

## Call it a picture of student learning

How much do St. John and Endicott care about their kids? A lot.

While the evidence is found every day in multiple classrooms on both campuses, one of the most unique and cutting-edge examples is found at Endicott Elementary, where an enthusiastic young student named Cody Meserve is enrolled.

Though Cody faces communication challenges, they have not dissuaded the spirited six-year-old from an ambitious learning regimen. And just like every other student, educational technology is a tool of his trade.

In Cody's case, however, the technology of choice is not a laptop, tablet or smartphone. It's a device, about the size of a tablet, known as a Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS).

In the world of educational technology, it's considered an "augmentative and alternative communication" device. In Endicott, it's just considered a great thing.

In short, the device allows people with limited communication ability to express a thought or request through pictures, allowing them to reduce challenges with ordinary speech. Users view a screen of various images they can touch to express thoughts. In more advanced phases, students learn to use words in sentences, use modifiers and comment.

Ultimately, the prompting and reinforcement strategies lead to independent communication and student-initiated interaction.

The pairing of world images and words is intuitive. For example, "yes" is expressed by a smiley face, "no" by a frown, "good" by a thumbs up, "time" by a watch and "drink" by a glass. As students achieve mastery of base words, more images can be added.

For Cody, a typical week involves work with a team of staff led by Megan Dorman, with assistance from Heidi Danaher (specialist from NEWESD 101), Donna Flemming, Pam Johnson, Julie Lust and Missy Repp. Cody's progress has been impressive, they say, and his enthusiasm provides an additional boost to learning. Does Cody enjoy school? The picture answer: A big, big smiley face.



*Cody works one-on-one with speech language pathologist Heidi Danaher.*



*Team Cody includes, from left, Pam Johnson, instructional assistant; Megan Dorman, K-1 teacher; Heidi Danaher, NEWESD 101 speech language pathologist; K-1 student Cody Meserve; Donna Flemming, instructional assistant; Missy Repp, Endicott special education teacher; and Julie Lust, instructional assistant.*

## Roger Beck: The tireless man for all seasons

If a “Mr. St. John-Endicott” award is ever created, here is a nominee for serious consideration: Roger Beck.

Yes, he has “only” lived in the community for 51 years, a relatively short period in Palouse generational time. But what an impact he has had.

At age 72, still spry and as enthusiastic as ever about teaching, Beck is now seeing a third generation of students walk into his classroom.

When he started in the Fall of 1968, things were very different. There was no St. John-Endicott. The districts were still separate. The cooperative was two decades away.

Fresh out of what is now Eastern Washington University, Beck came aboard as a business teacher. There were no calculators, computers or electronic spreadsheets to draft budgets. Students learned how to type (on manual typewriters) and do shorthand.

Times and technology changed and so did Beck, who embraced new and better ways of connecting his business classroom to college and careers.

Along the way, he has supervised or advised almost every extra-curricular activity in the school including drama, chess club, Future Business Leaders of America, Knowledge Bowl and yearbook, plus coaching duties in baseball, basketball, softball and wrestling.

Like the Energizer Bunny, he just keeps going and going.



### SJE Cooperative Connections

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#### St. John-Endicott Cooperative Schools

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Linda Greenhalgh  
Debbie Schlomer  
Marv Schmick  
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## Full STEAM ahead at St. John-Endicott High School

STEM – science, technology, engineering and math – is by now a commonly known term in education. But have you heard of STEAM? It is a growing movement to include art in the academic mix, turning STEM to STEAM.

SJE has enthusiastically embraced the movement, even hosting a recent STEAM Night to showcase student talent across the academic disciplines.

Art is a significant addition to the lineup that is known for stimulating creative thinking and enhancing motor skills. While once considered a somewhat disconnected field, research now shows strong and complementary connections between art and math-science (e.g., ratios, proportion and measurement) that ultimately promote achievement in all subjects.

STEAM Night was hosted by the high school immediately following the elementary science fair the same day.

Between the two, visitors were treated to an impressive array of student projects that included a virtual reality demonstration, 3-D printing and computer-aided design.

Kudos to teachers Travis Echanove, Rae Maloney and Heidi White for their leadership in organizing STEAM Night.



*Sophomore Ian Staves is among the budding artists at SJE High School.*



# On the record ... essential information for our patrons

## What is Title I?

Title I is a federally funded program intended to provide remedial reading and mathematics support for struggling students.

St. John Elementary School participates in the Title I Program. Title I, Part A is part of the Every Student Succeeds Act. Its goal is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach proficiency on challenging state academic standards.

## Right to request teacher and personnel qualifications

All parents and guardians have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teacher(s) or instructional personnel. If you request this information, the district will provide you with the following:

1. Whether the teacher has met Washington teacher certification requirements for the grade level and subjects in which the teacher provides instruction;
2. Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status for which Washington qualifications or certification has been waived;
3. The college major of the teacher and any graduate degree or certificate; and
4. Whether your child is receiving Title I services from paraprofessionals, and if so, whether those paraprofessionals meet state/federal requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act. If you would like to request this information, please contact the building principal.

