

## Green: It identifies EVHS in more ways than one

While East Valley High School is famous for its wearing of the green, the school color has taken on significant new meaning since this time a year ago.

Now it's official: East Valley is a state-designated Green School, a certification honoring the school for its bold moves in environmental education and sustainability. Green School certification is presented by a non-profit organization that encourages students and schools to become leaders for sustainability.

To be named a Washington Green School, a building must be certified in at least one of six environmental categories: energy, healthy school buildings, school grounds and gardens, transportation, waste and recycling, and water. EVHS was recognized in the waste and recycling category.

The honor recognizes the student-led East Valley Green Team, which launched a recycling and education initiative that significantly changed behaviors and attitudes; producing a notable increase in recycling and a commensurate decrease in solid waste.



Green Team members include, from left, Aashika Dahal, Nera Daugherty, Al Carlson, Riley Wallwork and Rhiann Batson

In only its second year of existence, the team installed bottle and can recycling bins in every classroom; managed the can, bottle, cardboard and paper recycling program; and educated students and staff alike on the importance of “going green.”

Fifteen students, led by team President Al Carlson, ultimately were responsible for the recycling of literally thousands of pounds of material – including big-ticket items such as batteries, cables, cell phones and printer cartridges – that might have otherwise ended up in a landfill.

Carlson, now entering his senior year, was not a figurehead president barking orders. In fact, he was a workhorse, usually in the school by 6 a.m. each day, emptying bins, separating contaminants (items placed in the wrong bins) and making mental notes of the do's and don'ts of recycling to be shared with students and staff.

In 2018-19, EVHS was the only high school in Spokane County earning bronze certification (for significant achievement in one category). Now, with another school year on the horizon, Carlson hopes to build on that success by examining possibilities in other categories.

Other schools in the county have taken notice. In March, the EV Green Team also received a coveted local honor – a Chase Youth Award for community service; an honor from the Chase Youth Commission recognizing Spokane's outstanding youth.

Lori Jacobsen, the Green Team's faculty adviser, says the sky's the limit for this ambitious and energetic group of students who are willing to blaze new trails, even when the trek begins at 6 a.m.



Green Team President Al Carlson shows off the school's state and local awards

## Class of '19 sets sights on new horizons

Congratulations to the East Valley High School class of 2019. Seven valedictorians and one salutatorian led the parade of graduates receiving diplomas June 10.

*Valedictorians:* Samantha Donaghue, Alicia Lungu, Zoe Mertens, Casey Noack, Keeley Stevens, Chase Vigasaa and Joshua Ward.  
*Salutatorian:* Felix Morales.

Congratulations to all. We are proud of you and will miss you.

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This newsletter is published  
by the East Valley School  
District Board of Directors and  
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**Upcoming Board Meetings**

July 23, 2019

August 27, 2019

*Both at 6 p.m.  
Administration Building*

**District Calendar**

**First day of school**

CCS – August 14, 2019

CCS kindergarten – August 19, 2019

Other schools – August 28, 2019

Other kindergartens – September 3, 2019

**Labor Day (no school)**

September 2, 2019

**CCS fall break**

October 14-25, 2019

**Veterans Day (no school)**

November 11, 2019

**Thanksgiving break**

November 28-29, 2019

**Winter break**

December 23, 2019 – January 3, 2020

*All systems go*

**EV marching forward on many fronts**

In November 2018, East Valley voters approved a two-year capital levy to generate \$13 million in new revenue for making significant safety, security and infrastructure improvements to district schools and relocating select athletic fields to accommodate Spokane County road construction. Here is an update of our progress so far.

**Security:** The district has hired Contract Hardware of Bothell, WA to install new deadbolt lock systems on all of our schools' interior classroom doors. These new locks will allow doors to be secured quickly from inside the room during crisis situations.

To date, locks have been installed at Trent and Trentwood elementary schools and the Continuous Curriculum School. All remaining schools will have new locks installed over the summer. The cost of this project is \$460,000.

In consultation with Architect West of Spokane, design work has begun on secured, single-point of entries at each school. Different concepts are being developed for each site and construction will occur during the 2019-2020 school year.

Single point of entries will require all visitors to check in with office staff before gaining access into the school. Construction costs for these projects are still being developed.

