



# At a Glance...

An e-newsletter to inform our learning community

SEPTEMBER 2011

Edition 17

## WELCOME Back to School!



**At a Glance is a monthly newsletter that is emailed to all SVSD staff.**

*This first issue is a bit longer than our usual 2 pages, to feature more photos of staff preparing for school. Enjoy!*

**Special Thanks to the Maintenance and Operations teams for working throughout the summer to prepare our schools and grounds for the return of students.**

### Upcoming Holiday

- **September 5 is Labor Day**  
(no school Monday)

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

## Superintendent's Message: Celebrating a Positive Start!



Congratulations to everyone on what has been a splendid start to the 2011-12 school year. While there are always a few "hiccups" to be expected when mobilizing ourselves and our system to greet 6,000 students returning to school after the summer break, this year's start has been impressive. We also know that the successful launch of a new school year does not happen by accident.

On the first day of school, the Board and I had the privilege of visiting departments here at the District Office and then spent time in each of our ten schools. The planning, preparation, pride, and passion of our support staff, teachers, and administrators was clearly observable throughout the district on Tuesday.

Bus drivers safely transported nearly 3,000 students on Tuesday morning where the students entered school buildings that were clean, maintained, and welcoming in their appearance. The students were greeted by support staff, principals, and teachers who met them with smiles, enthusiasm, and encouragement. I was particularly impressed with the intentionality and purpose that our teachers employed from the get-go, as they began developing relationships and providing clear focus for their students in those first minutes of the school day on Tuesday.

Working together throughout the summer and during the past four days, we have put in place a solid foundation for success---success for the students in our schools, which is the singular purpose of our organization. Thanks to each of you for the excellent work and contributions you made to ensure a successful beginning to the school year. And thank you for the pride, passion, and enthusiasm that you bring to your work and the students with whom you come in contact. I believe we have set the stage during the past four days to make the 2011-12 school year the best one yet, for the students here in Snoqualmie Valley.

Have a great weekend.

*Joel Aune*  
Superintendent

## Technology Transformation continues...



Hats off to the Technology team and teachers who worked hard this summer to ensure quality professional development opportunities and an exceptional Kick-Off program for staff last week.

*What cool tools did you learn about to enhance your lessons?*

## Welcome New SVSD Staff:

- **Katrina Alegado**  
TFMS 8<sup>th</sup> teacher
- **Nikita Armbruster**  
SES 3<sup>rd</sup> teacher
- **Angela Bolen**  
NBES IA
- **Julie Buck**  
CVES 2<sup>nd</sup> teacher
- **Shannon Gaires**  
SES 1<sup>st</sup> teacher
- **Marisa Carlson**  
CKMS SpEd IA
- **Jared Carter**  
CKMS 7<sup>th</sup> teacher
- **Camille Currie**  
TFMS 8<sup>th</sup> teacher
- **Jody Elsasser**  
CVES K teacher
- **Ryan Harris**  
MSHS music teacher
- **Katelyn Irwin**  
FCES 3<sup>rd</sup> teacher
- **Bob Kershner**  
CVES 5<sup>th</sup> teacher
- **Nancy Kinsella-Johnson** TFMS IA
- **Heath Lawson**  
OES custodian
- **Salina Marth**  
NBES 4<sup>th</sup> teacher
- **Danielle Mundell**  
MSHS PE teacher
- **David Ostrer**  
2R SpEd teacher
- **Alisha Parker**  
CVES 3<sup>rd</sup> teacher
- **Dan Randall**  
CVES custodian
- **Daniel Ray**  
SMS music teacher
- **Tori Ringoen**  
SES SpEd Pre teacher
- **Dennis Schmitt**  
DO groundsworker
- **Kate Sharkey**  
CVES 5<sup>th</sup> teacher
- **Haley Smith**  
CKMS music teacher
- **Jean-Jaques Tetu**  
MSHS sci. teacher
- **Karen Waters**  
CKMS 7<sup>th</sup> teacher
- **Erin Whitney**  
SES SpEd Pre teacher
- **Don Williams**  
SMS custodian
- **Janice Wintermyer**  
SMS 8<sup>th</sup> teacher
- **Carma Young**  
NBES K teacher

## Meet New Teachers Joining Our District

We welcome new and familiar faces to our Snoqualmie Valley teaching staff. Photos from the August 23 New Teacher Orientation.



See the listing at left for the classified and certificated employees who are new to our district this fall.

