

Bulletin for Responsible Scholars, **February 27, 2015**

Welcome to Eckstein

We are creating a Community of Lifelong Learners!

Mar 2	Choir Meeting, 7:00p Room Little Theater
Mar 2	Band Parent Meeting, 7:30p Room 118
Mar 5	Orchestra Winter Concert, 7:30p
Mar 8	Daylight Savings Time Begins (Spring Forward 1 Hour)
Mar 9	**PTSA Meeting – Guest Speaker Julie Metzger, RN, MN (see below)
Mar 9-13	**Eckstein Spirit Week
Mar 10	Orchestra Parent Meeting, 7:00p, Room 117
Mar 12	Eckstein MS Concert Band Festival, 7:30p.m.
Mar 17	Eckstein Combined Choir Concert, 7:30p.m.
Mar 19	Eckstein MS Jazz Band Festival, 7:30p.m.
Mar 21	Solo & Ensemble Festival
Mar 25	District 2-hour Early Release Day
Apr 3	**End of 3rd Quarter
Apr 3	**Bring your donations for Rummage Sale to Cafeteria 1:30-4:00p.m.
Apr 4	**Eckstein Band Rummage Sale, 9am - 3pm.
Apr 6	**Choir Meeting, 7:00p Room Little Theater
Apr 6	**Band Parent Meeting, 7:30p Room 118
Apr 9	**Eckstein Top Ensembles, 7:30p. Auditorium
Apr 13-17	**Spring Break – No School
Apr 14	**Orchestra Parent Meeting, 7:00p, Room 117

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Eckstein Families,

Good afternoon and happy Friday. We had a very successful 6th Grade Open House last night. Students from our WEB (Where Everyone Belongs) club led tours and told new families all about Eckstein. Student panels shared tips about getting organized, homework and making friends (you'd be surprised at the great advice our kids are giving!) The Eckstein Jazz Band and Orchestra had amazing performances and so many of our awesome teachers stayed late into the night to welcome incoming students, answer parent questions and ensure that all our incoming families know how wonderful our school is! It was such a great reminder – we are a fantastic school community and we offer so much. Thank you to the PTSA, all the parents, the office staff and to our 8th Grade Counselor Reema Ziadeh and teacher Joia Poort for all the organization.

If you would like to get involved, learn more about ALL that is happening at Eckstein and hear a great guest speaker, be sure and come to the PTSA meeting on Monday, March 9th.

Treena Sterk, Principal
Eckstein Middle School
206-252-5010

**** = New from last printing**

****Yearbooks are now on sale for \$30.00** (unengraved) until we run out: Purchase your Eckstein yearbooks for \$30.00 in the Main Office during lunchtime with cash or check payable to “Eckstein Middle School”. Yearbooks will be delivered in June in time for signing at year-end school events. Don't wait as supplies are limited.

****Julie Metzger, pediatric nurse, writer and educator will be speak about “Staying Close While Standing Back . . . the Art and Science of Parenting Adolescents” at Eckstein’s March 9th PTSA meeting.** Join us at 7 pm in the library to hear Julie address one of the greatest balancing acts parents face today – knowing when to step forward to help and guide their children’s lives and when to let them make independent decisions and choices for themselves. Julie brings a wealth of knowledge and experience as a well-respected and popular speaker on a wide range of parenting issues. This is an opportunity you won’t want to miss!

Solo & Ensemble applications are due soon ~ March 2nd !!: The application deadline for Solo & Ensemble at Eckstein is March 2nd. We encourage Band, Orchestra and Choir students to participate in this event. Solo & Ensemble is a great chance for students to show what they can do. It is also an opportunity for student musicians to push themselves a bit, and show themselves what they can accomplish. This is a fun and low pressure event. Professional adjudicators are there to give objective and constructive feedback to help students improve their sound and performance. For an overview of the process, click [Overview](#). For the entry forms click here: [Solo Entry](#) or [Ensemble Entry](#) If you have any questions please contact Band Director Moc Escobedo (cuescobedo@seattleschools.org).

