



YOUR EVERGREEN SCHOOLS

January 2010
Vol. 34 No. 2



Evergreen Public Schools

QUALITY EDUCATION

District places levy measure on February 9 ballot

The Board of Directors of Evergreen Public Schools recently voted to place a two-year replacement levy, also known as a maintenance and operations levy, on the February 9 ballot. This levy will replace the levy approved by voters in 2006

and that will expire at the end of this year.

The replacement levy provides local support to fill the gap between what the state funds and what it actually costs to maintain the current educational program. Currently, replacement levy funds allow the district to pay for part or all of a variety of instructional services and programs, including:

- Approximately 200 instructional (certificated) staff
- Textbooks and supplies
- Extracurricular activities – such as athletics, music and clubs
- 140 classified staff – which includes clerical, maintenance and campus security
- Transportation – for elementary students who live more than a half-mile from school (the state funds to-and-from

school transportation for students living one mile or more from school)

- EXCEL (program for highly capable students)
- Some English Language Learners' and Special Education programs
- Secondary electives – including some advanced placement (AP), music and career and technical education classes
- Library materials
- Maintenance – grounds and building
- Classroom technology

If approved, the replacement levy would allow Evergreen Public Schools to collect \$ 40.8 million in 2011 and \$41.5 million in 2012.

According to School Board President Victoria

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21ST CENTURY EDUCATION

Evergreen Public Schools' Board of Directors selected as 'Board of Distinction'

Evergreen's board was one of eight districts selected

The Evergreen Public Schools' Board of Directors has been honored as a 'Board of Distinction' by the Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA). Evergreen's board was one of eight districts selected to receive the honor, which was presented at the association's Annual Conference in Seattle. The board members honored were Victoria Bradford, Joan Skelton, Troy Thomas, Holly Williams and Todd Yuzuriha.

Boards were chosen based upon five standards: providing responsible school district governance; setting and communicating high expectations for student learning, with clear goals and plans for meeting those expectations; creating conditions district-wide for student and staff success; holding the school district accountable for meeting student learning expectations; and engaging the local community and representing the values and expectations they hold for their schools.

"Over the course of their terms, these board members have made outstanding gains in providing a focused direction for the district in terms of educational expectations, rigorous oversight and community engagement," said Superintendent John Deeder. "The district is extremely fortunate to have such committed board members who have made a public commitment to make decisions based on what is best for kids. This is a well-deserved honor."



Board of Distinction: Evergreen Public Schools' Board of Directors has been honored as a "Board of Distinction" by the Washington State School Directors' Association. (L-R) Superintendent John Deeder, Victoria Bradford, Joan Skelton, Troy Thomas, Todd Yuzuriha and Holly Williams.

Evergreen School District #114
13501 NE 28th St.
P.O. Box 8910
Vancouver, WA 98668-8910

ECRWSS
RESIDENTIAL PATRON

Answering questions about the replacement levy



John Deeder
Superintendent

Evergreen Public Schools has placed a two-year replacement levy on the February 9 ballot. I'd like to take this opportunity to answer a few of the questions I've received from patrons regarding this ballot measure.

"What's the difference between the ballot measure Evergreen Public

Schools has placed on the February 9 ballot and the one that was on the ballot in 2008?"

In 2008, Evergreen Public Schools placed a bond on the ballot. School bonds are used for the construction of new school buildings, major building renovations, replacement of roofs and/or security upgrades. The dollar amount on that ballot measure was \$238 million and would have been paid back over a 30-year period – since bonds can be approved for an extended period of time. Voters defeated that measure.

While the need is still there, we have not put forth another bond measure because we believe that in these uncertain economic times it is not prudent to ask our community to take on an additional tax measure.

The measure we currently have on the ballot is not a bond, it is a maintenance and operations levy (or replacement levy), which funds basic education programs and services for the day-to-day operations

of schools. A replacement levy is necessary to fill the gap between what the state funds and what it actually costs to maintain the quality education program the school board has determined is necessary for children. Levies do not extend beyond the tax years for which they are approved. Evergreen Public Schools' current levy expires at the end of 2010. The levy on the ballot is for two years. If approved, the district would collect \$40.8 million in 2011 and \$41.5 million in 2012.

