



FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

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Attendance

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Health Room

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Diane Roberts

Counselor

Website

www.everettsd.org/pennycreek

Connect-ED Messages

Missed a Call?

1-877-737-5291

Winter Weather

The temperatures are still very cold. Please be sure that your child is coming to school ready for the weather. Coats, hats and gloves are helpful when students are in the courtyard and out at recess.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Greetings Penny Creek Families,

This week we started second semester. It is exciting to see the growth in all of our students each and every day. We are only half way through our school year and we all have so much more to learn!

In July of 2016 the State of Washington changed the school attendance law for elementary students. This impacts our students and families at Penny Creek because the new law addresses both excused and unexcused absences. The changes include:

- Students who have 5 or more excused absences in a month or 10 or more excused absences in a year will be required to schedule a meeting or phone conference with the school to discuss attendance barriers and any necessary support.
- Exceptions to this new requirement include the family providing prior written notice of absence or a note from a doctor.

This new law means that if your student has 5 more excused absences in a month you will be invited to meet or talk on the phone with staff here at Penny Creek. If you would like to learn more about this new law, you can read more at: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/RCW/default.aspx?cite=28A.225.018>.

Your student's attendance at school is very important to us. We want your child here each and every day but we also understand if there are circumstances that keep that from happening. If you ever have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Heater
Principal



Attendance in the early grades

Many of our youngest students miss 10 percent of the school year—about 18 days a year or just two days every month. Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten, and even preK, can predict lower test scores, poor attendance and retention in later grades, especially if the problem persists for more than a year. Do you know how many young children are chronically absent in your school or community?



Who is affected

Kindergarten and 1st grade classes often have absenteeism rates as high as those in high school. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time in the classroom.

1 in 10 kids

in Kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it's as high as 1 in 4.¹



2 in 10 low-income kids miss too much school. They're also more likely to suffer academically.¹



2.5 in 10 homeless kids are chronically absent.²



4 in 10 transient kids miss too much school when families move.²

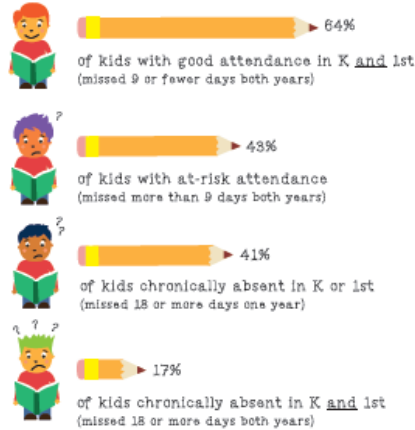


Why it matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?³



What families can do



Find out what day school starts and make sure your child has the required shots.



Build regular routines for bed time and the morning.



Talk about the importance of regular attendance and about how your child feels about school.



Don't permit missing school unless your child is truly sick. Use a thermometer to check for a fever. Remember that stomach aches and headaches may be signs of anxiety.

Avoid medical appointments and extended trips when school is in session.

Keep a chart recording your child's attendance at home. At the end of the week, talk with your child about what you see.

Develop back up plans for getting to school if something comes up. Ask a family member, neighbor or another parent for help.

Seek support from school staff or community groups to help with transportation, health problems, or no safe path to school.

Everett Public Schools News



Is your family vaccinated against mumps?

The number of mumps cases in Washington state is on the rise. Learn more about mumps and how you can best protect your family from this infectious disease on the [Washington State Department of Health website](#).

If your child isn't current on their MMR immunizations, they may be excluded from school if there is a case of mumps at their school.

To get the vaccine, contact your healthcare provider. Or, call the Family Health Hotline at 1-800-322-2588 to find other vaccination locations.

Free tax preparation

United Way certified volunteers offer FREE tax preparation at several locations in Everett and throughout Snohomish County for families who made less than \$64,000 in 2016. Call 2-1-1 or visit the [United Way website](#) for more information.

Access a teacher's website from a smartphone

Use this nifty [help sheet](#) for accessing teacher websites with a smartphone.

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](#).) At 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.

Are you registered to vote?

Students studied Dr. King's legacy in January. Among the advice he shared with the world is the responsibility and privilege we all have to vote. Registering to vote is easy. Click the link under [QuickLinks](#) on the district website or pick up a paper registration form in your school office.

Smarter Balanced Assessments

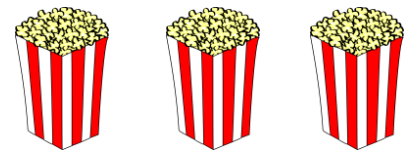
Because Smarter Balanced Assessments are an important topic for families, the link to everything you ever wanted to know about these tests is in the *Quicklinks* section on the district home page.

The district shall provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of academic and activity program without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, veteran or military status, the presence of any physical, sensory or mental disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a student with a disability. Affirmative Action Office – Carol Stolz, cstolz@everettsd.org, 425-385-4106 Title IX Officer – Randi Seaberg, rseaberg@everettsd.org, 425-385-4104 504 Coordinator – Becky Ballbach, rballbach@everettsd.org, 425-385-4063 ADA Coordinator – Becky Clifford, rclifford@everettsd.org, 425-385-5250 Address: 3900 Broadway, Everett, WA 98201

FEBRUARY IMPORTANT DATES

REMEMBER THAT EVERY
FRIDAY IS 2:15 DISMISSAL!

- 2/2: PTA Popcorn Day
- 2/3: Sport Spirit Day
- 2/9: Progress Reports Go Home
- 2/10: PTA Drama Performance
- 2/11: PTA Drama Performance
- 2/15: McTeacher Night
- 2/16: PTA Popcorn Day
- 2/20 & 2/21: Mid Winter Break
- 2/23: Spelling Bee Final
- 2/24: Penny Creek Spirit Day



Kindergarten Registration

Do you have a child who will be 5 years old by Aug. 31, 2017? Registration for 2017-18 is open. FREE full-day kindergarten is available at all district elementary schools.