

Jefferson Charger News

JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2019

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

From the Principal

How did it get to be December?! We have three important weeks of learning in between Thanksgiving and the winter break, and **every moment counts**. That's why it's so important that students arrive at school on time, every day. We are continuing our No Tardy Taters initiative to reduce tardies, and are grateful to families for all you do to support your child with on-time arrival each day!

Reading, writing, math, science, social studies, and social-emotional learning – there is so much to learn every day! Have you ever wondered how we decide what to focus on every day? Although Common Core and state standards, along with district-adopted curriculum in each content area, drive our teaching and students' learning, we also develop a **School Improvement Plan (SIP)** each year. To do this, we look at the previous year's student achievement data, we think about our current students' greatest needs, and we consider what we know about best practices in education. You'll find this year's "SIP at a Glance" document at the end of this newsletter. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with this document, and to look for evidence of this work as you review your students' assignments.

Do you have a student who will start kindergarten next fall? Everett Public Schools has a new program called **Transitional Kindergarten** for children who are not currently in an early learning program and are scheduled to begin kindergarten in fall 2020. This 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 need. Transitional Kindergarten will be located at several of the elementary schools in our district, with sites determined based on enrollment. The anticipated start date is Jan. 28, with the program running through the last day of school. Click [here](#) for more information, and to complete the interest form.

We often hear from parents who want to know how to support their child at home. While helping with homework and supporting regular i-Ready use (not exceeding 45 minutes per week in each content area, home and school time combined) are great, **encouraging your child to read is key, as is modeling a love of reading**. We know that students who read for at least 20 minutes a night develop far larger vocabularies, as well as deeper background knowledge that helps them be more successful academically. And according to Scholastic, "Children who see their parents read for pleasure are more likely to read for fun themselves." Check out five ways to be a reading role model [here](#).

Have a wonderful December,

Mrs. Kelley

Elizabeth Kelley
Principal

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Dec. 6

2:15 Learning Improvement dismissal

Dec. 9-13

PTA Holiday Store; info coming soon

Dec. 12

PTA General Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

Dec. 13

2:15 Learning Improvement dismissal

Dec. 20

2:15 Learning Improvement dismissal

Dec. 23-Jan. 3

Winter Break, no school



News from Mrs. Erickson in the Reading Room

The days are getting shorter, and that means more time for reading! I hope you and your family will be able to enjoy some special time reading together this month. We are looking for volunteers who would like to help our new readers beginning in January. Our need is for about an hour in the morning, from about 9:30-10:30. If you would like to help one or more days a week, please let me know by e-mail at jerickson@everettsd.org and I will contact you with more information. I'm so thankful to be a part of this community of learners!

LIF P.E./Gym Rotation		
<i>Please remind your student to bring their P.E. shoes on their scheduled days.</i>		
Dec. 6	Dec. 13	Dec. 20
Parks	Lemkau	Weitkamp
Nielson	Bennett	Schmieder
Hanson	Stewart	Wright
Lobdell	Kolosnitsyn	Adams
Kolosnitsyn		Kolosnitsyn

News from Mrs. Rockwell in the Music Room

This month in music, we will continue to learn more key concepts. In grades 2-5, we are writing our own music and refining our work as we learn more about notation. We are introducing more instruments, including xylophones, and starting recorder in grades 3-5! If you are interested in purchasing a recorder for your child, I have included some links on the recorder page of my website: <https://www.everettsd.org/jfe-dbranch>. Once again, don't forget to mark your calendar for our concerts. Our concert at the Everett Civic Auditorium will be Monday, May 18, for grades 1 through 5. Our Kindergarten Spring Sing will be held on Monday, June 1.

Parking Lot & Other Safety Reminders

The Jefferson parking lot is a busy place, and we are asking that everyone in our community follow procedures to ensure student safety and respectful interactions. **Please DO:**

- Use a designated parking space, or park at Eastmont Park & Ride, if you want to get out of your car to meet your student.
- Follow the 5 MPH speed limit.
- Pull forward when dropping off and picking up.
- Use crosswalks.
- Follow adult staff and student safety patrol directions.
- Remember that students are supervised until 3:45, and parking spaces and the pick-up line start clearing up about 3:40.
- Volunteer to help – contact the office!

Please DO NOT:

- Park/exit your vehicle anywhere along the curb or on Cadet Way/El Capitan.
- Pull up and wait (without using a parking space) in the parking aisles of the lot.
- Park and wait (or exit your vehicle) in the curb area past the main crosswalk by the office.
- Call your student to walk across the parking lot to meet you on their own.
- Block driveways or intersections in the neighborhood.

Bicycles, scooters, etc.: Per Everett Public Schools policy, students in grades three and above may ride bicycles to and from school. Students must walk their bicycles on campus, wear a helmet, and lock the bike to the rack behind the cafeteria. Skateboards, scooters, roller blades, roller shoes, etc., may not be ridden on district property. The district is not responsible for loss or theft of student property. If a student rides without a helmet, or does not secure their bike properly, bicycles may be confiscated for parents or guardians to come and pick up.



Important Reminders from the Jefferson Office

Checking a student out early: When checking your student out early, please remember to have photo ID.

Please note: Release of students to emergency contacts in non-emergency situations **requires** the express consent of a guardian. Please send a note to school with your student or call the office prior to their dismissal. Persons listed as emergency contacts are authorized to pick up students in the case of emergencies only. It is a parent/guardian's responsibility to notify emergency contacts that the school may contact them in the case of an emergency.