The reason we refer to this levy as a 'replacement' levy is, if approved, the tax would replace the current tax – it is not an additional tax.

"What is the total school tax rate and how is it determined?"

For 2010, Evergreen's estimated maintenance and operations levy tax rate is \$3.13 per thousand of assessed value. The levy rate is determined by the total amount of levy dollars to be collected (limited by state law) and the total assessed value of property within Evergreen Public Schools' boundaries.

The 2010 total school property tax rate is estimated to be \$4.63 per one thousand of assessed value. The total school tax rate represents the combined total of the replacement levy and previously approved school construction bonds.

The total property value for a school district (assessed valuation) directly impacts the tax rate for school levies and bonds. In general,

the higher the assessed valuation, the lower the property tax rate will be for a school levy or bond.

The higher the industrial assessed value in a district, the lower the tax burden on residential property owners. Evergreen Public Schools has a relatively low industrial assessed valuation. Due to inequities in the tax base among school districts in Clark County, Evergreen Public Schools' Board of Directors has long advocated for an increase in industrial development (and a corresponding decrease in residential development). The ultimate legal authority for land use planning resides with the Clark County Board of Commissioners.

"How will the proposed Replacement Levy affect my taxes?"

If voters approve this measure, the projected rate per thousand dollars of assessed value will be \$3.49 in 2011 and \$3.55 in 2012. The actual impact upon the property taxes on your home will depend upon whether your home increases or decreases in assessed value, and, if so, by how much. It is estimated that the maintenance and operations levy on a median-priced home in Evergreen Public Schools will increase 3.2 percent in 2011 and 1.6 percent in 2012. The total amount of the levy collected cannot increase even if the district's assessed value increases. If the voters approve the levy on February 9th, the collection will not begin until April of 2011.

For more information on the replacement levy, please visit the district's website at www.evergreenps.org.

New school board member provides long-term planning and budget experience

Michael Parsons, the newest member of the Evergreen Public Schools' Board of Directors, has a hard time picking what his most prominent interests are when it comes to education in the district. "It's almost impossible for me to choose because I'm interested in all of it," he said. Parsons, representing District V, was elected to the board in November 2009. He replaced outgoing board member Holly Williams.

Parsons retired from the United States Army in 2000 after serving 27 years as an airborne infantryman. During his career he was an instructor trainer, instructional program manager, course writer/developer and Noncommissioned Officers Academy Commandant. He is a graduate of Eastern Washington University, the US Marshals Academy and has taken courses at the US Army Sergeants Major Academy. During his time in the service, he gained significant experience in long-term planning and managing extensive and complicated budget systems, experience he believes will serve him well during his time on the board.

Parsons is not a newcomer to the

district. His two oldest sons attended Mountain View High School. Currently he has a daughter at Wy'east Middle School and a son at Ellsworth Elementary School. He

has volunteered extensively in the district, from membership in the Ellsworth Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), to serving as a facilitator for the district-run Study Circles last spring. Though he has been involved in his own children's education for years, Parson believes that now is a particularly significant time for the education system and Evergreen Public Schools. "I spent a lot of time talking to Holly Williams about various issues in the district," said Parsons. "She was the one who told me, 'You can make an impact on this.' I believe right now is too critical a time not to be involved."



Michael Parsons
School Board Member

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS



Students from the Fircrest Elementary School Leadership group pause from sorting food donations. The school collected more than 6,000 items from students, staff and community members, which were compiled into food boxes for 42 Fircrest families in need.

Remember to
VOTE



Election Day is
February 9, 2010

21ST CENTURY EDUCATION

Trip to Shanghai offers a new glimpse of the world for Mountain View High School students

In early October Mountain View High School (MVHS) received an invitation for three students and a chaperone to attend the World Expo Symposium in Shanghai, China, November 15-21, 2009. Hosted by the Shanghai Datong High School, MVHS was one of only eight high school groups from around the world to be included. Representatives from two schools in Australia, two in France and one each from Japan and Germany were also invited.

