

# Whittier Wildcat News

WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



JANUARY 2018

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

## From the Principal

Happy New Year Whittier Families! It feels great to be back at school and I hope everyone enjoyed some special family time over winter break. First of all, I want to say thank you for attending our winter holiday concert in December. It was an incredible evening for everyone who attended the event and it was such a special and meaningful moment for our students. We really appreciate the organization and leadership provided by Mr. Spencer for putting on a great holiday event, and we loved seeing our Whittier students shine on the big stage. If you have images of your child from school events that you would like to share with us, please contact Mr. Spencer or the Whittier office so we can add them to future slide show presentations.

As we near the mid-point of the school year, our first and second grade teachers are currently administering the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA), while our third through fifth grade teachers are administering the i-Ready diagnostic reading assessment. Both assessment tools provide teachers with excellent information to show us your child's reading progress. Literacy research shows that a big indicator for reading improvement with children is based on the overall volume of reading that occurs. Please continue to support your child in their reading improvement and encourage them to read at home for a minimum of 30 minutes every day. Your efforts will help to ensure that your child becomes a stronger reader and a strong learner.

I want to thank all families for your dedication to your child's education and attendance at Whittier. Strong attendance is essential to school success and sometimes we don't realize how quickly absences, excused and unexcused, can add up to academic trouble. Chronic absences, missing 10 percent of the school year or just 2-3 days every month, can translate into our young learners struggling to develop foundational literacy skills that can impact their ability to read by third grade, and this can significantly harm their readiness for middle school and beyond. Good attendance helps all children do well in school and eventually in the workplace because developing the habit and the strong mindset of attending school every day prepares students for success on the job and in life. Please continue to make attendance a high priority for your child throughout the school year. Strong attendance will lead to great success for your child!

Whittier will be honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by having two assemblies on Friday, January 12, 2018, in the Whittier cafeteria. The first assembly will be at 8:55 a.m. for kindergarten through second grade students. The second assembly will be at 9:45 a.m. for third through fifth grade students. All families are welcome to join us for either assembly. We will have guest presenters from Everett High School who will communicate Dr. King's dream. They will also explain how he has inspired us to be accepting of all people while finding peaceful and respectful ways to live and interact with each other. All families are welcome to attend either assembly.

Our teachers are continuing to develop, improve, and strengthen their instructional skills to create rigorous learning opportunities for students every day. We continuously strive to engage students in collaborative problem solving, critical thinking, and in empowering them to be strong leaders. And we are always teaching and helping students develop the characteristics of perseverance and grit. These are attributes that will help all students succeed at Whittier and in life.

Thank you for your ongoing support at Whittier, and enjoy the rest of our winter season!

### Tony Wentworth

Principal  
Whittier Elementary School  
916 Oakes Avenue,  
Everett, WA 98201  
[www.everettsd.org/whittier](http://www.everettsd.org/whittier)

#### Jan. 5

Learning Improvement Friday  
1:35 dismissal

#### Jan. 12

Learning Improvement Friday  
1:35 dismissal

#### Jan. 15

MLK Jr. Day-No School

#### Jan. 17

PTA Meeting – 7 PM Library

#### Jan. 19

Popcorn Friday  
Learning Improvement Friday  
1:35 dismissal

#### Jan. 26

Learning Improvement Friday  
1:35 dismissal  
PTA Movie Night 6:30-8:00 PM

#### Jan. 29

Teacher Work Day – No School

-Tony Wentworth, Principal



## From the Library

Mrs. Bailey has been busy ordering new reading materials for our school library! Come for a visit to see what is new in the library! This month in the Library, one of our featured books is about social skills! RJ says what he thinks... no matter how it sounds or makes others feel. His mouth is getting him into a lot of trouble. A rude comment at school earned him a detention. An insensitive remark at home earned him a scolding and made his sister cry. RJ does not realize his words are wrong. He thinks he is just offering feedback. It's time RJ starts using a social filter when he speaks. With help from his parents, he learns he doesn't have to verbalize every thought that pops into his head. In fact, sometimes the less said the better! Be sure to ask your child about the book. I'm sure it will be a great discussion!

