

Whittier Wildcat News

WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



June 2022

VOLUME 5, 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 2021-22 school year. Your support has been so important for the success of our students returning to a full in-person learning structure, 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 Cultural Festival is coming soon! This important school event will take place Tuesday, June 7th from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. It will be an opportunity to celebrate student learning with a cultural perspective tied to student work and student-led presentations in classrooms (1st -4th grades). The core component for this event will be the student-led classroom presentations, but we will also have dinner available to families in the cafeteria from Avocado’s Mexican Restaurant (\$3.00 food plate per person / \$10 for family of 4 or more) as well as cultural arts/crafts booths for students and families. The event structure will be broken into two 45-minute periods for social distancing health safety. Here is the event schedule:

- Families with last names A-L: 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.
- Families with last names M-Z: 6:45 - 7:30 p.m.

The month of June will be a busy period 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:

- Kindergarten Orientation: Thursday, June 2 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
- APEX Fun Run Fundraiser and Leadership Program Kick-off: June 6
- Whittier Cultural Festival: Tuesday, June 7 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
- 5th Grade Party Sponsored by the PTA at Adventure Trek: Friday, June 10 from 1:30 – 5:30 p.m.
- Kindergarten Celebration of Learning: Tuesday, June 14, at 6:30 p.m. at Whittier
- 5th Grade Bridging Ceremony: Thursday, June 16, at 6:30 p.m. at Whittier
- APEX Fun Run Day: Friday June 17
- Whittier Field Day: Tuesday, June 21
- Last Day of School: Wednesday, June 22 (12:20 p.m. Dismissal)

Whittier’s library will be open this summer on Thursdays from July 7th through August 25th between 10 a.m. and 1:00 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. Please visit the Everett Public Schools website for summer reading resources and opportunities for your child. There are also summer math learning opportunities to engage your child in exciting math activities, problem solving, and math puzzles by participating in the Everett Public Schools Math Challenge. Here is the link to access the EPS Summer Reading Adventure and the Summer Math Challenge:

<https://www.everettsd.org/summerreading>

Thank you for your incredible partnership in supporting Whittier throughout the 2021-22 school year. It has been a great 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
Whittier Elementary School
916 Oakes Avenue,
Everett, WA 98201
www.everettsd.org/whittier

June 2

Kindergarten Orientation 6-7:30 pm

June 3

LIF – 1:35 pm dismissal

June 6

APEX Fundraiser kickoff Assembly

June 7

Whittier Cultural Festival 6-7:30 pm

June 9

5th Grader visit NMS

June 10

12:20 pm Early Dismissal

June 14

Kindergarten Celebration of Learning
6:30-7:30pm

June 16

5th grade Bridging Ceremony
6:30-7:30 pm

June 17

LIF – 1:35 pm dismissal
Apex Fun Run

June 20

Juneteenth – NO SCHOOL

June 21

Field Day

June 22


Last Day of School-12:20 pm
dismissal

Tony Wentworth, Principal



June 2022 Library News

Dear Whittier Families,

We had amazing book fair support from families this May. Thank you for supporting our library! Erin Sylvester and fellow PTA parents did a wonderful job organizing and volunteering at our two book fairs this year. Money goes directly back to our library to buy books. 

Friday, June 3rd will be our last student book check out day to help ensure all books are returned by the end of the school year. Please help your students find books that are overdue. If books cannot be found, then refer to the section on the right for next steps.

I have encouraged students to check out until June 3rd. Students can continue to read their books and turn them in when completed (by June 17th the latest).

Contact your librarian Mrs. Heining with any questions. I hope to see you this summer during our open library hours!

Mrs. Heining
Whittier Librarian
sheining@everettsd.org
(425) 385-4308

**What do I do if my student's book is lost or damaged in our care?
Here are the three options.**

1. Purchase a comparable copy of the book to replace
2. Pay fine at school office or online (from our library website)
3. Request a waiver for financial hardship-contact office or Mrs. Heining for the form

Please reach out to me if you need any help! I want to help your student have zero fines on his or her account.

