

# Edmonds School District News

A Community Supporting Success For All Students

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## District Graduation Rates at their Highest

**Targeted and planned support for our students is making a difference**

**D**uring a time when news of further state funding reductions dominates the headlines, our district is making important advancements – our graduation rates are climbing. The on-time graduation rate for our district's students is now up to 86.3 percent, and our extended graduation rate is at 93.3 percent. The graduation rate was about 67.5 percent just over six years ago. These most recent numbers represent our Class of 2010. The on-time graduation rates include students who graduated in four years, while the extended rates include students who took more than four years to graduate.

There are several intentional efforts making the difference in our students' success as they follow the path to graduation:

### All Staff Involved

We have many teachers, counselors, coaches, paraeducators, principals, bus drivers, food service workers, and other staff contributing to the success of our students. It is their dedicated and compassionate work that is making a difference in this success, and every day, for all students. Two of those students are featured in this newsletter in our superintendent's message. Their individual stories highlight their own determination to gain academic success, but also show how these once at-risk students were motivated to succeed by the concerted, intentional efforts of many. We have exciting, personal stories like these in every one of our high schools.

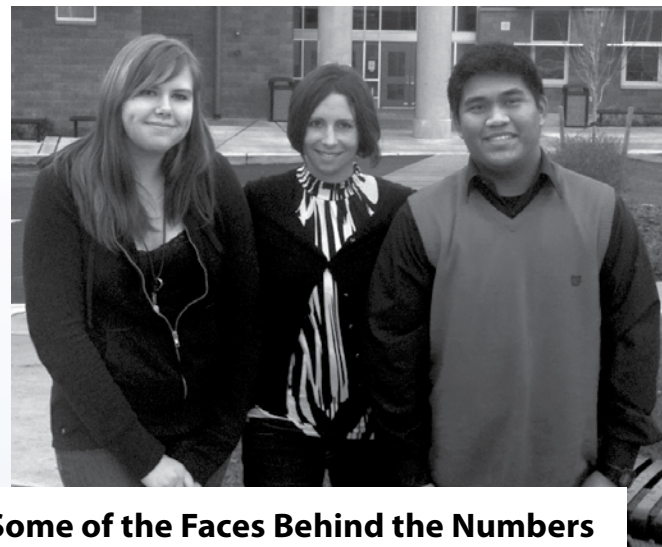
### Dropout Prevention Kits

Five years ago, high school leaders came together to discuss what interventions and supports needed to be put into place to help students reach graduation. These leaders worked for three years to develop promising, practical tool kits to address the problem. The kits provided tools and resources to help school staff best approach the individual needs of students, particularly those struggling or showing signs of being at risk.

### Student Support Advocates

Joining our district team in the last year are four student support advocates, funded through a grant from Snohomish County. These individuals support our academically neediest students at our high schools and middle schools. They also link students to outside services which play a vital role

*continues on page 2*



### Some of the Faces Behind the Numbers

**The story of two students, and how they are now on the path to graduation**

*Student Support Advocate Kelly Land (middle), was one of the staff at Lynnwood High who made sure they knew current juniors Alexis Mrozik and Lorenzo Carreon when they were freshmen. Knowing they would need additional supports to be successful students in high school, plans were put into place. They are now both on path to graduate in 2012.*

## Message from the Superintendent

Dear Community Members,

I'd like to share a wonderful story about how two students' hard work, with support from staff, has helped them on their path to graduation.

Nick Brossoit, Ed. D., Superintendent

**T**wo years ago, leading into the 2008-09 school year, Kelly Land joined counselors and several other key staff at Lynnwood High in a conference room. On the board were the names of 30 or 40 incoming freshmen who they knew were at risk of not being successful in high school and faced the possibility of not graduating.

Student by student, staff started to discuss what supports and interventions could be put into place so these students could have a chance at being successful, said Land, who is the Student Support Advocate for both Lynnwood High and Alderwood Middle School, which feeds into LHS.