A month later, MVHS Associate Principal Susan Asher and students Jack Bernatovicz, Wesley Pipoly and Robert Williams were on their way to Shanghai. It had been a whirlwind of purchasing plane tickets and ensuring that passports were still good before they took off for the five-day event. But, for these three students, the opportunity was worth the last-minute scramble and the \$1,000 plane tickets that they and Asher each personally paid for. "Urban planning is exactly what I want to do with my life," said Bernatovicz. "When I saw the itinerary of events and the focus of the symposium, I knew that it was a once-in-a-lifetime chance that I couldn't pass up." Williams agreed. He had already been to China several years before on a trip sponsored by Evergreen Public Schools and was eager for the opportunity to return. "I've traveled to multiple countries around the world, but there's something about China that was very intriguing to me. I couldn't pass up the prospect to go back."

The World Expo Symposium was created as a precursor to Shanghai's 2010 World Expo, which will open in May. Students were invited to present and discuss the future

of the world's cities and how urban planning must change and adapt in order to protect the environment. Each high school presented what their city was doing to counteract the effects of urban expansion on the environment. The students from MVHS prepared their presentation before they left Washington. They focused on city-wide initiatives in the Vancouver-Portland area such as increasing bike ridership, a strong push toward alternative power and extensive recycling programs. They also highlighted in-district programs such as the bio-diesel program at Heritage High School.

The presentation so impressed the organizers of the event that they asked Bernatovicz to be among a small group of students selected to ring the symposium's opening bell with local officials.

It wasn't all presentations and work. During their time there, organizers took students on extensive tours of Shanghai and the surrounding countryside, though all of them agreed that a week was not long enough. "It easily could have been a week longer," said Pipoly. "There were so many things to see. I was amazed at how much construction was going on. It seemed like everything was being rebuilt."

They also made numerous contacts with the students from the other high schools and plan to



To Shanghai and Back: Mountain View High School students (L-R) Robert Williams, Wesley Pipoly and Jack Bernatovicz take a break during their five-day trip to Shanghai, China.

stay in touch via Facebook and email. "It was a great trip," reported Bernatovicz. "I feel like we absolutely took advantage of what was being offered experience-wise."

Asher was extremely proud of how the MVHS students presented themselves and represented the district and the United States. "The boys provided an excellent representation of public education," she said. "Most of the schools were private schools and MVHS was actually invited because of our ranking by Newsweek in the top five percent of high schools in the nation. Our students did a great job of demonstrating how high-quality public education can be."

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Community Education offering flexible payment options for summer camp

Evergreen Public Schools' Community Education department has gotten creative to help as many families as possible take advantage of early enrollment in summer camps. Registration for the popular programs begins January 19th and this year will offer a new level of payment flexibility. Early enrollment offers the benefits of a wider selection of classes and early bird savings.

"We knew that this year would be challenging for some families," said Community Education Manager Don Aguilera. "That's why we're offering parents four different payment options that we hope will best fit their needs and budget, in addition to the online savings we already offer."

Parents can choose from one of the following four payment options:

Option 1: Pay 50 percent at the time of registration and the remaining balance on the Wednesday prior to the selected week of camp.*

Option 2: Put a \$10 non-refundable deposit down for each week of camp desired. The remaining balance is due the Wednesday prior to the start of the camp.*

Option 3: Enroll in the ActiveNet Auto Pay System and have automatic monthly payments deducted from a credit/debit card.*

Option 4: Pay the total amount due at the time of registration. Register online and save time and money.

*Note: To take advantage of options 1-3, patrons must call the Community Education office at: 360.604.4082.

"The camps offered cover everything from sports of all kinds, to science, arts and music and safety," said Aguilera. "There are also traditional day camps for kids. We encourage parents to take advantage of the flexible payment options in order to secure their child's spot early." **Camp registration fees will increase after June 1, 2010.**

All-District Honor Concert highlights students' musical talents

Concert first of its kind in Evergreen Public Schools

On the Friday before Thanksgiving, a select group of band, orchestra and choir students from around the district performed with guest conductors in a single concert, which attendees described as “inspirational” and “an outstanding example of how talented young musicians can be.” The three groups performed before a sold-out crowd of more than 450 in the Mountain View High School auditorium on November 20.

