

Jefferson
Elementary
2500 Cadet Way
Everett, WA 98208
425.385.7400



Jefferson Charger

Elizabeth Kelley, Principal
www.everettsd.org

December 2016

From the Principal

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! As I think about my first season here at Jefferson, I have so much to be thankful for: a community of families that truly cares about every child; students who come to school with smiles on their faces each day; and a staff that goes above and beyond to make school the best part of every student's day. Thank you for all you do to support your children, our staff, and our school. There are two upcoming PTA-sponsored events that also need the whole community's support:

- The Holiday Basket drive, which collects items to fill our food bank and help members of our own community, needs donations Nov. 28-Dec. 12. You can sign up at <http://signup.com/go/kIdEmP>. If you prefer to donate money, you can send in a check payable to Jefferson PTA. The event chair is Kristy Robinson, crazy_8shells@yahoo.com.
- The Holiday Store, which allows students to shop for low-cost gifts, needs volunteers Dec. 5-9. You can sign up at <http://signup.com/go/8yXec8>. The event chair is Angela Dorn, dorn2203@gmail.com.

On another topic, some of you may have received letters about your child's unexcused absences. In the past, any absence you notified us of was excused. But last year, district policy shifted to align with new state law. Absences are now excused if they fall into eight categories, and family vacations are not excused. This information was sent home last year, at the beginning of this school year, and is on our website. Along with the policy change, the district requires that letters be sent home after a certain number of absences. These are auto-generated by our attendance system. Please understand that these are just notifications; you are not expected to do anything with them. If we have major concerns about your child's attendance, we will make personal contact, not rely on letters. Thank you for ensuring that your child is here, on time, each day – it's foundational to learning!

As we move from fall into winter and the holiday season, I hope that you and your family have a fun, safe time together!

Mrs. Kelley

Important information and reminders

- **Morning arrival:** Students should not arrive on campus before 8:55 unless they are having breakfast here (beginning at 8:45) or serving on Safety Patrol. Dropping students off early is unsafe because we do not provide adult supervision at that time!
- **Lost & found:** Missing a jacket or a lunch box? Check the lost and found in the cafeteria. And, write your child's name on these types of items so that we can reunite them!

CALENDAR

Early Release	12/02
Fridays	12/09
2:15 p.m.	12/16
	1/06
PTA Holiday Store	12/05 -
Cafeteria	12/09
PTA Holiday Store	12/08
open to parents	
3:30 - 5:30 p.m.	
Wreath Pick-up	12/09
Cafeteria	
2:15 - 5:00 p.m.	
NO SCHOOL	12/19 -
Winter Break	01/02
School Resumes	01/03

Literacy News

Have you wondered about what types of reading your child is participating in while at school? In classrooms, students enjoy large group shared reading (read alouds), small instructional groups targeting specific skills/levels, and opportunities for independent reading, too. Ask your child about what he or she is reading in each of these areas.

December is here, and only includes twelve school days. During this busy time, please continue to encourage your child to read daily. Students have made so much progress already this year, and we want to pick up right where we left off when we return in January. Books make excellent holiday gifts!

If there is any way I can support you and your child in literacy, please let me know!

Janet Erickson
Literacy Coach
425-385-7423

Thank you, PTA!

New playground equipment funded by PTA has been installed, and students are having a great time playing on it. What a great example of how fund-raising supports all of our students!



Jefferson Food Bank

Need items? Contact the office!

Want to donate? Drop items in the box under the table in the school entryway.

- Please make sure items are not expired, or about to expire. They have to be thrown away, and this takes our volunteers extra time.
- Items always in demand are kid-friendly, easy-to-make foods: Mac and cheese, canned pasta, PB & J, canned tuna/chicken, soups with pull-top lids, microwave meals, cereal, etc.

Volunteer application online

Want to attend a field trip this spring? Time to renew an expired volunteer application? [Apply or renew quickly and easily online.](#) Applying online saves postage, time, and your application gets processed even faster.

Beyond the Hour of Code Event

Join students, parents and community members for student-led computer science activities and robotics demonstrations on **Dec. 5, 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.** at the Community Resource Center at 3900 Broadway in Everett. Come celebrate computer science with our students!

November 29, 2016

Families and Children of Jefferson Elementary,

My name is Christine Hansen, and I am so happy to be serving as your new elementary music teacher! This will be my 16th year in the Everett School District, and I come to Jefferson after teaching 15 years as the choir and piano teacher at Everett High School.

I am very excited for this year's **UPCOMING CONCERT** slated for Thursday, February 9, at 6:30 P.M. in the Everett Civic Auditorium located at 2416 Colby Ave. Please save the date on your calendar. The first through fifth grade classes will be presenting a concert with the theme "Togetherness." The doors will open at 6:30 P.M. If you are a parent who works at night, think about another family in the school you might trust to transport your child to and from the concert. The students have been working so hard, I would hate for any child to be left out of this uplifting time making music together.

