



# YOUR EVERGREEN SCHOOLS

October 2009  
Vol. 34 No. 1



Evergreen Public Schools

## QUALITY EDUCATION

# Mrs. "E" takes the lead at Evergreen High School

**L**isa Emmerich found the perfect introduction to her new position as Principal of Evergreen High School (EHS). As she walked through classrooms on her first day, introducing herself to everyone from incoming freshmen to the graduating class of 2009-10, she always began the same way, "I'm Mrs. Emmerich or Mrs. 'E' for Emmerich or Evergreen." Emmerich gives credit to the staff, students and parents for the great place Evergreen is. "I'm thrilled to be a Plainsman," she said smiling. "I'm excited to work with the staff, students, and parents at EHS, all of whom have worked together to create a positive and inviting school climate."

Emmerich came from Union High School where she worked as an

associate principal since 2007. She also spent four years at Heritage High School, where she started as a language arts teacher and became an associate principal for the first time. Prior to her time in Evergreen Public Schools, she worked for 12 years as an English and drama teacher at Junction City High School in Junction City, Oregon. She holds her National Board Certification in English Language Arts/Adolescents and Young Adulthood, a Master's in Education from Western Oregon University and a Bachelor's in Journalism from the University of Oregon.

As Emmerich walked through classrooms, it was clear that she is committed to education and each

*continued on page 8*



"E" is for Evergreen: New Evergreen High School Principal Lisa Emmerich takes time on opening day to visit every classroom and introduce herself to students.

## RESPONSIBLE USE OF RESOURCES

# Energy update:

*\$94,000 saved in July, 11 schools moving toward ENERGY STAR certification*

**E**vergreen Public Schools Energy Conservation Manager, David Cone estimates that in the period of time from January to August 2009, close to \$600,000 additional dollars in energy costs have been saved. July alone showed a savings of \$94,000 from last year. Cone, who began work in the district last November, is continuing to work in conjunction

with district staff and departments as well as the Clark Public Utilities (PUD) to eliminate wasteful energy use and save the district hundreds of thousands of dollars every year.

Cone, who began his work by monitoring school system heating and cooling systems (HVAC) to ensure that they were only being used when buildings were occupied, has now moved on to more intensive research and modifications of school and district systems. This includes working with athletic directors to ensure that gym HVAC systems are being used only as necessary and to eliminate inefficiencies such as systems fighting to heat such a large space, only to immediately try to cool it down again. "I would call what we're doing now, a sort of phase two of the process," said Cone. "We've looked at what goes on during regular school day

scheduling; now it's time to see where we can save when it comes to extracurricular activities."

In addition to looking at extracurricular scheduling, Cone has also begun to evaluate which schools in the district may qualify to become ENERGY STAR certified. In order to begin the process, a school must score a 75 on the ENERGY STAR point scale, which means it scored higher in efficient energy consumption and HVAC costs than 75 percent of its peer schools - schools which are of similar size and located in a similar geographic region. Cone has identified 11 schools throughout the district that could begin this process.

"The next stage will be to have an engineer come out to each of the schools and confirm that the educational environment has not been compromised by these savings," explained Cone.

*continued on page 8*

### ENERGY STAR at a glance

The following 11 schools are beginning the ENERGY STAR certification process: Burnt Bridge Creek, Columbia Valley, Endeavour, Fisher's Landing, Harmony, Illahee, Orchards, Pioneer, Silver Star and York Elementary Schools and Covington Middle School.

Those interested in more details and what ENERGY STAR means, can visit [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov) under "Buildings and Plants," and choose "Guidelines for Energy Management."

Evergreen Public Schools is also one of 2,264 organizations across the nation participating in the ENERGY STAR Challenge which includes reducing energy consumption by 10 percent or more. Details at [http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=challenge.learn\\_challenge](http://www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=challenge.learn_challenge)



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

ECRWSS  
RESIDENTIAL PATRON

## A MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

# District's current maintenance and operations levy to expire in 2010



John Deeder  
Superintendent

Directors will place on the ballot in February to replace the levy voters approved in 2006.

