

Madison Husky Highlights

MADISON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Amanda Overly
Principal

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Everett, WA 98203
425.385.5900



December 2019

From the Principal

Dear Madison Families,

What a great time of the year! It is exciting to see the **joy** in the faces of students during the winter season. Due to the busy nature of the season, sometimes schedules and added responsibilities can cause stress. As the winter season approaches, please give your child **the gift of extra time**. Give them an I.O.U. for a special time or activity just with you. Quality alone time with a parent or guardian can mean more than any gifts we give. When students are asked to write about a memorable event in their lives, it isn't a special gift they usually choose to write about; it is about an experience they have had with someone special.

Speaking of experiences, our upcoming **PTA Glow Dance Party** offers the opportunity to come out as a family, for free, to enjoy quality time before the month gets away from you. You may want to bring a few dollars for a glow grab bag and some snacks. The dance will feature a real DJ and starts at 6:30 pm.

During this season of the year we would like to **say thanks to:**

- **Parents** and **guardians** who diligently get their students to school, on time, well-rested and ready to learn.
- All the **volunteers** who give their own time to make Madison a better place for students and staff. By serving as office help, playground aides, PTA, cut club, and classroom volunteers, to name a few.
- **Community members** and **parents** who organize fund raisers, make phone calls, and bring food to the staff lounge on special days.
- All the people in our **district** who are committed to giving their best to your children every day, such as custodians, kitchen staff, bus drivers, school nurses, paraeducators, secretaries, teachers, and all the "behind the scenes" people we don't see every day, working to make school the best part of your child's day!

We continue to work on improving academic performance. Please have conversations with your child about giving their best effort each day and producing **quality work**. The more your child tries, the better they will learn. **Over the winter break**, it is important that students continue to **read every day**. Since they will not be attending school, it is more than OK to have them read for longer than the regular 20 minutes. Also, students can complete iReady lessons at home if you have a computer.

Yours in education,

Amanda M. Overly
Principal

December 6 LIF Friday 1:35 PM Dismissal PTA Glow Dance 6:30 PM
December 13 LIF Friday 1:35 PM Dismissal
December 17 PTA Meeting 5:30 PM in Library
December 19 Dental Day
December 20 LIF Friday 1:35 PM Dismissal
December 23- January 3 No School-Winter Break



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 95.9%

Our graduation rate jumped even higher for the 12th year in a row. Now 95.9 percent of our students graduate on time, the highest rate on record. The increase in graduation rates can be attributed to the strategically aligned work of district and school staff. It is a focus for everyone, no matter their role in our school district, to ensure each one of our students graduates ready for college and career.

Bond 2020

The Everett School District's board of directors on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, approved placing a \$317.4 million capital bond on the April 28, 2020 ballot to fund STEM career-connected learning pathways for students, ensure equitable access and opportunities for all students, increase safety and security and ensure students have enough room to learn by adding [21st century learning](#) classroom space.

The 2020 capital projects bond prepares our students for the future by:

- **Giving our students facilities and tools necessary for STEM career pathways**
 - The bond funds modernization and upgrades to high school classrooms to support the Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) career pathway programs and new science standards.
- **Increasing safety and security for students and schools**
 - Secure locks and keying systems will be added districtwide.
 - Access control systems at two high schools
 - Upgrades to fire alarm systems, security systems and fencing
- **Ensuring students have enough room to learn by adding 21st century classroom space, modernizing and repairing building systems**
 - Adds new elementary school classrooms throughout the district to reduce overcrowding, keep class sizes low and keep more kids at their neighborhood schools
 - Repairs aging school systems in our schools like HVAC, roofing and flooring replacements, that extends the longevity of schools
- **Providing equitable access and opportunities for students** by funding capital projects at all schools throughout our district, while reducing the overall school district tax rate



More information is available on the [Capital Bond 2020](#) district webpage.



2020 Census

The 2020 Census is closer than you think! Here is a quick refresher of what it is and why it is essential that everyone is counted.

- **Everyone counts.** The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.
- **It's about fair representation.** Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.
- **It's in the constitution.** The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.
- **It's about \$675 billion.** The distribution of more than \$675 billion in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on census data. That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.
- **It's about redistricting.** After each decade's census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.
- **Taking part is your civic duty.** Completing the census is mandatory: it's a way to participate in our democracy and say, "I COUNT!"

Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail or by phone. Nearly every household will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census from either a postal worker or a census worker. **Look for your invitation to respond starting in mid-March.**

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](#).

New Transitional Kindergarten Program

Everett Public Schools is offering a **Transitional Kindergarten** program this winter for children scheduled to enter kindergarten in the upcoming fall. The program will focus on basic academic, social and self-help skills to jumpstart qualifying students toward success in school. Students will be screened in early January and may qualify based on ability and/or need. This program is located at several of the elementary schools in our district; sites will be determined based on enrollment. The anticipated start date is January 28, 2020. **Transitional Kindergarten** will run through the last day of school, which is currently June 15, 2020.

To qualify for screening, children must:

- be 5 years old by August 31, 2020
- live within the boundaries of Everett Public Schools
- not be currently enrolled in an early learning program
- demonstrate academic and/or social-emotional needs



If you are interested and believe your child qualifies for this program, please visit our website at

<https://www.everettsd.org/earlylearning> and submit the **Transitional Kindergarten** form by December 6, 2019. For assistance, contact Helen Cooley at 425-385-4088 or Early Learning at 425-385-4024.



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
- 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 must cancel school or delay the start of school, we will use our parent communication system to call in the morning, typically around 5:30 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 <https://www.everettsd.org/>
- watch district [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) accounts

Accepting Highly Capable nominations until Dec. 18

Find forms, information and evening events on the [Highly Capable website](#). Referrals are for students currently in grades one through four for winter testing, which will take place on February 1, 2020.

Food and Nutrition

This month, the Food and Nutrition Department brings you kale grown in the PNW! Be sure to give it a try this month in our Kale Caesar salad and on the salad bar!

Did you know that just one serving of kale has more vitamin C than an orange? Find out more by checking out the Harvest of the Month flyer on our website at <https://www.everettsd.org>. It's not easy being green! Don't kale my vibe!



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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