

Milestone anniversaries: 50 and 20

It is a platinum kind of year at NEWESD 101. When a 50th anniversary (traditionally recognized by the color gold) coincides with a 20th (emerald green and white) the color conflict is perhaps best resolved by combining the two.

The anniversary color of 70 is platinum. It seems an appropriate choice for two institutions observing milestone anniversaries in 2019; two institutions recognized for stellar, platinum-quality performance across the decades.



NEWESD 101: 50 years – Washington’s nine Educational Service Districts have evolved from a system that began as 39 individual county offices of education. Then in 1969, the state Legislature replaced the county offices with a more efficient system of 14 regional units originally known as Intermediate School Districts, or ISDs.

Later consolidation (coupled with a change in name from ISDs to ESDs) reduced the number of districts to 12 in 1972; then nine, in 1977.

In the 50 years since launch, the regional approach to cooperative educational services has stood the test of time. Through the years, legislative studies and audits have consistently commended the ESDs for providing affordable, high-quality service to schools.

Indeed, a unique feature of ESDs is their funding model. Unlike local districts, which are heavily funded by the state, ESDs are largely self-supporting organizations. At NEWESD 101, for example, state core funding accounts for only about 3 percent of the overall budget. The other 97 percent comes through self-initiative including competitive grants, cooperatives and fees for service.

The 50th anniversary will be recognized in state events throughout the year, including a legislative reception in Olympia. In February, the anniversary also was recognized at the ceremonial opening of NEWESD 101’s Talbott Event Center (see story, page 3).



While educational needs have significantly changed over a half-century, one thing has stayed the same. NEWESD 101 remains true to its founding mission and values. Our mission is one of service. It always has been; it always be. For 50 years, it has been an honor to serve the schools of northeastern Washington.

School Nurse Corps: 20 years – In 1999, the Legislature approved another piece of landmark legislation; this one, perhaps the most important in state history with regard to student health.

Creation of the statewide School Nurse Corps erased inequities in the identification and management of student health needs, particularly in rural schools lacking access to a school nurse.

For the last 20 years, NEWESD 101 has successfully directed school nurse services in Adams, Ferry, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens and Whitman counties (see story and photo, page 3).

Between the two anniversaries, it is indeed a platinum celebration year.

Mini-grants offered

The Northeast Washington Education Council (NEWEC) is offering mini-grants of \$250 to \$500 for the acquisition of school supplies, equipment and student enrichment activities. NEWEC is a tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) affiliate of NEWESD 101.

The competition is open to all P-12 public schools and state-approved private and charter schools in the seven-county NEWESD 101 region. The NEWEC Board anticipates making approximately four awards.

Applications may be accessed at <https://bit.ly/2sRvZY7>. The application deadline is March 20, 2019.

Music? Or just noise?

I visit schools often ... the nature of my role. Whenever I visit a school or school district, I am attentive to the message(s) I experience and perceive; to the sense and feel *and intent* of the culture.

I would like to believe I have always paid attention to this, yet in a time of increased diversity in the nation we share, and unfortunately in a time when some seem more focused on division rather than unity, I am perhaps more aware than before.

I drive past a high school almost daily – one closest to my residence. At this school its message and culture are clear and pervasive – YOU BELONG. As in, *everyone* belongs – no matter who a student might be.

And it is not just a nice slogan on the outside of the school, on its walls inside, or on its publications – though it can be found in each of those places – it IS what the school intends and strives to be. A community where *all* belong, *all* are welcomed, *all* are supported to be themselves and find their future. What it is *not* is noise that means nothing to anyone.

In late January, I visited another high school where a similar message and “feel” were palpable. This school is in southwest Washington, and we were there to watch a nephew and niece play for their respective high school basketball teams. At this school, its message begins with WE ARE, and progresses from there.

Everywhere I looked there were signs and posters about *everyone* belonging as part of the “WE” – messages of acceptance, appreciation and respect for all; of the ills of and lack of tolerance for bullying; and visible evidence that WE includes *each* gender, and *all* races, religions, orientations, socioeconomic backgrounds.

And candidly, as I observed students interacting, it appeared to be more than just messages on shirts and walls; its evidence was hard to miss.

