Teacher Harriet Fox faced an impossible task. On a chilly day during the first week of January, she tried to explain to her class of first graders at Rock Island Elementary why their classmate Jesse Osorio Sanchez would be hospitalized for the next six months. They knew he had an illness, but they didn’t know why. She answered their questions with patience and honesty.

“No, he didn’t eat something bad. No, he didn’t have an accident. No, he didn’t catch it from someone else.”

“We didn’t go into a whole lot of detail about it because first graders don’t understand that really well, but we did talk about the fact that he was sick and that he had something not good,” Fox said. “I said he has a disease that he’s going to be getting special medicine for, so he has to be in Seattle for the rest of the year with that special medicine.”

That specific disease is Leukemia, which Sanchez, 6, was officially diagnosed with on January 12th. He immediately left school to begin treatment in Seattle Children’s Hospital. With a void left at the school, the Rock Island Elementary staff agreed that little Jesse’s family needed help with medical and travel expenses, food and supplies. Enter Dawn Rice, owner of The Rock Island Bar and Grill. School staff contacted Rice about the possibility of hosting a benefit to help Jesse and his family with medical costs. Rice, who also serves as Rock Island Elementary’s PTO president, didn’t hesitate. “With owning the Rock, we’ve done nothing but try to give back to the community,” said Rice, who’s owned the restaurant for about five years. “This is the perfect place to have that.”

The benefit for Jesse was held March 3rd. About 10 members of the Rock Island Elementary staff came to serve food to guests. The benefit was originally scheduled from 5-7, but starting at 5, a line of people started pouring out the door. Among those in attendance was the mayor of Rock Island and Garn Christensen, Superintendent of Schools for the Eastmont School District.

Not everyone had time to eat. Some just wanted to make sure that Jesse’s proverbial cup overflowed. A wonderful surprise came when a few workers from the Rock Island Dam came to the benefit to drop off an envelope of cash raised by fellow employees of the dam that heard of Jesse’s diagnosis. “Lots of families from the school showed up,” Fox said. “People would come in and say, ‘This is a wonderful cause. I just want to donate.’ They would put money in and leave.”

But many didn’t leave. Many more people came than expected as guests lingered past the original stop time of 7, and food started to run low. However, that didn’t mean that food stopped being served. “The backup plan was that I was pulling different items out of my stock here at the Rock,” said Rice, who started preparing food from scratch. “We deep-fried chicken, we brought out French fries. We were going into our walk-in, just cooking it up and...
donated it to the dinner.” The event raised about $3,500 and, as Rice put it, “every penny of it went to Jesse.”

Recently the first grader, who is still receiving treatment in Seattle, came back to the classroom for a brief visit, much to the delight of his teacher and classmates. He received a tub full of games, books and art supplies from the Rock Island staff. The visit was positive but a bit overwhelming for the young boy. “That was a little bit hard for him because he’s been through a whole lot and he was a little shy. I think it was a little overwhelming for him to come into the classroom after being gone all that time,” Fox said. “It was good for him to see that everybody remembers him. We’ve been sending things like cards and letters.”

Jesse will continue his brave battle against Leukemia in Seattle during the next few weeks. While he does so, a caring community back home, as evidenced by the benefit dinner, will continue to support and pull for one of its own. “It was as evidenced by the benefit dinner, will continue to support and pull for one of its own. “It was good for him to see that everybody remembers him. We’ve been sending things like cards and letters.”

The visit was positive but a bit overwhelming for the young boy. “That was a little bit hard for him because he’s been through a whole lot and he was a little shy. I think it was a little overwhelming for him to come into the classroom after being gone all that time,” Fox said. “It was good for him to see that everybody remembers him. We’ve been sending things like cards and letters.”

The initial report on Eastmont’s long-range facility needs is scheduled to be heard at the Board Meeting on May 26, 2015.

**Summer Activities**

The 2014-15 school year is rapidly coming to a close and graduation of this year’s seniors will occur June 5th. My hope is that graduates are ready for college or jobs and I wish them only the best.

Eastmont Schools are a blend of traditional and contemporary programs and strive to meet the needs of all students. However, there will always be young people who would rather be somewhere else than school. I like to remind students that what they do every day at Eastmont is called schoolwork. Note the emphasis on work. Just as in adult life, the efforts of each individual contribute to future opportunities.

