



# Daily Dispatch

## Head Line News Sub's Needed

Newsletter Date  
March 2009

Winter 2008/2009 (Updated  
Jan 02, 2009)  
By James Kraemer, 2saf-  
eschools.org

**The Nation** - It is well known, at least within the school bus industry, that a chronic school bus driver shortage has existed for at least a decade. This shortage of qualified school bus drivers persists and regardless of economic conditions and varying workforce availability within many of our nation's communities.

up and just have other things that prevent them from coming to work every day.

It is a fact of life.

As we approach spring sports and field trips it is apparent that we do not have enough qualified substitute bus drivers to continue to provide the level of service that we are expected to provide.

Beginning March 13th we will start a driver training class for additional substitute bus drivers.

Joe Banach, Melinda Smull, and Ross Wood will be conducting the training.

We are asking for your help in getting the mes-

sage out to potential students for our class.

We are looking for people that want to make a commitment to be available to sub for the regular driver on an ongoing basis.

Please think of anyone that you know that might be interested in this opportunity and have them call me at 383-2060 to set up an interview.

Thank you for your support.

Joe

*No one can perform your job as well as you.*

It is important that everyone try and make it to work daily, but we know that people do get sick, have emergencies come



### Issue 3

#### Special points of interest:

- Who can replace you?
- Stimulus Package
- Out of service
- Nooksack Tribe
- Loading and Unloading
- Compliment/Concern Form

## How About a "Cup of Joe"



It's time again for the Washington State Patrol to conduct their safety inspection of our fleet.

Under jurisdiction of RCW 46.32 the state has the right and obligation to randomly inspect our fleet to insure that the mechanical condition of our buses are up to the level that is required to transport children safely to and from school.

Gary and Alex are always

working very hard to make sure that all of our buses are in compliance to the standards of the state of Washington, but there are some things that are out of their control.

I am asking for your help to ensure we have another 100% inspection by you doing your part.

- Make sure you are doing a thorough pre trip and post trip daily.

- Make sure there are no unsecured items inside the bus.

- Remove or report any graffiti or cuts in the seats.

- Make sure all your seats are properly latched.

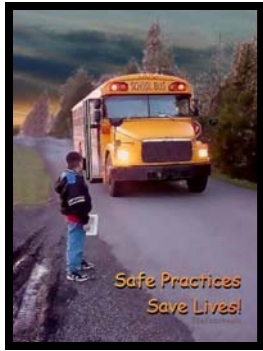
- No unauthorized liquids inside the bus.

Thanks in advance.... Joe

#### Inside this issue:

Safety Focus Load -Unload	2
Local News The Nooksack	2
Shop Talk	2
Stimulus Bill	3
Humor	3
Compliment Concern Form	4
Employee Profile	4

## Safety News



**I'm sure you have heard the statistics that 67% of all school bus fatalities happen outside the bus usually during loading or unloading.**

*Ask yourself if you are doing your part daily to ensure that you keep your students safe as the get on and off the bus.*

### Do You?

- Check your mirrors constantly at stops.
- Make sure your students stand back a safe distance from the bus.
- Have your students make eye contact with you before they cross the street and only cross after you have given them the sign that it is safe to do so.
- Make sure that your students cross as a group together.
- Do not open your door until you are sure that all traffic has come to a complete stop.
- Make sure that all students cross in front and not behind the bus.
- Make sure all students regardless of age comply with the rules.
- Let your students know on a personal level why you are asking them to comply.



## Local News - Getting to Know Our Neighbor's The Nooksack

Two versions have been put forth to define the name Nooksack. One is that it means mountain men, the name given by Indians on the coast to this Salish tribe. The other version is that the tribe is named after noot-sa-ack, the bracken ferns that were one of their dietary staples. In either case, the Nooksack are a Native American tribe in Whatcom County in the northwest corner of [Washington State](#).

The tribe has a reservation 17 miles east of Bellingham, centered at the small town of Deming. Like most Northwest Coast [indigenous peoples](#), the pre-contact Nooksack subsisted on fishing, hunting, gathering and trading.

### A brief history

For millennia before trappers, traders, lumbermen, gold seekers and homesteaders came to the Nooksack River valley, the Nooksack people resided in numerous villages at the banks of the Nooksack and Sumas. The earliest Nooksack scooped out semi-subterranean dwellings of up to a dozen feet deep, then capped them with pitched bark roofs. Subsequent generations constructed aboveground longhouses of cedar boards.

Their fishing grounds extended from today's Bellingham Bay to British Columbia. They used nets and fish traps in the rivers to harvest various species of salmon. During the fish runs in the fall and spring, a number of families typically shared a smoke-house on the riverbanks next to the fish traps. They cleaned, hung up to dry, and smoked numerous salmon. The Nooksack also dug up clams, gathered meadow berries, stalked mountain goats for food and skins, and grew wild carrots (sbugmack).\* However, the majority of their diet consisted of fish, roots and ferns. The Nooksack revered the earth and its bounty in religious ceremonies.

In the mid-1930s, the Nooksack tribe voted to accept the provisions of the Indian Reorganization Act (1934), which had secured new rights for Native Americans, and began to work on a tribal constitution. Since they lacked a land base, they were denied federal recognition as a tribe. In 1971, however, the Nooksack Tribe won full federal recognition, and a reservation was founded on one acre at Deming. Since then, the tribe's holdings have expanded to 2,500 acres, which include 65 acres of trust land.

