District Construction Projects Near Completion, On Budget

BY DOMINICK BONNY

Over the course of a year that presented many challenges, the Eastmont Maintenance Department seized the opportunity to complete important construction projects that are sure to impact the entire Eastmont community, said Sean Tanner, Eastmont’s Director of Maintenance Services.

In fact, Tanner said he expects the work on Grant, Lee and Rock Island elementary schools to be completed this summer.

“Everything is on track to be completed by July,” Tanner said. “All three of those sites will be extremely busy through the summer.”

Grant Elementary was the first school on which they began construction. He said they are currently waiting for the contractors to finish so they can get into the existing building to connect water utilities. In the meantime they are moving forward with exterior work, landscaping, sidewalks, light poles, and the parking lot.

At Kenroy Elementary, they preparing to commission the interior of the building as the cafeteria is getting its finishing touches. The landscaping on the exterior is pretty much done.

As for Rock Island, that project is running concurrent with Lee and Cascade in the (continued, page 2)
Focus On: Community

May 2021

Board Member Spotlight: Whitney Smith

I was raised in the Wenatchee Valley and I graduated from Eastmont High School. After high school, I trained as a montessori guide and worked in education and youth services in the Wenatchee Valley for nearly a decade. In 2014, I took the opportunity to learn a new industry – senior care. I held several roles, including administrator, before returning to work with children and families. I love being part of the learning process! I have served on multiple parent/teacher boards, including a term as PTO president member as an advocate for the community, district staff, and all students. I appreciate the positive leadership, exceptional talent, and dedication to students we have at Eastmont. I love hearing the positive experiences and meeting the amazing people that make our district great. There have been some real heart-wrenching experiences too, things that have been very hard for me. Still, I am honored to represent the community staff, and students and I truly hope to be a balanced voice for their best interests. Learn more about our school board members and how you can get involved at eastmont206.org/school-board.

I view the role of a board member as an advocate for the community, district staff, and all students. I view the role of a board member as an advocate for the community, district staff, and all students. I love being part of the learning process! I have served on multiple parent/teacher boards, including a term as PTO president member as an advocate for the community, district staff, and all students. I appreciate the positive leadership, exceptional talent, and dedication to students we have at Eastmont. I love hearing the positive experiences and meeting the amazing people that make our district great. There have been some real heart-wrenching experiences too, things that have been very hard for me. Still, I am honored to represent the community staff, and students and I truly hope to be a balanced voice for their best interests. Learn more about our school board members and how you can get involved at eastmont206.org/school-board.

I have three children, two of whom currently attend Eastmont schools and another who is in preschool. My husband Jake and I and our family love the Wenatchee Valley and enjoy many outdoor activities together here. The idea to run for school board began with a conversation with my son and blossoming from the encouragement and help of several friends and community members. I believe very strongly in being involved in my own children’s education. I believe that serving the children of our community is one of the best ways to ensure future positive futures. And I view the role of a board member as an advocate for the community, district staff, and all students. I view the role of a board member as an advocate for the community, district staff, and all students. I love being part of the learning process! I have served on multiple parent/teacher boards, including a term as PTO president member as an advocate for the community, district staff, and all students. I appreciate the positive leadership, exceptional talent, and dedication to students we have at Eastmont. I love hearing the positive experiences and meeting the amazing people that make our district great. There have been some real heart-wrenching experiences too, things that have been very hard for me. Still, I am honored to represent the community staff, and students and I truly hope to be a balanced voice for their best interests. Learn more about our school board members and how you can get involved at eastmont206.org/school-board.

Construction Projects

(continued from page 1) timeline of completion. All three buildings have roof-tops that are substantially complete. “Rock Island has been the most ongoing and complex of all the projects up to this point,” he said.

In mid-May, Cascade Elementary will have its rooftop equipment done. The interior electric is almost finished in each of the three buildings. The high school baseball concessions stand is almost finished and although it wasn’t completed in time for this season, next spring it will be ready and waiting.

Tanner said the district is currently within budget. There are always potential change orders and they could potentially still see those, he said, but at this time they have no outstanding change orders that would take the district over budget. He said he would like to commend and thank many people for their patience throughout this massive multi-site project.

I commend our entire staff for their patience in the upset this has caused their world,” he said. “I commend our students and parents for their patience and curiosity. They all seem to be excited to get in there, occupy those spaces and use them. I commend my maintenance staff and last but not least I commend you and thank our board and leadership for their faith in and support of me and my design team.

He said that when it comes to the big picture, these projects represent the district’s dedication to responsible stewardship of public dollars – as well as to the community and the students the district is responsible for educating.

“I hope this represents to the community our commitment to provide the best environment for their children, who they trust us to educate. We want to utilize the resources they provide us in the best way possible.”
Focus On: Reopening | May 2021

BACK TO SCHOOL!

Focus On: Reopening | May 2021

BACK TO SPORTS:
SHUFFLED SEASONS? WEARING MASKS?
NO PROBLEM!

