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Eastmont Smiles



Eastmont Academy Provides Flexible, Hybrid Learning



Taylor and Rylan Nunn, Eastmont Academy students, attend a field trip with their parents, Cara and Josh, to the Leavenworth Reindeer Farm. The trip was one of the academy's Out & About in Our Community Family Activity days.

As the nation emerges from the pandemic and life returns to something resembling normal, the way we're educating our children is still undergoing big changes.

The Eastmont Academy, which last year was fully virtual, has become more of a hybrid model this year, says Rae Hughes, the 3rd, 4th and 5th-grade teacher for the academy.

"This year we're taking more of a hybrid stance," Hughes said. "So the kids come to campus for two days a week and then they do the rest of their work at home."

With the reduced time on campus comes an increase in responsibility and accountability. Even though the students aren't on campus full time, they are still expected to complete their schoolwork.

That's where parents come in, said Katie Moore, the educator in charge of the 5th though 8th graders in the program.

"We're a parent-partner program," she said. "So what that means is that we provide an educational experience for our students who choose to do some of their coursework at home under the supervision of their parents."

Her students come in on Tuesday mornings from 9 to 12. This gives them a chance to (continued, page 6)



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MEET OUR NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Focus On: Management

Joy Dawe

DIRECTOR DISTRICT #4 - AT LARGE



Joy Dawe grew up in Missoula, Montana. She continued her education at the Unversity of Montana in Missoula and earned her B.A. in business with a marketing emphasis.

She was a stay-at-home mom for a number of years, raising her four children with Lonnie, her husband of 29 years, and worked part time in children's ministry. When her youngest started school, she decided to return to school herself and earned her RN degree from Big Bend Community College in Moses Lake. Since then, she has worked as a labor and delivery nurse and OR circulator, and is currently a medical/surgical nurse.

Two of her four children have attended East Wenatchee schools: their son, Skylar, graduated from

Eastmont last year and is currently at the University of Idaho, and her youngest son, Micah, is a junior at Eastmont High. Her daughter and granddaughter also live in East Wenatchee.

Joy decided to run for the school board because she could see how the COVID-19 pandemic was negatively affecting her children. "As my boys were expressing their frustrations, we discussed different ways to make changes in our community, and the importance of standing up for

your beliefs. Serving on the school board is a great way to make changes, as well as support the efforts that have been made so far," she said.

Her goals as a board member are to help Eastmont schools return to normal as soon as possible and to make sure our children get the best possible education, preparing them for their future and to be effective members of our community.

"Eastmont School District is unique because of the small-town environment. Everybody knows one another, and the teachers and staff

truly love the children. As challenges are presented, they work together to figure out the best approach and make changes that are beneficial to our kids,"

Joy enjoys the outdoors. "I feel blessed to be in this area where there is so much to explore," she said. In the winter, she likes snowboarding and showshoeing, and in the summer she loves expoloring new trails to hike and mountain bike.



Joy Dawe (front) enjoys exploring the outdoors in North Central Washington. She is pictured here on a ski trip with, from left to right: Philip Vandervelde, Winter Dawe, Amy Dawe, Zachary Dawe, Skylar Dawe, Micah Dawe, and her husband, Lonnie Dawe.

Jason Heinz

DIRECTOR DISTRICT #3 - EASTMONT CENTRAL



Jason Heinz was raised in Wenatchee and graduated from Wenatchee High School in 1998. Jason has lived in East Wenatchee since moving back to the area 17 years ago. He holds

associate of applied science degrees in forestry management, parks and recreation, and wildlife management from Spokane Community College. Jason has worked for the U.S. Forest Service in wildland fire management for the past 24 years and has two daughters that attend Eastmont Schools.

Jason has served on numerous youth athletic boards within the area, including the East Wenatchee Events Board. He has also coached a number of basketball and fastpitch teams in the Wenatchee Valley.

In his free time, Jason likes to spend time outdoors mountain biking, skiing, hiking and wildlife viewing. Most importantly, he enjoys attending his daughters' athletic events.

Jason ran for the Eastmont School

Board because the decisions made by the school board not only affect his two daugthers, but also their friends, peers, and every other child within the school system. "I also wanted to bring a new perspective and renewed energy to the board, to not settle for the status quo, but to strive to be better and more transparent to the tax payers of East Wenatchee," he said.