Like all of us, my educational journey included learning about *Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs* and *Bloom's Taxonomy*. Throughout the entirety of my career, I have reflected on both. While a case can be made for the import of each, I would purport that *Maslow's* must come before *Bloom's*.

Until basic needs are met, and a sense of safety, belonging and genuine RELATIONSHIPS are established, achievement of higher levels of the taxonomy (which *is* important) is hindered. Without the security of belonging, talk of higher level thinking and achievement is mostly noise.

These two schools appear to know that. While assuredly each of them strives to promote and support quality student achievement, they understand that such an outcome will be an outgrowth of genuine and accepting relationships that are fostered – in a way where *all* belong, and *all* matter.

So I consider ... as an educator, as a student, as a parent ... what would I most want? A school that strives for belonging before achievement, or one in which achievement is the overriding goal? I would choose the former, a school in which it is made clear *that everyone counts, is important, is valued and belongs*.

A school that makes real music, and not just meaningless noise.



Michael Dunn, Superintendent

Saluting our leaders, past and present

Phil Champlin joins the Board

NEWESD 101 is pleased to announce the appointment of Phil Champlin to its Board of Directors. He was appointed in January to fill a vacancy created by the retirement of long-time director Gary Coe.

Champlin is a well-recognized figure in Eastern Washington, having spent the last 10 years as executive director of the HUB Sports Center, a non-profit community sports venue in Liberty Lake.

He holds an MBA from the Marshall School of Business at the University of Southern California and a bachelor's degree in managerial economics from the University of California, Davis.

Continued on page 4.



Phil Champlin

Focus is published by the Superintendent of NorthEast Washington Educational Service District 101. Focus is published to provide current information about NEWESD 101-sponsored and co-sponsored programs and issues of educational significance to staff in the 59 public school districts, 45 state-approved private schools and two charter schools receiving administrative and instructional support services from NEWESD 101.

Comments, questions or suggestions should be sent to the editor, NEWESD 101, 4202 S. Regal St., Spokane, WA 99223, (509) 789-3540.

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School Nurse Corps celebrates 20 years

Julie Schultz, Alma McNamee and Linda Smith. Call them the terrific trio that has molded and grown a program impacting almost 100,000 students across northeastern Washington.

Schultz, McNamee and Smith are the heart of NEWESD 101's School Nurse Corps (SNC), the regional arm of a statewide program celebrating its 20th year in 2019.

Schultz, the director; McNamee, the team leader; and Smith, the administrative assistant, support a seasoned group of 30 registered nurses providing direct services to 51 regional districts and targeted support to an additional eight through professional learning and administrative assistance.

Unlike their predecessors of another generation who were kept busy by the predictable and routine (e.g., hearing tests and scraped knees), today's school nurses deal with a host of complex and life-threatening medical conditions such as asthma, severe allergies, seizures and diabetes.

School nurses today assess and identify health needs, develop individual health and emergency care plans, provide medication management, assist with immunization compliance and provide health education for students and staff. Without the school nurses, many students would receive little or no support in managing their health conditions.

Direct service, however, is just one side of the SNC coin. In addition to the daily work that goes on in schools, Schultz and McNamee also provide consultation and training for school nurses, staff, including administrators, and families in every district.

They are never more than a phone call or text message away from assisting with an urgent or chronic challenge.

In short, the job of the SNC is big and getting bigger. "Since 2002-03," says Schultz, "we've seen a 246-percent increase in the number of health conditions in the same number of students being served."



On the front lines of health: Members of the SNC fill a critical role in schools.

The nurses' positive impact is seen across a wide range of measures including improved mental and physical health, reduced absenteeism and increased academic achievement.

Nurses serving the NEWESD 101 region in 2019 include Beth Anheier, Amanda Baker, Kassi Breiter, Angela Brown, Kathy Conlin, Merilee Corbit, Laurie Crandall, Teresa D'Lerma, Becky Droter, Joan Dunn, Jolene Erickson, Cindy Hansen, Dianne Heaslet, Nicole Hendrickson, Robin Higginbotham-Jasmin, Lisa Hixson, Miranda Holling, Connie Johnson, Rebecca Kimball, Lori Koellen, Alma McNamee, Ariel Merrell, BJ Oja, Dena Olson, Larae Peterson, Misty Reed, Aimee Schell, Brittani Schoonover, Julie Schultz, Amber Sellars, Debbie Wolfe and Denise Wollweber.

