

Whittier Wildcat News

WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



March 2020

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 7

From the Principal

Welcome to March Whittier families! The Whittier PTA is hosting our fourth annual “**GLOW in the Dark DANCE**” tonight, Thursday, February 27, 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 the month of February. And in four weeks, Whittier’s PTA will host our fourth annual “PTA Family Bingo Night” on Thursday, March 26, from 5:30 – 8:00 p.m. in the cafeteria and gymnasium. It will be the big March event that will bring 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. Here is Whittier’s Report Card from the Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction’s Data and Reporting department to help you analyze Whittier’s performance: <https://washingtonstatereportcard.ospi.k12.wa.us/ReportCard/ViewSchoolOrDistrict/102444>

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) English/Language Arts (ELA) and Math Computer Adaptive Tests (CAT) and Performance Tasks (PT), 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 2020					
	ELA CAT	ELA PT	Math CAT	Math PT	WCAS Science
3 rd Grade	4/21	4/28	5/12	5/19	
4 th Grade	4/22	4/29	5/13	5/20	
5 th Grade	4/23	4/30	5/14	5/21	5/28

Spring parent/teacher conferences are coming soon, and they will take place from March 30 – April 1, 2020. 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. During our spring conference week from Friday, March 27 through Friday, April 1, our dismissal time 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

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

February 27

PTA Glow Dance

February 28

Popcorn Friday
LIF Early Release -1:35 pm dismissal

March 2-6

Educational Support Professionals
Week

March 2

Kindergarten Registration Begins

March 6

LIF Early Release- 1:35 pm dismissal

March 9

Girls on the Run begins 2:50-4:30 pm

March 13

Drop Everything & Read Day
Pajama Spirit Day
LIF Early Release- 1:35 pm dismissal

March 18

PTA Meeting in Library @ 7:00 pm

March 20

LIF Early Release- 1:35 pm dismissal

March 24

Drama Club Showcase 6-7:00 pm

March 26

Bingo Night 5:30-7:30 pm

March 27-April 3

Parent Conference Week
12:20 dismissal all week

April 6-10

Spring Break

Tony Wentworth, Principal



From the Assistant Principal

Dear Whittier Families,

We have already celebrated 100 days of school this year. Thank you for doing your best to bring your children to school each day. Every day counts! Here are 5 facts about school attendance.

1. Poor attendance during the school year, can be linked back to absenteeism in the first month of school.
<http://baltimore-berc.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/SeptemberAttendanceBriefJuly2014.pdf>
2. Chronic absences in the early years, can negatively impact how likely children are to read with proficiency by the end of third grade.
<https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Attendance-in-the-Early-Grades.pdf>
3. A leading factor that a student will graduate or drop out of high school, is absenteeism by 6th grade.
<http://www.baltimore-berc.org/pdfs/SixthGradeEWIFullReport.pdf>
4. Academics, along with on time graduation rates, improves with school attendance.
<https://www.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/Preventable-Failure-CCSR-April-2014.pdf>
5. Missing 10 percent of school or about 18 days of school in a year, can influence student achievement.
<https://awareness.attendanceworks.org/wp-content/uploads/Research2016.pdf>

Why It Matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?³

	84%	of kids with good attendance in K and 1st (missed 9 or fewer days both years)
	48%	of kids with at-risk attendance (missed more than 9 days both years)
	41%	of kids chronically absent in K or 1st (missed 18 or more days one year)
	17%	of kids chronically absent in K and 1st (missed 18 or more days both years)

³ Attendance in Early Elementary Grades: Association with Student Characteristics, School Readiness and Third Grade Outcomes, Applied Survey Research, May 2011.

Truancy Vs. Chronic Absence

TRUANCY	VS.	CHRONIC ABSENCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counts only unexcused absences Emphasizes compliance with school rules Relies on legal & administrative solutions 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Counts all absences: excused, unexcused & suspensions Emphasizes academic impact of missed days Uses community-based, positive strategies

In partnership,
 Christine Vo
 Assistant Principal
 Whittier Elementary School



Whittier PTA



Hello Whittier Wildcats,

We hope you are enjoying the breaks of bright sunshine after all those wet and gloomy days!

Speaking of "bright," Thursday, February 27th is the annual, Whittier PTA Glow Dance. The party starts at 5:30pm in Whittier's Cafeteria and Gym. There will be concession, glow necklaces and bracelets. There will also be a limited supply of white t-shirts for purchase as well as a shirt decorating table to create some glowing designs as you show off your dance moves. Please feel free to bring your own white t-shirts to decorate if you do not want to purchase at the dance. This is a super fun event and would not be possible without the coordination of Glow Dance Chair, Erica Youngman and her Glow Dance Committee and volunteers!