As we transition to summer break, here are a few ideas I would like to share with parents and community members as you consider summer activities for students:

1. Read, read, read… Yes, becoming a competent reader continues to be fundamental for future education, career opportunities, and is a lifelong skill. Young people need to read, as well as see the adults in their life read. This may be books, the local newspaper, magazines, or internet stories. The content isn’t as important as making reading a regular activity in your home.

2. Get your teen children involved in your family budget. Even though we offer various classes that require young people to learn about personal budgets and consider daily living expenses, there is always a stronger connection when a teen begins to see what groceries, utilities, housing, taxes, insurance, and other regular expenses actually cost.

3. Take advantage of available time to explore your community. A young person will always carry memories of the place where they grew up and the things they did with their parents and grandparents. Start with interesting places within 5 miles, 20 miles, or 50 miles of your home depending on your time and budget. Our local chamber of commerce and museum are great resources for interesting possibilities.

4. Take the time to teach and emphasize manners. Learning good manners is just as important as earning good grades. How we behave around others when socializing or sharing a meal often conveys a lot about ourselves and our families. Holding occasional special meals where families practice and occasional special meals where families practice and teach children about “best manners” is an old, but worthwhile tradition.

I wish all of you a safe and enjoyable summer and look forward to serving the children of Eastmont for the 2015-16 school year.

Sincerely,

Garn Christensen
Superintendent

**Focus on Construction**

All of our major construction projects are now completed. Both Grant Elementary and Sterling School are completely finished. Eastmont High School has a few remaining issues that have yet to be accepted as meeting specifications. We continue to work on these last items with the contractor in hopes of accepting it as done by the end of this summer. We want to thank all of our employees, contractors, and the community for helping us to finish these projects on-time and on-budget.

Other major facility related work this summer includes the following projects:

- Complete the move of our technology department from two portable classrooms on the maintenance campus to their new location.
- Connect Rock Island Elementary to the new city sewer system.
- Improve playgrounds at all schools.
- Complete replacement of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) control systems at Clovis Point Intermediate School and Eastmont Junior High.
- Complete installation of card access electronic gym locks at all schools.

The initial report on Eastmont’s long-range facility needs is scheduled to be heard at the Board Meeting on May 26, 2015.

---

**Superintendent Message**

Garn Christensen
Superintendent
Eastmont Schools

---

**Eastmont Construction**

---

---
Annie Douglas – Numerica School Champion

By Matthew Ockinga
Staff writer

Eventually, she caught on.

On a seemingly normal school day at Kenroy Elementary School on February 24th, third grade teacher Annie Douglas became slightly concerned when the school’s administrative office pulled her student, Wryley Little, out of class without explanation. Concerned, she attempted to check in on him at the office, but she was intercepted by Kenroy staff and was told to proceed to the gymnasium for an assembly. She entered the gym and then… it clicked. Wryley and his parents were sitting in the stands. “There were some sneaky things happening, so I did catch on when I realized they were presenting an award,” Douglas said.

That award was Douglas being named Numerica Credit Union’s First Class School Champion for February. Any student within North Central Washington can nominate a school employee for the award; Wryley did in an essay. “She makes me smile and always encourages me to do my best,” Little explained in his essay, which was read at the assembly. “Mrs. Douglas has helped me become a better reader and she makes my day great. She is always very kind.”

“It brought tears to my eyes when I heard what Wryley had written about me,” Douglas said. “I was really overwhelmed by the crowd, though, and got really nervous when they handed me the microphone. I don’t even know what I said.”

The honor is an indirect result of a vocational detour for Douglas. Education has marked a phoenix-like rebirth in her career, which began in marketing. Glued to a desk eight hours a day, she felt unfulfilled and longed to make a more direct difference. “I did some soul searching and knew that I had to do something that directly impacted other peoples’ lives,” Douglas said. “Teaching just made sense.”

Her first year of teaching, she read a quotation that also made sense. It spoke to her so much that she adopted it as a personal mantra on how to build positive relationships with her students. The quote: “Focus on my strengths, and my weaknesses will disappear.” Taking that message to heart, Douglas has been able to serve her students wherever they happen to be in their path. “Focusing on the whole child enables me to fulfill the individual needs of each, whether it is differentiation in terms of scaffolds, emotional support, or enrichment,” she said. “Understanding my students allows me to connect to student interests and validate their thinking, increasing overall engagement and motivation.”

