

Since its opening celebration on May 15th 1985, with Principal Rich Stewart in the lead, Peshastin-Dryden Elementary School welcomed 216 students that year to be the first class at the new school. Each room featured sinks for hand washing and had the capability for educational TV. One of the more unique features to the school was a dedicated ski rack, sitting area and floor with drainage for the kids who would cross-country ski to school. The school's first kindergarten class graduated highschool 1997.

In 2019, the school will welcome approximately 270 students and 16 teachers under the leadership of Mrs. Emily Ross. This school is in the top 20% of all the schools in Washington State and continues to excel in educational excellence each and every year. The "we can do it" spirit was on display when the school moved to its temporary home in the Osborn Building in 2018-2019 and then back into this beautiful facility starting in the 2019-2020 school year.

As home of the "Cubs" the school has, at times, seen things go to the "DOGS" or watchDOGS, as the current program is called now, with their Dads of Great Students program, where fathers are encouraged to come to the school for a day. For each one that has participated, he experienced an almost "rock star" status from the students. Dads were the center of attention everywhere they went on campus. For the dads who participated, this was something to cherish and even though it may have been tough to take the time off to make it happen, the rewards were endless and the impression left on the children will last a lifetime.

Peshastin-Dryden continues to attract and welcome excellent teachers to be a part of the team and through their efforts, the results can be seen in every student who calls this school home. Since 2003, each teacher receives training in LETRS (Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling) and they recently received STEM training (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math). Because of their efforts and commitment, the students here have seen more growth in literacy over the last few years than any other students in the history of the Cascade School District.

Cascade School District, Peshastin-Dryden Elementary School, and every member of its staff are truly committed to providing an unparalleled team to help provide a solid foundation for the life ahead to each student through continuous student development that envisions empowering students through character, scholarship and determination so when they leave here, they too can continue that "we can do it" spirit to make the world a better place for others.

- Condensed version of remarks by Jimmy Norton, August 24, 2019