



EVERGREEN Middle School

Principal, Rian Petrick
Assistant Principal, Linda Harrington

OCTOBER 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 14	Statewide Teacher Inservice Day—NO SCHOOL
October 20 & 21	Conferences—NO SCHOOL ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 21
November 9	End of 1 st Quarter
November 10	Grade Prep Day—NO SCHOOL
November 11	Veteran's Day—NO SCHOOL
November 23	Budget Reduction Day—NO SCHOOL
November 24 & 25	Thanksgiving Holiday—NO SCHOOL

Parents,

I am thrilled with the start of our school year! Despite adversities stemming from our nearly 19 million dollar HSD budget reduction, our staff is doing a great job instructing and engaging our students in a safe environment. Our new 7th graders as a group have caught on very quickly to middle school and our 8th grade is full of positive leaders. We are very excited about our students and the outlook for this school year, despite our class size increase.

Our average class size this year is slightly under 35 students per class. The class size increase, while not ideal, did allow us to keep the majority of our elective classes. Due to the strain of class sizes, our 9 week wheel elective classes were reduced and had to be reformatted to allow for both 7th and 8th grade students. Therefore, some students may have a 9 week elective course that they did not plan to take.

Our school mission is to **engage** and **challenge** all learners to ensure academic excellence. **Engagement** will be a focal point for our staff's professional development work this year. As Principal, the most important work I can do is to be present in classrooms, working with teachers and students to improve student learning and engagement. During my weekly instructional rounds I will be recognizing and rewarding a couple of classrooms each week with the title of "*Engaged Classrooms of the Week*". In order to help achieve our mission of engaging students, our staff is offering more after school enrichment/engagement clubs than ever before. While our fall sports season of soccer, volleyball and dance are kicking off in October, we will be offering the following enrichment clubs this fall as well: Photography Club, Weightlifting Club, Juggling Club, Art Club, Web Design Club and Chess/Gaming Club.

We will also be starting up an array of after school academic assistance and intervention opportunities. Our Success Club and Math Clubs will start up after the conclusion of the first quarter to give extra student support. The Success Club is a good place for motivated students

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to attend who want to have a quiet place to get some extra help with their school work. Math Club will provide a similar opportunity but solely for kids who need help with Math. Thanks to some generous donors we were able to fund Mr. Adam Lucero, a math tutor, who works in our building full-time and provides math help before, during and after school. Students can sign up for these academic programs in the main office.

I love it when parents come and visit our school! If you'd like to come for lunch, visit a classroom or classrooms just call the office to set up a visitation. We also have some great opportunities to serve through our Parent Club. More information about Parent Club can be found at <http://www.hsd.k12.or.us/evergreen/parents.asp>. For all activities Evergreen, please remember to bookmark our Evergreen website at <http://www.hsd.k12.or.us/evergreen>. It is updated daily and includes academic assistance opportunities, staff contact information, daily school announcements and parent/student resources.

Helping Eagles Soar To New Heights!

Rian Petrick

PARENT CONFERENCES

Parent conferences will take place this year on Thursday, October 20 (5:00-8:00pm) and Friday, October 21 (8:00-11:30am). **Evergreen will follow a different format this year with all teachers located by alphabet in the large and small gyms.** The Commons area will be available for displays and information about Evergreen Programs. We hope to see you there!

HILLSBORO SKI CLUB

Hillsboro Ski Club transports snowboarders and skiers in grades K-12 (and their parents, if desired) to Mt. Hood Meadows for recreational skiing on Saturdays. We offer two 4-week sessions: the first begins on January 7, and the second session begins on February 4, 2012.

The club offers program packages for all levels with discounts on lessons, lifts, rentals or combinations of these services. Transportation is by Luxury Coach and leaves from Poynter Middle School at 6:15am on Saturday mornings. Buses are chaperoned and advisors monitor the on-site medical clinic hourly. This program is for students and their parents only.

For details, see our website at <http://hillsboroskiclub.squarespace.com/>.

UPDATE YOUR PERSONAL INFORMATION

Have you moved recently? Do you have a new home or cell number? If you have not contacted our registrar with these changes, please contact Lindi McGee at 503-844-1401 or email mcgeel@hsd.k12.or.us to provide any updated contact information.