This scene is replicated in all of our high schools, as well as middle and elementary schools as staff work and discuss continually to identify and support students who will need additional help to achieve academic success.

*continues on page 2*

## Backed by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

**District partners with prekindergarten community to improve early student learning**

In our second year of a two-year grant from The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, we are continuing to build connections between the preschool/childcare community and six of our district elementary schools. The PreK-3 approach recognizes that strong learning from prekindergarten through third-

*continues on page 3*



Join us Jan. 22 at the  
**INFORMATION FAIR**  
with a new F.A.C.E...  
See back page



Serving Brier, Edmonds,  
Lynnwood, Mountlake  
Terrace, Woodway, and  
portions of unincorporated  
Snohomish County

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Meadowdale Middle Principal Christine Avery (center) is joined by students (left to right) Chibuzo Ezeokeke, Ethan Conley, Tabitha Anderson, and Ephrem Yared in front of the main entrance to the new middle school, which is currently under construction and scheduled to open Fall 2011. This project is funded by the voter-approved 2006 Capital Construction Bond.

## Meadowdale Middle School construction project nears 2011 opening within budget

Progress on the new Meadowdale Middle School building is taking place, due to support from the voter-approved 2006 Capital Construction Bond, with construction nearly two-thirds done. The school is on track to open Fall 2011. Since passed by the voters, the bond has funded the new Lynnwood High School and is currently funding the new Meadowdale Middle.

The main and auxiliary gymnasiums at Meadowdale Middle were completed during Summer 2010 and have been in use by the students and staff since Fall 2010. The rest of the new facility is at varying stages of completion. Inside the building, roughing in of mechanical and electrical systems are ongoing throughout, and in some areas, drywall is going up. The exterior is also progressing, with most of the windows installed and exterior siding and paneling adorning portions of the exterior.

*continues on back page*

## Community Budget Meetings:

### An opportunity to provide input on the district's 2011-12 budget

**March 30, 7 p.m.**

Lynnwood High School Theater,  
18218 North Road, Bothell, 98012

**Habrá Interpretación en Español**

**April 13, 4 p.m.**

Mountlake Terrace High School Theater,  
21801 44th Ave. W., Mountlake Terrace, 98043

**April 20, 7 p.m.**

Meadowdale High School Theater,  
6002 168th St. SW, Lynnwood, 98037

**April 27, 4 p.m.**

Edmonds-Woodway High School Theater,  
7600 212th St. SW, Edmonds, 98026

**Habrá Interpretación en Español**

If you would like information about the budget outlook as it develops this winter and spring prior to our community meetings, please visit us online at [www.edmonds.wednet.edu](http://www.edmonds.wednet.edu) or attend a Superintendent's Roundtable meeting. The Roundtable schedule is included in the "Mark Your Calendar" section on page 3.



Nick Brossoit,  
Superintendent

### Message from the Superintendent

"We make every effort we can," Land said. "We ask, 'How can we support this student?'"

While explaining this, two of the names who had been on that board two years ago sit and listen, surprised but pleased to learn this had taken place. Now juniors, they each have a unique story as to why they were at risk two years ago; and how, with the strong and consistent support of teachers, other staff, and their families, they are now on the path to graduation in 2012.

### Lorenzo Carreon

Counselor Larry Wilson said that poor attendance and behavior issues can often be the top factor in why a student is not passing classes. Lorenzo was different.

"Lorenzo is a very polite, respectful kid, but as a freshman, he was very, very quiet. His issue was self-confidence; he needed academic support in 9th grade," Wilson said. "He fell into a pattern of poor grades in middle school because he did not know how to advocate for himself, until he learned that skill. He works pretty hard to get the grades he now gets."

In middle school, Lorenzo earned C's, D's, and a few F's. Now he has A's and B's and is working hard to raise his grades in a couple classes.

Lorenzo said the extra math support built into the school day, as well as a Reading Block class he had during 9th and 10th grade are huge factors in why he is now successful. Land describes math support as "one of the most important programs we offer." It is an extra period of math in place of an elective. The Reading Block provides for two periods of English within the school day as well.

