

# Whittier Wildcat News

WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



June 2021

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 10

## From the Principal

Welcome to June and our final three weeks of the school year! I would first like to thank all families for your incredible partnership throughout the entire 2020-21 school year. Your support has been so important for the success of our students, so thank you for your commitment to ensure that your child attends school and is ready to learn every day! Our students have shown great determination, perseverance, grit, and a powerful growth mindset to keep pushing themselves to learn and improve. And they have shown great character in demonstrating **“The Whittier Way” to Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Your Best**. Thank you again for your amazing support. Let’s finish strong in the month of June as we conclude the school year!

The Whittier End-of-the Year Parade and retirement celebration for Mrs. Safley will take place on Thursday, June 17 at 5:30 p.m. through the Whittier neighborhood to honor Mrs. Safley and to give families the opportunity to say their farewells to Mrs. Safley and the Whittier staff as we finish the school year. A parade flyer with the parade route will be communicated to families in early June.

Our kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are currently taking the **i-Ready Math Spring Diagnostic** assessment, and our 3<sup>rd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are also taking the **i-Ready Spring Reading Diagnostic**. The iReady diagnostic assessment is a great opportunity for students to show the growth they have made this year in math and reading. Please visit the district **i-Ready** site for more information: <https://www.everettsd.org/Page/29542>. Kindergarten through second students are taking the spring Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA). This tool provides teachers with excellent information to show the reading progress that students have made this school year.

Whittier Spirit Week is coming the last full week of school, June 14 - 18! Here are the specific daily spirit days: **Favorite Sports Team Monday** (Dress up as your favorite character!), **Reverse Dress Tuesday** (Staff dress in Whittier uniforms and students dress up like Whittier staff) **Superhero Wednesday** (We are all Superhero’s!), Crazy Pattern Mix & Match **Thursday** (Mix your stripes, polka-dots, plaid, camouflage, flowers....The crazier the better!) **Reverse Dress Friday** (Staff dress in Whittier uniforms and students dress up like Whittier staff). Parents, we would love to post pictures of your fantastic pictures of your children to our website. If you are comfortable having your child’s photo posted, please email pictures to Mrs. Fricano in our office at [efricano@everettsd.org](mailto:efricano@everettsd.org).

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:

- Memorial Day: Monday, May 31 (No School)
- Whittier Spirit Week: June 14 - 18
- 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Bridging Ceremony: Monday, June 14, at 6:30 p.m. at the EHS Civic Auditorium
- Whittier Parade and Recognition for Mrs. Safley: Thursday, June 17 at 5:30 p.m.
- Last Day of School: Monday, June 21 (Asynchronous learning day for all students)
- Chromebook Collections for 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Students Only: June 21 - 25

Whittier’s library will be open this summer on Thursdays from July 1<sup>st</sup> through August 19<sup>th</sup> between 9:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. This will be a great opportunity to support and promote a strong culture of reading for all students while encouraging students to learn throughout the summer. Students who read steadily over the summer can gain a month of reading skills to prevent a summer reading slide, and it also promotes a positive summer reading culture in your homes. And please visit the Everett Public Schools website for summer reading resources and opportunities for students: [Summer Opportunities / Summer Reading 2021 - Coming Soon! \(everettsd.org\)](https://www.everettsd.org)

Thank you for your incredible partnership in supporting Whittier throughout the 2020-21 school year. It has been a unique learning journey this year for our students and families, and we couldn’t have done it without your support 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**  
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Everett, WA 98201  
[www.everettsd.org/whittier](http://www.everettsd.org/whittier)

### **June 2**

LIW- 8:30 am Zoom  
check-in with teacher

### **June 9**

Reduced Student Day  
12:20 pm dismissal

### **June 14-18**

Chromebook collection

### **June 14**

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Bridging 6:30 pm  
Everett Civic Auditorium

### **June 16**

LIW- 8:30 am Zoom  
check-in with teacher

### **June 17**

End of year Parade  
Honoring Patti Safley

### **June 21**

Last Day of School  
Chromebook collection  
(5<sup>th</sup> grade only)



# From the Assistant Principal

As we make our way into June, I have been reflecting on this, my first year here at Whittier. I have been so impressed by this community of students, families, and staff and how they have met a year of challenges with tenacity and grace, continuing to learn and grow. Your partnership with your students' teachers and commitment to ensuring your students are engaged with their learning has showcased the **Whittier Way** character trait of **Being Your Best**, and I am thankful for your awesome support!

