

Whittier Wildcat News

WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



February 2023

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 6

From the Principal

Happy February Whittier families! Thank you so much for attending the Whittier Winter Concert Tuesday night in supporting your child and our school. It was a fantastic musical performance and a great student celebration for Whittier! We appreciate and thank Mr. Storla for all his hard work in preparing, supporting, and leading students with the concert and in helping students find their passion in music.

We will have a WatchD.O.G.S. program kick-off event on Monday, February 13, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Whittier cafeteria. WatchD.O.G.S. stands for Dads of Great Students and it is a national program that has been at Whittier in the past, and we are re-launching the program this year as an opportunity to have dads or male family guardian figures be involved with your child at Whittier. We will have pizza and snacks for everyone who attends. Come join to learn about the WatchD.O.G.S. program and you can also stay for the PTA meeting later that evening in the library that will start at 7:00 p.m.

We have some fun school events planned in the next two months to keep students engaged and connected to school. On February 23, the PTA Glow Light Dance will return as one of our fun winter evening events for students and families, and on March 9, our PTA Bingo & Silent Auction event will also return. March is Read Across America month so Mrs. Heinger will have some fun student reading challenges and incentives to help encourage students to find the joy in reading books while strengthening reading skills. And starting next Friday, Whittier will have Winter Spirit Days every 2 weeks leading up to spring break! Here are the upcoming Whittier spirit days scheduled in February and March:

- February 3 – Crazy Mismatch Spirit Day
- February 17 – Reverse Dress Spirit Day (Staff dress in Whittier uniforms & students dress like staff!)
- March 3 – Pajama Spirit Day
- March 17 – Favorite Book Character Spirit Day
- March 31 – Flashback Friday to the 1980s Spirit Day

I want to take the time to thank all families for your commitment to ensuring that your child attends school every day and is ready to learn. Their presence in class every day is so critical to building a strong foundation of life-long learning, so we greatly appreciate your dedication and support. As we have now moved into the second half of the school year, the learning in every classroom will continue to progressively build so I want to emphasize the importance of good attendance for the remainder of the year. Please do your best to plan family trips or vacations on non-school days to ensure that your child can do their absolute best at Whittier. Every minute and every day at school matters!

Let's continue to make the month of February a focused month of learning. Thank you for your support in helping our students to be successful learners at Whittier!

Tony Wentworth, Principal

Tony Wentworth

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

February 1

Black History Month begins

February 3

LIF Day – 1:35 pm dismissal
Crazy Mismatch Spirit Day

February 6

Teacher Workday – NO SCHOOL

February 10

LIF Day – 1:35 pm dismissal

February 13

PTA Meeting in Library 7-8 pm

February 17

LIF Day – 1:35 pm dismissal
Reverse Dress Spirit Day
Popcorn Friday

February 20-21

Mid Winter Break-NO SCHOOL

February 23

PTA Glow Dance 5:30-7:30 PM

February 24

LIF Day – 1:35 pm dismissal



AP Corner

Safety and Supervision at Dismissal

Families! We need your help! We have many families and students congregating, getting into cars, and walking home in the afternoons. As soon as your students are released to your supervision, please be actively aware of your students' behavior, courteous to other families and their students, and conscientious of the fact that we have many young siblings and students all in the same area.



Our crosswalk supervisors must focus on the safety of students and families crossing the street and cannot have their attention diverted to students on the sidewalk who may be playing around.

Thank you so much for your cooperation and support as we make dismissal as safe and efficient as possible!

-Allison MacGregor Fornes, Assistant Principal

Whittier Watch D.O.G.S



Calling all fathers and father figures! Whittier Elementary is excitedly joining the 5,585 schools nationwide and over 6,800 schools world-wide by re-establishing the WATCH D.O.G.S program. Established in 1998, the program has been bringing fathers, uncles, step parents, grandfathers, guardians and any male role models into schools to help participate in the education process.

Watch D.O.G.S. members assist teachers and school staff by volunteering their time in creating a presence at school that not only helps father and father figures engage more with their own children, but also enjoy the benefits of helping support all of the students. By assisting with educational activities and engaging children in their daily environments, fathers and father figures are able to reach students in a way that only that role can. Their presence on campus also provides a sense of security in which staff and teachers across the world have raved about since the program was formed in 1998.

If you are a father or father figure in Whittier Elementary's student's life and would like to engage in a more active way, we at the Watch D.O.G.S. would love for you to join us! For more information you can check out our new website at <https://whittierwatchdogs.com>.