The All-District Honor Concert was the first of its kind in Evergreen Public Schools. Though the district has hosted multi-orchestra, multi-band and multi-choir concerts in the past, this is the first time that high school musicians have been invited to perform together in a single concert and in groups comprised of students from every high school.

More than 350 of the district's best high school musicians participated in a rigorous audition process for only 200 spots. It was an opportunity not only to perform with other talented musicians,

but to be directed by three outstanding guest conductors, Larry Gookin (Band), Vijay Singh (Choir) and George Simonson (Orchestra). Both Gookin and Singh are music faculty at Central Washington University and Simonson is the conductor for the Southwest Washington Youth Orchestra.

Gookin, who is familiar with several music teachers in the district, as well as Manager of Fine and Performing Arts Don Nelson, agreed to be a guest conductor in part because he has adjudicated music groups from Evergreen Public Schools before. “Evergreen's reputation as a district with an outstanding music program precedes it. We have students in the music program at Central Washington who have been through the Evergreen schools and so I knew that these would be high-achievers.”

Even with already high

expectations, the work ethic and talent level of the students involved still surprised Gookin. “This is really difficult music that we asked students to perform. In our section we performed what is essentially

the Beethoven of band literature and yet these students all rose to the challenge. I definitely expect to see some of them again. Some of Central Washington's best music students are from Evergreen.”

For students, the experience exceeded their expectations as well. Union High School freshman Audrey Cline, who performed in the band, felt that it was an important opportunity to learn. “It was a great atmosphere where we all benefited,” she said. “It was interesting to contrast how students from other schools play and to learn from the technique and skill of older students. Our conductor was probably the best part; he made the experience amazing and we learned a lot from him in just a few short days.”

Union High School choir student Zachary Collier is a senior this year

and described the experience as “One of the most amazing of my high school career.” Collier has been in choir for four years; and even with only a week to prepare, said that “Because everyone was so deeply committed to success, I think we sounded even better than the all-state choir performance. I was really proud of what we put together.”

Nelson hopes to continue the tradition in the years to come. “I think this evening will be a treasured memory for all the students who participated,” he said. “The conductors themselves noted their appreciation to the district's music staff for the training and preparation that led up to the event. If this program provides the incentive for our music students to continue raising the bar and reaching higher, then it was clearly worth the effort.”



An Honored Evening: Guest conductor Larry Gookin leads the Honor Concert Band in a rehearsal before the evening's Honor Concert performance.



Bradford selected to lead Evergreen Public Schools' Board of Directors



Victoria Bradford
School Board President

At the December School Board meeting, the Evergreen Public Schools' (EPS) Board of Directors selected new officers for 2010. Victoria Bradford was elected president, Troy Thomas vice president and Todd Yuzuriha as the board representative to the Washington State School Directors' Association's (WSSDA) Legislative Committee.

Bradford, who is President of Comfort Interiors and Décor - Sustainable Design Solutions, was elected to the school board in November 1999 to the District III slot. She is the mother of two daughters, both products of EPS and now college students.

A former banker and long-time school

volunteer, Bradford attended Portland State University and Marylhurst College. Prior to joining the board, she served as chair of Evergreen Citizens for Schools, chair of Evergreen Coalition of Parent Organizations, and president of a Parent/Teacher Association. She worked on several other district committees and was a member of a Shared Leadership Team. She is a cofounder of the Quality Education Coalition of Clark County.

Thomas, a project manager for NewEdge Networks, was appointed to the board in 2004 and elected to represent District I in 2005 and again in 2009. A father of two, Thomas has served as the board's representative to the WSSDA Legislative Committee and was a member of the WSSDA nominations committee.

Thomas is a member of the board of directors of The Children's Center and has served as a member on Orchards Elementary School's Shared Leadership Team and the board of the Parkway

Homeowners Association. He was the recipient of a 2007 Accomplished and Under 40 award and is a graduate of Leadership Clark County. Thomas has completed college courses in Civil Engineering and Business Management.

