

# Whittier Wildcat News

WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



June 2019

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 10

## From the Principal

Welcome to June and our final three weeks of the school! I would first like to thank all parent volunteers for the amazing support you have provided Whittier throughout the 2018-19 school year. Your support in the Whittier community helps to ensure that all students have successful learning opportunities and experiences every day. To show our appreciation for everything that you do, we are hosting a *Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast* next Friday, June 7, from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. in the Whittier library. If you have volunteered any amount of time during the school year, you are invited to attend this event. We want to show our appreciation for the great work you have done this year to support our students, staff, and the Whittier school community. Thank you!

I would like to recognize two Whittier staff members who will be leaving us at the end of the school year. Mrs. Olsen will be retiring after 23 years as a first-grade teacher at Whittier and 36 total years of teaching service in the Everett Public Schools. Ms. Allen will be transitioning on to another teaching opportunity and we appreciate her service to Whittier during the 2018-19 school year. Please take the time to say good-bye to our Whittier educators. We will miss you Mrs. Olsen and Ms. Allen!

Whittier's library will be open this summer to support students with the Everett Public Schools "*Summer Reading Challenge*." The district is very committed to promoting a strong culture of reading for all students and looks forward to another successful year. Students who read steadily over the summer can gain a month of reading skills to prevent a summer reading slide. Here is how you can promote a positive summer reading culture in your home:

- Use the *Summer Reading Challenge* booklet to track your child's progress toward their goal. Booklets will be mailed home with student report cards at the end of the school year.
- Come to the Whittier library on Tuesdays and Thursdays this summer (7/9, 7/11, 7/16, 7/18, 7/23, 7/25, 7/30, 8/1, 8/6, 8/8, 8/13, 8/15) between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

The month of June will be a busy time of the year at Whittier so here are some of the important school-wide events to put on your calendars for the final three weeks of the school year:

- Free Dress Spirit Day – Friday, May 31
- Whittier Talent Show – Tuesday, June 4 at 6:00 p.m.
- Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast – Friday, June 7 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in the library
- Reduced Student Day of 12:20 p.m. dismissal time – Friday, June 7
- Whittier Cultural Festival (1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>) – Tuesday, June 11 from 5:00–7:00 p.m.
- Whittier Fun Run – Wednesday, June 12 (9:00-11:15 a.m. by grade levels)
- Kindergarten Celebration of Learning – Thursday, June 13, at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Party at Legion Park – Tuesday, June 18
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Bridging Ceremony – Wednesday, June 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the cafeteria
- Whittier Field Day – Thursday, June 20
- Last Day of School – Friday, June 21 (Full Day)

I want to emphasize the importance of student safety as we finish the year, especially when transporting students by vehicle. Please make sure to drive slowly when entering the Whittier school zone, the street parking zones, and the Whittier parking lot. Last month a car crashed near the entrance of Whittier and flipped over near a crossing zone. Fortunately, nobody was injured from this incident, but it reinforced the importance of the overall safety awareness at Whittier. We have many students and families who walk, ride, or drive to school, so it is very important that everyone is consciously thinking about vehicle safety and the well-being of all Whittier students, families, staff, and community members. Thank you for your help.

It has been a great 2018-2019 school year at Whittier, and I want to thank all families for your incredible support throughout the year to ensure that our students have successful learning experiences every day. Have a great end to the school year and a wonderful summer!

-Tony Wentworth, Principal

**Tony Wentworth**

Principal

**Whittier Elementary School**  
916 Oakes Avenue,  
Everett, WA 98201  
[www.everettsd.org/whittier](http://www.everettsd.org/whittier)

### June 4

HC Open House in library 1:30 pm  
Whittier Talent Show 6:00 pm

### June 7

Volunteer Breakfast in library 8:30-9:15 am  
Reduced Student Day – 12:20 pm dismissal

### June 11

Cultural Fair Celebration 5-7:00 pm

### June 12

APEX fun run on field- 9:00-11:15 am

### June 13

Kindergarten Celebration of Learning  
6:30 pm in Cafeteria

### June 14

LIF -1:35pm dismissal

### June 18

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Party at Legion Park 10:30-2:30

### June 19

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Bridging Ceremony 6:30-7:30 pm

### June 20

Field Day 9:00 am-2:00 pm

### June 21

Last Day of School  
2:50 pm Student Dismissal



## June Library News



A HUGE thank you to all volunteers that helped make our spring book fair a success! Amy Smith led our fall and spring book fairs and did an amazing job. All profits go to our Whittier library to help us update our collection of books and supplies. Also, we were able to purchase Ozobots for all students to explore. Grades K-1 have focused on coding Ozobots with colored lines. Grades 2-5<sup>th</sup> recently began to investigate with color coded lines too but will shift into Ozoblockly.com for advance coding challenges. *Please help your child remember to bring library books back to school. We want all students to have a fresh start next year, so all books and fines need to be addressed before summer. Please call with any questions!*



***I hope to see you this summer during our open library!***

~Shannon Heining

[sheininger@everettsd.org](mailto:sheininger@everettsd.org) (425) 385-4308

## Whittier PTA



Hello Whittier Wildcats,

Thank you for all of your efforts to support Whittier's PTA programs and events during the 2018 – 2019 school year. Without your fundraising and volunteer support, we would be a shadow of what we are today. Whittier PTA is strong, passionate, involved, and relevant.