Friday, March 13th is Drop Everything and Read Day. This is Whittier's way to celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday and Ready Across America Day. Whittier has a powerful culture of reading that we will continue to build onto in March.

Thursday, March 26th will be Whittier BINGO Night, from 5:30-7:30pm. This is a wonderful night full of fantastic prizes, raffles, silent auction and concessions. Proceeds from this even support Whittier's 5th Grade Camp fund. Mark your calendars now so you don't miss this awesome event!

Keep your eye out for an Award Nomination form planned to come home this month in your students' folder. Each year, Whittier PTA solicits nominations and then recognizes a Whittier community volunteer and an outstanding educator for their contributions to Whittier throughout the school year. Award winners will be invited to attend a recognition ceremony in May.

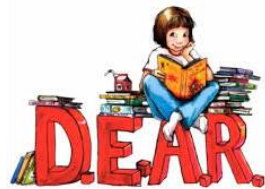
Lastly, we are starting to plan for the next school year. *Can you believe it?* If you are interested in joining the PTA this year or next but just haven't quite made the big leap (it isn't a big leap actually) - please do so. Volunteer for an event. Apply as an art docent. Consider a role as a committee 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 2020. It is critical to 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.

"One of the greatest gifts you can give, is your time" -Anonymous

Best,

Amy Smith, President
Erica Youngman, Vice-President
Heather Reid, Treasurer
Karen Zulinke, Secretary

March Library News



February library days flew by! Fourth grade had a blast with coding Ozobots through various challenges. All other grades will begin to explore Ozobots in the next few months. All students were encouraged to explore our "books of the month" display which included fabulous literature for Black History Month and February holidays.

Friday, March 13th is when Whittier will celebrate D.E.A.R. Day! The aim of this nationwide initiative is to encourage families to designate a special time to "drop everything and read". Students may wear pajamas and bring a small stuffed animal for a fun day of reading!

All grades began, or soon will enjoy "book tastings" to become familiar with new books added to our library collection, as well as, bring awareness to the many wonderful series we already have on the shelves. This is an ongoing activity that helps encourage students to branch out and read various genres.

Enjoy reading this month!

~Shannon Heining

sheininger@everettsd.org (425) 385-4308



Reading is **INCREDIBLE**

March/April... 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).



Calming Corners

[DR. CAELAN SOMA, PSYD, LMSW](#) | SEPTEMBER 6, 2018

When students experience stress or trauma at home or are overwhelmed in school, their nervous systems respond. Some students become extremely activated while others shutdown. Activation comes in reactions such as inattention, difficulty sitting still and hyperactivity. Shut down looks like daydreaming, falling asleep in class or not responding to other's bids to connect. With both activation and shut-down, cognition is impaired, and learning is difficult. Calming corners can help with both. When activated, a calming corner provides an opportunity for students to reset or re-regulate and when shut down, a calming corner provides opportunity for engagement.

A calming corner is a small, designated space located within a classroom. The purpose of a calming corner is to help support self-regulation while keeping students in the classroom if they need a break from instruction time or a group activity. The use of calming corners can transform the culture of the classroom because calming corners are not consequence-based but rather used as an opportunity, driven by a student's choice to feel better. Calming corners are private enough to allow the student to maintain dignity, however, they should be within eyesight of the educator so the student maintains a feeling of safety.

Teachers should introduce calming corners in their classrooms as safe places. They are not for students who are "in trouble," but rather for all students in the classroom. Invite all students to "try out" the calming corner when it is implemented. At first, the calming corner will be a novelty and every student will want to try it out. This is normal. As time goes on, only the students who really need to use it will ask to do so. If there is more than one student who wants to use the calming corner, the use of timers is helpful. Typically, after 5 minutes in the calming corner, students are ready to join the rest of the class.

A calming corner can be a safe place for students to do peer lead restorative circles or to just process through issues. Classrooms can create calming corner passes or a simple signal individualized by each student to alert the teacher that student needs to process or calm down.

For school-age children, a small nook or space set apart from the rest of the room that offers privacy is perfect. Provide seating with beanbags, pillows, a small table and chairs. Some teachers use a tapestry or some sort of "roof" to cover the calming corner space. Peaceful lighting and colors are a bonus. And, post the purpose of the calming corner. As children enter middle school and high school – a small area with a desk, beanbag or comfortable chair will do the trick. Some like to call these areas "chill-out corners".

