

# View Ridge Viking News

VIEW RIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2018

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4



## From the Principal

Dear Families,

Happy Thanksgiving! The holidays are a time for friends, family, gratitude, and generosity. November, especially, is a time to be thankful. I am thankful for all the time and caring our students, families, and staff put into supporting our school community so that View Ridge is a safe place for all to learn and thrive. I am especially thankful for partnering with all of you who are dedicated to providing rich and meaningful experiences for our students—by reading to children at home, attending parent-teacher conferences (which we had close to 100 percent participation!!), or by volunteering in classrooms, serving as Watch D.O.G.S., or as a guest at one of our many great assemblies/performances. I am thankful for our community's generosity in raising just over 24,000 dollars during our Walkathon fundraiser (and maybe a little less thankful that this meant enduring 70 buckets of water being dumped on my head for the Principal Carwash! Just kidding...that was a blast!). I am thankful that our school was able to bring in 425 pairs of socks for Housing Hope during our Socktober drive. View Ridge students are continually learning the importance of giving! Of course, these are just a few things for which I am feeling thankful!! I bet there will be more moments of gratitude as we launch another great month.

*“Be thankful for what you have; you’ll end up having more. If you concentrate on what you don’t have, you will never, ever have enough.” –Oprah Winfrey.*

The ideas of gratitude and giving go hand in hand with our monthly Viking Values of KINDNESS (November) and INTEGRITY (December). This month we are collecting nonperishable foods to support Everett High School's annual food drive, and they are partnering with us to provide Thanksgiving baskets for several of our own families! How can View Ridge Elementary engage students more in these values and opportunities? Will we fill our school hopper to the top with Viking Victory Cards by demonstrating these values (we are so close)? Will it be through more philanthropy as we learn to be caring citizens of our city, nation, and world? How will you involve your family in focusing on kindness and integrity more this November and December?

Enjoy this season and all of the memories it has to bring! –Tina Farias, Principal

**Tina Farias**

Principal

**View Ridge Elementary School**

202 Alder St.,

Everett, WA 98203

[www.everettsd.org/viewridge](http://www.everettsd.org/viewridge)

**Nov. 21**

Early Release 1:00

**Nov. 22-23**

Thanksgiving Holiday—school closed

**Nov. 28**

Picture Retake Day

**Nov. 30**

Learning Improvement Friday

Popcorn Friday

**Dec. 4**

Winter Concert—Everett Civic Auditorium, 7pm

**Dec. 7**

Learning Improvement Friday

Viking Pride Assembly—

Kindness Heroes!

**Dec. 14**

Learning Improvement Friday

**Dec. 21**

Learning Improvement Friday

**Dec. 24-Jan. 4**

Winter Break – school closed



## **Attendance Update (by Jennifer Reyes, Assistant Principal)**

We are excited to share some new things we are doing to build on our culture of attendance. We have begun a monthly recognition system for best attendance and most improved. The top three classes each month receive recognition at our Viking Pride assembly and the top class chooses from a list of incentives they get to enjoy. For the month of September, it was Ms. Brown's 5th grade class; and for the month of October, it was Mrs Beavers 1<sup>st</sup> grade class!! We will soon find out which class has made the most improvement for the month of November!

Our goal is to make attendance visible and we have a new display in the office to show how well we are doing and will be adding a goal to reach as well. These improvements connect to our school wide goal in creating positive systems to support student learning. If you would like to be part of our attendance team in supporting this goal, please send me an email [jreyes@everettsd.org](mailto:jreyes@everettsd.org).

Finally, as we get further into winter months, illness may be a reason for student absences. Please take a moment to review the attached document to support us being on the same page in understanding when to send your kiddo to school, keep them home, or see a doctor. The hope is it will help provide clarity and prevent some absences. Each minute counts here at View Ridge. We want to make sure students are here on time, each day, ready to learn! We appreciate your support in making this happen. If your child is home sick, please remember to call the attendance office (425-385-5400), send an email ([vreattendance@everettsd.org](mailto:vreattendance@everettsd.org)) or return a note to school.

# WHEN IS SICK TOO SICK FOR SCHOOL?



### Send me to school if...

I have a runny nose or just a little cough, but no other symptoms.

I haven't taken any fever reducing medicine for 24 hours, and I haven't had a fever during that time.

I haven't thrown up or had any diarrhea for 24 hours.



### Keep me at home if...

I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees even after taking medicine.