**Infrastructure:** Construction of a new parking lot at Trentwood Elementary began in June and will be completed by the time school begins August 28. The new parking lot will provide more space for staff and

visitor parking (29 more stalls) and move the parent drop-off area from Wellesley Avenue to the east side of the building.

Beyond the increase in space, the project will improve safety and traffic flow while still providing easy access to/from Wellesley. Through the state bidding process, the district has selected M.E. Uphus of Spokane to complete the project for \$715,000.

**Relocation of fields:** The county's Bigelow Gulch-Forker Road project, creating new connections to Sullivan Road from the north, affects some of the athletic fields located between the middle school and high school buildings.

Bernardo Wills Architects of Spokane has completed preliminary design for relocation of the fields. The work was originally set to begin this summer, but has been postponed until next spring, as the county has adjusted its schedule.

The construction of two softball fields, one baseball field and one football/soccer practice field is estimated to cost \$2.5 million. The district is still negotiating with Spokane County for reimbursement of these costs.

*Thank you:* All of this work would not be possible without the support of the East Valley community. So, on behalf of the entire East Valley District, I want to say "thank you" for believing in our schools.

*Kelly Shea*  
Superintendent



**Trentwood Elementary:** Play structures will be relocated to the north side of the building, making way for a parking area on the east side, shown here.

## It's a sweep for EV artists

Three East Valley High School students have been awarded cash prizes for their winning art submissions in Spokane's annual observance of the Holocaust.

The trio captured the top three awards in the 2019 contest, open to every high school in the Spokane area. Participants were asked to create a piece around the theme of *Speaking up for "the other."*

After examining the Nazis' marginalization and murder of millions of non-Aryan "others" in World War II, students were asked to examine more contemporary examples of people being marginalized. Their artistic challenge was to translate history to modern action, while also submitting a short narrative about the importance of speaking up for "others."

East Valley senior Kiarra Dupree earned first-place honors for *Empathy in Action*, a multi-colored acrylic piece depicting the slogans and symbols of movements led by "others." Junior Vera Korchemniya won second place for *Portrait of Adele Bloch Bauer*

and sophomore Brooklyn Berquist captured third place with *Behind the Branches*.

The winning entries earned the three artists scholarship awards of \$400, \$250 and \$100, respectively. Dupree will put the money to good use at her next school – the University of San Francisco.

All told, 32 talented EVHS artists submitted entries; all were placed on public display at the Gonzaga University School of Law. Congratulations to all on a job well done.



Kiarra Dupree with her winning entry, *Empathy in Action*

## In memoriam: Randy Burkhart, Pete Kirchner

The East Valley family is mourning the loss of two of its most valuable and experienced team members – teacher Randy Burkhart and district maintenance director Pete Kirchner.

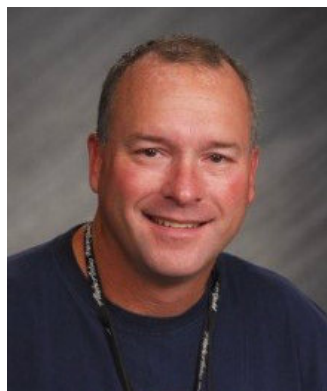
Both passed away in the spring following long careers in the district. Burkhart, a health and fitness teacher at East Valley High School, spent his entire 34-year teaching career in EV.

Kirchner was a 33-year EV veteran who worked in various custodial and maintenance positions before assuming districtwide responsibilities 10 years ago.

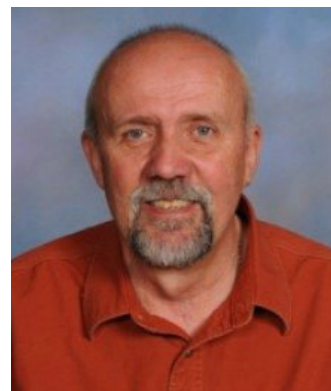
Both men brought exacting-standards, humor and determination to their jobs. Everything they did was focused on the best interests of students. Burkhart was a popular teacher whose classes were challenging, but fun. A former college athlete and college basketball official, he was an excellent motivator who could inspire through his story telling and humor.