I wanted to let you know about a couple of opportunities to continue supporting your student over the summer:

**Chromebooks:** For students in grades K-4, you may keep your Chromebooks over the summer and continue to use them for any online programs that are available. Current 5th graders will need to turn in their Chromebook devices between **June 21st and June 25th** as they will be receiving new ones from middle school.

**Jump Start for incoming 1st and 2nd Grade:** This is an awesome opportunity for our current Kinder and 1st grade students to come to campus for the week of August 16th through the 20th for 5 half-days and engage in activities to:

- support their transition to their new grade at the start of the school year
- provide a safe and welcoming re-entry to "in-person" learning
- provide an opportunity for families to meet staff

We would love to see all our incoming 1st and 2nd grade (current K-1) students there! Register [HERE](#) by June 14th!

I hope you all have a wonderful summer Wildcat Families! Learn something new!

-Allison MacGregor Fornes, Assistant Principal

# From the Library

## Whittier Library June 2021 News

### Last day for hybrid book checkout is Friday, June 4th

\*Please make sure all books are returned to school by Friday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Reminder notices will be sent home on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> for those who forgot to return books.

### How can we get more books this June and during the summer?

\*We still have some free books located in the office to take.

\*I will still have my "borrow a book" cart located outside the library door (up the stairs off 10<sup>th</sup>) during school hours when the weather is nice.

\*Until June 18th, families can place holds on books online and pick up on Mondays 2:00-4:00 from our library door off 10<sup>th</sup> (or email me when to place books in the office for pickup). A "how to place holds" video is located on your child's Canvas course and on our library website.

\*Summer library hours will be 9:30-12:30 on Thursdays from July 1-August 19<sup>th</sup> and at this time it is expected to be IN PERSON!

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Shannon Heining - Whittier Librarian  
[sheining@everettsd.org](mailto:sheining@everettsd.org)  
(425) 385-4308

### Remember to check out district summer reading opportunities!

<https://www.everettsd.org/Page/38984>



I can't wait to see you in person during summer library hours!





# Whittier PTA News



Hello Whittier Wildcats,

Wow, I can't believe we are entering our last month of the school year. This year was truly unlike any other. It wasn't always easy. In fact, there were times it seemed too difficult, but we persevered. We could not put on the variety of amazing events the PTA usually puts on and have truly missed that. Mostly, we have missed seeing everyone and missed the sense of community that those events nurtured. Nevertheless, we adapted and did our best to support the school and students. Thank you parents, guardians, families, friends, neighbors, and community members for your support. Whittier is a such a special place because of all of you.

Thank you to an incredible Board of Directors- Heather Reid, Sareh Hunt, and Tiffany Leigh. It was an honor to work with each of you this year. Though it may not have been seen, there was a lot of work going on behind the scenes. The amount of heart and dedication of this group was inspiring. I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve our school alongside you. I am also grateful for your friendships. For me, that is one of the best parts of being on the PTA- the relationships that are formed.

I also want to express my appreciation to Mr. Wentworth for his unrelenting support of the PTA. He is one of our biggest champions. He knows the partnership between the staff and PTA is invaluable. He is enthusiastic and always willing to do whatever he can to help us achieve our vision- even if that means taking a pie in the face (or whatever it is we come up with)! Thank you.

At our May meeting, we elected a new board. I am happy to announce that the Whittier PTA Board of Directors for the 2021-2022 school year will be the following:

Heather Reid, President  
Sareh Hunt, Vice President  
Alexa Sheraton, Secretary  
Tiffany Leigh, Treasurer

We have one last meeting on Wednesday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and we plan to meet in person. The meeting details will go out in a couple of weeks. Regardless of what the next school year looks like, I hope you will consider becoming a member of PTA. So much is possible because of the work we do, and we cannot do it without you. This was my 6<sup>th</sup> year as a parent at Whittier (and I still have another 5 to go) and I feel extremely fortunate to have served as president, seeing firsthand all the good that our organization does. It is truly rewarding and fulfilling work. I hope you all have a fun and safe summer. See you next year!

