

Whittier Wildcat News

WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



October 2018

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 2

From the Principal

Welcome to October! It's been a great first month of school and your children have been hard working, engaged, and passionate learners. Thank you for your support in helping to ensure that your child has a successful start to the new school year. Thank you for attending our Back-to-School Orientation, Meet the Teacher Day, PTA 1st day of school coffee (K-5), Back-to-School BBQ, September PTA meeting, and Whittier Curriculum Night. Your support always matters!

The Everett Public Schools' High School and Beyond Week will take place October 8-12. Everett High School will be hosting the "Mapping your Future: What you Can Do Now to Chart your Course" evening seminar for north Everett families on Wednesday, October 10, from 5:00-8:00pm at Everett High School to highlight this important focus. Whittier will be supporting this district focus by having a "Favorite College/University Spirit Day" this Friday, October 5, to emphasize the importance of being life-long learners. We will also have a "Dress Your Best for Success Spirit Day" the following week on Friday, October 12, to stress the importance of presenting yourself in a professional manner when preparing for a career and interviewing for a job.

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 reading. Both assessment tools provide teachers with excellent information to show us your child's reading progress. Please take the time to listen to your child read and/or read to them every day. Reading is the number one skill for success in school and a significant indicator for success in life. Your child's teacher will provide their reading assessment results during our fall parent-teacher conference week which will take place November 5-9.

Whittier is currently receiving support from the state funded Learning Assistance Program (LAP). The LAP program is designed to provide supplemental support to eligible students who are identified as in need of additional assistance to meet state and local academic standards, particularly focusing on children in kindergarten through fourth grade who are below grade level in reading. Support may also be provided for fifth grade students and in math. If you have questions about the LAP program and how it can support your child, please contact me to discuss your learning concerns for your child.

Attendance will always be a critical component to your child's success at Whittier. Please remember that instruction begins promptly at 8:35 a.m. 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. Please note the following circumstance that can be recognized as excused absences according to district policy:

Illness/health condition or medical appointment, Family emergency, Religious or cultural purpose, Court/judicial, Student's homeless status or foster care/dependency, Principal and parent/guardian mutually agreed upon approved activity, Absence due to student safety concern, Deployment activities of apparent or legal guardian, Absence resulting from disciplinary action, suspension, expulsion, emergency expulsion, Absence due to migrant status.

Finally, I wanted to emphasize to parents that student safety is the highest priority at Whittier. Please remember that the Whittier campus doors are locked until 8:10 a.m. Please do not drop your child off before 8:10 a.m. as we do not have supervision for students outside of the entrance or outside of the playground fence area in the morning. Thank you for your support.

Parents, thank you for your continued support in making Whittier a great place to learn. Let's make it an outstanding October!

Tony Wentworth, Principal

Tony Wentworth

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

October 3,4,5

Fifth grade to Camp Killoqua

October 5

Favorite College Spirit Day
Running Club 8:10-8:30 am
LIF Day – 1:35 pm dismissal

October 9

Whittier Picture Day

October 10

High School & Beyond Night
Everett HS 5pm – 8 pm

October 12

Dress your Best Spirit Day
Running Club 8:10-8:30 am
LIF Day – 1:35 pm dismissal

October 17

PTA Meeting in library 7pm

October 19

Teacher work day – NO SCHOOL

October 25

PTA Harvest Carnival 5:30-7pm

October 26

Running Club 8:10-8:30 am



From the Library

October

Students have been busy learning and practicing library expectations to ensure we have a quiet place to enjoy books. Early on, grades 2-5 filled out a brief survey to share their opinions about library time. The top 3 preferred activities included: read to self, find books, and AR testing time. The top difficulties in the library were the noise level & not being able to find books. Below are some of the ways students are working to improve their library experience.

- *Students use our "Sammy the Shelf Marker" to help our library stay organized.
- *Grades 2-5 went on book hunts using their detective skills
- *Students are practicing voice volumes of 0 or 1 (spy voice)
- *Students are learning ways to best take care of books

Have you had a chance to see our INCREDIBLE photos in the library? Each visit includes selecting 1 incredible student that demonstrates the "Whittier Way".



Reminder...1st-5th graders check out books. Please help them remember to return books to our library. Thank you!

Please join us in the library for some reading fun!

Open Check Out

Monday-Thursday 8:10-8:27 & 2:50-3:10

Friday 8:10-8:27 & 1:35-1:45

~Shannon Heining
sheininger@everettsd.org

Whittier PTA

Hello Whittier families,

We hope that the start of the school year has been a good one. We were pleased to welcome the new school year by hosting two coffee hours for parents the first week of school then capping it off with the Back to School Barbeque. Despite the dark clouds and rain, we received nearly 250 guests that night. Thank you so much for joining us!

