



YOUR EVERGREEN SCHOOLS

April 2009
Vol. 33 No. 3



Evergreen Public Schools

BAM! Program makes big impact on boys



Trust Me - Frontier Middle School students in the BAM! program, use trust and team-building exercises as part of the curriculum.

“The most valuable result of this program is that boys are inspired to see themselves as capable, responsible and talented.”

Each Frontier BAM! class begins with a roundtable discussion. The curriculum includes discussions about what it means to be a boy and personal experiences in each of their lives. There are also optional strength and trust exercises that challenge the participants to rely on one another and then talk about it afterwards. Bastable is always quick to ask the group to remind one another of the group’s “norms” - work as a team, treat

others as you want to be treated, everything said is confidential. Bastable leads the group with a sense of calm and respect. He asks questions and makes sure the activities are led properly, while still allowing the boys to have open discussions. He never forces any of the students to participate in an activity, though by the end, they are all more than willing.

BAM!, created by three counselors from Portland, Oregon, is focused on elementary and middle school age boys, and aims to help boys become “emotionally literate and relationally competent.” In practice, it provides a safe environment and activities to empower boys to understand how they feel, who they are and foster a sense of caring and service to others. One of the founders, Peter Mortola described the activities as “a way for boys to use their energy

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Each school day Frontier Middle School Intervention Specialist Eoin Bastable sits down with 11 students. They are from a variety of backgrounds, have different personalities and not all of them are in good standing at school, but what they do have in common is that they are all boys and are there to learn

how to be mentors to students at Pioneer Elementary School. The Boys Advocacy and Mentoring program (BAM!), run by Bastable has only been in use since last year, but already Bastable, Frontier Principal Lisa Wagner and Pioneer Principal Jenny Roberts have seen a difference in students from both schools.

Ad-Hoc committees compile recommendations

Reports presented at well-attended community forums

Interested in the budget, but missed the first round of budget forums? Have more questions? Follow-up budget forums and a budget webcast will be held in May and June on the following dates:

Budget Forums

Wednesday, May 13, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.,
Heritage High School auditorium

Wednesday, May 20, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.,
Evergreen High School auditorium

Budget Webcast

Wednesday, June 3, 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.,
online at: www.evergreenps.org

In light of the steep budget shortfall facing Evergreen Public Schools, the Board of Directors sent out an all-call to the community, district staff and teachers asking for participation in three ad-hoc committees addressing how to sustain the areas of general budget, technology and facilities. Once the committees were convened, the groups met from November through February to compile a list of recommendations to present to

the community and the Board of Directors.

Each committee included department managers and/or directors to provide information about the budget, needs and inner workings of each area. From there, the committees discussed, evaluated and created recommendations.

Superintendent John Deeder explained the goal behind the committee creation. “The

purpose of ad-hoc committees was to draw the community and the school district into a collaborative discussion about what needs to be done in the district when we are facing such a drastic shortfall. We need every constituent at the table, teachers, parents, district staff and community members. In order to bring about the best ideas, look at every angle and advocate for

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Taking time to answer the community's questions



John Deeder
Superintendent

Throughout the past few months, Evergreen Public Schools has held a number of events, including community forums and webcasts to provide parents, students, staff and community members the opportunity to ask questions about a variety of topics.

I'd like to share a couple of the issues that have been brought forth and my response to those questions.

Regarding the budget, as of this writing, Evergreen Public Schools has not received a final dollar amount from the state, and is still operating under the assumption that we will be put in the position of having to reduce our budget up to \$15 million for next school year. Two questions regarding the budget are "What are the criteria for which programs go and which ones stay?" and "What is the district doing to mitigate these cuts?"

In Evergreen Public Schools we declare that all students will have the opportunity to attain the skills necessary to be world-competitive upon graduation. This declaration, coupled with our theory of action, which is – if we improve the quality of instruction and the quality of leadership at the district, building and classroom levels, then we will close the achievement gap – is the lens the School Board will use when making their final budget decision.

The classroom/core content areas must be protected because the district, even with deep budget cuts, will remain accountable under No Child Left Behind for its students meeting

standards in the areas of reading, writing, math and science.

