

# Board to Board



Fall 2015 Board News

ESD 112 to Southwest Washington School Districts



## MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



Dear ESD 112 Region Board Members,  
It's our first Board to Board of the 2015-16 school year and I know how what a busy fall it's been! On behalf of your ESD 112 Board, I want to thank you for your dedication and commitment to education. Your work matters!

I hope you've had a chance to check out our new ESD Newsroom, where you'll find lots of education-related news from the ESD and across the region. We couldn't be more proud of this new communications tool, which is updated frequently. Keep the link handy to read the latest news: [www.esd112news.org](http://www.esd112news.org).

Speaking of newsworthy events, the Washington State Board of Education met at ESD 112 November 4th-5th. It's always a pleasure host them during their visit to Southwest Washington where they hear from many local superintendents and staff about the important issues and challenges facing education. We've had several opportunities to discuss education challenges with our elected officials. Locally, the Senate Listening Tour made a stop here in September. We are also gearing up for our annual Legislative Forum, scheduled for December 16, from 10:00-12:00 (lunch to follow). We always get good feedback from our legislators about this event and they truly look forward to visiting with you.

I had the opportunity this fall to travel to Washington D.C. for the Association of Educational Service Agency's Call to Action Conference. We visited personally with Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell and Representative Jamie Herrera-Buetler about many items that are important to our local school districts – including the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act.

As always, it is a pleasure representing you on the ESD 112 Board. Please feel free to reach out to us at any time with questions or challenges.

Sincerely,

*Patricia (Trish) Kellogg, ESD 112 Board Chair*

## SUPPORTING ACADEMICS AND ENRICHMENT

# REACH Grant supports Klickitat County Schools

Students in three Columbia Gorge schools will benefit from extra learning time and enrichment programs thanks to a 21st Century Community Learning Centers federal grant.

The \$292,600 grant will support high poverty students in Lyle and Wishram School Districts. Students in Klickitat County school districts have limited access to Internet or other afterschool programs.

The grant provides before and after school academic support and enrichment activities such as drug and violence prevention, counseling, art, music, recreation, technology, character education and field trips.

Called REACH, the program will bring local businesses and community organizations together to provide experiences that focus on leadership, service, natural awareness and art.

"The program provides a safe place for students who don't have access to many other activities in their community," said Barbara Lomas, ESD 112 Associate Superintendent. "This grant will expand students vision of the world beyond their communities and into new possibilities for the future."



*Students Dallesport Elementary in the Lyle School District participate in after-school enrichment activities.*

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### Poetry Out Loud

February 2 from 5-7:00 p.m.

### Regional High School Art Show

April 4-June 2

### Student Artist Reception

March 15 from 5-7:00 p.m.



*From the 2015 Art Show: "Aphrodite", Hannah Jeung, Evergreen High School*



# New ESD 112 early learning centers serve young learners

## FROM POOL TO SCHOOL, HOUGH TRANSFORMS INTO LEARNING HUB

This fall, a new state-of-the-art early learning center in the Hough neighborhood in Vancouver opened its doors to approximately 140 children ages three to five enrolled in the state's Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP).

The project began in 2014 when ESD 112 first received the news of a \$1.1 million ECEAP grant from the Department of Early Learning (DEL) to serve an additional 108 preschool children in Clark County. (The agency has since funded additional ECEAP slots to ESD 112 to provide learning programs for low income children in Southwest Washington.)

"I was so pleased to see the level of commitment and passion that has gone into creating this new early learning facility," said Heather Moss, Deputy Director of Washington State Department of Early Learning. "I am impressed with the high-quality details and personal neighborhood touches. DEL is only as successful as the community partners who actually put into action the programs and policies we manage from Olympia."

Vancouver Public Schools will provide hot meals for ECEAP children and share playground space at Hough Elementary. The Hough Foundation will continue to partner with ESD 112 to provide music in the classroom, championed by Hough Foundation Founder Paul Christensen.

ESD 112 purchased the property from the Hough Foundation in July, 2014 for \$150,000, and invested another

\$1.5 million in the renovation project.

For questions contact coordinator Marlene Gonzalez, at marlene.gonzalez@esd112.org.

## MINNEHAHA CENTER PROVIDES IMPORTANT NEIGHBORHOOD FUNCTION

The Minnehaha neighborhood also has a new early learning center. The Minnehaha Early Childhood Education

and Assistance Program (ECEAP) Center celebrated its Grand Opening October 12. With just a few short months to turn the vacant facility into a vibrant early learning center that would house young children, ESD 112 and Children Northwest staff rolled up their sleeves and got to work. "It was very much a team effort getting the facility ready to welcome children," said Kristi Baker, Executive Director for SWCCC. "I can't think of a department here at the ESD that wasn't involved."

The new center serves 60 qualifying students and may expand to serve up to 120 in the future.



*Local dignitaries and students look on as ESD 112 Superintendent Tim Merlino cuts the ribbon to the entrance of the new Hough Early Learning Center.*

# ESD 112 Board Representing YOU

ESD 112 is governed by a board of directors consisting of seven citizens elected by the school board members in the region's 30 public school districts. The board members represent geographic director districts based on U.S. Census data. The ESD board is responsible for policy and governance of ESD 112 and for providing direction to the superintendent who is advised by local school district superintendents.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS RE-ELECTED

Five ESD 112 board positions were up for election this fall and all five were re-elected to their respective positions. Ann Campbell, Richard Graham, Rainer Houser, Marilyn Koenninger, and Steve Wrightson will serve January 2016 through January 2020.