

Heatherwood Hawk News

HEATHERWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



FEBRUARY 2019

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 6

From the Principal

Hello Heatherwood families,

Supporting kids through the middle school years can sometimes feel like being on a roller coaster ride. Kids change so much during these years that serve as a bridge from childhood into adult life. Kids are growing physically which causes tremendous changes. Also, their personalities, interests, and friendship groups are also constantly shifting. For parents and educators it can not only be difficult to “keep up” but at times we can find ourselves perplexed about how best to support student growth—academically, behaviorally and emotionally.

Over the past couple of years, Heatherwood staff have focused attention and professional learning on what is referred to as Social and Emotional Learning. The framework Heatherwood has been using is attached to this email. It breaks Social and Emotional Learning into five Competencies: Self-Awareness, Social Awareness, Responsible Decision-Making, Self-Management and Relationship Skills. I offer this framework to parents as a means of inviting you into the conversations we are having with your kids as we teach students the skills and mindsets needed to be successful in high school and in life.

Middle school is a time for learning and growing. Sometimes our greatest growth comes by learning from our mistakes. It is important as educators and parents to talk about opportunities and core competencies. It is even more important to discuss them when our student/child has made mistakes. Students will learn from their mistakes by exercising self-management, self and social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision-making. With our support, students will learn to make better decisions next time. In a world where kids are exposed to an increasing amount of uncontrolled content online and through social media, it is important that we all band together to teach kids the skills they will need to make safe and responsible decisions!

Laura Phillips
Principal

Heatherwood Middle School
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February 7
Seventh Grade Hearing Screening

February 8
Learning Improvement Friday

February 11
PTA Meeting 7:00 pm

February 15
Learning Improvement Friday

February 18 - 19
Mid-Winter Break – No School

February 22
Learning Improvement Friday

February 27
Multicultural Night 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm



In the coming months, Heatherwood will be planning events to support Social and Emotional Learning. In May, we plan to host a viewing of *Screenagers*, followed by community conversations discussing the impact of digital access and social media on kids. Our Counseling section includes a link to Tech Talk Tuesday. This is a blog created by the producers of *Screenagers* designed to provide parents and educators advice on how to talk to your child about the role technology plays within our lives.

As Heatherwood shifts to 1:1 devices for all students next year, we look forward to increased conversations with our Heatherwood families to support healthy habits that will benefit kids' Social and Emotional well-being.

Take care,
Laura Phillips

Parking Lot Safety - Volunteers Needed

Due to recent community concerns about parking lot traffic flow and student safety, we are in need of volunteers to help us regulate traffic at high-volume times. We are looking for volunteers before and after school to monitor the parking lots. All necessary safety equipment will be provided. The time commitment involved would be 7:40 am to 8:10 am and 2:40 pm to 3:10 pm (1:15 pm to 1:45 pm on LIF Fridays). If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Janelle Jaeger at jjaege@everettsd.org or 425-385-6324. All volunteers must be cleared through the district. If you are not an approved volunteer, you can apply at www.everettsd.org/volunteer. Please contact Janelle with any questions.

Always allow plenty of time to get your students to school. Please drive slowly, follow traffic arrows and stay in line. Most importantly, be aware of pedestrians.

Report Cards

Second semester began on Tuesday, January 29. First semester report cards will be mailed home the week of February 11.

ASB

ASB and leadership club students will be promoting "Kindness" for the month of February. Kindness ambassadors will be on the lookout for students being kind and helpful. Other exciting events and promotions will be happening throughout the month.

Look for the student store's grand Re-Opening in the middle of February. We are still looking for adult volunteers to help during all lunches. We must have an adult in the store for it to be open.

The Spring Dance will be Thursday, March 28 from 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm. Students will need to have a permission slip filled out by Wednesday, March 27 in order to attend.



What did our fall and PTA Fundraisers support?

ASB Fundraiser	PTA Fundraiser
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New sports uniforms & equipment • New electronic reader board • Expansion of after school clubs and club resources • New portable microphone and speaker system • Peer mentorship program training and materials for W.E.B (Where Everybody Belongs) – launch fall 2019. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Classroom grants for books, supplemental curricular resources, PE equipment • Recess sports equipment • 8th grade celebration • Other school support resource needs • Digital teacher and classroom resources • Guest presenters & inspirational speakers

Counselor Corner

We have added a new quick link for parents on our Heatherwood Website titled **Tech Talk Tuesday for Parents**. Each Tuesday we will upload a new article selected by our counselors.

Too much Fortnite at your house? Click on the following link for help - [Fortnite](#).

Connecting as Family in the Digital World

Wednesday, February 20, 2019 from 6:00pm to 8:00 pm at Community Resource Center – 3900 Broadway, Everett

Students in grades 4 – 12 and their families are invited to learn the benefits and opportunities available through social media and digital tools with international speaker Jeff Utecht and his *Eduro* team. The event will foster an understanding that:

- Learning happens in many different places, including digital ones
- The balance of online and offline learning is important
- Learning is going to look different in the coming years

For more information, call 425-385-4020.

