

Whittier Wildcat News

WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



March 2019

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 7

From the Principal

Welcome to March Whittier families! The Whittier PTA is hosting our third annual “GLOW DANCE” tonight, Thursday, February 28, from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria and gymnasium. This is one of our biggest events of the year, so please join us for some festive family fun and dancing to close out a snowy month of February. And in two weeks, Whittier’s PTA will host our third annual “PTA Family Bingo Night” that is scheduled for Thursday, March 14, from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the cafeteria and gymnasium. It will be the big March event to pull all families together at Whittier. We hope to see you there!

Everett Public Schools is fully committed to continuous improvement and as part of the school improvement process, every school in our district develops and implements a School Improvement Plan that is tailored to its specific needs each year. Whittier analyzes a variety of information sources – including student performance trends, state comparisons and staff/parent perception surveys – to identify improvement goals that are specific, data-driven and measurable. To help Whittier understand our strengths and challenges in areas known to impact educational effectiveness, we would appreciate your input on how we are doing.

Please take a few minutes to complete an Educational Effectiveness Survey to share your input with us. We truly appreciate your time and participation. The survey questions were developed by the Center for Educational Effectiveness in collaboration with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for Washington State. Your feedback is very important to our ongoing school improvement efforts. Here is the online parent link for the EES survey: <https://www.research.net/r/EPS-Parent>. Paper copies of the EES parent survey will be sent home with students next week.

Whittier’ third through fifth grade students will be taking the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) in English/Language Arts (ELA) and Math, and fifth grade students will also take the Washington Comprehensive Assessment in Science (WCAS) this spring. Thank you for your support in helping to ensure that your child is attending school every day so that they are fully prepared for these important state assessments. You can access the testing details in the **Quicklinks** section of the district homepage or by going to the following link: <http://everettsd.schoolwires.net/Page/16044>. Here is the Whittier Elementary School 2019 state assessment schedule for 3rd-5th grade students:

Whittier Elementary School SBA and WCAS State Assessment Dates for 2019					
	ELA CAT	ELA PT	Math CAT	Math PT	WCAS Science
3 rd Grade	4/16	4/23	5/7	5/14	
4 th Grade	4/17	4/24	5/8	5/15	
5 th Grade	4/18	4/25	5/7	5/8	5/23

Spring parent/teacher conferences are coming soon and they will run from March 25 – March 29, 2019. All families will be invited for a spring conference and you will be receiving information from your child’s teacher within the next two weeks. Communication between home and school is vital to your student’s success so we would love to see 100% parent participation in our spring conferences. We look forward to seeing you here during conference week. During conference week and on Friday, March 22, school dismissal will be at 12:20 p.m.

Parents, thank you for your continued support in making Whittier a great place for your children to learn and grow. Let’s make it a great March!

-Tony Wentworth, Principal

Tony Wentworth

Principal

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

March 1

LIF Early Release-1:35 pm dismissal

March 4

Kindergarten Registration Begins

March 8

LIF Early Release-1:35 pm dismissal

March 14

PTA Bingo Night 5:30-8:00 PM

March 15

LIF Early Release-1:35 pm dismissal

March 19

Drama Club Production
in Cafeteria @ 6:00 PM

March 20

PTA Meeting in Library 7:00 PM

March 22

12:20 PM dismissal

March 25-29

Parent Conference Week 12:20
dismissal

March 25-29

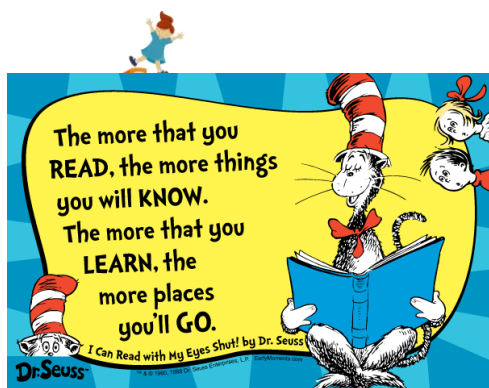
Study Support Camp (3-5) 12:30-
2:50 PM

April 1-5

Spring Break



From the Library



March Library News

February library days flew by-especially with all the snow days! Upper grades enjoyed “book tastings” and began to collect reference information for various fiction book series in our library. Younger grades read various Time for Kids magazines for current events. All students were encouraged to explore our “books of the month” table which included fabulous literature for Black History Month and February holidays.

