



District Newsletter

January 2010

Winter edition

SNOQUALMIE VALLEY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Superintendent's Message ...



*Superintendent
Joel Aune*

Happy New Year!

This edition of our newsletter draws attention to the great work of our staff, and highlights the accomplishments and achievements of many talented students.

This newsletter also describes the school district's finances and our two upcoming levies, both of which would renew expiring levies approved by voters in 2006. Our district enjoys a high level of involvement from parents and community patrons as evidenced by the establishment of VISTAS, an exciting new program that will draw capable volunteers into our schools (see page 2).

We hope you find this publication to be informative and interesting as it includes just a few examples of the exceptional things occurring in Snoqualmie Valley. Your support is very much appreciated as we continue to provide the best educational experience possible for the students in our schools.

— Joel Aune

Ten SVSD Teachers Earn National Board Certification

CONGRATULATIONS!

- **Melanie Culver** CVES
- **Joyce Delurme** CVES
- **Rick Flanagan** NBES
- **Eric Goldhammer** MSHS
- **Alison Means** CKMS
- **Anne Melgaard** NBES
- **Shari Myers** NBES
- **Andrew Rapin** MSHS
- **Jacqueline Ross** CVES
- **John Spiess** TFMS



Here, the group was invited by the School Board December 10 for special recognition of their achievement and dedication to teaching.

Ten Snoqualmie Valley teachers recently earned National Board Certification for Professional Teaching Standards in 2009. This group (*listed in box above*) joins MSHS teachers Gerald Bopp, Christine Kjenner, Tracy Petroske, John Pinsker, and Gayle Smith, Ruth Huschle from SMS, and Meghan James from CKMS, bringing the total to 16 educators in our District who have earned this prestigious award.

National Board Certification is a process recognized by the National Research Council as having a significant and positive impact on student learning, teacher retention, and professional development. To earn this distinction, teachers must meet rigorous teaching standards through in-depth study, submission of four portfolios, expert evaluation, self-assessment, peer review and six written assessments of their methodology.

Inside this issue...

- **VISTAS Volunteers** 2
- **School Board News** 3
- **Impressive Writing Results** 4
- **School Levies Up for Renewal** 6
- **Going Global** 8
- **Budget Update** 10

WORDS for Thirds

Special thanks to the Snoqualmie Valley Kiwanis Club for donating a dictionary to every third grade student, and their teachers, in the school district. More than 600 dictionaries were distributed this fall to eager young readers in all five elementary schools. Students were thrilled to be able to keep the new books. The third grade teachers also created lessons around the dictionaries to help their students develop life-long reference skills.



Students also enjoyed some of the more special features of this book, including the longest word in the English language! Consult the nearest 3rd grader for the answer.



(Above) Fall City Elementary third graders expand their vocabulary with their new dictionaries.

(Left) Kiwanis members David Speikers and Kevin Hauglie hand out stacks of books and share fun facts with students.

Volunteer Spotlight: VISTAS is Making a Difference

The new Volunteers In Schools To Achieve Success (VISTAS) program, which began this fall, has grown to include 27 active community members. Each volunteer spends at least one hour a week helping students in our schools. This pilot program currently offers reading help at Opstad Elementary and math help at Twin Falls Middle School, with plans to expand to other schools, in the future.



Retired Boeing engineer Earl Finch helps in Mrs. Tembreull's 6th grade Math class each Tuesday.

"Math is like a foreign language to many people, a language I speak," explained Finch. "I just hope to help some kids understand math better." Finch also used to tutor adults in math at Hopelink, and is currently on the Senior Center Board.

If you'd like more information on how to become a VISTAS volunteer, please call 425-831-8195, email VISTAS@svsd410.org, or sign up on the district website at www.svsd410.org.