Douglas attributes her part of her teaching success to Kenroy’s staff and the positive environment they create. While every job has its down days, the bigger picture of what teaching can do for the students helps her stay the course. “The kids amaze me every day and truly fill my heart with joy,” she said. “Some days I have to take a deep breath and remind myself to focus on the things I love about teaching. Even on rough days, I can feel assured knowing that I made somebody’s day better.”

Our presence on social media continues to grow. We encourage our community to connect with the district using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube:

PLEASE GO AND...

“Like” us on Facebook at: facebook.com/EastmontSchools
Follow us on Twitter at: twitter.com/EastmontSchools
Follow our new Instagram account at: instagram.com/EastmontSchools
(Note: you need a smartphone to use Instagram).
Watch our YouTube channel at youtube.com/EastmontSchools

Emergency Text Messages

Dear Community Members,

We are collecting cell phone numbers to use in the instance of a District emergency and for our safety drills. We’ve learned that messages from our auto-dialer are often not listened to until after an emergency or drill, and hope to move the majority of our notification efforts to a text messaging system. Also, if you are interested in receiving school and district information electronically, please provide us with your email address.

Please return this portion to any Eastmont School or to our Administration Office to have your cell phone number or your email added to our system. Please know our privacy policy prohibits the District from releasing phone numbers without the individual’s consent.

ADULT EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME ( ) -
CELL PHONE # FOR TEXT

EMAIL ADDRESS

ADULT EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME ( ) -
CELL PHONE # FOR TEXT

EMAIL ADDRESS

Scan this code to watch the video on our YouTube Channel!
Highly Capable Program

By Matthew Ockinga
Staff writer

“If you look around, complacency is the great disease of your autumn years, and I work hard to prevent that.” Musician Nick Cave wrote those words, expressing a desire to always be striving to work beyond the comfortable. Students wishing to avoid complacency and push themselves past the typical boundaries of academia, have an option readily available to them.

“The school district is committed to identifying and providing a unique educational need for all of our students in order to best prepare them for college and career readiness,” said Natalie Hoback, Highly Capable Coordinator for the Eastmont School District. “And so we have an intensified and accelerated program for all highly capable students.”

The Highly Capable Program provides students of high academic and intellectual ability an opportunity to explore concepts in greater depth and further development of the critical thinking process. “From an academic standpoint, teachers do an amazing job of taking what they are required to take, but because of lack of time or resources, sometimes our highly capable students aren’t always challenged with the highest of rigor,” Hoback said. “So this program gives an opportunity for those students to experience that amongst the peers who are similar to themselves.”

Yet these students are not simply plucked from the classroom after being given the proverbial “eyeball test.” They are selected through a meticulous process that ensures they are ready for the next step up the academic ladder. First, students must be nominated by a parent or teacher and are then assessed using the Renzulli Scale, a popular tool nationally for identifying gifted children. The team also considers previous test scores in addition to an IQ test to evaluate the student applicants. “We look to see where the students are and who the kids are that really stand out.”

Once accepted into Highly Capable, the program manifests itself in a variety of ways throughout the district. Middle school students are served with a variety of programs including “Math is Cool.” Junior high students can enroll in advanced placement courses as can high school students in addition to being eligible for Running Start their junior year. Elementary students enroll in 10- week sessions, taught by Hoback, that reinforce inquiry-based activities in Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM). During the 30-60 minute sessions, students conduct investigations and experiments in order to solve problems. Some of these problems include engineering a way to protect an egg using only six items, engineering a game board based on 5-6 allowable items, and conducting a carbon dioxide experiment among other scenarios.

These activities really require advanced academic levels and students who are highly capable. “They think outside the box,” Hoback said. “It’s simply amazing to see a first grader devise a way to protect an egg using only six items, when that would be hard for an adult even, so the spark in their eye, their passion for these STEAM activities is amazing to me.”

This school year over 90 elementary students were served by Highly Capable which operates on a very small budget. While Hoback wishes she could serve all the district’s students, she says the program is expanding and she hopes to provide more opportunities for the highly capable. “It’s completely amazing for me as a teacher because I’m in this role because of the love of my students,” she said. “Just watching the inquiry-based activities and how the students respond to their inquiries is amazing.”