Lorenzo, who is now considering a focus on photography for his senior project, is still undecided on a career, but is planning on attending community college for two years and then transferring to a university after graduating from high school. He has this advice for middle school students and their families.

"In seventh grade I lost motivation and by eighth I plummeted," he said. "I lost good study skills. Middle school is important because the skills you get there can help you as a freshman. You have to have a work ethic."

### Alexis Mrozik

Alexis said she fell into a bad cycle in middle school.

"It was hard for me to keep track. I was overwhelmed and I started missing school," she said. "I struggled a lot with anxiety, had insomnia and missed a lot of school. My grades dropped."

Alexis shares that with the help of Land in her role as a family advocate, she was connected with an outside counselor. Alexis learned she has Dissociative Identity and Obsessive Compulsive disorders. With that information in hand, a 504 Plan was put into place at school that provides Alexis with extra time and accommodations to complete assignments. Since attendance is tied to academic success, Alexis will take breaks during the day to visit with Land in her office, helping to keep her anxieties in check.

"If I didn't have the 504, or Kelly to talk to I would not even be motivated to graduate," said Alexis, who plans to study for two years at a community college and would then like to enroll at the Cornish College of the Arts. "I actually enjoy coming to school now and hate to miss it now."

### District Graduation Rates at their Highest *continued*

in their achievements at school.

### Data Management

In the past, when a student left our district to move to another, they were recorded as a dropout until there was a valid transfer on record. Our student data personnel have been devoted to finding out where a student transferred to and when.

Certainly there is still a long way to go. We have not reached all students – yet, our staff works hard to make graduation possible for so many students. But, of course, it is still not yet 100 percent and we still have students we need to reach. Our work continues.

### HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATES

High School	2008 Grad Rate (percentage)		2009 Grad Rate (percentage)		2010 Grad Rate (percentage)	
	On-time	Extended	On-time	Extended	On-time	Extended
Edmonds-Woodway	85.7	91.8	84.8	87.7	91	92.6
Lynnwood	73.9	80.4	75.5	81.5	85	91.5
Meadowdale	87	89.9	84.8	85.6	96	101.6*
Mountlake Terrace	84.2	88.1	82	84.9	91.3	94.6
Scriber Lake	14.8	28.4	20.4	51.1	33.6	79.3
<b>District Rate:</b>	<b>75.4</b>	<b>80.5</b>	<b>77.1</b>	<b>83.5</b>	<b>86.3</b>	<b>93.9</b>

\*Late graduates are added to the total number of on-time graduates in the year they graduate when calculating the extended rates. Therefore, these rates may exceed 100 percent.

**Our schools participating in the Gates grant**

Beverly  
Cedar Valley  
College Place  
Lynnwood  
Mountlake Terrace  
Spruce



For a list of the preschools we are partnered with visit: [www.edmonds.wednet.edu/prek-3](http://www.edmonds.wednet.edu/prek-3)

grade is critical in setting the foundation of preparing students to be academically, socially, and emotionally ready to succeed in school.

"This grant has afforded our district opportunities to form partnerships with local preschool and childcare programs that we would not have had otherwise," School Board Director Susan Phillips said. "Students entering our schools will be better-prepared and supported for learning thanks to the collaboration between our K-3 teachers and local PreK teachers and providers. Our elementary schools were already providing strong academic programs, but this grant is further strengthening our efforts."

Teachers from the district and local PreK programs are partnering to align instructional practices across the grades in order to improve school readiness for all students. Nationwide research shows that the PreK-3 approach can close

the achievement gap, reduce the need for costly interventions later in school, and produce a more-educated, skilled, and competitive workforce.

One opportunity supported by this grant is Jump Start, a transitional program in August for students entering kindergarten. In the six schools participating in the grant, Jump Start includes three weeks of programming in August that helps students adjust and prepare for their entrance into school. This program also offers teachers the opportunity to get to know students in advance, allowing them to be better prepared to support and teach students once the school year begins.