Yuzuriha was appointed to the school board in June 2008 and elected to serve District IV in 2009. His older two children, educated entirely through the district, now attend Stanford University. His youngest child is currently enrolled in EPS.

Yuzuriha retired in 2006 as Vice President of Engineering for Logitech, where he led product development teams in Vancouver, Fremont, California, Hong Kong, and Taiwan to design the company's audio and video game products. Prior to Logitech, Yuzuriha was Senior Vice President of Engineering for Labtec in Vancouver, Director and Senior Director at Sharp Microelectronics in Camas, and Engineer and Engineering Manager at Tektronix.

QUALITY EDUCATION

Middle school physics class offers advanced learning opportunities for students

Shahala is piloting the class, which will be offered at all district middle schools next year

At Shahala Middle School, eighth-grade students who excel in math and science are receiving the opportunity to take learning further with a first-time offering of the district's ninth-grade physics curriculum at the eighth-grade level. Shahala is piloting the class, which will be offered at all district middle schools next year.

"This is another way for us to offer quality education to all students by giving them options at each level that allow them to take advantage of their skills and talents."

Shahala Middle School teacher James Cantonwine teaches the two offerings of the physics class and has found that students have risen to the challenge with enthusiasm. "These are all students who are enrolled in advanced or accelerated math," he explained. "They already have the skills to understand many of the basics of physics and they're all high-energy learners who respond well to a challenge."

Physics is an ideal place to start for advanced science students because of how it applies to daily life and fits in with the other sciences, said Cantonwine. "In class we are able to make the lessons very relevant to what students do and see every day. Physics is also the first movement before chemistry and biology because scientists use biology as an application of physics and chemistry as an application of biology."

The eighth-grade physics class uses the

district's ninth-grade physics curriculum that is offered at the high schools. Eighth-grade students will take the same final as the ninth-grade students and be required to meet the same benchmarks of learning. However, an added benefit to offering physics at the middle school level is that Cantonwine has 80-minute class periods to work with students on concepts whereas, at the high school level, class periods are only 50 minutes. "The additional time really gives students the opportunity to come up with their own examples of situations where physics apply. They spend a lot of time working through answers on their own or in small groups," said Cantonwine. "This is particularly great for high-achieving students like these who are not used to not knowing the answer right away."

"These are all students who are enrolled in advanced or accelerated math."

Cantonwine has also noticed that offering the advanced class has had a great effect on student collaboration. "At the end of the school



The Physics of Learning: Students at Shahala Middle School now have the opportunity to take an eighth-grade physics class. Next year, physics will be offered at all middle schools in the district.

day I have students from both the physics class and the regular eighth-grade science class in a single homeroom class. The fact that we offer two separate science tracks for students has piqued all of their interest in the different topics and subjects that come up in their respective classes. There has been a lot of discussion about who is learning what that day and in sharing knowledge."

By taking the advanced science track in middle school, students enrolled in the physics class will have the option to take biology or chemistry classes immediately when they enter high school. "This is another way for us to offer quality education to all students by giving them options at each level that allow them to take advantage of their skills and talents," said Cantonwine.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Preschool outreach programs demystify school for future students



Early Learning: A preschool student at Sifton Elementary School practices writing in sand during the school's monthly preschool outreach program. Teachers donate both time and supplies to keep the program going.

The buzz of conversation and laughter filter out through the doors of open classrooms at Sifton Elementary School. In one room, kids hold up colored cards and dance while listening to instructions being sung to them from a CD. In another, adults and kids work together on art projects, while in a neighboring classroom a story is being read to a rapt audience. It could be any day at Sifton, but the difference is that these eager learners are all early learners, five years old and younger and it's 6:00 p.m., long after school has ended. The adults in the classrooms are all parents who have brought their kids to Sifton for the monthly preschool outreach program, an hour and a half of songs, art and education, taught by Sifton teachers.