Ask any of them the value of a happy, healthy, successful child. All will agree. The benefit is priceless.

Open for business

NEWESD 101's Talbott Event Center is now open. In late fall, crews finished work on an extensive improvement project that included construction of a 7,000-square foot addition.

The expanded center now includes a wing with an expansive large hall that can be divided into four individual spaces. With that flexibility, the facility can now accommodate crowds of 200 and more at individual events.

The addition was attached to the north side of the existing conference center, which also received floor and wall updates to match the new construction.

The facility is named after former NEWESD 101 Superintendent Brian Talbott, Ph.D., who led the agency from 1982-98.

Individual rooms also are named after NEWESD 101 luminaries. The J. Leigh Schultheis and Carl Putnam rooms are named after former NEWESD 101 board members and the Deb Ramsay room is named in honor of the agency's esteemed director of technology and design services who passed away in 2017.



Rooms in the new north wing – the Bi-County, Panorama, Spokane and Whitman rooms – are named after the four sub-regions of the NEWESD 101 service area.

If you haven't already attended a workshop in the Talbott Center, feel free to stop by for a visit.

Nothing like pellets to warm the heart

Every year, as school budgets are built, superintendents and business managers plan for unexpected emergencies ... roof leaks, broken water pipes and, the one everyone fears ... a boiler failure in the middle of winter.

Boilers dominate disaster planning to an almost obsessive degree. But, ask anyone who has been through one and they will tell you there is almost nothing worse. Don Baribault, superintendent of the Northport School District, knows first-hand, having experienced a boiler failure in the elementary school a couple of years back.

From that cold, dark beginning, however, comes a story with a warm, glowing outcome.

But first, for those who are not familiar with Northport, some context is helpful. Northport is a large district – not in students, but in geographic size. The district's 160 students are scattered across 327 square miles surrounded by the Colville National Forest in Stevens County.

Spokane is more than 100 miles to the south. The closest district to the north is in Rossland, British Columbia.



Snow and fog outside are no match for this equipment keeping it warm and toasty on the inside.

So, you get the picture ... Northport is in a scenic area with not many people and even fewer furnace repairmen when the heat goes off.

Thus, when Baribault looked at long-term heating solutions, he had to think outside the box. He also had to think long and hard about finances, as major capital upgrades can be a particular challenge in small districts.

His solution? Apply for a very unique grant supporting bioenergy. The Washington Department of Natural Resources and state Department of Commerce were offering a first of its kind grant to fund the installation of a wood pellet boiler in a public building.

Northport applied and won. The project was funded in its entirety at a cost of \$430,000. Three months into operation, Baribault called the award a gift that keeps on giving, as fuel costs are down 50 percent and air pollutants by 70 percent.

Wisewood Energy, a Portland-based biomass energy developer, designed and constructed the entire project, which included installation of a pellet storage silo, auger to fill the silo and an automated hopper to feed the fire.

Today, inside the elementary school, pleasant temperatures complement the warm smiles found on the faces of students and staff, no longer worrying if the heat will go out.

Baribault is smiling, too. In preparation of next year's budget, one big worry has been taken off the list.

Next up: Benge

Northport isn't the only district joining the modernization movement. In January, the Benge School District was selected for a Small Rural Modernization Grant totaling \$729,952. The OSPI award will fund a multi-faceted project that includes windows, heat pump and site work-drainage.

The OSPI program funds projects in small rural districts with significant building needs beyond the district's allowable debt or ability to pay.

Benge is a K-6 district in Adams County that typically enrolls 12-14 students per year. Congratulations to Superintendent Thomas Pulliam and the Benge Board of Directors.

Saluting our leaders, past and present (continued from page 2)

Honoring Carl Putnam, 1917-2018

As NEWESD 101 welcomes the arrival of a new leader, it also mourns the passing of another. Carl Putnam, a founding member of the board in 1969, passed away in November at the age of 101.

When he retired from the board at the end of 1997, he was the longest-serving educational director in the state, completing 50

years of total service at the local and regional levels. His string of continuous board service dated to the 1930s, only interrupted by Army duty in World War II.

While more than 20 years have passed since Carl's service at NEWESD 101, his imprint is still seen today in the attitude, spirit and vision of those he mentored and inspired.



Carl Putnam