**Summer Reading Ideas
Learning activities and book suggestion lists will soon be found on our district website and our Whittier website.**

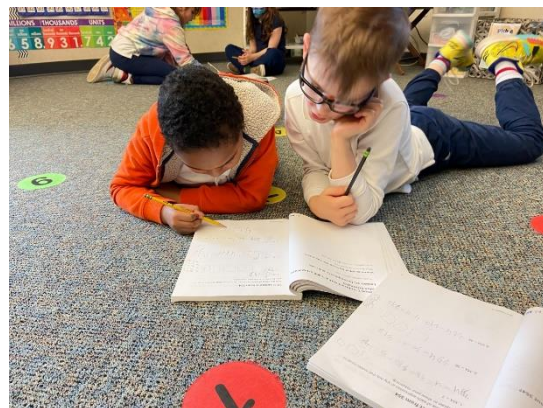
**Summer Library Hours
Thursdays, July 7 though August 25
10am to 1pm
Come say hi and check out some books!**



Whittier Math

We're approaching the end of our first year using the Illustrative Math curriculum. Let's celebrate successes at each grade level!

- Kindergarteners had fun building shapes with clay and talking about their shapes with partners.
- Many of our first graders CHEER when it's math time.
- Second graders love to share their thinking with partners and with the whole class.
- In third grade teachers have noticed their students sticking with challenging problems, taking risks, collaborating with teams, and having fun using the interactive panels.
- Fourth graders enjoyed learning how to measure angles with a protractor and play math games with partners. Ask your 4th grader to do a 180 or a 360!
- Fifth grade students are showing high levels of support for one another. When working with partners, they ensure that their partner *understands* rather than just getting the answer.

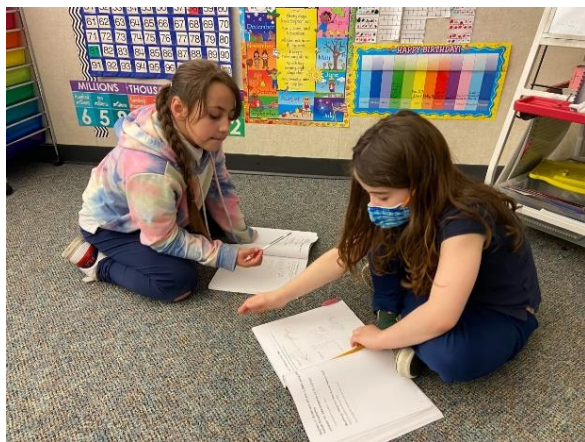


A celebration at every grade level is how well students cooperate to solve problems and communicate clearly using math vocabulary to explain their thinking.

We're all proud of their effort and happy to see so many students doing math joyfully!

Illustrative Math K-5, A Problem-Based Curriculum

As you may know, Everett Public Schools has adopted the Illustrative Math curriculum for grades K-5 this year. The way your children are learning math may look different from what you remember in your school days! Here is some information to help you understand WHY.





Whittier PTA



We are in the home stretch! This has been a fun year full of many adventures as we navigated through our first full year back to in-person learning. We are so excited to be ending the year with several fun events for our students. **BUT** this means we need SEVERAL volunteers to help make it all run smoothly! Here are the upcoming events where we need your help:

- Celebration of Learning Cultural Festival - June 7th
- 5th Grade Hi-Trek Adventure Day - June 10th (5th grade parents only please)
- Apex Fun Run – June 17th
- Field Day – June 21st

If any of these sound like fun and you can help, please contact us at ptawhittierelementary@gmail.com. You will need to have your current volunteer paperwork turned in and approved, which can take up to 2 weeks, so please make sure to visit the following link:

<https://www.applitrack.com/everetsd/onlineapp/application.aspx?starting=true>.