2015 EASTMONT EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

By Shelley Skaar
Scholarship Chair

On behalf of the Eastmont Education Association, it is my pleasure to announce the 2015 E.E.A. scholarship recipients. Each candidate should be proud of his/her accomplishments, honors, and successes. The candidates have made their parents, teachers, and community proud of their outstanding accomplishments. We wish all our candidates much success on their educational journeys!

- Austen Lane (WHS) $900 Son of Penny (EEA) & Butch Lane.
- Betsy Arlt (EHS) $1,200 Daughter of Barb & Bob Arlt. Barb teaches at Kenroy & Bob teaches at EJHS.
- Carson Duncan (Entiat HS) $350 Son of Garci (EEA) and Bruce Halle. Buddy teaches at Sterling.
- Haley Martinez (WHS) $50 Daughter of Robert Martinez (EEA).
- Mia White (EHS) $50 Daughter of Rosie (EEA) & Jeff (EEA) White. Rosie and Jeff teach at Kenroy.
- Kirsten Nygard (WHS) $250 Daughter of Darrell (EEA) & Lorraine Nygard. Darrell teaches at EJHS.
- Mica White (EHS) $50 Daughter of Rosie (EEA) & Jeff (EEA) White. Rosie and Jeff teach at Kenroy.
- Mitchell Abbott (EHS) $300 Daughter of Mike (EEA) & Natalie Waters. Mike teaches at EJHS and Natalie is a secretary at EJHS.
- Kirsten Nygard (WHS) $250 Daughter of Darrell (EEA) & Lorraine Nygard. Darrell teaches at EJHS.
- Sarah Kneidler (EHS) $1,100 Daughter of Karen (EEA) & Bill Kneidler. Karen teaches at Sterling & Bill is a former Eastmont administrator.

Many thanks to the scholarship committee members: Debra Lacy, Linda Colby, Lisa Skagen, Mary Thompson, May Trotter and Nanci Kurz.
Focus on Students

Showing Up Is The First Step To Success

By Matthew Ockinga
Staff writer

Woody Allen once said, “80 percent of success is showing up.” Mark Marney, Executive Director of Secondary Education for the Eastmont School District and former Eastmont High School principal, thinks that number is higher. “99.9 percent of being successful in academics is showing up,” Marney said. “The same holds true for the workplace. Missing days of work can lead to poor performance reviews and possibly a dismissal.”

Whether you agree with the number proposed by the quirky director Woody Allen or the Executive Director of Secondary Education Mark Marney, simply “being there” matters and the district is making a point of stressing showing up to its students and staff. Former Grant Elementary principal Spencer Taylor, now the Executive Director of Elementary Education for the district, said that when it comes to attendance, the key is educating the students early. “The truth is that attendance issues often start in elementary school and continue through the higher grades,” Taylor said. “Principals meet with parents, conduct home visits, and often find that families need support.”

The Eastmont School District’s official attendance policy for students can be found on the District website. Policy No. 3122, Excused and Unexcused Absences, states that “regular school attendance is necessary for mastery of the educational program provided to students of the district.” Marney said that principals and counselors at all levels throughout the district deal with attendance issues daily. While both former principals Marney and Taylor mentioned that spotty student attendance continues to be a concern district-wide, it is hardly unique to Eastmont. He said that lessons are often sequential and that if students were to miss a third or fourth lesson by being absent, it could drastically affect their ability to comprehend a seventh or eighth lesson since they would lack some of that foundation of knowledge and learning. “As a former Principal, the first thing I always checked with a struggling student was their pattern of attendance,” Marney said. “The correlation between high performing students and excellent attendance is just as consistent as poor attendance leading to poor performance.”

While principal at Eastmont, Marney would often meet with students in his office. Encouraging them in their academic path, he offered them three key verbs to ensure success at EHS: attend, behave, and try. “If you do those three things, every teacher here will help you reach your goals,” he told the students.

Of course, principals and teachers can’t do it all on their own. They need a little help from those closer to the students. During all his years in the district, Marney says parents have been supportive and instrumental in relaying the importance of attendance to their children. “If they see their child has a lot of absences and is missing out on a lot of learning opportunities they usually step up and help. Everyone wants to see students reach their goals, and good attendance is the fastest way to get there,” Marney said. “Setting up the positive habit of attending everyday will carry students through school, work, and life. You must be present to win.”

EHS Drama Club Presented
URINETOWN
THE MUSICAL
A side-splitting send-up of greed, love, revolution (and musicals) in dystopian future where water is worth gold.