-Mrs. Bailey, Librarian

## Whittier PTA

Happy New Year! I hope everyone enjoyed the break and are energized to jump back into PTA activities for the remainder of the school year.

Our friends at the **Northwest Neighborhood Association** wanted to let us know that Mayor Franklin will be the featured guest at the their January 18th meeting in Rm. 105, Whitehorse Bldg. @ 6:30 pm on the EvCC campus. They want to extend the invitation to anyone who would like to attend.

We are still looking for someone to chair the Glow Dance Party committee so that we do not have to cancel what would be our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Glow Dance on Thursday February 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you are interested, please contact Tammy, our volunteer coordinator at [whittervc@gmail.com](mailto:whittervc@gmail.com). Your primary job would be to coordinate with the Party Medics for the entertainment, help determine the menu of food for sale, coordinate glow supplies (face paints & glow items to sell) and work with Tammy to arrange for volunteers for the food sales, face painting, and set up/take down.

Our next meeting is Wednesday January 17th at 7pm in the Whittier Library. We will be discussing what we should do about the dance if we don't have a committee chair, how things are progressing with the Nominating committee as they search for candidates for President and Treasurer for the 2018-2020 school years, and confirm that our next Movie Night is on track for Friday February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you again to all who volunteer and help in whatever ways you can. Our kids appreciate it!

Chell Black ([chell.black@gmail.com](mailto:chell.black@gmail.com))

President, Whittier PTA

## What's growing in the garden?

**This is your second clue!** This plant has been used both as a food flavoring and as a traditional medicine. If you haven't checked out the garden yet, please look and see what is growing in it!



## Free/Reduced Meals at School

Your student might qualify for free/reduced meals at school. Breakfast will be served at no cost to those children who qualify for free and reduced-price meals. If you think your family might qualify for assistance, please pick up the National School Lunch program paperwork in the main office



## January is School Board Appreciation Month



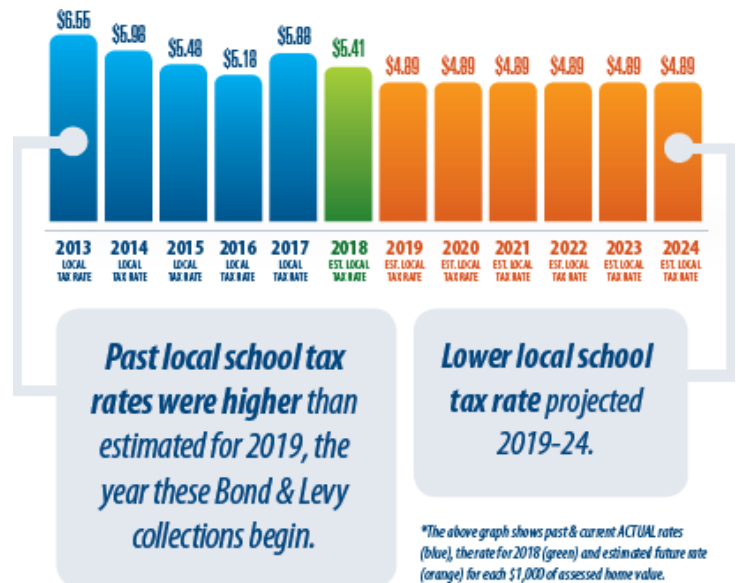
The month of January marks the annual observance of School Board Recognition – a time to salute the work of school board members and celebrate public education. This year, they were named a Board of Distinction. You can learn more about [board members online](#).

## Smarter Balanced Assessments

Because Smarter Balanced Assessments are such 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.

## 2018 Capital Bond and Replacement Levy

The school board voted to propose a Capital Bond to meet future readiness needs and a Replacement Levy to replace the expiring one. If voters approve both the Capital Bond and Replacement Educational Programs and Operations Levy on Feb. 13, 2018, tax collections to complete those projects begin in 2019. That year the local school tax rate is projected to be \$4.89 per each \$1,000 of property value. That rate is the lowest local school tax rate for property owners in the district since 2013. Find more information on the [district website](#).



