of the building is at different levels of completion, however, it is framed, and fireproofing and roofing are currently in progress. The two-story design of the school features natural day-lighting and ventilation, five "Personalized Learning Community" areas near the classrooms, a condensing boilers heating system, state-of-the-art security and telephone systems, a manufacturing shop and drafting lab, and an amphitheater outside of the library. More information, design images, and construction photos are available on our website at www.edmonds.wednet.edu/cpo.

CONSERVATION WORKS:

Bright
(but low energy!)
Ideas in Place



During the last school year, electricity use in the Edmonds School District was reduced by 1.2 million kWh hours compared to the previous year.

Changing the type of lighting in several of our most-used gyms was one of the areas that contributed to this terrific savings.

Comparable reductions in use and cost go for natural gas as well.

Edmonds School District News provides school and education information to all the residents of Edmonds School District #15. For more information about the District, please call the Administration Office at (425) 431-7000 or visit www.edmonds.wednet.edu. To request this newsletter in a different format for people with disabilities please call (425) 431-7044. Board of Directors: Susan Phillips, President; Gary Noble, Vice President; and members Ann McMurray, Susan Paine, and Patrick Shields. Superintendent: Nick J. Brossoit, Ed.D. Writing, Editing: DJ Jakala and Jennifer Piplic. Art Direction and Design: District Printing Services Jeanne Macdonald. Photography: School, District staff. Printed with soy ink on 30% Post Consumer Waste recycled paper.

The Edmonds School District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, or physical, sensory or mental handicaps (see Board Policy 6005). This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. Inquires regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the District's Title IX/RCW 28A.640 Compliance Officer, Debby Carter (425-431-7023); Section 504 Coordinator, Katy Wysocki (425-431-7186); or ADA Coordinator, Debby Carter (425-431-7023). Visit or mail: 20420 68th Ave. W, Lynnwood, WA 98036.

Why am I getting this newsletter? This newsletter is intended to reach all residents in our District including the nearly 70 percent of households without school-age children. We use bulk mailing rather than individually addressing each newsletter because it is the least expensive way to distribute this newsletter.