This year we recruited a Social Media Coordinator for the Whittier PTA Facebook site. If you haven't already 'liked' us, please check us out. It is a growing resource of information for all our families and extended community. Several school events have been posted the last several days. And you can communicate directly with us through instant message. Thank you Megan W. for your amazing talents with our Facebook site!

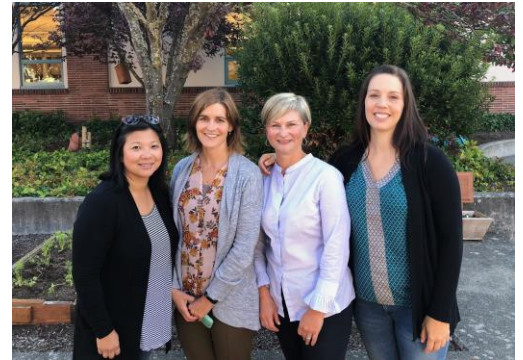
The next PTA meeting is Wednesday, October 17th at 7pm in the Whittier Library. Thank you to everyone that joined our September meeting. It was both well-attended and well-received. Several parents stepped up to offer their assistance with a variety of tasks that support the school.

Whittier's Harvest Festival is Thursday, October 25th. It's a fun annual costume and game event for our Wildcats and their families. An event of this size, however, is never a success without its volunteers. Please consider signing up to help whether it is decorating, concessions or games/activities. We need your assistance. Please email our volunteer coordinator at whittiervc@gmail.com.

Lastly, please remember that background checks are required for all school volunteers. This is done through the Everett School District website.

Please email us at ptawhittierelementary@gmail.com if we may be of any assistance to you.

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



From left: Amy Smith, Karen Zulinke, Brenda White, and Heather Reid



School Pictures – October 9

Smile...It's picture time!

- **Individual student pictures** will be October 9th. Uniforms are optional
- **Individual student picture retakes** will be November 14th.



Attendance Reporting in the Morning

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)

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.

Thank you kindly for your assistance in all things attendance!

PTA Harvest Festival

Come help us celebrate the arrival of fall at our annual Harvest Festival on Thursday, October 25th from 5:30-7pm. All Whittier families are invited to join in the fun. The event will take place in the Cafeteria & Gym.

Wear your family-friendly, NON-SCARY costumes. There will be fun harvest games, face painting, and much more! Light dinner options will be available for purchase. More information will be sent closer to the event.



Whittier Fall Fundraiser

Attention Parents: We need your support! Now through October 10th Whittier is selling Cookie Dough, magazines, wrapping paper and fun gifts through Cherrydale...America's Fundraising Company! Great brands like Otis Spunkmeyer®, Auntie Anne's®, and more!

Cowabunga Collectible Keychains!

We will be handing out fantastic prizes DURING our fundraiser. All you have to do is sell 3 items to receive your first Cowabunga Collectible Keychain. Earn an additional Cowabunga when you sell 5, 8, 10, 15, and 20 items. Turn in the coupons on your prize flyer after morning announcements in the cafeteria on the following days: **10/2, 10/3, 10/8, 10/9, and 10/10.**





Seahawks Blitz Party!

Everyone who sells 12 items during our fundraiser will receive a special invitation to our event! Our Guest of Honor will be Blitz, the Seahawks Mascot! Families with multiple siblings are asked to have a household total of 20 items sold to qualify. Please return the ½ sheet permission slip with your order form to receive an invitation.

Event date to be Announced



Whittier Elementary School Tardy Guidelines/School Board Policy

We look forward to seeing your child at school on time, each and every day. If you need assistance or if you would like recommendations on how to help ensure your child's regular school attendance, please contact your child's teacher, the school counselor, the assistant principal or principal.

- Letters informing parents/guardians of excessive tardies will be sent home monthly.
- 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.

	ON TIME	TARDY <i>Missing 30 minutes</i>	PARTIAL ABSENCE <i>Missing more than 30 minutes and less than 50% of their school day</i>	FULL DAY ABSENCE <i>Missing 50% or more on a regularly scheduled school day</i>
Regular School Schedule	8:35 Bell	8:35-9:05	9:06-11:49	11:50-3:10
LIF	8:35 Bell	8:35-9:05	9:06-11:04	11:05-1:35
Early Release	8:35 Bell	8:35-9:05	9:06-10:12	10:13-12:20

Absences due to the following are excused absences:

