

# Heatherwood Hawk News

HEATHERWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2019

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

## From the Principal

Hello Heatherwood families,

I hope that you all had a safe and relaxing winter break with your families.

As we start the new year, we have plenty to celebrate! I would like to give three shout-outs. The first goes to all of our students who participated in our PTA sponsored Reflections Contest. This year's theme was Heroes Around Me and our award winners were Madalan Jones for Literature, 1<sup>st</sup> Place; Riya Gautam for Visual Arts, 2<sup>nd</sup> place; and Diya Kamboj, Literature 3<sup>rd</sup> Place. All students who participated in the annual art contest will be recognized at a reception at the CRC this Wednesday, January 9, from 6:00pm to 8:00 pm. Come out to see their art and celebrate our students!

My second shout out goes to our own April Seamon, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade ELA teacher. This past summer April was selected as one of only 52 participants of the 2018 National Gallery of Art Teacher Institute on Storytelling and the Visual Arts held in Washington, D.C., in July of 2018. The six-day seminar brought together k-12 teachers from across the country to explore the connection of storytelling to learning, and the ways teachers can use art objects with storytelling activities in the classroom.

The Institute also included an intensive hands-on tutorial in which teachers told their own stories about art by creating short electronic movies—a format appealing to students of all ages and having a wide variety of curriculum applications. With the help of coaches, teachers wrote, edited, and developed their short stories through a process of script writing, storyboarding, voice-over narration, and working with digital images.

Thank you April for learning more on how to be the best teacher you can be!

Third, after several years of PTA and ASB hard work, Heatherwood is poised to get a new electronic reader board! Installation will begin this week and it should be ready to share Heatherwood news by the end of the week. Thank you PTA and ASB for supporting Heatherwood and helping to enhance our communication tools.

We are about halfway through the school year with the first semester ending on January 25. We encourage you to review the counseling tips below with your student. Our counselors have provided three simple but powerful tips for parents to discuss with your students. These tips encourage successful academic life by helping them establish routines, meet deadlines and prioritize tasks. Also critical for student success is their ability to seek help from adults and others at school and at home to use these tools for success.

**Laura Phillips**  
Principal

**Heatherwood Middle School**  
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[www.everettsd.org/heatherwood](http://www.everettsd.org/heatherwood)

**January 9**

Reflections Reception

**January 11**

Learning Improvement Friday

**January 14**

PTA Meeting 7:00pm

**January 18**

Learning Improvement Friday

**January 21**

Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
No School

**January 25**

Learning Improvement Friday

**January 28**

Teacher Work Day – No School



The new year brings a fresh start for your students. As such, over the next few weeks, we will be reminding students about school-wide expectations in the hallways and in the lunchrooms. We want to make sure that all of our kids are being respectful, responsible and part of the solution so that Heatherwood is a safe place where all students have access to a positive educational experience.

Take care,  
Laura Phillips

## ASB

Sixth grade Vice President elections took place on Thursday December 20, 2018. We are pleased to welcome Samantha Adams as the new sixth grade Vice President. All other candidates have been invited to participate in ASB and Leadership Club as Executive Board Members.

The student store will have a grand re-opening Monday January 14th. We will be looking for parent volunteers to work in the student store on a daily basis. Please contact Janelle Jaeger at [jjaeger@everettsd.org](mailto:jjaeger@everettsd.org) if you are interested in volunteering.

ASB and Leadership Club students are working hard to plan the Martin Luther King Jr. Assembly. The assembly will be held on January 18th.

Parents and guardians, please help us by ensuring that your student is picked up by 4:00 PM if they are staying after school for a club or school activity. We do have an activity bus that can take students home if they are in need of a ride. The activity bus leaves Heatherwood at 4:15 PM every Tuesday and Thursday. Students left lingering around campus while they wait for a parent pick-up is a safety concern, as the student is unsupervised at that time. Thank you.

## Parking Lot Safety

Please allow extra time when dropping off and picking up students. Please follow the path of vehicles and keep speeds slow. We ask that you drop students off safely at the curb, rather than have them cross through parking lot traffic. With these darker days and inclement weather, it is harder to see pedestrians in the parking lot. Thank you!