*Our current levy helps to maintain smaller class sizes by allowing the district to hire more instructional staff than the state funds.*

The dollars collected through the maintenance and operations levy make up approximately 16 percent of our overall budget and pay the difference between what the state pays Evergreen

I wanted to share some facts with you about an important matter that will have strong implications for the students in our district – the maintenance and operations levy we anticipate the Evergreen Public Schools' Board of

*I would like to remind everyone of the extensive process we went through this past spring when we reduced our budget by \$11 million because of cutbacks in state revenue.*

Public Schools for basic education and what it really costs to provide the education that our community has come to expect and that our students deserve. This next year, the district will collect \$38.5 million in levy dollars.

Our current levy helps to maintain smaller class sizes by allowing the district to hire more instructional staff than the state funds. In addition the levy provides funding for textbooks, library materials, the EXCEL program, campus security staff, school resource officers (SRO's) and extracurricular activities such as music, drama and athletics. The levy also helps pay for teacher aides, secretaries and other staff members and provides transportation beyond what the state supports for increased student safety. Would these programs go away if the levy fails? That's a decision that the

Evergreen Public Schools' Board of Directors would have to make – and one I'm sure they would do only after numerous opportunities for the public to weigh in through community forums, meetings and via email and webcasts. I would like to remind everyone of the extensive process we went through this past spring when we reduced our budget by \$11 million because of cutbacks in state revenue – I am confident that the board and staff would take a similar approach in presenting information on potential cuts.

*Please take the time to read the information and make an informed decision when you vote.*

Times are tough for everyone, and Evergreen Public Schools are no different. We continue to look for ways to save money and to operate more efficiently. I wanted you to be aware that we have a levy we will be bringing before voters right after the first of the year and ask that when you receive the information about what that levy will pay for, that you take the time to read it and make an informed decision when you vote. Thank you.

## 21ST CENTURY EDUCATION

## Tweeting and friending:

*Evergreen Public Schools enters social networking*

Beginning with the 2009-10 school year, Evergreen Public Schools has harnessed the power of social networking to aid in communicating as effectively with the public as possible. Through social networking sites Twitter and Facebook, the district's Community Relations department is posting news about district headlines, upcoming performance events and forums and important district updates. Users are able to sign up to "follow" and become "fans" of the district through the district's public website at: <http://www.evergreenps.org> or directly through the Twitter and Facebook sites.

"Social networking has become an important part of the communications culture," explained Carol Fenstermacher, APR, Director of Community Relations. "In Evergreen Public Schools we are striving to provide a 21<sup>st</sup> century education to our students and that includes using 21<sup>st</sup> century tools to communicate with them, their parents and the public."

**Join the conversation**

facebook twitter

Though the district's social networking has only been active since right before school began, close to 1,000 people have already become fans on Facebook and more than 150 are following the district on Twitter. Updates are posted multiple times during the week and often lead back to the district website for more information. The district's website has also undergone a reorganization to provide a more user-friendly experience and make information easily accessible.

The district Facebook site can be accessed at: <http://www.facebook.com>

-search for Evergreen Public Schools

Those interested in following the district on Twitter can visit: <http://www.twitter.com/evergreenps>

## RESPONSIBLE USE OF RESOURCES

## Budget update: Evergreen Public Schools faces budget deficit, begins levy conversation

Eleven million dollars. That's how much Evergreen Public Schools' cut from the 2009-10 operating budget with the input of community members. Despite the steep number, no teachers were laid off and the classroom was protected – a goal supported throughout the budget process by the Evergreen Public Schools' Board of Directors, Superintendent and community.

However, according to Evergreen Public Schools' Chief Financial Officer Mike Merlino, the district will continue to face budget cuts in the years to come due to declining state revenue forecasts that continue despite the \$3 billion dollar federal stimulus. "The stimulus money was an effort to help the state balance the budget, but it was a one-time thing," Merlino explained. "The overall state budget is around \$32 billion, so about 10 percent of the state budget was affected. Unfortunately, state revenues have not picked up which had to happen in order to avoid further reductions."