## Support for students in temporary or inadequate housing

If your family is in a temporary or inadequate living situation due to a loss of housing or a family crisis, your child may be eligible for certain educational rights and services. If you lost your housing and now live in a shelter, motel, vehicle, camping ground, temporary trailer, on the street, doubled up with family or friends, or in another type of temporary or inadequate housing, your child might be able to receive help through a federal law called the McKinney-Vento Act. The McKinney-Vento Act may be able to provide support through transportation so that your child can continue to be enrolled, or through access to programs and services so that your child can participate fully in school.

Please contact your child’s counselor or Amy Perusse, McKinney-Vento Facilitator, [aperusse@everettsd.org](mailto:aperusse@everettsd.org), 425-385-4032, for more information.



## Kindergarten registration begins in March

Do you have a child who will be 5 years old by Aug. 31, 2018? Registration begins on March 5, 2018, at all 17 district elementary schools. Which school will your kindergartner attend? To find out, click on *School and Route Finder* under the *Parents* tab, or call the transportation office at 425-385-4144.

## Mobile app

Have you downloaded the mobile app yet? The latest news and information from schools in Everett Public Schools is now available on smartphones and mobile devices with a new mobile app. Everett Public Schools is expanding its communications outreach with a free mobile app that is now available in the online iTunes® and Google Play® app stores.



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 Office – Carol Stolz, [cstolz@everettsd.org](mailto:cstolz@everettsd.org), 425-385-4106
- Title IX Officer – Randi Seaberg, [rseaberg@everettsd.org](mailto:rseaberg@everettsd.org), 425-385-4104
- 504 Coordinator – Becky Ballbach, [rballbach@everettsd.org](mailto:rballbach@everettsd.org), 425-385-4063
- ADA Coordinator – Becky Clifford, [bclifford@everettsd.org](mailto:bclifford@everettsd.org), 425-385-5250



## Facebook Messenger Kids - What Parents Need to Know

By [Cyber Safety Cop](#) • Issue #14

Facebook announced a new messaging service for children as young as six. They promise parental controls and policies in place to ban inappropriate content and cyberbullying, but is it an app that parents should allow their young children to use?

Facebook, the world's largest social network (which requires users to be at least 13 years old) has created a messaging app for children, 6 to 12-years-Old. Messenger Kids has parental controls and policies in place to ban inappropriate content and cyberbullying, but that doesn't make the service exempt from Facebook's pattern of moderation failures. And in the event a child is harassed or exposed to banned content in Messenger Kids, the burden falls in part on Facebook's human moderators to act. Facebook says they will have specialized reviewers [for Messenger Kids] that will look for other signs of potential abuse and take appropriate action, whether it's removing specific messages or entire accounts for repeated abuse.

Parents have to be Facebook friends with the parents of any kid that their kid wants to talk to. Once a parent adds someone to their child's contact list through the main Facebook app, kids can video chat as well as send photos, videos, and texts, or pick something from "a library of kid-appropriate and specially chosen GIFs, frames, stickers, masks, and drawing tools," according to Facebook's announcement post.

Facebook claims their new app gives parents control over how long their kids can use the app. Messenger Kids includes a tool that lets kids report when someone is being "mean," and, according to Facebook's product manager, both humans and machines at Facebook will be moderating the space for inappropriate content. When detected (or if, given Facebook's shoddy moderating history), such content will be scrubbed from the app.

### Should you allow your child to use this app?

I think there are two important issues for parents to consider before giving their very young child access to social media:

#### **1. Screen time. Do you want to give your child more opportunities to spend more time on a phone?**

In a peer-reviewed study that appeared in the journal *Clinical Psychological Science*, Jean Twenge showed that, after 2010, teens who spent more time on new media were more likely to report mental health issues than those who spent time on non-screen activities. Using data collected between 2010 and 2015 from more than 500,000 adolescents nationwide, Twenge's study found kids who spent three hours or more a day on smartphones or other electronic devices were 34% more likely to suffer at least one suicide-related outcome—including feeling hopeless or seriously considering suicide—than kids who used devices two hours a day or less. Among kids who used electronic devices five or more hours a day, 48% had at least one suicide-related outcome.