The Nooksack also were the first Native Americans in the region to grow white potatoes, a skill they acquired from British Columbia Hudson Bay Company employees.

\*\*The Nooksack's language was all but extinct by the 1980s, when only a few elders spoke it. The tribe has since established a "language reclamation" project.

### Checking Fluid Levels



The transmission fluid level should always be checked twice.

Allison recommends cold checks of fluid levels be carried out when the bus is parked on a level surface, during pre trip.

Wipe the dipstick clean and check the fluid level. If it is within the REF FILL (Cold run)

### "Shop Talk"

band, the level is satisfactory for operating the transmission until the fluid is hot enough to perform a Hot Check.

A hot check should be performed immediately after the normal operating temperature is reached, i.e. 160F-200F during your post trip.

Wipe the dipstick clean and check the fluid level. A safe operating fluid level, Allison

notes, is anywhere between the Full and Add lines within the hot run band or below the Hot Overfull mark and above the cold run band.

The single-most important thing is the fluid and if you see it's not that dark, cherry red color and it looks black or has that 'burnt' smell to it, you need to get it cleaned out immediately.

**Stimulus includes \$300 million for clean diesel**

February 18, 2009

**Industry News**

DENVER — The economic stimulus package signed by President Obama here on Tuesday contains potential funding for reducing school bus emissions and improving school facilities.



The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) includes \$300 million for clean diesel efforts, such as retrofitting older vehicles with particulate filters and purchasing new vehicles.

The ARRA Funding for National Diesel Emissions Reduction Program will be offered this year in addition to the EPA's fiscal year 2009 National Diesel Emissions Reduction Program Appropriations. In its latest newsletter, the National School Transportation Association called the provision

"a huge infusion of funding" and said that there will be pressure to spend the money quickly.

The EPA said that there will be separate competitive announcements for the two programs, with the ARRA announcement scheduled to be made in early March. Visit [www.epa.gov/cleandiesel](http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel) for updates.

The ARRA stimulus package also creates a \$54-billion education fund to help prevent or restore state budget cuts. Mike Martin, executive director of the National Association for Pupil Transportation, said it appears that about \$8 billion of the fund could be used to modernize and renovate school buildings, including transportation facilities.

However, Martin expressed disappointment that ARRA provides \$8.4 billion for investments in public transit projects and \$150 million for rail and transit security grants, but neither includes pupil transportation.

"The activities authorized under the transit stimulus will provide financial support for many of the same needs that exist as well in school transportation, which makes it especially disappointing that financial support for our nation's largest mass transit system — yellow school buses — was not included in this package," Martin said.



**Humor:**

**It's time to go to school**

One morning a mother was trying to wake up her son. "Wake up now! It's time to go to school."  
"I don't want to go to school," the son replied.  
His mother said, "Give me two reasons why you don't want to go to school."

Okay. One, all the children hate me. Two, all the teachers hate me."  
"Not good enough," the mother replied.  
"Fine," the son said.  
"Then you give me two good reasons why I SHOULD go to school."

**One, you're 50 years old.**

**Two, you're the principal of the school.**

*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:**

Suzanne Woodin	3/04	Dale Anderson	3/03	6 years
Dinah McAbee	3/05	Dinah McAbee	3/16	11 years
Jim Millson	3/08			



**CONGRADULATIONS**



**Transportation  
Department**

4956 Deming Road  
PO Box 95  
Deming, Washington 98244  
  
Phone: 360-383-2060  
Fax: 360-383-2064  
E-mail:  
jbanach@mtbaker.wednet.edu

*Every Student is a  
"Guest of Honor"*

**Compliment / Concern Form**

We don't manufacture or invent anything, we don't sell or fix anything. We provide a service to our community. My motto is "Best Service— Best People" and I really feel that you do an outstanding job in providing great service.

We have many customers:

- Students
- Parents
- Teachers
- Mechanics
- General Public
- School Board

Our goal should to always strive to improve our service.

Keeping that in mind I have developed a compliment/concern form that I am asking all the Mt. Baker staff to use, to record any time a customer calls in or talks with them about our service, it will be used to monitor and improve our service.

Thanks for all you do.

**Employee Profile**

*Linda Nieuwendorp*



This month's employee profile looks at the life of Linda Nieuwendorp.

An important fact that you might not know about Linda is that Linda was born in Moscar, Egypt. Linda's mother was in the British

air force and her father was in the British army. She lived abroad until she was 9 years old.

When her family moved to the United States they went through their processing at Ellis Island.

Linda grew up in West Seattle.

Linda has lived in Whatcomb county for 32 years.

She and her husband Dennis (Denny) have 4 boys with one living in Germany.

Linda loves to garden and cannot wait until spring time rolls around.

Linda started talking to me about grafting and splicing and other terms that only a serious gardener would know, so I'm convinced that when ever I have any gardening questions I know my expert and I encourage you to tap

into her knowledge as well.

Linda's other great love is getting out in the great pacific northwest.

"I love to get out in the woods and camp and fish. There's no better time to be had than being out in natures playground."

When I asked Linda for one thing that other's might not know about her, Linda replied, "most people think I'm pretty outspoken and outgoing, but I really am a pretty quiet and reserve person."

Linda's love for children makes her an outstanding plus for the transportation department. When I was out riding with Linda it was evident that her children feel the same way about her.