

Whittier Wildcat News

WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



September 2022

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

From the Principal

Welcome to a great start to the 2022-23 school year! I would like to welcome each of your students and their families to Whittier this year. I am so excited and honored to have the opportunity work with such a wonderful school community of parents and staff that are committed to supporting each of our students in their growth socially, emotionally, and academically.

Whittier is very passionate about planning, preparing, and supporting all students to be college, career, and life ready. Our staff is very intentional in how we build caring inclusive classroom communities with an appreciation for the diversity of each individual child. We also empower students to take ownership over their own learning and to develop strong student learning leaders in our school community. We also support students in developing a flexible growth mindset aligned to the “*Whittier Way*” *Positive Behavioral Interventions & Systems (PBIS)* expectations: **Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Your Best!**

We have new staff members who I would like to introduce for the 2022-23 school year: Melissa Martinez is our new kindergarten teacher who has joined us with over 22 years of experience from Silver Lake ES, Ashley Johnson is our new 4th/5th grade split teacher with 15 years of elementary teaching experience, Suzy Lavis is our new Life Skills Special Education teacher with 9 years of Life Skills teaching experience, Didi Proctor is an additional counselor to support Mrs. McKinnon with more than 10 years of counseling experience, and Emily Bott is our new paraeducator staff member with our Life Skills team. Welcome new Whittier staff members!

Whittier’s Curriculum Night & Book Fair Family Night will take place on Thursday, September 29. The Whittier Book Fair Family Night will run from 5:45 – 7:15 p.m. in the cafeteria and gym, and the Whittier Curriculum Night sessions with your child’s teacher in the classroom will run from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. and will be broken up into two teacher meeting sessions:

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

Whittier’s first spirit day of the year will be on Friday, **September 30 and it will be a “Blue Friday and Favorite Sports Team” spirit day!** Students may wear a Seattle Seahawks, Seattle sports team jersey, or their favorite sports team jersey. If students do not wish to participate with this specific spirit day, they should wear their regular Whittier school uniform.

Attendance is a critical component to your child’s success at Whittier Elementary School. Please continue to make attendance a high priority for your child throughout the school year. Strong attendance will lead to great success for your child at Whittier and in their lives! Here are some important attendance details:

- School hours at Whittier are 8:35 a.m. - 2:50 p.m. (first bell rings at 8:30 a.m.).
- Instruction begins promptly at 8:35, at which time your child should be in his/her classroom.
- If your child is going to be absent from school the parent/guardian must E-mail: WHEAttendance@everettsd.org, or call Whittier’s attendance line at: 425.385.4305. The specific reason and the date of the student’s absence should be included in your communication.

I am very excited about working with you and your children this year. Thank you for a great start to the 2022-23 school year. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events this month. Have a wonderful first month of school!

-Tony Wentworth, Principal

Tony Wentworth

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

September 16

LIF Day – 1:35 pm dismissal

September 19

PTA Meeting in Library 7-8 pm

September 23

LIF Day – 1:35 pm dismissal

September 26

Natural Leaders Meeting 6-7 pm

September 26-30

Scholastic Book Fair Week

September 29

Curriculum Night 6-7:30PM
Book Fair Family Night in Gym
5:45-7:15 PM

September 30

Blue Friday/Favorite Sports Team
Spirit Day
LIF Day – 1:35 pm dismissal

October 4

Picture Day

October 5-7

5th Grade @ Camp Killoqua

October 7

LIF Day – 1:35 pm dismissal

October 14

NO SCHOOL – TEACHER WORK DAY



The A.P. Corner

Hello Wildcat Families!

I am so excited to be back at Whittier this year! It has been awesome seeing all of you at our start of the year events and at arrivals and dismissals every day.

Attendance Matters!

I love seeing each and every one of your children learning and becoming amazing humans that contribute to our community here at Whittier. It is critical that your student attends school each day so that they do not miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and so that they build a habit of good attendance early on in their school career.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school and themselves and good attendance will help children do well in high school, college and in their future careers.

Students can suffer academically if they miss 10% of the school year, or about 18 days. That's just one day every two weeks.