Merlino reported that when the legislature reconvenes, it's likely that they will cut another \$1 billion

to \$2 billion from the budget. Added to that are reductions in Initiative 728 money (funds that help keep classrooms small), that had already been predicted. "We're talking about at least \$3 million more in reductions for the 2010-11 school year. It's something we're just going to have to deal with again."

In addition the Evergreen Public Schools' Board of Directors is looking to place a maintenance and operations (M&O) levy before the voters at the beginning of the calendar year. The previous levy, which was approved in 2006, will expire in 2010.

"Regardless of the passage of the levy, we are facing more cuts because of the state's budget deficit and declining revenue," said Merlino. "We have our work cut out for us, but just like we did last spring, we will be out talking to the community in many different ways. We're hoping that everyone will become informed about these issues and help us as we work through this process."

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

# Union High School Interact club awarded Rotary International Presidential Citation



Interacting with the Community: Members of Union High School's Interact Club smile during a service project. The group has already completed six service projects for the community since the beginning of October.

Students in the Union High School (UHS) Interact Club are making a difference from the halls of their own school to the lives of kids in the countries of Uganda and Costa Rica. Their hard work has been recognized for the second year in a row with a Presidential Citation by the Rotary International Club President. The UHS club is the first one in the history of District 5100 – which includes 73 Rotary Clubs and 20 Interact Clubs – to receive the award.

In order to receive the citation, the club had to apply and achieve certain service standards which

included making a difference at a school, state and international level. Projects included school clean-ups, planting trees around the community and collecting funds to provide dictionaries to students in the country of Uganda. They've also provided flood relief in Vernonia, Oregon, built basketball hoops in Costa Rica and partnered with local organizations to run food, clothing and vaccine drives. These are only a sampling of the projects, as the group completed 22 projects last school year. "Most clubs

complete about one service project a month," said club advisor Kinsey Murray. "It's only October and Union has already completed six, it's a very dedicated and motivated group."

Interact Club is the high school model of the Rotary Club. Students meet weekly at lunch and participate in community service projects throughout the year. Each club is sponsored by local Rotaries. Vancouver Sunrise Rotary and the East Vancouver Rotary sponsor UHS' Interact Club which has grown exponentially since it

*"Most clubs complete about one service project a month. It's only October and Union has already completed six, it's a very dedicated and motivated group."*

began three years ago. "Interest this year has been the highest so far," said this year's Interact President Jessica Brant. "I've been in Interact since the school opened three years ago and we've gone from about 20 members the first year to 60 this year. Students are really getting on board."

Brant credits the club's high participation with the flexible commitment for students. "Interact is great because you can volunteer when you have the time, and on the projects that interest you," she said. "You're not required to attend meetings to be a part of it and that makes it much more doable for busy students, especially those in athletics." Murray added that, "another important component is that we do projects that the students care about. They bring ideas of where they want to help and the club helps make that happen."

## 21ST CENTURY EDUCATION

## Heritage High School receives a \$30,000 Energy Smart grant

Heritage High School (HHS) students are ready to take the next step towards conservation and clean energy, with the help of a \$30,000 state-funded grant from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). The grant will help pay for equipment that supports projects which are considered "energy smart" such as solar panels to power an on-site school greenhouse and a biodiesel processor.

HHS teachers Gwen Thompson and Jim Neiman have built a strong biodiesel program at Heritage, but with the energy smart grant, other teachers and more students will be able to expand into additional projects to create clean power and reduce waste. "Heritage is working to become a 'green' school," explained Thompson. "That encompasses a lot of areas, including recycling and composting, biodiesel processing, locally grown food and solar energy. This grant allows everyone to pursue

these projects with more latitude."

As with the biodiesel program, the energy smart initiatives have room for students in every area of interest. Rachael Alvick, a student interested in marketing, has already worked on a team to create a marketing and advertising plan for the school-wide recycling and composting program. "It was a good taste of a real-life experience working with a client," she said. "We needed to create a logo and marketing plan, but also take into account the feedback and needs of the group creating the program. There were a lot of changes and updates, just like it would have been if we'd been working in an agency."

