



YOUR EVERGREEN SCHOOLS

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Evergreen Public Schools

RESPONSIBLE USE OF RESOURCES

Reductions to Evergreen Public Schools' operating budget result of cuts from state and federal funds

Over the past three years Evergreen Public Schools has reduced its General Fund operating budget by more than \$16 million. Due to continued weakness in the state, and national economy, which has resulted in continued revenue reductions, Evergreen is proposing an additional \$9.5 million in reductions in the 2011-12 budget.

In their recently completed session, the Washington Legislature was faced with a \$5 billion state budget shortfall. K-12 education is a little more than 40 percent of the state budget, which meant there would be reductions for schools. In the end there were various state revenue streams that were reduced for schools. For Evergreen Public Schools, the state revenue reduction

was approximately \$5.5 million.

In addition to the loss of state funds, the district will no longer receive federal stimulus dollars. For the past two years, all districts in the country have received funds to help support their special education programs. Those dollars end with the 2010-11 school year, and for Evergreen Public Schools, that means a reduction of approximately \$3.3 million in revenue for the 2011-12 school year.

These two reductions account for approximately \$8.8 million. The remaining \$700,000 in reductions was necessary due to inflationary adjustments required in the 2011-12 budget. Combining the three areas of reduction gets to a total reduction of \$9.5 million.

In order to make these reductions, Evergreen Public Schools went through a very thorough and public process which started with the creation of a Budget Advisory Committee. The committee - made up of parents, community members and staff - started meeting in January of this year. During those meetings, committee members were made aware of the potential for a reduction of expenditures of



World-competitive: Despite the \$26 million in budget cuts over the past four years, Evergreen Public Schools is committed to providing the tools necessary for students to become world-competitive upon graduation.

up to \$24 million for the 2011-12 school year, and asked to prioritize a *continued on page 8*

21ST CENTURY EDUCATION

Bridging early achievement gaps

Early learning professionals develop transition program for students



Hands On: Early learning professionals gathered throughout the year to discuss resources available for children preparing to become students in Evergreen Public Schools.

Did you know that brain development in children peaks around age four? By the time children enroll in kindergarten, they're a year past the stage when they can learn the most. Now officials at Evergreen Public Schools are reaching out to Clark County's early learning professionals, making sure that formative time isn't wasted.

Within the school district's boundaries, there are dozens of licensed daycare and preschool providers. Those are the people

— other than parents — working with children before they become students at one of Evergreen's 21 elementary schools.

The last year has been a busy one for Gaelynn Mills, Early Childhood Center Coordinator for Evergreen Public Schools. She's been scheduling monthly meetings for early learning specialists in the community and developing a transition program for future students.

"One of the things we wanted to do was be more a part of what's

going on in the community," said Mills. "We have almost 27,000 students in the district, but what people don't know is that each year there are roughly 9,000 children getting ready to come to school in the district."

To reach daycare and preschool providers, Mills developed a series of workshops for early learning professionals. Each meeting focused on development tools and resources to help childcare providers take

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ECRWSS
RESIDENTIAL PATRON

A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Despite budget woes, Evergreen Public Schools is still a great school system



John Deeder
Superintendent

In just a few weeks, close to 27,000 students around the district will head back to school. Despite the fact that Evergreen Public Schools had to trim close to another \$10 million from our operating budget – the new and returning students will be coming back to a great education system committed to providing all students with the opportunity to be world-competitive upon graduation.

Sometimes it seems like all we have talked about the past few years is the budget and the reductions that we have been forced to make because of the cuts in state funding. Including this coming year's budget, Evergreen Public Schools has cut more than \$26 million over the last four years. This year is the first year that we have had to cut any teachers – eliminating 10 secondary teaching positions and 2.2 music teaching positions. In addition, we have eliminated a handful of counseling and intervention specialist positions and all of our high school academic coaches.

One thing that has come up repeatedly at our budget forums or as questions during the webcasts is why don't we cut administration? Since I

became Superintendent in the spring of 2006, we have eliminated the equivalent of 35 administrator positions in the district. The majority of these were at the district office, where we have reduced the overall staff by 43 percent. With these cuts, we are operating much more efficiently. In addition, to the reduction in administrative staff, district administrators have had their salaries frozen for the past few years, given up their professional funds for additional training and professional development and made other concessions to help the budget.

To save jobs, our other employee groups representing our non-teaching (classified) staff have voluntarily given up pay increases, a paid holiday and other cost-saving items that were bargained in their contract. Despite their efforts, over the past few years, we have eliminated approximately 90 classified positions.