VISTAS Volunteer Earl Finch

**Please join us
at a reception
honoring
outgoing director**

**Rudolph
V. Edwards, Jr.**

*in appreciation
of more than 19 years
of service on the
Snoqualmie Valley
School District
Board of Directors.*

**Tuesday,
January 12, 2010
3:30 to 5:00 p.m.**

*District Boardroom
8001 Silva Avenue S.E.
Snoqualmie, WA 98065*



School Board Transitions

Director Rudy Edwards Retires After 19+ Years of Service to our Schools

Rudolph "Rudy" Edwards knows our school district like few others. Elected to the School Board in 1990, Edwards has helped guide decisions that have impacted our students through almost 20 years of growth. These changes included the addition of new schools: Two Rivers, Chief Kanim Middle School, Cascade View Elementary and Twin Falls Middle School. He's represented the Snoqualmie Valley at the state level in the Washington State School Directors Association, mentored several newer board members, and contributed to approximately 400 school board meetings. Always quick with a "story" and positive support of our students, Rudy has decided to retire as of January 2010.

Superintendent Joel Aune stated, "In the past five years that I've had the pleasure of working with Rudy, he has always brought to the board integrity, honesty, and a philosophy grounded in two basic principles: the principle of responsible stewardship of the taxpayers' interests and resources, and most importantly, the principle of doing what is best and right for all kids."



Rudy Edwards retires from the School Board after 19 years of service to Snoqualmie Valley students.

The community is invited to a reception in Rudy Edward's honor on January 12, at 3:30pm at the District Office.

Welcome New Board Member Scott Hodgins



*Incoming Director
G. Scott Hodgins*

G. Scott Hodgins was elected in November to fill the Director District #1 position. He will begin this January and fill the role formerly held by Rudy Edwards.

Hodgins brings a breadth of relevant experiences to our School Board. He has been a resident of North Bend for 22 years and has two school-aged children in the district. His occupation as a project and management consultant for other school districts provides an in-depth understanding of school construction issues and financing. Over the years, Hodgins has also volunteered on several committees serving Snoqualmie Valley schools including: numerous bond and levy campaigns, Facilities Committee, District Curriculum Review Committee, Finance Advisory Committee, and PTSA's at Opstad, Snoqualmie Elementary and Mount Si High School.

Did you know?

Several School Board resources are posted online at www.svsd410.org. Click on District Information, then select School Board for the following:

- A calendar of regular board meetings throughout the school year;
- Meeting agendas posted each Tuesday prior to a meeting;
- Audio recordings after each meeting, if you cannot attend in person;
- All Board policies, which are searchable within the district website;
- Contact information for each board member.

Two Student Representatives to Serve on the School Board

Mount Si High School senior Patricia Prewitt and junior Cassady Weldon applied for and were selected to serve as Student Representatives to the Snoqualmie Valley School Board of Directors.

The purpose of their new positions is to serve as liaisons between high school students and the governing body of the school district. In their role, they will attend Board meetings, provide insight to the Board on student issues and perspectives, and help foster a better understanding among students about important developments concerning our schools.



*Patricia Prewitt, senior, and
Cassady Weldon, junior*

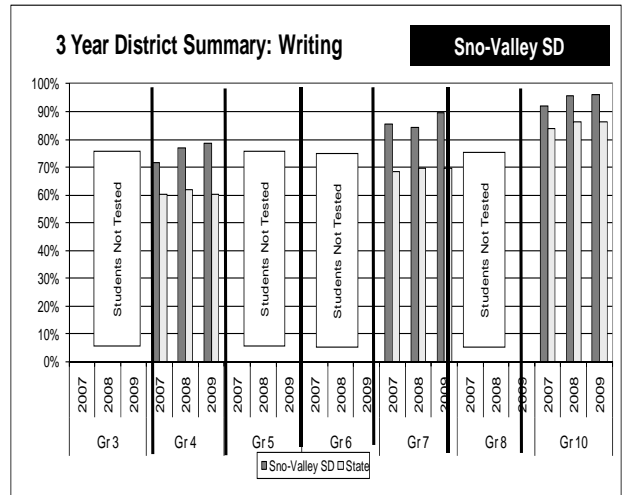
District-wide Writing Scoring Conferences



This is the fourth year of district-wide Writing Scoring Conferences for teachers in grades 2-10 in our district. This professional development strategy was developed by MSHS's John Pinsker, in his role as a Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA), and is being shared with other districts.

These trainings build upon the district's theme of "Common Language – Consistent Practice". When collaborative teams work together to examine student work around a common topic, it increases the level of understanding and awareness of how a teacher's own students are performing in relation to other students at the same grade level across the district.