The real-world aspect is something that the school continues to emphasize. Heritage works closely with the local mentoring non-profit nConnect, which connects mentors in the business field with high school students. "An important thing to realize about these projects



Trash Audit: Students from Heritage High School are working to start a school-wide recycling and composting program. Part of the project includes a detailed trash audit of the school's garbage.

is that they're far-reaching," said Thompson. "Many of the students working on these are doing it as part of a senior project or as a class, with the realization that the projects will continue to grow throughout the years, so we want to make sure that students are also learning the important skills of networking and making contacts."

Chris Caseber of Arbor Biofuels is one such mentor. A distributor and broker of biofuels for four years, she is now working with students to create a plan that would enable the students to launch a working lab and biodiesel processing and distribution center. The goal is to create a

student-run, adult-overseen location. "A lot of it is about drawing others into the conversation," she said. "We'd love to see it grow into a sustainable non-profit model with a board of directors that is comprised of people who can help keep the project moving forward."

Projects will continue to develop throughout the school year and Thompson hopes that before long every student at Heritage will be involved. "We're working to get students engaged while also introducing them to the area of green technology," she said. "It's all part of preparing them for today's world."

## Prevention 101: Evergreen Public Schools and partners educate students and staff on how to stay well this flu season



Teaching Prevention: Students and staff throughout the district are being reminded that prevention (such as hand-washing) is the best way to avoid the flu.

As the flu season approaches and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) sends warnings about a possible H1N1 outbreak

across the country, Evergreen Public Schools is seeking to proactively educate students, teachers, staff and parents about the best ways to stop

the flu before it begins

Superintendent John Deeder addressed it in his welcome letter to parents, information has been posted on the district website and is also being placed in school newsletters and on school websites. All information details the best way to prevent the flu:

- Frequent hand-washing with soap for at least 20 seconds
- Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or arm/elbow
- Staying home for at least 24 hours until symptoms have passed
- Avoiding touching nose and mouth

School staff are also closely monitoring students, and those who are ill will be sent home immediately. Schools that

experience cases of the H1N1 virus will post notifications on their websites. Some schools, such as Hearthwood Elementary School are taking extra measures and bringing in volunteer groups like the Washington State University Germ City volunteers who do a brief, hands-on presentation with students on where germs come from and how to properly wash their hands in order to stay healthy.

All protocols being followed are at the recommendation of the CDC and Clark County Public Health. Those interested in more information can visit the district website at: <http://www.evergreenps.org/AboutEPS/Pages/H1N1Information.aspx>

### QUALITY EDUCATION

## Archeological program helps students dig into history and science

Students in Janet Dondelinger's fourth grade class at Pioneer Elementary School are digging deep for answers and hands-on experience in history, through a new curriculum integrating archeology into the classroom.

*"I think it's really helpful to kids to be able to talk to someone who's in the field and realize this is something they could do."*

Dondelinger was one of two local teachers to receive a grant from the Clark County Historical Museum to create a social studies curriculum using archeology as a base. This year, she and her students have already spent time exploring the history of Clark County, including archeological finds from the excavation site for the Vancouver Convention Center. The relevant material and the opportunity to learn more about archeology have sparked extra enthusiasm in the students. "It's exciting for me to see kids actually diving into history, getting their hands

dirty and learning about archeology as a science," said Dondelinger.

Students were also treated to a visit from Jessica Hale, an archeologist who works for Applied Archeological Research (AAR) in Portland, Oregon. AAR was the firm contracted to do the excavation on the Vancouver Convention Center. Hale provided resources and information for both teachers as they began the project, but she also volunteered her time to come in and give students a hands-on presentation on archeology.

Hale's presentation was more than showing a powerpoint and answering questions. She brought in actual artifacts so the students could experience cleaning them and discovering what was underneath all the dirt. Students also spent time looking through books of artifacts to try and identify the time period and purpose of the items they were examining. "I didn't even know about archeology until college," said Hale. "I think it's really helpful to kids to be able to talk to someone who's in the field and realize this is something they could do."