We are currently in negotiations with our teachers association, who've indicated their willingness to work with us to save jobs. Since they will not be meeting until later this month, it is premature to talk about concessions teachers are willing to make.

Two other questions that have come up frequently are around the district's utilization of academic or instructional coaches and the proposed cuts to special education.

Even though the state has significantly reduced our funding the past few years, no one has lowered the standard of what is expected of our students –

nor should they. If we do not continue professional development for our teaching staff, we cannot expect them to improve their instruction in order to help our students achieve more.

Research shows that the best way to help teachers develop is to have someone in their class observing them teach followed by a professional conversation that helps them reflect on how they can help all students master the concept they are teaching.

Regarding special education, the federal government has reduced the amount of money we receive for special education by more than \$3 million. We have taken a hard look at what other school districts around the area are doing in regards to the number of staff assistants for special education and the caseload ratio for the teachers and specialists. Our plan is to make our program similar to the programs in our neighboring districts. I cannot give any specifics at this time, as case load and some of the other areas that are being looked at are negotiated as part of the teacher's contracts through their bargaining unit. What I do know is that our special education students will be provided the level of service that is outlined in their individual education plans.

Once the budget is approved later this month by the Evergreen Public Schools' Board of Directors, we can focus on the fact that we are going to continue to be a great school system for the kids that will be back in their classrooms beginning August 31.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Four community leaders become "Principals for a Day" in Evergreen Public Schools



P is for Principal: Kelly Parker, President and CEO of the Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, listens as a York Elementary School kindergarten student reads out loud. Parker was one of four business and community leaders that participated in the district's inaugural "Principal for a Day" last spring.

On the morning of April 29th, four local business and community leaders put their business commitments on hold and headed back to school. They weren't there as students or teachers, but as Principals for a Day.

Kim Capeloto, Executive Vice President

of Operations and Marketing, Riverview Bank; Jeanne Harris, Vancouver City Council; Joe Kortum, CEO and President of PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center and Kelly Parker, President and CEO, Greater Vancouver Chamber of Commerce, spent a morning getting an up close and personal look at what it takes to run a school in the Evergreen School District.

The guest principals worked side by side with their respective school's principal. They greeted the buses, sat in on classroom observations, talked with teachers, dealt with student issues, and participated in emergency drills.

Capeloto shadowed Mary Horn, principal of Harmony Elementary School, where he had the opportunity to greet more than 770 students as they arrived

by bus, car or on foot. Harris spent her time at Mountain View High School with Principal Mike Meloy, where she was inspired by the math program and "seeing our schools engaging students to problem-solve together."

At Pacific Middle School, Principal Kathy Stellfox had Kortum sit in on meetings with staff and on a visit from an Evergreen School District Foundation representative. Kortum walked away from the experience with a new understanding of not only the educational mission of the school, but the social support that the school provides students.

Parker spent her time at York Elementary School with Principal Dawn Harris. Parker had the opportunity to listen to kindergarten students read and help with an all-school tornado drill. "It was great getting a glimpse into the operations of a school and compare it to a business," she said.

The Principal for a Day participants, along with their respective school principals, joined Superintendent John Deeder and school board members for lunch to debrief the experience. All were enthusiastic about the day and talked about what an eye opening experience they had.

When asked why the district held the event, Deeder said, "We hoped that by bringing in folks that already have a lot of experience dealing with large complex organizations, that they would gain insight and understanding about what our administrators do each day. In addition, we hoped that the Principal for a Day participants could provide us feedback on what we could do better."

QUALITY EDUCATION

Empowering parents to help their children causes Mary Ann Noakes to be judged "best" of state's school support staff



Best of the Best: Mary Ann Noakes, Spanish Parent Liaison and Jerry Piland, who retired in June, were honored as the 2011 Public School Employees of Washington Employee of the Year and Administrator of the Year. This was the first time in the organization's history that two employees from the same district were honored in the same year and the first time that an administrator from Evergreen Public Schools was singled out.

Evergreen Public Schools' Mary Ann Noakes has been named the 2011 Classified School Employee of the Year by the Public Schools Employees of Washington. She was honored at the group's state conference in Tacoma last month.

Noakes, the Spanish Parent Liaison/Staff Assistant in the English Language Learners (ELL) Department, learned of the honor in May. Evergreen Public Schools' Executive Director of Human Resources Jerry Piland and Judi Owens, President of the Public Schools Employees of Washington and a secretary in the Central Valley School District in Spokane, dropped in on an ELL staff and parent meeting to make the surprise announcement.