I'm throwing up or have diarrhea.

My eyes are pink and crusty.



### Call the doctor if...

I have a temperature higher than 100 degrees for more than two days.

I've been throwing up or have diarrhea for more than two days.

I've had the sniffles for more than a week, and they aren't getting better.

I still have asthma symptoms after using my asthma medicine (and call 911 if I'm having trouble breathing after using an inhaler).

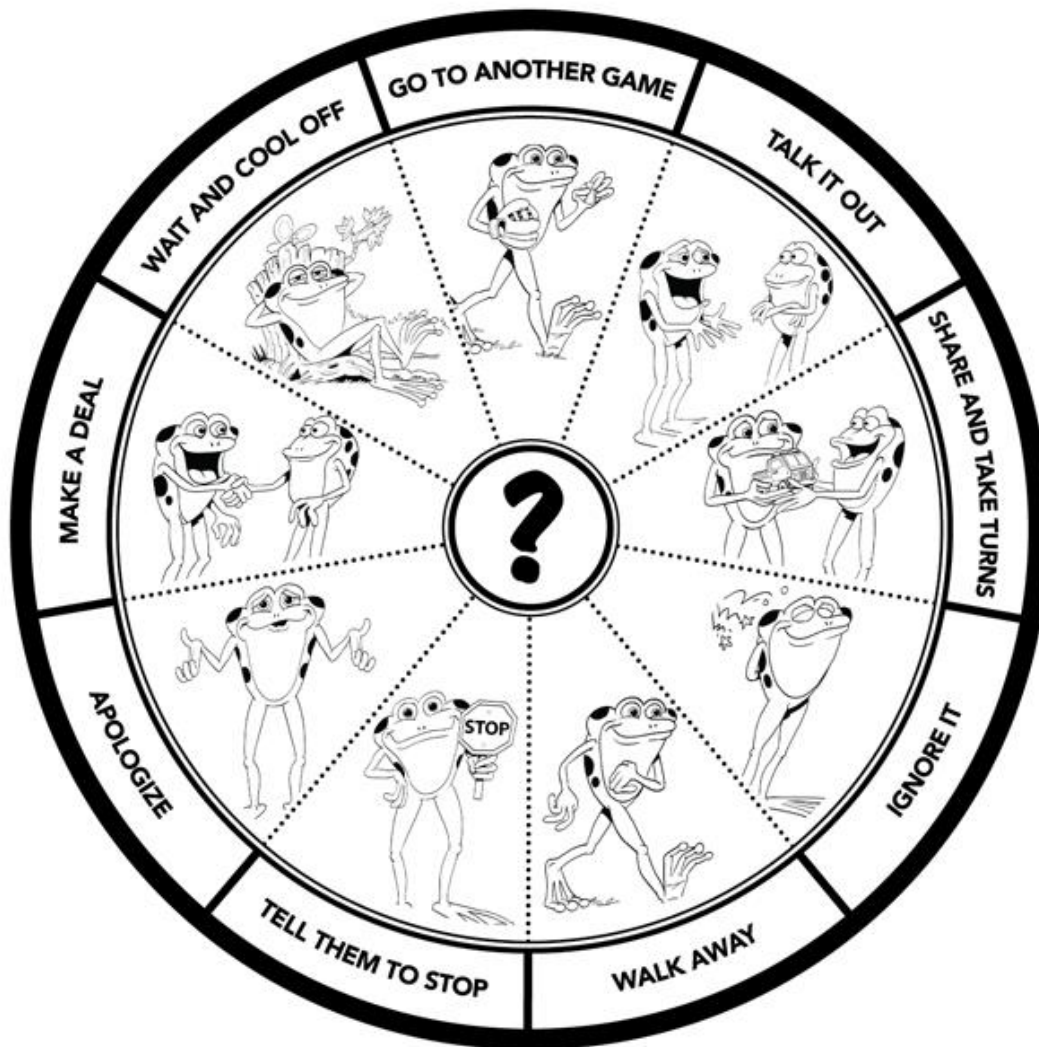


Adapted with permission from Baltimore City Public Schools.