List of items you that may be included in your calming corner:

- Different kinds of timers
- Squishy "stress" ball
- Small bottles of water
- Glitter ball or glitter jar
- Emotional feelings sheet to help identify and record emotions
- Mirror to help identify emotions
- Blank paper, pens, and crayons, markers, write a letter, or to reflect on strategies used in the peace corner
- Hoberman breathing sphere
- Soft, small blanket or even a weighted blanket for sensory reasons
- Soft rug
- Relaxation CD and player
- Headphones
- Books, magazines
- Low partitions/dividers for privacy
- Tapestry for "roof"
- Visual calming strategies
- Worksheets from TLC's "[One-Minute Interventions](#)" and "[Mind Body Skills for Emotional Regulation](#)" workbooks.

FREE learning tools for your entire family

Did you know that with your parent LMS username 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.



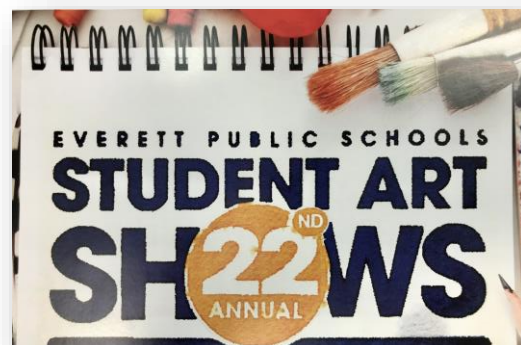
Kindergarten registration begins this month

Do you have a child who will be 5 years old by Aug. 31, 2020? Registration begins March 2, at all 18 district elementary schools. Which school will your kindergartner attend? To find out, go to our school search page [here](#), or call the transportation department at 425-385-4144.

22nd 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: February 25 – March 20, viewing only
- High school Art Show: April 6-24, reception on April 15
- Middle school Art Show: May 4-28, reception on May 27



Classified Employee Week

March 2 - 6, 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.

Calendar update



On January 28, 2020 the school board approved the 2019-20 school calendar update. We've had three snow days, so the last day of school has changed. As of today, the last day of school is June 18 (keeping in mind this date is subject to change).

Go to www.everettsd.org for updated At-a-glance and student art calendars, English and Spanish versions.

Harvest of the month

This month, the Food and Nutrition Department brings you broccoli grown in the PNW! Be sure to give it a try this month by choosing our broccoli salad or roasted broccoli menu option.

Did you know that broccoli is an excellent source of so many vitamins and minerals like Vitamin A, K and folate? Find out more by checking out the Harvest of the Month flyer on our website at <https://www.everettsd.org>



Brocc and Roll!



