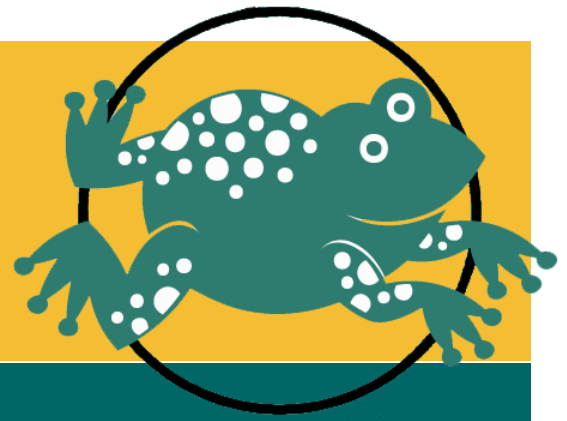


# Penny Creek Frog News

PENNY CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



December 2018

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

## From the Principal

At Penny Creek Elementary, we are committed to the development of all students as lifelong learners who will enhance the world as responsible and caring citizens. Our

mission is to provide a place where each child will be empowered to reach their highest academic and social potential in a safe and nurturing environment. Every staff member works diligently to ensure our students are learning. It is very clear that our staff truly make it a TOP PRIORITY to challenge and educate each child to the highest standards.

As a school community, we focus on five behavioral expectations that are positively stated and easy to remember. Our goal is to create a culture in which positive behaviors are explicitly taught, reinforced and to have all adults respond to problem behaviors in a consistent way. Students, families, and the school must

share responsibility for creating the best possible learning environment.

Parent support is vital in this process. As always, we will communicate with parents when a student struggles with mastering a specific behavior expectation. We know that the first step in this process is for students to be prepared to learn each day. To help us in this process:

- Bring your child to school on time each day. The final bell rings at 9:15 a.m.
- Help your child organize at home, by packing backpacks each day, making sure it includes lunches and any other necessary items (field trip money, special notes, etc.).
- Making sure that your child is prepared for the winter weather, including hats and coats to wear all throughout the school day.

Thank you for always partnering with us! It takes the entire Penny Creek community to help our students be successful.

Sincerely,  
Maggie Heater

**Maggie Heater**  
Principal

**Stefani Koetje**  
Assistant Principal

**Penny Creek Elementary School**  
4117 132nd St. SE  
Everett, WA 98208  
[www.everettsd.org/pennycreek](http://www.everettsd.org/pennycreek)  
425-385-7200

**December 3**

2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Winter Concert  
Everett Civic Auditorium 7- 8pm

**December 5**

Art Docent Training  
Library 7pm - 8pm

**December 7**

Learning Improvement Friday  
2:15 p.m. Release

**December 8**

PTA Holiday Bazaar  
Cafeteria & Gym 10am - 2pm

**December 14**

Learning Improvement Friday  
2:15 p.m. Release

**December 21**

Learning Improvement Friday  
2:15 p.m. Release

**Dec 24 - Jan 4**

No School - Winter Break





## LOST and FOUND

Is your student missing a jacket? Lost a hat? Looking for a misplaced lunchbox? If so, come check out the lost and found! Located in the foyer between the cafeteria and the gym. Items that remain unclaimed will be donated in mid-December. Thank you!

## Boundary Changes

Thinking about school next year? Are you possibly attending a different school? Watch for more detailed elementary boundary information for each family in January.

## Penny Creek Attendance Corner

If your student is absent from school, please email the attendance line at [pceattendance@everettsd.org](mailto:pceattendance@everettsd.org) to let us know the reason for the absence. There is also a direct link on our webpage at: <https://www.everettsd.org/pennycreek>.

Please review the [Attendance Policy Procedure 3122P](#) to see a list of the excused and unexcused reasons of absence.

Penny Creek [prearranged absence form](#) may be found in the attendance section of the [Penny Creek school's webpage](#) under the "Our School" tab, then "[Attendance Reporting](#)". The form's link is located on the left side bar.

## From Our Technology Teacher

Did you know that by 5<sup>th</sup> grade, your child is expected to type two pages in a single sitting? That is a lot! Learning to type by touch (without looking at the keyboard) is the best way to free up your brainpower for great ideas instead of looking for letters and punctuation on a keyboard. Please help support your child with a kid-friendly website –

<https://frogs.typingclub.com>. Each Penny Creek student in grades 1-5 has their own TypingClub account. A direct link may be found on the [Penny Creek website](#) in the [Library tab](#), on the right side – under the Quick Links section, select [Typing Club](#). That will take you to our school's specific Typing Club website - <https://frogs.typingclub.com>.