In looking at where to make reductions, we must look at what can we do that will not have a direct impact on the classroom. Therefore you will not see any core classroom teachers on the budget reduction list. We must protect the classroom; if we don't do that, we have lost sight of what we are about.

Regarding what we are doing to lessen the impact of the reduction on our budget, this year we trimmed \$3.3 million from our budget. Almost all of that came from the district's administrative budget. Department budgets at the district office were trimmed by 20 percent, some open positions were not filled, and we cancelled our contract with ConnectEd – our parental emergency notification phone system. In the past three years we have already eliminated 15 central office positions. I have asked everyone who works in the district to look at how they are doing business and determine if there are cost saving measures that can be implemented immediately. This includes conserving energy, limiting travel and reducing printing.

As we move closer to the end of this legislative session, we will continue to update the district's webpage with information on the budget. In addition, we have scheduled two more community forums – Wednesday, May 13 from 6:30 - 8 p.m. at Heritage High School and Wednesday, May 20 from 6:30 – 8 p.m. at Evergreen High School and a webcast Wednesday, June 3 at 6 p.m. – to present the most up-to-date information and take further questions and comments.

Another question that was frequently asked was regarding Evergreen Public Schools' public service ads and who paid for them. This is the

third time we have partnered with businesses in the community to run a series of public service ads or PSAs on KATU Channel 2. The PSAs feature shots of Evergreen Public Schools with the district's message about providing quality education. The ads include a message from the sponsoring business. None of the PSAs were paid for with school district dollars; all funding came from the individual advertising budgets of the vendors featured in the ads. Because the money came from their ad budgets, these dollars would not have been available to the school district for any other use.

So why run these ads at all? The Evergreen Public Schools Board of Directors believes that an important part of raising awareness and support for education is spreading the message about what the district is seeking to do, which is provide quality education for every student that will give them the skills necessary to be world-competitive upon graduation. That quality education message is in every publication the district puts out, including newsletters, press releases, cable TV shows and online mediums. In addition to all of these, the district has been fortunate to have strong community business partners who are willing to pay in order to get that message, and their support of it, on TV. While television advertising may appear to be costly, because the PSAs are fully-funded by vendors, it actually costs the district nothing.

Evergreen Public Schools will continue to try to reach as many community members as possible with the message of what the district is committed to doing for the students in this community.

Space prohibits me from going through any more of the frequently asked questions. The district will post a handful each week on our website at www.evergreenps.org.

Thirty-one teachers received their National Board Certification

Evergreen Public Schools would like to congratulate the 31 newest National Board Certified Teachers in the district. National Board certification is a rigorous process that requires teachers to pass a full-day exam and provide more than 200 hours of teaching evidence. Evergreen has the fourth highest number of board certified teachers in the state.

Bruce Andrade - Frontier Middle School
 Christal Barnum - York Elementary School
 Denise Bekkedahl - Mountain View High School
 Beth Boldra - York Elementary School
 Kelly Bristol - Covington Middle School
 Scott Bristol - Cascade Middle School
 Bruce Dunn - Covington Middle School/Silver Star Elementary School
 Mary Eterno - York Elementary School
 Burl Fabianek - Heritage High School/Frontier Middle School
 Julie Hannan - Covington Middle School
 Brad Holten - Covington Middle School
 Brook Irwin - Mountain View High School
 Joel Karn - Heritage High School
 Norma LaChine - Frontier Middle School
 Terrence Lamp - Burnt Bridge Creek Elementary School
 Jone MacCulloch - Silver Star Elementary School
 Peggy McNabe - Evergreen High School
 Tilly Meyer - Shahala Middle School
 Patricia Moore - York Elementary School
 Jill Oathout - Marrion Elementary School



Kristie Peak - Mill Plain Elementary School
 Tod Pickett - Frontier Middle School
 Kris Rold - York Elementary School
 Shannon Shambaugh - Riverview Elementary School
 Eric Smedsrud - Crestline Elementary School/Mountain View High School
 Mary Thompson - Heritage High School
 Deborah Vossler - Frontier Middle School
 Debra Weldon - Harmony Elementary School
 David Williams - Heritage High School/Sifton Elementary School
 Scott Winks - Fisher's Landing Elementary School/ Shahala Middle School
 Amanda Ziesemer - Silver Star Elementary School

Evergreen Public Schools receives \$97,155 State Farm grant

Funds will aid expansion of cross-age mentoring

Evergreen Public Schools has received a \$97,155 State Farm Youth Advisory Board (YAB) grant for the districts' Creating Achievable Pathways in Science for All Learners (CAPSAL) project. The grant is the largest received by the school district this year and is one of only 73 projects across the United States and Canada to receive State Farm funding. More than 500 projects were submitted to the YAB for consideration.