"One of our Evergreen staff is being recognized as being the best in the entire state of Washington," said Piland. "This person has been described as: having a generous personality; unlimited energy; compassion for fellow human beings; and is a tireless advocate for students."

"The support she provides means that many at-risk students are in school and even experiencing greater academic success as a result of her advocacy," Piland said. "She has also opened many doors to our community so that more and more of our Latino parents are volunteering in their children's schools."

Owens said "Mary Ann, you were judged to be the very best of our states 50,000 public schools support staff. You are a credit to Evergreen and to the entire Vancouver community."

Linda Friberg, ELL Manager wrote in her nomination letter, "In addition to interpreting for parents in conferences, she (Noakes) creates a safe environment for parents to express the needs of their children in a way that is heard. She counsels struggling students to stay in school."

"Students have received early morning calls from Mrs. Noakes to make sure they were up and on their way to school," Friberg said. "Every Christmas, she mobilizes multiple groups who adopt and provide gifts and food for needy families."

Friberg went on to say that while many employees go above and beyond their expected

responsibilities, few go to the extent Noakes does. "The support she provides has opened doors so that more and more of our Latino parents are volunteering in their children's school."

Lori Boyd, secretary at the Early Childhood Center, also nominated Noakes. "One time I left a message on Mary Ann's voice mail to call a family for me to ask some school-related questions. Mary Ann called me back later that day to report what the family had told her," said Boyd. "I then learned that Mary Ann was out of state on vacation, but she was still checking her voice mail so there would be no interruption of service for her families."

When hearing of her honor, Noakes said, "I get a chance to write a story that's never been written before and I never know what each day is going to bring me. I love this program, I love working with our families and children and I love empowering parents so they can empower their children to succeed."

When Jerry Piland, who recently retired from Evergreen Public Schools as the Executive Director of Human Resources, drove up to Tacoma last month for the Public Schools Employees of Washington state conference, he thought he was going up to help honor Mary Ann Noakes, the group's 2011 Classified Employee of the Year. What he didn't realize was that he was also being honored by the organization as the 2011 Administrator of the Year. This is the first time an Evergreen Public Schools' administrator has been recognized by the Public Schools Employees of Washington. Congratulations to Mary Ann Noakes and Jerry Piland from Evergreen Public Schools.

QUALITY EDUCATION

Evening of Excellence honors students for outstanding academic achievement

Evergreen Public Schools paid tribute to more than 300 students at annual event

On May 26, Evergreen Public Schools hosted the sixth annual "Evening of Excellence" honoring high school students for their civic and academic achievement. Held at Union High School, the event paid tribute to more than 300 students with almost 400 awards in 24 categories.

Students and their families were welcomed by Evergreen Public Schools' Board President Troy Thomas and Vancouver Mayor Timothy D. Leavitt. Joe Kortum, President and Chief Mission Officer of PeaceHealth Southwest Medical Center gave the keynote address, congratulating the students on their

achievements and encouraging them to be life long learners as they go on to college or into the workforce.

Students were selected for recognition based on their academic achievement or if they placed in the top five at a state, regional or national competition that was not athletic or performing arts in nature. In addition to a certificate noting their accomplishment, each student also received a letter from Washington Governor Chris Gregoire.

For a complete list of honorees, please visit the Evergreen Public Schools' website at www.evergreenps.org



Excellence Exemplified: Mayor Timothy D. Leavitt welcomes students being honored for their academic achievements at the sixth annual "Evening of Excellence." More than 500 parents, students and community members attended the event held May 26, 2011 at Union High School.

QUALITY EDUCATION

Wy'east Middle School teacher honored by national talk show



Top Teacher: Wy'east Middle School teacher Jed Mickelson was a top five finalist in the annual "LIVE! with Regis and Kelly" top teacher search. Mickelson and his wife flew to New York City so he could appear live on the show.

Jed Mickelson, a teacher at Wy'east Middle School, had no idea why so many people were gathered in his classroom in April to watch "LIVE! with Regis and Kelly." The popular television show wasn't exactly part of his curriculum, but he humored the group.

During a ten minute segment toward the end of the show, host Kelly Ripa and guest host Josh Grobin announced that Mickelson and eleven other teachers from across the United States had been named semi-finalists for the show's annual Top Teacher Search. Four days later, after online voting by the public, Mickelson was named a top five finalist.

