



Charger Newsletter

Jefferson Elementary School * October 2017

From the Principal

We've had a **great first month** of school here at Jefferson Elementary. Staff and students are settling into routines, and there is so much learning going on every day! It's a pleasure to be out and about in classrooms, seeing students hard at work, thinking deeply, and treating each other respectfully. Our classrooms are becoming true learning communities. Thank you for your support of your children and our staff each and every day!

I am excited to announce a new way of serving our community: the **Food Backpack Program**. With the support of PTA, we are transitioning from housing our own on-demand food bank to offering weekly support to Jefferson families in need via a weekend backpack program. Families who would benefit from this program – whether for a few weeks or all year – are encouraged to apply using the application on the last two pages of this newsletter. Your application will be seen only by the counselor; PTA volunteers stocking backpacks will not know your identity. We have two successful food drives each year, but often cannot use all the food before it expires despite knowing that we have families who would benefit! Please spread the word, and connect with PTA if you would like to help!

A few **safety reminders**:

- If you see something happening on or around campus on weekends or outside of school hours that concerns you, please call 911!
- The back parking lot is for buses and district vehicles only.
- There is no supervision for students before 8:55 a.m. (8:45 if eating breakfast) or after 3:40 p.m. They should not be on campus without an adult outside of those times.
- No dogs are allowed on campus 8:45-3:45.
- Bikes are to be walked on school grounds.
- Use pathways, sidewalks, and crosswalks – do not walk between buses or cars!
- Stay off railings and fences.

Finally, as the weather begins to turn colder, please have your child dress (jackets and shoes) to play outside each and every day, rain or shine!

Have a fantastic start to fall!

Elizabeth Kelley, principal

Important Upcoming Events

Saturday, Oct. 7

Pancake Breakfast
camp fund-raiser, 9 a.m.
Everett Mall Applebee's

Tuesday, Oct. 10

Picture Day

Thursday, Oct. 12

High School & Beyond,
5:30-7:30 p.m., Cascade HS

Friday, Oct. 13: No School
Learning Improvement Day

Wednesday, Oct. 18

Popcorn for sale at lunch

Oct. 20-27

Early release at 1:00 p.m.
for conference week

Oct. 23-27

Book Fair

Friday, Oct. 27

Fall Family Dance,
6-8 p.m., cafeteria

When reporting an absence, please e-mail:
JFEattendance@everettsd.org

Contact Information

Attendance e-mail:
JFEattendance@everettsd.org

Phone
425-385-7400

Website:
www.everettsd.org/jeffersones

News from the Reading Room

Happy October! **Reading and writing** are happening all over Jefferson! It's exciting to see the way kids are responding to our new Reach for Reading curriculum.

If your child is receiving support in reading and/or learning English, you should have gotten an invitation to our **LAP/EL Night**, which will be Oct. 16 at 6:30 p.m. We hope you can join us to hear about what goes on in our LLI and EL groups.

Before school **Imagine Learning** has begun! IL is a computer program designed to support children who are learning English. All students who use IL at school are invited to come to the computer lab from 8:00 to 8:45 a.m. daily to use the program. Thank you for providing this opportunity for your child!

Happy reading!
Janet Erickson
ELA Coach
425-385-7423

News from the Gym

Raising fit kids: Combining regular physical activity with a healthy diet is the key to being fit.

Here are some ways to **raise fit kids**:

- Help your kids participate in a variety of age-appropriate activities.
- Establish a regular exercise time.
- Incorporate activity into daily routines, take the steps whenever possible, park farther away from your car (we are lucky to have a park and ride so close to Jefferson).
- Set a good example by modeling a healthy lifestyle.
- Keep it fun so kids will want to keep doing it!

News from the Counselor

Hello dads, grandfathers, stepdads, uncles, and significant others. Our **Watch D.O.G.S.** calendar is now open and looking sadly empty. If you can volunteer a day in October or November, please e-mail me at Lortiz-self@everettsd.org or call me at 425-385-7410. I guarantee you will enjoy your experience with our wonderful students. Your day will begin with assisting with morning arrival and introducing yourself during our announcements, followed by some time in your child's classroom, helping with lunch and recess, helping in another classroom, and assisting with student dismissal. All you need to do is make sure you have volunteer clearance through the district (it can be found on the district web page). It usually takes a week to clear, but you can still sign up for the latter part of the month. Come on D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students), we would love to see you here!

Volunteers of America will start taking phone applications this weekend for **holiday assistance** that includes food baskets and gifts. This will continue every Friday and Saturday throughout the month of October. The phone lines will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The number to call is 1-800-223-8145.

High School & Beyond

It's never too early to start charting a course toward college and career! All ages are welcome at High School and Beyond family night from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 12, at Cascade High School.

- Enjoy free pizza
- Get help with financial aid and college admissions
- Get help registering for College Bound scholarships (grades 7 and 8)
- Learn to use Naviance to make college and career plans
- Meet community and 4-year colleges & universities
- Visit the college & career fair

Interpreters will be available.

October 2017 District News

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;
- watch district [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) accounts; or
- call our district information line 425-385-4636.