Research shows that missing 2-3 days a month can result in:

- 3rd-grade students falling behind in reading
- 6th-grade students failing courses
- Teens dropping out of high school

Sporadic absences matter. Just one or two days a month can add up before you know it!

If you are facing challenges related to health care, unstable housing, transportation or lack of food, your school can help. We can connect you to services for the whole family.

Natural Leaders

Come and join us! Our first Natural Leaders family meeting will be **September 26th at 6pm** in our Whittier Library. Our NL group harnesses the wisdom of our diverse, multi-cultural school community and focuses on reaching out to and being inclusive of families that have been traditionally marginalized by the school system. This meeting will focus on setting our priorities for the year and creating space for parents and students around Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. We want to hear your voice!

For more information, please contact me at AMacgregorFomes@everettsd.org

-Allison MacGregor Fornes

From the Library

September 2022 Library News

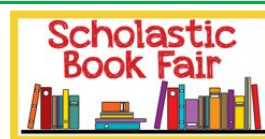
Hello Whittier Families,

Welcome back! I'm very excited to see all returning students and meet our new ones in the library. Our library theme this year is *reading is a passport to countless adventures*. Students will hear a variety of stories that will spark our interests to learn about places around the world. We will use our online resource tools to research and work together to share our discoveries.

We will also work on increasing student independence to find good fit books. There will be digital citizenship lessons spread throughout the year to support online safety.

Please refer to our library website for more information and support.

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



When: Thursday, September 29th
Time: 6-7:30 during curriculum night

***If you are unable to attend this event, then you can check out the online Scholastic book fair option.**

More details coming soon!

We have a wide variety of students with experiences and needs that we are providing resources for. Inclusivity is seeing yourself in print. Learning is seeing someone else's perspective in print. Families should work with their student to select reading material that is in keeping with their values. We are providing materials for all.



How does book checkout work? Every 3 days!

K-1 will eventually bring 1 book home.

2nd graders can bring home up to 2 books.

3-5th grades can bring home up to 3 books.

*Please help your student take care of books at home and return them to school. Books are overdue after 2 weeks. Your student can ask to renew books too. Thank you.



Whittier PTA



Hello, Wildcats!

Cheers to a new school year! The goal of our PTA board this year is creating community. A strong school community creates a joyful, secure place for our children to learn and grow up in. We adults benefit deeply from the support and friendship that a healthy community brings.

This year, PTA meetings will be held on the 3rd Monday of every month in the Whittier Library and via Zoom. Our first meeting is a big one! We'll map out our activities and how we support the school and you'll have the opportunity to volunteer for different activities and events.

PTA involvement looks different for everyone. Whether you chair a committee, volunteer for a single shift at an event once a year, or keep informed by attending a meeting or two, you contribute to the Whittier community.

We have two awesome opportunities to get involved this month. The Curriculum Night and Book Fair is September 29th. We need lots of Book Fair volunteers to set up, cashier and tear down.

Also, our Art Docent program is kicking off. Art docents help a class do an art project once a month and learn about different kinds of art. If you're interested in either, email us at PTAWhittierElementary@gmail.com and we will connect you!

To join the PTA, ask for a membership form in the office or email us at PTAWhittierElementary@gmail.com. To connect with us, email anytime or follow us on Facebook at www.Facebook.com/WhittierElementary

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

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 (1st choice)
- Whittier Attendance Phone Line – **425-385-4305** (2nd choice)

If you are emailing your student's teacher, please include the Whittier Attendance Email @ 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.

Attendance procedures



We look forward to seeing your child at school every day. Regular school attendance is important, and we will work with you to ensure your child is present to benefit from an excellent education. If your child is absent, please email the school at their attendance email address, which you can find on the school website.

If email is not possible, and even if you leave a message with the school attendance line, please send a written note to the school office within 30 days after your student returns to school.



Big changes with school meals for 2022-23



There are big changes happening with school meals for the 2022-23 school year that are important for you to understand. As we continue to return to ‘normal,’ the USDA is no longer able to extend the ‘free meals for all’ waiver we have appreciated the last two school years.

However, our state recently passed a new bill that eases the transition, called the Community Eligibility Provision, or CEP for short. CEP is a free meal service option for schools and school districts who have a 40 percent or higher number of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch.