The CAPSAL program will specifically work to expand the annual cross-age mentoring science fair that has been bringing Heritage High School and Orchards and Sifton Elementary School students together for the past three years for an annual science fair. High school students mentor elementary school students on their projects, which are then judged and shown during a science fair day open to the community.

"This grant money will enable us to extend our cross-age mentoring science fair to include four elementary schools, three high schools and three middle

schools, thus creating an opportunity for more students to participate in hands-on engagement with science projects and presentations," said Tom Archer, science manager for Evergreen Public Schools. "Cross-age mentoring is provided to support positive role models for the elementary students while supporting leadership development for high school students. Students at both end of the continuum benefit academically from this partnership."

The State Farm YAB is a diverse group of 30 youth, ages 17-20, who were chosen to lead and oversee the yearly \$5 million signature service-learning initiative. The Youth Advisory Board identified the issues, distributed competitive grants and will now provide technical assistance, communication and oversight to the site grantees.

Brandon Ibarra, a YAB board

member and Seattle University student spoke to the reasons behind the CAPSAL program's selection. "The CAPSAL program will allow young people and leaders to focus on topics such as improving math and science test scores, educating an influx of diverse populations and the high drop-out rates in high school while working to protect the environment, thus enriching the community."

Representatives from State Farm presented the check to district representatives and students from Heritage High School and Orchards Elementary School on February 23rd at Heritage High School.

"We are extremely grateful to the Youth Advisory Board for supporting us in continuing to provide these kinds of opportunities for our students," said Archer.



Science Fair Funding - The State Farm Youth Advisory Council awarded \$97,155 to the district earmarked for a district-wide science fair. The grant was much needed as previous funding had recently expired.

BAM!

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Playful Impact - BAM! program graduates volunteer their time as playground mentors at Pioneer Elementary School.

in a powerful, focused way, and to broaden boys' emotional and behavioral repertoire." The results are boys that are better able to form relationships, work through problems and articulate feelings versus acting out.

Most importantly, has it helped the boys?

Participant Brendin said, "I tried

BAM! because there was mentoring and I wanted to help other kids. It's great to end the day on a good note and to be able to share things with other people. I also like that there aren't any girls, it's easier to talk." Johnathan agreed, "I like smaller classes. I was curious when I heard about it [BAM!] It's a great place to come and get help and learn new

skills." Participant Matthew said, "I used to get in trouble a lot. I talk too much. After taking this class, I still get in trouble sometimes, but it's a lot less than it used to be."

One of the greatest draws to the BAM! elective is the mentoring factor. When Bastable took the BAM! curriculum and implemented it into an elective class at Frontier, he added the mentoring component. Each "graduating" class spends time at Pioneer volunteering as recess monitors and peer mediators for the elementary school students. That's the reason participant Pastor wanted to get involved. "I am the oldest in my family and I wanted to help kids like my younger siblings learn how to deal with older kids so that they feel safe and want to come to school."

Affecting others in a positive way is one of the most common themes amongst participants. The desire to help people, learn

something new and learn to trust each other is voiced by all of the participants. Johnathan said, "It's big, learning how to express feelings around boys." They have seen a difference in themselves, and in other boys at school who have gone through the program "I've noticed other students behaving better," said Pastor.

Roberts said that the program has already impacted her students. "I've seen at least a 30 percent decrease in playground incident referrals. Our students really enjoy having the older students out there with them. It's been a benefit for both schools." Bastable agreed with that and the potential life-long impact that BAM! can have on participants. "The most valuable result of this program is that boys are inspired to see themselves as capable, responsible and talented. They are able to discover their best qualities as mentors and role models to younger children."