Preparing parents to help support learning is an important component of the preschool outreach programs, explained Tom Nadal, Executive Director

of Elementary Education for the district. "Research shows that early exposure helps students acclimate to the school environment and has a positive impact on helping new parents learn how to support their students in school and be comfortable navigating the school system."

The second year of the Sifton preschool outreach program has seen attendance double over last year, reported Principal Angela Mitchell. Teachers donate their time and supplies to keep it going. Through a grant, the school is also able to provide each attendee with a free book each month. Sifton parent Cassandra Kreger, has brought her son, Sean, to the program since it began. "He looks forward to it all month," she said. "I've seen such development in him since we began. At the start of the program he couldn't even hold a pencil and now he's using one regularly.

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WSU and I

WSU and I program provides extra support in fifth-grade literacy at Image Elementary School



Positive Image: Fifth-grade students at Image Elementary School are receiving supplemental assistance from Washington State University - Vancouver students in the education program.

College students enrolled in the education program at Washington State University Vancouver (WSU-V) are helping fill a much-needed role in fifth-grade literacy at Image Elementary School, through the new WSU and I (Image) partnership program.

Image receives Title 1 funding; which provides supplemental assistance dollars for schools with higher rates of free and reduced lunch. However, as with all education funding, there is not enough to meet the needs of all students and, at Image, funding stops short of fifth grade. That's where the students from WSU-V come in.

"Josh Robertson, one of our fifth-grade teachers, happened to be discussing this need with his mom," explained Image principal Kathleen Keller. "His mom, Kandy Robertson, is a writing professor at WSU-V in

the education department. Kandy knew that in order to be considered for the education program, WSU-V students have to complete 80 hours of community service. She saw this as an excellent way to provide a service-learning experience for her students and fill a real need in our school."

"This was a great opportunity for students who may have been borderline in needing assistance to receive additional help and feedback."

The Robertsons brought the idea to Keller, who fully endorsed it. Kandy Robertson spent a year putting together a plan -which

included four volunteer sites including Image- and crafting how the class would work. This past September, 12 WSU-V students began coming to Image, where they worked each week in the classroom and at the end of the semester were required to write and present a case study. Keller estimates their time added up to approximately 30 additional hours of support for fifth-grade students. That's not counting the additional hours that some of the mentors gave even once the program was completed.

Josh Robertson believes those hours made a powerful impact on his class and throughout the fifth grade. "This was a great opportunity for students who may have been borderline in needing assistance to receive additional help and feedback. That help translated into all areas, from working with them on their homework so that they could keep up with the lessons in class, to giving them feedback on writing and how to read effectively."

"The mentors were doing more than just reading with kids every day; they were working with them to help solidify the lessons being taught in class and because they (the mentors) were there on such a consistent schedule, the kids could count on their help, which allowed them to reach higher goals," Robertson said. The elementary school students weren't the only

ones who benefited. Mentor Kelsey Prevost was at Image at least eight hours a week, including spending almost all day on Fridays in the classroom. She said the best part of the experience for her was "Seeing the kids growing and improving every day." Prevost chose to do her case study on one-on-one tutoring vs. small group tutoring. The classroom experience at Image has given her the chance to engage with both types firsthand.

"As a principal, I am thrilled to have more resources to pull from to help our kids become successful. As an educator, I'm very excited for these college students who are gaining a lot of real-world education experience at the very beginning of the education program."

From Keller's view, the entire program has been a complete success. "As a principal, I am thrilled to have more resources to pull from to help our kids become successful," she said. "As an educator, I'm very excited for these college students, who are gaining a lot of real-world education experience at the very beginning of the education program."

Preschool outreach

continued from page 5

He also feels like this is his school because he comes here every month and gets to spend time in the classroom. It's helped both of us be more prepared for school. I've learned tools to help him at home and how to encourage his learning."