Did you miss a call from us? If missed a call from your school, please first check your voice mail or your email for the message rather than calling the school. Schools are often inundated with phone calls from parents after they send an automated call and cannot answer all of the calls.

Is your contact information up-to-date at school? If your contact information has changed, please let your school know so we can reach you.

School Performance Report: Our school's performance report is available online on each school's website. More information is available on the [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction website](#). Click on "State Report Card" and select Everett from the list of districts.

Capital projects updates: The district is hard at work on many projects approved by voters in April 2016. Design work has been completed on both the [North Middle School modernization](#) and new [Elementary 18](#). Both projects will break ground this spring. Check

out the videos and more updates at www.everettsd.org/capitalprojects.
North Middle School



Elementary 18



Back-to-school safety reminders: It's helpful to talk with your child from time to time about staying safe and alert, especially when traveling to and from school. Here are just a few quick reminders:

- Walk with a buddy
- Be aware of your surroundings (cell phones and ear buds put away)
- Wait with a friend or adult at bus stops
- For adults, stop for buses when they have the stop arm out
- Report anything suspicious to an adult right away

Is your family prepared for an emergency? *Sign up for Smart911 to save time and possibly lives.* Now you can provide 9-1-1 with the information they need to help any member of your family **before** an emergency happens. Seconds count when

- A child is missing
- There's a fire
- You experience a medical emergency
- There's an accident at home, or on the job
- You are in a vehicle accident

Seconds save lives. [Sign up for Smart911 today.](#)

Watch for the mobile app

This fall families can download a mobile app to easily access student information, grades, attendance, lunch balances, calendars and more!



Website = tools for you

The website has tools to make your life easier. Sign in to:

- Customize a personal profile in *MyView*
- Add your student's school and teachers' calendars to your calendar view
- Filter calendar items by category
- Export calendar items to your personal calendar
- Access *Grades & More*, lunch menus and staff contact information from the home page
- Find directions and maps to event locations listed on the calendar

If you are a parent or guardian authorized to have Web access to your student's records, you can sign in to the website using the same login and password you use for online grades to customize *MyView*. Need a login

or not sure if you have access? Contact LMS@everettsd.org for help.

New communication plan of low and negative lunch balances

Food and Nutrition Services wants all students to have a positive meal experience and makes an effort to minimize identification and individual impact for a student with insufficient funds in-hand or in their account. To support this effort we will no longer communicate negative balances with students, only with parents.

We will use the following tools:

- On Tuesday and Thursday evenings, negative balance phone calls and e-mails will be sent through the district communication system.
- On Sunday evening, a low balance phone call and e-mail will be sent through the district communication system.
- Homeroom teachers will send green reminder envelopes home in student backpacks to families when a balance is getting low.

Parents can sign up with *MyPaymentsPlus.com* for free. By setting up an account parents will be able to:

- Check account balances
- View transaction history
- Set up low balance notifications
- Make payments online

We appreciate your help to ensure that all students have a positive experience during breakfast and lunch.

Jefferson Elementary Counseling Program

Food Backpack Program Application for 2017-18

The Food Backpack Program provides children with food to take home over the weekend. Backpacks are stocked with nutritious, child-friendly food that is easy to prepare. Backpacks are discreetly distributed to the oldest child in each family on the last day before the weekend, or may be picked up by a designated family member.

If you would like to receive a weekly food backpack, please fill out this form and send it back to the counseling office. This is confidential information and will not be disclosed to anyone else other than the school counselor. PTA volunteers preparing backpacks do not have access to your family identity.

Food availability is subject to what has been donated, but we will do our best to make sure food is available throughout the school year. The food and backpack are provided at no cost.

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Number of adults in your household: _____ Number of children in your household: _____

Please complete this chart for all children, including those at other schools or younger than school age.

Child's First Name	Age	Teacher (if at Jefferson)

Do you currently receive free/reduced-price school meals? YES _____ NO _____

Are you able to access a local food bank? YES _____ NO _____

Jefferson Elementary Counseling Program

Any food allergies or intolerances? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, please explain and be as specific as possible. We will do our best to accommodate.

If personal hygiene products are available and you would like to receive them, please note which below:

Toothbrush/Toothpaste _____ Deodorants _____ Feminine products _____

Please indicate how you would like to receive your food each week:

Send home with child _____ Pick up by adult from cafeteria at dismissal on Fridays _____

If an adult will pick up, please give their name. _____

If your child walks home and you would prefer a backpack with wheels, please check here. _____

Backpacks will go home on the last day of the week before the weekend and must be returned to the ramp area of the cafeteria by the following Wednesday.

- If your student forgets their backpack, food will not be sent home again until it is returned.
- If your backpack does not get picked up four weeks in a row, we will assume you no longer need the support unless we hear from you.
- Please remind your child not to open their backpack before they get home, or to share with anyone. This is to protect their anonymity and safety.

I understand the details of the backpack program, and would like to participate this year.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

I will remember to pick up and drop off my backpack. I agree not to open the backpack before I get home, or share with anyone other than my family members.

Student's Signature _____

Questions about the backpack program should be addressed to school counselor Lillian Ortiz-Self at 425-385-7410 or lortiz-self@everettsd.org.