"It was surreal," Mickelson said following the nomination. "I was getting a lot of attention here at the school and from the media in town."

Being named a finalist came with the perk of an all-expense paid trip to New York to make an appearance on "LIVE! with Regis and Kelly." Before that could happen, though, a producer and cameraman flew to Vancouver to get footage of Mickelson with his students.

"The taping was not what I'd expected," said Mickelson. "I watched the videos of last year's finalists and thought I knew what they'd be looking for. The producer had an idea of what kind of story they wanted to tell when they got here, but it turned out nicely."

While in New York, Mickelson and his wife were treated to dinner and a Broadway production before wrapping up the week with a special surprise on the show.

First, Regis and Kelly presented Wy'east with 35 Intel-powered computers, equipment meant for use in the classroom. Second, the hosts let Jed know that they had heard about work being done at his Vancouver home and that they would be outfitting the house with a new heating and cooling system.

The end of Mickelson's appearance on the show marked the beginning of two days of online voting to determine a grand prize winner. Mickelson came up just short in the final voting, but his success had already helped put all Wy'east teachers in the spotlight.

"Jed's success is great for Wy'east," said

Principal Caroline Garrett. "There have been numerous parents who have written letters of support and thanks to all the teachers here at the school. It's been wonderful to see teachers getting recognition."

None of that success would have been possible without the relationships and personal connections Mickelson developed with his students and their families. His nomination for the "LIVE! with Regis and Kelly" contest was submitted by Beth Hammer, the mother of one of his former students.

"There are a lot of good teachers; there are many great teachers; Jed Mickelson, though, is an exceptional teacher. He always takes the time to get to know his students and the kids lucky enough to be in his classes end up with a life long champion," said Hammer.



Union Teacher On Point: Sheryl Messervy, a French teacher at Union High School, was a runner-up for OnPoint Credit Union's Excellence in Education Award. The contest also recognized Wy'east Middle School teacher Jed Mickelson as a semi-finalist.

21ST CENTURY EDUCATION

Passport Club helps students navigate the world

The voices of excited and eager students filled the media center at Illahee Elementary School last spring as they filed in one by one to share their knowledge of the world and have their 'passport' stamped. This was the last stop for students who participated all year in the Passport Club.

The program, created by a school teacher in Olympia, Washington in 1994 was designed to introduce the countries of the world to students as well as other geographic features such as continents, oceans and major desert and mountain regions. Multiple levels of difficulty make this program ideal for many grade levels, academic level, or prior experience with geography.

Parent volunteer and Passport Club coordinator Divya Jain introduced the program to Illahee four years ago with eight teachers in the school participating with their classes. "This year almost every teacher at the school has embraced the program,"

said Jain. Students conduct research and mapping of various countries over the course of the school year, helping to expand their view of the world.

"It helps get our kids interested in the world around them and current events," said Jain. "When our students heard about the miners trapped in Chile, the problems in Egypt and the tsunami in Japan, they knew where in the world those places were. They wanted to know more about the world."

Each month students present their passport to an "immigration officer" (parent volunteer), who will ask them what countries they have visited. The students then have the opportunity to name the countries and point them out on a large, unmarked world map and receive a stamp in their passport for each level they have successfully completed. At the end of the school year the average student will have mastered all 194 recognized countries, plus 45 capital cities.



World Traveler: A student at Illahee Elementary School identifies one of the countries she studied on an unmarked world map - garnering a stamp for her 'passport.'

"Trends show that approximately 10 percent of Illahee students did just that," said Jain.

The program helps students meet essential academic learning requirements for geography and at the end of the year each student received a World Traveler Certificate. "Knowing the name and location

of any country is the first step to becoming a world traveler!" exclaimed Jain.

The Passport Club has been so popular at Illahee that it is being adopted by Fircrest, Harmony, Image, Columbia Valley and Fisher's Landing Elementary Schools, as well as Wy'east Middle School this fall.

QUALITY EDUCATION

Union students knitting more than scarves

Students learn math with help from knitters guild

After school this past year, a typical Thursday in Union High School's (UHS) room 203 revolved around students chatting, snacking and knitting.

When math teacher Chris Fanning began discussing design and math curriculum with administrators for Union High School's After School Academy, he pointed out a lesson plan based around knitting. Fanning, a life-long knitter, said the lessons were designed to help

students learn measuring, estimating and sizing.

