

# Whittier Wildcat News

WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



September 2021

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 1

## From the Principal

Welcome to a great start to the 2021-22 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 classroom cultures that empower students to take ownership over their own learning, assess their own learning progress every day, and to develop student leaders. We 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 two new staff members who I would like to introduce for the 2021-22 school year: Susie McNeal has joined Whittier as a half-time math teacher to support our split classes in math. She comes to us from the Seattle School District where she taught 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades for 8 years, and she loves math! Sarah Thoreen has returned to Whittier as an instructional para-educator to provide math push-in classroom support for students. Welcome Mrs. McNeal and welcome back Mrs. Thoreen!

**Whittier’s Curriculum Night & Book Fair Family Night will take place on Wednesday, 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 for social distancing purposes:

- 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 24 and it will be a “**Blue Friday and Favorite Sports Team**” spirit day! Students may wear a Seattle Seahawks jersey to support “Blue Friday,” or they may wear 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](mailto: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 2021-22 school year. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events this month. Let’s 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](http://www.everettsd.org/whittier)

### September 17

LIF Day – 1:35 pm dismissal

### September 20

Let’s Connect Community Meeting  
5-6 PM

### September 23-10/1

Fall Scholastic Bookfair

### September 24

Blue Friday Spirit Day  
LIF Day – 1:35 pm dismissal

### September 29

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

### October 1

LIF Day – 1:35 pm dismissal

### October 5

Picture Day

### October 8

LIF Day – 1:35 pm dismissal

### October 15

NO SCHOOL – TEACHER WORK DAY

### October 20

PTA Meeting 7-8:00 PM

### October 22

LIF Day – 1:35 pm dismissal

### October 28

PTA Harvest Festival (Tentative)  
5:30 PM-7:30 PM



## From the Library

# September 2021 Library News

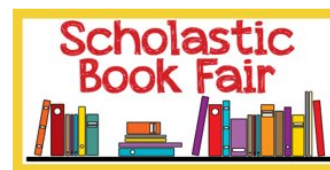
Hello Whittier Families,

I am so excited to see all students in the library! Last year I really missed teaching in person and helping students find good fit books in the library.


Students have a library Canvas course! At this time, only a few items are on the courses. I will begin to add more choices next month.

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide before or after school library hours. Please refer to our library website for more support options.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Heininger  
Whittier Librarian  
[sheininger@everettsd.org](mailto:sheininger@everettsd.org)  
(425) 385-4308



**When: Wednesday, September 29th**  
**Time: Evening 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!**

**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 up to 3 books.  
Please help your child take care of books at home and return them to school. Thank you 

## The A.P. Corner

It has been so wonderful seeing and meeting many of you as you send off and pick up your students each morning and afternoon! Here are a few reminders about our Arrival and Dismissal procedures:

**Arrivals:** In the morning, you may drop off at either entrance to campus, the front doors via the parking lot or at the ramp on 10<sup>th</sup> Street. If you are dropping off via vehicle in the parking lot we ask for the efficiency of getting everyone in the building in a timely manner that **you have your child ready to hop out of the car by the time you get to the front**. This means mask on, backpack on and lunchbag in hand, and any coats or sweaters ready to go. Everyone in line thanks you!

**Dismissals:** All classes automatically release at the bottom gate of the ramp on 10<sup>th</sup> Street because we have a very small parking lot and we need to be able to dismiss as efficiently and quickly as possible while maintaining social distancing as much as possible.. Bus riders come out first, then parent pickup/walkers come out by class staggered every 2 minutes to support social distancing. Kindergarteners come out last. However, you do have as an option to pick up your student from the front office. **In order for your student to be in the front office for pickup however, you must communicate with their teacher that that is where you would like them dismissed.** Otherwise, your child will be down by the 10<sup>th</sup> street gate while you are waiting up top.

Lastly, if you need to make any changes to your child's regular dismissal routine (bus, walk, parent pickup), please contact the front office ASAP before 2 pm so that we can ensure that your student is where they need to be at the end of the day.

Thank you so much for making our school community a safe and positive place to learn!

Allison MacGregor Fornes, Assistant Principal



## Whittier PTA



WELCOME BACK WHITTIER WILDCATS!!!

We hope everyone had a wonderful summer break. We are so excited to welcome back our returning families and say hello to our new families after such a crazy year and a half! A new school year is full of nerves, excitement, and a lot of questions, this year especially. Whittier is filled with friendly staff and families who are here to support all students as we navigate this year together.