March 1st is our PJ spirit day! It’s time to celebrate the joy of reading at Whittier! We join fellow schools on March 1st for Read Across America Day where students love to read and progress on their reading goals. Have you read a Dr. Seuss book lately? His birthday is this Saturday and is a great reminder to stop and read with our families. Also, at our Thursday assembly, Aquasox mascot Webby helped us get charged for an awesome month of reading (be on the lookout for more Aquasox reading program and prize information).

March library lessons will continue to support students search for great books with help from their peers. All students will present a book review to peers (either small group or whole class). Presentation methods will vary depending on grade level (verbal, written, video, poster, or technology presented).

Enjoy reading this month!

~Shannon Heininger

sheininger@everettsd.org (425) 385-4308



Reading is INCREDIBLE

Whittier PTA



Dear Whittier Wildcats,

We sincerely hope you adjusted to the sudden and long blast of winter weather recently. Welcome back to school!

The last week of February is a busy one. Thursday, February 28th is the **3rd annual Whittier PTA “Glow in the Dark” Dance Party** starting at 5:30 in Whittier’s Cafeteria & Gym. There will be concessions, including Major League Pizza, glow sticks, necklaces and bracelets ranging from .25 to \$1.00. There will be a craft table, so feel free to bring a white t-shirt to decorate while you are at it. Bring your dancing shoes and join us on Thursday. This is a very fun event!

Friday, March 1st is **Drop Everything and Read Day**. This is Whittier’s way to celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday and Read Across America Day. Whittier has a powerful culture of reading that we will continue to build on to start the month of March.

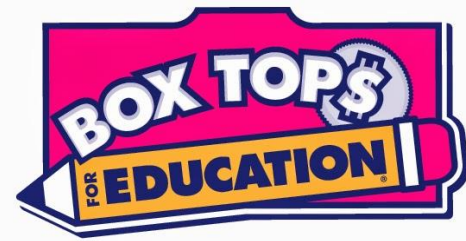
Keep an eye out for an Award Nomination form planned to go home in your student’s folder. Each year, Whittier PTA solicits nominations and then recognizes a Whittier community volunteer, an outstanding educator, and an outstanding advocate for their contributions to Whittier throughout the school year. Award winners will be invited to attend a ceremony in May.

Lastly, we are starting to plan for the next school year. *Can you believe it?* If you are interested in joining the PTA this year or next but just haven’t quite made the big leap (it isn’t a big leap actually) – please do so. Volunteer for an event. Apply art as a docent. Consider a role as a Committee Chair in the next school year. We will be looking for YOU as we have several spots in our roster that will open up for Fall, 2019. It is critical that we pass the baton to other parents and guardians at Whittier and keep alive the many programs and events that the PTA supports throughout the year.

Questions or comments, please email us at PTAWhittierElementary@gmail.com.

Remember that the happiest people are not those getting more, but those giving more.

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



Simple Ways to Help Raise Money for Whittier...

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. Do you shop on Amazon? If so, then please join <https://smile.amazon.com>. Make sure to click on Whittier Elementary in Everett for our school PTA to be rewarded!

Please turn in Box Tops for Education! It’s simple-just clip and send in a zip lock bag.

Thank you!
Whittier PTA

Save the Date For Bingo Night!



Wednesday, March 14th, 5:30pm-8pm

It's time for Whittier's 3rd annual BINGO Night! Try your luck and join your friends for a fun night of prizes, auction items, raffle (for a 3 night mountain cabin getaway) and food!

All proceeds go toward 5th Grade Camp!

\$5 per Bingo packet, no limit. Cash & Check only for Bingo packets and concession.

Cash, Check & Credit Cards accepted for Raffle and Auction items.

Volunteers Needed - head to <http://signup.com/go/hdRRSem> to sign up!



ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE TOMORROW

GOOD SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MEANS...

ELEMENTARY STUDENTS read well by the end of third grade	MIDDLE SCHOOLERS pass important courses	HIGH SCHOOLERS stay on track for graduation	COLLEGE STUDENTS earn their degrees	WORKERS succeed in their jobs
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Too many absences—excused or unexcused—can keep students from succeeding in school and in life. How many are too many? 10% of the school year—that's 18 missed days or 2 days a month—can knock students off track.