One of his goals as a school board member is to hire the most effective and efficient Eastmont School District superintendent. "We need leadership skills, command presence, and the ability to make decisions that are in the best interest of the students and staff as foundational principles for the selection of this vital position," he said.

Jason said another important goal is to have all students not just meet or exceed state standards and graduate, but also to prepare them for after graduation. "There shouldn't be a cookie-cutter method of learning within Eastmont School District. Students learn in different ways and some excel in different formats of education."

Jason sees each of these areas as opportunities for the school board to stand behind our educators, students and community as a solid support base.

He has been especially impressed by the resolve of the entire district through the pandemic, including educators, support staff, and students. "I think our educators

have been through a great deal over the past two years, from ever-changing mandates, virtual learning, and transition back to in-person classrooms. Our students are among the most resilient individuals I have come across. Eastmont is very special in regards to graduation rates of 90% in the past couple of years, exceeding the state



Jason Heinz visiting Disneyland with his daughters.

average. I am proud to be a part of such a high-functioning, highly reliable district that embodies leadership commitment, safety, and continuous improvement," he said.

"Community involvement for our school district is noticeable and remarkable. Between parents, community members and businesses, we all strive to meet the needs of our students."

Superintendent's Message: Students Are Our Priority

Focus On: District Messages

COVID continues to be a primary factor in the daily lives of educators as we work with students, families, and our community. It seems that just as our numbers are starting to improve, something changes in recommended safeguards and prevention measures.

Since March 2019, we have all been guick to share our opinion on what we disagree with in how this pandemic has been managed, including myself. Yet recently, I was challenged by another superintendent that we as educators and community members must turn the corner as citizens and a community

from what we are against, to what we are for. Agreeing on what we are for is much easier with students' health and safety, quality instruction, and getting all students to graduation.

In today's varied political climate, I

continue to share that as a public school district, Eastmont serves the community best by striving to be an entity (similar to Switzerland) that is not on one side or the other of the political spectrum, but rather remains neutral with student success as our primary and constant focus. Once students graduate, they will venture out and determine their own opinions and beliefs as citizens, voters, parents, community members, and future leaders.



Superintendent Search

February will be a busy month as the Board reviewed applicants on the 7th to determine those for a first interview on the 15th and 17th. The two or three finalists from those interviews will be invited back for a second interview during the week of the 22nd. Ideally, the Board will select and have a new superintendent under contract by the first of March, who will start in Eastmont on July 1. This person likely be involved with some District activities prior to July if they involve the 2022-23 school year. More information on this process can be found on the Eastmont website under Superintendent Search.

Finances

Eastmont welcomes our new **Executive Director of Financial** Services, Caryn Metsker. Caryn graduated from Eastmont and is excited to now be serving our District and the community. Her goal is to provide District leadership with the financial information they need to ensure good use of public funds, meet all audit requirements, and continue to maintain fiscal health as a priority of the District.

Reconfiguration and Attendance Area Revisions

Hundreds of students and staff moved for the 2021-22 school year as we transitioned from K-4 elementary schools to K-5 elementary schools and from one to two junior high schools. This process will be completed with the start of the 2022-23 school year as all elementary schools expand to serve K-6 and both junior highs will offer programs for grades 7-9.

Enrollment and community growth forecasts continue to show this configuration of students in our schools will provide growth capacity at all levels for the next 10 years for Eastmont.

Safety in a Pandemic

The requirements to operate safe schools with COVID in our community continue to be updated by the Washington State Department of Health and the Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) as conditions change. As a public school district, we are obligated to follow these requirements. If there are options for implementation, we examine what works best for our unique situation as a district and community, get guidance from our local public health officer, and then update our daily practices and expectations. We communicate current required safeguards in a weekly electronic bulletin. To receive these updates and future emergency message please visit the District's website at www.eastmont206.org and click on

the Community Sign-up Information -Powered by ParentSquare! link.

We are very aware there are those that prefer to not mask, distance, and are declining the vaccination. Yet to remain open and be eligible to provide basic Preschool-12th grade instruction, athletics, and extracurricular activities, we ask for your compliance with our requirements whenever you are on our campuses or at events. Failure to do this may result in cancelation of games and events, school closures, loss of revenue, L & I fines, or litigation for non-compliance, given we are a public entity. Please know that when the opportunity is available to return to pre-pandemic operations, Eastmont will do this as quickly and as safely as possible.