Everett Public Schools worked hard to group the largest number of schools possible that kept the average percentage above the program threshold and because of this, 18 of our schools qualify for this program, including our school.

This means that breakfast and lunches are free to all students at these schools, regardless of free and reduced lunch qualifications. Families at these schools will fill out a household income report, which has been emailed directly to you, in place of the free and reduced lunch application. This report is important to provide students access to free waivers and other services.

We are so excited to be able to use this new program to offer free meals to the students in our district who may need some extra support and to all of our students, no matter where they learn, we will continue to offer nutritious and delicious meals that include seasonal fresh fruits and vegetables, scratch-made whole grain foods and lean proteins, with vegetarian and gluten free options too.

There has never been a better time to eat school meals. We look forward to serving you soon.

Community Transit free to youth 18 and under

Starting September 1, youth 18 and under can ride all Community Transit services for free. That includes buses, DART paratransit service and vanpools (if they belong to a vanpool). Teens aged 13-18 are strongly encouraged to get a Youth ORCA card to use for fare “payment.” Community Transit will be providing them at our high schools before school starts and middle schools when they get further shipments. For more information visit [Youth Fares Community Transit](#).

Art credit: Chunqi Zhao , Everett Career Link summer intern at the transit dept. for the city of Everett and H.M. Jackson High School senior.





SBA preliminary scores released

Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBA) student preliminary scores are available for families & students in the online Home Access Center (HAC). Families will also receive a hard copy in September.

Go to www.everettsd.org/SBAinformation to find tools for parents to understand those SBA scores.

How do I get the test scores? Under Quick Links, click How to view SBA scores for instructions. If you don't have a HAC account or have questions, contact LMS@everettsd.org.

Washington Comprehensive Assessment of Science scores will be released in September. They will be put in HAC as soon as they arrive, and Individual Student Score Reports will be sent home through the normal school channels.



Access your family's immunization information

To access your family's immunization information from the Washington State registry visit, sign up for [MyIR](#) to view, download and print your student's immunization records securely online. Once you register, you can access the records anytime you need them. You can print your child's Certificate of Immunization Status for school, childcare and camp programs.

Ways to stay in touch and stay connected

On the communications department webpage, you can sign up for [InTouch](#) announcements and school board meeting agenda highlights delivered to your email box monthly. You can also follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

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!



Everett Public Schools believes communication with parents and the community is very important. One resource available for families is our "Stay Connected" chart, which will show you the different ways you can regularly keep informed. Visit the communications overview page on the district's website at www.everettsd.org/communications to download your copy.



Please also make sure your student's school has your updated contact information so the district can communicate effectively with you.

Job opportunities!

Everett Public Schools is hiring many positions. 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.

Register to vote!

Registering to vote is easy. Visit the [Snohomish County webpage](#) for details on the three ways you can register to vote or update your registration or scan the QR code. Students who are 16 & 17 years old can now pre-register to vote.





Have you downloaded our mobile app?

News and information about our schools are as close as your smartphone. Download and log into the district app to access your student’s info quickly and easily. See top stories, Parent University, Canvas, books checked out from the library, and find the staff directory, school websites, calendars and more.

Available for Apple and Android devices and can be downloaded in 3 easy steps:

1. On your smartphone, go to the iTunes App Store® or Google Play®
2. Search **Everett Public Schools**
3. Then select our app for free download



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. Read content in one of many languages available in the settings.

Assistance icon on website

The district’s main webpage has an icon, “report/assistance,” with resources and assistance for students and families on:



- Suicide Prevention
- Crisis Support
- Eating Disorder Help
- Substance Abuse Help
- Report Safety Concerns
- Report Harassment

Assistance



ECEAP preschool accepting applications for 2022-23

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 Children, Youth and Families.

The six ECEAP sites within our school district are Cedar Wood, Hawthorne, Jackson, Lowell, Madison, and Silver Lake elementary schools. We have both school-day classroom schedules and half-day (AM and PM) classroom schedules, depending on the school location. Space is limited – apply early! For an application or more information, please visit the [district ECEAP website](#) or call 425-385-4628.