Eckstein’s Unified Soccer Season: Special Olympics Unified Sports® is an inclusive sports program that combines an approximately equal number of Special Olympics athletes (individuals with intellectual disabilities) and partners (individuals without intellectual disabilities) on teams for training and competition. Eckstein’s Unified Soccer Team will have practices on Tuesdays after school from 2:40-4:00pm, starting 3/10. There is no transportation. Games will be at Ingraham High School on Saturday mornings starting 3/28. The game schedule will be handed out at the first practice. If you are interested in joining the team as an athlete or partner, please pick up a form from the main office or from Ms. Gedansky in room 114. If you have any questions or want more information, please contact Jodi Gedansky at jgedansky@seattleschools.org or visit <http://specialolympicswashington.org/unified/unified-sports>

A Fun Event to Support Eckstein’s Packs for Kids: The University Sunrise Rotary’s Debuts & Discoveries event will benefit our Packs For Kids program. This event raised \$20,000 for “Packs for Kids,” which enabled the University Food Bank to expand the program from six to eight schools this year. The event showcases a variety of food trucks and adult beverage providers and provides a fun opportunity to socialize and try amazing food/drinks.

Date: Saturday, March 21st

Time: 5pm-8pm

Location: Hanger 30 at Magnuson Park

Tickets: \$30

For details, go to www.usrotary.org/debuts-and-discoveries/

Assistance League Scholarship Program: Help your students achieve their summer plans. The ALS has money available for summer camps for current Seattle School District students in Grades 6-11. The Assistance League is a national philanthropic organization, and the Seattle chapter offers three programs of which the Enrichment Scholarship Program (ESP) is one. Through an application process, scholarships worth up to \$500 each are available to Seattle Public School Students. These students choose summer activities such as camps in theater, culinary arts, and outdoor programs, as well as UW educational courses, the Marrowstone Music Festival, Woodland Park’s animal behavior program, and the Ryther Children’s Center aspiring youth program. Please log on to our website for the application. <http://seattle.assistanceleague.org/ps.enrichmentscholarshipprogram.cfm>. To download the entire flyer, click [HERE](#)

Do you drop your student off at Eckstein in the mornings? If so, please DRIVE SLOWLY AND WATCH CAREFULLY FOR OTHER STUDENTS when you are dropping off your child! We realize everyone is scrambling to get to school and work on time, but we want to make sure all students are safe. It is NOT SAFE to let your student out of the car in the “No Stopping” zone on the west side of 30th Ave NE and it can cause a dangerous traffic back-up at the corner. The school has received calls from concerned parents and neighbors about speeding drivers and students dashing across the street in front of cars on 30th Ave NE. Please help us keep students safe by dropping your student off either on the east (school side) of 30th, in the far south drop-off lot on 30th or at a safer drop-off spot on a side street a block or two away from the school that is less congested than 30th NE. Click [HERE](#) for the drop-off guidelines that were included in the start-of-school packets.



Phone Calls from Eckstein: Parents and Guardians, please remind your students that if they call you from a school phone, it's very important to leave a message (even if the message is just "You don't need to call me back"). All of the 100+ phones in the school show the main office number on Caller ID, so if you receive a phone call from Eckstein, please listen to the message to find out who called BEFORE you call the school back, since the main office staff will not know where to transfer your call based on the number that showed on your Caller ID.

Packs for Kids needs your help! Can you help support Eckstein's Packs for Kids program by volunteering or making a donation? Packs for Kids provides food bags every Friday for approximately 50 Eckstein students in need of extra nutritional support on the weekends when they do not have access to school breakfasts and lunches. Volunteers pack and distribute the food bags, and the program depends on financial support from the PTSA and private donations from Eckstein families. If you can volunteer for Packs for Kids, please click [HERE](#). If you can make a donation, please mail your contribution to: Eckstein Packs for Kids, 3003 NE 75th St, Seattle WA 98115. Thank you!

Eckstein Spring Sports: Athletic forms are available in the main office and on the Eckstein website. ALL forms must be returned to the main office by the due date. Students may NOT participate or attend practice until they have turned in all athletic forms.

Boys' Soccer – Forms due: 2/13 First practice: 2/26 Practices: Mon & Thurs 2:35 – 4:05 REGISTRATION IS NOW CLOSED	CoEd Track – Forms due: 2/20 Student info mtg: 2/26 First practice: 3/3 Practices: Tues & Thurs 2:35 – 4:10	Girls' Volleyball – Forms due: 2/27 Tryouts: 3/9 & 3/10 *Students must attend BOTH tryout days to play Practices: Varsity – Tues & Thurs 3:00 – 5:00 JVA – Mon & Tues 2:45 – 4:15 JVB – Mon 2:45 – 4:15
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New After school clubs have started: After-School Clubs take place 2:30 - 4:30p.m. at Eckstein Middle School. If you want to register your student online please use the link below.