At Silver Star Elementary School, the weekly preschool outreach program, "Read and Play," has become so successful that parents are driving to the school from other districts in order to be involved. Read and Play is a partnership program between Fort Vancouver Regional Library, Educational Service District 112 (ESD 112) and schools in both the Evergreen and Vancouver School Districts. In Evergreen, Orchards, Image, Mill Plain and Silver Star Elementary Schools host the program. "The Read and Play program has provided an important gateway to the educational experience," said Charlie Warren,

Student Assistance Specialist at Silver Star. "Each week we have a librarian from Fort Vancouver Regional Library who comes to focus on literacy, then either myself or the parent educator from ESD 112 leads a focused activity followed by about 15 minutes of free play and socialization. We also lead tours of the school so that kids become familiar with the bathrooms, playground, school office and media center."

Warren explained that an important piece of preschool outreach is how the program serves families that may not have the funds to enroll in paid preschool or early education classes. "We're opening a door for all kids to have the experience that learning can be fun and interactive. It demystifies the experience of school for kids and parents. On any given week we have more than 20 kids who are getting the opportunity to develop increased verbalization and social skills, learn what it means to go to school and feel comfortable in

a school environment. It gives their parents an educational support network as well."

Silver Star parent Melissa Nowik brought her oldest son Bradley to the program when it first began, almost eight years ago, and is now bringing her son Nathan. "Nathan is really shy and it's hard for him to warm up and interact in environments he doesn't know," she said. "He is extremely comfortable at Silver Star now and I know that it will make a huge difference in his experience starting kindergarten next fall." Elementary schools throughout the district offer preschool outreach programs which vary in time and frequency. "These are great programs for parents to take advantage of, even if they don't know what school their child will be attending," said Nadal. "Parents can contact Elementary Education at 604.4012 for a program near them. Kids at this age are eager learners and our schools are committed to keeping that excitement going throughout their educational careers."

MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD

Study the facts before you cast your vote



Joan Skelton
School Board Member

I'd like to begin this article by acknowledging the difficult economic challenges we are experiencing personally and as a community. Unfortunately, the levy voters approved in 2006 will expire at the end of this calendar year. The decision

was made by your School Board to place a levy on the February 9 ballot to replace this maintenance and operations levy or be faced with an additional \$25-\$30 million dollar cut in the budget.

In the past four years, we've reduced the district's budget by \$17 million, including eliminating 40 percent from the district's

administration. The majority of these cuts are the result of recommendations from the community who participated in committee work, public forums and board meetings. There will be the need to further reduce our budget as the economic forecast at the state level continues to indicate an increase in loss of revenue, which translates into additional cuts for all education budgets. We will continue to follow our established policy of transparency and meaningful public participation to inform our decision making. We will also continue to inform this community through letters, our website at www.evergreenps.org, articles in Your Evergreen Schools (this publication), The Columbian, Facebook, Twitter, and school bulletins.

In regards to the levy on the all mail-in February 9 ballot – each of the schools has held at least one informational meeting for parents to hear about what the levy pays for. An informational video is available for viewing on

the district's website and continues to air on local cable station 28. In addition, the district has already held one Community Forum for patrons to hear about the levy and will hold another Community Forum Thursday, January 21, at Noon at the district's Administrative Service Center. In addition the district will host a one-hour live web-cast, which will be simultaneously cable cast on Thursday, January 21, beginning at 6 pm.

As you consider your vote this February, we ask you to please take advantage of the resources we're providing to assist you as you exercise your responsibility to make an informed decision. We are continuing our efforts to be as transparent and forthright as possible, yet rumors and misinformation continue to be seen as fact. Please take a look at www.evergreenps.org to read the information, understand the ramifications of this decision and ask questions. Then, encourage your friends to do the same.

Come join Evergreen Public Schools' Board of Directors for coffee and conversation

Thursday, January 28, 2010

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Wy'east Middle School Media Center
1112 SE 136th Ave., Vancouver

Wednesday, March 10, 2010

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Mountain View High School Media Center
1500 SE Blairmont Dr., Vancouver

Tuesday, April 20, 2010

7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.
Shahala Middle School Media Center
601 SE 192nd Ave., Vancouver

Thursday, June 3, 2010

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Evergreen High School Media Center
14300 NE 18th St., Vancouver

Thursday, July 15, 2010

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Heritage High School Media Center
7825 NE 130th Ave., Vancouver



Evergreen Public Schools hosts presentation and webcast on 2010 Levy

Evergreen Public Schools' Superintendent John Deeder will host a Community Forum to discuss the district's replacement levy on Thursday, January 21, at noon at the district's Administrative Service Center in the Evergreen Room, Tan Complex, located at 13501 NE 28, Street, Vancouver, WA 98668. Information on the proposed levy, which will be on the ballot February 9, will be shared along with a question and answer session.