We have a really great PTA board this year. We are going to do everything we can to ensure this is a safe and FUN school year for the students at Whittier. The year has just begun, and yet our board has been working tirelessly to make sure everyone feels just as excited about this upcoming year as we do. Special

thanks to Sareh Hunt, Tiffany Leigh, and Alexa Sheraton for all of their hard work this past month; it's been really appreciated!

We had a great time meeting parents at our welcome table during orientation, and also welcoming students and parents on the first day of school. We hosted a PTA meet and greet on September 9<sup>th</sup> in the park and loved having the opportunity to talk to parents face-to-face after so many meetings online.

We have a few new committee volunteers to welcome, but there are plenty more opportunities! If you wish to volunteer, or have any questions regarding volunteering, please contact us at [ptawhittierelementary@gmail.com](mailto:ptawhittierelementary@gmail.com). If you would like to join our PTA, contact us at [whittiermembership@gmail.com](mailto:whittiermembership@gmail.com).

Our first Whittier PTA meeting is Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, from 7-8pm. It will be a zoom meeting this month, with the hopes we will be able to meet in person in October. Cross your fingers! If you have questions or are curious about what we do, please join us at the link below:

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9151574003>

Meeting ID: 915 157 4003

Join by SIP: [9151574003@zoomcrc.com](mailto:9151574003@zoomcrc.com)

We look forward to an AMAZING 2021-2022 school year!

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

## 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)

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. Even during virtual learning, please report your student's absence.

Thank you kindly for your assistance in all things attendance!

## Online Foreign Language Classes Offered



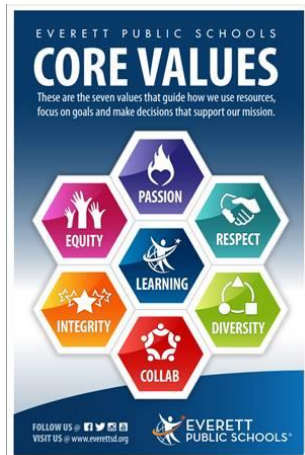
Spanish, French, Japanese, and Mandarin online classes for K-8 begin the week of October 4<sup>th</sup>. Only \$149 for 10 lessons. Students watch an instructional video, complete a worksheet, then join an online class with an experienced teacher to reinforce learning through games, songs, and other fun activities. Foreign Language for Youth, a nonprofit 501c3, has been teaching in schools for 25 years. We offer scholarships for Free and Reduced Lunch students, and also give sibling discounts.

Register today: <https://www.foreignlanguageforyouth.org/online-classes/> or call 425-420-2854.



# Strategic Plan refresh

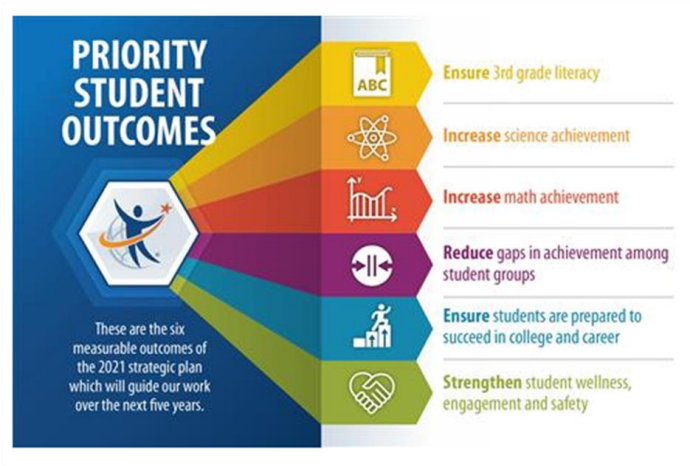
The Everett School district has a refreshed strategic plan for 2021-26. This ambitious, exciting, and comprehensive effort will guide Everett Public Schools for the next five years and aims to bring everyone together to meet the needs of all students. The mission, vision and core values remain unchanged.



**Mission** – To inspire, educate and prepare each student to achieve to high standards, contribute to our community and thrive in a global society.

**Vision** – Our students will lead and shape the future. They will be well-rounded, healthy, and flexible thinkers with a global perspective who can access resources and collaborate. They will demonstrate empathy, pride and advocacy for self, school and community while respecting the diversity and worth of others. They will acquire the knowledge, attitudes, and skills to adapt to the emerging needs of a changing world.