Student life

A year-long series following four high school students in Evergreen Public Schools

The students:

Samantha Cahill

In the last update, sophomore Sam Cahill had finished up her season with the Union High School varsity volleyball team, just in time to start a successful club volleyball season. Her team was in fourth place out of 100 teams in March, but the team is hoping for higher. The distance separating them from first is so small that a few wins can easily place them in first. Cahill will travel to Sacramento, California in June for her final tournament.

What she's looking forward to most is the opportunity to travel to Spain in May to visit her sister, who is studying abroad. "It will be a two-week trip, right after AP (advanced

placement) tests will be done," she said. "I really hope it works out, it would be an awesome trip. My sister is staying in a home right on the Mediterranean Sea." This would be Cahill's first time traveling alone, but after her travel to Taiwan last summer, she's confident. "There would be no foreign layovers," she explained. "And it would be well worth the travel to get to spend time with my sister."

Chatting it Up - Union High School sophomore Samantha Cahill (center) is hoping to travel to Spain in May to visit her sister who is studying abroad.



Eye on the Prize - Evergreen High School senior Zack Burdick is working to stay focused on school until graduation in June.

Zack Burdick

Now that the Presidential Inauguration is over, Evergreen High School senior

Zack Burdick has plenty of time to focus on other things, like deciding where he wants to go to college. He has narrowed his choices down

"There was an acting improvisation section of the competition too," laughed Burdick. "It was probably one of the hardest things I've ever done."

to the University of Portland or Whitworth University in Spokane. Burdick recently visited Whitworth for a scholarship competition and came back feeling like it was the perfect fit. "I originally applied for Whitworth because they offered a Deans Priority application with no application fee," explained Burdick. "Then they invited me out

for a scholarship competition that lasted a few days and I really ended up feeling like this is where I want to go."

The academic competition brought 96 prospective students to Whitworth for a weekend of exams, discussions and team exercises. "There was an acting improvisation section of the competition too," laughed Burdick. "It was probably one of the hardest things I've ever done." He was also able to watch an intramural soccer game, stay in the dorms and meet current students. "The winner of the competition receives a full-ride scholarship for four years," said Burdick. "After visiting, I really hope that I get that opportunity."

Study Circles seek to create community ownership over education

Over the course of the next few months, Evergreen Public Schools has convened groups of community members, parents and district staff to participate in "Study Circles." Following a workgroup model, Study Circle participants are meeting together over the shared topic, "Helping Every Student Succeed," and creating work plans that they can share with the Board of Directors regarding how to create an educational system that provides every student the opportunity to become world-competitive upon graduation.

"We are striving to gather

the input of patrons and those passionate about education in order to improve what we provide for students," said Superintendent John Deeder, "By including people with a diverse set of views and experiences in the formation of these groups and then asking the members to proactively create a set of recommendations and action steps, we believe that it will create greater ownership and awareness about education in the community."

Each group has a facilitator who has been trained in the goals of the sessions and how best to maximize the time of participants. Groups

were formed based on the time, date and locations that worked best for them. They will meet six to eight times over the next few months. Their recommendations and action steps will then be presented to the Evergreen Public Schools' Board of Directors.

Deeder spoke at the kick-off event on Thursday, March 26 where he addressed the Study Circle groups on the message of helping every student succeed. "We can look at test scores and see who is succeeding and who is not, but understanding why and how to reach every student is more

complex. We do know, however, that when our schools and students are successful, so is our community as a whole."

At the end of this round of Study Circles process, the district hopes to have a community that is not only more aware of what it will take to help all students succeed, but also that participants will take that message and share it.

"All across America, people are concerned about how our children are doing in school," said Deeder. "We all want the best for our children and to reach that goal, all of us must be involved."



Key to Success - Mountain View High School student Sean Fraser leads a Key Club meeting. Fraser was recently elected lieutenant governor of the 45th Key Club division.

Sean Fraser

Mountain View High School (MVHS) junior Sean Fraser has been busy filling up his schedule for his upcoming senior year. He was recently elected to a Key Club district level, lieutenant for the Pacific Northwest region. In his new position he oversees six Key Club districts, which include clubs from Vancouver, Camas and Evergreen. "It's been fantastic so far," said Fraser, barely able to contain his excitement. "I'm meeting so many great, new people. I really love it." Fraser will oversee joint service projects and communication between clubs and visit different club

meetings in order to provide support. "It's quite a bit of extra work, probably a couple hours a night," he said. "But it's well-worth it."

