

# Whittier Wildcat News

WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



April 2018

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 8

## From the Principal

Welcome to spring and the month of April families! As we finish our final days of March and parent conferences this week heading into spring break, I hope that you are able to enjoy this special time you have together while also finding some rest and relaxation with your children. Parent conferences have been very successful this week, so thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to make your child's education a priority. It has been a great week of collaboration between families and teachers to ensure that we are doing everything we can to provide your child with the best educational experiences at Whittier. Communication between home and school is vital to your student's success so we are very appreciative and thankful of your ongoing support.

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank all of our families for attending the PTA Bingo Night and Silent Auction last Thursday night. It was a great family evening of fun for everyone. I wanted to especially thank our PTA and all of our parent volunteers for your hard work in planning, organizing, setting up, and cleaning up this very successful event. Our next PTA sponsored events will be our spring movie night in late April and the Whittier Art Auction in early May, so stay tuned for information coming home after spring break. There are still many great school events coming soon!

Whittier's PTA is accepting final nominations for the Golden Acorn Award, which is presented to a volunteer in recognition of his/her outstanding dedication to serve children and our school. They are also accepting nominations for the Outstanding Educator Award, which is presented to educators who have supported students to find their passion in learning, strengthened student confidence to keep improving, and supported students in becoming strong individuals with great character. Please take the time to nominate a Whittier volunteer or staff member for the great work they do every day. Additional nomination forms are available in the office. Nominations are due Tuesday, April 10, 2018.

Please take a few minutes to complete the Educational Effectiveness Survey to share your input with us on what we can continue to improve at Whittier. We truly appreciate your time and effort to collaborate with us in supporting your child so that they have a successful learning experience academically, socially, and emotionally. Your feedback is also 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-2018>.

I wanted to share the updated state assessment schedule for our third through fifth grade students. The testing window for the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) and Washington Comprehensive Assessment in Science (WCAS) will be from April 17 through May 23. Thank you for your support in helping to ensure that your child is ready for these important state assessments.

Here is the **UPDATED** Whittier Elementary 2018 state assessment schedule for 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade students:

Whittier Elementary School 2018 SBA and WCAS State Assessment Dates					
	Math: Computer Adaptive Test	Math: Performance Task	ELA: Computer Adaptive Test	ELA: Performance Task	Science WCAS
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	4/17	4/24	5/8	5/15	
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	4/18	4/25	5/16	5/9	
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	5/10	5/17	4/19	4/26	5/23

Parents, thank you for your continued support in making Whittier a great place for your children to learn and grow. Our students, families, and staff collectively make Whittier an amazing school community. Thank you again and let's make it a great month of April!

-Tony Wentworth, Principal

**Tony Wentworth**

Principal  
Whittier Elementary School  
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[www.everettsd.org/whittier](http://www.everettsd.org/whittier)

**April 2-6**

Spring Break

**April 13**

Learning Improvement Friday  
1:35 dismissal

**April 17**

Grade 3 SBA Math

**April 18**

Grade 4 SBA Math

**April 18**

PTA Meeting 7 PM

**April 19**

Grade 5 ELA Math

**April 20**

Learning Improvement Friday  
1:35 dismissal

**April 20**

PTA Movie Night

**April 24**

Grade 3 SBA Math

**April 25**

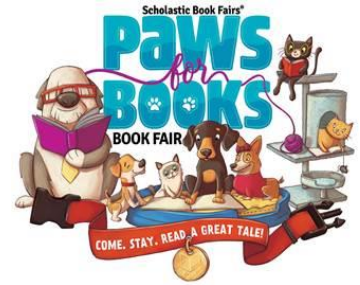
Grade 4 SBA Math

**April 26**

Grade 5 SBA ELA

**April 20**

Learning Improvement Friday  
1:35 dismissal



## *From the Library*

### **THE SPRING BOOK FAIR IS COMING**

“Paws for Books” Spring book fair is taking place May 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars now for a week of exciting fun and reading. Family book fair night is Tuesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. If you are able to volunteer for the book fair please let Mrs. Bailey know!

### **Literacy Night Book Exchange**

Start digging through your old book collections to find books to bring to the Library to be used for the Book Exchange. Your gently loved books are welcome. Please check before you donate so the quality of books are high enough for our kids to reuse! The BOOK EXCHANGE will be in the Gym on June 5<sup>th</sup> during our end of the year ***Celebration of Learning***. The book exchange is one of my favorite events of the year! Thank you to everyone who have already brought books to exchange. We are going to have a great night!

