Superintendent Message:

Dear Staff,

Happy Holidays and New Year to you and yours, SVSD!

When we get back from Winter Break, January will mark my 6-month anniversary. The year has certainly moved fast. This offers a timely opportunity to reflect on what I have learned and consider what’s next.

I have learned that Snoqualmie Valley is incredibly fortunate to have the district staff we have. I have experienced a workforce that continues to go above and beyond for the individuals they serve. I have seen individuals and groups reach out to those around us who may be struggling – as we all do at times – with loss, challenges, bumps in the road and life in general. I have felt the compassion and empathy of staff who see students in need, and do what it takes to brighten their moments and days. I have come to appreciate the way all of you support one another, in the difficult work we do. Your focus on creating opportunities for all students to be successful and graduate with the ability to take advantage of whatever opportunity might come their way, is arguably the most important work there is.

So what’s next? The challenge we all face is how do we ensure no one is falling through the cracks — academically, socially, emotionally and physically? This is hard, change-the-world work. I know, by just watching the way all of you chip in when needed, that you take this calling seriously. With this focus, we will continue to improve and hone our craft, to find the right tool and the right moment to create the safety nets and supports necessary to help students — find their passion, be empowered in their learning, and reach their potential!

I also know that unless we take time to fill our own cups, it is not possible to fill others’. Over break, enjoy your friends and family, breathe deeply, and fill your cups to the brim with the love and laughter of the season! Enjoy, relax, rejuvenate and relish in the fact that you make a difference for so many people in this district and community. Thank you for your tireless work and for who you are.

Warmest regards,

Rob

Follow me on Twitter: @svdsupt

Cheers to filling YOUR cup!
Welcome New Staff to SVSD!

- Pamela Dowling, FCES Paraeducator II 
  Math Intervention
- Selma Ireland, MSHS FC Head Secretary
- Elizabeth Palmer, MSHS FC Paraeducator II
- Kristina (Nina) Platt, TRS Paraeducator II
- Paul Reiff, MSHS Paraeducator II-III split
- Mele Santos, MSHS Paraeducator
- Erik Sayers, TFMS Paraeducator II
- Adam Shroades, TFMS Life Skills Paraeducator III
- Katherine Sjoboen, TRES Paraeducator
- Kristen Smith, OES Paraeducator
- Jody Soren, Bus Driver
- Tracy Spradlin, School Nurse
- Stefanie Stanley, CVES Paraeducator
- William Steinberg, Bus Driver
- John Thompson, NBES Paraeducator
- Deborah Totten, TFMS Science Teacher
- Amy Vineyard, NBES Paraeducator
- Gena Woodke, Bus Driver
- Angela Woods Merritt, NBES Paraeducator

Community Partnership: Snoqualmie Fire Department

The Snoqualmie Fire Department has been partnering with Snoqualmie Valley schools to provide life-saving Stop the Bleed kits in all our schools and classrooms, as well as provide essential training to school staff. We are grateful to Lt. Jake Fouts and our school nurses for coordinating these efforts, and to community donations that purchased the supplies. Read the full story for more details and photos from MSHS staff training on December 6.

Since that training, Mount Si Teacher Susan Holihan found herself in a freak car accident that required her to apply this training (literally) — and as a result, she may have saved her husband’s life. (Miraculously, he’s ok today...thanks to Susan’s quick response after a big branch fell from a tree and plunged through their windshield, hitting her husband in the head while he was driving.) With her permission, here’s an excerpt from email Susan sent to colleagues November 28, that we can all appreciate:

Subject: Giving Thanks for our Stop the Bleed training...

“...I just wanted to give a quick shout-out to the Stop the Bleed training we all attended a few weeks ago. I kid you not, I had my sweatshirt off and on Brian’s face probably 5 seconds or less after the car stopped moving. And he was screaming at me to stop pressing so hard about a second after that. ;-)  
I can’t say I’ve ever been grateful for professional development before, but I sure am thankful for that hour or so of training. I hope none of the rest of us have the opportunity to put the training to use, but I am glad we all had it!” — Susan

Later she added: “I just can’t say enough good things about the training and the two things it taught me that I definitely kept in mind during the incident: it doesn’t matter how clean the clothes you’re using to put on the wound are, and that your patient is going to complain that you are hurting them (because you are).”

Thank you, Susan. And, special thanks to the Snoqualmie Fire Department.

Three SVSD Schools Combine Support for Giving Tree Campaign

Hats off to students from Twin Falls, Two Rivers and Mount Si schools who made gift tags for over 40 Giving Trees that Kiwanis placed throughout the region.
Kiwanis Volunteers Share Holiday Cheer with SVSD Students

Snoqualmie Valley Kiwanis hosted their annual holiday luncheon with students as special guests and a surprise visit from Saint Nick. Read the full story for more photos.

Thanks for Helping Students Fill the Truck with Donations

On two occasions, Mount Si High School ASB students partnered with local grocery stores — North Bend QFC in November and Snoqualmie Safeway in December — to help fight hunger in our community. Thanks to all who contributed to these efforts or other campaigns that support local families and food banks.

Chihuly-Inspired Chandelier Now Adorns Chief Kanim Hallway

On your next visit to Chief Kanim Middle School, be sure to look for the colorful student artwork, hanging in the main hallway just outside of the library. The project began 11 months ago with a contribution from the CKMS PTSA for art supplies. It came to life with the help of many students transforming 1,500+ water bottles with paint and mod podge, cutting and wiring them together, until a vibrant masterpiece emerged. For more photos, read the full story.