Warm Regards,  
Erica Youngman, outgoing PTA President

## From the Counselor

### Helping Kids Face the Challenges of Reopening

[childmind.org/article/helping-kids-face-the-challenges-of-reopening](https://childmind.org/article/helping-kids-face-the-challenges-of-reopening)

Finally! What we've been awaiting for months is happening. As cities and regions across the country lift restrictions, we're no longer cooped up indoors, away from friends and family. We should be immensely relieved, right? And yet, as hard as the quarantine was, reopening is presenting parents and kids with a different set of anxieties and challenges.

As we struggle to make plans for summer, the burden is on parents to decide, without as much clarity as we would like, what activities are safe enough. But that uncertainty is also distressing for many children.

While our experts at the Child Mind Institute are not epidemiologists who can advise you about the virus itself, they can offer advice about helping your child adapt to and prepare for the changes this summer is going to bring.

#### Plan, but stress flexibility

Planning ahead now, even if you can realistically only plan a few weeks out at a time, will help give kids a sense of safety and security. And most importantly, the whole family can plan for some much-needed, long-awaited fun.

But at the same time, be sure to acknowledge that those plans may have to be reassessed. Rachel Busman, PsyD, head of the Anxiety Disorders Center at the Child Mind Institute, suggests focusing on flexibility. Letting your children know that you're planning for a variety of possible scenarios — and including them in the planning — can lessen anxiety over how they'll be spending the next few months. It's also an important part of building resilience. If your plans do change, your child will be more prepared to handle their disappointment and adapt to new expectations.

#### Agree on ground rules

Trying to be both safe and social is a difficult balance to strike. Kids are likely anxious to see their friends but may also be afraid of getting sick. Establishing clear family rules will give kids a sense of control.

"The very first thing I would recommend," says Stephanie Lee, PsyD, head of the ADHD and Behavioral Disorders Center at the Child Mind Institute, "is that parents and caregivers decide what's comfortable for them and what the family rules are going to be about socialization moving forward. It's important that whoever is running the show for these kids are all on the same page about what's going to be safe."

Only after the basic ground rules have been decided should you have that conversation with your child or adolescent. You want to empathize with their fears but also encourage them to think about the ways that your family will work together to help everyone stay safe and healthy.



## From the Counselor (cont.)

### **Take it step-by-step**

It will help kids feel more confident and manage their behavior if you emphasize that reopening is a gradual process, one careful step after another. “They need to understand that even though things are opening up that doesn’t mean that we rush out and do everything,” says Janine Domingues, PhD, a clinical psychologist at the Child Mind Institute. “We can take our time and do this in a slow and step-by-step way, knowing that there are reputable sources that we can rely on to keep ourselves safe.”

For your adolescent, that may mean establishing rules about maintaining that six-foot distance from their friends, keeping their mask on and meeting friends outside where there’s less risk. For younger children it might mean hanging out with families that you know have also been quarantined. Whether kids are anxious about getting sick, or have trouble managing impulsive behavior, knowing what step they are in are right now can help them be comfortable. You can also discuss what other steps might come down the road, so that kids know you’re planning ahead even if they can’t do everything they want just yet.

“We want to provide some information and validate where their fears and worries are coming from,” says Dr. Domingues, “and take small steps towards the things that they can do or you can do as a family.”

### **Prepare children by coping ahead**

Moving out of quarantine, with different families following different rules, is going to result in uncomfortable moments for kids as well as parents. Working with kids to anticipate unsafe situations they might find themselves in can help them feel more comfortable and make better decisions when the time comes.

If you’re deciding to allow them to do a socially distanced walk with a friend, coping ahead might mean rehearsing what they could do if their friend gets too close or takes off their mask.

“Your child or adolescent has to have that awkward conversation where they ask a friend to put their mask on or not get too close,” Dr. Domingues says. “That’s not easy for kids. Certainly, for children and adolescents having to draw those boundaries might increase some anxiety.” Planning their response can help reduce that anxiety and make it more likely that they stay safe if things do get tricky.

If you are planning to get together with grandparents for the first time in months, you might ask your child how they think they will feel when they see Grandma and Grandpa and still can’t give them a hug. “That might feel weird, but that’s okay,” she adds. “We can also plan for how they’re going to be able to cope with those feelings during that time.”

### **Validate fears**

If you have a particularly anxious child, the first step to helping them cope is to validate their fears about going out.