We started the school year with a brand-new PTA logo along with a relatively new mission statement. You've been seeing both everywhere from our flyers to Facebook, posters, stickers, banners, t-shirts, and table cloths. The new logo distinguishes the PTA work product from that of the school district.

We are so grateful to Mr. Wentworth for his unrelenting support of our Board and volunteers. He is one of our biggest champions. He knows the partnership between the faculty and staff at Whittier with the parent/guardian volunteers is invaluable. We work in partnership together. Thank you.

Thank you to an amazing Board of Directors – Amy Smith, Heather Reid and Karen Zulinke. It was an honor to work with each of you this year. You are incredibly generous of your time. As Board members, we aren't far from every single activity at the school. This is a big responsibility with a fair amount of fatigue and stress along the way. But, we've done it. We certainly don't do this for a popularity contest, but for the benefit of every single student and faculty at Whittier. Together. Thank you.

We are also fortunate to have talented and energetic Committee Chairs. Whether you've led Reflections, Bingo, Harvest Festival, Movie Nights, Teacher Grants, Book Fairs, Field Day, Kindergarten orientation, uniform sales, assemblies, Fall and Spring fundraisers, Bike to School, Art Docents, Staff Appreciation and Hospitality and the all new Fun Run, it takes courage to lead. It can be lonely too. The work of a committee chair take a sufficient amount of guts and brawniness. You get it done and there are always volunteers to lend a hand. Thank you!

Last week was the final PTA monthly meeting for the school year. We were hoping for a quorum, and we received more than that. The Whittier Library was full. We had the best turnout for a May meeting in years. Again, thank you.

I've been a PTA parent at Whittier for seven full, extraordinary and ordinary, years. I wasn't seeking a leadership position along with balancing a career, but I'm proud of the PTA's remarkable hard work this year. In fact, we've already started discussing changes for next year events already. You may see a few of our prominent events look a little different, but this is exciting too. This will give them a refresh.

The Whittier PTA Board of Directors for the 2019 – 2020 School year will be the following:

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

Have a safe and fun summer. See you next year!!

Sincerely,  
Brenda White, outgoing-PTA President



## When does school end this year?

June 21 will be the last day of school and it is a full day with a regular dismissal time.

Reminder: Friday, June 7, students will be released 2.5 hours early and Friday, June 14, students will be released 75 minutes early.

## SBA scores are coming soon

Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) scores will be available for all families and students this summer in the online Home Access Center (HAC). Families will also receive a hard copy in September. Find tools for parents to understand those SBA scores on the [district assessment website](#).

### How do I get the test scores?

[Instructions are online](#). If you don't have an account or have questions, contact [LMS@everettsd.org](mailto:LMS@everettsd.org).

## Stuff the Bus is coming!

With the support of our generous community, the Everett Public Schools Foundation is hosting its 10th annual Stuff the Bus for Kids school supply drive. Last year the Foundation delivered over 1,900 backpacks to students. This year they have requests for over 1,800 backpacks filled with school supplies. Look for collection bins at local businesses during the month of August and look for big yellow Durham school buses parked outside Fred Meyer in Mill Creek and QFC on Evergreen Way Aug. 16-18.



**URGENT NEED:** The Foundation needs 700 high school backpacks. To purchase and donate a backpack and other preassembled schools supply kits, they have partnered with [Supply All Kids](#), or you can contact Kirsten Hansen at [khansen@everettsd.org](mailto:khansen@everettsd.org).

## Vaccinations for next year

Now is the time to plan for the vaccinations your child will need before he or she enrolls next fall. We encourage you to obtain these vaccinations this school year and report them to the school nurse or office staff at your child's school. We'll track that information in the school database, which will help you avoid getting calls and overdue letters in the fall.

**Do you have a personal exemption for Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR)?** That exemption may not be valid for next school year due to a new state law. Learn more on the [Washington State Department of Health's website](#).

## Summer school registration is open!

[Registration materials are now online](#). Summer programs for high school students include opportunities to strengthen the skills and knowledge required for the district core expectations, repeat courses, extend their interests in academic areas, and take new courses. Tuition-based summer programs are offered for students through Online High School and at Cascade High School. Elementary and middle school summer programs are available for specific students who need academic support.



## Summer Reading Program

Everett Public Schools looks forward to another successful year of its summer reading program. We are partnering with Everett Public Library and Sno-Isle Libraries again this year. Watch your school’s website for details about this summer’s reading program. Students will receive incentives for reaching their reading goals, and schools that have at least 75 percent of their students reach their reading goals will be recognized by the district.



## School supply lists

Looking to get a jump start on next year’s school supplies this summer? You can find the school supply list on your school’s website under *Our School* around the last week of school.