Construction Update

Construction is basically completed with 20 new classrooms, four cafeterias, and three kitchens in use and the new restrooms and concessions at the high school ready to open once baseball starts. There is some landscaping remaining around these sites that will need to be completed once spring arrives

As with prior construction projects, our team was able to keep these on schedule and within budget even with the pandemic delays. Plans are now underway for Phase II of construction to finish the State matched modernization of Cascade Elementary, Lee Elementary, Kenroy Elementary, and Rock Island Elementary. There will also be projects

considered for improvements to athletics and performing arts facilities.

Our Board is tasked with determining both immediate (5 - 10 years) and long term (10 - 30 years) school and support service needs. The current study on this is funded from a State grant that has been allocated to hire school architects, engineers, and planners who are experts in this area. Once finished, a formal report will go to the Board of Directors with recommendations regarding possible future State and locally funded projects. The Board will also solicit community input on priorities as they determine those projects that would be funded with 100% local levies.

Multilingual Learning Breaks Barriers at Eastmont

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Joanne Johanson has taught English Language Learners (ELLs) for many years in Eastmont Schools



Mrs. Johanson with Susan and Shayla, two of her students, in 2018.

Eastmont's to commitment multilingual learning is a cornerstone of our philosophy of inclusion. It benefits not just students who come from households where English is a second language, but also encourages students of all backgrounds to become multilingual and learn about other cultures.

Teacher Spotlight: Joanne Johanson

Joanne Johanson is an empowering and influential teacher that flies low under the radar but has everything to be admired. Her cheerful personality and endearing character foster lasting bonds.

She has managed to successfully exit English Language Learners (ELLs) at a high rate while working to ensure that all newcomer students have a schedule throughout their high school career that is best for their language experience.

Joanne works above and beyond to ensure that as a school and district we create services that place students' needs at the forefront. Mrs. Johanson has been working with ELLs for many years and has continued to build strong relationships with each one of her students. Students not only look for "Mrs. J," as they call her, for academic support but more importantly for social-emotional support.

She cares for students and helps them find jobs, buy groceries, or acts as a social worker. She understands the need for a holistic approach and works to meet all of the student's basic needs so that they can succeed.

Students often walk into her classroom just to say hi, to inform her of their latest job endeavors, or even to share their progress at home.

We asked Mrs. Johnson about her experience in the program:

Q: How long has the multilingual program been in existence?

A: The program has been in existence for many years as it's state and federally-funded. The program was recently renamed from Bilingual to Multilingual as the state is shifting the title to ensure we are viewing this program from an asset-based perspective.

Q: What is the goal of the program?

A: Our district goal is to advance academic language development and academic achievement for ALL children and youth who are culturally and linguistically diverse through high-quality standards, assessments, research, and professional learning for educators.

Q: How many students are involved? And what age/grade ranges?

A: The program includes over 1,000 students district-wide in all grades from K-12.

Q: How can parents get their children involved if they're interested?

A: Parents are encouraged to help their children by sharing this common understanding of the value of their native language and the fact that learning a new language will enable them to reach higher levels of learning. Parents are also encouraged to contact the local Migrant Bilingual Achievement Specialist at each school site if they have further questions and also participate in our Informed Parents series.

Multilingual **Mentorship Program**

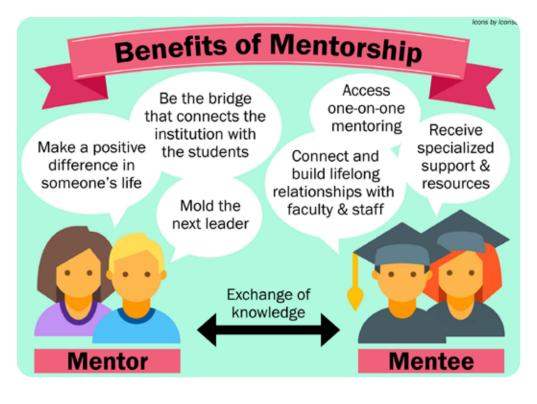


The first Multilingual Mentorship meeting took place at Eastmont Junior High in January as a part of the Recruiting Washington Teachers (RWT) Bilingual Education Initiative (BEI). RWT-BEI is a high school teacher academy program to recruit, prepare, and mentor bilingual students to become future bilingual educators in the state of Washington using the Career and Technical Education (CTE) department.