By Russ Waterman

Russ Waterman, athletic director for the Eastmont School District, is thrilled to have sports well underway. After months of lockdowns and delays, the district has just finished its spring sports season. To accommodate the compressed schedule, seasons were shuffled so that fall sports played first, then spring, and will conclude with winter season – beginning May 17!

“It’s been a challenge, but like anything else, that challenge has been accepted not only by our athletes, and our coaches, but everybody else in the valley,” said Waterman.

Once the governor’s office decided to allow sports to begin back in January, the Eastmont School District set in motion plans for a metered reopening of sports training and schedule planning. When competition was finally allowed, it initially was only by region, but now with the latest level of reopening, winter sports, like basketball and wrestling, will compete on a more normal Big 9 schedule.

“Overall, the theme with all the athletic directors in the area is progressive, flexible adjustment,” said Waterman. The goal, he explained, is “to make things happen so that kids can be out.” The athletes have been very receptive. The district has seen 80-85 percent of its normal student participation levels. Having the seasons compressed and out of order has had minimal effect, Waterman said. “The kids have responded well. They just want to be out here, they want to compete and they want to be around their friends.”

COVID safety precautions have, of course, been a priority, but Waterman has found that after so many months of dealing with the pandemic, the kids are used to it. “It’s not overwhelming but Waterman said. “It’s not a part that you have to overcome.”

Waterman said that social distancing has been the most difficult issue because most kids by nature are social and want to be close to their friends and teammates. “Kids want to be around kids and that’s the part that you have to overcome.”

As for fall sports, Waterman is optimistic. “We’re planning for next year to be more normal than abnormal, with fall season starting on time. Obviously, we’re still going to have safety guidelines… as we move forward, but we’re really looking forward to getting back to a more traditional sports season… and just getting back to being Eastmont.”

See the interview with Russ Waterman online at this link: cutt.ly/backtosports

Shuffled Seasons? Wearing Masks? No Problem!

Focus On: Reopening | May 2021

BACK TO THE CLASSROOM:
“MATH IS COOL” AT LEE ELEMENTARY

By Dominick Bonny

Lee Elementary’s Math Is Cool competition recently had its first in-person instruction session, so we joined them to learn more and hear from the students about what it’s like to be back in the classroom for instruction.

“We allow them to collaborate and teach them some stuff.” Sharan Hoffman, 4th grade teacher at Lee and Math is Cool coach, said. “But typically, Math is Cool allows the kids to work together and teach each other different skills and strategies – different ways of solving math.”

It’s really exciting to see the students get fired up about math and push themselves and their team, Hoffman said. There are many different activities both for individual students and for teams.

“I gave them options to stop doing certain things or try and practice and don’t give up.”

Watch more about Math is Cool online at this link: cutt.ly/mathiscool

Back to the classroom:

Focus On: Reopening | May 2021

SUMMER SCHOOL:
COVID CATCH-UP FOR KIDS WHO NEED A CLASSROOM BOOSTER

We are pleased to offer a variety of programs this summer for many of our students to help overcome learning loss due to the pandemic. Grade levels listed here are the grade the student will enter next year. Eligible students will be invited. If you are interested in having your child participate, please don’t hesitate to contact the program administrator. Visit the Eastmont School District webpage for additional information: eastmont206.org/departments/special-programs/summer-school/index

• 1st-5th Grades Literacy Camp (June 21-July 22)
• 1st-5th Grades Migrant STEAM Academy (June 21-July 22)
• 6th-8th Grades Fun In The Sun! (June 21-July 22)
• 6th-8th Grades Migrant Arts Academy (June 21-July 15)
• 9th Grade Learning Assistance Program (June 21-July 1)
• 9th-12 Grades Credit Retrieval (June 21-July 22)

For more information, please contact your student’s teacher or school office.

No Problem!

Shuffled Seasons? Wearing Masks?

Back to Sports:

4th-grader Myla Fletcher said that she thinks anyone her age who is interested should really join Math is Cool because it’s actually fun when you get into it.

“The teacher is really nice.” Myla said. “It’s not that hard if you just try and practice and don’t give up.” You can watch a video featuring Lee’s Math is Cool’s first session back in person on Eastmont’s YouTube channel at the link below.

### Math Is Cool online at this link: cutt.ly/mathiscool
Focus On: Student Achievement
May 2021

STUDENTS EXCEL THROUGH UNUSUAL YEAR

Quarantines and hybrid classes didn’t stop these Eastmont students from reaching new heights during the pandemic.

“Girl Who Codes” Attends A.I. Program

By Joanne Leonard

Hannah Blank has been a leader in our Girls Who Code Club. She was recently accepted in a global program for artificial intelligence.

SkillsUSA Club Builds Robot for OnShape Design Competition

By Eric Duffey

A team of four students from the SkillsUSA Club competed in the National OnShape Design Competition in March. This is a competition in CAD/Drafting skills.

ELL Student Discovers Digital Tools

By Cody Brumner

Andrea Martinz, a recent graduating senior at Eastmont High School and also an English Language Learners (ELL) program student, is determined to keep her love for technology alive.

