



At a Glance...

An e-newsletter to inform our learning community

DECEMBER 2011

Edition 20

Congratulations

2011 National Board Certified Teachers:

- Toni Canady, MSHS
- Dawn Frearson, TFMS
- Julie Gardunia, NBES
- Shawn Lawrence, TFMS
- Shannon Roubicek, SES
- Emily Rourke, TFMS
- Rhonda Schmidt, MSHS
- Sara-June Treadwell, TFMS
- Meredith VonTrapp, NBES

Welcome

New Staff hired since November

- Laurie Edwards
IT Secretary-Data Analyst
- Fletcher Lacroix
Technical Support Manager
- Angela Zwiefelhofer,
Teaching & Learning Secretary

The fundamental purpose of the Snoqualmie Valley School District is to ensure high levels of learning for every student.



Joel Aune
Superintendent

Superintendent's Message:

A Focus on Teaching and Learning

We believe that effective teachers have a profound and positive impact on student learning. Our sole purpose — the reason our school district exists — is to teach children effectively and facilitate their learning. Despite the challenging economic times in recent years, we have endeavored to sustain resources that support staff development for teachers in order to boost student learning.

This month's *At a Glance* newsletter includes information on the **Instructional 5 Framework** and an overview of the work that administrators and, most recently, teacher leaders have been engaged in to learn more about the art and science of teaching. Through this effort, we hope to further improve our capacity to support teachers in their work while achieving a common language and consistent vision for good instruction here in the Snoqualmie Valley School District.

Student achievement in our schools is trending upward, due in large part to the dedication and skill of our teachers. Our students will further benefit as we continue to focus on instruction and support teachers as they design and deliver top-quality instruction throughout the district.

Instructional 5 Framework

Taking "Common Language, Consistent Practice" to the next level...

The Snoqualmie Valley School District Instructional 5 Framework is a research-based design which creates a common language and shared vision for high-quality instruction. The framework helps define and deepen understanding of five proven components of effective instructional practices— **Purpose, Engagement, Rigor/Relevance, Assessment and Relationships**— that contribute to high levels of learning for all students.

The Instructional 5 Framework was specifically designed to provide a consistent focus on the effective components of classroom lessons that will actively engage and challenge students' thinking, assess student learning, and emphasize the importance of the classroom learning environment. (For example, within the **PURPOSE** component of the Instructional 5 Framework, many teachers are consistently using "Learning Targets" to help ensure students better understand the learning expectations of their lessons.)

Since this framework was introduced at the All Staff Kick-off meeting in August, the District's Teaching and Learning team has been working to develop more web-based resources that will help teachers build upon the **Common Language, Consistent Practices** that have been improving the effectiveness of our Snoqualmie Valley schools over the past six years.

Watch for more resources in the coming months that will enable teacher collaboration around best practices to further strengthen the positive impact we can make on student learning.



Staff Kudos

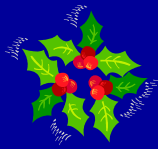
Calla Kinghorn, CVES Kindergarten teacher, was voted Teacher of the Month for November by the Snoqualmie Valley/Issaquah Macaroni-Kid website, based on one a student's nomination.

[Click here](#) for details.

Nice job!

Wishing you a fun and relaxing Winter Break with your family!

No school — December 21 through January 2, 2012.



Help us tell the positive stories of your schools, staff and students:

Send story ideas and kudos to malcolmc@svsd410.org or call Carolyn at 425-831-8423.

**SVSD #410
PO Box 400
8001 Silva Ave SE
Snoqualmie, WA
98065
Ph: 425-831-8000
Fax: 425-831-8040
www.svsd410.org**

The Seattle Times & KingCo Conference agree...

Bonnie Foote is Coach of the Year!

For a third year in a row, Mount Si High School's **Bonnie Foote** was named the KingCo Conference 3A Volleyball Coach of the Year (in 2011, 2010 and 2009). Also this year, the Seattle Times named her the 2011 Coach of the Year — an honor that considers all high school athletics. Congratulations to Bonnie and Mount Si's Varsity Volleyball team for finishing 6th in state this year!



Instructional Rounds Define Best Practices

Two years ago, our district's administrative team (principals and district leaders) initiated a study group focused on student learning and instruction. The premise has been to explore the complexities of teaching and learning across our schools and content areas, in order to better support teachers in the challenging task of ensuring all students are successful learners in school.

In these discussions, the group acknowledged their own beliefs regarding powerful instruction and effective student learning. They discussed terminology around best practices --which most agree are critical to learning but many may differ on how these concepts are defined. For example, while everyone may agree that "student engagement" is critical to learning...*what does that actually mean?* Is it about classroom management, student accountability, time on task, hands-on learning activities, etc.? Or, does it have more to do with the nature of the intellectual work with which students are engaged?

Through **Instructional Rounds**, administrators periodically conduct learning walks into classrooms, dropping in for 15-20 minute observations. **Their purpose is to learn more about teaching and learning and about how students think and reason...NOT** to judge or evaluate teacher performances in any way. Although individual teachers do not get direct feedback after these learning walks, the experiences serve as a springboard for conversations about student learning. Instructional Rounds help principals identify effective teaching strategies and ideas that they, in turn, can share with their own building staff to improve teaching effectiveness.

This year, several classroom teachers from across the district were invited to join the Instructional Rounds format. Classroom teachers provide yet another filter to help the district calibrate its understanding of what powerful teaching and learning is.

After all, what teachers do in the classroom – day in and day out – has the greatest impact on students' success!

School Tour Offers "Focus on Education"

On November 16, the district hosted a first-time "Focus on Education" School Tour to celebrate American Education Week. Community leaders were invited into classrooms to experience first-hand how our schools are engaging students in learning. [Click here](#) for more details and photos of this special event on the District website.