Six **Priority Student Outcomes** are agreed upon targets for 2021-26 and will be achieved through six strategic priorities.



Each **Strategic Priority** has initiatives created for the first year of the strategic plan. These 2021-22 initiatives will

help meet the theme goals which will ultimately help the district achieve our Priority Student Outcomes. Each initiative is assigned a sponsor, an owner and team members.

Follow Strategic Plan progress at <https://www.everettsd.org/StrategicPlan>





## 2021-22 Calendar

The 2021-22 calendar was part of our contract negotiations this year. The Student Art Calendar will be distributed through your student's school when it is available.



## Meals free 2021-22 school year



Along with returning to 100% in-person this fall, we are also able to continue serving FREE meals to all children until June 30, 2022! Free meals are available this school year for all on-site students! The meal program is federally funded, and meal costs are reimbursed by the USDA. To find out the menu for breakfast and lunch at your student's school, please visit the food and nutrition website on everettsd.org.

**Families who qualify for Free and Reduced Meals should still complete an annual application form.** Approved free and reduced applications help fund other programs and can also help waive other fees for your family. Applications are available online or at your student's school.

## 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.

## 2021-22 Immunization Records

As a reminder as of August 1, 2020, a change in state immunization rules has affected two areas of immunization compliance:

- The definition of "conditional status" has been clarified. **Students must turn in their immunization paperwork on or before the first day of in-person learning.**
- All new immunization records from students need to be **medically verified.**

A medically verified record includes one or more of the following and can be submitted by email to

[EPS.BuildingRN.MailList@everettsd.org](mailto:EPS.BuildingRN.MailList@everettsd.org):

- A Certificate of Immunization Status (CIS) printed from the Immunization Information System
- A physical copy of the CIS with a healthcare provider signature
- A physical copy of the CIS accompanying medical immunization records from a healthcare provider verified and signed by school staff
- A CIS printed from your MyIR account.



## 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 twice monthly. You can also follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#).

Visit our social media directory at [www.everettsd.org/socialmediadirectory](http://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](http://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.

## 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.





## 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.

## Care Solace resource



Everett Public Schools fosters a culture that promotes the health, safety and well-being of students, parents, and staff. 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.

## New assistance icon on website

The district's main webpage has a new 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 2021-22

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 six ECEAP sites within our school district are Cedar Wood, Garfield, Hawthorne, Lowell, Madison, and Silver Lake elementary schools. Space is limited – apply early! For an application or more information, please visit the [district ECEAP website](#) or call 425-385-4628.

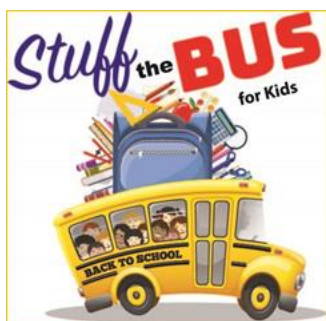


## Kids in Transition program

Kids in Transition (KIT) program supports students who qualify as homeless under the federal [McKinney-Vento Homeless Act](#). Students without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence may qualify. The KIT program works to eliminate barriers to students' academic success and extra-curricular involvement. We ensure students experiencing homelessness have access to free school meals, school supplies, and uniforms. KIT can help students access extended day or summer school classes and provide access to tutoring when needed. The KIT Program can also cover fees required to take part in activities such as school-sponsored sports, clubs, and required class fees. KIT transports eligible students to maintain school stability, as long as the commute is in the best interest of the student. Last year, Everett Public Schools served over 1,100 homeless students at some time during the school year. For more information, visit the [KIT website](#) or contact the KIT Program at 425-385-4032.



## 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 2,000 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.

## 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.







## 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

District records are public records. Parents and other citizens have the right to ask to view or have copies of records defined as “public” under state and federal laws. These include parents’ and legal guardians’ student’s records and records about discipline of school employees.

The district’s general counsel office handles public records requests. Request records by writing to that office at PO Box 2098, Everett, WA 98213, sending an email request to [publicrecords@everettsd.org](mailto:publicrecords@everettsd.org), or calling 425-385-4150.

## 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.

## Register to vote!

It’s easy! You can register online at <http://bit.ly/VoteRegistration> or stop by your school office to pick up paper registration materials.

## 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](http://www.everettsd.org/jobs) for jobs posted and how to apply.

WE ARE HIRING!

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

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

For more information or to apply, please click here.



EVERETT  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS®

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. 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  
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