<https://apm.activecommunities.com/seattlemca> or pick up a registration form in the main office or call 206.524.1400 to register over the phone. If you have any questions contact Georgina Ramirez, gramirez@seattlemca.org

A Note from the School Nurse: Vaccine Preventable Diseases are in the news recently. SPS school nurses are redoubling efforts to identify those students who are susceptible and work to get those out of compliance into compliance by either updating records or recommending getting required immunizations. If your student has been immunized recently or you have received a letter indicating your student is out of compliance with the Washington State Immunization Law, please contact the school nurse: hastephens@seattleschools.org or call (206)252-5017

8th Grade Parents & Guardians: Are you interested in helping to coordinate the end-of-year **8th grade promotion and celebration** that will take place during the school day on Friday, June 12? Mr. Timmons, the 8th grade House Administrator, is putting together a committee to brainstorm ideas and plan the event. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Timmons at retimmons@seattleschools.org.

A RAIN GARDEN is coming to Eckstein! Do you have expertise or an interest in water conservation or rain gardens? Are you an artist or an aspiring artist? We are looking for individuals interested in helping to design and plan an Eckstein rain garden this spring, as well as some volunteers willing to help with designing and painting an educational mural. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Thompson at kathompson@seattleschools.org.

Grant Writers Needed: Eckstein's PE Department is looking for an individual willing to help write a grant to obtain some "Ergs" (rowing machines) for Eckstein students to use. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Timmons at retimmons@seattleschools.org.

Attendance Reminders:

- **Temporary Bus Card (aka Temporary Green Card):** Eckstein will no longer accept **text messages for green cards**. Please send a note or send a email if your student needs a green card to ecksteinms.attendance@seattleschools.org. Students should come to the attendance office at the start of the day for a green card.

- **Tardies:** Students will not be excused for invalid reasons (overslept, missed bus, etc.). Attendance will be marked as an “unexcused tardy.” See District policy below.
- **Early Dismissal Reminder:** Parents/guardians need to send a note or email (ecksteinms.attendance@seattleschools.org) to request an early dismissal for your child. Otherwise, you will have to enter the building and sign your child out.
- **District Policy:** It is the policy of the Seattle School Board that consistent attendance is essential to the Seattle Public Schools mission of academic achievement for every student in every school. Truant students miss critical instruction in key concepts, quickly fall behind in school, and are less likely to achieve academic success. By state law, school attendance is mandatory, and unexcused absences and truancy are prohibited within Seattle Public Schools.
 - Unplanned absences or tardies will be excused when your child's personal illness or injury, or the illness, injury or death of a family member, prevents your child from attending school, and you notify the school within 48 hours of the absence. The school may require a note from your child's doctor if your child is absent due to illness or injury for an excessive number of days (10 or more in the quarter).
 - Planned absences or tardies will be excused when you submit a request at least three school days before the start of the planned absence, usually for a doctor or dentist appointment, religious holiday, an educational activity, or other special one-time event of a day or two. The school may require your child to complete missed assignments and/or make other academic arrangements in lieu of missed work. Family vacations of any duration may not be considered excused absences. The school principal has the final say on whether your planned absence will be excused.
 - All other absences or tardies are considered unexcused, including those caused by the student or parent oversleeping, student missing the bus, transportation problems, student needed for babysitting, etc.
 - Any absence, whether planned or unplanned, will remain unexcused when the parent does not provide either a telephoned or written excuse within a reasonable time after the date of the absence. A parent's request to "excuse my child's absence" without a stated reason or with a reason that does not meet the criteria for excused absences will result in the child's absence or tardy remaining unexcused.

From the Office of Advanced Learning: Many of our families who applied have not yet been contacted by the Office of Advanced Learning, and some are growing concerned that their child may be missed. Please be assured that every family who applied for testing will be contacted and scheduled for testing before the end of February. Everyone who referred their child for Advanced Learning eligibility testing last fall should have received a message from the Office of Advanced Learning. This year there were more than 5,400 applications. If your child has not yet been tested, he or she will be scheduled during the coming weeks and they will contact you at that point. Testing results and eligibility letters will be sent by early March. Thank you for your patience during this long testing process.