From the Pages of History: Archeologist Jessica Hale shows students an artifact recovered from the site of the Vancouver Convention Center.

*"It's exciting for me to see kids actually diving into history, getting their hands dirty and learning about archeology as a science."*

Student Genevieve Grahek agreed wholeheartedly. "I've wanted to be an archeologist since second grade and I learned a lot. It's fun to meet a real archeologist who's just a regular nice person like me who likes history."

Dondelinger believes that the integration of multiple subjects is one of the best things about the program. "It's a social studies curriculum, but it integrates in so much more. We're using this in art projects, teaching students about scientific method and deduction and also reminding them that they're not the first ones to live in Clark County, there's a wealth of information we can learn from the people who were here before us."

## COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

# Community steps forward to provide much needed school supplies for hundreds of students

Hundreds of students in need were the recipients of an outpouring of generosity from local businesses, community members, parents and Evergreen Public Schools' staff. Each year, the district runs a donation drive to help students whose families cannot afford the supplies needed to begin school. Though the need was even greater this year than in the past, the community rallied together and provided enough supplies to assist every student and family who needed help.

"This was absolutely a community effort," said Meeka Kullberg, Public Information



Generous Beginnings: Due to the generosity of groups like the East Vancouver Rotary (pictured), students in need throughout the district were able to start the year with school supplies.

*Though the need was even greater this year than in the past, the community rallied together and provided enough supplies to help every student and family who needed help.*

Coordinator for the district, who coordinated the supply donations and distribution. "Everyone in the community was represented, from local businesses who generously ran supply drives and district employees and teachers who

donated, to the parents of students in the district who picked up a few extra items to donate when they shopped for their own students and anonymous community members who dropped off bags of supplies at the district office. We couldn't be more grateful."

More than 170 students from kindergarten through twelfth grade received supplies donated to the district office. Business supporters included: Wells Fargo Financial - Chkalov Drive branch, WaferTech, JCPenney - Mill Plain branch, Sharp Labs, Knowledge Learning Corporation, Nautilus, T.O.D.A.Y. Foundation, Logitech and Miller Nash.

Mill Plain Elementary School also received a cartload of school supplies from the East Vancouver Rotary Club. The Rotarians presented the supplies

*More than 170 students from kindergarten through twelfth grade received supplies donated to the district office.*

to principal Deb Alden and student representatives on behalf of the

club. The First Independent Bank employee group, Helping Hands and First Independent's Wealth Management group also collected and donated supplies to both Wy'east Middle School and Endeavour Elementary School.

In addition, the district's Student Assistant Specialists (SAS) collected and distributed supplies to more than 300 students throughout the district.

"We are extremely grateful to everyone who helped us with supplies this year," said Kullberg. "Because of your generosity, we were able to do more to ensure that students in need got a successful start to the school year."

## Have lunch with Superintendent John Deeder

Every third Wednesday of the month, Superintendent John Deeder will be available to answer questions and discuss topics related to education at his monthly Brown Bag Lunch. Held from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Evergreen Room of the Tan Complex at the district's Administrative Service Center, these lively, informal discussions are a great opportunity to learn more about education in Evergreen Public Schools.

Pack your lunch and join the Superintendent on the following dates:

November 18, 2009  
December 16, 2009  
January 20, 2010  
February 17, 2010  
March, 17, 2010  
April 21, 2010  
May 19, 2010



The Administrative Service Center is located at: 13501 NE 28<sup>th</sup> St., Vancouver.



Humane Donation: (L-R) Student artists Karthik Chaganti, Kayla Perez and Kaytelynn Shields pose with "Bruno" in front of artwork (including their own) donated by students from Evergreen Public Schools to the new Humane Society for Southwest Washington.

The donated art was featured in last year's district art show before being presented to Humane Society Director Chuck Tourtillott. "We think the art is great," said Tourtillott. "We've hung it in our main hallway on the way to the adoptable dog area so as many people can view it as possible."