#### **2. Facebook is promising to protect your kids...what could possibly go wrong?**

A Facebook spokesperson said in an email to Gizmodo (online tech blog), "We've built automated systems that can detect things like nudity, violence, and child exploitative imagery to help limit that content from being shared on Messenger Kids. We also have blocking and reporting mechanisms, and have a dedicated team of human reviewers that review all content that is reported." Facebook's systems are reactionary and won't stop your child from seeing these traumatizing images, they will clean them up after the fact. Unfortunately, the damage is already done. And there are still privacy concerns to consider. Facebook is not immune to security breaches and the social network has a history of experimenting on its users. Parents would be misguided to believe that they have the ultimate authority over their child's experience. In reality, Facebook does.

### Cyber Safety Cop's Recommendation on Messenger Kids

I do not recommend parents give their very young (6 to 12-year-old) access to social media, even if it is moderated for children. I encourage parents to look for non-screen activities for their children, especially family oriented activities. This is an uphill battle. The average teen consumes 6 to 9 hours of screens per day.

Lastly, why does Facebook want your child to be on social media? Ultimately, they are doing it to create a new generation of users that are addicted to their product. Sean Parker, the co-founder of Facebook, in a recent symposium admitted Facebook was created to make you come back for more. Parker said, "It's a social-validation feedback loop ... exactly the kind of thing that a hacker like myself would come up with, because you're exploiting a vulnerability in human psychology...God only knows what it's doing to our children's brains."

### Get educated

Social media and technology is a moving target. Parents must know what is happening in their child's digital world. Subscribe to Cyber Safety Cop's free newsletter that will let you know when there is a new app or online issue parents need to know about.

Attend a [Cyber Safety Parent Seminar near you](#). If you can't find a seminar near you, learn how to [host a seminar at your school or organization](#).

Get the companion guide to every device your child is using to connect to the internet and other people online - the step-by-step guide to making your family safe online, "[Parenting in the Digital World](#)."



# January 2018



## Whittier Events



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5 <i>LIF Friday 1:35</i> Bricks 4 Kidz	6
7	8 <i>Art Wizards</i>	9 <i>Spanish Club</i> French Club <i>Robotics</i>	10 <i>4H</i>	11 <i>Robotics</i>	12 <i>LIF Friday 1:35</i> Bricks 4 Kidz	13
14	15 <b>MLK Jr. Day</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	16 <i>Spanish Club</i> French Club <i>Robotics</i>	17 <i>4H</i> <b>PTA Meeting</b> <b>7pm Library</b>	18 <i>Robotics</i>	19 <b>Popcorn Friday!</b> LIF Friday 1:35 <b>Bricks 4 Kidz</b>	20
21	22 <i>Art Wizards</i>	23 <i>Spanish Club</i> French Club <i>Robotics</i>	24 <i>4H</i>	25 <i>Robotics</i>	26 <i>LIF Friday 1:35</i> Bricks 4 Kidz <b>PTA Movie Night</b>	27
28	29 <b>Teacher Work Day</b> <b>NO SCHOOL</b>	30 <i>Spanish Club</i> French Club <i>Robotics</i>	31 <i>4H</i>			

Office Phone: 425-385-4300	<u><a href="#">Art Wizards</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Spanish/French</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Robotics</a></u>	<u><a href="#">Bricks 4 Kidz</a></u>	<u><a href="#">4H Club</a></u>
Attendance Line: 425-385-4305	<b>Mondays</b> 2:55-3:55 pm	<b>Tuesdays</b> 2:55-4 pm	<b>Tues &amp; Thursday</b> 2:50-4 pm	<b>Fridays</b> 1:40-2:40 pm	<b>Wednesdays</b> 2:50-4 pm