## Summer meals

Did you know that many children qualify to receive free summer meals thanks to a federal grant? Summer meals are available July 8 through Aug. 15 at select locations and times. Find more details on the [Food and Nutrition Department website](#).

## Change to assessment requirements

The Washington State Legislature recently passed a bill creating multiple ways to meet required graduation assessments. School districts are required to administer the Smarter Balanced Assessment in both mathematics and English language arts to all 10th graders. Passing each of these assessments is the first “pathway” among a set of multiple pathways to graduate. Students identify their pathway in their High School and Beyond Plan. Students in the class of 2021 and beyond must still earn 24 credits to obtain a high school diploma.

For a complete list of graduation assessment requirement options, please visit the district [graduation website](#) under the *Students* tab.

## Donate to Hawthorne Uniform fund

This fall Hawthorne Elementary will be the second school in the Everett School District to institute a uniform policy. Everett Public Schools Foundation is currently taking donations to help with the upstart costs of this program. To donate on-line visit <http://weblink.donorperfect.com/HawthorneUniforms>. If writing a check, please make the check out to EPSF and write Hawthorne Uniforms in the memo line. The cost to fully fund one uniform is \$25.00. This includes a pair of pants, a sweatshirt, and a polo. Let’s help our neighboring school make uniforms happen this fall! You can direct any questions to Marci Cooper at 425-385-4301. Thank you for your generosity!



3900 Broadway  
Everett, WA 98201  
425-385-4000  
[www.everettsd.org](http://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, 425-385-4108, 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



## ARE YOUTH REALLY LONELIER NOW?

*Delaney Ruston* May 27, 2019

Are youth lonelier now than in the past? I often wonder if this is true, especially when you see a group of teenagers hanging out together looking down at their phones.

We do know from Jean Twenge's analysis of past surveys that adolescents' feelings of loneliness increased sharply after 2011, which of course is when screen time was becoming more ubiquitous. And in her paper, Twenge reported that “adolescents low in in-person social interaction and high in social media use reported the most loneliness.”

Twenge is analyzing surveys of teens in 8th, 10th and 12th grades done year after year. In 2011 when asked if they agreed with the statement “A lot of times I feel lonely” 25% reported (the average of all grades combined) that they “mostly agreed or agreed.” Then, in 2015 that number went up to 31%. The 25% figure was fairly constant for the preceding 10 years and the 31% is the highest level since the survey began in 1991.

Loneliness is an emotion, and our emotions exist to teach us things. They give us information about our experience in the present moment. In the best case scenario, they are a buzzer that activates us to make a change. So if we have a sense that we are missing the company of others, i.e. a sense of loneliness, it is a signal to try to do something at that moment to lessen that unpleasant feeling. Maybe it's to make plans or to do something in the future to reduce the feeling. Or, sometimes the best thing to do is just to sit with the emotion because there is nothing you can do about it. It is important that we talk to our kids about these feelings and discuss ways we can gain skills to manage them when they inevitably arise – and also assure them the feeling will pass.

What types of loneliness do you and your kids experience? There are many different variations. Here are some examples.

- No close friends loneliness. Maybe you have many acquaintances on social media or in your community but no close friends, no one to tell secrets to.
- I'm different loneliness. Perhaps you feel lonely because you are unhappy with how you look, your sexual orientation, or just a deep-seated feeling of not belonging.
- Left out loneliness. This can be just seeing others doing things on social media or hearing about things at school that you were not a part of. You are experiencing loneliness from feeling like you are left out.

What does this mean for our teens and tweens? Are our teens lonely? Do they feel social on social media but, in reality, some more profound need is not being met? The more our kids interact with each other and adults in person instead of through their phones, the better off they will be. This means that we need to help them have times throughout their day when they put the phone down. At home, this can be screen-free dinners or family game nights. Without family, it can be collecting phones when friends come over. Or encouraging participation in sports or other activities that do not allow phones.

We would like to hear what you and your tweens and teens have to say about loneliness and screens. Please email, comment below or post to our Facebook page any anecdotes you or your child have experienced and/or any ideas you have to combat loneliness.

<https://www.screenagersmovie.com>





# June 2019

## Whittier Events



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Girls on the Run 5K @ Memorial Stadium 9 am
2	3 APEX fun run assembly	4 Hi Cap Meeting – 1:30 pm  Whittier Talent Show 6pm	5 Stemtree Robotics 3-4  STEM Expo @ AOTW Arena 5-8 pm	6	7 Volunteer Breakfast in library 8:30-9:15 am <b>12:20 Dismissal</b>	8
9	10	11 Cultural Fair 5-7:00 pm	12 APEX Fun Run 9-11:15 am  Stemtree Robotics 3-4 (Last Day)	13 Kinder Celebration of Learning 6:30pm	14 LIF- 1:35 pm dismissal	15
16	17	18 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Party @ Legion Park 10:30-2:30 pm	19 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Bridging 6:30-7:30 pm in Cafeteria	20 Field Day 9-2:30pm	21 <b>Last Day!</b> 2:50 pm dismissal	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

Office Phone:  
425-385-4300  
Attendance Line:  
425-385-4305