"They're not just learning to knit, they're learning math, too," said Fanning. "These after school classes are for kinesthetic (hands-on) learners with Attention Deficit Disorders (ADD). Knitting in an ADD classroom is not a new idea it's just not something that's been done here at Union."

Once a week, Fanning met with juniors and seniors after school

for the knitting class. "Knitting is an opportunity for learning math in a hands-on way. There's the simple counting of stitches or rows, proportions of stitch size, or the geometric possibilities of shaping."

As more students joined the group, Fanning found that his passion – and the generous donation of knitting needles (from Chiagoo) and yarn (from Plymouth Yarn) – weren't enough to keep things moving forward. That's when he asked for help from the Fort Vancouver Knitters Guild.

Each week, several volunteers from the Guild helped teach the class, giving students more access to experienced knitters. One of the volunteers, Priscilla Dobson, said she was surprised by the students' interest. "I was also surprised that there were so many boys in the class and they were really engaged."

That wasn't always the case. Fanning said that boys were not interested initially, but many turned out to be some of the group's best knitters.

"Class was great," said UHS junior Jordan Blanco. "I liked it

because I learned something new and knitting was really calming."

The effects of the knitting class go beyond just calming the nerves of a few students. Fanning said his knitters are not only calmer, but will often pick up their knitting during direct instruction time to help them focus. "I could see that they were retaining more of the information than they did without the knitting."

Fanning said the group grew over the last two months of school simply because the students were excited about it. Several of the girls, he said, made posters to recruit new students and put them up throughout the school. Others, he added, took to knitting in the commons area during lunch, drawing the interest of fellow students.

Fanning said the class went viral thanks to the enthusiasm of regular attendees. He said he plans on extending the program for a second year in 2011-2012.

"People who knit are people who like to learn. They're lifelong learners because there's always something new to learn and that creates a positive environment."



Knack for Knitting: Volunteers from the Fort Vancouver Knitters Guild helped Union High School students improve their math skills by teaching them to knit after school.

21ST CENTURY EDUCATION

Students lean on one another during book club

Marrion Elementary School students spent time after school reading "Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH," "A Wrinkle in Time," and "When You Reach Me," all books well above the standard fourth grade reading level

In his book *"There Are No Shortcuts,"* Rafe Esquith shares many of his methods for promoting literacy in the elementary classroom. Marrion Elementary School teacher Douglas Woycechowsky took one of those ideas and created an after school book club.

"I love teaching the fourth grade and I love teaching literacy," said Woycechowsky.

The club started off simply enough with 20 fourth grade students meeting for an hour after school, one day per week. The students shared snacks and drinks and took turns reading passages from *"Mrs. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH."* The book, typically read by sixth grade students, was difficult but the group discussed what they were reading along the way.

"One of the biggest challenges we had was making sure everyone kept up and understood what we were reading," said Woycechowsky. "It wasn't bad during the first book, but things got a little tougher while we were reading *"A Wrinkle in Time."* That book has a lot of complex ideas in it."

That's one of the reasons the club started meeting more than once a week. In fact, by the time the school year ended and a third book had been read, the students were staying after school four nights per week. It was during these extended

sessions that a new element was added to the club: video.

"While we were reading our last book, Rebecca Stead's *When You Reach Me*, we decided to film everyone. We had two cameras that the kids started using to film the audience and the readers, so we talked about how to frame a shot and how to keep the other camera person out of the shot. When we were done, I edited the video and we sat down to watch it."

Woycechowsky said the student's enjoyed the video so much that he burned it onto a DVD and then sent a copy to the book's author. She replied with a letter to the kids and words of encouragement for the reading club.

"That's really what the book club was all about, encouraging the kids to push themselves and read above their grade level. They helped one another through the material and the kids who weren't getting enough reading time at home made huge strides because they became comfortable around their peers and really believed in their reading ability."

Even the best readers, Woycechowsky added, would have struggled to read the three books on their own. Everyone benefitted from the group setting of the book club.

With the proof in the pudding, the Marrion Book Club will be back for certain during the 2011-2012 school year. In fact, Woycechowsky was so excited to build on the momentum from the spring that he decided to offer a one-week summer read.

Students entering the fourth and fifth grade met during the second week of August to read and discuss Antoine de Saint Exupery's *The Little Prince*. Woycechowsky said it was one of his favorites and he was excited to share it with the students.



Let's Read Together: Students at Marrion Elementary School gathered after school to read and discuss several books throughout the year.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

nConnect Mentoring program helps students connect the dots to 'real world'



Successful Launch: Union High School students test the 'trebuchet' they built through the nConnect mentoring program.