The primary goal has been to provide teachers with the skills need- ed to score student writing based on a Six Trait Scoring Rubric. The rubric recognizes strengths and weaknesses in each student's writing, providing an analytical assessment. Results from these scorings provide each classroom teacher data that offers specific feedback for individual students and guidance for relevant instruction.



Exciting evidence that this type of professional development is making a systemic and positive impact on Snoqualmie Valley students' writing scores can be seen in the upward trends in writing over the past three years at grades 4, 7 & 10 on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL). See chart above for 3-year progression—dark bars represent Snoqualmie Valley results; pale bars represent state averages.

A look below at how Snoqualmie Valley students' writing compares to other King County students in the recent 2009 WASL Writing assessments show impressive results as well!

TOP 10 King County School Districts 2009 Writing WASL - % of Students Meeting Standard

Grade 4	%	Grade 7	%	Grade 10	%
Mercer Island	91.3	Mercer Island	92.5	Snoqualmie Valley	96.5
Lake Washington	80.4	Snoqualmie Valley	89.7	Northshore	96.1
Snoqualmie Valley	78.5	Issaquah	87.6	Vashon Island	96.0
Northshore	75.3	Tahoma	86.9	Enumclaw	94.6
Issaquah	75.0	Vashon Island	86.3	Issaquah	94.5
Tahoma	73.2	Bellevue	82.1	Lake Washington	93.6
Bellevue	72.4	Shoreline	81.9	Mercer Island	93.6
Riverview	71.0	Lake Washington	81.6	Riverview	93.4
Seattle	69.6	Northshore	81.4	Bellevue	93.3
Shoreline	68.0	Riverview	75.1	Tahoma	91.3

Based on data from OSPI website

Students Learning Respect

Students Honor U.S. Marines Serving in Afghanistan

Mrs. Myer's fourth grade class at North Bend Elementary has a special connection with 54 Marines serving in Afghanistan. Alec Walsh (pictured center) and his classmates have been corresponding with Alec's dad and platoon several times this year. It began around Veteran's Day when Alec and his mom shared photos and stories about the platoon overseas. The class then wrote and sent letters this fall with photos of themselves. They also celebrated the Marines' birthday and made birthday cards. In December, the class made cards and Christmas tree artwork, pictured at right. They also plan to videotape a holiday sing-a-long to send some New Year's entertainment.



Alec, whose dad has been deployed since September, explained, "We're making things to cheer them up and to let them know we're thinking of them." His teacher Shari Myers added, "The kids have really enjoyed doing something to show their appreciation in a personal way."

Twin Falls Middle School Implements "Natural Helpers" Student Support Program

Twin Falls Middle School began a Natural Helpers program this fall by training 30 students during an overnight weekend retreat at the school. Natural Helpers is a peer-helping program used throughout the United States (and at Mount Si High School), but is offered for the first time at a middle school in our district. The program provides an avenue whereby students can support their peers and, at the same time, serve their school and community.



The Twin Falls program works to strengthen student communication and helping skills of ten students from each grade level (6th, 7th, 8th) -- 5 boys and 5 girls representing a cross section of the student population. Students were selected to participate through an anonymous school-wide student survey, and additional screening by staff to insure a good representation across the different peer groups in each grade.

The Natural Helpers program is based on a simple premise: Within every school, an informal "helping network" exists. Students with problems naturally seek out other students, and occasionally teachers or other school staff, whom they trust. Students look to these individuals for advice, for assistance, or just for a sympathetic ear. The Natural Helpers Program uses this existing helping network, and provides training to students and adults who are already identified as trusted "natural helpers" — cultivating skills they may need to effectively help young people who seek them out. However, it does **NOT** train students to be counselors. "Knowing one's limitations in a helping situation" is repeatedly emphasized and reviewed with students. A significant amount of focus is placed on knowing when to refer a friend who may be at risk to an adult member of the "helping team."

Counselor John Coulon is coordinating the program with support from a team of teachers. "My experience with Natural Helpers at Tyee Middle School, prior to coming here, was very positive. I'm hopeful this pilot program will help build a strong peer support system and school community at Twin Falls Middle School."



