



# Daily Dispatch

## Head Line News

Newsletter Date  
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Volume 1, Issue 1

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the opinion survey that was distributed prior to winter break.

I would like to give you some insight to how I plan on using the results of the survey to focus my efforts on making the Mt Baker School District Transportation Department an even better place to work than it already is.

As you noticed there was a numerical score associated with the responses. When I have most of the surveys completed I will total up the individual question scores and

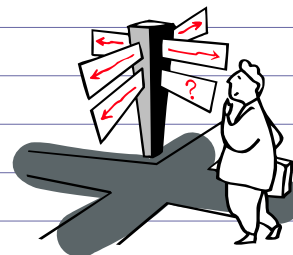
come up with an average score for each question. Any score that is less than 3 will require an immediate action plan on my behalf to make measurable, continuous improvement in that area.

The categories with the lowest scores will receive the most immediate attention. Everyone will be asked to share in the process of putting changes in place to correct an area that needs improvement.

I will be asking you to retake the same survey again in the spring time to check on the progress that has been made and

complete a new set of action plans to work on the next set of priorities.

I'm old enough to know that the solutions to most of the problems we may encounter come from the people who do the job, not the person who supervises the people.



*I'm not sure you can get there from here.*

***I need your help!***

### Special points of interest:

- ✓ Headline News
- ✓ Employee Profile
- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Industry News
- ✓ Shop Talk
- ✓ Local News
- ✓ Birthdays
- ✓ Employee Survey

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## How About a "Cup of Joe"



*I'm very excited about getting to know each of you more closely. Here is a brief bio about me.*

*My wife Patty and I have been married 39 years. She dated my cousin through most of high school, I came home from college one weekend and found out that they had broken up. As they say, "the rest is history". We have three wonderful children : Amber,*

*Joseph , and Autumn. We are very proud that all of them completed their college educations, and that is part of the reason I returned to work after retiring from UPS with 29 years of employment. The 2 oldest, Amber and Joseph, are both married to wonderful partners and have given Patty and me the joy of three fantastic grandchildren. Olivia, Conner and Emma. Our*

*youngest Autumn has met a nice young man and rumor has it they plan to get married this summer. We moved up here from Arizona in 2004. For you natives of the NW 350 days of sunshine is not all that it's cracked up to be.*

*We have a nice home in Stanwood and look forward to having all of you over for a barbeque or something this spring or summer.*

## Safety News

### We are in the service business.

Our job is to safely transport our communities' most precious cargo to and from school as close to on-time arrivals as possible. Weather conditions can hamper our schedule and increase our risk of having an accident. **We have little control of the weather conditions.** Another big reason for most of our delays are contributed to mechanical breakdowns in our equipment. **We do have a great deal of control over this.**

From what I've seen our mechanics do a fantastic job of maintaining our fleet, but even in the best maintained fleets, things break!

**Pre and Post Trips** will help eliminate most of the on-road equipment issues we have. It will keep your bus on the road and on time and, most importantly it will help keep you and your passengers safer.

We will be conducting a demonstration of a proper pre and post trip during our monthly

meetings that I plan on having in the near future, with the help of our driver trainers and our mechanics.

If you are already performing a complete daily pre trip and post trip, I thank you.

If you have gotten a little lax in performing your pre-trips, I encourage you to start up again. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask.



A school bus performs its duty best when it's running.

## Local News

Trish Paulson called the transportation office on Tuesday the 13th of January to give us some information about one of our drivers.

Trish's son rides to school on Melinda's bus.

On January 5th, her father-in-law, who is 84 years young, and also walks with the assistance of a walking cane, had slipped and fallen in the snow.

The substitute bus driver Erica

Rollins stopped and help him back to his feet.

Trish thanked Erica the next day for her compassion and concern, but she just wanted up to know what a fine employee we have and that she was very grateful for Erica's act of kindness.



Thank you Erica for going above and beyond to provide excellent service to our community.

