

# **EASTMONT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 206**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**October 24, 2007**

Eastmont School District has refinanced a portion of its outstanding bonds in order to take advantage of lower interest rates. The recent refinancing will save the District's taxpayers a total of over \$945,000 during the next 10 years. Superintendent Christensen emphasized that these savings flow directly to taxpayers through reduced tax levies and are not available for District expenses. "This is a direct savings to our community members in the form of taxes they expected, but will not have to pay," Christensen said.

The Eastmont School Board accomplished these savings by approving the issuance of \$18,405,000 in refunding bonds at its meeting held on October 24, 2007. The District has been monitoring bond market conditions over the past year and recent low interest rates allowed the District to exceed its savings target. Interest rates averaged 3.94% on the new bonds compared to 5.22% on the old debt.

For more information contact Cindy Ulrich, Director of Finance, Eastmont School District.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Rock Island Elementary RECOGNIZED BY STATE AS SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION**

*State School Supt. Terry Bergeson applauds Rock Island Elementary as one of 86 “amazing” schools in Washington State.*

**Wenatchee—Oct. 9, 2007-Rock Island Elementary]** has been named one of 86 “Schools of Distinction” by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) for dramatic improvements in student reading and mathematics over the past several years.

On Wednesday, Principal KC Kwak joined the state superintendent of public instruction, Dr. Terry Bergeson, along with representatives of Rock Island Elementary’s staff to accept the award at a statewide press event at ESD 171.

OSPI’s Schools of Distinction represent the top 5 percent of elementary, middle and high schools whose students have shown outstanding growth in both reading and mathematics skills during a six-year period. This year’s winning schools include 51 elementary schools, 20 middle schools and 15 high schools – out of nearly 2,500 schools in the state.

To be considered for the award, each school had to meet the current year’s state learning targets on the Washington Assessment of Student Learning for students in both reading and mathematics.

Schools that met the reading and mathematics targets were then evaluated for six-year gains on the state’s “Learning Improvement Index.” Because the award is based on improvement across a six-year period, only results from grades four, seven and 10 were used, as those are the only grade levels with six years of trend data.

Independent research and analysis to establish criteria for the awards and to identify the schools with the greatest improvement was conducted by Greg Lobdell of the Center for Educational Effectiveness in Redmond.

Rock Island Elementary has a long tradition of excellence in education and very strong connections to our community. All Rock Island staff, students, and parents are a team with a commitment to quality work based on high expectations.

Our goal is to have all students on grade level by the end of third grade. We have all day kindergarten and early intervention which accelerates learning. Staff collaborates on what strategies, activities, and professional development is necessary for meeting our goals. Common time to plan and longer staff meetings assist staff with curriculum alignment, reviewing student work, and creating interventions. We assess student’s regularly to see how they are progressing. The data is used to make lesson and program decisions. We celebrate student success with quarterly assemblies that clearly link achievement with effort and improvement.

School leaders from each of the winning schools were presented with awards and a large banner reading "School of Distinction – 2007 State Superintendent's Learning Improvement Award."

Superintendent Dr. Garn Christensen, along with the Eastmont School Board, congratulates Rock Island Staff and thanks them for all their hard work.

Additional information on the award program, and a list of all Schools of Distinction, can be found on the OSPI Web site at [www.k12.wa.us](http://www.k12.wa.us). To learn more about the Eastmont School District or visit [www.eastmont206.org](http://www.eastmont206.org) .