Vacation-related absences: If you are planning a vacation and your students will be missing school, please visit the office to fill out an absence request form. **Please note:** Per district policy, we may only excuse **up to** five days for vacation or travel-related absences per year.

Visitors and volunteers: Please remember to sign in and out of the office. A volunteer badge or visitor sticker must be worn and visible at all times.

Update your e-mail address with the office: Providing us with an up-to-date e-mail will help us keep you current on school news and relay information about your child.

Absence reporting: E-mail JFEattendance@everettsd.org using the e-mail address we have on record.

Have you signed up for HAC? This is where you can find your student's attendance and update your contact information. Please see the office for more details!

Snacks, birthdays, and celebrations per the Jefferson Elementary Student Handbook: Teachers may choose whether to have a daily snack time. Per district policy, each classroom may have three celebrations per year involving food (including sugary treats). Classroom teachers have three options when it comes to food for birthdays:

1. Teachers may elect to observe birthdays with food during their three classroom celebrations per year.
2. Teachers may allow students to bring fruits and/or vegetables to be eaten during the regular class snack time as a birthday celebration.
3. Teachers may mark the occasion of students' birthdays without any food.

Teachers will provide information on their plans each fall. Flower and balloon deliveries will not be accepted.

News from the District

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 systems in our schools like HVAC, roofing, and flooring replacements to extend 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>.

Don't forget to follow us on Twitter: @EPS_Jefferson



Jefferson Elementary School - EPS
@EPS_Jefferson



Jefferson Elementary School - EPS @EPS_Jefferson · Nov 20

First-graders are hard at work with our literacy coach as part of a flexible grade-level model for meeting students' needs in phonics to build strong readers.



Jefferson Elementary School - EPS @EPS_Jefferson · Nov 21

Today we celebrated our Everett Public Schools Foundation grant winning projects: Engineering with Solar Cars; Washington's Birds of Prey; Kapow! We are Readers, Writers, and Artists; Helping All Students Read at or Above Grade Level Now; and K-1 Guided Health & Fitness Stations.



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Everett Public Schools does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Designated to handle inquiries about nondiscrimination policies are:

- Title IX Officer/Civil Rights Compliance Officer – Mary O'Brien, MO'Brien@everettsd.org, 425-385-4106, PO Box 2098, Everett, WA 98213
- 504 Coordinator – Becky Ballbach, rballbach@everettsd.org, 425-385-4063, PO Box 2098, Everett, WA 98213
- ADA Coordinator – Randi Seaberg, rseaberg@everettsd.org, 425-385-4104, PO Box 2098, Everett, WA 98213



2019-20 Jefferson Elementary School Improvement Plan at a Glance

All academic areas:

- Planning instruction based on standards, common assessments, and student data
- Increasing teacher clarity (making learning outcomes and success criteria visible to students)

Reading	Writing	Math	Science
Use Reach for Reading guided reading to differentiate instruction with a focus on text-dependent questions that require students to read and reread increasingly challenging literary and informational texts	Target organization of narrative, informational/ explanatory, and opinion writing with a focus on cross-grade alignment	Use district curriculum maps and pacing guides to ensure that math instruction balances conceptual understanding, computational and procedural fluency, and problem-solving and application, with a focus on the use of efficient strategies	Incorporate Next Generation Science Standards cross-cutting concepts with Reach for Reading lessons to support scientific thinking and writing
Build students' academic and content-specific vocabulary through explicit strategy instruction and tasks that require students to use vocabulary meaningfully and in context	Teach revision and editing with a focus on cross-grade alignment of editing marks, checklists, and academic vocabulary	Use routines for reasoning instructional routines to increase students' problem-solving and reasoning skills	Increase staff understanding of transition guides and Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science-style questions to ensure higher-level student thinking and engagement in science

Nonacademic Areas

Welcoming Culture

- Foster and maintain a feeling that all families are welcome regardless of background or language, and that they can access teachers and school leaders easily
- Increase family communication through a variety of channels

Physically, Emotionally, and Intellectually Safe Environment

- Refine Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports Tier 1 components and implement Tier 2 systems
- Continue implementation of trauma-informed practices through professional learning and collaboration

Equitable and Accessible Opportunities

- Analyze student achievement by subgroup and provide interventions to close achievement gaps
- Target underperforming students through the Multi-tiered Systems of Support process (Student Intervention Team and PBIS Tier 2 Team)

Attendance

- Communicate to families the importance of consistent attendance and increase families' understanding of district policy and procedures, such as attendance letters
- Hold monthly meetings of assistant principal and counselor to monitor attendance and follow up with students/families
- Involve teachers in supporting students with attendance concerns



Family Partnerships

- Increase the amount of home/school interaction about academics through family engagement nights, resources shared at conferences, and newsletter articles with resources and information
- Provide families with information and training on Positive Behavior Interventions & Supports and social/emotional learning
- Expand Watch D.O.G.S. (Dads of Great Students) program

Instructional Technology

- Implement 1:1 Chromebooks to ensure meaningful integration of technology
- Provide regular opportunities for students to use online i-Ready lessons for individualized learning, with the goal of passing three math and two English language arts lessons per week
- Increase staff knowledge of and fluency with technology resources available to use with students