### ***DEAR DAY***

DEAR-Drop Everything And Read Day on Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> was a very exciting day at Whittier. Pajamas and robes were the attire as we settled in to read and take Accelerated Reader tests, celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday and participate in “Read Across America”. We set a goal as a school to pass 1,000 AR tests in one day and ***we did it!*** We took and passed 1219 AR tests! The enthusiasm and love for reading is apparent every day, but DEAR day really proved to be a huge reading success and I am beaming with pride over our students' efforts. Great job Whittier Wildcats!!

## ***Whittier PTA***

Hello Whittier Families!

Happy Spring! A big thank you to the committee and all the volunteers who made our Bingo Night last month a huge success! Once spring break is over and everyone is ready to get back in the school groove, we'll be having another movie night on Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup>. We'll be showing Coco. Admission is free, with food and drink available for purchase (cash or check only).

Please join us for our April PTA meeting on Wednesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> from 7-8 pm in the Whittier Library. We'll be getting the ball rolling for Field Day, checking in with the nominating committee as elections for the open board positions for next year will happen at the May meeting (Wednesday May 23<sup>rd</sup>), and getting ready for the Spring Book Fair.

Don't forget to save the date for our “Color Your World” Art Auction coming up on Friday May 4<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm in the Whittier Cafeteria. Our students have created some amazing art pieces that you won't want to miss.

As always, feel free to contact any of us if you have questions, suggestions, ideas, or just want to say hello!

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



## ***What's growing in the garden?***

This is your *Final Clue!* Go check out the "What's Growing?" garden by Mrs. McKinnon's room. It is related to the onion, shallot, leek, chive, and the chinese onion! Get your classroom guess in! Your class could win a pizza party!



The drawing will be Monday, May 14th, and the winner will have a pizza party on Friday, May 18th. Please get your guesses in.



## ***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](mailto:WHEAttendance@everettsd.org) (1<sup>st</sup> choice)
- **Whittier Attendance Phone Line** – **425-385-4305** (2<sup>nd</sup> choice)
- **Phone call to office** - Please realize that the beginning of the day is a busy time in the office and we may or may not have time to take your call. We will always get your report if you use one of the above methods.

If you are emailing your student's teacher, please include the Whittier Attendance Email @ [WHEAttendance@everettsd.org](mailto: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!

-Ms. Marci & Ms. Kim

## ***Change of Afternoon Transportation Plans***

If your student has a change of afternoon transportation plans, please inform the office as soon as you know. We will be happy to deliver the message to your child. We understand that there will always be last minute emergencies, but we ask as a courtesy to inform the office by 2:30 pm of any changes.

If your child is going home via a different method than usual, please send a note. We will always default to their normal afternoon transportation method if we have not received notification from the parent.

Thank you for helping us keep our students safe.



## EVERY MINUTE AT WHITTIER MATTERS!!!

### Every school day counts in a child's academic life...

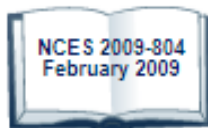
A missed school day is a lost opportunity for students to learn. In this era of increased accountability for states, districts, and schools, the connection between student attendance and learning is being studied more than ever before. As a result, education agencies are asked with increasing frequency to report attendance data in a standard manner to allow comparisons across organizations and jurisdictions.

The primary rationale for high-quality attendance data is the relationship between student attendance and student achievement. Teacher effectiveness is the strongest school-related determinant of student success,<sup>1</sup> but chronic student absence reduces even the best teacher's ability to provide learning opportunities. Students who attend school regularly have been shown to achieve at higher levels than students who do not have regular attendance. This relationship between attendance and achievement may appear early in a child's school career. A recent study looking at young children found that absenteeism in kindergarten was associated with negative first grade outcomes such as grade retention, absenteeism in subsequent years and lower achievement in reading, math, and general knowledge.<sup>2</sup>

### RESEARCH SHOWS THAT ATTENDANCE IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.

Poor attendance has serious implications for later outcomes as well. High school dropouts have been found to have a history of negative behaviors, including high levels of absenteeism throughout their childhood, at higher rates than high school graduates.<sup>3</sup> These differences in absentee rates were observed as early as kindergarten, and students who eventually dropped out of high school missed significantly more days of school in first grade than their peers who graduated from high school. In eighth grade, this pattern was even more apparent and, by ninth grade, attendance was shown to be a key indicator significantly correlated with high school graduation.<sup>4</sup>

RESEARCH SHOWS THAT ATTENDANCE IS AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.