When our children express a worry or a fear our inclination is to try to make that feeling go away, notes Dr. Busman. We might say something like, “You don’t need to worry about that, there’s nothing to be afraid of.” While that makes sense because we want to make kids feel better, it also gives them the impression that those emotions are wrong or not allowed.

Instead, helping them know that their feelings are valid will help them manage those feelings. “The first thing you can say is something like, ‘I know that you’re afraid,’ or sometimes just repeating what your child said is actually validating in itself. Then follow up with, ‘I understand. Let’s talk about that.’”

The conversation will help you find out what’s going on. “You might think they are worried about getting COVID, and that’s not an illogical leap, but they might be worried about something specific that, if you don’t invite more conversation, then you won’t actually know.” As much as you can, answer their questions, because that’s a nice opportunity to dispel any myths, correct any misinformation and then remind them what you and they are doing to stay safe and what rules you’re going to follow.

### **Practice bravery**

Once you’ve had an open conversation with your child about what they’re afraid of, Dr. Lee recommends something called “bravery practice” for kids who are balking about going out. The conversation might go something like this, she says: “I would love for you to ride your bike around the neighborhood. I feel like these streets are fine. I would love for you to swim and I would love for you to play a lawn game or a game outside. Which of those things do you think would be the easiest?”

With anxious kids, Lee suggests pairing that with some good-old-fashioned praise for bravery and maybe even identifying a reward for trying one of those “scary” things.

### **Be alert to signs of something more serious**

“When kids are really avoiding any activities or really withdrawing, we want to watch that carefully,” says Dr. Lee. “That coupled with a change in mood or sleep or appetite really could signal that maybe something else more serious is wrong. You want to watch that and make sure your child is not getting depressed and reach out for services if they need more support.”

### Stress and Resilience

Juliann Garey is a journalist, novelist and clinical assistant professor at NYU. Her work has appeared in the New York Times, Los Angeles Times and Marie Claire; her novel, *Too Bright To Hear Too Loud To See*, was an American Library Association award-winner and NPR Best Book of the Year in 2013.



## What will the 2021-22 school year look like?

Everett Public Schools, like other districts in our region, state and nationally, are planning on opening 100% in person in the fall. The anticipation is great as students may be entering a school for the first time or may not have seen their classmates in person for over a year. We look forward to the energy as the new year kicks off.



All staff will be back in the buildings. Students will be learning in-person. We know that nothing is 100% guaranteed in the future, but we are moving forward with this plan and encourage you to anticipate learning in person in the fall. We are looking into virtual opportunities for students and will share more about that in the future.

## When does school end this year?

**The last day of school this year is Monday, June 21st, and will be an asynchronous day.** The day will be used for device and material drop off and pick up. We will be sending more information soon. June 15 is the last day of synchronous learning for seniors.

## Care Solace resource



Everett Public Schools fosters a culture that promotes the health, safety and well-being of students, parents, and staff. In an effort to continuously support this commitment, the district has partnered with **Care Solace**.

Care Solace is an [online resource](#) with a live 24/7 concierge meant to assist individuals in finding local mental health-related programs and counseling services. Care Solace is a tool for school staff and families to connect with community-based mental healthcare resources and providers. Their proprietary care navigation system taps into a vast database of mental healthcare resources to find carefully vetted local therapists and programs in minutes. Care Solace is available for use by district families and staff at no cost.

## Stuff the Bus is coming!

With the support of our generous community, the Everett Public Schools Foundation is hosting its 12th annual Stuff the Bus for Kids school supply drive. This year the need is greater than ever. We need your help to deliver over 2,200 backpacks to Everett Public Schools students and families this fall. 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. 13-15. For questions, please contact Kirsten Hansen at [khansen@everettsd.org](mailto:khansen@everettsd.org).



## Kindergarten Enrollment (Class of 2034)

If your child will be five years old by August 31, 2021, it's time to enroll in kindergarten! Online enrollment is available at [www.everettsd.org](http://www.everettsd.org). Enroll now to access information about your school's kindergarten program and reserve their spot in Everett Ready, our transition-into-kindergarten program scheduled for the mornings of August 23-27 at all elementary schools. Contact [EarlyLearning@everettsd.org](mailto:EarlyLearning@everettsd.org) with any questions.

To find out which school your kindergartener will attend, click on Path Finder on the district's transportation webpage or call the transportation office at 425-385-4144.



