

Whittier Wildcat News

WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



January 2019

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

From the Principal

Happy New Year Whittier Families! It feels great to be back at school and I hope everyone enjoyed 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 show, and we loved seeing our Whittier students shine on the big stage.

Parents, thank you for your amazing support and participation with our fall parent conferences in November. We had a 99% participation rate, the highest level of participation that we have ever had. We appreciate your commitment to ensuring that your child is successful at Whittier and we appreciate your ongoing commitment and support. Next Wednesday, January 16, 2019, will be another great opportunity to work collaboratively in supporting Whittier as our fabulous PTA will be hosting their January monthly meeting in the library at 7:00 p.m. All parents are welcome to attend, so we look forward to seeing you there. Thank you for your support!

As we near the mid-point of the school year, our first and second grade teachers will begin the process of administering the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA), while our third through fifth grade teachers will begin administering the i-Ready diagnostic reading assessment. Both assessment tools provide teachers with excellent information and feedback as a mid-year assessment check 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 every day. Your efforts will help to ensure that your child becomes a stronger reader and a strong learner.

Our teachers are always working towards continuous improvement to strengthen their instructional skills that will allow them to create rigorous learning opportunities for students every day in math, English language arts, and in science. We strive to engage students in learning opportunities that foster collaborative problem-solving learning tasks, critical thinking, and in empowering students to be strong leaders. And we are always teaching and helping students develop the characteristics of perseverance and grit in supporting each child to be their best at Whittier every day. These are attributes that will help all students succeed at Whittier and in life.

Whittier will be honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by having two assemblies next Friday, January 18, 2019, in the Whittier cafeteria. The first assembly will be at 8:55 a.m. for third through fifth grade students. The second assembly will be at 9:45 a.m. for kindergarten through second grade students. All families are welcome to join us for either assembly. We will have guest presenters from the Everett Community College Diversity and Equity Center 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.

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

-Tony Wentworth, Principal

Tony Wentworth

Principal

Whittier Elementary School
916 Oakes Avenue,
Everett, WA 98201
www.everettsd.org/whittier

January 11

LIF Early Release-1:35 pm dismissal
Drama Club Begins – 1:35-3:00 pm

January 14

Smart with Art begins

January 16

PTA Meeting – 7 pm in Library

January 18

MLK Jr. Assembly (3-5 @ 9 am)
(K-2 @ 9:45 am)
LIF Early Release-1:35 pm dismissal

January 21

MLK Jr. Holiday – NO SCHOOL

January 23

Coding Club begins – 8 weeks

January 25

LIF Early Release-1:35 pm dismissal
PTA Movie Night in cafeteria-6:30 pm

January 28

Teacher Work Day – NO SCHOOL

February 1

LIF Early Release- 1:35 pm dismissal

February 8

LIF Early Release- 1:35 pm dismissal

February 18 & 19

Mid-Winter Break – NO SCHOOL



From the Library

January Library News

December was a quick month for us in the library. We spent the first week enjoying our amazing book fair. **A HUGE thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who made this fun, weeklong event possible!** All money we receive comes directly back to our Whittier library, so we can continue to order wonderful reading materials for students to enjoy. Thank you families for your support!

Please encourage reading at home! Here are a few ideas ...

- *Go to the Everett Public Library to get books.
- *Pick out a new chapter book for your family to read before bedtime each night.
- *Ask your child what topics he or she would like to learn about, and research about them online or with a book.
- *Have fun rereading favorite books (family members can take turns picking the books).

~Shannon Heininger
sheininger@everettsd.org (425) 385-4308



Whittier PTA

Welcome back from Winter Break, Whittier Wildcats.

We hope each of you had a fun, safe holiday break and were also ready to get back to the routine of school.

The PTA have a busy few weeks ahead of us, including the PTA Whittier Family Movie Night featuring **Incredibles 2** on Friday, January 25th. Please arrive around 6:00pm in the cafeteria to grab a slice of pizza or other concessions. Cash or check only for concessions. The movie will start promptly at 6:30. Bring your blankets, pillows and wear cozy pajamas if you wish. A flyer will be going home this week with your student.