His involvement with Key Club has been good experience as he looks towards his senior year and what activities he may want to dedicate his senior year to. "I have considered student leadership such as student council," he said. "We'll see how things develop. The Key Club Lt. position runs through next March. I'm also debating whether or not to do Running Start or take additional AP classes."

Jasmine Rucker

Heritage High School (HHS) freshman Jasmine Rucker, continues to push herself in her first year of high school. In addition to her continued church involvement and her challenging class load, Rucker recently joined the HHS tennis team. "I made it on C team," she laughed. "There's varsity, JV and C team, but I'm happy to be doing it, it's something I told myself I wanted to try." With only a few of her friends also trying out, Rucker, as always, is taking it as a new opportunity to get to know more people. "I'm adaptable," she said.

"I'm just getting to know a lot of people I haven't met before."

Academically, Rucker has put together her schedule for the upcoming year including deciding against adding Advanced Placement (AP) history. "I wanted to do AP history," she said, "but then I realized I don't love history right now and I want to make sure to focus on classes I do love." That includes chemistry and other sciences that will prepare her for her desired career in the medical field. "I'm learning to prioritize," she explained.



Team Player - Heritage High School freshman Jasmine Rucker, recently joined the tennis team.

Evergreen Public Schools alumni awarded national State Farm Service Learning Champion Award

FuelOnly president honored for his work with the Heritage High School Biodiesel program



Student Champion - Evergreen High School alumni Malala Pou is congratulated by Superintendent John Deeder on being awarded the national State Farm Service Learning Champion Award for his generous donation of time and resources to the district's service learning programs.

Malala Pou, president of the local biodiesel company, FuelOnly, was awarded the national State Farm Service Learning Champion Award for his ongoing support of the Heritage High School (HHS) biodiesel program. An alumni of Evergreen Public Schools, Pou credits his own success in high school to "teachers who persevered and found ways to hook me as a learner, specifically with hands-on applied service learning." He has now found a way to foster that dream in the lives of other young students, through his involvement with the biodiesel program.

Pou began the company FuelOnly to meet the need for research and development in the field of alternative fuels. After hearing about the efforts of HHS students to take waste cooking oil and turn it into viable vehicle fuel, he attended a presentation by the HHS biodiesel team. He was so impressed by their efforts that he offered the use of FuelOnly's labs for quality control testing, an important part of the biodiesel process. He also funded a trailer to store the projects and volunteered his own time and that of the company's chemists and research development teams to bring the latest in biodiesel development knowledge to the project.

Nominator Superintendent John Deeder said, "Malala is relentless in communicating his commitment to service learning through his

generous contribution of time, talents and funding. Not only do he and his company do great things through their commitment to the environment and improving the fuel industry, but their dedication to giving students the skills and resources to take ownership of those goals is invaluable."

Through Pou's involvement, students in the biodiesel program-which has reached more than 1,000 participants over the course of three years-were able to find out that their biodiesel fuel is one of the purest in the industry. This validation led to the ability to market the fuel to companies, and this year, public transportation provider CTRAN, is purchasing their biodiesel fuel from HHS.

"The Service Learning Champion Award was created to recognize a non-traditional advocate of service-learning," explained Stan Otto, Education Leadership for State Farm. "Community leaders like Malala Pou help bring learning to life for youth because of the expertise and energy they infuse into projects that are important to them. In our opinion, Malala is a tremendous representative of the school district and of service learning in general."

Pou was honored in March at a special ceremony in Nashville, Tennessee during the National Service Learning Conference. This is the fourth year that State Farm has awarded this honor.

Environmental application

Fifth grade students get hands-on experience with environmental studies program



Field of Study - Fifth grade students from Fisher's Landing Elementary School test water pH during an environmental science field trip to the Water Resources Education Center.

On a recent overcast day, fifth-grade students from Fisher's Landing Elementary School lined the beach along Tidewater Cove on the banks of the Columbia River. Students tested the pH of the water, gathered specimens and conducted hands on experiments to see how well the environment would support fish.