## Jump Start program



**Jump Start** is a one-week transition program for *current* kindergarten and first-grade students. It will be offered August 16-20, in the morning, at all available elementary schools. Incoming first and second graders are invited to participate in this program designed to support them as they transition back to the in-person learning model, become familiar with school routines and the campus, meet teachers and school staff, and get to know their classmates before school starts in September. If your student will be in first or second grade in September, register by June 14 for Jump Start by completing the '**Jump Start - 1st Grade or 2nd Grade**' [Registration Form](#).

## Vaccinations for next year

Now is the time to plan for the vaccinations your child may need before they return next fall. We encourage you to obtain these vaccinations as soon as possible and provide documentation to your child's school health room staff. Providing this information before the new school year will help you avoid getting calls and letters as well as the potential exclusion from school in the fall. As a reminder, students entering 7th grade usually require a Tdap booster before they can start school. More information can be found on the district's [immunizations webpage](#).

## We are hiring!

If you have ever wanted to help in a classroom, or lend your talents at a school, apply to be a classroom paraeducator. Paraeducators in Everett Public Schools provide instructional and functional support to classroom teachers supporting student learning. They may assist with playground supervision, small group instruction, student hygienic or nutritional needs or assist a student with mobility in a school. We are also hiring custodians. Our custodians play an essential role in maintaining our buildings while supporting a healthy learning environment that promotes pride among our students, staff, and families. Please apply online at [www.everettsd.org/jobs](http://www.everettsd.org/jobs). Schools are located in Everett, Mill Creek and Bothell, Washington.

## Summer Reading Program

Everett Public Schools looks forward to another successful year of its summer reading program. Please watch our website for details about this summer's reading program.



## 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 our website under the *Our Schools* tab around the last week of school.

## Summer meals

Did you know all children ages 1-18 can participate in the summer meal program? Summer meals will start on July 7 at select locations and times. Find more details on the [Food and Nutrition Department website](#).

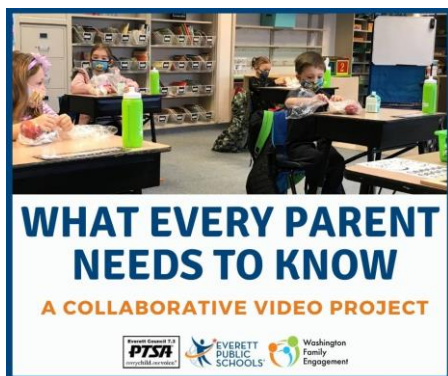


## Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) for elementary students

Continuing to add to our *Connecting with Counselors Video Series*, we have a series for elementary students. In this series of videos, MTSS Facilitator Kristin Walker and Garfield Elementary Social Worker Barb Dubin discuss how parents can support the social and emotional health of their elementary-age children. [Click to find this new series](#), as well as SEL videos for teens and pre-teens.



## What Every Parent Needs to Know video series



The Everett PTSA Council collaborated with Everett Public Schools staff and Washington Family Engagement to develop video resources for families which provide fundamental information to navigate school systems, advocate for their student(s), and actively participate in public education.

The project of five videos, entitled "What Every Parent Needs to Know," provides an overview of topics that parents felt were essential for building a foundation for authentic parent and family engagement. Video topics include: Student Education Rights, Get Engaged in Your Children's Education, What to Do About Bullying, Advocating for Your Student and Understanding Public Schools.

The initial material was created by Washington Family Engagement and further reviewed by parent and community groups, as well as Everett School District staff, to ensure accuracy, relevancy, and access. The videos were recorded by various district staff and are available on the district's Parent University webpage, with translations recorded and available in Spanish, and subtitles in Russian, Vietnamese, and Arabic.



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• 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. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

• Title IX/Civil Rights Compliance Officer:

• Mary O'Brien  
• 425-385-4106  
• [MO'brien@everettsd.org](mailto:MO'brien@everettsd.org)  
• PO Box 2098  
• Everett, WA 98213

Section 504 Coordinator:

Dave Peters  
425-385-4063  
[DPeters@everettsd.org](mailto:DPeters@everettsd.org)  
PO Box 2098  
Everett, WA 98213

ADA Coordinator:

Randi Seaberg  
425-385-4104  
[RSeaberg@everettsd.org](mailto:RSeaberg@everettsd.org)  
PO Box 2098  
Everett, WA 98213