- Illness, health condition or medical appointment
- Family emergency
- Religious or cultural purpose
- Court, judicial
- Student's homeless status or foster care/dependency
- Principal (or designee) and parent/guardian mutually agreed upon approved activity
- Absence due to student safety concern
- Deployment activities of a parent or legal guardian
- Absence resulting from disciplinary action, suspension, expulsion, emergency expulsion
- Absence due to migrant status

Absences due to the following are unexcused absences:

- If the reason for the absence does not meet one of the criteria (reason, explanation) of an excused absence set forth, WAC 392-401-020
- If the parent/guardian fails to submit any type of excuse statement, whether by phone, fax, email or in writing for the absence.
- If the parent/guardian submits an excuse statement (reason, explanation) more than thirty (30) calendar days after the absence
- To schedule an informational attendance conference with the parent/guardian after **five excused absences** within a month (if not previously prearranged approval from the school principal) to take steps in providing resources and support to reduce or eliminate all absences.
- A truancy petition may be filed if the student has **five unexcused absences** within one month or within the school year.
- A truancy petition may be filed if the student has **ten excused 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.

We look forward to seeing your child at school on time, each and every day.

If you need assistance or if you would like recommendations on how to help ensure your child's regular school attendance, please contact your child's teacher, the school counselor, the assistant principal or principal.

Every minute at Whittier matters!

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

Did you miss a call from us?

If you missed a call from your school, please first check your voice mail, email or mobile app 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.



Mobile app

Families can [download the district mobile app](#) to easily access student information, grades, attendance, lunch balances, borrowed library books, calendars and more! Translate notifications and app functions into the language you prefer.

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.

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
- Report anything suspicious to an adult right away
- For adults, [stop for buses](#) when they have the stop arm out



Mapping your future

Students K through 12 and their families are invited to the High School and Beyond family nights to:

- 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
- Learn about cool careers

Oct. 9: Jackson High School
Oct. 10: Everett High School
Oct. 11: Cascade High School

Middle and high school students

Can you fluently read, write, speak, and listen in a language other than English? Students in grades 7 through 12 in Everett Public Schools can earn high school credit in a world language by successfully passing district-approved assessments and demonstrating language proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in this language. Assessments are available at \$10 for many different world languages. See the district [assessment website](#) for details.

Test dates: Nov. 14, 2018 and March 13, 2019

Fall registration: Sept. 17 – Oct. 12, 2018

Spring registration: Jan. 14 – Feb. 15, 2019



Website tools for you

The website has tools to make your life easier. Sign in with your LMS password 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



