Summer Spotlight

Clovis Point students use nature as a classroom

By Amy Pefferman

Clovis Point Intermediate fifth graders had an opportunity to take their learning outdoors over the summer. Each student spent a day at Squilchuck State Park. Nature can provide an extraordinary classroom. At the park they explored four different rotations. One of the rotations was a nature hike. Hiking through the forest, they learned and observed what makes a forest healthy or unhealthy. Another rotation was a challenging game. Students needed to use their creativity, teamwork, and problem-solving skills to cross an imaginary polluted river. Also, drawing pine tree branches was a rotation. They examined the patterns of nature on the bark and the groups of needles. Then they used a charcoal pencil to sketch the branch. Last but not least, archery. They learned the parts of a bow and how to shoot the bow safely. Shooting the bow was definitely one of the highlights of outdoor education. Thanks to Helen Osborne who organized this experience. Also, a big shout-out to all of the volunteers and teachers who collaborated together to make this happen!
From Eastmont Band to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

This Eastmont Alum discovered a passion for the bassoon that took him to the big time.

By Rebekah James
For the Scratching Post

Dennis Michael graduated from Eastmont High School in 1971, and has been nominated for the Eastmont Foundation Distinguished Alumnus Award, 2018 by fellow classmate, Scott Kane. Michael is the second bassoonist of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. While attending Eastmont, Michael was a part of the Jazz Band, Wind Ensemble and the All Northwest Orchestra. In a letter announcing his nomination to the superintendent, Garn Christensen, and board members of the Eastmont School District, Michael’s eighth grade band teacher states, “He already played the bassoon like a professional.”

After Eastmont, Michael went on to obtain degrees from Eastern Washington University and Yale University and studied under multiple principle teachers - notably, Wendal Jones - one of the leading American classical music composers, conductors, and professional musicians of the 20th century.

Michael was the recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship for advanced study at the Hochschule für Musik in Vienna and performed with the Vienna State Opera. He has been given the opportunity to perform with the Da Camera Society of Houston, a thematically programmed chamber concert designed to attract new listeners. He also performed at numerous festivals such as Tanglewood, The Bard Festival in New York, Flagstaff Festival, and was the featured artist at SummerFest La Jolla for 10 seasons.

Michael continues to play with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and functions as head of the woodwinds at the Chicago College of Performing Arts at Roosevelt University.

Wildcat Link Program aims to connect students and create mentor relationships

Eastmont HS, under the direction of teachers Taylor Dockins and Diane Holman, will be kicking off the Wildcat Link Crew program this coming year. We have 85 upperclassmen who will serve as mentors for our incoming sophomore students. They will participate in a two-day training in August that will give them the necessary tools to lead our incoming sophomores. On Wildcat Day, our sophomores will participate in a welcome assembly that will be led by our Link Crew leaders. The intent of the program is to help incoming students transition smoothly into the high school, break down barriers, and find connections that will provide opportunities for success throughout high school.

SafeSchools Alert

Safety is one of our district’s top priorities and to help safeguard our school community. We’ve taken an important step that I want to share with you. We will continue using SafeSchools Alert, a tip-reporting service that allows students, staff, and parents to submit safety concerns to our administration four different ways:

Phone: 1-855-4ALERT1, ext. 1069
Text: #1069 plus your tip to ALERT1 (253781)
Email: 1069@alert1.us
Web: http://1069.alert1.us

You and your child can easily report tips on bullying, harassment, drugs, vandalism or any safety issue you’re concerned about through SafeSchools Alert. When you submit a tip, be sure to use our district identification code, 1069, in your communication.

Every tip SafeSchools Alert receives about our district is immediately logged in the system and our administrator is notified so that they can investigate and take appropriate action. Tips may also be submitted anonymously if you prefer.

Together, using SafeSchools Alert, we can make our district a safer place to work and learn! Thanks in advance for your support.
Superintendent’s Message
This year, get involved, ask questions and make suggestions

BY GARN CHRISTENSEN
SUPERINTENDENT

This year, I will start my third decade as a school district superintendent. Even though I am no longer a rookie, I hope I am still open to new ideas, new programs, and to different opinions. Over the years, I have learned these new and different opinions are sometimes better than mine. As a result, one of my beliefs is that the very best conversations are those that change your perspective. As educators, we know the good old days weren't always all that great. Yes, they were wonderful to some, but not to all. If you were a woman, minority, an individual with a disability, or a student from a family that was not wealthy, your options were limited. Today, there are more opportunities for all young people because of public education. As always, it is hard work, perseverance, and attitude that often means more than anything else.