2015 Eastmont ParaEducator Scholarship

Each year the Eastmont ParaEducator Association awards a scholarship to a graduating senior whose parent/guardian is a ParaEducator in the District. This year’s recipient is Tyrel Jacobus, son of ParaEducator Pamela Jacobus, Wee Wildcat Preschool. Congratulations, Tyrel!
We are pleased to be increasing our STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Math) offerings in the 2015-2016. The purpose of the STEM program is to give our students hands on problem solving experiences where they think and act like a Scientist, Computer Programmer, Engineer, and Mathematician to solve problems and create solutions to tasks. Thanks to a generous grant from the Alcoa Foundation, we are pleased to be adding the following STEM activities for our students: Robotics, HTML Web Design, and Computer App Development. These are in addition to our current STEM activities that includes: Straw Towers, Windmills, and Catapults to name a few. Please visit our “STEM Activities” department page and be watching for information from your child’s school for more information on how to get involved.

(Either) Great turnout for our STEM egg drop in March!

(Above) A screenshot of our YouTube video, a compilation of the egg drops during a STEM event. Find this video at https://youtu.be/7Q1K0Jnm6j8

EASTMONT’S NEWEST NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS

The School Board celebrated Eastmont’s newest National Board Certified Teachers (NBCT’s). This brings the total of NBCT’s in Eastmont to 52. Congratulations!

FIRST ROW:
Michelle Lieberg, Angela Schmitten

SECOND ROW:
Angie Willms, Terri Wynder
Focus on Achievement

CONGRATULATIONS!

2015 EASTMONT EXCELLENCE AWARD WINNERS

Six outstanding staff members were nominated by their peers as 2015 Excellence Award Recipients. Nominations were based on who provide outstanding service to the students, parents, and community of Eastmont schools. These employees were recognized at an April 23rd dinner along with award winners from school districts in Douglas County. This annual event is sponsored by the North Central Educational Services District was hosted by Eastmont.

Cindi Lolos, Teacher at Kenroy & GLAD Coordinator
Heidi Reasor, District Behavior Specialist
Kari Weis, Librarian at Clovis
Kristi Meadows, Office Manager at Cascade
Dianne Montgomery, Secretary at Clovis
Dan Spry, District Maintenance

Congratulations to our own Eastmont Senior Anissa Sangster!

2015 Apple Blossom

Princess Anissa Sangster

Congratulations to our own
Eastmont Senior Anissa Sangster!

Eastmont FFA Takes 1st in State!

FFA 8th Grade Quizbowl team from left to right:
Advisor Jennifer Crane, Arecelli Renteria, Tonya Rivera, Julianna Narduzzi, Sara Nelson, Sarah Kelly, Lauren Hope & Advisor Jeff DeJarnett.
A REPORTER’S FAREWELL

Covering high school athletes for newspapers has been my life for the last four years. To me, high school has been defined by my trials and tribulations carrying a camera on football fields and soccer pitches.

I have worked for the Wenatchee World for the last two years and before that, with the Eastmont High School newspaper, the Scratching Post.

Over the course of my career, I’ve covered every high school sport numerous times, local lacrosse and rugby, the Wenatchee Wild, the AppleSox, the Wenatchee Capitals soccer club and myriad of other club and community sports.

It’s been a joy.

I am not athletically gifted, nor was I born with outstanding reflexes or even a knack for sporting knowledge; which has made my opportunity to spend copious amounts of time with some of the finest prep athletes in the nation even that much more meaningful.

Traveling on buses to away games, interviewing the ace after games, taking photos of the trophy, taking photos of the tears, taking photos of the shame and disappointment, taking photos of the euphoria, taking photos, taking photos, taking photos: in doing so, you get to know the human behind the jersey number better than you know yourself.

I got hooked early. It was sophomore year and the Eastmont Wildcat football team won the Columbia Basin Big Nine league title for the first time in 20 years. As the players celebrated after the game with the trophy, I snagged it and a helmet for a quick photo in front of the scoreboard.

That was a defining moment in my young photojournalism career. I learned that there is photo opportunity everywhere, you just have to find it. Since that day, I’ve literally taken hundreds of thousands of photos - many of which are much better than that original one - and developed a style into something I can call my own.

I’m not the best and I know that I have so much more to learn, but it was shooting in the Wenatchee Valley that provided the foundation for me to find my calling in life.

- Reilly Kneedler