## Greetings SVSD Staff,

*Congratulations on a magnificent start to the 2011-12 school year! Mr. Aune and I, along with the rest of my board colleagues, spent the better part of Tuesday touring the District on the first day of school. As Mr. Aune says, "It's a Board Favorite!", in terms of a fun activity for us. I could not agree more. We saw hundreds of excited students, many wide-eyed in anticipation of their first day in school. The memories of summer vacation appeared to be fading quickly and they were so happy to be right there, eager to get rolling.*

*I also want to say how honored I was to briefly speak at your staff kick-off meeting last week. I had the chance to share how anticipating the start of the school year touches every facet of my life – as a parent of school children, as a son and brother of educators and even in my professional work in academic technical training and certification. It is such an exciting time of year for me, for my family and for the thousands of students gracing our doorsteps in the Snoqualmie Valley School District. It is a monumental task to ready our district for the beginning of classes, and I want you to know it does not go unrecognized.*

*Thank you – for your efforts in preparing for this new school year. Thank you – for the dedication and passion you have for creating the best educational experience possible for our students. And thank you in advance for your efforts over the next year, in working together, in sharing best practices and in keeping your focus on the students. My board colleagues and I salute you and we will support you as you trek headlong through the new school year.*

*It is my sincere pleasure to be on your School Board. Please let me know how I can be of service. Have a great year!*

Best Regards,

*Dan*

Dan Popp  
Snoqualmie Valley Public Schools  
President, Board of Directors  
Email: [DanPopp@Microsoft.com](mailto:DanPopp@Microsoft.com)



School Board, 1st day of school, August 30, 2011

**Our Staff had lots to celebrate this Summer:**

**Breaking news...**

- **Katie Williams** CVES teacher had a baby boy—this morning—9/2!
- **Joyce Delorme** CVES teacher won the Blueberry Dessert Contest at the Festival at Mount Si, for the 2nd year in a row!
- **Dionne Ellingsen (now Baker)** CVES teacher got married
- **Mandy Hunt (now Zylstra)** SES teacher got married
- **Emily Larson** CVES teacher got married
- **Renee McCormick** MSHS PE teacher had a baby girl
- **Hailey Miller & Melissa Turner** FCES teachers both completed Masters degrees
- **Kelsey Myers (now Carr)** NBES teacher got married
- **Kelley Stinson** FCES counselor had a baby boy
- **Meredith Von Trapp** NBES teacher had a baby boy

Visit E-Calendar for important dates at your school and district-wide events. Click on this icon from the district website homepage.



**Upcoming DEADLINE for Medical Insurance Benefits**

All employees currently enrolled on Regence Blue Shield plans need to re-enroll on a new medical plan (United Health Care or Group Health) by **September 15, 2011**.

For enrollment forms and information on the change that will go into effect October 1: [www.svsd410.org/staff/nutsbolts/payroll.asp](http://www.svsd410.org/staff/nutsbolts/payroll.asp).

If you are already enrolled in Group Health, you may change plans during open enrollment. United Health Care will be at the Benefits Fair to help employees with questions and paperwork regarding the change.

*Don't miss the Employee Benefits Fair September 7<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 to 7:00 pm, @ Mount Si High School.*

**SVSD Staff Welcome Back!**



**SAVE THE DATE:**

September 12-13, is the annual Schools Foundation Phonathon, from 3:30-8:30pm at TFMS. Will YOU answer the call? Proceeds support tutoring and enrichment in math and reading in our Snoqualmie Valley schools. (See classroom grant information below.)

**Do THE Puyallup?**

Contact your school office for tickets to the September 9-25 fair. Supply is limited.

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

Send story ideas and staff kudos to [malcolmc@svsd410.org](mailto:malcolmc@svsd410.org) or call Carolyn at 425-831-8423.

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*Have a great year ahead...*



**Don't Delay:** Classroom Grant Applications Due Soon

The Classroom Grant Program is a grassroots function of the Snoqualmie Valley Schools Foundation which has provided hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding to teachers, staff, administrators, students and parents groups associated with the Snoqualmie Valley School District for supplemental classroom and school activities and resources.

**The deadline is October 3, 2011**—for submitting an application for funding through the 2011-12 Classroom Grant Program. Applications are available on the Foundation's website at [www.SVSFoundation.org](http://www.SVSFoundation.org).

The Snoqualmie Valley Schools Foundation serves as a partner in "Assuring Opportunity and Encouraging Excellence" throughout our District. Please contact committee chair, Lisa King, at [Grants@SVSFoundation.org](mailto:Grants@SVSFoundation.org) with any questions about the classroom grants.