EVERGREEN ELL

The EMS-ESL caseload, consisting of students enrolled in a daily ELL (English Language Learner) class, migrants, students whose parents are employed in seasonal work in agriculture and nurseries, Monitored students (students exited from an ESL program and observed for 2 years) and refusals (students whose parents have chosen immersion in mainstream classes) shows 150 students; this is approximately 18% of the total attendance of Evergreen. The 2011-12 EMS-ESL staff consists of Mr. Kristensen (ESL teacher and case manager), Mrs. Males and Ms. Hopper (both paraprofessionals working with students and parents).

Our 2011-12 cohort is academically motivated and engaged; last year Evergreen's ELL students passed their state ELPA test at the 2nd highest level in the district. It looks like this year's cohort will surpass and exceed the 2010-11 cohort!

HOMEWORK ZONE

Does your student need additional time for homework? Would they benefit from receiving help on that homework from teachers? If the answer is "YES" to either question then Homework Zone can help. Homework Zone is a place for students to quietly work on their homework in a supervised setting. At least one certified teacher will always be present to assist students with questions or provide further direction. Homework Zone will take place every Tuesday and Thursday, in the library, from 3:30 – 4:45pm, beginning on October 25. Registration forms are available in the main office. **An Activity Bus is available to students who fill out the new Activity Bus form.** Please return these to the main office as soon as possible.

SERVICES OFFERED FOR TALENTED AND GIFTED (TAG) STUDENTS

Parents are welcome to refer their child for services designed for students identified as talented and gifted. Students who score at or above the 97th percentile on a nationally standardized, norm-referenced test of overall reading or math or on a mental abilities test, and have other confirming evidence that they learn at a rapid rate and advanced level, are identified as TAG students. With parent input, individual plans are made to adjust the rate and level of the student's instruction to meet his or her specific needs.

If you think your child may qualify for TAG services, and want information about the referral and identification process, please contact Angela Allen (Evergreen's TAG liaison) for more information.

PARENT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Throughout the school year we will have 2-3 after school socials/dances for our students to enjoy. In order for these events to be successful we need your help. If you are willing to consider volunteering in the future, please e-mail Sarah Bywater (Taylor) at taylorsh@hsd.k12.or.us. We will then let you know as dates are set and see if you are able to assist us at that time. As a reminder, parents & other volunteers must fill out the volunteer information on the district website before doing any volunteer work at our schools Thank you!

IMMUNIZATION UPDATE

Immunization Exclusion Day is February 12! We had a great response to our immunization update form last spring. Some forms were returned without the date on them. All the data is entered and we are down to 114 incomplete students. Thank you to all the parents who updated student shot records. If you still have it sitting around, please make sure it is filled out and turned into the school office. If your student is still missing immunizations, I will put a letter in with their progress report, which you will get at Parent/Student Conferences in October.

ASB STICKERS

Evergreen's ASB sticker policy is changing. We are no longer placing stickers on students' ID cards. When an event comes up that students can use their ASB for, we will have a list of which students paid for it. Also, unless high schools have altered their policies, they do not accept middle school ASB stickers for discounts, they only accept high school ASB stickers. Thank you!

EVERGREEN WEBSITE

Staying current on school news can be challenging. We encourage students & parents to regularly visit our school website for relevant news, information & upcoming events. **Our Daily Announcements are always posted on the Homepage and our monthly newsletters will be posted here as well (we will not be mailing newsletters home).** Add our address to your Favorites list today! Visit: <http://www.hsd.k12.or.us/evergreen>

BREAKFAST COUNTS!

One of the most important things you can do each day to ensure your brain is ready to learn is to **eat a nutritious breakfast**. If you don't have time to eat breakfast at home, please consider eating at school! Students who are eligible for free or reduced-price meals will receive breakfast and/or lunch at no cost. For eligibility guidelines and an application form, please visit the 'School Meals' link on the district's homepage.

A convenient way to make sure your child's meal account has money in it is to visit **www.myschoolbucks.com** and pay online; here you can track account balances and schedule regular payments as well as make one-time purchases.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to our parent volunteers who worked on collecting & processing orders for our Magazine Sale fundraiser. We couldn't have done it without you!