On a cloudy day in late May, a group of Union High School students in Adam Schmierer's Advanced Placement (AP) physics class applied new skills to build a contraption called a 'trebuchet.' The apparatus looks like a giant sling shot and is described in Wikipedia as "far more accurate than a medieval

catapult." The students were mentored by nConnect mentor Matt Driggers, a Mechanical Engineer at Hewlett Packard (HP), who helped students apply physics concepts to the design of the 'trebuchet.' nConnect Mentoring is an after school activity for students to work together with teachers and mentors to discuss physics and engineering ideas, apply concepts through a hands-on building phase and get help with homework and study for AP exams.

The nConnect Mentoring program works to facilitate partnering volunteers from local businesses including HP, Underwriters Laboratories, nLight, Edan Engineering and Columbia Springs, to mentor students in rigorous academic subjects. The goal is to help prepare students to explore careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Since 2005 the program has partnered with all four Evergreen Public Schools' comprehensive high schools with more than 400 students, 80 mentors and 76 teachers participating. "Connecting the ideas in class to practical experiences, learning how to interact with adults outside of the classroom, and seeing what an engineer really does when tackling problems and what they do in the work place has been a real benefit to our students," explained Schmierer.

Many students enrolled in math and sciences classes don't always understand how these subjects apply to them. "nConnect's program motivates students to pursue rigor, by introducing them to professionals who can show the relevance of science and math coursework to the 'real world,'" said Greg Kulander, nConnect Executive Director.

Students were invited to tour nConnect to visit with engineers in the workplace. "I really enjoyed the field trips we went on and getting to meet people who shared their experiences with us," said Bryce Miller, a recent graduate from Union. "Seeing engineers

in action helps me envision myself doing a job like they are doing!"

Working directly with someone who is applying these concepts in the business world helps students envision themselves in the STEM careers. "Helping students create and build something from scratch that meets the design goals utilizing science, technology, engineering and math concepts is one of the benefits of the mentoring process," Driggers said. The 'trebuchet' was built and tested by the eight students involved in the project and tested successfully by launching water bottles at Union High School.

"I have always loved science and now more than ever I know what I want to do with my passion for science and technology, thanks in part to the nConnect program," said Miller who plans to study physics this fall at the University of Washington.

nConnect is currently recruiting volunteers to participate in the mentoring program. For more information please contact nConnect Program Coordinator, Molly Schmitz at 360.567.5557.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

"Not Another High School Prom!"

Evergreen School District Foundation's 2011 gala a success

A disco ball, groovy dance music, a prom court, and raising money for kids and teachers were the order of the night when the Evergreen School District Foundation (ESDF) hosted its annual gala event. Some 250 people gathered at the Pearson Air Museum hanger on April 23rd for the 2011 gala "Not Another High School Prom." Chair woman Jennifer Weber, branch manager of the Salmon Creek West Coast Bank, along with other members of the ESDF board put together a fabulous show and auction that raised \$30,000.

Funds raised that evening will be used to support the Foundation's grant program, which is open to Evergreen Public Schools' teachers in the fall.

The auction included baskets full of tempting items donated by schools throughout the district, along with donations from local businesses and community organizations. Attendees had the option of voting with their dollars for the Prom King and Queen. The prom court was made up of Amy Davis, vice president of Business Development for the Portland-Vancouver area, West Coast Bank; Superintendent John Deeder; Carol Mackey, Mountain View High School media specialist; and Paul Montague, executive director of Identity Clark County. At the end of the evening Davis and Montague garnered the crowns for most money raised.

Emcee Kim Capoloto, executive vice president Operations and Marketing, Riverview Community Bank, announced a \$5,000 match from the Nutter Foundation during a successful paddle raise. Other sponsors for the evening included McKinstry, iQ Credit Union and Providence Medical Center.

An all girl acappella choir from Shahala Middle School provided the entertainment, under the direction of Sherri Halls, as well as the national award winning Jazz Band from Mt. View High School under the direction of Sam Ormson. Attendees had the opportunity to have their photos taken at the Spot Light Photo Booth before taking a spin out on the dance floor to tunes provided by D.J.'s Amy and Nick Stalcup of Amick Events. "These components in the Gala created fun and, more importantly, good buzz - which helped to put the fun in fund-raising," noted ESDF Board President Kris Green, regional manager, Countrywide Financial.