Afterwards, they hiked up into the forest along the beach to observe traces of wildlife, evaluate the tree canopy and test soil. Their guides were two staff members from the Water Resources Education Center who led the activities while encouraging student observation. "Getting students into the field to use the scientific method makes the whole process 'real life' for them," explained Fisher's Landing teacher Jessica Iverson. "They are able to observe, construct hypothesis and then test their theories. When we get back to the classroom, we analyze the results. All of this works together to help them learn to apply that methodology to all science problems."

This trip was one of a series of three field trips that fifth grade students take as part of the district's environmental studies program. Environmental studies was developed to take the place of the overnight outdoor school program which was discontinued based on funding, logistical difficulty and the need for more focused scientific learning. "Outdoor school was a wonderful experience for students," said Tom Archer, Science Manager for Evergreen Public Schools. "Students learned things, like teamwork, that are not a focus of the field trip model. The environmental studies program is giving kids the opportunity to get a very hands-on, science-intensive experience on how science applies directly to the environment. This is the type of scientific knowledge they need to build a strong basis for success in their future science classes."

As part of the curriculum, students visit the Water Resources Education Center, Columbia Springs and either the Columbia Gorge or

the coast. At each location they are tasked to learn about what affects that particular environment and what is important to know about the different eco-systems. "An important by-product of field studies learning is that students understand the impact that we have upon the earth and nature," said Archer. "In today's world, these are vital concepts for our students to be educated about."

Fisher's Landing student Jourdan especially enjoyed that part of the program. "I like that we get to think about the environment. In the classroom we spend a lot of time looking at pictures and hearing our teacher read out of a textbook. Out here [on the field trip] things are explained as we're doing them."

In addition to the broader range of locations visited, the modified program also provides accessibility for all students, which had been a challenge before. "One of the best things about the environmental studies program is that all students are able to easily participate," said Donna Hansen, teacher at Fisher's Landing. "There were times at outdoor school that students in

wheelchairs had a real challenge getting around. Plus, these are only day-trips so participation is much higher than if it was an overnight trip."

Hansen believes that the field trips complement a strong, in-class science curriculum. "The two programs go hand-in-hand," she said. "The three field trips are tied into the curriculum and give students an outside experience that allows them to see and test things that are in their world."



Water Resources - Students from Fisher's Landing Elementary School conduct a water clarity experiment during their environmental studies field trip.

Public service announcements spread the message of quality education

For the third time, Evergreen Public Schools has partnered with businesses in the community to run a series of public service announcements or PSAs on KATU Channel 2. The PSAs feature shots of Evergreen Public Schools with the districts' message about providing quality education. The spots include a message from the business who sponsored the ad. None of the PSAs were paid for with school district dollars, all funding came from the individual advertising budgets of the vendors featured in the ads.

So why run these ads at all? Why does a school district need PSAs? The Evergreen Public Schools Board of Directors believes that an important part of raising awareness and support for education is spreading the message about what the district is seeking to do, which is provide quality education for every student that will give them the skills necessary to be world-competitive upon graduation.

That quality education message is in every publication the district puts out, from newsletters, press releases, cable TV shows and online mediums. In addition to all of these, the district has been fortunate to have strong community business partners who are willing to pay in order to get that message and their support of it, on TV. While television advertising may appear to be costly, because the PSAs are fully-funded by vendors, it actually costs the district nothing.

Evergreen Public Schools continues to try to reach as many community members as possible with the message of what the district is committed to doing for the students in this community. That sometimes means taking innovative ideas and working with a variety of constituents in non-traditional ways in order to get that message out. The district hopes to partner with local businesses next fall to run another public service ad.



Connie Zheng was awarded a 2009 Community Service award at the annual Women of Achievement Luncheon sponsored by Clark College and the YWCA Clark County. The senior from Mountain View High School (MVHS) was honored for her work as a leader in her church youth group, the volunteer work she has done with Portland Rescue Mission, Meals on Wheels and Key Club and her position as MVHS' National Honors Society President.

EPS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tough decisions: How the budget shortfall will effect district programs



Holly Williams
School Board Member

Just like you at home, the school board is paying a lot of attention to our 2009-10 budget. The state of Washington forecasts a deficit of nearly \$9 billion (on a \$33 billion budget for 2009-11) based primarily on the significant

decline of sales tax revenues as a result of the national recession. Though K-12 education is the paramount duty of the state, we will still see substantial state funding cuts. In addition, due to the failure of the bond, our ad hoc Facilities committee has recommended that the district find \$3 million annually for desperately needed major maintenance repairs. In spite of the cuts, the board is committed to keeping the budget balanced. You can imagine this is a hard problem to solve!

