



At a Glance...

An e-newsletter to inform our learning community

NOVEMBER 2011

Edition 19

Welcome

New Staff hired to the District since October:

- **Marsha Brown**
CVES Instr. Aide
- **Gina Estep**
CKMS girls basketball coach
- **Tracy Helm**
NBES Instr. Aide

Important Dates:

- **Nov. 8** —
General Election
Remember to VOTE!
- **Nov. 11** —
Veteran's Day
(no school)
- **Nov. 18, 21, 22, 23** — **Parent Conferences**,
(early release schedules)
- **Nov. 24-25** —
Thanksgiving Holiday
(no school)



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:

Celebrating American Education Week

Horace Mann is commonly known as the father of American public education. Born over 200 years ago, Mann believed that, "Education, beyond all other devices of human origin, is the great equalizer of the conditions of men, the balance-wheel of the social machinery." Mann's vision of providing education for all citizens, and not just the privileged, was unique and revolutionary at that time. His notion of a system of education, accessible to all, is the cornerstone of our country's system of public education today. Mann believed that public education would reduce crime, decrease poverty, and improve the quality of life in our country. He believed that a system of public education would contribute to the greater good of society and saw it as essential to our nation's future growth, welfare, and prosperity.

This year, *American Education Week* is November 14-18. American Education Week is an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of our students and recognize the contributions of the staff in our schools who are committed to helping all students achieve. In honor of American Education Week, I'd like to commend all of you for the outstanding work that is done each and every day in our schools. The talent, skill, and dedication exhibited by our teachers, classified support staff, and administrators help our students attain the highest levels of learning and achievement.

Never underestimate the importance of your work and its lasting impact on the young people who attend our schools. As individuals working in the Snoqualmie Valley Schools, each of you has countless opportunities each day to make a difference in the life of a young person. I hope that you will continue to take full advantage of those opportunities.

Thank you for the contributions that you have made to this district and its students.

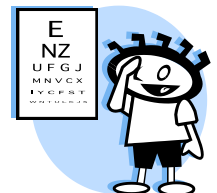
Veteran's Day Collections Underway

All SVSD schools are collecting items for care packages to send to local troops currently deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq. The local American Legion is organizing this effort. Drop boxes will be at each school until November 11.

Do you have a worn American flag that needs to be retired? If so, please bring it by the SMS office by this Thursday, Nov. 10. SMS Students are collecting flags as a community service project again this year. At an assembly Thursday, the students will present the flags to veterans who will properly dispose of them later. [Click here for full story.](#)

Kudos to our Nurses!

In just under a month this October, our district's capable Health Services team completed 3,028 vision and 3,028 hearing screenings of students at all ten Snoqualmie Valley schools, with the help of school SLPs and volunteers! Thanks for helping ensure the health of our students every day. Your efforts clearly strengthen our learning (and working) environment!



Congratulations

to nearly 100 teachers (who are part of 26 separate projects in all ten schools) whose projects will be funded through the District's Mobile Initiative Classroom Grant program.

Teams were chosen to share classroom sets of mobile devices, based on the innovative lessons they defined in their grant applications—to engage students in LEARNING!

Thanks for your cooperation in last month's test calls of our SVSD emergency communications system. Phone numbers are updated and the system is ready if we need it.

What are YOU thankful for?

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

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

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A Good Likeness for a Good Cause

Mount Si Associate Principal Greg Hart (who is also a good sport) poses with the pumpkin that a student created in his likeness. In a recent fundraiser contest, initiated by the high school's three office staff teams to show their P.R.I.D.E., students and staff "voted" by making donations for their favorite pumpkin designs (made by office TAs). Proceeds totaled \$300 and will provide six local families with Thanksgiving meals. Congratulations, Main Office team, for bragging rights of getting the most votes!



American Education Week—November 13-18

During the November 3rd School Board meeting, Superintendent Aune issued a [proclamation honoring American Education Week](#) for November 13-18, 2011 that acknowledges the important role of each and every member of our SVSD staff to grow and educate children. To help celebrate public education in our community, our District is planning a couple of special activities:



Focus on Education School Tour

A select group of community leaders (local leaders and involved citizens who may not otherwise have a reason to visit our schools) has been invited for an insider view of our schools on Wednesday, November 16. Participants will join Superintendent Aune to learn more about our district and see first-hand how teaching and learning has evolved in our schools with the use of technology and "targeted" instruction. The event will feature classroom tours at Twin Falls Middle School and Mount Si High School, student entertainment, bus transportation, and lunch served by Culinary Arts students. *Please extend a warm welcome to the community guests next week.* Because this is the first time our district has initiated such a tour, we limited the number of invitations to keep the groups small (...in case folks are inquiring.) If this school tour is well-received and there is more interest, the district will consider offering similar tours again.

"American Teacher" Documentary Film to Debut

Coming soon to a theater near you... School Board president Dan Popp confirmed that he's working to bring to our community a compelling new documentary film which he previewed recently through his work at Microsoft. *Stay tuned for the specific date, time and place — possibly during American Education Week!*

More Online Employee Services Coming!

Over the last year we have heard many positive comments from employees about the usefulness of the Employee Access portal that provides staff secure, 24-hour self-service access to payroll information. Employee Access and mandatory direct deposit are part of a series of upgrades and streamlining initiatives the District is rolling out. Expect to hear more about **online leave requests (time off)** and an **online job application process** in the near future.