<sup>1</sup> Adelman, C. (2006). *The Toolbox Revisited: Paths to Degree Completion from High School through College*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education.

<sup>2</sup> Romero, M., and Lee, Y. (2007). *A National Portrait of Chronic Absenteeism in the Early Grades*. New York, NY: The National Center for Children in Poverty.

<sup>3</sup> Hickman, G.P., Bartholomew, M., and Mathwig, J. (2007). *The Differential Development Trajectories of Rural High School Dropouts and Graduates: Executive Summary*. Phoenix, AZ: The College of Teacher Education and Leadership at the Arizona State University at the West Campus.

<sup>4</sup> Allensworth, E., and Easton, J.Q. (2005). *The On-Track Indicator as a Predictor of High School Graduation*. Chicago: Consortium on Chicago School Research.



## Kindergarten registration happening now

Do you have a child who will be 5 years old by Aug. 31, 2018? Registration began March 5 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 transportation at 425-385-4144.

## Easy access with district app

Download and log into the district app to quickly and easily access your student's info. You can also pay lunch balances, see books checked out from the library, and find the staff directory, school websites, calendars and more.

The free mobile app is available in the online iTunes® and Google Play® app stores.

Once you've downloaded the app, log in to "student info" with your LMS password to see student-specific information for each of your children.



## Thank you, volunteers!

April 16-20 is Public Schools Volunteer Appreciation Week. We are grateful for the many volunteers who support students and staff, many of them each and every school day. With activities ranging from reading with students, to playground supervision support, Watch D.O.G.S., and chaperoning field trips, your help matters. Our volunteers contribute to making school the best part of students' day. Thank you!

## ECEAP preschool accepting applications for 2018-19

Everett Public Schools Early Childhood Education & Assistance Program (ECEAP) is a FREE preschool program for three- and four-year-old children from families with limited income.

ECEAP prepares children for kindergarten and provides family support and health and nutrition services. It is funded by the Washington State Department of Early Learning.

The five ECEAP sites within our school district are Garfield, Hawthorne, Lowell, Madison and Silver Lake elementary schools.

Space is limited – apply early! For an application or more information, please call 425-385-4628 or visit the [district ECEAP website](#).





## Innovation Expo June 6 – save the date!

Students and families will enjoy seeing and interacting at booths from every school in the district at this year's [Innovation Expo](#) June 6, 5-8 p.m., at Angel of the Winds (formerly Xfinity) Arena. Each school's booth is different and showcases something the students at that school are learning.

The STEM competition is a favorite part of the event for many students and families. See the best student projects from around the district and hear what the students learned by doing them. Learn more and download forms at <http://www.everetsd.org/expo>.



## Counselor's Corner

### ***6 Ways to Help Kids Tackle Test Anxiety***

Katie Hurley, LCSW

A first-grade girl was experiencing chronic stomachaches, but her pediatrician couldn't find anything wrong. Her mother was appropriately baffled. This otherwise happy-go-lucky young girl enjoyed playing outside, building fairy houses, and going on playdates. She liked her teacher and talked about her constantly. Yet every Monday morning, the stomachaches hit right before it was time to leave for school. Her mother thought that perhaps the transition back from the weekend was the issue. Lots of kids have difficulty on Monday mornings, right?

As her daughter and I began to talk in my office about the "problem with Monday," the truth came out: Monday was timed test day.

Every Monday morning, she had to take a timed math test, and every Monday morning, she felt a rush of anxiety that prevented her from answering the questions. Months later, just the thought of timed tests caused her to panic — and that triggered the stomachaches.

We think of test anxiety as something that crops up when teenagers take the SAT or some other important exam, but the truth is that even very young children can experience it. With the increase in tests and assessments at the elementary school level, more and more young children are experiencing symptoms of test anxiety.

*(continued next page)*



## 6 Ways to Help Kids Tackle Test Anxiety (continued)

There are a few steps you can take to help your child tackle this problem before it becomes overwhelming.