School Levy Facts

M&O and Technology Renewal

Snoqualmie Valley School District

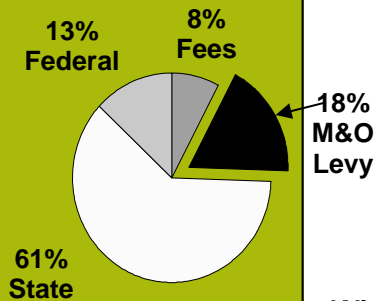
February 9, 2010 Election

Voter Registration Information

The deadline to register for this election is **January 11, 2010.**

- Register online at: www.vote.wa.gov;
- Call the King County Elections Office at **206-296-8683**;
- Or, register in person at the King County Elections Office.

2009-10 General Fund Revenue Sources



For more information on these levy propositions visit: www.svsd410.org

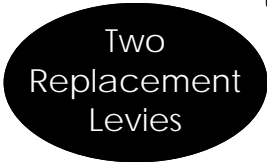
On the February 9th ballot, the Snoqualmie Valley School District will run two replacement levy propositions, since the current levies expire in 2010.

1. Maintenance & Operations Levy

Local Maintenance and Operations (M&O) levies support about one fifth of the school district's day-to-day operations, supplementing state revenues to fund basic education needs of our students. The proposed M&O Levy would authorize: \$12,310,000 in 2011; \$13,540,000 in 2012; \$15,110,000 in 2013; and \$16,570,000 in 2014. If approved, this four-year M&O Levy would replace the current M&O Levy which expires after 2010.

2. Technology Levy

Since Washington State does not fund technology, local levy support is needed to provide technology equipment for students, classroom training, and access to online resources. The proposed four-year Technology Levy would replace the current levy that expires in 2010 and provide \$2,475,000 annually from 2011 to 2014. It would provide students learning opportunities comparable to what other districts provide.



Why is the M&O Levy needed?

In Washington State, funding for day-to-day operations of public schools comes from three main sources: state, federal, and local taxpayers. State and federal revenues do not fully fund educational programs and services. Consequently, districts must ask their local communities to support the basic needs of schools by approving local levies every four years. In Snoqualmie Valley schools, the current M&O Levy provides 18% of the revenue for education programs and daily operations. The M&O Levy amount is determined by a "levy lid" percentage that the state sets for each district. The fact remains that SVSD's per pupil revenue ranks 289th out of 295 school districts in Washington. Local levy support is an important part of school funding.

Why is the Technology Levy needed?

Our state defined "basic education" in 1977, and did not include technology in its definition. Consequently, ALL technology equipment, service support, and training must come from local funding approved by district voters. Our district is behind nearby school districts in terms of our investment in technology (*see table*). Passage of this Technology Levy would replace the four-year levy that expires in 2010. It would help our schools "catch up", to a level that would place our per student technology spending in the mid-range compared with nearby districts. It would provide our students and teachers with technology commensurate with neighboring schools.

School District	Per Student Technology Spending 2008-09
Bellevue	\$620
Mercer Island	\$426
Renton	\$398
Lake Wash.	\$352
Tahoma	\$339
Issaquah	\$264
Northshore	\$229
Riverview	\$215
Snoqualmie Valley	\$171

Maintenance and Operations (M&O) Levy Facts

What would the replacement M&O Levy pay for?

M&O revenues help bridge the gap between what the state provides and that which is needed to provide a basic education for the students in our schools. Local levies help fund:

- extra teachers to reduce class size
- educational assistants
- course offerings at MSHS (i.e. AP, Honors and 6th period)
- student activity programs (i.e. music, art, drama, athletics)
- school nurses
- music specialists
- remediation programs
- transportation
- physical education specialists
- counselors
- library resources
- textbooks
- school security
- coaches/advisors
- materials/supplies
- professional development
- utilities
- some staff salaries and benefits
- maintenance/custodial services

What is the cost of the M&O Levy?