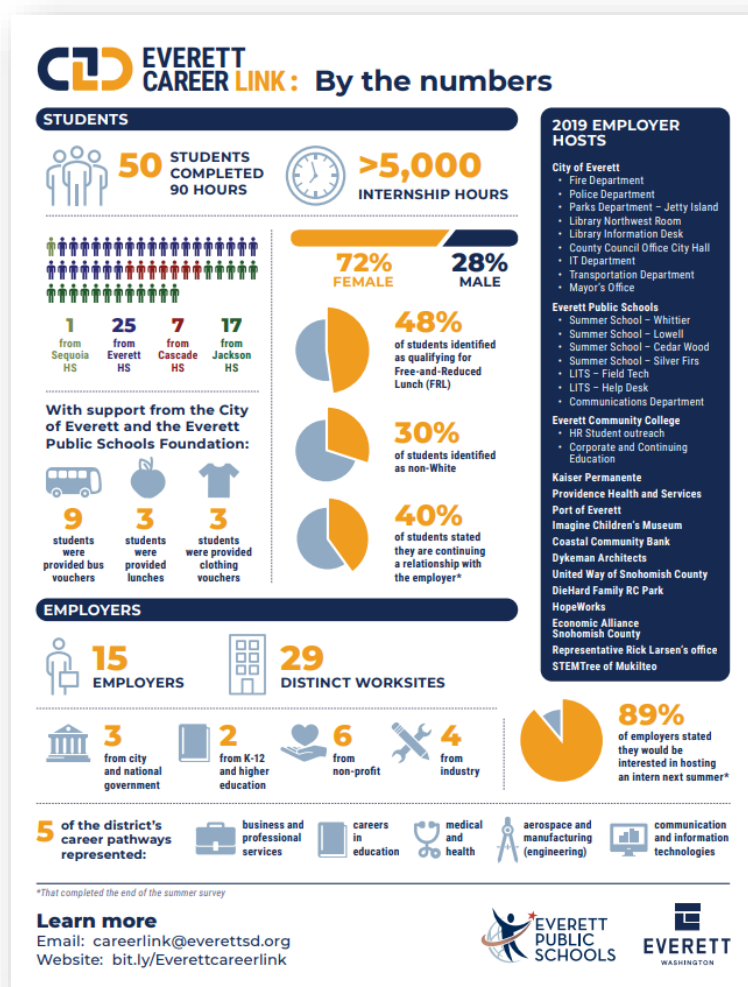
High school summer internships

Summer 2020 will be year two of Everett Career Link, a partnership between the City of Everett and Everett Public Schools which offers high school students internship opportunities. Last summer, 50 students completed the



Everett Career Link 90-hour summer internship and received high school credit. These students were hosted by employers representing 29 worksite locations. An overview of last summer's program can be found below and you should expect more information about the summer 2020 program to be available soon.

Questions about the program can be directed to each high school's Career Specialist or Career Connected Learning Internship (CCLI) Facilitator at each school. The CCLI Facilitator at JHS is Daniel Mills (dmills@everettsd.org), at CHS is Bree Youngberg (byoungberg@everettsd.org) and at EHS is Tammy Price (tprice@everettsd.org).





Remember to register to vote

By registering to vote, either in person or online, you are able to exercise a basic democratic right.

1. In person -- You may register to vote or change your registration at Snohomish County Elections, 3000 Rockefeller Ave, Everett, 1st Floor, Admin Bldg. West.
2. Online -- If you have a valid Washington state driver's license, you may register with the [Secretary of State](#) quickly and easily online. You may also download a voter registration form in several languages from that site.
3. Online – Visit the district’s bond 2020 page at www.everettsd.org/bond2020 and click on “register to vote” on the left hand side. To learn details about elections, visit the [Snohomish County Elections](#) website.

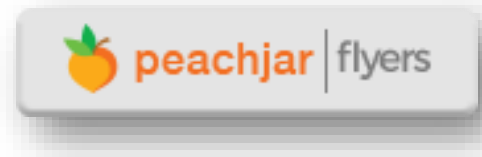
Daylight savings time begins March 8

Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour later Mar 8, 2020 than the day before. There will be more light in the evening. Also called Spring Forward, Summertime and Daylight Savings Time.

Do not miss out!

Our school is using Peachjar to send flyers home electronically.

Just go to the front page of our school website and click on the Peachjar Eflyer button to check it out. You do not need to login to receive or view school eflyers.



No action is required on your part. You should have already received a welcome email from Peachjar that includes a username and password. This is provided to give you the opportunity to manage your account and flyer delivery preferences. Don’t worry if you’ve forgotten your password, you can reset it at any time.

This system is used exclusively for distribution of school-approved flyers. Your email address will not be shared or used for any other purpose.

Update emergency contacts

Please call your school if your phone number or emergency contact information changes at any time during the school year. This is the contact information used by the Everett Public Schools automated phone system in emergencies and to share important school information with families.



3900 Broadway
Everett, WA 98201
425-385-4000
www.everettsd.org

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



March 2020

Whittier Events



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5 After school club 2,3, 4 & 5	6 LIF Friday-1:35 release Drama Club 1:35-3 pm PTA Movie Night 6:30	7
8	9 Smart w/Art	10 French Club 3-4 Spanish Club 3-4 After School Club 2 nd , 4 th , 5 th	11 Stem Robotics	12 After school club 2,3, 4 & 5	13 Drop Everything & Read/Pajama Day LIF Friday-1:35 release Drama Club 1:35-3 pm	14
15	16 Smart w/Art	17 French Club 3-4 Spanish Club 3-4 After School Club 2 nd , 4 th , 5 th	18 Stem Robotics PTA Meeting 7 PM	19 After school club 2,3, 4 & 5	20 LIF Friday-1:35 release Drama Club 1:35-3 pm	21
22	23 Smart w/Art	24 French Club 3-4 Spanish Club 3-4 After School Club 2 nd , 4 th , 5 th Drama Showcase 6-7 pm	25 Stem Robotics	26 After school club 2,3, 4 & 5 Bingo Night 5:30-7:30 pm	27 12:20 Dismissal	28
29	30	31	1 Conference Week 12:20 dismissal all week	2	3	4

Office Phone:
425-385-4300

Attendance Line:
425-385-4305