More information will be sent out in coming weeks, so be sure to check your student's folders!

This year's board has really enjoyed working with the school to make sure the staff, students, and families of Whittier have had a year to remember. Being a part of the PTA gives us the opportunity to be able to help our school in so many ways. We appreciate the support all of you have given us this year. Because of you, Whittier truly shines! Thank you so much!

And with that, we would like to welcome our board for the 2022-2023 school year:

Sareh Hunt - PTA President
 Amanda McCaskey - PTA Vice-President
 Heather Ethier - PTA Treasurer
 Alexa Sheraton - PTA Secretary

From the Guidance Counselor



Is your child ready for kindergarten? A lot of it depends on how well they can pay attention and manage their emotions and behaviors. Do they play well with other kids? Can they share appropriately? Can they ask for what they need from other adults or kids? Can they sit and listen for an extended period of time?

If you answered yes to all these questions, then your child is probably ready for kindergarten. Teachers stress that emotional maturity and independence are more important to readiness than “pre-academic” skills like knowing letters, numbers, colors, and shapes. But if you're not sure if your child is ready, you can ask the elementary school to meet with your child so they can tell you what is best.

If your child will be younger than the rest of the class and they are immature, consider waiting a year. A [well-publicized study](#) found that the youngest kids in their class, especially boys, are more likely to be diagnosed with ADHD. This means

that at least some of the children are being misdiagnosed just because they aren't quite as mature as the others.

If you have a child with mental health or developmental issues like anxiety, autism, ADHD or learning disorders, it doesn't mean they should wait an extra year. The sooner they get support, the better they will be in the long run.

Each state has different laws about when kids should start kindergarten, but they all require children to attend school at a certain age. If you don't think your child is ready, you can apply for permission to wait a year.

If you do choose to wait, use that time to help your child develop the skills they need so they can be ready for kindergarten next year. You can do this at home, in a preschool or with a play group.



Parent engagement and innovation showcase

Please join us on June 6 from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Community Resource Center to learn from and engage with staff about two strategic plan innovations that will advance our student’s academic engagement.

Join staff as they showcase new technologies integrated into our classrooms to improve student learning, such as the flat panels and classroom sound enhancements, and learn and ask questions about parent supports such as:

- Let’s Talk request form
- Parent University
- Common Sense Media app review
- How to get technology help
- Home internet solutions
- LMS parent accounts – Gradebook, HAC, Canvas
- Go Guardian and Class Policy parent accounts
- Student support digital health and wellbeing and social media



Also, in the Fall of 2023, our middle schools will shift from the current seven-period day to a six-period day. This is an opportunity to hear your thoughts about our current seven-period schedule and how we might use this schedule shift to increase student access to advanced courses, ideas about new and innovative electives, align our middle school STEM experiences to our high school STEM choice pathways and create more elective choices for students. Come and engage with the middle school design committee to share your thoughts, questions, and feedback about the possibilities of a middle school six-period day.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Job opportunities

WE ARE HIRING!

- BUS DRIVERS
- CUSTODIAL
- FOOD & NUTRITION
- HEALTH ROOM ASSISTANTS
- PARAEducATORS
- SUBSTITUTES
- TEACHERS

Join our team!

We offer a competitive wage, flexible schedule, training and much more.

Everett Public Schools is hiring many positions for the 2022-23 school year. Please share with friends and family who may be interested in joining our team. Visit www.everettsd.org/jobs for jobs posted and how to apply.

Also, please watch the district social media and web announcements for information on the job fair scheduled for August 17.

Summer Opportunities

Everett Public Schools looks forward to another successful year of summer programs. The Summer Math Challenge activities and calendars will be available on June 18 and the Summer Reading Adventure begins June 23. Please watch our website for more details. www.everettsd.org/SummerOpportunities.