In school levy elections, voters authorize a fixed collection amount. The estimated tax rate in 2011 would be approximately \$2.00 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

This table provides examples of current and future estimated M&O Levy tax bills:

Home Value	2010 Est. Tax Bill (current M&O)		2011 Est. Tax Bill (proposed M&O)	
	<i>annual</i>	<i>monthly</i>	<i>annual</i>	<i>monthly</i>
\$300,000	\$498	\$41.50	\$600	\$50.00
\$400,000	\$664	\$55.33	\$800	\$66.67
\$500,000	\$830	\$69.17	\$1,000	\$83.33

Technology Levy Facts

Election Date: **February 9, 2010**

What would the replacement Technology Levy pay for?

57% of the Technology Levy funding, if approved, would be used to refresh or replace "outdated" systems, enhance classroom technologies, and improve emergency communications/safety systems.

43% of the funds would be used to train teachers on how best to engage students in learning, and fully integrate technology into their lesson plans.

The proposed Technology Levy would fund:

- replacement of older computers and printers
- expanding "green" initiative with thin-client computers
- mobile computer labs with laptops
- more interactive white boards
- student response systems (instant quizzing and analysis of student understanding)
- teacher training
- access to online resources and web-based software
- increased server storage capacity
- technology personnel (network support & trainers)
- improved emergency communications (Enhanced 911)

What is the cost of the Technology Levy?

Voters would authorize a fixed annual amount for local collection of \$2,475,000 each year. The estimated tax rate for 2011 would be approximately \$0.40 per \$1,000 of assessed valuation.

This table provides examples of current and future estimated Tech Levy tax bill examples:

Home	2010 Est. Tax Bill (current Tech)		2011 Est. Tax Bill (proposed Tech)	
	<i>annual</i>	<i>monthly</i>	<i>annual</i>	<i>monthly</i>
\$300,000	\$51	\$4.25	\$120	\$10.00
\$400,000	\$68	\$5.67	\$160	\$13.33
\$500,000	\$85	\$7.08	\$200	\$16.67

High School Highlights



Going Global

This year Mount Si High School is excited to welcome many students who are visiting from their homes around the world. They've come to experience our lifestyle, learn about our culture firsthand, and practice their English. We offer a warm welcome to exchange students who've ventured forth for semester or year-long programs including: Abdul Rahman Albasbishi (Hamani) from **Bahrain**; Florence Servais and Laurence Tack from **Belgium**; Mariana Takahashi from **Brazil**; Michelle Freyer, Claudia Bauman, and Leonard Gebhart from **Germany**; Stefano Piazza from **Italy**; and Hanne Puntervold from **Norway**.

Also, Mount Si High School opens its doors to three different groups of visiting foreign students:

- 21 students from Riesener-Gymnasium ("Riesener High School") in Gladbeck, **Germany** attended MSHS for 17 days in October. MSHS German teacher Edina Kecse-Nagy has arranged a reciprocal exchange opportunity whereby study/travel opportunities will switch every other year between the two schools. This means the MSHS students who hosted the Germans this fall will travel and study there next.
- Several students from Snoqualmie's Sister City of Gangjin, **South Korea** are arriving soon for a four-week homestay Jan. 6 through Feb. 6.
- In March, **Japanese** students from Naga High School will visit Mount Si High School.

Likewise, several Mount Si students also have exciting plans to experience the world beyond our borders this year. Here are trips being planned currently, and the teachers in charge (in case other students are interested):

- February 11-21: MSHS students will go to Mysore, **India** for mid-winter break with teacher Sudeshna Sen.
- July 10-24: MSHS soccer players plan to travel to Bishop Heber School in **England** with teacher Ben Tomlisson.
- July 12-22: MSHS Spanish students plan to travel to **Spain** with teacher Jennifer Foster.
- Summer 2010: MSHS German students will travel to **Germany** with teacher Edina Kecse-Nagy.

Cultural Diversity Celebrated



The International Club at Mount Si High School presented its first annual "International Night" on November 18. The evening of songs, dances, films and food from around the world featured more than 50 student performers on Mount Si's stage, celebrating the cultural diversity in our community. Countries represented included: Samoa, Phillipines, Korea, Ireland, Mexico, Japan, Germany, Spain, India, England and the United States.

"International Night was the culmination of a dream – a vision shared by student officers of the International Club, and the many exchange students that Mount Si hosts every year," explained club advisor and Japanese teacher Sudeshna Sen. "The dream was to bring to the limelight the diversity that walks our corridors everyday, and the friendships that develop when teenagers from different countries and backgrounds go through the boot camp of high school together."