Over the summer, I read an article on how the strength of any community is evidenced by the care and concern of the families that reside within its boundaries and how they care for each other. The writer also added that the strength of our democracy rests in the quality of our schools. Now, more than ever, I believe this is true as we are one of the primary public institutions that works hard to treat everyone the same regardless of their background or resources.

In Eastmont, we believe we have a very important task and we focus on our 4 R’s — Relationships, Relevance, Rigor, and Results. Relationships are the foundation for connecting students with their interests and strengths. Relationships are also the means to ensure emotional and physical safety among people. Relevance is what we teach and how we teach it to achieve the best possible results. Rigor is our goal that students who graduate from Eastmont can compete with students from any community in Washington State or even the U.S. for opportunities. Results are a measure of value: Is my teaching effective? Are our programs effective? Does the District’s use of your tax dollars reflect the best possible value? I hope you do your part as parents and as a community. Get involved, ask questions, make suggestions, and don't hesitate to develop supportive and caring relationships with our students and educators. My observation is both our students and educators show up every day hoping to do their best. As our future community, our students deserve our very best.

2018-19 Annual Notifications

Title I, Part A – Annual Parent Notification
Title I, Part A is a federal program that provides financial support to schools to help disadvantaged and low-performing students so that all children meet challenging state academic standards. Eastmont follows the Schoolwide process giving our seven funded schools flexibility to serve all students who demonstrate a need for support.

Parent Involvement
We know that family involvement in a child’s education is a greater predictor of academic success than whether or not that family is affluent or poor. It is also evident that students whose families take an active interest in their school life are more likely to attend school regularly, pass their classes, enroll in higher-level programs, and go on to higher education or a technical career.

School-Parent Compact
The Compact is an annual agreement between the parent, student, and school regarding the joint responsibilities in helping each student find success. These documents are completed each Fall during Parent Conferences. For more information, please visit: www.eastmont206.org.

District Parent Involvement Policy:
This policy guides how our district will involve parents in the education of their students. This policy is reviewed each year with parents and updated as needed. If you would like to provide input into the revision of this policy, please contact the Special Programs office and/or be watching for information about a way to get involved. For more information, please visit: www.eastmont206.org.

Student Academic Achievement Reports
Each year, a school that receives Title I, Part A funds must provide parents with an individual student report informing them on their child’s level of academic achievement on the State’s assessment in at least reading, language arts, and math.

District and School Report Card - How are we doing?
The District and School Report Card provides the following information on public schools and districts in Washington state: student achievement, student demographics, and staff information. For more information, please visit: reportcard.osp.i.k12.wa.us.

Parents Right to Know - Highly Qualified Staff
Parents of children in schools that receive Title I, Part A funding have the right to request and receive information about the professional qualifications of teachers and instructional paraprofessionals in their building. For more information, please visit: www.k12.wa.us/TitleI/FamilyInvolvement/default.aspx.

Have a Complaint that Needs to be Resolved?
Any individual or organization may file a signed, written complaint if it believes the state, a local school district, an educational service district, or other sub-grantee has violated one or more requirements of federal statutes or regulations or state regulations that apply to a federal program. For more information, please visit: www.k12.wa.us/TitleI/CitizenComplaint.aspx.
The Eastmont School District morning pick-up times and locations are printed on the next two pages. Locate the school your child is attending.

Find the bus stop that is nearest to your home. It is the assigned stop where your child will be picked up and dropped off.

NOTE: Due to funding changes, Choice Students and students within one (1) mile of school are not assigned to a bus. Please call Transportation at 884-4621 with any questions.

AVAILABE ONLINE!
School bus stop information can also be retrieved on Versatrans at shor-tx.us/esversatrans.

Follow these four steps:
1. Type in “guest” for both the name and password.
2. Select your grade.
3. Put in your street address.
4. Find transportation info.
Focus On: Hands On Learning

Dynamic Duo Saw a Need and Stepped Up, Creating a Summer Program Enjoyed by Many

By Domnick Bonny

Three years ago Carmen Johnson and Carol Mooney saw a need for some Eastmont students to have access to safe and fun learning environments during the summer months. So they stepped up, wrote some grants, formed partnerships, and the Summer Library Program was born.