The PreK-3 grant program, also supported by a partnership grant from The Gratia Ainslie Foundation, fosters collaboration, connection, and communication between district teachers and staff and community partners. The goal is to build and sustain a PreK-3 model that will work in years to come.



Keynote speaker,  
Adam Cornell  
Snohomish County  
Deputy Prosecuting  
Attorney

Phone: 425-431-7260

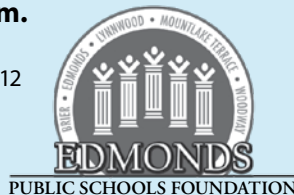
E-mail: [edmondspsf@edmonds.wednet.edu](mailto:edmondspsf@edmonds.wednet.edu)

Web: [www.edmondspsf.org](http://www.edmondspsf.org)

**SAVE THE DATE! "A Recipe for Success"**  
**Edmonds Public Schools Foundation**  
**Spring Luncheon**

You are cordially invited to join special culinary guest Greg Atkinson, local chef and author, for the annual spring luncheon.

**March 18, 2011, 11:30 a.m.**  
Lynnwood High School  
18218 North Road, Bothell, 98012



*Are you interested in receiving more detailed information about the events and news from our district?*

**Become a "Key Communicator"**

– and receive news directly in your inbox!

Visit us online at [www.edmonds.wednet.edu](http://www.edmonds.wednet.edu) and "register."



**Thank You Boeing... for recognizing the academic accomplishments of Alderwood Middle students, staff and families with the \$25,000 John D. Warner Award!**

**Edmonds School District Board of Directors**

Comprising five director districts, the Board of Directors conducts the business of the Edmonds School District. The board meets alternate Tuesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the Educational Service Center, 20420 68th Ave. W., Lynnwood, 98036. Study sessions, at which the board does not vote on matters, are held as needed on alternate Tuesdays at 6 p.m.