## **Kelso's Choices (by Becky Wright, Behavior Intervention Specialist)**

Have you heard about Kelso's Wheel of Choices? All of the students at View Ridge have been introduced to Kelso's Wheel and how it works. We spend intentional time at View Ridge teaching students that problems can happen anywhere and anytime. We teach students to think critically about the difference between small problems and BIG problems; and we use this vocabulary to help students name and explain what type of problem they may be experiencing. Students are encouraged to solve their own (small) problems by trying at least two of the choices. We encourage students to try two or more strategies to solve small problems. I'd like to share this great resource with you. Kelso's Wheel of Choices can be used at home too. <https://kelsoschoice.com/free-resources/for-parents/>



Of course, when a BIG problem occurs—that is something that is scary, dangerous, illegal, etc.—we teach students to always go to an adult they trust. If that adult happens to be you, please know that you can reach out your child's teacher, our counselor, our administrators, or me for support! If it is about something that happened in the classroom, it is always best to start with your child's teacher, but please know that all staff at View Ridge are here to help!



## The gift of attendance

Absences spike in the weeks before and after the winter holiday as families squeeze in a few more vacation days. Just a few missed days here and there, even excused absences, can add up to too much lost learning time and put your child behind in school. This is as true in kindergarten as it is in high school. Put simply, too many absences at any age can affect a student's chances for academic success and eventually for graduation. This holiday season; give your children the gift of an education and the habit of attendance.

## Graduation rates jump to 95.7%

Our graduation rate jumped even higher for the 11th year in a row. Now 95.7 percent of our students graduate on time! Learn how strategic staff actions helped bring the graduation rate from 53 percent just 15 years ago to this year's all-time high.

<http://bit.ly/2018gradrates>

## Parent safety tip

Before you take your child to a friend's sleepover or party, make sure you know a few important things first.

- Find out about the friend's "house rules" and who else will be at home, like parents, another adult, brothers, or sisters.
- Ask about what they plan to do during the visit.
- Talk with your child about things that are important to you: no guns, violent TV and video games, alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs. Take this time to review behaviors that are healthy and those that are dangerous.
- If your child does not have his or her own cell phone, be sure to have the telephone number of where he or she can be reached.
- If there is a change of plans, you need to be told.

### Get to know other parents

- Talk with them on the phone.
- Meet them at neighborhood or school events.
- Greet them when dropping your child off at their home.

### Communication is key

School-aged children need and want more independence. Good communication, with clear expectations, helps parents and children trust that what is going on is safe.

Source: *HealthyChildren.org*

## Snow routes are online

School drop off and pick up locations may change in an emergency. If your child rides a bus to school, please become familiar with the [snow route information](#) on the district transportation department's webpage.





## Family resources

Could you or a family you know use some help? Find information and links to helpful resources on the district's [Parent Tools webpage](#):

- Washington State Library – local and regional information about services and agencies offering help to families in a variety of ways including food, shelter, clothing, childcare, legal services, employment opportunities, and counseling
- Everett Public Schools Kids In Transition (KIT) program – supports homeless children and youth to continue their education
- Help for military families
- Snohomish Health District for Snohomish County community dental resources for children and adults
- United Way of Snohomish County – 2-1-1 is a free telephone number that is your best "first call" to quickly find the right source of help. The information line is staffed by trained operators from Volunteers of America Western Washington who can connect you to a wide range of community services.

## Delayed start or closed schools

If we have to cancel school or delay the start of school, we will use our parent communication system to call in the morning, typically around 5:45 a.m., with a brief message about the reason for closure or delay. We will also use local media and post the message on our website. **If there is no announcement about Everett Public Schools, school is on the regular schedule.** More information and resources for school closures or delays is on the district website under the *Parents* tab.

In cases of inclement weather or other emergencies, please:

- check your email or phone for district messages
- listen for media announcements
- view the district's website at [www.everettsd.org](http://www.everettsd.org)
- watch district [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) accounts



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

Everett Public Schools does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, honorably discharged veteran or military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental, or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups.

Designated to handle inquiries about nondiscrimination policies are:

- Affirmative Action Officer – Randi Seaberg, [rseaberg@everettsd.org](mailto:rseaberg@everettsd.org), 425-385-4104
- Title IX Officer – Mary O'Brien, [MO'Brien@everettsd.org](mailto:MO'Brien@everettsd.org), 425-385-4106
- 504 Coordinator – Becky Ballbach, [rballbach@everettsd.org](mailto:rballbach@everettsd.org), 425-385-4063
- ADA Coordinator – Becky Clifford, [rclifford@everettsd.org](mailto:rclifford@everettsd.org), 425-385-5250