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

From the School Counselor

YouTube Lets Parents Handpick Videos Their Kids Can See

Matt Binder/Mashable

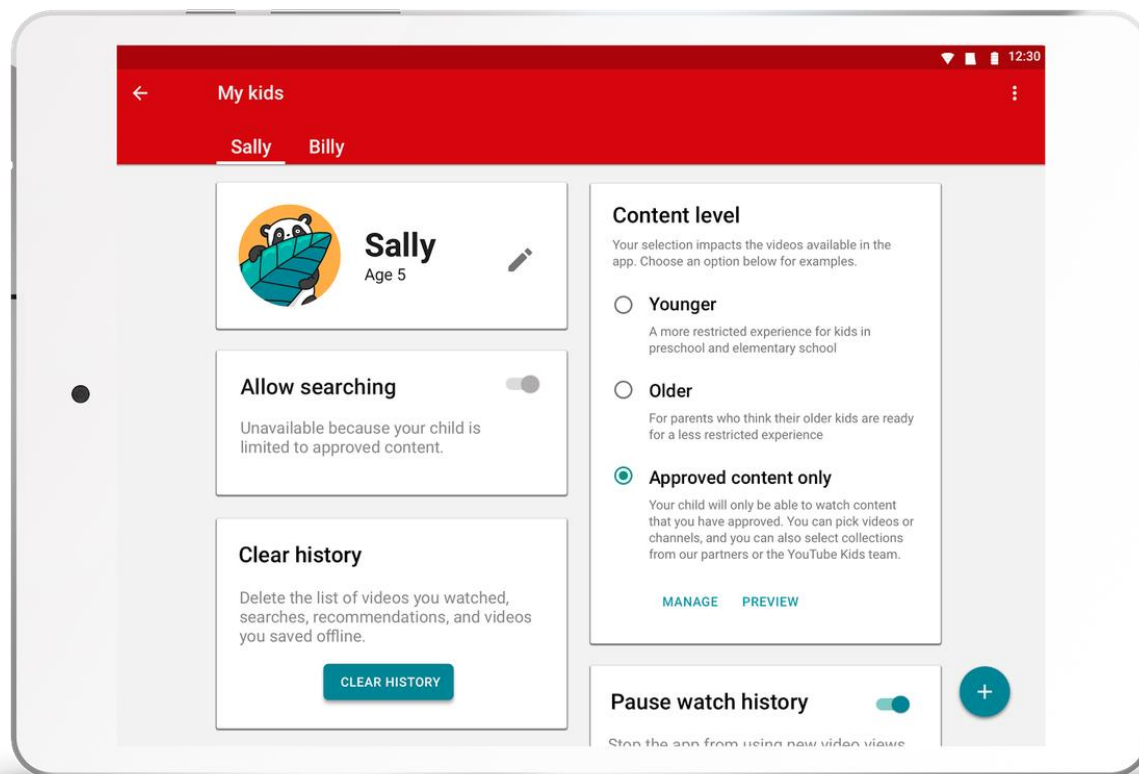
September 13, 2018

YouTube is taking some extra steps to give parents more control over what their children watch.

In a [blog post today](#), YouTube announced two updates to their [YouTube Kids](#) app to improve user experience for the [millions of children and parents](#) who use the app.

The biggest update, which YouTube [first introduced in April](#), is the rollout of parent-approved content. Android users around the world can handpick every video or channel their child is allowed to view through the YouTube Kids app (this ability is forthcoming soon to users on iOS devices).

Now, with a single settings change — simply click "approved content only" on each child's profile — parents can make sure their children only watch the content that they've manually selected.



Parents can also include playlists curated by trusted partners, such as PBS Kids, Sesame Street, and humans on the YouTube Kids team (not an algorithm!).

The "approved content only" setting disables the app's search function, as well.

Now that it's been [almost four years](#) since YouTube Kids launched, YouTube is aware that its target audience is getting older. It's launched a new feature for kids aged 8 to 12 that lets parents select an "Older" setting that opens up age-appropriate content geared towards their interests: music videos and video game content, for example.

YouTube has seen its [share of bad publicity](#) with its kids app, primarily as a result of questionable content — [sometimes creepy](#), other times [disturbing](#) (particularly the "[Johny Johny Yes Papa](#)" phenomenon) — that has found its way onto the app, a place YouTube intended to be a safe space for kids to watch content.

YouTube admits in its blog post that "[no system is perfect](#)" and encourages parents to flag inappropriate videos. But with these latest updates, it seems that YouTube Kids is certainly moving in the right direction.

October 2018

Whittier Events



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6



	Art Wizards 3-4 pm	Robotics 3-5 pm		Robotics 3-5 pm	Favorite College Spirit Day! LIF 1:35 pm dismissal Bricks 4 Kidz 1:35-2:35 pm	
7	8 Art Wizards 3-4 pm Boeing Club 3-4 pm	9 PICTURE DAY Robotics 3-5 pm Soccer (T) starts	10 <i>High School & Beyond EHS 5-8:00 pm</i>	11 Robotics 3-5 pm Soccer (Th) starts	12 Dress Your Best Spirit Day! LIF 1:35 pm dismissal Bricks 4 Kidz 1:35-2:35 pm	13
14	15 Art Wizards 3-4 pm Boeing Club 3-4 pm	16 Robotics 3-5 pm Spanish 3-4 Rm.109 French 3-4 Rm.114 Soccer 3-4	17 PTA MTC 7pm in library	18 Robotics 3-5 pm Soccer 3-4	19 NO SCHOOL Teacher Work Day	20
21	22 Art Wizards 3-4 pm Boeing Club 3-4 pm	23 Robotics 3-5 pm Spanish 3-4 Rm.109 French 3-4 Rm.114 Soccer 3-4	24	25 Robotics 3-5 pm Harvest Carnival 5:30-7 pm Soccer 3-4	26 LIF 1:35 pm dismissal Bricks 4 Kidz 1:35-2:35 pm	27
28	29 Art Wizards 3-4 pm Boeing Club 3-4 pm	30 Robotics 3-5 pm Spanish 3-4 Rm.109 French 3-4 Rm.114 Soccer 3-4	31	Nov 1 Robotics 3-5 pm Soccer 3-4	2 HALF DAY 12:20 pm dismissal No clubs today	3

Office Phone: 425-385-4300	<u>Art Wizards</u> Mondays 3-4 Library	<u>Robotics</u> Tues & Th 3-5 Room 304	<u>Soccer</u> Tue OR Th 3-4 Gym	Bricks4Kidz Fridays 1:35-2:35 Room 110
Attendance Line: 425-385-4305	<u>Boeing Science</u> Mondays 3-4 Room 307	<u>Spanish & French</u> Tuesdays 3-4 Sp. 109/Fr. 114		