## Attendance

As a reminder with the holiday travel, **pursuant to district Procedure 3122P, the principal (or designee) may excuse up to five (5) school days for a prearranged absence per student each school year.**

## Athletics

Girls Basketball will begin January 7, 2019. Boys and Girls Wrestling begins February 11, 2019. Information on schedules and registration can be found on the Heatherwood website through the following link <https://www.everettsd.org/domain/1692>.



# School Counselor Tips!

## The end of 1st Semester is January 25th!

### MIDDLE SCHOOL ORGANIZATION TIPS FOR PARENTS

If you want an organized child, you need to be organized! Make getting organized a group effort. Once your child is used to the routine, they will be self-reliant. Remember, the habits students form in middle school will be carried forward, so creating good ones early on is important!

#### 1. Encourage Positive Routine

Once something becomes a habit, it will be automatic for students. Help your child learn the strategies above to set him or her up for success. Suggest secure places to keep supplies, and create a sample daily planner. Don't force your child into a routine that doesn't work for them. The most important part is that they have a system to consistently follow.

#### 2. Keep Track of Important Dates

Mark important dates, such as tests and assignment due dates, on your calendar (separate from your child's agenda or calendar) and make sure your child is prepared for them. You may be able to check assignments on the school's website to ensure your child knows what they have to do.

#### 3. Seek Extra Help

If a child is still having trouble staying organized after trying the above steps, seek extra help. Seek out help from your child's school counselor or their teachers. Tutors can also help teach study and homework skills. Your child's school counselor may be able to connect you with high school tutors who can help with academic skills.

### Naviance

School counselors will be going into ELA classes this month to deliver Naviance lessons. Naviance is our college and career-readiness curriculum. For 6th graders, Terry Coleman will be teaching students how to calculate their grade point averages (GPA) and how GPAs are used in high school and in college. For 7th graders, Myraflor Arpin will be leading a career exploratory lesson. For 8th graders, John Lerner will be delivering a lesson on preparing students for high school and beyond.

### 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](http://www.everettsd.org/volunteer).**



Any questions? Contact Janelle Jaeger at [jjaege@everettsd.org](mailto:jjaege@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](http://www.everettsd.org)
- watch district [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) accounts

## Do you YouTube?

The district does. Search for Everett Public Schools WA to find all of our district videos. Miss a school board meeting? You can find videos of those meetings there too.



## We're hiring para educators!

If you've ever wanted to help in a classroom, or lend your talents at a school, apply to be a classroom para educator! Para educators in Everett Public Schools provide instructional support to classroom teachers and ensure students with special needs have access to their learning. You're not available? Tell a neighbor or friend! This is your opportunity to have a huge impact on your community, one student at a time.

Look for the Employment icon on [www.Everettsd.org](http://www.Everettsd.org) to apply. If you're interested, please call Lauren Weeden, Director of Special Services for North Region Schools, at 425-385-5791.

## January is School Board Appreciation Month

The month of January marks the annual observance of School Board Recognition – a time to salute the work of school board members and celebrate public education. This year, they were once again named a Board of Distinction. You can learn more about [board members online](#).

## Freaked by too much Fortnite?

Hear from parents and students about the pitfalls and positives about the extremely popular video game at [www. commonsense media.org](http://www.common sense media.org).

Help your student stay safer online through awareness and parent tips about this app and other games, movies and apps.



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[www.everettsd.org](http://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](mailto:rseaberg@everettsd.org), 425-385-4104
- Title IX Officer – Mary O'Brien, [MO'Brien@everettsd.org](mailto:MO'Brien@everettsd.org), 425-385-4106
- 504 Coordinator – Becky Ballbach, [rballbach@everettsd.org](mailto:rballbach@everettsd.org), 425-385-4063
- ADA Coordinator – Becky Clifford, [rclifford@everettsd.org](mailto:rclifford@everettsd.org), 425-385-5250