If you are in the midst of cleaning out closets with bags of unwanted household and clothing items intended for donation, the 5th Grade Camp Committee is hosting a textile 'FUNDrive' drop off this coming Sunday, January 13th at Value Village, 6220 Evergreen Way from 3-4pm. Please come and support next year's 5th graders get to camp this Fall, 2019. The more you donate, the more money is raised.

Our next PTA meeting is Wednesday, January 16th from 7:00pm – 8:00pm. We encourage your attendance and welcome all to join. It's an informal meeting with updates from the members and administration. We always enjoy Principal Wentworth's attendance. And if you aren't a PTA member, please consider joining the fun. If you are a PTA member, it doesn't obligate you to volunteer. Truth: Whittier's many activities would not exist without the hard work of the PTA. Thank you, volunteers!

We encourage you to find us on Facebook for events information, and more to come throughout the school year.

Happy New Year 2019!

Brenda White, President
Amy Smith, Vice-President
Heather Reid, Treasurer
Karen Zulinke, Secretary





2019-20 Transfer Requests

If your student attends Whittier on a transfer (*Whittier is not your resident school*), you are **required** to fill out a new Intradistrict Area Transfer Request for the 2019-20 schoolyear. This is due to boundary changes in the district.

No student on a current district transfer will be automatically rolled-up for the 2019-20 school year.

Choice transfer release requests for nonresident students must be submitted annually; this is not the case for Intradistrict students. Procedure 3131P, School Attendance Area Changes and Transfers, allows for transfer requests for Intradistrict students to continue at that school until the end of the child's education in that school without reapplying in succeeding years. However, Procedure 3131P also states that a student's transfer may be withdrawn when district attendance boundaries are altered by board action and/or when the superintendent has determined that there is no capacity at the building, program, grade level and/or classroom.

You can find the form on the district website or pick one up in the main office.

Attendance Reporting in the Morning

Due to new state regulations in the 2018-19 schoolyear we are required to have proof of attendance excuses. **We will no longer be accepting absence calls to the main office phone line.** If you would like to report your student absent in the morning, please use one of the following methods:

- **Whittier Attendance Email** – WHEAttendance@everettsd.org (1st choice)
- **Whittier Attendance Phone Line** – 425-385-4305 (2nd choice). This transcribes voice to text message for us.

If you are emailing your student's teacher, please include the Whittier Attendance Email @ WHEAttendance@everettsd.org. This keeps the office informed of your child's absence and this will help us avoid sending out a call to you when you have already reported the absence to the teacher.

Lost and Found

Please stop by the lost & found outside of the Library. The collection is growing and we would like to get belongings back to their rightful owners. Also, please remember to **label your student's clothing.** We do our best to reunite clothing when names are clearly labeled inside.

Easy Ways to Make \$\$ for Whittier

Bartell Drugs



Please consider joining the "B" for caring program at Bartell Drugs as an easy way to fundraise for Whittier Elementary. Simply join the Bartell eScrip program and a portion of your purchase amount will go towards Whittier. You can ask a Bartell Drugs employee or go online and register www.secure.escrip.com/signup.



Whittier Elementary School Attendance



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 holiday season, give your children the gift of an education and the habit of attendance.

Every Minute Matters At Whittier!

Under state law, students are required to attend school until they reach the age of 18 (RCW.28A.225). The BECCA Law requires schools to notify juvenile court when students are in violation of this statute.