"We'd like to thank everyone who attended, along with our emcee Kim Capoloto for helping to make our event lively!" said Green. "In addition, we appreciate the support of our local dignitaries - Vancouver Mayor Timothy D. Leavitt, Clark County Commissioner Steve Stewart, Vancouver City Council member Larry Smith, and Vancouver Fire

Chief Cliff Cook for coming out and supporting the kids in Evergreen Public Schools."

Mark your calendar for next year's ESDF Gala Event scheduled for April 21, 2012. In addition, the Foundation will be holding a "Stuff the Bus" back to school supply drive for needy children in our district on August 17 in the parking lot at Chuck's Produce on 132nd and Mill Plain Boulevard. The Foundation will also be holding it's annual Fall Phone-a-Thon September 26th through October 13th.

For more information please visit the Foundation's website www.evergreenschooldistrictfoundation.org or follow the Foundation on Facebook.



Looking for a Bargain: Lynn Grolbert carefully examines the many items available at the Foundations auction.

MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD

Levy dollars needed for programs not impacted by budget reductions



Troy Thomas
School Board President

As we look forward to the new school year, your Evergreen Public Schools' Board of Directors anticipates placing a

a good education.

The levy is necessary to fill the gap between what the state funds and what it actually cost to maintain the current education programs provided to students in Evergreen Public Schools. State funding falls short of what students need and what you the community believes is necessary to have a well rounded education so that our students have the opportunity to be world-competitive upon graduation.

Funds from the levy make up approximately 22.5 percent of Evergreen's operating budget and helps pay for: extracurricular activities such as athletics, music and clubs; nearly 200 instructional staff; library materials; transportation for elementary students who live more than a half-mile from school; grounds and building maintenance; and some programs for EXCEL (highly capable students), English Language Learners and special education.

If you have been following the district's budget discussions the past four years, you will have noticed that most of the items that have been cut or on the list of possible reductions, are services or programs paid for by levy dollars.

The district's overall budget has three separate funds. The transportation fund pays for the school buses we use to transport students to and from school. The capital fund pays for the building of new schools and major construction. Dollars for this fund come from bonds and state matching funds. Neither of these funds can be used to make-up any shortfall in the general fund.

The general fund pays for everything else and is funded by the state based on a formula calculated on the number of students enrolled and other mandates from the legislature. Over the years, voters have also approved measures including directing the state to pay

for lower class size and provide cost-of-living adjustments for school personnel. As the legislature has trimmed the state budget, these measures have not been funded. In addition, the state has reduced funding to school districts by more than 10 percent over the past four years – causing Evergreen Public Schools to reduce our budget by \$26 million. Since levy dollars also go into the general fund – we have had to cut items that the levy has helped pay for in the past.

Levy dollars are more important now than ever. As difficult as the budget reductions have been – imagine having to reduce our budget by another \$33 million.

The school board has listened to the community about what is important for our students – and we have done everything we can to maintain the programs you have told us are important. To continue offering those programs, we will need the dollars provided by the levy.

Early achievement

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advantage of the tremendous development the children in their care were going through.

“The meetings grew each month and we were really only reaching out to the licensed providers. The people we need to tap next are the friends and neighbors who are helping care for children,” said Mills.

Mills' second order of business was a pilot program for transitioning children from preschool to kindergarten. That program revolves around a worksheet designed to give kindergarten teachers insight into the learning styles, strengths, and weaknesses of children coming into their classrooms.

“There are areas where childcare providers can write out their observations, there are areas for parents to provide information, and space for the children to say a little about themselves and what

they expect out of school.”

Eventually, Mills said, she sees the form in use across Clark County as a way to transition children into the formal school setting.

As an incentive to the early learning professionals who helped test the pilot program, the Evergreen Public Schools' Board of Directors recognized several as Evergreen Early Learning Partners. The board recognized 14 organizations for the 2010-11 school year. Mills said she expects that number to rise in 2011-12.

While many of the initiatives coming out of Evergreen's early learning department target professionals, a new website is available for parents to use. The site, found at www.evergreenps.org, includes:

- information on kindergarten readiness and admission

- activities for children ages birth to five years
- development milestones and benchmarks
- a full list of Evergreen Early Learning Partners
- resources to help parents prepare their children for school

“The website is a way to share some of the many resources with the families in our district,” said Mills.

Director of Elementary Education Tom Nadal said the new early learning initiatives – like all day kindergarten – are part of the district's master plan: zero dropouts.