LOST AND FOUND : While our lost and found clothing items are in containers at the back of the cafeteria, smaller or high value items (especially electronics) are usually kept in the main office, and large items are stored in various places, where we can find space. So, if you or your student have a lost non-clothing, high value or large item, please inquire with Security at the main office.

Band News: RUMMAGE SALE ON 4/4/15 AND USED CLOTHING COLLECTION AND BAKE SALE DURING EVENING BAND CONCERTS:

⇒***Rummage Sale: Save your Stuff and Save the Date***

The Annual Eckstein Band Rummage Sale is Saturday, April 4th, 2015. We need your donations to make this event a success. Please set aside your gently used clothing, household items, books, music, furniture sporting equipment and more. On Friday, April 3rd, bring your donations to the Eckstein Cafeteria between 1:30 and 4 pm. Mark your calendar and come to the Rummage Sale on Saturday from 9am - 3pm. There will be great deals to be had, baked goods, and music from our very own jazz combos. We'll be recruiting volunteers to help with setup on Friday afternoon and to help at the sale on Saturday. Watch for a signup announcement in March. If you have any questions, please contact Sarah Fulton (sarahcfulton@mac.com) or Maggie Sweeney (davidmaggie@comcast.net)

⇒***Used Clothing Collection:*** Savers/Value Village, seller and recycler of used goods, is helping Eckstein Band to defray the cost of fieldtrip chaperones. Value Village will pay for every pound of goods collected. Bins will be available in front of the Main Office during all Band evening concerts.

⇒**Bake Sale:** Homemade and store bought baked goods and bottled water are always appreciated on concert days. Bring your treats to the table outside of the auditorium before the concert.

Eckstein PTSA General Meetings: Plan ahead for the rest of the year! Mar 9, Apr 6, May 11 and June 9 (no meeting in December). 7:00p.m., Eckstein Conference Room 115.

Shop at Amazon and Support Eckstein Band: Shop at Amazon through <http://www.smile.amazon.com> and designate your “Nathan Eckstein PTSA. Then, 0.5% of eligible purchases support your charity of choice. There is no added cost to you. If you bookmark this link and use it to access Amazon any time you make purchases, Eckstein bands will automatically receive the benefit! Please spread the word to all your friends and family. These funds will go a long way to offset the costs of the many performances, trips, sheet music and instrument repairs as well as help provide scholarships for those students who needs them. Thank You!

- Go to “Your Account”
- Select “Change your Charity”
- Under “or pick your own charitable organization”
- Type in “Nathan Eckstein PTSA” (WA State PTSAs are based out of Tacoma/Olympia)
- Hit “Select“, and all your future purchases that you buy at [smile.amazon.com](http://www.smile.amazon.com) goes directly to support Eckstein Band.

COMMUNITY NEWS

(not endorsed or sponsored by Eckstein Middle School)

**** Roosevelt High School Jazz Performs on Friday, March 20th, 2015 at 7pm at the Paramount Theater @ 911 Pine Street:** Celebrate local talent when the region’s top high school jazz bands – Mount Si, Edmonds-Woodway, Mountlake Terrace, Garfield and Roosevelt – come together for this one-of-a-kind concert to benefit participating high school music programs. Since 1995, Starbucks Hot Java Cool Jazz has raised more than \$400,000 for local students and their love of music. We appreciate your support! By purchasing tickets through the Roosevelt Jazz Boosters at <http://rooseveltjazz.org> (and clicking on "Hot Java Cool Jazz" under "EVENTS"), or at Roosevelt Square Starbucks, 100% of your ticket purchase will go directly to support Roosevelt High School Jazz. Tickets are \$20 (plus \$1 for handling if ordering from www.rooseveltjazz.org)

****Join RHS Drama students at The Little Mermaid.** Ariel, a sixteen-year-old mermaid princess, is dissatisfied with life under the sea and curious about the human world. Come along with Ariel and her fish friends as they brave adventures together learning new lessons while sharing their own wisdom.

Showtimes:

Wed. March 4 - 7:30 p.m.