- School hours at Whittier are 8:35 a.m.-2:50 p.m.
- The first bell rings at 8:30 a.m.
- Instruction begins promptly at 8:35, at which time your child should be in his/her classroom.
- If your child is going to be absent from school the parent/guardian must E-mail: WHEAttendance@everettsd.org, or call Whittier's attendance line at: 425.385.4305.
- The specific reason and the date of the student's absence must be included in your communication.
- A truancy petition may be filed if the student has **seven unexcused absences** within one month.
- A truancy petition may be filed if the student has **ten unexcused absences** within the school year.
- Letters informing parents/guardians of excessive tardies will be sent home.
- Students arriving after 9:06 a.m. will be marked as absent for a half day.
- Students missing 50% of their school day will be marked as absent for a full day.
- When twenty consecutive days of school are missed, the student will be withdrawn from the district. If the registrar does not receive a request for records within ten days of withdrawal, a BECCA petition will be filed.



Do you YouTube?

The district does. Search for Everett Public Schools WA to find all of our district videos. Miss a school board meeting? You can find videos of those meetings there too.



We're hiring para educators!

If you've ever wanted to help in a classroom, or lend your talents at a school, apply to be a classroom para educator! Para educators in Everett Public Schools provide instructional support to classroom teachers and ensure students with special needs have access to their learning. You're not available? Tell a neighbor or friend! This is your opportunity to have a huge impact on your community, one student at a time.

Look for the Employment icon on www.Everettsd.org to apply. If you're interested, please call Lauren Weeden, Director of Special Services for North Region Schools, at 425-385-5791.

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 once again named a Board of Distinction. You can learn more about [board members online](#).

Freaked by too much Fortnite?

Hear from parents and students about the pitfalls and positives about the extremely popular video game at www.common sense media.org.

Help your student stay safer online through awareness and parent tips about this app and other games, movies and apps.



3900 Broadway
Everett, WA 98201
425-385-4000
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 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

Help Your Child with Homework (Without Doing It Yourself)



Help Your Child with Homework (Without Doing It Yourself)

Sometimes you run out of patience, sometimes you run out of time, and sometimes you just want to make sure your child is successful. Whatever the reason, it's easy for parents to overstep when it comes to homework.

But completing your child's homework ultimately doesn't do them any favors — in fact, there's evidence that lots of parental involvement with homework can actually backfire. Instead, parents should recognize that homework exists to help children better understand the topics they're learning in class. Letting kids figure it out for themselves, including making mistakes along the way, is an important part of the process. Beyond the academic benefits, allowing a child to complete homework alone helps him gain important life skills like self-sufficiency, problem solving and time management.

That doesn't mean you shouldn't be involved at all. The key is to provide support and guidance while setting boundaries and reinforcing that homework is your child's responsibility, not yours. Try these strategies to help your child do their homework without doing it for them.

Set up a homework routine.

Help your child get assignments done with less angst (or tears) by setting up and maintaining a homework routine. Figure out when your child is best able to concentrate — that may be right after school or scheduled activities, or he may need an hour of downtime at home before returning to school work. If your child spends time with an [after-school sitter](#) or in an after-care program, decide how much homework should be completed during that time. You'll also need to choose a location in your home where your child can work with minimal distraction. Some children thrive at a desk in their bedroom, away from siblings and other family members; others happily and productively work at the dining room table or kitchen island while mom or dad makes dinner. Whatever spot works for your child, make sure school supplies are within reach.

Most importantly, homework time needs to be free of television, video games, cell phones and other media. If your child needs to access to Internet for certain assignments, make sure the computer is in a communal area. Set boundaries around which sites your child can visit, and determine together how much time actually needs be spent surfing the web.

Let your child's age determine how involved you are.

It's natural for parents to be a bit more involved when young elementary school students are still new to the concept of homework. At this age, parents or a sitter should sit down with the child to review homework and make a plan about how to tackle it. Your child needs to be an active participant in this conversation, which will help them learn how to prioritize without you.

By the time children are in junior high and high school, parents should be largely removed from the nightly homework process. Instead, be available as needed to discuss 'big picture' details on assignments and projects.

Don't hover during homework time.

Be a resource when it comes to homework, not a crutch. Give your child space while she completes her homework. Do your own thing — make dinner or send work emails — but be accessible. This will encourage her to try to solve more difficult problems on her own before seeking your help.