**Susan Paine**  
Director District 1  
President

**Gary Noble**  
Director District 3  
Vice President

**Susan Phillips**  
Director District 4  
Legislative Representative

**Ann McMurray**  
Director District 2

**Patrick Shields**  
Director District 5

**Dr. Nick Brossoit**  
Superintendent and Board  
Secretary

**Mark Your Calendar!**

- Jan. 17** **No School, Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- Jan. 18** **Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration** in Lynnwood. Musician and activist Derrick N. Ashong will speak at 12:30 p.m. in the Black Box Theatre at Edmonds Community College, 20000 68th Ave. W, Lynnwood, 98036 and at 7 p.m. in the Great Hall at Meadowdale High School, 6002 168th St. SW, Lynnwood, 98037. Events are free and open to the public.
- Jan. 18** **School Board Meeting** at the ESC\*, 6:30 p.m.
- Jan. 22** **Join us at the Information Fair with a new F.A.C.E. (Families and Communities Engaged!)** hosted at Lynnwood High, 18218 North Road, Bothell, 98012, 9 a.m. to Noon (See back cover)
- Jan. 27** **Districtwide Early Release Day**, times vary
- Jan. 28** **No School**, Professional Development Day
- Feb. 1** **School Board Meeting** at the ESC\*, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 2** **Superintendent's Roundtable** at the ESC\*, Noon to 1 p.m. Program topic, "Bringing the Whole Community Together to Help Kids."
- Feb. 7** **Registration for 2011-12 Begins** for Kindergarten and All Grades at Neighborhood Schools
- Feb. 11** **Middle/High School Transfer Applications Due** for 2011-12
- Feb. 15** **School Board Meeting** at the ESC\*, 6:30 p.m.
- Feb. 18** **No School**, Professional Development Day
- Feb. 21-22** **No School**, Presidents' Day Break
- March 2** **Superintendent's Roundtable** at the ESC\*, Noon to 1 p.m. Program topic, "Teaching Reading and Writing – Our new Literacy Adoption."
- March 8** **School Board Meeting** at the ESC\*, 6:30 p.m.
- March 18** **No School**, Professional Development Day
- March 18** **Edmonds Public Schools Foundation Luncheon** 11:30 a.m., Lynnwood High School (See announcement, this page)
- March 22** **School Board Meeting** at the ESC\*, 6:30 p.m.
- March 30** **Community Budget Meeting** hosted at Lynnwood High, 18218 North Road, Bothell, 98012, 7 p.m. – **Habrá Interpretación en Español**
- April 4-8** **Spring Break**
- April 12** **School Board Meeting** at the ESC\*, 6:30 p.m.
- April 13** **Superintendent's Roundtable** at the ESC\*, Noon to 1 p.m. Program topic, "State Assessment – Keeping Students on Track."
- April 13** **Community Budget Meeting** hosted at Mountlake Terrace High, 21801 44th Ave. W., Mountlake Terrace, 98043, 4 p.m.
- April 20** **Community Budget Meeting** hosted at Meadowdale High, 6002 168th St. SW., Lynnwood, 98037, 7 p.m.
- April 26** **School Board Meeting** at the ESC\*, 6:30 p.m.
- April 27** **Community Budget Meeting** hosted at Edmonds-Woodway High, 7600 212th St. SW., Edmonds, 98026, 4 p.m. – **Habrá Interpretación en Español**
- May 4** **Superintendent's Roundtable** at the ESC\*, Noon to 1 p.m. Program topic, "Legislative/Budget Update."
- May 10** **School Board Meeting** at the ESC\*, 6:30 p.m.
- May 13** **No School**, Professional Development Day
- May 24** **School Board Meeting** at the ESC\*, 6:30 p.m.
- May 27** **No School**, Professional Development Day – Snow Make-up Day, if needed
- May 30** **No School, Memorial Day**

\* The Educational Service Center (ESC) is located at 20420 68th Ave. W, Lynnwood, 98036 (just south of Edmonds Community College).



# District Graduation Rates at their Highest See front cover



Join us at the **Information Fair** with a new F.A.C.E...

## families **F.A.C.E.** and Engaged! Communities

**9 a.m. - noon**

**Saturday, January 22, 2011**

**Interpreters  
Available**

Hosted at Lynnwood High School, 18218 North Road, Bothell, 98012

- ★ All schools & programs represented
- ★ Meet the community groups that support our schools
- ★ Kindergarten registration packets available
- ★ Middle & high school opportunities

### Attend Special Sessions on:

Registering for Every Day Kindergarten  
The Transfer Process  
Highly Capable  
Graduation Requirements: What are the Changes?

### Is this the annual Edmonds School District Information Fair?

Yes, but the name has changed along with the format – come check it out!

### Something for Everyone ...

**Visit these booths, complete passports for PRIZE DRAWINGS for different age groups:**

**RIDE** a School Bus: Get your kindergartner ready

**SEE** Robots in Action: A demonstration of Career and Technical Education accomplishments

**TAKE** our Technology Survey: Tell us what you think about technology in the classroom

**CHECK OUT** the Nutritious Options that Fill Lunch Trays: Visit Food Service (get an apple!)

**CONSIDER** Employment Opportunities: Human Resource staff will answer questions

**MEET** the School Board: They are ready to field your suggestions

**LEARN ABOUT** Alternative Learning Options: Madrona, Maplewood, Edmonds Heights K-12, Scriber Lake High/eLearning

**MAKE** Music: Our music program and Edmonds Community College will have instruments for kids to play

**PLAY** a Sport: Learn how from student athletes and coaches

**EXPLORE:** Traditional basket weaving techniques demonstrated by Indian Education

**REVIEW** FLASH/KNOW Curriculum Materials: Staff available to answer questions

**THANK** our Gates Foundation Grant Prekindergarten Providers: Our proud partners in early education

**SUPPORT:** Our event host's PTSA – purchase refreshments

**INFORMATION: 425.431.7044 ~ [www.edmonds.wednet.edu](http://www.edmonds.wednet.edu) ~ Visit us on Facebook**

### REWARD...for New Kindergartners:

**Help us spread the word to your friends, neighbors, and family members ... Children age 5 by August 31, 2011 are eligible for kindergarten!**

F.A.C.E. is a great opportunity to get these children and their families involved now with our neighborhood school communities.