# From club to class: Evergreen High School adds robotics class

Three years ago, a robotics club, The Green Grinches, was formed at Evergreen High School (EHS), when a group of Girl Scouts became interested in building a robot to enter into the FIRST Robotics Competition. FIRST, an organization dedicated to technology and engineering, offers a variety of competitions, including a robotics competition for high school students. Annual regional competitions occur in both Portland and Seattle. Students had such a great time building their robot and competing, that the club continued the next year, despite many of the original team members graduating.

*“It’s a great thing to be able to offer another high-tech class like robotics to students during the school day.”*

Now in its third year, the club has been renamed The Green Wrenches and has sparked enough interest that EHS decided to offer a robotics class. “We’re excited to have a class this

year,” said teacher Christian Kaneen, who also serves as the club advisor. “It’s a great thing to be able to offer another high-tech class like robotics to students during the school day.”

The new class is considered an introduction to robotics and guides students through the process of building small-scale robots. Though the class integrates everything from design and engineering to computer and electrical programming, No prior knowledge is required. “The guiding principle in the class is to introduce students to and help them hone the types of skills they’ll need to compete in the current market and what it demands, explained Kaneen.”

For students in the class who are also in the club, it’s a great opportunity to spend more time refining their skills. McKenzie Burselson joined the club last year and it sparked her interest in robotics, motivating her to take the class this year. “I was involved in the spirit portion of the competition (website, video diary of the building process), which was a great learning experience for me,” she said, “but it inspired me to learn how to build the robot itself. I plan to dedicate as

much time as possible to the competition this year.”

Kaneen agreed that having the club offers a great class supplement for students who may be more advanced or interested in very specific areas of robotics.

“There are basically four



Robotic Focus: Members of Evergreen High School's Robotics club, “The Green Wrenches,” are already excited for this year’s upcoming competition.

areas of concentration on the team,” explained Kaneen. “Programming, design, electrical and build. Students end up breaking into groups within the team to focus on what they’re

*“The guiding principle in the class is to introduce students to and help them hone the types of skills they’ll need to compete in the current market and what it demands.”*

interested in and how much time they have. There truly is something for everyone and it’s exposing students to a career field they may not have considered.”

Robotics team leaders Jaxon Shumaker and Eric Driggers both feel that this experience has helped them develop skills for the careers they hope to pursue. Driggers is interested in programming. “Not computer programming though,” he was quick to clarify, “The type of programming that makes it possible for people to

even have computer programming.” He’s also appreciative of how the challenge of robotics club has enhanced his educational experience. “Each year the FIRST organization comes up with a new set of challenging requirements, they’ve been doing this for 19 years and each year is more innovative than the last, it’s great.”

Shumaker appreciates the value of having a chance to explore an area of interest for himself with no formal training. “We just sort of jumped in (to the robotics competition). I took some tutorials and I’ve taken an introduction to engineering class, but mostly it was just a chance to figure it all out by testing things. The biggest development I’ve seen is the ability to realize what will and will not work before an idea even makes it off the drawing board.”

As Kaneen looks to the future of the class and the club, he hopes to continue to draw more students in to explore not just robotics but all areas that feed into the field. “These are all valuable skills for today’s world,” he said. “I’m excited that we finally have an opportunity to formally explore that.”



Class of Their Own: Students at Evergreen High School now have the option to take a robotics class during school hours, which teaches them the process of building a small-scale robot from the ground up.

## Get an inside look at Evergreen Public Schools – join us for a Community Tour

The community is invited to get a firsthand, inside look at the great things happening every day in Evergreen Public Schools. The district offers community tours - which take participants on a guided tour through a high school, middle school, elementary school and one program at the Clark County Skills Center. Transportation and lunch are provided free of charge. To reserve your spot contact Community Relations at 604.4088.

**Tour dates are:**

Thursday, November 5, 2009 - Union High School, Cascade Middle School, Endeavour Elementary School and one program at the Clark County Skills Center.

Thursday, March 11, 2010 - Heritage High School, Covington Middle School, Sunset Elementary School and one program at the Clark County Skills Center.