*Act of kindness does not go un-noticed!*

## Shop Talk

Gary and Alex have asked for your help in preventing some problems we are experiencing with our electrical charging and storage components on our buses, mainly our alternators and batteries. Here are a few tips to help you stay on time:



- During your pre-trip, check your oil and transmission fluid with the use of a flashlight, wait until you have started the bus to check your lights and other electrical accessories.
- During the day monitor your gauges.
- When you return from the end of your run, let the bus idle for a moment before you shut it off.
- Make sure all radios, mirror heaters, and inside lights are turned off after each run.
- On all extended time off, turn off the master switch to all the electrical if your bus is equipped with one.

## Industry News

The goals of Clean School Bus USA are to reduce children's exposure to diesel exhaust and the amount of air pollution created by diesel school buses.

- 24 million American children ride school buses daily.
- On average, these students spend an hour and a half each day in a school bus.
- School buses drive more than 4 billion miles each year.

School buses are the safest way for children to get to school. However, pollution from older diesel vehicles has health impli-

cations for everyone, especially children. By working together, we can reduce pollution from public school buses -- making sure that school buses are also a clean way for children to get to school. Clean School Bus USA brings together partners from business, education, transportation, and public-health organizations to work toward these goals:

- Encouraging policies and practices to eliminate unnecessary public school bus idling.
- Upgrading ("retrofitting")

buses that will remain in the fleet with better emission-control technologies and/or fueling them with cleaner fuels.

Replacing the oldest buses in the fleet with new, less-polluting buses.

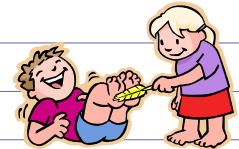


## Humor

Reading test

Aoccdrnig to rsrceeah at Cmabrigde Uinervtisy, it deosn't mtttaer in waht oredr the ltteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht the frist and lsat ltteer be at the rghit pclae. The

rset can be a total mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae the huamn mnid deos not raed ervey lteter by istlef, but the wrod as a wlohe. Petrty amzanig, huh?



*The most wasted day of all is one in which we have not laughed.*

unknown

## Birthdays and Special Days

Happy Birthday Wishes To:

Job Anniversary Dates:

Betsy Zender January 5th

De Anne Roames January 17th 20 Years

Bob Nelson January 19th





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Good morning, how are you today? Good bye , have a nice evening, or something similar are the first and last phrases that many of our students hear from a Mount Baker School employee daily; **that employee is you**, their bus driver. As a bus driving professional for the Mount Baker School District you have the golden opportunity to set the tone and shape the lives of many of our students on a daily basis. Many graduates often times recall their favorite teacher or bus driver who had the biggest impact on their educational development.

Our goal is for you to be:

***THAT DRIVER***

*Every Student is a  
"Guest of Honor"*

## Employee Profile

This month we would like you to get to know more about one of our newer members of our transportation staff.

De Ann Roames may be new to the transportation department but she certainly is not new to the Mount Baker school district.

On January 17th she will be celebrating her 20th year with Mount Baker schools. She started her career with the district as a student data entry specialist. Prior to accepting a position in the transportation department she was the attendance secretary registrar for the junior high school, a position she held for 16 years. When I asked her what her title was she stated that she was the office secretary but she really ran everything. "I wasn't the boss, but I

was bossy" she stated.

De Ann was born in Emporia, Kansas and has been asked if she's related to Dorothy, but she strongly states that she would never be caught associating with any tin men, scarecrows or lions and has never been to Oz.

She moved to the Mount Baker area in July of 1988.

When she's not working De Ann loves to read. Her favorite type of reading is historical novels.

Her other love is spending time with her husband Rick on their 25' pocket trawler .

Her favorite quote is, "He felt that nameless pleasure that only comes with a fine day on the water" (from "The Shipping News")

De Ann's main job duties in transportation are the mail distribution, time sheets and purchase orders.

We are certainly privileged to have De Ann as part of our team.



**De Ann Roames  
Transportation Secretary**