Eastmont teachers and students participating in the January Multilingual Mentorship meeting





Bowling Team Strikes Up Friendships in Postseason Academy



Even though the season has already ended, the Eastmont Bowling Team still meets every week to bowl at Eastmont Lanes just for fun. Seven players competed at regionals and state this year and finished third at state

"Can you hear them chattering down there?" Coach Christy Binge asks as she points to the team laughing and socializing in the background. It's a week after the Eastmont Girls Bowling team's season ended. But they're together again, bowling just for fun at Eastmont Lanes.

The Eastmont team is feared and respected throughout the Pacific Northwest for their skill and determination. They have taken the state championship three out of the past six years and this year took third place. But their team spirit goes well beyond the regular season.

"So, two weeks ago, pretty much I had to decide who was going to go to districts, and that's only 7 people. And those same 7 people went to state," Binge explained. "So we had to say goodbye to everybody else on the team - like, abruptly."

on scraped knees at Clovis Point School

"I do everything from band-aids to ice

to splinting an arm or a leg, just about

changed - most notably, the age of the

children she and her fellow health aide,

Marisol Cervantes Gutierrez, attend to.

CLOVIS POINT SCHOOL

Shiela Stehr, health aide at Clovis Elementary

It's Clovis' first year as an elementary

In her tenure at Clovis, a lot has

coming to school every day.

everything," she said.

for 13 years, and she still looks forward to transition.

But the team decided to get together every week even after the season ended. "They're very happy to be back together. And they said, can we do this every week? They became a family," she said.

"I used to be super shy," says bowling team member Carlie Sebastian. "It's mainly just this year that's really been... pushed my boundaries with talking to people and realizing that I am so much more than I thought I was. It's an amazing program. Everybody's so supportive. They really, truly treat you like a family and that's what I really love.'

health aides. But it's not an unwelcome

"It's kind of fun having the little ones,"

older kids. Band-aids do wonders, ice does

As is the case for many Americans since

the pandemic started, their workload has

also increased because of COVID-19. The

two have many added responsibilities

implementation of protocols, contacting

But both agreed the children seem

happy to be physically back in school.

Cervantes Gutierrez asks for parents to

children and Stehr wants them to know

"One thing I want parents to know is

that I love these kids like they're mine,"

she said. "So I treat them as if they were

that their children are well cared for.

have patience with school staff and their

due to the pandemic, like screening,

parents, and more.

she said. "It's a little different from the

wonders - they just want to be loved.

View Bowling Team video at: cutt.ly/ embowlingspirit

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: SHIELA STEHR

Shiela Stehr has been putting band-aids school, which is a transition for the two





her teachers electronically. make time for you



Eastmont Academy 7th grader.

agreed that the teachers are very accessible, both online and in person. "I said. "And if you're confused on some of ask your teacher."

and teachers can accomplish together through the Eastmont Academy exists in their own imaginations, Hughes said.

"When you're in an at-home environment she said. "Our

imagination is pretty much the peak of it."

View Eastmont Academy video at: cutt.ly/ emacademy



(continued from page 1)

interact with their peers, receive direct instruction and engage in discussionbased learning. She said when they have their students on campus, it's also a great opportunity to do science instruction because they can get their hands on the materials in person.

When the students are off campus, a majority of their instruction comes in



Katie Moore, Eastmont Academy requires of our 5th - 8th grade educator.

pre-recorded lessons via Google classroom, where students can learn at their own pace. "One of the

the form of

things that think our program really students and

helps them build is the independent work skills, sometimes we refer to them as the soft skills, that are so important in the workforce," Moore said.

The successful students are the ones who are able to manage their time, said Moore. This requires reducing distractions and staying focused on the task at hand. Both of those skills are crucial in an evolving environment where many employees work remotely.

Kiana Negrete, a 7th grade student enrolled at Eastmont Academy, said she likes that she can always reach out to

"I like how they

to understand so

if you need help with something you can just email your teacher and they'll take time out of their day to help you," she said.

Tila Main, a 6th grade academy student, like coming in person because I get to hang out with my friends and the teachers," Tila the assignments for the week you can just

The only limit to what students, parents,

like this, the options are kind of limitless,"



Drama Stages Creative Mousetrap Performance Through COVID Challenges

the actors and technical crew.