“We started some of these programs last year, in a very limited setting. Now, we're rolling them out across the district and finding success with them. It's all part of the district's pledge to have zero dropouts. The earlier we start preparing our children to succeed in school, the better.”

YOUR EVERGREEN SCHOOLS

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Evergreen Public Schools



PARTNER OF THE YEAR



Mountain View's Jesus Angarita named ESD 112's Classified Employee of the Year



Regional Winner: State Superintendent Randy Dorn congratulates Mountain View High School's Jesus Angarita on being named Educational Service District 112's Classified Employee of the Year. ESD 112 provides support services to 30 school districts and 23 private schools in Southwest Washington.

Prior to moving to Vancouver in 2005, Jesus Angarita had never been out of his native Colombia. It was his first time trying to communicate with people who did not speak his language. Before immigrating, Angarita had been a successful math teacher, but once he arrived here, the only job offer was to be a bell ringer at a local store during the holidays.

Frustrated and feeling blue, Angarita began studying English as a Second Language at Clark

College. By the winter of 2007, he was confident enough in his mastery of the English language to apply for a position working in the English Language Learner (ELL) program here in Evergreen Public Schools. While he didn't get a job the first time he applied, his determination and perseverance paid off a few months later when the district hired him.

Fast forward three years to this past spring when Angarita, an ELL staff assistant at Mountain View High School (MVHS), was named the Educational Service District (ESD) 112 Classified Employee of the Year.

Angarita was nominated for the award by MVHS Associate Principal Mark Osbourne and others throughout the district. In his nomination, Osbourne said "Mr. Angarita's primary schooling responsibility is to tutor and coach ELL students in mathematics and science. His

role, however, is so much more as he goes above and beyond each day to make a difference in the lives of this underrepresented and often times disenfranchised group of students."

Citing an example of Angarita's impact, Osbourne said "Of the nine ELL students that worked with Angarita in his after school tutoring program for the state assessment (HSPE or high school proficiency exam), six of the nine passed

the math portion of the exam. This is higher than our general education population or any other school in our district."

In addition to his job at Mountain View, Angarita is working on getting his Washington State teaching credentials. He has already passed the math portion of the test, scoring 297 out of 300 points.

When asked about his current job, Angarita said "Since my first day working with these second language students, I realized something very important - I was one of the ELL students too!

"Fortunately, I have the opportunity to attend classes every day. This is one way I have achieved some fluency that allows me to help students who are struggling in math using English as a channel of communication. Today I can say how much I enjoy every aspect of every school day."

Angarita added "I love my job and my ability to support the community with a better picture of the circumstances in which immigrant families live here in the United States. Knowing the challenges and difficulties of following one's dream when coming to the United States, I hope every day to prepare myself with the assurance of achieving the leadership that will allow me to work directly with the community as a full-fledged mathematics teacher. I yearn to teach because I believe that "education is the solution to most of the problems of humans."

To read more about Jesus Angarita, please visit the district's web site at www.evergreenps.org

Budget cuts

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list of reductions in the amount of \$24 million. The committee finished meeting in February and made their recommendations to the school board. Those recommendations are currently on the district's website at www.evergreenps.org.

The recommendation to the school board was then presented, along with additional updated budget information, to the community in four forums and one live webcast in the month of March. This information was presented to the

community by Superintendent John Deeder and Chief Operating Officer Mike Merlino. Each of the forums was attended by approximately 200 parents, students, community members, and staff.

Final budget recommendations were crafted after the Washington State Legislature passed a final state budget in a special session in late May. These final budget recommendations (which can be found on the district's website)

were again brought forward to the community in a webcast and two community forums in late June and early July. These recommendations took into account the testimony provided at the March community forums, the webcast and correspondence to the superintendent and Evergreen Public Schools' Board of Directors. The school board will vote on the final recommendations at their meeting on August 23, 2011.



On The Move: A house is prepared to move from the construction site of Evergreen Public Schools' Health and BioScience Academy. The new high school will open in the fall of 2013.

See for yourself!

Curious about what happens in your Evergreen Public Schools on a day-to-day basis? Join us this year for a Community Tour and see for yourself the things students are learning.

Once again there will be four tours - two in English and one in Spanish and one in Russian.



Tour dates are:

Wednesday, October 26, 2011 (English)
 Wednesday, November 30, 2011 (Spanish)
 Wednesday, January 25, 2012 (English)
 Wednesday, March 21, 2012 (Russian)

Register on-line at www.evergreenps.org or contact Community Relations at 360.604.4088.