

Whittier Wildcat News

WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



October 2023

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 2

From the Principal

Welcome to October! It has been a great first month to kick-off the 2023-24 school year, and your children have been hard working, engaged, and passionate learners. Thank you for your support in helping to ensure that your child has a successful start to the new school year. Thank you for attending our Back-to-School Orientation, Meet the Teacher Day, September PTA meeting, and Curriculum Night & Book Fair Family Night. Your support always matters!

Social and emotional learning (SEL) is critical for student success, and this has never been truer than it is today. Whittier third through fifth grade students will be taking the Panorama Social and Emotional Learning survey next week. The survey prompts students to reflect on their own actions and thoughts as well as their overall experience at our school. Survey data will help school staff create a more positive school experience for all students as well as provide specific support for students in need. The results from these surveys will be shared with pre-approved adults who work closely with your children in the school. SEL data, alongside academic and attendance information, will allow adults to provide specific and targeted interventions as needed to support students succeeding at school. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact me.

Whittier 5th grade students went to Camp Killoqua this week! It is such an amazing outdoor learning experience for our 5th grade students every year to have this opportunity to be able to attend camp. Thank you, Whittier families for your support every year to ensure that all students can participate in outdoor camp. Our PTA raised over \$22,000 at the end of the 2022-23 school year in the APEX Fun Run Fundraiser, and this fundraising money goes right back into our school programs to serve our students and school. A portion of the funds raised helps to support all 5th grade students having the opportunity to attend camp every year. Thank you!

Whittier's fall parent/teacher conference week will take place Monday, November 13 through Friday, November 17 (two weeks later than past years). You will have the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to find out about their individual progress, learn about the remarkable things happening in your child's classroom, and find out how to support your child at home while working in partnership with your child's teacher. You will be receiving more information from your child's teacher at the end of October to set up a specific conference time meeting.

Finally, I wanted to emphasize to parents that student safety is the highest priority at Whittier. Please remember that the Whittier campus doors are locked until 8:15 a.m. Please do not drop your child off by themselves before 8:15 a.m. as we do not have supervision for students outside of the entrance or outside of the playground fence area in the morning. And for parents dropping their child off in the parking lot in the morning, please make sure the student drop-off point is at the entrance of the building in front of the office so students can immediately step onto the sidewalk at the office entrance. Please do not drop your child off in the parking lot loop as it is not safe for students to walk through the parking lot between cars to enter the building. Thank you for your support.

Our students are off to a great start in demonstrating "**The Whittier Way**" expectations to **Be Safe**, to **Be Respectful**, and to **Be Your Best**. Parents, thank you for your continued support in making Whittier a great place to learn. Let's make it an outstanding October!

-Tony Wentworth, Principal

Tony Wentworth

Principal
Whittier Elementary School
916 Oakes Avenue,
Everett, WA 98201
www.everettsd.org/whittier

October 4-6
5th Grade to Camp Killoqua

October 6
LIF-1:35 PM Dismissal

October 9
Soccer Club begins M & W-
(10/9-11/29)
Natural Leaders Meeting - Library 6PM

October 13
NO SCHOOL-Teacher Workday

October 16
PTA Read-a-Thon Fundraiser Begins!
Watchdog Dads Kickoff Event 6-7 PM
PTA Meeting in Library 7-8 PM

October 20
LIF-1:35 PM Dismissal

October 24
EPS Dental Screening Day-Office
Conference Room
HS & Beyond @ Everett HS

October 26
PTA Trunk or Treat Festival 5:30-7:30 PM

October 27
LIF Day - 1:35 pm dismissal

November 3
Reduced Student Day 12:20 PM

Whittier PTA



Happy October, Wildcats!

Fall is here! As we settle into our school routines, your PTA community is gearing up for a fun and meaningful year. At the September meeting, we formed committees for upcoming events, teacher support and campus improvements. There is lot of opportunity to join in! If you have any interest and time to share, we would love to have you.

The Popcorn Fridays Committee has already begun popping fresh popcorn during lunches once a month! You may have noticed popcorn bags come home with your students last week. Our Teacher Grants Committee is going through applications now to award teachers money for new systems and equipment. The Fall Fundraiser Committee is gearing up for an exciting Read-A-Thon fundraiser to support our art docent program and general

fund. **The October PTA meeting is Monday, October 16th at 7pm in the library and via Zoom.**

Thank you for making the fall book fair a BIG success! With the help of over 20 volunteers and our committee chair extraordinaire, Erin Sylvester, so many students and families enjoyed shopping for books and raising money for the Whittier library on curriculum night.