Educational Effectiveness Survey

On February 27, we will begin the process of administering the Educational Effectiveness Survey (EES). This survey will provide our staff and leadership valuable information and feedback about our school environment. We plan to use the data to align with our district strategic goals and create building and team goals. The survey is completely anonymous. You may complete the survey online or on paper. Please look for more details by month's end.



Attendance

As a reminder with the winter flu season ahead, consistent school attendance is vital to success in school! Under Washington State Compulsory Attendance Law (RCW 28.A.225.010), parents and guardians must ensure that children between the ages of 8 and 18 attend school. This law is also commonly referred to as the “BECCA BILL” and was created to ensure greater safety for children, as well as to ensure children regularly attend school.

The easiest way to report your student’s absence is to go to the Heatherwood website and look for the Heatherwood attendance email. heaattendance@everettsd.org

Athletics

Boys and Girls Wrestling begins February 11, 2019. Track and Field will begin April 8, 2019. Information on schedules and registration can be found on the Heatherwood website through the following link <https://www.everettsd.org/domain/1692>.

Volunteers

Our school relies on volunteers to support many important activities. This year our volunteer application has been updated. All volunteers will need to apply even if they have been approved in the past.

- We are digital! All volunteer applications and background checks can only be processed online.
- We are focused on safety! We have new background check and safety training requirements.

ALL volunteers must fill out a new application for the 2018-19 school year. The new application is now available online at www.everettsd.org/volunteer.

Any questions? Contact Janelle Jaeger at jjaeager@everettsd.org or 425-385-6324

Safety/Security Upgrades

Thank you for continuing to come prepared to show your ID’s. We do believe it is working well and keeping students safe. We appreciate your support.

As a reminder: All exterior doors are locked between 8:15 AM and 2:50 PM during the school day. The main entrance (by upper lot) will only be unlocked before and after school. To help with the adjustment, here are some key details:

- ***Please help your students come to school on time and prepared with assignments, projects, uniforms, and lunches.***



- *If your child has an early dismissal, please add a couple minutes into your travel time to account for the extra step at the main entrance.*
- *Only parents and school-sponsored visitors will be allowed access to the building during school hours. Visitors will be required to show an ID at the door via the video system.*
- *Deliveries will be accepted for Heatherwood business only (no Uber Eats, pizza, or other deliveries will be accepted).*
- *While it may feel uncomfortable or feel like you are being rude, it is important for student safety not to allow others to follow you in to the building. Please be sure each family entering the building converses with the office before coming through the doors.*
- *The building will be unlocked and accessible during evening events and performances.*

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.

Delayed start or closed schools

If we have to cancel school or delay the start of school, we will use our parent communication system to call in the morning, typically around 5:45 AM, with a brief message about the reason for closure or delay. We will also use local media and post the message on our website. **If there is no announcement about Everett Public Schools, school is on the regular schedule.** More information and resources for school closures or delays is on the district website under the *Parents* tab.

In cases of inclement weather or other emergencies, please:

- check your email or phone for district messages
- listen for media announcements
- view the district's website at www.everettsd.org
- watch district [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) accounts

Did you know?

Lots of valuable information about how our school is helping students achieve is available online. Our *School Performance Report* is linked directly from our school's home page. (Look under *QuickLinks* for a link to [OSPI Washington State School Report Card](#).) On that site, you can browse through historical performance data for more than a decade – for any school in the district or the state. By following the prompts on that OSPI website, you can also find current and historical data aggregated at the district level.



Lunch payments are easy with the app



Want to see your student's lunch balance and pay a balance from your phone? If you are logged into the district's mobile app, you can find and pay your student's lunch balance under your student's info. An icon inside the app also gives a shortcut to deposit funds for your student's lunch account. To make a payment, look for the green chef's hat icon.

The latest school news and information in Everett Public Schools is available on smartphones and mobile devices with a mobile app. The free mobile app is available in the online iTunes® and Google Play® app stores. Once you've downloaded the app, log in to "student info" with your LMS password to see student-specific information for each of your children.



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.

Do you have a student in 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](#).

Kindergarten registration begins in March

Do you have a child who will be 5 years old by Aug. 31, 2019? Registration begins on March 4, 2019, at all district elementary schools.



High school growth forum

High School Growth Mitigation Committee hosts two additional community forums about student enrollment growth on Feb. 6 and 7. Details are on the district calendar.

In addition to these two community forums, the committee is providing an online community comment period through Feb. 26. Learn more about the High School Growth Mitigation Committee and your opportunity for ongoing online input on the [district home page](#).



Superintendent search

Superintendent Gary Cohn will retire at the end of this school year. The school board has begun the search for the district's next superintendent. Watch for ways you can participate in that search in the next few months, such as helping the board define the most important characteristics in the next superintendent.



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425-385-4000
www.everettsd.org

Everett Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Designated to handle inquiries about nondiscrimination policies are:

- Affirmative Action Officer – Randi Seaberg, rseaberg@everettsd.org, 425-385-4104
- Title IX Officer – Mary O'Brien, MO'Brien@everettsd.org, 425-385-4106
- 504 Coordinator – Becky Ballbach, rballbach@everettsd.org, 425-385-4063
- ADA Coordinator – Becky Clifford, rclifford@everettsd.org, 425-385-5250