January was School Board Recognition Month and lots of activities honored board members throughout the region. I want to offer my "thanks" to the board directors in the ESD 112 region for their hard work and dedication.

On behalf of the ESD 112 board, I want to say “thank you” to all of the board directors for your dedication. It really does make a difference!

Often unacknowledged are the long hours these volunteers spend each month, giving up their evenings to attend meetings and events. Their decisions impact students and staff beyond measure. Board members serve without pay in the name of supporting public education. And they wouldn’t have it any other way. You might think that there would be a high turnover rate for this job, but that’s simply not true. Perhaps it’s indicative of the nature of a board director’s character. They don’t shy away from hard work, long hours or tough decisions. In fact, some of them serve for decades. See story of two long-time board members (on reverse side).

On behalf of the ESD 112 board, I want to say “thank you” to all of the board directors for your dedication. It really does make a difference!

Sincerely,

Patricia (Trish) Kellogg, ESD 112 Board Chair

ESD 112 and PREVENT! Coalition, in partnership with Clark County Public Health, has received a $247,196 grant to address marijuana education among youth in Clark and Skamania counties. Funded by the State Department of Health through a portion of the state’s marijuana sales, the two-year grant will allow PREVENT! substance abuse prevention coalition to focus on marijuana prevention and education among youth.

A recent Healthy Youth survey showed that 8% of eighth graders, 18% of tenth graders, and 27% of 12th graders reported using marijuana in the last 30 days.

“There’s a lot of confusion around the dangers and consequences for youth,” said PREVENT! Director Joy Lyons. “We have some great resources to help address these issues for youth and parents. Our amazing volunteers and partners are collaborating to make a big impact in these communities.”

For more information, contact Joy Lyons, (360) 952-3397.

Suggested reading for parents: starttalkingnow.org or www.preventclarkcounty.org

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Comming Soon!

Regional High School Art Show

The hallways of ESD 112 will be transformed into an art gallery February 29-March 30, as we host the Annual Regional High School Art Show. An artists’ reception is set for Tuesday, March 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

From the 2015 Art Show: “Aphrodite”, Hannah Jeung, Evergreen High School
BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Thank you long-serving board members!

Jim Bays, Woodland School District

Jim Bays retired from 42 years serving as a school board director for Woodland Public Schools with his final board meeting on November 23.

Bays began serving on the board in 1973 following his graduation from high school when he was just 19 years old. “I was always interested in politics, having served as both the Vice President and President of my high school’s ASB while I attended, and I felt that I had a lot to offer in terms of my perspective as a young graduate,” said Bays. “In addition, I’m a very strong community guy, and I feel that people need to give back and be a part of their community to make it a better place.”

“A good school board is an integral element of an effective school district, and Jim’s perspective was incredibly valuable in guiding Woodland Public Schools over his years as a director,” said Superintendent Michael Green. “Regardless of the issues facing the board, Jim always had the best interest of the schools, students, and community at heart.”

Tony Sarsfield, Centerville School District

Centerville Board Director Tony Sarsfield served on the Centerville School Board for 35 years. A certified public accountant, Tony is currently a semi-retired farmer and rancher and former member of the Portland State University mens basketball team. In fact, Tony is such an avid basketball player, he continued playing until just a few years ago, even into his eighties! He continues to sponsor a men’s basketball team in The Dalles. As long time residents of Centerville and supporters of education, Tony and his wife Marilyn were very active in the community. In fact, Marilyn was the district’s first Kindergarten teacher, which she started in the basement of their home!

“Tony has seen many changes in education over his 35-year tenure on the Centerville School Board,” said Centerville teacher Kristin Cameron. “He has been instrumental in applying the most current and up-to-date requirements for our rural students at Centerville. His driving force is, ‘What is best for the kids?’ The school, students, and staff will miss this iconic figure on the board that continually supports students.”

EDUCATIONAL SERVICE DISTRICT 112

Teachers are among statewide leaders

Three ESD 112 region teachers will join a statewide cadre as they share their classroom experiences via social media.

Thanks to a grant from College Spark, and the support of Puget Sound ESD (PSESD) and Ready Washington, teacher leaders will use social media platforms to share their learnings and resources about college and career ready learning standards and assessments, and educator evaluation with other teachers across the region.

ESD 112 teachers selected via a competitive application process are bloggers Debbie Webb, Ocean Beach School District, and Robert Mattson, Camas School District. Erin Lark from Evergreen Public Schools is the Twitter expert for our region.

For more information, visit www.corelaboratewa.org.