The username or email is your **student ID number**

The password is **234**

The most important part of learning to type by touch is to never look at your hands! The best way to train our brains and build our muscle memory for keyboarding is to cover our hands as we learn to type. You can use anything handy such as a paper towel, a piece of paper, a scarf, etc. This is a great activity to encourage over Winter Break or any time your student has 15 minutes to spare! Questions? Email Mrs. Medalia at [jmedalia@everettsd.org](mailto:jmedalia@everettsd.org).





## Arrival and Dismissal Procedures

Many of our students arrive and depart from Penny Creek on assigned school buses. For those families that transport students to and from school by cars, we have designated specific [arrival and departure options](#). Student safety is our number one priority at Penny Creek and we ask that you read through each option and select the method that will work best for you and your student(s). You can view the [arrival and dismissal procedures](#) on the [Penny Creek webpage](#).

## Changes to a student's daily going home plan

Occasionally, we need to change the plan of how our child is going home at the end of the school day. Maybe Dad is picking up instead of riding the bus or Grandma will be at Kiss and Go instead of the parent pick up location in the Courtyard. If this is the case for your family, we ask that a guardian sends an email to the school office at [PennyCreek@everettsd.org](mailto:PennyCreek@everettsd.org) and the classroom teacher by 3:00 p.m. Please include the name of your student, their teacher, and the change of plan. Our office will then send out a messenger to deliver this information. Messengers are sent out at 3:00 p.m. every day. We ask that you please send this email before that time. This method of communication helps to support our staff with accurate message delivery.

## Checking out a Penny Creek student during the school day

Sometimes it is necessary for a parent/guardian to pick up a student before Penny Creek's dismissal time. To help us prepare, please send a note or email the school office at [PennyCreek@everettsd.org](mailto:PennyCreek@everettsd.org) in advance, letting us know the specific date, time and who will be picking up your child. Students who are dismissed during the school day must be signed out from the school office, by their parent/guardian (or adult designee) before leaving the school grounds. If an adult designee is coming to check out your child, a note or email to the school office at [PennyCreek@everettsd.org](mailto:PennyCreek@everettsd.org) must be submitted by the guardian to confirm. Students will be called from the classroom for dismissal once parent/guardian (or adult designee) arrives at the office. **Please account for the additional time needed for your student to arrive to the office when you plan for pick up.** For the safety and security of students, we will ask for photo identification.

## The gift of attendance

Absences spike in the weeks before and after the winter holiday as families squeeze in a few more vacation days. Just a few missed days here and there, even excused absences, can add up to too much lost learning time and put your child behind in school. This is as true in kindergarten as it is in high school. Put simply, too many absences at any age can affect a student's chances for academic success and eventually for graduation. This holiday season, give your children the gift of an education and the habit of attendance.



## Graduation rates jump to 95.7%

Our graduation rate jumped even higher for the 11th year in a row. Now 95.7 percent of our students graduate on time! Learn how strategic staff actions helped bring the graduation rate from 53 percent just 15 years ago to this year's all-time high. <http://bit.ly/2018gradrates>

## Parent safety tip

Before you take your child to a friend's sleepover or party, make sure you know a few important things first.

- Find out about the friend's "house rules" and who else will be at home, like parents, another adult, brothers, or sisters.
- Ask about what they plan to do during the visit.
- Talk with your child about things that are important to you: no guns, violent TV and video games, alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Take this time to review behaviors that are healthy and those that are dangerous.
- If your child does not have his or her own cell phone, be sure to have the telephone number of where he or she can be reached.
- If there is a change of plans, you need to be told.

### Get to know other parents

- Talk with them on the phone.
- Meet them at neighborhood or school events.
- Greet them when dropping your child off at their home.

### Communication is key

School-aged children need and want more independence. Good communication, with clear expectations, helps parents and children trust that what is going on is safe.

Source: *HealthyChildren.org*

## 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.





## Family resources

Could you or a family you know use some help? Find information and links to helpful resources on the district's [Parent Tools webpage](#):

- Washington State Library – local and regional information about services and agencies offering help to families in a variety of ways including food, shelter, clothing, childcare, legal services, employment opportunities, and counseling
- Everett Public Schools Kids In Transition (KIT) program – supports homeless children and youth to continue their education
- Help for military families
- Snohomish Health District for Snohomish County community dental resources for children and adults
- United Way of Snohomish County – 2-1-1 is a free telephone number that is your best "first call" to quickly find the right source of help. The information line is staffed by trained operators from Volunteers of America Western Washington who can connect you to a wide range of community services.

## 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 a.m., 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



3900 Broadway  
Everett, WA 98201  
425-385-4000  
[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