Some highlights of the night were Elizabeth Velasco's traditional Mexican dance (*pictured above*), Lloyd Duque's guitar solos, and Sra. Foster's Spanish students dancing to the tunes of "Jai Ho" from Slumdog Millionaire (*below*).



A Strong Foundation for Our Schools

The Snoqualmie Valley Schools Foundation, with generous support from the community, has contributed over \$50,000 to Snoqualmie Valley classrooms so far this school year! **Thank You.**

Each fall, the Foundation invites local teachers and staff to apply for funding for specific classroom programs or projects. This year, they considered more than 47 teachers' applications representing projects in every school. The Foundation is pleased to announce their 2009 Classroom Grant Awards, totaling \$17,000 that will benefit a wide range of students, from English Language Learners to advanced astronomy students. The grants include funding for musical instruments, non-fiction books, in-school field trips, resource materials for students and

teachers, math manipulatives, graphing calculators, sheet music, foreign language instructional games, and more. A complete list of 2009 classroom grant is posted on the Foundation's website at www.svsfoundation.org.

In addition, the Foundation funds district-wide initiatives aimed at influencing student learning across grade levels and schools. As a result of the Foundation's September Phonathon, \$20,000 worth of science equipment and tools were delivered to Snoqualmie Valley schools. In August, the Foundation presented the school district with a \$16,000 check in support of early literacy and the continuation of reading intervention and enrichment programs at the elementary schools. Visit www.svsfoundation.org for more information about the work of the Snoqualmie Valley Schools Foundation.



Save the date
**Snoqualmie Valley
Schools Foundation
invites you to the 9th Annual
Spring Fundraiser Luncheon**
"From Small Hands to Big Plans"
**Thursday, March 25, 2010
Snoqualmie Ridge Golf Club
at 11:30 AM**

"Every Child is an Artist..." at North Bend Elementary

Pablo Picasso was once quoted as saying *"Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist as he grows up."* Thanks to a PTA-sponsored program, students at North Bend Elementary are learning skills to help them be their own kind of artist for the rest of their lives.

In the three years since its inception, the Artist-In-Residence (AIR) program at NBE has continued to evolve. Instructors Sam Sinanan, Pam Dowling, Christina Copitzky, Melanie Drake, and Beth Hay bring their personal talents and interests to the program, in addition to countless hours of volunteer time. As a result, the PTA has been able to offer a multi-faceted visual arts program which provides students with opportunities to use media and techniques not readily available in the classroom or at home.

All students at NBE attend nine one-hour classes throughout the year which provide art instruction as well as hands-on experience. Kindergarten through 2nd grade students focus on learning and exploring the Elements of Art: Line, Shape, Form, Color, Value, Texture and Space. The older classes, 3rd through 5th grades, focus their attention on particular skills such as drawing, painting and sculpture. The Elements and Principles of Art are still discussed, however, more effort is placed on technique, exploring the Masters and working on multiple media projects.

The North Bend Elementary PTA fully funds this art enrichment program (\$15,000 per year) to ensure that all NBE students have access to quality art education and to support NBE staff in meeting state Visual Arts requirements. "The PTA, along with the entire North Bend Elementary learning community, is proud of our little Picassos!" says Kirby Corder, PTA Art Enrichment Co-Chair. If all goes as planned, these students will remain artists for the rest of their lives, incorporating creativity and persistence into all of their endeavors.



**4th grader Lee Kamp
shares his portrait.**

State of our Union...

Our Current Budget

Last spring, the Snoqualmie Valley School District reduced its operating budget for this 2009-10 school year by \$3.4 million (or 6%) due to Washington State's cuts to K-12 public education funding. Following an extensive 6-month process, expenditure reductions were identified across all district departments and schools, and continue to be carefully implemented this year.

How did we get here?

School districts across the state are facing unprecedented financial challenges. These challenges are driven in large part by a steady erosion of state funding in recent years and exacerbated by the recent crisis at the state level. The reduction in state revenues is compounded by escalating costs, contract obligations, and a growing list of government mandates that receive no funding. Despite our state's constitution that declares its paramount duty to amply fund education, only about 75-80% of our district's basic needs are supported by state and federal resources. Schools districts must ask local voters to approve levies for the remaining 20% needed to provide adequate education services for all students.