Kids in Transition program



Kids in Transition (KIT) program supports students who qualify for two federal programs which provide support for children and youth whose housing is highly mobile: those who meet the more inclusive definition of homeless under the federal [McKinney-Vento Homeless Act](#) and those who are eligible for [Foster Care Education support](#).

Students who are in foster care placement (where a child welfare agency has placement, care and authority) or those who are without a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence may qualify for this additional support.

The KIT program works to eliminate barriers to students' academic success and extra-curricular involvement. We ensure eligible students have access to free school meals, school supplies and uniforms. KIT may help students access extended day or summer school classes or coordinate access to additional academic support or tutoring when needed. The KIT Program may also cover, or coordinate waivers for, fees required to take part in activities such as school-sponsored sports, clubs, and required class fees. KIT can also help set up transportation for eligible students to maintain school stability, if the commute is feasible and in the best interest of the student. We also partner with the Family Resource Center and other community agencies to connect families and students to resources as needed.

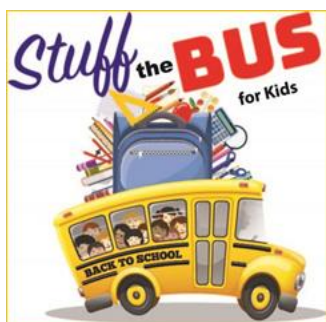
Last year, Everett Public Schools served over 1,350 students through our KIT support at some time during the school year. For more information, visit www.everettsd.org/KIT to learn who your school's KIT support staff is; or contact the KIT Office at 425-385-4032.

Student opportunities and activities eflyers

We use *Peachjar* to email approved flyers from community organizations to parents and guardians. Schools also post those flyers on their websites. Look for the Peachjar button in the *Quicklinks* section of your school home page to see those flyers. You can also register there to have those flyers delivered to your email address if you aren't already receiving them.



Backpacks for students in need



Do you know a family who might be in need this year? Stuff the Bus for Kids ensures each child in Everett Public Schools starts the school year prepared to learn. In August, the EPS Foundation delivered over 3,400 backpacks, filled with school supplies, and are making them available to any Everett Public School student who may need extra assistance.

Students in need of a backpack, please reach out to your school to receive your supplies. Backpacks are available for pick up at each school.



Safety tip line

Do you or your student have a concern about someone experiencing bullying or harassment?

Report it! You can talk directly with your school's office, or you can call, text or email your concern.

If there is reason for concern about safety on a designated walkway to school, call 9-1-1 immediately for authorized, quick help. We have strong partnerships with local law enforcement

who share our interest in safe schools and neighborhoods. Student safety is a priority for all of us. Working together, we can help make our neighborhoods and schools nurturing places for students to safely learn and grow.

3 easy ways

Text or call

 855-637-2095

 1350@alert1.us

 <https://everett-wa.safeschoolsalert.com>

FOR
EMERGENCIES,
PLEASE CALL
911!

Access to public records

The district's records may be requested by the public, and many records are fully or partially available for public viewing. As our business is most often about students, families, and staff, some of the information contained in certain records may be protected under federal and state privacy laws.

For additional information related to district [public records policy](#) and [procedures](#), including how to make a public records request, please visit our district public records webpage at <https://www.everettsd.org/publicrecords>.

Your student's records are confidential

Everett Public Schools is serious about protecting student records and privacy. The district uses multiple security measures to safeguard student transcripts and other education-related records. Only those teachers, administrators and other staff members who work directly with students (and have an educational need to know) have access to individual student records. Staff members are required to maintain confidentiality of all information in a student's records. To view or request copies of your own student's records, please [contact the office of the school your student attends](#).



**EVERETT
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS®**

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:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Title IX/Civil Rights Compliance Officer: • Kevin Allen • 425-385-4100 • KAllen@everettsd.org • PO Box 2098 • Everett, WA 98213 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 504 Coordinator: • Dave Peters • 425-385-4063 • DPeters@everettsd.org • PO Box 2098 • Everett, WA 98213 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADA Coordinator: • Randi Seaberg • 425-385-4104 • RSeaberg@everettsd.org • PO Box 2098 • Everett, WA 98213
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