



# Mill Creek Elementary

3400 148<sup>th</sup> St. SE, Mill Creek, WA 98012

425-385-6800

Brenda Fuglevand, Principal

Kristin Dickert, Assistant Principal

February 4, 2022

## Greetings, Mill Creek Families!

Hooray! As the Omicron surge moves its way through our community, we are happy to report that our student and staff rate of sickness and absenteeism is *finally* starting to feel more typical of 'normal' times. Today, for example, only 6% of our student population was absent. This is the lowest absentee rate we've seen since we returned from Winter Break on January 3. Hooray!

### **Honoring Our Black History and Celebrating Student Achievement:**

The Snohomish County Black Heritage Committee held a community celebration honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and NAACP Black History Month on January 16. As part of the celebration, students were invited to submit essays and art for the 21<sup>st</sup> annual **Prodigies for Peace** competition. The Prodigies for Peace Writing and Art Contest helps students draw connections between the people and the events that shaped the civil rights movement and the social issues that influence their lives today. The essay question asked students to describe what they could do for others that will continue Dr. King's message of equality and justice for all.

Student work was judged by members of the community. Students earning first, second, third, and honorable mention awards in each grade band and each creative category will be honored for their inspirational works at the community celebration and the February 8 school board meeting next week. For the essay contest, Everett Public Schools had 7 winners of which 2 were Mill Creek students! For the art contest, Everett Public Schools had 14 winners of which 8 were Mill Creek students! We would like to congratulate all the winners and give a special shout out to the Mill Creek Elementary 2022 Prodigies for Peace winners listed below, by grade band and contest category:

#### **Essay contest winners for grades 2-5**

First place: Princeton Makinde, Mill Creek Elementary

First place: Mannat Sehgal, Mill Creek Elementary

#### **Art Contest winners for grades K-2**

Second place: Austin Guan, Mill Creek Elementary

Third place: Adi Duvvuri, Mill Creek Elementary

Honorable mention: Amen Alebachew, Mill Creek Elementary

**Art Contest winners for grades 3-5**

Third place: Jag Ubriani, Mill Creek Elementary

Honorable mention: Arshaan Gerami, Mill Creek Elementary

Honorable mention: Saige Medendorp, Mill Creek Elementary

Honorable mention: Tucker Fein, Mill Creek Elementary

Honorable mention: Violette Gin, Mill Creek Elementary

**Two Replacement Levies: Remember to Vote Next Tuesday, February 8**

On February 8, residents in the Everett School District have the opportunity to decide on two replacement levies for our schools. Both the replacement Educational Programs and Operations (EP&O) Levy and the replacement Capital Levy provide vital funding for our schools that are not covered by state and federal funding.

Having good schools and facilities has a positive effect on our neighborhoods. Better schools help build a stronger community, which will improve our quality of life, keep crime down and help increase the value of our homes.

Local EP&O levy funding covers basic operating expenses and includes:

- Special education services (state funds \$35 million, actual costs are an additional \$10 million)
- Nurses (state funds 3 nurses, district must pay for the additional 9 nurses we need)
- Counselors (state pays \$4.3 million, actual costs are additional \$3.6 million)
- Safety and security (state pays \$400,000, actual costs are additional \$4.4 million)
- Additional program offerings such as summer school, early learning, elementary dual language, choice programs, orchestra, family partnerships and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)
- Costs over state funding for full time, part-time and substitute staff
- Extra-curricular clubs, sports, activities, and more

The \$325.5 million capital levy provides funding to acquire, improve or maintain school facilities related to technology, increases safety and security, provides equal access to the same educational programs districtwide and pays for maintenance and mandatory upgrades.

After talking with many of you, we know you are interested in the facts about the upcoming levies so you can make an informed decision when you vote. You especially want to know how the levy will impact our programs here at Mill Creek. If this levy passes, we will have some nice improvements, including:

- Replace classroom locks for improved safety
- Upgrade fire alarm system

- Install new electronic reader board
- Replace roofing on covered play area
- Replace aging playground equipment
- Technology replacements/upgrades

If both levies pass, your new Everett Public Schools tax rate, starting in 2023, would be \$4.08 per \$1,000 of Assessed Value of your home. If you would like more information about the levies, please visit [everettsd.org/2022Levies](http://everettsd.org/2022Levies) or email [communications@everettsd.org](mailto:communications@everettsd.org).

Voting is one of the most important rights we have. It allows us to have a voice in government. Public education is critical to a free democratic society, and it is important for us to exercise our right to express our opinions. Please also encourage your friends and neighbors to vote by February 8.

*In closing, remember that next Friday, February 11, students will bring home their progress reports.*

*Have a great week!*

***Warmly,***

Brenda Fuglevand, Principal [bfuglevand@everettsd.org](mailto:bfuglevand@everettsd.org)

Kristin Dickert, Assistant Principal [kdickert@everettsd.org](mailto:kdickert@everettsd.org)