

November 5, 2009

The purpose of this newsletter is to update you on events that are happening in the district, provide information to address issues or rumors and provide you a forum to communicate with me on items of interest. If you are receiving this e-mail you are either an East Valley Staff member, you have signed up for this service, you have sent me an e-mail or have had some form of contact that we think would cause you to want this information. If you do not want to continue to receive this information you may unsubscribe by clicking the link below or contacting the district office.

I never cease to be surprised at the interconnectedness of our lives. Last week I got a call from a lady who was, and continues to be, a strong community and schools advocate in Ferry County. I had met her when I worked in Republic and had not talked to her for several years. She called to tell me that she is now traveling and was recently in Utah at a state park. While there, she went into the gift shop and as she was browsing began to speak to the Park Ranger. When asked where she was from she said: "Washington". The Ranger responded that he knew one person in Washington and gave her my name. Turns out he is a long time friend who I have not seen for many years.

I would like to offer you an opportunity to expand your interconnectedness. The Liberty Lake Rotary club has sponsored an exchange student from Japan. The young woman is enrolled in the East Valley District and is a delightful young lady. Most of those club members live in the Central Valley School district and the family who was going to house this student has recently been transferred. If you would consider providing a place for this young lady to finish her year it would be greatly appreciated. If you want more information please contact Mr. Mike Momb at 226-3649 or 605-321-1735.

This is an exciting time of year, and not just because hunting season is in full swing. I want to offer my sincere thanks to everyone who participated in the school board elections. We were very fortunate to have a great group of dedicated individuals run for board positions. At this time it appears that incumbents Kerri Lunstroth and Roger Trainor will retain their seats on the Board. Heidi Gillingham appears to have secured the position vacated by our long-time board member June Sine. (As a side note June is going to continue her service to education by accepting a position on the ESD 101 Board.)

I will make every effort to involve the candidates who did not win the election in the continual school improvement process. I am particularly interested in hearing about concerns and any ideas they have for improving our organization and its service to students.

In other news: It appears we have turned the corner with regard to this wave of H1N1. Attendance levels are back to our expected standard. We have been working with the East Valley Education Association to negotiate a new contract. While emotions on all sides can be high as we deal with these issues, the discussions have been civil, professional and focused on solutions. I am hopeful that we will reach resolution in the very near future. Our enrollment has appeared to stabilize but we are still seeing too many students leave our district. Undoubtedly the current economic climate is contributing to this student movement. We continue to plan for our Farm to School program and hope to be able to establish community and school based gardens this coming spring.

As always you may contact me at the district office 924-1830, at home 928-0519, via e-mail glenewinkelj@evsd.org or regular mail, 12325 East Grace, Spokane Valley, WA, 99216.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve this district.

John