

# Special Services Newsletter

January 2022 *Happy New Year!*



I hope that everyone is doing their best to stay healthy and safe this month. An extra special shout out to families and educators who are helping all students get use to wearing masks. I have seen some great strategies used to re-enforce the wearing of masks, even for 10 seconds, just like any other behavior expectation. Way to go!!!

This month we will continue to point out ways that all schools can be more inclusive. The leadership team (Directors and Facilitators) are reading: "The Inclusive Education Checklist: A Self-Assessment of Best Practices" by Villa and Thousand. It is a fascinating handbook on how schools can do more to help **all** students have a sense of belonging in the school community. A quote from the book directly speaks to what inclusion education is: ***"both a vision and a practice. Namely, inclusive education is both the vision and practice of welcoming, valuing, empowering, and supporting the diverse academic, social, and emotional, communication and language learning of all students in shared environments and experiences for the purpose of attaining the desired goals of education. Inclusive education is a belief that everyone belongs, regardless of need or perceived ability and that all are valued and contributing members of the school community. It is providing all students with opportunities to experience the goals of education: belonging, mastery, independence (choice making) and generosity."***

Here are some little nuggets from the book that support inclusionary practices:

1. All students are general education students, first.
2. Presume Competence and High Expectation for all students.
3. All students have access to the same curricular and co—curricular activities.
4. Students are supported to learn skills leading to greater independence, self-determination, and self-advocacy.
5. Educators should be given the opportunity to participate in Professional Development activities to strengthen skills of differentiation.
6. Assure that those educators that are working on co-teaching or push in services have some common planning time to discuss lessons, assign roles, look at data, and plan instruction, etc.

Next month we will dive into a Framework that seems to help with inclusive practices called, Universal Design for Learning (UDL).

~Kelley Clevenger

## Mindful Moment

All too often, our days start out in a rush. Therefore, it is important to try to be aware of that fact and take steps to sneak in mindful moments during activities that we already do. So, instead of adding one more thing to our already full morning schedule, we can embed this time for ourselves naturally. I recommend you start with incorporating mindfulness as you take your morning shower. This time is a guaranteed 5-10 minutes that you can focus on yourself and starting of the day fresh. As the water hits your face and body, imagine that it is washing away the stress of yesterday, and renewing your body for what the new day will bring. You can do this silently, or you can even say to yourself, "may the water cleanse the worry of yesterday and bring clean energy into my day." You can repeat this as you dry off with the towel: wiping away worry of what is to be and preparing for a fresh start.

Give it a try! I hope it will bring a moment of peace to your day!

**FEBRUARY 8, 2022**

# **REPLACEMENT LEVIES**

*What they mean for Special Education*



- Provide \$10 million dollars in funding for special education
- Replace Jackson and Madison elementary schools providing enhanced spaces for special education services
- Provide 9 more nurses to work with all students with health issues
- Provides 3.6 million for counselor costs
- 4.4 million on student and staff safety costs
- Assure funding for ongoing integration of technology to support 1:1 computer use and assistive technology

[www.everettsd.org/2022Levies](http://www.everettsd.org/2022Levies)



## Way to go Brittney!

EPS Developmental Preschool Teacher Brittney Bernardy saw a problem and that needed to be fixed and jumped into action! Ms. Bernardy is one member of a team of EPS special educators who provide itinerant services for students living at the Nursing Evolutions Pediatric Critical Care House (PCCH) in Everett. While accompanying her students and the nursing staff on a walk around the neighborhood surrounding PCCH, Ms. Bernardy noticed that many of the sidewalks did not have ADA access and there were areas with no sidewalks at all, posing a safety issue for her students and their nurses when out into the community. At some crosswalks the timing of the stoplights was too short to allow the group of students to safely cross the street all together.

Ms. Bernardy contacted the City of Everett and after exchanging multiple emails invited city engineers to come see for themselves how the sidewalk accessibility and timing of traffic lights posed a safety concern and ADA accessibility issues. She also figured, who could possibly say "no" to these exceptional and adorable kids? While the engineers agreed that changes need to be made to the accessibility of the sidewalks, there will need to be considerable time and resources allocated to solve the problem. The engineers were able to immediately add time to the traffic lights to allow 6 additional seconds for the group to cross safely when on their neighborhood walk route! Thank you to Ms. Bernardy, City of Everett Engineers and PCCH Nursing Staff for their time and effort to advocate for improved accessibility for our students!



## **A message from you PTSA**

**Thank you to everyone who participated and supported our 2nd annual Run, Walk and Roll Virtual 5k. We had every single school in our District represented. The proceeds from this event go back to supporting special education classroom staff grants throughout our District. Staff members have already applied and we will be awarding funding in the next couple of weeks. We are looking forward to some upcoming training events and listening sessions in the near future. Please follow us on social media to keep up to date with the latest events and resources, or better yet, you can show your support by joining our PTSA."**



The Everett Special Education PTSA (Parent, Teacher, Student Association) is a community of parents, staff and students who work together to enrich the learning environment and provide resources to students and their families through advocacy, information, training for educators and students receiving special education services.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION PTSA: Click below for the links**

[PTSA: Facebook:](#) [Instagram](#)