“Carol and I got together and really noticed that there was a great need for our students to be connected to books and learning and school over the summer,” Johnson said. “A lot of our kids would come in the fall and make comments like: ‘I haven’t touched a book all summer. I haven’t been reading. I got bored over the summer.’”

Upon further research, the pair discovered that kids in Rock Island don’t even have access to the public library system because the town of about 800 doesn’t pay into the local library tax. It was easy to see how children were going through the whole summer without touching a book.

“And that got us thinking, ‘If there really truly is nowhere for kids to go, maybe we as a public school system, as teachers, we can step in and help them get access,’” Johnson said.

So they reached out to the principals at Rock Island and Clovis Point and got the go-ahead to open the libraries at those schools for a few hours each week. They wrote a grant and got $5,000 from the Community Foundation of North Central Washington to buy books. Then they wrote more grants and got funding to purchase games and art supplies.

Then they partnered with Small Miracles, a local nonprofit that provides nutritious brown bag lunches for children throughout the summer months, mostly at parks and libraries throughout the Wenatchee Valley.

Johnson said many children come for the whole two-hour block every week. At Clovis Point, the groups average between 40 and 50 kids per session. She said they have five to 10 “library families” who come to the sessions religiously. As they wrap up their third summer of the program, the pair want the community to know they’re not going anywhere.

“I want the community to know that this program is available to all kids of all grades, K through 12,” Mooney said. “You can check out books here; there’s internet access and it’s just a fun, safe place for your kids to be.”

2018-19 Attendance Policy

Did you know?

• Your children can suffer academically if they miss 10 percent of school days in a year, or about 18 days. That can be just one day every two weeks and can happen before you know it.
• It doesn’t matter if these absences are excused or unexcused. They all represent lost time in the classroom and lost opportunities to learn.
• Attendance matters as early as kindergarten. Studies show many children who miss too many days in kindergarten and first grade can struggle academically in later years. They often have trouble mastering reading by the end of third grade.
• Preschool is a great time to start building a habit of good attendance. Studies show that poor attendance in preschool can predict absenteeism in later grades.
• By middle and high school, chronic absence is a leading warning sign that a student will drop out.

School hours

All students between the ages of 8 and under 18 years are required by Washington state law to attend school regularly. If a parent or guardian enrolls a child at 6 or 7 years of age, the child is required by law to attend the full school session. To ensure compliance, each school takes regular attendance and the district has set a policy for excused and unexcused absences.

Parents or guardians must provide the school with an excuse for any absence, late arrival or early departure in the form of a note or personal contact with school officials. (Please refer to your child’s individual school student handbook.) Any absence not properly explained within three days of the student returning to school will not be excused without approval from an administrator.

¿Sabías Que?

• Sus hijos pueden sufrir académicamente si pierden el 10 por ciento de los días escolares en un año, o aproximadamente 18 días. Eso puede ser un día cada dos semanas y puede suceder antes de que usted se dé cuenta.
• No importa si estas ausencias son excusadas o injustificadas. Todas representan tiempo perdido en el salón y la pérdida de oportunidades para aprender.
• La asistencia es importante desde el kinder. Estudios demuestran que muchos niños que faltan demasiados días en el kinder y el primer grado pueden tener dificultades académicas en los últimos años. A menudo tienen problemas para dominar la lectura al final del tercer grado.
• La Preescolar es un buen momento para empezar a construir un hábito de buena asistencia. Los estudios demuestran que la mala asistencia en preescolar puede predecir el asentismo en grados posteriores.
• En la escuela intermedia y secundaria, la ausencia crónica es una señal de advertencia de que un estudiante abandonará los estudios.

Horas de escuela

Todos los estudiantes entre la edad de 8 y menores de 18 años son requeridos por la ley del estado de Washington asistir a la escuela regularmente. Si un padre o tutor matricula a un niño a los 6 o 7 años de edad, la ley requiere que el niño asista a la sesión completa de la escuela. Para asegurar el cumplimiento, cada escuela toma lista regularmente y el distrito ha establecido una política para ausencias excusadas y sin excusa.