**Remember to VOTE**

**Remember to VOTE**

**Election Day is November 3, 2009**

## MESSAGE FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD

# Evergreen Public Schools' Board of Directors opposes Initiative 1033



Victoria Bradford  
School Board Member

**O**n November 3, voters in Washington will be asked to vote on Initiative 1033 (I-1033) - which would limit the growth of state, county, and city revenue in Washington. Your Evergreen School Board opposes this ballot measure

because it will have a negative impact on education and the local economy.

This past year has seen unprecedented budget

cuts throughout our state which are having profound impacts on the quality of life for Washington citizens on a daily basis. Last spring the state legislature made significant funding cuts to K-12 educational programs which led to Evergreen Public Schools having to reduce our budget by \$11 million. But keep in mind, we got here with the Washington legislature using \$500 million in federal stimulus dollars to avoid even deeper cuts to education. Those stimulus dollars won't be there in the future. Limiting revenue in any one area will hurt and limit revenue in other areas in the future.

Here are some other facts to consider: currently 42 percent of the state's general fund is invested in K-12 education - which also supports social services and health services for our students.

I-1033 would force our state legislature to make

reductions in education, social services and health services that support students and allow schools to help students learn and succeed.

Funding for education in the state of Washington is already 44<sup>th</sup> in the nation. When a similar measure passed in Colorado, that state dropped from tenth in K-12 funding to 49<sup>th</sup>. Voters in that state have recently repealed that measure because of the damage it has done to their schools.

Your school board believes that Initiative 1033 will hurt student learning and the future of our state economy and well being. For Evergreen Public Schools, the bottom line is that I-1033 will clearly hurt our effort to prepare students to be world-competitive upon graduation.

We hope you will join with us in our opposition to this measure.

JOIN US!



## YOU ARE INVITED



Evergreen Public Schools

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

Wednesday, November 4, 2009  
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Frontier Middle School Media Center  
7600 NE 166<sup>th</sup> Ave., Vancouver

Tuesday, December 15, 2009  
7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.  
Covington Middle School Media Center  
11200 NE Rosewood Rd., Vancouver

Thursday, January 28, 2010  
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Wy'east Middle School  
1112 SE 136<sup>th</sup> 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 192<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Vancouver

Thursday, June 3, 2010  
6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.  
Evergreen High School Media Center  
14300 NE 18<sup>th</sup> St., Vancouver

Thursday, July 15, 2010  
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
Heritage High School Media Center  
7825 NE 130<sup>th</sup> Ave., Vancouver

## YOUR EVERGREEN SCHOOLS

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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

## 21ST CENTURY EDUCATION

# Grant from Comcast Cable helps high school students continue innovative video programming

Despite severe budget reductions, Evergreen Public Schools continues to work to sustain class offerings and programs in all areas of education, including career and technical education (CTE) classes such as video production. In August, Evergreen Public Schools' Video Services department was awarded an \$88,973 grant from Comcast Cable in part to purchase video equipment for the video production classes at Evergreen, Mountain View and Heritage High Schools. Union High School received a fully-outfitted classroom when the school opened in 2007.

This significantly impacts students such as those in Scott Wistrand's Digital Video/Digital Photography class at Evergreen High School. Wistrand's class offers a first semester course on all aspects of video production from scriptwriting and storyboarding to shooting film and editing the final production. An additional advanced class is offered second semester. Wistrand was able to purchase several items with the grant funds, such as an audio mixer,

intercom mixer and a Tricaster video switcher. The Tricaster in particular will allow students to hook up multiple cameras at a time and support multi-camera productions.

"This new equipment is vital to giving students more of a real-world experience," explained Wistrand. "We're trying to prepare kids to be world-competitive in today's market, and television today is mainly done by remote feeds or on-location. There's much less in-studio shooting. The ability to experience how work is done in the professional field is vital to their future success." As part of the class experience, students will also have the opportunity to have their programs shown on local cable access channels.

Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) support fund grants are made available to PEG public access cable providers for the purchase of equipment to produce television programming. Evergreen Public Schools is a member of TV



Film Crew: Students in Scott Wistrand's Video Production class at Evergreen High School do a run-through for their weekly news show. Students complete all aspects of the production from writing and storyboarding to filming and editing.

ETC (The Vancouver Educational Telecommunications Consortium), the educational access provider for Clark County. Even though the Video Services department was scaled back in last year's budget cuts, by still keeping it in operation, the district was able to apply for PEG grants which provide capital support funds to purchase professional equipment such as cameras, video switchers, lights and audio equipment for classrooms, that students might otherwise never have access to.

Professional grade equipment is vital to a class like Wistrand's which emphasizes professionalism and hands-on student learning in every aspect of class. Students write, host and produce a weekly news show for Evergreen High School, as well as work on their own news stories and productions. "I give the students as many opportunities as possible to learn on their own by doing their own shows and problem-solving for themselves," he said. "I want to give them experiences to take with them, not just assignments."

## QUALITY EDUCATION

## Evergreen High School student selected for the U.S. Army All-American Marching Band



All-American: Evergreen High School senior Calvin Gorman accepts his jacket and hat for his inclusion in the 2010 U.S. Army All-American Marching Band.

Calvin Gorman, Evergreen High School (EHS) senior and marching band member, has been selected to play his trombone in the third annual U.S. Army All-American Marching Band during the halftime show of the prestigious 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the U.S. Army All-American Bowl. Gorman is one of only 97 high school senior marching musicians chosen from across the country for this honor.

The football game – which features 90 of the nation's top high school players - will be shown live January 9, 2010 on NBC. Three years ago, the U.S. Army formed the elite All-American Marching Band to perform during the game's half-time.

"The U.S. Army has a long musical history with more than 34 musical and performing groups," said Col. Derik Crotts, Deputy Chief of

Staff, G7, U.S. Army Accessions Command. "We are proud to honor all of our U.S. Army All-American Band musicians and congratulate them on their selection."

Gorman, who has been a member of the EHS Marching Band for four years, was nominated by Band Director Steve Kuske. "I nominated Calvin because of the strength of his dedication to music as well as his excellent performance skills," said Kuske at the presentation ceremony at EHS. Gorman was given a standing ovation by his fellow marching band members and presented with a hat and jacket by a representative of the U.S. Army. "I'm extremely grateful to the U.S. Army for giving me this opportunity," said Gorman. "I'm most grateful to my parents who have spent my entire life supporting my love of music and who continue that to this day."

## ENERGY STAR

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"Among other things, the engineer will ensure there is adequate lighting and temperature regulation for students to be comfortable to learn."

The engineer will also verify the energy consumption records that are being reported. "This is a great thing for our schools," said Cone. "The engineering firm has agreed to give us a reduced rate of \$500 per school for the engineer's time and Clark PUD will fund ENERGY STAR certification up to \$500, so this is another great step for the district that isn't costing us anything."

Cone fully believes that all schools in the district could eventually reach ENERGY STAR certification. "It's just a matter of finding out where we can adjust our systems and what modifications we need to make in order to really

control energy use." Working closely with the maintenance department, steps have already been taken to improve all school systems. These include replacing antiquated HVAC control systems- that failed easily and were difficult to read- with digital systems that allow diagnostics and troubleshooting, and modifying the current system to take advantage of outside air dampers for cooling. The district is also utilizing a system from Clark PUD that allows the user to see daily Clark PUD readings taken at 15-minute increments.

"This is what we need," said Cone. "We need to be able to see the spikes in energy use throughout the day so we can diagnose where the problems lie and how we can fix them. By using these tools to improve our systems we're able to most responsibly use our resources."

## Mrs. "E"

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student at Evergreen. She took time to introduce herself to every classroom she could and even conversed fluently in American Sign Language (ASL) with several deaf and hard of hearing students. "I love the fact that learning is a dynamic endeavor," she explained when asked what she enjoys the most about teaching and education. "Every day is a little different from the day before and every student is a little different from every other student. There is nothing static in the teacher-learning process, and when you add the maturing process of young adults, the professional life of a high school educator is never bland."