The district will also hold a live webcast to discuss the levy the evening of January 21 at 6:00 p.m. The program will be simulcast on Comcast Channel 28.

YOUR EVERGREEN SCHOOLS

January 2010, Vol. 34, No. 2
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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Evergreen Public Schools

Evergreen Public Schools bids farewell to long-standing board member Holly Williams



Holly Williams
School Board Member

After an extensive and productive time of service, long-standing board member Holly Williams has stepped down from the Evergreen Public Schools' Board of Directors. Williams, who represented District V, was appointed to the board in 2000 and elected to the board in 2001. As a parent in the district, she brought drive and experience to the position from her work as an engineer at Hewlett Packard and her time spent volunteering with various organizations that served students throughout Evergreen Public Schools.

Williams was honored at her last board meeting in November. "Holly was never afraid to ask the hard questions," said Hearthwood Elementary School Principal Scott Munro, who presented Williams with flowers at the meeting on behalf of the school principals.

"She kept our schools accountable and pushed us to consider all of our decisions because her foremost concern was always whether we were doing the best we could for kids."

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Board of Directors President Joan

Skelton praised William's long-term commitment to the board as well as her willingness to take on additional responsibilities, such as serving as the board representative to the Washington State School Directors' Association's Legislative Committee. "Holly has been invaluable in keeping the board informed about legislative decisions that affect education. Her passion for kids, coupled with her willingness to closely follow the state legislature's impact on education, has made this board stronger and better able to advocate for our students."

Williams was presented with some final words of appreciation from Superintendent John Deeder.

"Holly is an excellent example of a school board member. She was always prepared, always well-informed and, first and foremost, she

"Holly has been invaluable in keeping the board informed about legislative decisions that affect education."

was dedicated to making education better for every student. She has left behind some very large shoes to fill."



Farewell Holly: Evergreen Public Schools' Board member Holly Williams presents a Evening of Excellence certificate to a student (L) and attends Thunder Day (R) with her husband Ken Williams at Mountain View High School last spring. Williams served on the Board of Directors from 2000-2009.

Replacement levy

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Bradford, "A replacement levy is necessary to fill the gap between what the state funds and what it actually costs to maintain the current educational programs provided to students in Evergreen Public Schools."

"State funding falls short of what students need, and what the community wants, in order to receive a quality education," Bradford said.

Replacement levy funds make up 16 percent of Evergreen's \$237 million operating budget. All districts in Clark County, and nearly all districts in the state, go to their voters every one, two, three or four years with a levy proposal to maintain the quality of their educational programs.

In 2006, Evergreen voters approved a four-year levy which will expire in 2010. The replacement levy on the February 9,

2010, ballot will provide funding through 2012. Levies do not extend beyond the tax years for which they are approved. Bradford said that the School Board opted to run a two-year levy this time because of the current economic conditions. "By running a two-year levy, the district is in a position to better anticipate further economic impacts due to state funding and assumptions about the housing market and other economic indicators."

"Evergreen Public Schools ran a four-year levy in 2006 when the economy was fairly stable and there was a positive housing market in the district. In the past two years as the economy has taken a down turn, the district was locked into the levy and unable to react as quickly as we would have liked," Bradford said.

If the levy is approved by voters, the projected rate per thousand dollars of assessed value will be \$3.49 in 2011 and \$3.55 in 2012. The actual impact upon

property taxes on an individual's home will depend upon whether that home increases or decreases in assessed value, and, if so, by how much.

Additional information regarding the replacement levy is available on the district's website at www.evergreenps.org. In addition, the following resources are available:

District Election Hotline: 604-4134

Email: election@evergreenps.org