Review good study habits.

Completing homework assignments and having good study habits aren't necessarily the same thing, especially as children get older. Study habits include understanding how to review classroom material, take notes, stay organized and prepare for long-term projects and exams.

Parents can help teach and reinforce good study habits. Try these suggestions:

1. Talk to your kids about how these skills relate to the real world. Good study habits early on can set a student up for academic and professional success.
2. Model the behaviors you want to see in your child. While you don't need to start pouring over a physics textbook, let your child see you balance the monthly budget, read books for pleasure, work on a big professional project or even manage the family calendar.
3. Support study habits by being present and available. Run through flashcards, administer practice questions and actively listen when your child wants to talk about the material he is learning.

Focus on healthy habits.

For children in the United States, it's not uncommon to have several hours of homework each night as they advance in school, in addition to after-school activities, sports and other commitments. While making time and space for homework to happen is important, other habits, like sleep as well as a healthy diet, can contribute to a child's academic success.

According to National Sleep Foundation, first graders need up to 11 hours of sleep a night, while junior high and high school students need at least 8 hours. Over time, without sufficient sleep, kids' attention spans and ability to concentrate are likely to decrease. Set a bedtime for your child and stick to it. If homework is interfering with your child's ability to get enough sleep, it may be time to talk to the teacher about whether or not the volume of homework is reasonable.

Figure out what the sticking point is.

Kids learn in different ways and at different paces. Suggest and try different methods to figure out what type of learning works best for your child. For example, if your child is struggling with algebra, try drawing a diagram or a picture to see if a visual representation will clear things up.

If a child continues to have trouble with certain subjects, he may have missed a key foundational concept from earlier lessons. No amount of "toughing it out" will work in these situations, so you may need to review materials to determine what information needs to be reviewed. Enlist help, either from a teacher or a tutor, if your child needs additional support and one-on-one attention.

Communicate with the teacher.

You and your child's teacher are a team dedicated to your child's academic success — and like all relationships, communication is key.

When your child has an issue with homework, resist the urge to take over and talk to the teacher instead. Teachers don't want parents completing their students' homework, and they typically know when a parent has intervened on an assignment. If your child is consistently struggling with her work, she may need extra help. The teacher can provide this help or assist you in identifying the right resources.

In addition, if you're concerned about too much homework (or even too little homework), reach out to the teacher. Whatever the problem, be diplomatic — your child will be with this teacher for an entire year, so it's important to keep the lines of communication open and productive. Together, you'll likely be able to solve whatever homework issues arise.



January 2019

Whittier Events



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
6	7	8 Math Club 3-4 pm Spanish Club 3-4 pm French Club 3-4 pm	9	10 Math Club 3-4 pm	11 LIF 1:35 dismissal Drama Club Starts 1:35-3 pm Cafeteria	12
13	14 Smart w/Art - 3-4	15 Math Club 3-4 pm Spanish Club 3-4 pm French Club 3-4 pm	16 PTA Meeting 7pm	17 Math Club 3-4 pm	18 LIF 1:35 dismissal Drama Club 1:35-3 pm	19
20	21 MLK Jr. Holiday NO SCHOOL	22 Math Club 3-4 pm Spanish Club 3-4 pm French Club 3-4 pm	23 Coding Club starts 3-4 pm	24 Math Club 3-4 pm	25 LIF 1:35 dismissal B4Kidz 1:35-2:35 pm Drama Club 1:35-3 pm PTA Movie Night 6:30 pm	26
27	28 Teacher Work Day NO SCHOOL	29 Math Club 3-4 pm Spanish Club 3-4 pm French Club 3-4 pm	30 Coding Club 3-4 pm	31 Math Club 3-4 pm	1 LIF 1:35 dismissal B4Kidz 1:35-2:35 pm Drama Club 1:35-3 pm	2

Office Phone:
425-385-4300

Attendance Line:
425-385-4305