Evergreen has been preparing for this problem. Thank you to the many folks who have participated in the budget forums or given us feedback on the budget. We received many thoughtful suggestions. And your comments have made a difference. As a result of citizen input, ultimately the budget cuts will be different than originally proposed by staff and the ad hoc Budget committee. Administrators are using this feedback to further analyze our budget.

We will work to minimize the cuts to the classroom and make our decisions based on the need to provide all students with the skills they need to be world competitive. Each potential cut has had detractors. That's not surprising given how hard we work to be efficient and make sure money goes to what the students need. Our many high quality programs must get by on less. Some service reductions are inevitable, but we will strive to keep programs sustainable. District collective bargaining units have been working with us to see how we can minimize job losses and share the pain across all employee groups.

We greatly appreciate this cooperation.

So what about cutting district administration? Over the last four years the number of administrative staff at the district office has decreased from 85 to 73 employees. With the new budget, further reductions of 20 percent or more are possible. Remember that these employees are needed to pay the bills, improve instruction, maintain buildings, etc. In a recent state management performance audit of the school district, our administrative costs were not an issue.

How much will we need to cut? How many jobs will be lost? We are still waiting for a final budget from the state legislature and more specifics on the federal stimulus package. For answers to those questions, please periodically check the district website at www.evergreenps.org and plan to attend the next round of budget forums in May. There will also be a follow-up webcast in June. This process isn't easy, but it is proactive, inclusive and comprehensive. As a result, we hope the start of the school year in the fall will be as positive and well-planned as possible.

JOIN US!

Coffee & Conversation

Interested in knowing about the district initiative of quality education for all students? Have a question or comment to share? Join members of the Evergreen Public Schools' Board of Directors for informal coffee and conversation sessions, held every other month at one of the district's middle schools.

Tuesday, May 5, 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Cascade Middle School - Media Center

Tuesday, July 14, 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Frontier Middle School - Media Center

Upcoming Budget Forums

Wednesday, May 13, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Heritage High School Auditorium

Wednesday, May 20, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Evergreen High School Auditorium

Budget Webcast

Wednesday, June 3, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.
online at: www.evergreenps.org



YOU ARE
INVITED



Evergreen Public Schools



Adaptive PE Specialist **Donna Schaefer** has won the Northwest Region Special Populations Award at the National AAHPERD (American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance) Conference. Schaefer has worked for Evergreen Public Schools for 30 years and has been instrumental in the building and shaping of the adaptive PE programs in the district. She will be presented with her award this summer at a conference in Montana. When asked about winning the award and her long career in the adaptive PE field, Schaefer said, "I feel privileged to have spent my career creating opportunities for all students to succeed, to learn and to help them develop the skills to meet physical and mental challenges. That is my reward."

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April 2009, Vol. 33, No. 3
Evergreen Public Schools

If you would like copies of this document or any other Evergreen Public Schools material provided in an alternative format, such as large print, Braille, cassette tape or on a computer disk, please contact:

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USPS (004 726) is published four times a year by the Community Relations Office, Evergreen School District #114, P.O. Box 8910, Vancouver, WA 98668-8910. Periodicals postage is paid at Vancouver, WA.
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:
Your Evergreen Schools, P.O. Box 8910, Vancouver, WA 98668-8910.

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Evergreen Public Schools

Evergreen Public Schools' students and staff invite the community in

Through open houses, tours and connection days, schools open their doors to the community



Board Involvement - Evergreen Public Schools' Board member Holly Williams with her husband Ken Williams, visit with a student from Mountain View High School on Thunder Day.

Community members who are curious about what students do all day and how their tax dollars are being used, have more opportunities than ever to observe and ask questions first-hand about the education provided by Evergreen Public Schools.

This year, Mountain View (MVHS) and Heritage (HHS) high schools both held outreach events that focused specifically on getting community members, business owners, parents, government officials and even prospective students in the doors to observe what students are learning and to answer questions about resources and schools.