*continued from page 2*

### Technology tools enhance learning

The voter-approved 2008 Technology/Capital Levy continues to allow our students and staff to benefit from technology tools that engage and educate students in the classrooms. We replace teacher instructional laptops, projectors, and document cameras as they age. These levy dollars also allow our schools to receive new and replacement carts of mobile laptop labs for student use in the classroom.

The levy also supports the Capital Partnership Program, through which funds raised by outside groups supporting small capital improvements for our schools are matched by 2008 Technology/Capital Levy dollars. Parent groups and other supporters are raising funds now in support of improvements that will be installed in the months to come. In addition to this program and the technology upgrades, the 2008 Technology/Capital Levy also funds other ongoing capital improvement projects to improve safety, security, and energy efficiency in our schools.

### State awards district a grant for energy efficiency

The state Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) awarded the district a \$750,000 grant for energy efficiency improvements, based on a competitive process. This grant will supplement 2008 Technology/Capital Levy dollars to upgrade HVAC digital controls in 12 schools. The project will take place over the course of two summers in our district, with a targeted completion date of December 2012. A total of 21 districts statewide received awards in this round of grants, which are intended to make energy efficient building improvements. In addition to this grant, the district previously received a competitive grant from OSPI for energy projects, which was used to upgrade the HVAC controls in 12 different schools.

### Costco announced as major retailer at old Lynnwood High School site

The company that will lease the old Lynnwood High School property announced in December that Costco Wholesale is in negotiations to occupy approximately 160,000 square feet of the future mixed-use development. The district has an agreement with Cypress Equities as the company leasing the property, and Cypress has remained committed to working with the district and city on this development project despite the historic economic downturn that has occurred in the past three years.

### CONSERVATION WORKS:

**Bright  
(but low energy!)  
Ideas in Place**



**PUD presented the district with a check from its incentive program for reducing electrical use by 6 percent – twice the amount expected.**

Through our district's pledge to participate in the Snohomish County PUD Energy Challenge, the district is now working to reduce its electrical consumption by 10 percent.

Edmonds School District News provides school and education information to all the residents of Edmonds School District #15. For more information about the District, please call the Administration Office at (425) 431-7000 or visit [www.edmonds.wednet.edu](http://www.edmonds.wednet.edu). To request this newsletter in a different format for people with disabilities please call (425) 431-7044. Board of Directors: Susan Paine, President; Gary Noble, Vice President; and members Ann McMurray, Susan Phillips, and Patrick Shields. Superintendent: Nick J. Brossoit, Ed.D. Writing, Editing: DJ Jakala and Jennifer Piplic. Art Direction and Design: District Printing Services Jeanne Macdonald. Photography: School, District staff. ♻️ Printed with soy ink on 30% Post Consumer Waste recycled paper.

The Edmonds School District complies with all federal and state rules and regulations and does not discriminate on the basis of race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, or physical, sensory or mental handicaps (see Board Policy 6005). This holds true for all students who are interested in participating in educational programs and/or extracurricular school activities. Inquires regarding compliance and/or grievance procedures may be directed to the District's Title IX/RCW 28A.640 Compliance Officer, Debby Carter (425-431-7023); Section 504 Coordinator, Katy Wysocki (425-431-7186); or ADA Coordinator, Debby Carter (425-431-7023). Visit or mail: 20420 68th Ave. W, Lynnwood, WA 98036.

**Why am I getting this newsletter?** This newsletter is intended to reach all residents in our District including the nearly 70 percent of households without school-age children. We use bulk mailing rather than individually addressing each newsletter because it is the least expensive way to distribute this newsletter.