Kirchner had a similarly significant impact through his commitment to clean, comfortable and well-equipped schools. He made sure everything worked, classrooms were warm, the snow was plowed and myriad other things that kept the buildings ship-shape.

Both men will be deeply missed.



Burkhart



Kirchner

## Pastor Steve Allen, VRL Church honored

Pastor Steve Allen and Valley Real Life Church have been honored for exemplary public service by the NorthEast Washington Association of School Administrators (NEWASA).

East Valley Superintendent Kelly Shea extended the nomination in recognition of "phenomenal support" that includes generous donations of volunteer time; participation in the district's mentoring program; cash donations for books, snacks and meals; organization of Thanksgiving and Christmas food drives for East Valley families; and much, much more.

NEWASA is a regional group, largely composed of district superintendents, that holds an annual banquet honoring school volunteers across 59 districts in seven counties. Thank you Pastor Steve, Valley Real Life Church and all of our generous volunteers who make East Valley the special place it is.



EV Superintendent Kelly Shea and Pastor Steve Allen

## ECRWSS Postal Customer

### Eighteen valued colleagues announce retirements

The end of another school year is not just the time we say farewell to our graduating high school seniors. Every year, a number of valued staff members also “graduate” in a rite known as retirement.

This year, the district says goodbye to 18 people whose collective service to the district exceeds 300 years. Yes, we are sorry to see them go. But, as the list below makes abundantly clear, the numbers also speak to one of the district’s greatest strengths – the stability, experience and loyalty of our staff.

In the teaching ranks alone, the experience of East Valley teachers exceeds the state average by more than two years (15-plus years of average teaching experience in EV classrooms).

This year’s class of retirees is just part of a larger group that has created and continually cultivated the culture of excellence that permeates our district. Their commitment to East Valley – and, more importantly, the children of East Valley – will continue on through colleagues ascending the ranks of senior leadership. The district extends its heartfelt thanks to:

**Kenneth Christen**, teacher, East Valley Online program; 38 years in teaching; 37 with East Valley.

**Charles Dunning**, English/Language Arts teacher, East Valley High School; 40 years in teaching; 35 with East Valley.

**Dennis Earling**, 4th grade teacher, Trentwood Elementary; 41 years in teaching, all with East Valley.

**Brian Enger**, maintenance and journeyman plumber; 12 years of service.

**Jackie Fatur**, activities secretary at East Valley High School; 22 years of service.

**Teri Guszregan**, secretary at East Valley Middle School; 22 years of service.

**Darryl Haller**, transportation assistant; 14 years of service.

**Michael Harvey**, maintenance/grounds specialist; 12 years of service.

**Kathy Jacketta**, special education paraeducator, Continuous Curriculum School; nine years of service.

**Pamela Jamison**, Title I/LAP intervention teacher, Trent Elementary; 22 years in teaching, all with East Valley.

**Alva “Al” Ostrom**, custodian, East Valley High School; 22 years of service.

**Carol Pederson**, ECEAP lead teacher, Trentwood Elementary; 18 years of service.

**Claudia Porter**, 4th grade teacher, Continuous Curriculum School; 28 years in teaching; 13 with East Valley.

**Michael Powers**, lead custodian, Otis Orchards Elementary; 25 years of service.

**Patricia Sorenson**, Title I paraeducator, Trent Elementary; 13 years of service.

**Paula Starr**, ECEAP assistant teacher, Trent Elementary; 18 years of service.

**John “Butch” Stokes**, CTE and Computer Science teacher; East Valley High School; 10 years of service; the last five as a teacher.

**Richard Wika**, counselor, East Valley High School; 40 years in counseling; 12 with East Valley.

All will be missed, but not forgotten.

### Back to School Fair returns

Mark your calendars ... The fourth annual East Valley Back to School Fair is scheduled Saturday, August 24, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., at East Valley Middle School, 4920 N. Progress Road.

The fair is open to all families and students, grades PK-12, in every East Valley school.

What’s offered? Well, how about free school supplies – including paper, pencils, pens, crayons, markers, highlighters and glue sticks – plus free backpacks to carry it all home.

School staff also will be on hand to answer questions about transportation, nutrition services or any other subjects pertinent to school. This is a traditionally festive event you don’t want to miss. Please join us August 24.