ECASD Vision—All children in the District are prepared for post-secondary success!

Superintendent

In Memory of TJ Sheridan

The ECASD lost an incredible leader and friend of education this week. Dr. Terrance J. Sheridan passed away at the age of 78. Terry began his career as a teacher in 1960 and started working in the ECASD in 1976 as the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum. He retired in 1992 as the Principal at Manz Elementary. Terry dedicated his life to improving the lives of school children and citizens of Eau Claire. He embodied the spirit of a public servant by serving on the City Council and numerous community groups and was instrumental in the formation of Clear Vision, an initiative for improving the quality of life in the Chippewa Valley. Nothing exemplified his giving spirit more than when he served as Interim Superintendent for ECASD during the summer and fall of 2012. Dr. Sheridan volunteered his time to assist the District as the School Board conducted a search for a new Superintendent. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Flo and children Kathleen and Kevin during this sad time.

Weather Words

As you know, the forecast for Sunday night calls for extremely cold temperatures and wind chill. We are very aware of the expected low temperatures and are monitoring this information closely.

ECASD’s policy concerning severe cold designates -30 degrees F threshold and -30 degrees F wind chill threshold as points at which severe cold will be considered as a factor in closing school in addition to the duration of the wind chill and cold temperatures. The policy stipulates that schools may or may not be closed because of severe cold depending upon all factors that need to be considered.

Please know that we are watching the weather and current conditions and have talked with other area school districts, the university, and with Student Transit about the possibility of closing school due to cold weather.

We will make the decision with the most current information available closer to Monday, and perhaps on Sunday, as we get closer to the weather event and have an updated forecast. If the weather forecast holds true for Monday, the decision will be based on the safety of students and staff with the most accurate information available.

As with other school districts, parents always have the right to keep their children home if they believe the conditions in their neighborhood warrant it. Weather related absences are marked excused.

We hope you will stay safe and warm this weekend! If schools are delayed or closed because of inclement weather, the following local radio and television stations will broadcast the announcement: WBIZ, WAXX/WAYY, WWIB, WIAL, WQRB, WQOW-TV 18, and WEAU-TV 13. The District’s web site will also note if schools are closed and a message will be posted on Facebook and Twitter.

Open Houses Set for January 13th

The Eau Claire Area School District invites the community to tour the renovated DeLong Middle School and the new Prairie Ridge Early Learning School during open houses held on January 13, 2014 from 6 to 8 p.m. Prairie Ridge is located at 3031 Epiphany Lane and DeLong is located at 2000 Vine Street in Eau Claire. Please stop in at one or both of these buildings for a casual tour.
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Superintendent (continued)

School Board Meeting

The School Board will meet on January 6th. A copy of the agenda and meeting materials can be found at this link: Board Materials.

At the meeting Superintendent Hardebeck will be honoring Kathryn Rulien-Bareis who is the recipient of the NAEA's Special Needs Art Educator Award. Teachers are nominated from schools and universities all across the country for this prestigious national award. Congratulations, Kathy!

Payroll/Benefits

WRS Contribution Rates Increasing January 2014

Rates will increase from the current 6.65% to 7.0% beginning on the first payroll in January 2014. Your WRS deduction will increase on the January 10, 2014 payroll. For more detailed information read the EFT announcement.

Teaching & Learning

Summer Program Suggestions

The Teaching and Learning Department is thinking SUMMER! The Summer Program is always open to new suggestions from teachers for the elementary Discovery Program, our middle school program, and the high school elective program. We are taking suggestions from now thru January 6th. You can also find the forms that have more details regarding the program on the District website by clicking here. If you have a program idea and are willing to teach it this summer, please fill out a form and return it to Deb Kesting at dkesting@ecasd.k12.wi.us by January 6th.

Technology

Notice for Schoology Users

If you use Schoology with your class, you must read this announcement. (Click here) Failing to follow these instructions before January 27th will result in the deletion of the students in your Schoology class(es). This does not affect student data in Skyward.

Want to find past copies of the District Update? Please click here. They can also be found on the District’s “P” drive under DistrictUpdate.