Thurs. March 5 - 3:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Fri. March 6 - 3:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Sat. March 7 - 2:30 p.m. & 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now at ShowTix4U.com: <http://bit.ly/1E1PsCZ>

****1 on 1 Basketball:** www.1on1basketball.com

- *Spring Programs* Open for Registration on March 10th! To register, [CLICK HERE!](#) To submit a team request or other questions, email Stu Michie at stuart@1on1basketball.com or 206-715-3443. One on One Player Development Program (Ages 6 - 15), Ravenna CC / Wednesdays or Thursdays / Cost: \$120. 6 Sessions
- *ONE ON ONE SUMMER CAMPS ARE HERE!* To browse summer offerings and to register: [CLICK HERE!](#)

Lake City Braves Junior Football Mini-Camps Ages 6-14: All four camps are held at Nathan Hale H.S. and run Sundays beginning 3/29. Cost is \$25 per camp or \$80 for all four camps. Focus of camp is on football fundamentals in a fun, motivating and safe environment. For more information and to register, go to www.LakeCityJuniorFootball.com or click [HERE](#) to view the entire flyer. Questions? Contact: info@LakeCityJuniorFootball.com

Red Ochre Art Studio! Magnuson Park, Building 30, 7448 63rd NE. Seattle, WA 98115. The Studio has been busy and full of creativity this winter! Spring is just around the corner and is a great time to get involved in art and have some fun with friends. If you find a class that interests you, please print off the [Registration Form](#) and mail it in with a deposit to hold your spot. redochreartstudio@gmail.com www.redochreartstudio.com . Looking ahead...This summer there will be two Summer Art Camps, July 6-10 and August 3-7 for kids ages 6 - 12. Details will be coming out in February!

Ultimate Frisbee Summer Camp: July 13th-17th at Magnuson Park, 9am - 3pm. Coached by world class players and coaches from the Seattle area, players will improve their individual and team skills while playing ultimate all week! We accept novice-experienced players at camp and will cater to each individuals level. Cost - \$250. Includes disc and jersey. Scholarship available. To register: www.teamultimatecamp.com

Ecology Youth Corps: The Ecology Youth Corps is looking for hard working teens who want to help clean the environment and earn money this summer. Several copies of the "Ecology Youth Corps Fact Sheet" are in the Eckstein Main Office. It gives details about what potential hires can expect during their employment. Also in the Main Office are the application and reference forms. Or you can go online at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/swfa/eyc/nwro.html>

Seattle Public Library Offers Free Homework Help: Got a tough homework assignment? The Seattle Public Library offers free, in-person and online educational assistance for students of all ages and levels — including tutoring for adults. Library events and programs are free and open to the public. Registration is not required. Free parking is available at the branches. Parking is available in the Central Library garage at the regular rates. Click [HERE](#) for a more information and the Library locations.

Camp Erin®- King County is a three-day overnight camp for kids and teens, ages 6 - 18, who have experienced the death of a loved one. Facilitated by professional staff from Providence Hospice of Seattle's Safe Crossings Children's Grief Support program & trained volunteers, Camp Erin is offered free of charge to families throughout King County. Our camp fills up quickly. Click on the links to download the forms for the [Teen Camp Erin 2015](#), [Kids Camp Erin 2015](#) and [Camp Erin Application 2015](#)

FREE COUNSELING FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS: The University of Washington's College of Education is offering free weekly therapy sessions for Children and Adolescents between the ages of 6 and 18. Those experiencing mental health issues (i.e. anxiety, depression, attention deficits), social skills difficulties, behavior problems, and or adjustment to life stressors (i.e. parental divorce, death in the family, etc.) are examples of appropriate referrals, although we will assess for you individual needs. All free sessions are provided by School Psychology Trainees, and are all supervised by a licensed psychologists / faculty member. Parental commitment is essential in order to receive services. For more information, please call our clinic administrative assistant at (206) 543-4970.

Meadowbrook Community Center is offering a year-round program for afterschool care, break camps and summer day camps. For the school year there is monthly registration on a 3, 4 or 5-day option. For prices click [HERE](#). Break camps are a daily registration and summer is weekly.

Eckstein Website: <http://ecksteinms.seattleschools.org/> If you are already receiving the Bulletins directly to your Inbox, you do not have to re-enroll. If you are new to Eckstein or have changed your email address you need to sign up for Parent Emails and other important announcements that go directly to your inbox. Click here to enroll [Subscribe to Eckstein Parent Emails](#)

Orchestra News: <http://orchestra.ecksteinms.seattleschools.org>

Band News: <http://eckstein-band.ecksteinms.seattleschools.org>