Stay connected over the summer

We invite all Everett Public Schools families, students, friends, and community members to follow our social media sites including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

On our main district [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) pages, you will find emergency district communications, photos, videos, event postings, and content highlighting students, faculty, and accomplishments.

Visit our social media directory at www.everettsd.org/socialmediadirectory to follow along with school pages, district pages, teachers, clubs, teachers, student groups, and more. Stay connected with us to learn the latest news! We can't wait to see you there!



When does school end this year?

The last day of school this year is Wednesday, June 22, and will be early release for all students. June 17 is the last day of school for seniors.

Music4Life

The Music4Life Everett Booster Club, which supports Everett School District’s ongoing commitment to instrumental music across the district, has now provided over 500 ready-to-play instruments for use by students in need. These instruments are donated to Music4Life, refurbished by our repair partners, and then distributed throughout the district wherever there’s a need. If you have an instrument you’d like to donate, contact info@Music4Life.org or go to our website www.Music4Life.org to learn how to make a tax-deductible donation to support music programs in Everett Public Schools.

Stuff the Bus is coming!



With the support of our generous community, the Everett Public Schools Foundation is hosting its 13th annual Stuff the Bus for Kids school supply drive. This year the need is greater than ever. We need your help to deliver over **3,600 backpacks** to Everett Public Schools students and families this fall. Look for collection bins at local businesses during August and look for big yellow Durham school buses parked outside Fred Meyer in Mill Creek and QFC on Evergreen Way Aug. 12-14. For questions, please contact Kirsten Hansen at khansen@everettsd.org.

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](#).

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 at several locations on June 27. Find more details, including locations and times, please visit the [Food and Nutrition Department website](#).



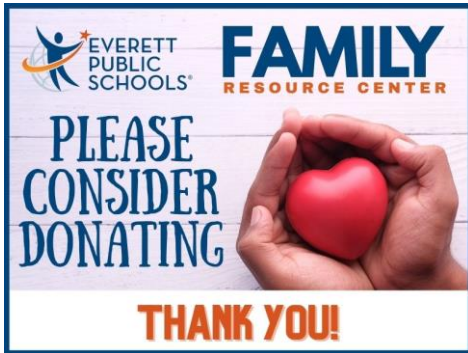
Kindergarten registration is open

Do you have a child who will be 5 years old by Aug. 31, 2022? Registration is open. You can complete enrollment forms for kindergarten [online](#)! A [step-by-step parent walkthrough video](#) is also available as a resource.





Family Resource Center



Everett School District’s Homeless - KIT Program team recently opened the first [Family Resource Center](#) (FRC) in Hawthorne Elementary. Through a school referral process, they help the district’s homeless families navigate the county’s social service programs — which are spread across the school district, county agencies and dozens of nonprofits.

The FRC serves as a hub for a limited supply of donated basic needs items and provides a welcoming space for our students and families to receive support, have some basic needs met and connect to school and community resources. The team has hopes to open a second center in the south end of the district in the fall.

Please consider donating to help fill the shelves of the EPS Family Resource Center.

- [Using the sign-up genius list of needs](#)
- Donations ordered online can be shipped to: Family Resource Center c/o Hawthorne Elementary, 1110 Poplar St., Everett 98201.
- Monetary donations can be made online at [Everett Public Schools \(intouchrecepting.com\)](#) select “Everett School District Office” under School and for now the activity auto populates with Family Resource Center



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

• Title IX/Civil Rights
 • Compliance Officer:
 • Kevin Allen
 • 425-385-4100
 • KAllen@everettsd.org
 • PO Box 2098
 • Everett, WA 98213

• Section 504 Coordinator:
 • Dave Peters
 • 425-385-4063
 • DPeters@everettsd.org
 • PO Box 2098
 • Everett, WA 98213

• ADA Coordinator:
 • Randi Seaberg
 • 425-385-4104
 • RSeaberg@everettsd.org
 • PO Box 2098
 • Everett, WA 98213