Look for the upcoming WATCH D.O.G.S recruitment pizza party on Monday, February 13th at 6pm in the cafeteria. Members will share an overview of the program and how dads and other father figures can join, while enjoying a slice of pizza with your students!



by CockatooDesign



February 2023 Library News

Hello Whittier Families,

Every month new library book displays are set out to spark interest. Last month we had displays highlighting stories and people that have spoken up for social justice. There were also sports, January holidays and winter weather displays. February displays will include kindness & empathy, Black History Month and holidays. Staff favorite books will also be highlighted.

Recently your student may have shared about a makerspace opportunity in the library. Makerspace is a location for hands-on learning to create, explore and share. It is a workspace to make things that include science, technology, engineering, art and/or math. We will use our library for this engaging experience about once a month for the remainder of the year.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Heininger
Whittier Librarian
sheininger@everettsd.org
(425) 385-4308



Once a month I send out an electronic reminder to guardians' emails if students' books are overdue, lost, or there is a fine on their accounts. I want to ensure your student can check out books, so returning books on time is important.

If your child struggles to routinely return books, then please email me your concerns and we can work out a plan. If your child has severely damaged a book, I really appreciate an adult calling or emailing me for a heads up. Please refer to our library website for general information and support.

I would like to give advanced notice that we are teaming up again with High Trek Adventures in Everett for a March reading incentive program. All information will be sent in March.

How does book checkout work? Every 3 days!

K-1 can bring 1 book home.
2nd graders can bring home up to 2 books.
3-5th grades can bring home up to 3 books.
*Please help your student take care of books at home and return them to school. Books are overdue after 2 weeks. Your student can ask to renew books too. Thank you.



Whittier PTA



Hello, Wildcats!

As we enter the month of February, I am so grateful for this community. I've had children at Whittier for 7 years now. On the ramp at pick up time, I chat with parents who have watched our kids grow from sweet, round faced kinders to precocious pre-teens. I also talk with the kindergarten parents, who are finding their footing in this new world of big kids, so many of whom have dove in this year to support our school. We all come from different backgrounds, our kids are going through different stages, but we all want the same thing: the best for our children.

The Whittier community came together big time in January for our movie night! It was the biggest turnout anyone could remember. The energy of kids excited to be in their cozies, watching a movie at school was awesome and endearing, (and sometimes loud!). Thank you to PTA volunteers, Mr. Wentworth, and Mrs. MacGregor Fornes for putting on such a fun event.

Two really cool things are coming up in February. The Glow Dance will be on February 23rd. We will have a DJ, black lights and glow sticks in the gym. Sign ups for volunteers will go out soon.

Watch D.O.G. Dads will be holding their kick-off event on February 13th. We are so excited for what this new group is bringing to Whittier, the support they are already giving to our kids and staff and the community that they are building.

Bingo Night and the silent auction supporting 5th grade camp is coming up March 9th. We are looking for donations for the silent auction. If you have a service or item you could donate, email WhittierClassOf2031@gmail.com. We work hard every year to fundraise so that every 5th grader has the chance to attend fall camp with a minimal fee. We are so thankful for your donations and help!

Thank you for supporting our kids!

Sareh Hunt-PTA President
Amanda McCaskey-PTA Vice President
Heather Ethier-PTA Treasurer
Alexa Sheraton-PTA Treasurer





Enrollment for kindergarten opens on March 6!



Will your child be 5 years old by August 31? On March 6, you can complete your child’s online enrollment for kindergarten. An easy and quick process as detailed in the [step-by-step parent walkthrough video](#) available in multiple languages on our website www.everettsd.org/kindergartenrollment. You can also enroll in-person at your neighborhood school.

Enrolling early in March will ensure invitations to your school’s kindergarten events and participation in Everett Ready, a transition-into-kindergarten program offered for one week in August to all enrolled kindergarteners.

A **Kindergarten Enrollment - Kick-Off Webinar** will be held on Thursday, February 23, 2023, from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. Join us to meet the Superintendent and learn about Kindergarten in EPS. Information with a link to the webinar will be available on our website www.everettsd.org and www.everettsd.org/kindergarten by February 15.

EPS offers the following **Choice Programs** beginning in kindergarten– early enrollment is recommended as space is limited. Click on the links to receive additional information on the programs:

- [Lighthouse Cooperative](#) – Housed at Jefferson Elementary School
This K-5 program features standard district curriculum with an overlay of parent involvement via weekly classroom volunteering and support for enrichment activities such as field trips and parent-led specialty lessons.
- [Dual Language Spanish Immersion Program](#) – Located at Emerson Elementary School
Students are immersed in the Spanish language and culture with the majority of instruction being in Spanish. Priority will be given to students within the Emerson Elementary school attendance area. If a high number of students apply, a lottery will be conducted to select students.
- [Port Gardner Parent Partnership](#) – located on Sequoia High School Campus
Parents/guardians are the primary educators of their children with support from classroom teachers in order to access curriculum materials and resources.