Legislative Update

The Governor revealed her preliminary proposal on December 10, 2009. Unfortunately, the outlook has worsened for public education. In addition to last year's \$9 billion state deficit that drove out cuts to K-12 education over the next two years, the state is predicting (at the time this newsletter went to press) ANOTHER \$2.6 billion in cuts over the next year. Events last year also taught us that this estimate may grow even higher between now and the time the legislature adopts the state budget this spring. The preliminary reductions outlined by the Governor include the elimination of I-728 and K-4 class size funding, among other things. These monies currently pay for approximately 20 teaching positions in the Snoqualmie Valley School District.

Next Steps

The District is beginning its annual budget development process to prepare for the 2010-11 school year. Based on what we've heard from the state, even deeper reductions and cost savings will be needed. More details concerning the process and timeline will be finalized in the coming weeks. It appears likely that all Washington school districts will be forced to identify deep cuts that impact class size, school operations, programs, staff, and ultimately, students.

Values Driving Budget Prioritization

The mission of the Snoqualmie Valley School District is to meet the individual learning needs of its students, thereby enabling them: to identify and realize their potentials, to develop skills and attitudes for life-long learning, and to be knowledgeable, productive and involved citizens.

As we embark on another difficult process of identifying areas for reduction, the following criteria will continue to guide decisions and uphold the District's mission:

- **Maintain safe learning and working environments for students and staff**
- **Preserve student learning and growth**
- **Sustain support of student academic achievement**
- **Provide a basic level of support services**
- **Adhere to legal requirements**
- **Consider long-term implications of reduction**

Information about the district budget and current reductions is available on our website at www.svsd410.org.

Campus Beautification



In light of budget reductions, many schools recruit their community to help spruce up their campuses. Here, Emily and Pierre LaBarge recently hauled bark at Opstad Elementary.

In Case of Emergency...

- ⇒ Call **425-831-8494** –24-hour hotline
- ⇒ Check www.svsd410.org –District website
- ⇒ Visit www.schoolreport.org –Subscribe to email
- ⇒ Listen to TV and radio reports

MATH & TECHNOLOGY

Math teachers are taking advantage of technology to increase students' math comprehension. Snoqualmie Valley students are engaging in math more than ever, with the use of Activboard technology (interactive whiteboards), online curriculum support from Math textbook publishers, ActiveExpression devices (new hand-held tools for instant quizzing), and graphing calculators.

Renowned education researcher Robert Marzano recently reported that integrating a suite of educational technologies — that includes an interactive whiteboard, teaching software, and student response systems — into instruction can raise student achievement by 17%!

- In our school district, secondary math students can now access their math textbooks, worksheets, extra practice, and online quizzes through the Internet.
- Math teachers are creating lessons that engage students with Activboard presentations, coupled with gathering instant feedback from students with ActiveExpressions devices. Timely responses provided with this type of technology allow a teacher to immediately ascertain how many students understand a problem or concept, when to move on, and who may need extra help.
- Graphing calculators are also used in conjunction with the Activboards at the high school. Funded through a grant from the Snoqualmie Valley Schools Foundation, class sets of graphing calculators allow individuals to explore math concepts at their desks while an interactive graphing calculator is displayed on the Activboard.

Your Bond Dollars at Work...



Progress continues on several upgrades to our schools per March 2009 Bond funding. Due for completion at the end of January, check out the hourly webcam shots of the *Wildcat Court* construction within MSHS on the district website.

Planning for Future Growth

The School Board has narrowed discussions around two key options to address future overcrowding at Mount Si High School:

- **Expansion of Mount Si High School**
- **Annexation of SMS to the high school, & Build a Replacement Middle School**

Read more about these options on the district website at www.svsd410.org.