"We sent about 80 invitations to community members this year inviting them to our Community Connections Day," said HHS Associate Principal Randy Brosius. "We followed up with phone calls to everyone personally inviting them to come see the school. We ended up

with about 60 attendees." Heritage also invited district staff to attend. "Sometimes you forget that even if you work for a school district you don't necessarily see what goes on day-to-day within the schools," explained Brosius. "We wanted district staff to have that opportunity too."

MVHS had a similar turnout for their annual Thunder Day, their largest attendance ever. Thunder Day had typically attracted about 10 community members, but this year MVHS decided to expand the event to include not just classroom time, but an assembly and reception. MVHS student body president Hayden Gaussoin felt that the larger picture of student life was an integral part of the day's success. "Community members pay taxes so that we can be here," he said. "It's not just their right to see what goes on, but we want them to be excited about what we're doing. I'm excited

they could witness how much school spirit we have, how much we appreciate school, in ways even beyond the classroom."

Both schools featured opening receptions after which student ambassadors led visitors into the classrooms. HHS paired each community member up with a student ambassador who took them to a variety of classrooms. The student ambassadors represented a cross-section of the student population, including leadership, special education and English Language Learners (ELL). The school had also tried to match students up with community members who were in fields that the students had expressed interest in, such as the medical field or education.

MVHS students led four groups of participants around to view classrooms teaching science, English, drama and Spanish. The tour ended with an all-school assembly in the gym where they awarded their first Alumni of the Year award to KOIN Channel 6 news anchor Dan Christopherson, who graduated from MVHS in 1983.

Vancouver Mayor Royce Pollard, who participated in Thunder Day, had this to say about visiting

schools, "Every time I go into a school it refreshes me. Ninety-nine percent of our young people are truly outstanding. The diversity of educational offerings is great and students now are smarter, facing greater challenges and I think our education system through Evergreen is doing a great job preparing them for that."

For those who were unable to attend either of those events or are interested in a broader sampling of schools, the district will be running a free community tour on Thursday, May 7 from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Community members will begin at the Clark County Skills Center and then be bussed to visit York Elementary School, Frontier Middle School and Evergreen High School. District staff will also attend to answer questions. Please contact Community Relations at 604.4088 to register.

"If you can get people into the schools and walking around, they will see the value in it [education]," said Pollard. "We entrust teachers with our most precious possessions and we need to support that."



Connected Community - Heritage High School students and members of the community, including representatives from police, fire and local government, chat about education during the school's Community Connections Day.

Don't miss this!

Evergreen Public Schools hosts' final Community Tour

Community Tours are a great way for community members to get a look into a regular day for a student in Evergreen Public Schools.

Don't miss the next tour date - Thursday, May 7th when community members will visit Evergreen High School, Frontier Middle School, and York Elementary School.

This year, based on community feedback, the tours have been modified so that more time is spent in the actual schools. The tour begins at the Clark County Skills Center at 8:00 a.m. Community members are then guided through the high school, middle school and elementary school. The tour ends back at the Skills Center with a lunch prepared by students in the Skills Center culinary program. There is no cost for the tour and transportation is provided to each school location.

If you have questions or would like to register please contact the Community Relations Department at 604.4088.

Ad-Hoc

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every student, we need everyone to be engaged in the process."

After the committees had compiled their recommendations, forums on each topic were held, with at least one evening and morning session for each topic. All the forums were well-attended and the community was not shy about asking questions. "We really felt that the community took advantage of these forums to hear firsthand about the issues facing the district," said Board of Directors President Joan Skelton. "At the same time, the volume and depth of questions submitted were outstanding and we appreciate the honesty and willingness of everyone who participated."

All questions were written down and compiled and a synopsis will be included

in the report to the board, though they heard many of the questions and comments firsthand, since at least two board members attended each forum.

The district also held a heavily publicized live budget webcast on March 18. Deeder and Chief Financial Officer Mike Merlino gave a presentation on the budget and then answered questions that came in over the phone lines and email.

Budget and facility committee recommendations and the latest webcast can be viewed on the public website at: <http://www.evergreenps.org>

Updated information and the technology committee recommendations will be posted next month after the committees presentations to the Board of Directors.