Attendance Works
Advancing Student Success By Reducing Chronic Absence
www.attendanceworks.org

Encouraging regular school attendance is one of the most powerful ways you can prepare your child for success—both in school and in life. When you make school attendance a priority, you help your child get better grades, develop healthy life habits, avoid dangerous behavior and have a better chance of graduating from high school.

When students are absent for fewer days, their grades and reading skills often improve—even among those students who are struggling in school. Students who attend school regularly also feel more connected to their community, develop important social skills and friendships, and are significantly more likely to graduate from high school, setting them up for a strong future.

When kids are absent for an average of just two days of school per month—even when the absences are excused— it can have a negative impact. These absences can affect kids as early as Kindergarten.

For example, young elementary school students who miss an average of just two school days per month often have difficulty keeping up with their peers academically and tend to fall behind in reading. When students are able to read on grade level by the end of third grade, which is when kids transition from *learning to read* to *reading to learn*, they are three to four times more likely to graduate high school and attend college, post-graduate, or professional development classes than their peers who struggle with reading.

As a parent, you can prepare your child for a lifetime of success by making regular school attendance a priority. You can help set your child on the path to success.

Every Minute Matters at Whittier!



FREE learning tools for your entire family

Did you know that with your parent LMS user name and password, you have access to a powerful resource provided also to students and staff with their district logins? Hoonuit (formerly Atomic Learning) is a key partner in our dedication to providing the highest quality technology training resources.

Our subscription to Hoonuit includes:

- The Microsoft® Office Suite
- Adobe Suite
- Google Drive/apps/doc/form
- Internet Safety
- Career Skills training for personal career advancement
- Completing a FAFSA training for college planning
- Access for staff, students and their families 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- More than 50,000 step-by-step technology tutorials.

Go to www.atomiclearning.com/login/everettsd and log in with your district username and password. Need a login and password? Email LMS@everettsd.org.

Kindergarten registration begins this month

Do you have a child who will be 5 years old by Aug. 31, 2019? Registration begins March 4, at all 17 district elementary schools.

Which school will your kindergartner attend? To find out, go to <http://bit.ly/2019-20PathFinder>, or call the transportation department at 425-385-4144. If your kindergartner will attend the new Tambark Creek Elementary School, register at your nearest neighborhood elementary school.

Classified Employee Week

March 11-15, help us recognize the important work classified staff does for schools and students every day. We encourage you to take a moment and say thank you to office staff, crossing guards, paraeducators, maintenance staff, bus drivers and the many other classified staff who help schools and the district function smoothly.

21st annual student art shows

Everett Public Schools, in partnership with Everett Public Schools Foundation, is pleased to display the work of student artists at the Community Resource Center. See the art on display during regular business hours (7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.) or during a reception.

- Elementary school Art Show: March 4-22, viewing only
- High school Art Show: April 9-25, reception on April 24
- Middle school Art Show: May 6-31, reception on May 23





Make-up days

We have received many questions about how the district is going to make up the recent snow days, and some people have correctly referenced the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction noting that you can submit a waiver application for the recent snow days. The Basic Education Act also requires a number of minimal instructional hours, which cannot be waived. This means the solution to making up lost days due to inclement weather may result in a combination of adding days at the end of the school year and adjusting other days during the year. Once we are completely through the winter season, and all of the weather impacts are behind us, we will be able to determine the full extent of adjustments needed. The school board will be presented calendar revisions for action in the near future.

New elementary boundaries and transportation for some

Because the new Tambark Creek Elementary School is opening this fall, some elementary students will attend a different school in the 2019-20 school year. Each family affected by the elementary school boundary changes should have received a letter during winter break, but next year’s school attendance and bus route information is available at <http://bit.ly/2019-20PathFinder>.

Youth internship partnership

Everett Career Link is a partnership between the City of Everett and Everett Public Schools offering high school internship opportunities. Everett Career Link’s 90-hour summer internships are for students and employers seeking a proactive approach to matching local talent with local opportunities. More information can be found on the district’s [internships and youth apprenticeships website](#). Interested students can complete an [internship interest form](#), and interested employers can learn more on the district’s website or email careerlink@everettsd.org.