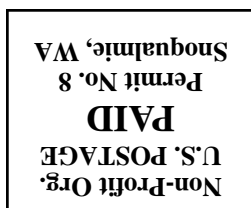
Enrichment Reaches New Heights at Fall City Elementary School

The Snoqualmie Valley is blessed with many professionals that are passionate about working in elementary schools. Fall City Elementary School has worked with its PTSA and teachers to develop and fund an enrichment plan that every student in the school takes part in. Formerly known as "Science and Artist in Action", their enrichment program has grown to include monthly lessons not only in art and science, but also in health, nutrition, and writing.

Every month, each grade level has a guest teacher for half of a school day. Students participate in lessons created and delivered by local experts in their field. In art, students learn drawing techniques with pencils and paper, water colors, oil pastels, charcoal, and watercolors. With the help of a local published children's author, students are working to publish their own books! Students are writing poetry and stories, learning how to elaborate and add voice, and illustrations! With the help and inspiration of a local athlete who qualified for the world triathlon competition, students learn about proper nutrition, training programs, and the joy of being physically fit.

When asked about their favorite part of enrichment time, one student shared, "I love the pastels. They are fun because you can make cool colors and they remind me of crayons!" Another student said, "I like nutrition and fitness. I have learned a lot about the food pyramid and want to train for the Fall City Days Run." There is a lot of excitement about the idea of students becoming published authors. A third grade student explained, "I am a *real* author now because I am writing a book that people can actually buy," and added enthusiastically, "My grandma already ordered two copies!"

BOXHOLDER OR RURAL ROUTE



Snoqualmie Valley School District
P.O. Box 400
Snoqualmie, WA 98065
www.svsd410.org



2009-2010 Snoqualmie Valley School District Directory

Elementary Schools:

Cascade View Elementary School
425-831-4100
34816 S.E. Ridge St.
Snoqualmie, WA 98065
Ray Wilson, Principal

Fall City Elementary
425-831-4000
33314 S.E. 42nd
Fall City, WA 98024
Dan Schlotfeldt, Principal

North Bend Elementary
425-831-8400
400 E. 3rd Street
North Bend, WA 98045
Jim Frazier, Principal

Opstad Elementary
425-831-8300
1345 Stilson Ave. S.E.
North Bend, WA 98045
John Jester, Principal

Snoqualmie Elementary
425-831-8050
39801 S.E. Park St.
Snoqualmie, WA 98065
Cori Pflug, Principal

Middle Schools:

Chief Kanim Middle School
425-831-8225
32627 Redmond-Fall City Rd.
Fall City, WA 98024
Kirk Dunckel, Principal

Snoqualmie Middle School
425-831-8450
9200 Railroad Ave. S.E.
Snoqualmie, WA 98065
Vernie Newell, Principal

Twin Falls Middle School
425-831-4150
46910 S.E. Middle Fork Road
North Bend, WA 98045
Ruth Moen, Principal
Martin Barber, Assistant Principal

Alternative School:

Two Rivers School
425-831-4200
330 Ballarat Ave. N.
North Bend, WA 98045
Tom Athanases, Principal

High School:

Mount Si High School
8651 Meadowbrook Way S.E.
Snoqualmie, WA 98065
Randy Taylor, Principal
Greg Hart, Associate Principal
Beth Castle and Cindy Wilson, Assistant Principals

Main Office: 425-831-8100
Attendance: 425-831-8200
Counseling: 425-831-8150

Administrative Office:

8001 Silva Ave. S.E. phone: 425-831-8000
P.O. Box 400 fax: 425-831-8040
Snoqualmie, WA 98065 www.svsd410.org

Joel Aune, Superintendent 425-831-8000
Don McConkey, Assistant Superintendent 425-831-8018
Ron Ellis, Business Services Director 425-831-8011
Jeff Hogan, Technology Director 425-831-8019
Nancy Meeks, Student Services Director 425-831-8015
Beverly Root, Personnel Director 425-831-8000
Jim Garhart, Transportation Supervisor 425-831-8020
Carl Larson, Operations Supervisor 425-831-8005
Pat Reilly, Food Services Supervisor 425-831-8009
Carolyn Malcolm, Public Information 425-831-8423

School Board:

Directors: *Marci Busby, Scott Hodgins, Craig Husa,*
Caroline Loudenback, Dan Popp
Student Representatives: *Patricia Prewitt, Cassady Weldon*



District website:
www.svsd410.org