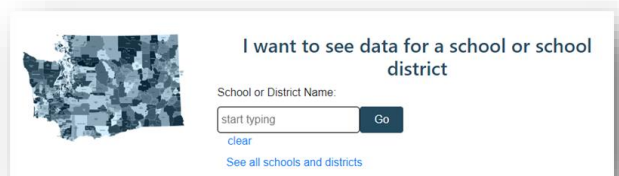
We are looking forward to welcoming you and your student to kindergarten!

Did you know?

Every year OSPI publishes a report card for each district and each school within the district. You can [access the 2021-22 data](#) on the OSPI website.

To review the data for the school district or a school, start typing in the name and a drop box will appear with choices. Select your choice to view the report card.

Optionally you can select ‘See all schools and districts’ and navigate to the district or school you want to select.





Calendar reminder

February 20-21 is mid-winter break.



High School and Middle School Summer Academy

Registration for Everett Public Schools High School and Middle School Summer Academy starts Monday, March 13.

High School Summer Academy includes district-facilitated credit recovery courses and credit advancement opportunities. In addition, career exploration, mentorship and internships are available through Everett Career Link.

Middle School Summer Academy focuses on exciting and engaging math and English Language Arts content for current 5th through 7th grade students. Academic lessons include math problem-solving and foundations as well as literature through close reading and novel studies, to help students build foundational skills needed for the next year.

High School and Middle School Summer Academy classes are located at Cascade High School and are scheduled for July 10 – 28, 2023. In-person summer programming is free to in-district students. Transportation and meals are provided.

In addition to in-person programming, online classes for high school students are hosted through OnlineHS.net. Online classes are scheduled for June 26 - August 3, 2023; tuition is \$350 per class for in-district students and \$450 per class for out-of-district students. Scholarships are available based on need. For more information or to register for classes, please visit <https://www.everettsd.org/domain/2422>.

Crosswalk safety reminder

Drive smart. Keep kids safe. It is important to be extra cautious this time of year when it is darker in the mornings and late afternoons. Make sure everyone gets home safely by staying alert, slowing down and following all traffic laws and signals.

Drivers:

- Eliminate distractions – put your phones down and keep your eyes on the road.
- Pedestrians can be unpredictable. Be alert at all times and don't assume they see you.
- Be extra cautious early in the morning, at night and in rainy weather.

Students:

- Plan a walking route to school or the bus stop. Choose the most direct way with the fewest street crossings and use intersections with crossing guards.
- Cross the street in a designated crosswalk. Be extra careful in rainy, foggy, or snowy weather.
- Always look left, then right, then left again before crossing a street and allow enough time to cross the street safely.
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street. Never assume a driver sees you.
- Don't be distracted by electronic devices that take your eyes and ears off the road.





Parent safety tip

Six ways your student can protect their online identities:

1. Share carefully – don't give out any personal information to unknown sites or strangers
2. Go private – keep privacy settings high and limit location services when possible
3. Log out – especially after using shared computers
4. Mix up passwords – use different passwords for different apps and websites
5. Avoid clickbait – avoid quizzes and random questionnaires
6. Choose wisely – pick an appropriate username



Learn more about online safety, digital wellness, cell phones and learning with technology with age-specific tips and tools on www.common sense media.org.

National School Counseling Week

The week of February 6 to 10 is National School Counseling Week and highlights the tremendous impact school counselors can have in helping students achieve school success and plan for a career. We love our counselors!



Do you have a student receiving special education?

Did you know there is a Special Education PTSA in the district? The Special Education PTSA serves students, families and educators involved in Special Education. They encourage students, families, educators and community members to work collaboratively to provide programs and activities recognizing each student's potential and enhancing the educational opportunities of children receiving and/or seeking special services in our district. Connect with the SEPTSA on [their Facebook page](#).



Remember to vote

Please remember to vote by February 14, 2023.



EVERETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS®

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:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title IX/Civil Rights Compliance Officer: • Kevin Allen • 425-385-4100 • KAllen@everettsd.org • PO Box 2098 • Everett, WA 98213 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 504 Coordinator: • Dave Peters • 425-385-4063 • DPeters@everettsd.org • PO Box 2098 • Everett, WA 98213 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA Coordinator: • Randi Seaberg • 425-385-4104 • RSeaberg@everettsd.org • PO Box 2098 • Everett, WA 98213
---	--	--