Trunk or Treat is back this year on Thursday, October 26th. Parents can sign up to host a trunk by emailing AlexaSheraton@gmail.com. We would also LOVE candy donations! You can drop off candy at the front office by October 24th.

Our amazing art docent program has kicked off! If you are interested in leading or helping with an art project in a classroom, contact Tiffany Nash at whittierartprogram@gmail.com.

Everyone has a place in PTA. We help you stay informed, connect you to other families and make those elementary years fun for our students! We hope you will join PTA, and we believe any amount of participation (whether that is joining, giving an hour of your time at an event, or coming to a meeting) is important. Membership is \$10/member this year. You can join online at this link or by scanning the QR code below.

<https://www.memberplanet.com/packageview/whittierpta7-3-55/joinwhittierpta>

We are looking forward to a fun fall!

The Whittier Elementary PTA
Amanda McCaskey - President
Trista Taylor - Vice President
Emily Bott - Secretary
Heather Ethier - Treasurer



TRUNK OR TREAT

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26th
Last Names A-L 5:30 - 6:30 PM
Last Names M-Z 6:30 - 7:30 PM

in the Whittier Parking Lot

Join us in your costume for a night of trunk or treating!

Bring a bag to collect your treats!

Pizza will be sold in the cafeteria: cash, check, & cards accepted!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Welcome Whittier Families!



Please read below for essential information regarding school attendance.

- **ALL families must report student absences to the Whittier OFFICE.**
You may report an absence one of two ways:

1. Call the Attendance Line at **425-385-4305** and leave a voicemail.
2. Send an email to WHEAttendance@everettsd.org

It is great to notify your teacher of an absence, but **the only way to excuse an absence is by contacting the office.**

- **To excuse an absence, a parent/guardian must provide a reason.**

(Examples: illness, mental health day, travel, doctor appt, etc.)

- **Students arriving after 8:35 AM are tardy and must check-in at the office for a pass.**
- **Students arriving after 9:05 AM are considered absent and must check-in at the office for a pass.**
A parent/guardian must provide a reason to excuse the partial day absence.
- **Students are granted up to 5 excused days each school year for travel/vacation.**
Complete and return the [Prearranged Absence Form](#) to the office BEFORE your trip.

Whittier Watch D.O.G.S.



Are you a dad or father figure looking for a way to make a meaningful impact in your child's life? Look no further than the Watch D.O.G.S. program at Whittier Elementary School - it is the most wonderful thing you can do for your child!

As a Watch D.O.G.S. volunteer, you will have the opportunity to be a positive male role model for your child and their peers, create a safer school environment, and assist teachers in the classroom. Imagine the look on your child's face as they see you at school, playing games with them during

recess, and helping out in the classroom.

Your involvement as a Watch D.O.G.S. volunteer will not only create lasting memories for you and your child but also have a significant impact on their education and well-being. Studies have shown that children who have positive male role models in their lives are more likely to have higher self-esteem, better academic outcomes, and improved social skills.

So, why wait? Sign up today for a day with Watch D.O.G.S. at Whittier Elementary School and give your child the gift of a lifetime - a positive male role model who cares about their education and safety. Scan the QR code for more info!

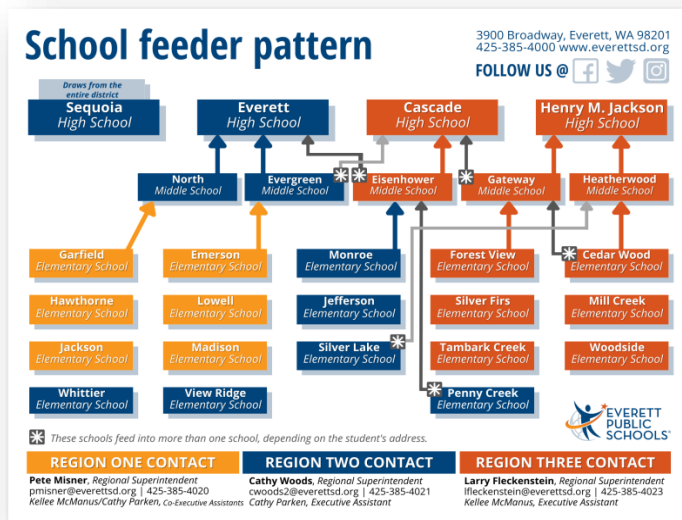




Let's Connect

We would love to connect with you!

The first Let's Connect of the school year is scheduled for October 17 from 6-7 p.m. Learn how our strategic plan impacts the work at your school and what it means for your student. Each region will host this session for their school families and interpreters from prominent languages in our district will be on site.