## District and school Report Card information

The St. John-Endicott Cooperative Schools are dedicated to the success of all our students. Our staff is committed to ensuring that each student has every opportunity to reach their full potential and focuses on the state's learning standards to achieve this. Every year, students in grades 3-10 are assessed using the state's approved assessment system. Washington state provides assessment data for each of our schools and districts.

The information can be accessed at:

<http://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/>. Search for "Endicott School District" or "St. John School District" to view our schools.

By following this web address, you will find achievement data, participation rates, AYP summary data, teacher qualifications, information regarding the NAEP assessment, and other pertinent student and district related material. If you would like more information regarding the School Report Card please contact the building principals or the school counselor. If you do not have access to the Internet or are not able to access these links, please visit the school office and you will be provided a printed copy of this information.

## St. John School District's Title I Parent Engagement program

We extend thanks to those who participated in the district parent engagement meeting May 28. For those who would like to learn more, or offer additional input, we still welcome the opportunity to share information about our district's curriculum, academic assessments and academic support for struggling students, School-Parent Compact, Parent Involvement Policy and End-of-the-Year Parent Survey.

## Public documents

The following documents can be found on the St. John-Endicott Cooperative website. Go to [www.sje.wednet.edu](http://www.sje.wednet.edu) and click on the link entitled **Resources**, then **Parent and Students**, next **Parent and Students Home Page** and you will find the documents under **Title I**:

St. John Elementary Parent Involvement Plan

SJE District Parent Involvement Policy

Parent Complaint Procedures for Title I and LAP

If you don't have access to a computer you can request a copy of these documents at the school office.

## Citizen complaint procedure

A citizen complaint is a written statement that alleges a violation of a federal rule, law or regulation or state regulation that applies to a federal program. If, for any reason, you feel that our school or district has not followed the appropriate steps/laws related to the services that your student is or has received you can file a complaint. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction has clear guidelines that parents can follow. Select this link for a copy of those procedures, or contact your school office.

## Highly capable program

Highly capable services are available in St. John and Endicott School Districts at all levels (K-12) for students whose academic needs are not being met by our general education curriculum, and need extensions beyond what is currently being made available. A teacher, parent/guardian, student, member of the community, or any person who has knowledge of the student's abilities may initiate a referral for highly capable services. Referral forms are available in the school office and may be submitted before October 1 to the principal at the school. A parent information referral is also available. Referrals are reviewed annually.

## Discipline committee

Interested in serving on a discipline review committee? Periodically, we review our district discipline policy. If you would be interested in serving, please contact Principal Porubek or Principal Purvine. Interested parties will be contacted when this work is scheduled.

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## Off to new horizons:

### Bob Clements

When it comes to consistency, Bob Clements' vocational-agricultural classroom and workshop has long been recognized as one of the most stable, rock-solid learning spaces in all of Whitman County.



For more than a generation, students have walked away from Clements' classroom with practical, real-world skills he describes as "skills to be successful."

But alas, all good things must end. After 30 years in teaching, the last 29 at SJE High School, Clements is retiring at the end of the school year.

Whether teaching lessons in wood or metal, engine repair, agricultural business or proper technique in catching a football (25 years in coaching), Clements has been a disciple of precision and effort. But, who would expect less of a former Marine Corps sergeant once assigned embassy duty?

Now he will take the same commitment and desire to his next adventure – farming. He isn't really retiring, he admits, just moving his work to a new venue. One thing we know for sure is that he will leave an enduring tradition of excellence.

Thank you, Bob, and best of luck in "retirement."

### Randy Root

Even when the harsh winter of 2018-19 was officially over, its "gifts" kept on giving. In Endicott, repairs continued into spring to repair damage from a frozen water pipe that burst near the school entrance.

While water damage was extensive, it could have been much worse. Fast action by school staff stopped the deluge before it could spread to classrooms.

Among those prominently manning the defenses was custodian Randy Root. Beyond his day-to-day duties keeping the building ship-shape, he's also been an emergency responder of sorts; the guy who knows every switch, valve, junction box, thermostat, vent and even nicks in the wall.

For 22 years, he has been Endicott's go-to guy who has kept things running – the man who could build anything, fix anything and always the first to respond to (and correct) any unexpected mechanical glitch or curve ball thrown by Mother Nature.

His easy going personality and warm, friendly smile will be sorely missed. Thank you, Randy, and please come back to visit.



## Volunteers honored for service

Two SJE volunteer groups received regional honors this spring for their tireless contributions to education and youth. The Endicott-St. John Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and St. John Volunteer Community Readers were recognized by the Washington Association of School Administrators at a banquet in Spokane.



In photo at left, Superintendent Suzanne Schmick was joined by Tia Langston representing the PTO, and, at right, by Kathy Pierce and Kay Riehle representing the Community Readers.

More than 150 people attended the annual banquet honoring school volunteers from seven counties. To all of our outstanding volunteers – thank you!