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



5 HOMEWORK STRATEGIES IN THE DIGITAL AGE

One of the hardest things in parenting is helping kids stay focused while doing homework because of all the internal distractions, like dread of working on certain tasks, or the desire to check in with friends, and the many external technological distractions that live right on the same device they are using for homework. In a [study](#) by research psychologist, Larry Rosen, he found that “students studied less than 6 minutes before switching to technological distractors.” In this same research, he found that students who had study strategies were able to stay on task longer.

After looking into research on the topic, and working with my teens on this, here are some suggestions for helping your children stay focused while doing their homework.

1. Spend several nights validating how hard it must be for children and adolescents to stay on task when doing homework given all the various tech distractions like Snapchats, texts, games etc. right on their homework device. Acknowledge that it is hard for you to stay on task when you are doing your work, taxes, etc. online because the pull of more fun activities is just one tab away.
2. Ask your kids what has worked for them and what has not? Help them understand that you are not concerned about the short term of tonight’s homework, but how this is an important skill that will serve them well throughout their life.
3. If they own a cell phone or other personal device besides the screen they are working on, talk about how important it is to put it out of site for extended periods of time. For my teens, they try to make a habit of putting their phones in another room during study time and then they check it about every 30 minutes for a break. I know many adolescents will be very opposed to not having their phone by their side. Try an experiment with them—have them keep their phone nearby and study for 15 minutes, and then have them put the phone in another room for 15 minutes and study. Then, talk about the experience.
4. Use a timer. This can be very effective—an old-fashioned kitchen timer is ideal. Have them set a goal to study uninterrupted for a certain amount of time on a subject, 15 minutes for example. A set study interval lets the brain know an end is coming. This can help increase motivation to delve into a subject. The timer can be set for even 10 minutes or less.
5. Encourage them to start their homework with their most dreaded assignment by saying to just spend five minutes on it. It may be that after the five minutes they want to continue. My son took an online course called “[Learning How to Learn](#)” where he discovered that the brain experiences the thought of doing work it does not want to do as physical pain. That’s why it feels relieving in the moment to distract yourself with something else—otherwise known as procrastination. However, just a couple minutes into starting the feared task, that sensation of pain dissipates.
6. Breaks—spend time talking about them. In Daniel Pinker’s book, *Drive*, he writes about how breaks were traditionally frowned upon in high performing work settings, but are now seen as critical to productivity. Breaks are particularly effective when they contain these elements: movement, fresh air, social interactions (so checking in with friends via social media counts for this—but ideally it would not be the only break students go to).

For today’s Tech Talk Tuesday here are some questions to get the conversation going.

1. How long do you think you can do effective, focused studying at one time? 15 minutes? 30 minutes? Share with your kids the findings from Rosen’s study.
2. What are the upsides of being able to sustain focus for longer periods of time?
3. What are breaks from studying that you feel really rejuvenate you?
4. What do you think of tech breaks during homework? What is a reasonable amount of time to focus just on homework before a tech break, and how long should the tech break be?

[Delaney Ruston, MD](#) April 24, 2018



March 2019

Whittier Events



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 LIF 1:35 dismissal Drama Club 1:35-3 pm	2
3	4 Smart w/Art - 3-4	5 4/5 Math Club 3-4 pm Spanish Club 3-4 pm French Club 3-4 pm	6 Coding Club 3-4 pm	7 4/5 Math Club 3-4 pm Robotics 3-4 pm	8 LIF 1:35 dismissal Drama Club 1:35-3 pm	9
10	11 Smart w/Art - 3-4	12 4/5 Math Club 3-4 pm Spanish Club 3-4 pm French Club 3-4 pm	13 Coding Club 3-4 pm	14 4/5 Math Club 3-4 pm Robotics 3-4 pm	15 LIF 1:35 dismissal Drama Club 1:35-3 pm	16
17	18 Smart w/Art - 3-4	19 4/5 Math Club 3-4 pm	20 Coding Club 3-4 pm (Last Day) PTA Meeting 7pm	21 4/5 Math Club 3-4 pm Robotics 3-4 pm	22 12:20 Dismissal	23
24	25	26	27 Parent Conference Week 12:20 Dismissal Study Camp (3-5) 12:30-2:50PM	28	March 1	

Office Phone:
425-385-4300

Attendance Line:
425-385-4305