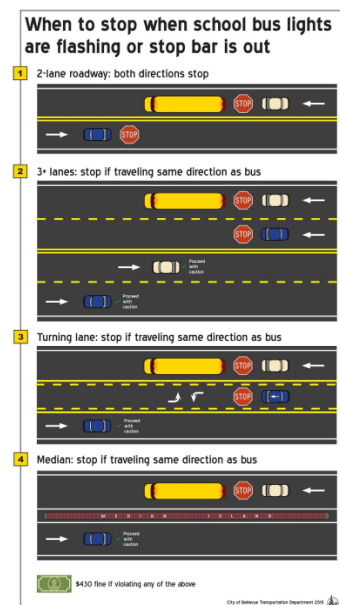
Please see the school feeder pattern for each region's session and the graphic below to determine the schools in each region.

Region One: Lowell ES - Cafeteria
Region Two: Jefferson ES - Cafeteria
Region Three: Gateway MS – Cafeteria

Safety reminders

As mornings become darker and darker, drivers, please keep an eye out for students walking and waiting at their bus stops. Families, please have your students wait for the bus to come to a complete stop and the flashing lights and stop sign to be fully out before they cross the street. Here is great graphic showing when to stop for school buses, and if you are ever in doubt--STOP! Other safety reminders include:

- Students and parents should wait on the curb when waiting for the school bus, not off the curb or in the street.
- Do not stand in school crosswalks, obey crossing guards if present.
- Be focused and aware when walking in school parking lots. We encourage walkers to stay off their cell phones while walking. Dark mornings may make it difficult for drivers to see walkers.
- Bicyclist must abide by the same laws as drivers, which means they must stop for school buses when applicable.
- If possible, wear lighter clothing/coats or add something reflective on darker clothing.





High School & Beyond events

Everett Public Schools is holding High School & Beyond events this month.

Students and families will be able to connect with colleges, universities, trade schools and apprenticeships from Washington and other states. Washington-specific schools will be highlighted, including our local community colleges. The number of college and career representatives available to support our efforts continues to grow, and we are looking forward to providing access to these rich, personalized resources to our students and families.



To increase access to each unique school community, the three comprehensive high schools have collaborated to provide a customized format on three specific dates in October as follows:

- Cascade HS | October 4, 2023 | 6-7:30 p.m. | Gym
 - The college and career fair will take place during the curriculum night event
- Jackson HS | October 11, 2023 | 5:30-7:35 p.m. | Gym & Main Building
 - The college and career fair will be a stand-alone evening event with several break-out session options
- Everett HS | October 24, 2023 | 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. (families are invited to attend from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.) | Gym
 - The college and career fair will take place during the school day

Details will be available on each of the high schools' homepages. If a family is not able to attend their school's event on the designated date, they are welcome to attend the HS & Beyond event at one of the other two high schools.

Interpreters from prominent languages of each school will be on site.

GoFan ticketing for school sports and activities!



GoFan, a digital ticketing and promotional service designed for school sports and activities, is available to all community members for in-person or advanced purchase at Memorial Stadium and paid events at each high school. The service provides more access and visibility to the district's ticketed events by offering payment by credit card through their platform, allowing users to view and subscribe to upcoming events and empowering the district with various tools. In-person cash payments are still available, and students with ASB cards receive free admission to sporting events.

The opportunity to pay by credit card at the ticketing window will reduce the amount of cash handling and prevent patrons from needing to leave for an ATM when they do not arrive with cash. There will be no direct cost to the district as GoFan charges \$1.00 + 3 percent as a convenience fee to the purchaser and all equipment required has been provided complimentary to each high school and Memorial Stadium. The equipment also utilizes cellular connectivity so it will require no additional infrastructure for implementation. By partnering with GoFan, the district will be able to increase accessibility to school events, increase participation and increase community involvement.



Did you miss a call from us?

If you missed a call from your school, please first check your voice mail, email or mobile app for the message rather than calling the school. Schools are often inundated with phone calls from parents after they send an automated call and cannot answer all the calls. If messaging is still not being delivered, then you will need to update your contact information at your school. If your contact information has changed, please let your school know so they can update the system to be able to successfully reach you.



3900 Broadway
Everett, WA 98201
425-385-4000
www.everettsd.org

- Everett Public Schools does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of
- sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual
- orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or
- service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth
- groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints
- of alleged discrimination:

- Title IX/Civil Rights Compliance Officer and ADA Coordinator:

- Chad Golden
- 425-385-4100
- CGolden@everettsd.org
- PO Box 2098
- Everett, WA 98213

- Section 504 Coordinator:

- Dave Peters
- 425-385-4063
- DPeters@everettsd.org
- PO Box 2098
- Everett, WA 98213