Focus On: Services

May 2021

Eastmont Teachers Receive National Boards Certification

Congratulations to three of our teachers who have completed the rigorous process of becoming National Board Certified! It is an esteemed and respected professional certification available in K-12 education and a public assurance that teachers have met the profession’s highest standards for accomplished practice.

Receiving the award are: Angie Velezquez (Kenney), Vra Bowman (Sterling) and Vicki Robins (Sterling).

P-EBT Benefits Extended

The Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) has received federal approval to implement a second round of P-EBT for the 2020-21 school year. Families beginning receiving the second round of benefits in late March and will continue through the end of April. The benefits will come loaded onto a special P-EBT card mailed automatically to each eligible child.

To ensure all eligible children receive the 2020-21 P-EBT benefits, families must complete the free and reduced-price meals application if they have not already, and make sure their current address is on file with the school district. P-EBT benefits do not replace any child nutrition program already being offered. Students are encouraged to continue participating in grab-and-go meals at their schools, even if they receive P-EBT benefits.

The public charge rule does not apply to P-EBT benefits and will not impact immigration status. Families who have questions about P-EBT benefits can go to dsha.wa.gov/PEBT or call the P-EBT Contact Center at (833) 518-0282 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Friday (except observed holidays). To check card balances or report a lost card, please call (888) 328-9271.

Low-Income ASB Waiver Begins Next Fall

In 2020, the Legislature passed House Bill 1660 – relating to low-income in extracurricular activities. The purpose of this bill is to eliminate barriers and increase participation in extracurricular activities by creating equitable access to opportunities that improve academic, social and emotional outcomes.

What is new?

This new law requires all school districts to waive participation fees for eligible low-income students.

When does the new law go into effect?

This law was effective at the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no Eastmont school has charged students for any extracurricular activity fees.

What type of fees will not be waived?

Fees for any curricular activity, such as for classes or educational field trips

Fees for extracurricular activities, such as PE or art

Fines for lost or damaged items

What type of fees will be waived?

Fees for any extracurricular activity fees

Fees for any curricular activity fees

Parents can complete a household application for Free and Reduced Meals and a Consent to Share Information Form. This can be done online at eastmont206.org/departments/food-services/index.

Emergency Broadband Benefit

In 2020, the Legislature passed In 2021, the Legislature passed a new law requiring school districts to offer Free and Reduced Meals and a Consent to Share Information Form. This can be done online at eastmont206.org/departments/food-services/index.

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Eastmont Schools on Social Media

Follow Eastmont on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram for breaking news and updates from around the district. Search and find Eastmont profiles using the usernames on each platform.

FCC Implements Internet Access Subsidy

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is an Federal Communications Commission program to help families and households struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. This new subsidy will connect eligible households to jobs, critical healthcare services, virtual classrooms and so much more. The Emergency Broadband Benefit will provide a discount of up to $50 per month towards broadband service for eligible households and up to $75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to $100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than $10 and less than $50 toward the purchase price.

The Emergency Broadband Benefit is limited to one monthly service discount and one device discount per household.

Learn more about the Emergency Broadband Benefit program at fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit.
District Updates Music Curriculum, Invests in New Instruments

By DOMINICK BONNY

While most of the country was in the beginning stages of lockdown and schools, businesses and public spaces were shuttered due to the pandemic, Eastmont music educators were hard at work. Over the course of the spring, all intermediate, junior high and high school music teachers were involved in a review process to examine current instructional offerings, scheduling of courses and the future needs of our students. That process culminated in a decision to develop a comprehensive list of instructional materials and spend $167,000 on instruments and upgraded equipment for students in the 6-12 grades.

“The reality of the situation is that instruments have a very finite shelf life,” Maggie Whiteman, District Coordinator of Music, said. “And Eastmont is so lucky to have a district that is supportive...we’ve had a number of instruments that are high quality for a number of years.”

But many of those instruments are past their prime, and some are in such disarray that they cannot safely be used by our students. That’s why this is such an exciting time for the whole music program, Whiteman said.

“These instruments and the equipment that comes with them is all an investment into the music program as a whole for many years to come,” she said.

While this process has ensured a robust future for Eastmont music, the students are simply happy to be back in the classroom with whatever instruments they currently have. “Kids really love being in their music classes,” Megan Clearly, Eastmont Orchestra and Mariachi Director, said. “They are so excited to be in a music class as opposed to being just at home, only hearing themselves play, and not hearing how they match with the group.”

To learn more about this investment in music education and to see some of the instruments that are no longer fit for use, visit the YouTube link below.

View the video on music education at: cutt.ly/yt-eastmont

Full-Time, Substitute Bus Drivers Needed!

Have you thought about becoming a bus driver for the Eastmont School District? We offer paid in-house training and will help you move through the steps needed to complete the process to become a certified bus driver.

Benefits – including medical insurance and retirement – are included!

Full-Time and Substitute Drivers
- Pay starts at $21.26 per hour
- In-house training (paid)
- Work directly with kids
- Additional routes and trips available in the future

Substitute Bus Drivers
- On-call work schedule
- Flexible hours
- Potential to become a permanent Eastmont bus driver

View the full job descriptions and apply online at: eastmont206.tedk12.com/hire/