Los padres o tutores deben proporcionar a la escuela la razón para cada ausencia, llegada tardía o salida anticipada en forma de una nota o contacto personal con los oficiales de la escuela. (Por favor refiérase al manual del estudiante de su hijo.) Cualquier ausencia sin explicación apropiada dentro de los tres días de que el estudiante regrese a la escuela, no será excusada sin la aprobación de un administrador.
Meal prices proposed for the 2018-2019 school year are listed below:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lunch</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Lunch</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary Lunch</td>
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<td>Reduced Price Lunch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reduced Price Breakfast</td>
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Prices will be finalized as part of the 2018-2019 budget adoption scheduled for August 20, 2018.

Not following these tips may result in an incomplete application that will delay approval or denial.

We work as fast as we can to get the applications approved, but please remember we have up to 10 days once your application is received. Once the application is processed, a letter is sent home that notifies the family of the approval or denial.

Students will need to pay full price for all meals while the application is being approved. Please make sure to send money with your student for meals or a sack lunch for them to eat until you have received notification that your application has been processed.

Reminder for Rock Island and other Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) school students moving to another school like Clovis or Sterling: a free/reduced application must be completed and approved for meal benefits to continue.

As it’s been shared before, we know a very important prevention strategy is connecting and communicating with our community. Knowing this, we ask that if you hear, read, or observe something that could be a threat to a student or a school, please report this information immediately to a school principal or the Superintendent’s Office. You can do this in person, phone call, email, or click on the Stop Bullying – Safe School Zone image/ link on our website to submit an anonymous report.

Meal accounts balances due from the 2017-2018 school year have been transferred to your student’s school fine account effective July 2018.

Also, for your convenience, you can apply for free/reduced meal benefits online from your computer or phone using the above link information at www.eastmont206.org and going to the “Food Services” page under “Departments and Programs”. Click on the link next to the SchoolCafé icon.

New this year... So Happy...the app that tells you what’s on the menu today in your school’s cafeteria.

All households are required to fill out a new application each year. Students receiving meal benefits last year must complete a new application for the new school year. Students who received free or reduced price benefits last school year will continue to receive the same benefit only until October, or when an updated application has been processed.

Tips for filling out Application:
1. Make sure all student information is complete including the student income section. Please indicate $0 if there is no student income to report.
2. Make sure to provide all household members and their income, even if they do not attend school.
3. Make sure to sign your application at the bottom.

A Note on Student and District Safety

By Garn Christensen

The Eastmont Board of Directors has reviewed recommended District safety improvements during meetings over the summer months. Safety improvements in process for 2018-19 include:

- Improved emergency communications on all campuses
- Reduced access to the high school campus
- Implementation of strong disciplinary actions for students who make threats to harm others
- Improved classroom and office door security
- Revised safety procedures to reflect updated best practices

Our current construction projects are on time and on budget: 1) adding 20 classrooms and four cafeterias at elementary schools 2) repairing the roof at Clovis Point and 3) replacing the concession building/restrooms at the Dan White Baseball Field. These projects are scheduled to go out to bid this winter, with construction starting in the spring of 2019, and estimated to be completed by August 2020.

Our new transportation facility to be built at the corner of Grant Road and Perry Avenue has received a conditional use permit. We are waiting for final confirmation of grant funds before we proceed further.
Looking Forward: Career Day comes to Lee

By Dusti Mahoney

The end of May saw Lee School overrun with visitors and abuzz with talk of the future! Representatives from 10 different careers spent time speaking with students about what they do each day and how they got there. We had presenters from Columbia Valley Community Health Dental, the Wenatchee Wild, North Central Regional Library, College Assistance Migrant Program, Wenatchee Valley Humane Society Animal Care and Control, Douglas County Fire Department District 2, Wenatchee Valley Tech Skills Center, Patriot Heating and Plumbing, a Nursing instructor from Wenatchee Valley College and the East Wenatchee Police Department. Each student also wrote what they wanted to be on a fish. Together, Lee created a giant school of fish ready to “Get Hooked on a Great Career.” At Lee, we believe it’s never too early to be college and career ready! Thank you to our community for believing in our students!

School Calendar

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<th>August</th>
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- 20 - 23 - Professional Development days
- 29 - School Starts
- 3 - Labor Day, No School
- 20 - 23 - Professional Development days
- 25 & 26 - Parent Conferences

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- 9 - Veterans Day
- 21 - Thanksgiving (half day)
- 22 & 23 - Thanksgiving Break