Actors focused on clearly enunciating

their words and projecting their voices

masks. Meanwhile, the technical crew

learned how to set up and configure

to overcome the muffling effect from the

loudly and clearly.

wireless microphones to

project the actors' voices

Blank had a unique

perspective since she has

worked as a tech in previous

productions at the high school

"Trying to work through some

of that, plus teaching some of

our new techs how to mic with

masks, is definitely difficult,"

she said. You have to project

trying to be spatially aware on

the stage to try and maintain

more than normal and just

distancing... are definitely

By Oliver Lewis

In November 1956, Agatha Christie's play The Mousetrap opened at The Ambassador's theater in London. The production holds the distinction of the longest initial run of any play in history with over 27,500 performances. It ran continuously until March 2020, when it closed during the COVID-19 lockdown.

In December 2021, the Eastmont High School Drama Club performed The Mousetrap as their first play since the pandemic began, with resounding success. The play was directed by Marcus Bingham and starred Emilija Foreman as Mollie Ralston, Michael Blank as Giles Ralston, Gavin William Hundley as Christopher Wren, Juliette Schmauder as Mrs. Boyle, William Olson as Major Metcalf, Hannah Blank as Miss Casewell, Victoria Conner as Paravacinni, and Rowan Kappler as Detective Sergeant

"Every person is suspicious, every

person is a red herring," Hannah Blank explained about the characters. "We had to work really hard to read our body language and carefully articulate it so at one point all of us were under suspicion."

The entire play was performed while wearing masks and practicing social distancing, offering a unique challenge to



Hanna Blank played Miss Casewell in The Mousetrap after working as a tech in previous productions.

The Eastmont Drama Club performed Agatha Christie's play The Mousetrap in December. It was their first performance since the coronavirus pandemic began and presented unique challenges for masking and social distancing. some challenges we've had along the

> Ken Sinko, technical director for the auditorium at the high school, was very impressed how the students handled the unique requirements of the production. "These kids are amazing. They do things constantly that surprise me, astound me and make me so very proud that I can be part of this program," he said.

The world has changed a great deal since 1956, but one thing that remains the same is the love of Agatha Christie's vibrant characters and witty words.

View The Mousetrap Drama Club video at cutt.ly/mousetrap



Winter Athletics Update – Go Cats!

Winter sports

By Russ Alman



Russ Waterman Athletic Director

are finishing up and athletic director, Russ Waterman, has a number of shout-outs for teams and coaches. The EHS boys wrestling team sent 9 athletes

to regionals, two of whom won their weight classes at districts. Three of the boys finished 4th at regionals and competed at state. The girls wrestling team sent three athletes to regionals.

Two boys swim team members earned a ticket to state. Darcy Bruggman, boys and girls swim team coach, was awarded the Big 9 boys swim coach of the year. She was also awarded this honor last fall for the girls team, so congratulations again to Coach Bruggman!

Girls bowling finished third at state, continuing their tradition of success. Five of their 6 trips to state have resulted in a third place or better finish.



Darcy Bruggman was awarded Big 9 boys swim coach of the year. She also received the same honor for airls swim last fall.

Cheer competed in the medium non-tumbling category at state in early February and took second place against 7 other schools, earning the first trophy for cheer in Eastmont school history.

Girls basketball finished strong with a close, tough loss to Wenatchee. As of this writing, boys basketball has earned a birth in the state playoffs.

Spring sports begin on February 28, so if your student athlete has not already registered, please do this as soon as possible.

For the latest sports updates, visit Eastmont Wildcats on Facebook and visit the new Eastmont sports website at eastmontathletics.com.

View Russ Waterman's winter sports wrap-up video at: cutt.ly/winter22sports



Focus On: District Updates



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.

View all open positions available in Eastmont Schools at



eastmont206.tedk12.com/hire/

Benefits – including medical insurance and retirement – are included!

Full-Time and Substitute Drivers

- Pay starts at \$21.67 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



Eastmont School District will begin accepting new kindergarten registrations on March 1st at the Eastmont School District Office.

Students must be at least 5 years of age by August 31st to enroll. Registration packets are available in the following locations:

- At www.eastmont206.org in the "Parents and Community" tab.
- At Eastmont School District Office, 800 Eastmont Avenue.

Please register early to ensure your child's spot at one of our schools.

FOLLOW EASTMONT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow Eastmont Schools 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.





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