



Snoqualmie Valley School District

At a Glance...

An e-newsletter to inform our learning community

JANUARY 2016

Edition 58

Welcome New Staff to the District:

- **Meg Bonda,** MSHS Cook's Helper

Important dates:

- **February 14 (Sun.)** — Valentine's Day



- **February 15-19** — President's Day & Mid-winter Break (no school)

Celebrations:

- **MSHS teachers Shannon and Matt Wenman had a baby girl in December.**
- **Cheryl Bachelder, OES secretary is planning to retire in March.**
- **Edina Kecse, MSHS teacher, was invited to NY for a German American Partnership Program workshop. [Read the full story.](#)**

Our mission is to educate all Snoqualmie Valley children to prepare them for college, career and citizenship.

Superintendent's Message:



Joel Aune
Superintendent

Bargaining Set to Begin Next Month

Early next month, the team will commence bargaining on a successor agreement between the District and the SVEA. While February 9th will be the first "official" bargaining session, the team has done an extraordinary amount of work in preparation for the bargaining process that will unfold this spring. The team engaged in joint-training sessions beginning last year to implement a new approach, "Interest Based

Bargaining," that we hope will result in a bargaining process that will be focused on shared interests, improved efficiencies, and stronger collaboration.

In my years here as Superintendent, the amount of time and energy devoted to this pre-bargaining work far exceeds efforts of the past. I want to both thank and commend the individuals who have been working so diligently during the past twelve months in preparation for the upcoming bargain. A video was recently produced by the team, which will be shared in each building. The video provides staff with an overview of changes that team members intend to employ as they work together toward a contract agreement this spring.

As the team begins bargaining next month, legislators in Olympia will be working on what to do about school funding. As many of you know, the Supreme Court has found the state in contempt for not making more progress on this critical issue. Unfortunately, early signs are that little substantive progress will be made this session. The legislature's "inaction" on developing and implementing a plan to meet the constitutional mandate to amply fund education is leaving school districts and bargaining teams in a difficult position. The lack of clarity surrounding what the legislature may or may not do for schools, adds an additional layer of complexity to the bargaining process. While lawmakers review options and consider the political ramifications of their decisions, local school districts struggle to balance budgets in a time of great uncertainty.

Will the state, as directed by McCleary and the Supreme Court, fully fund the costs associated with employee compensation, benefits, staffing, programs, curriculum, and support services? Having answers to these questions would help the bargaining process immensely. Unfortunately, it appears as if the answers to these important questions will not be resolved in the upcoming legislative session.

For many years, an inequitable system has been allowed to emerge, with the quality of local schools driven not only by the commitment of local educators and the hard work of local students, but also by the size of the local tax base. By fulfilling its obligation to fund basic education, the state can mitigate many of these inequities.

So in addition to supporting our bargaining team as they go about the work of negotiating an agreement this spring, I urge you to consider contacting your elected representatives to inquire about their intentions and help them understand the challenges we face as they continue to delay action and abdicate their responsibility as members of this state's legislature---which is to amply fund K-12 education.