Each grade level (1st-5th) will perform several songs. The concert should be a little more than an hour in length. Children will be required to sit up front with their teachers, perform, and then return to their teachers until the concert is completed. I am asking that you stay for the entire program as a way to show support for all involved. Kids are to participate in the following ways: Every child is expected to sing in the mass choir formed with each grade level of over 100 kids on that evening, learn the songs, and do their very best job.

Besides singing and playing as a group, there are some other opportunities for students to display their gifts. There will be spots between the choirs for students (mainly upper grades) to perform on an instrument, sing, dance and/or act. There are also opportunities for students to display their artistic abilities by drawing pictures that are based on the themes in the concert..

I'm starting an audition process to see and hear kids display their talents once a week until the Holiday Break. Upon desire, students interested are bringing home slips so they have parent permission to come before or after school during designated times.

Thanks so much for all you do for your children, and I look forward to serving your children!

Christine Hansen

Music Specialist



PTA from a Principal's Point of View

Principal Elizabeth Kelley

As the Jefferson principal, PTA matters to me, and to our school. The PTA does so much to support all of our students and staff! Please take a few short minutes to learn more about PTA.

What is PTA? Simply put, it's a group that supports our school. Currently, there are about 180 PTA members. Not a member but want to join? Pick up a membership form in the school office.

Does joining PTA involve a time commitment? It doesn't have to! Your membership fee alone supports students and staff. Volunteering to help (a little or a lot) is appreciated, but not required!

Who runs PTA? PTA is an all-volunteer organization with a five-member board, four of whom also work. Their job is to oversee the running of PTA, and to recruit other volunteers to organize events.

Why are there so many events on the calendar? Because there are just three to four nights a month designated for elementary school events, the calendar fills up with PTA, Lighthouse, and camp fund-raising events. Jefferson's annual/traditional events were calendared back in July in order to hold the dates, before volunteer event chairs were recruited.

Why have so many events been cancelled this year? Again, PTA has an all-volunteer board whose members oversee the organization. They rely on others to coordinate events, with their support. PTA events such as Skate Deck and Movie Night cannot happen if no one volunteers to organize and run them. Camp fund-raising events such as McTeacher Night and the Pancake Breakfast depend on fourth-grade parent volunteers.

Why is PTA so important? PTA does so much, big and little, to benefit all students and staff members:

- New playground equipment
- Classroom grants to be used as teachers wish to benefit students
- Grants that support our specialists: library books, technology, PE equipment, etc.
- Low-cost family/community events
- Providing families an opportunity to be involved in the school community and to have a voice in their children's educational experience
- Building relationships among families
- Book fairs, the Holiday Store, weekly student store and popcorn sales
- Community service opportunities such as the food bank, Holiday Baskets, and coin drive
- Supporting teachers with dinner on conference nights, a Keurig coffee maker, etc.

How can people get involved? The next PTA general membership meeting is at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 12. For more info on PTA, contact President JoLynn Garrett at jandtgarrett@gmail.com or visit the [PTA Facebook page](#).

Prepare for bad weather

How to find emergency school schedule information (usually by 5:45 a.m.)

See [Safety and Emergencies](#) page under *Parents* tab on district website for full details and other resources.

- [FlashAlert.net](#): You can subscribe to receive notices at the same time those notices are sent to media outlets, or you can bookmark this site to check for a listing of regional school emergency schedule information.
- Media news reports (Media gets information from FlashAlert)
- District website: www.everettsd.org
- District information line at 425-385-4636
- *Blackboard Connect** calls, emails and text messages made to families beginning as early as 5:45 a.m.
***Please be sure your contact information is current at your school.**
- Program [impact chart](#) outlines how various school programs and activities are impacted when school is cancelled or starts late.

No announcement means schools are on a regular schedule.

Snow routes are online!

School drop off and pick up locations may change in an emergency situation. If your child rides a bus to school, please become familiar with the [snow route information](#) on the district transportation department's webpage.

The district shall provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, veteran or military status, the presence of any physical, sensory or mental disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a student with a disability. Designated to handle inquiries about nondiscrimination policies are: Affirmative Action Office – Carol Stolz, cstolz@everettsd.org, 425-385-4106. Title IX Officer – Randi Seaberg, rseaberg@everettsd.org, 425-385-4104. 504 Coordinator – Becky Ballbach, rballbach@everettsd.org, 425-385-4063. ADA Coordinator – Becky Clifford, bclifford@everettsd.org, 425-385-5250. Address: 3900