- 1. Ask questions to clarify.** Often, the process of saying their worries out loud helps young children work through their feelings. Understanding the thought patterns that trigger anxiety can help parents develop strategies to target specific concerns. Try asking these questions:
  - How do you feel when you first see the test?
  - What's your biggest worry about taking a test?
  - Do you feel worried when you think about a test or only when you see the test?Questions like these help us to avoid assumptions about why kids feel anxious. For example, the girl I spoke with was not anxious about her skills — rather, she was afraid of falling behind her peers in the timed-test sticker chart.
- 2. Teach test-taking basics.** Young children have very little experience taking tests. Kids may feel empowered simply by talking through basic strategies, such as reading the directions, asking questions about the directions, looking for questions they know they can answer right away, and passing over tricky questions for a moment.
- 3. Talk to the teacher.** Some young children become overwhelmed by things like timed math computation tests and spelling tests because they look at the whole page instead of focusing on one answer at a time. If this is the case for your child, the classroom teacher might be able to implement some simple solutions such as using a piece of paper to cover the majority of the page so that your child only focuses on one line at a time. Other kids experience anxiety when they look around and see everyone working quickly. They become distracted by the noise of the pencils scratching on the papers. A quick fix for this is a privacy shield at the desk or being seated in a separate area at the back of the room.
- 4. Encourage positive self-talk.** Cognitive reframing is a great way to help young children cope with their anxious thoughts. We can teach kids to “boss back” anxious thoughts by replacing negative thoughts with positive ones. So when their brain signals that something is too hard, they can say, “You don’t worry me! I know how to do this!”
- 5. Teach relaxation strategies.** Visualization exercises are great for little kids because they tend to have active imaginations. Practice these when your child is calm. Ask him to close his eyes and identify a place he feels happy, confident, and relaxed. Encourage him to share details about the sights, sounds and scents in his calming place. As he shares, cue him to take deep breaths. Then on test day, remind your child to close his eyes and visualize his calming place when he feels anxious.
  - [Watch how Arthur and his friends practice relaxation techniques](#) in advance of a school-wide test.
- 6. Bolster confidence.** The bottom line is that test anxiety can feel like a confidence killer. Instead of focusing on the actual tests being taken, help your child find their inner strength in other ways. For many children, increasing free play and outdoor play is a confidence booster. In the context of play, kids challenge themselves and work through their fears. This builds confidence that can positively impact your child across all areas of life.

Test anxiety can feel overwhelming for little kids, but if it’s addressed quickly, you’ll find that your child will likely build test confidence over time.



# April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
	←		<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	→		
8	9 Art Wizards 2:50-4pm	10 Spanish Club 2:50-4:00 French Club 2:50-4:00	11 4H Club 2:50-4pm	12 Soccer Club 2:50-3:50	13 LIF Friday-1:35 dismissal Bricks 4 Kidz- 1:40-2:40	14
15	16 Art Wizards 2:50-4pm	17 <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade SBA Math</b> Spanish Club 2:50-4:00 French Club 2:50-4:00 Soccer Club 2:50-3:50	18 <b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade SBA Math</b> 4H Club 2:50-4pm <b>PTA Meeting 7pm</b>	19 <b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade SBA ELA</b> Soccer Club 2:50-3:50	20 LIF Friday-1:35 dismissal Bricks 4 Kidz- 1:40-2:40 <b>PTA Movie Night</b>	21
22	23 Art Wizards 2:50-4pm	24 <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Grade SBA Math</b> Spanish Club 2:50-4:00 French Club 2:50-4:00 Soccer Club 2:50-3:50	25 <b>4<sup>th</sup> Grade SBA Math</b> 4H Club 2:50-4pm	26 <b>5<sup>th</sup> Grade SBA ELA</b> Soccer Club 2:50-3:50	27 LIF Friday-1:35 dismissal Bricks 4 Kidz- 1:40-2:40	28
29	30 Art Wizards 2:50-4pm	May 1 Spanish Club 2:50-4:00 French Club 2:50-4:00 Soccer Club 2:50-3:50	2 4H Club 2:50-4pm	3 Soccer Club 2:50-3:50	4 LIF Friday-1:35 dismissal Bricks 4 Kidz- 1:40-2:40 <b>Whittier Art Auction</b>	5



3900 Broadway  
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425-385-4000  
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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, 425-385-4106
- Title IX Officer – Randi Seaberg, rseaberg@everettsd.org, 425-385-4104
- 504 Coordinator – Becky Ballbach, rballbach@everettsd.org, 425-385-4063
- ADA Coordinator – Becky Clifford, bclifford@everettsd.org, 425-385-5250