From the Principal

Hello Garfield Families,

Hard to believe we are now in the final month of 2019! December has brought us very cold weather so please make sure that your children are bundled up in warm coats.

I thoroughly enjoyed all the wonderful lunches I had this month with our Tiger Pride winners. These students were recognized for Being Responsible and were rewarded with Lunch with the Principal. It was so awesome to celebrate these students and the core values of Garfield. This month we will be focusing on Being Respectful. We celebrate our core values of Being Responsible, Being Respectful, Being Safe and Being Kind daily with our PAWS tickets – students are recognized for exhibiting the core values and are given a PAWS ticket. These tickets are collected in classroom PAWS jars. Every Friday classrooms bring their PAWS jars down to the main office to fill our school PAWS bin. Once that is filled we will celebrate with a whole school prize! It is getting really close to being filled. So proud of all of our students! Thank you for reinforcing these values at home and for celebrating with us!

Thursday December 12 is our Winter Concert. The doors open at 6:00 pm and the concert begins at 6:30 pm. Students will need to leave their hats, gloves and coats with you as there won’t be room for these items on stage or in the seating area. The concert is one hour in length. The entire school sings the last song so make sure to plan on staying to the end! This will be a festive night so please invite friends, family and neighbors. The students have been practicing and rehearsing – it will be a great show!
Winter break is only three weeks away. Students will start their two-week break on Monday, December 23rd. This is a time to spend with family and friends near and far. Hopefully, your time will be able to include reading and finding math everywhere. Reading together and/or playing some games will be a great way to connect and to keep learning throughout the break! We will return on Monday January 6, 2020.

Thank you for supporting the work that we do to ensure each student here at Garfield achieves excellence. We could not do this work without your support and trust. Thank you for trusting us with your most precious gifts, your children.

On behalf of the entire Garfield staff, I wish you and your family peace, joy, happiness, and health in the New Year.

Warm Wishes,

Mrs. Kathleen Stilwell

Congratulations PTA Reflections Winners!

Tullio Feinberg, Kindergarten
Elsie Ogden, Kindergarten
Athens Feinberg, Grade 2
Josephine Quinby, Grade 2
Nolan Matuschak, Grade 4
Isabelle Shelton, Grade 5
Madeline Quinby, Grade 5
ATTENDANCE:
Parents please email your student's absences using the attendance email address below:
GAEattendance@everettsd.org
If you are unable to email please call
Attendance line at 425-385-4705

If you are planning on a vacation over the holidays, please stop in the office and fill out a Pre-Arranged absence form in order for it to be excused. If you have further questions please refer to the Policy 3122 & 3122P.

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 95.9%
Our graduation rate jumped even higher for the 12th year in a row. Now 95.9 percent of our students graduate on time, the highest rate on record. The increase in graduation rates can be attributed to the strategically aligned work of district and school staff. It is a focus for everyone, no matter their role in our school district, to ensure each one of our students graduates ready for college and career.

Accepting Highly Capable nominations until Dec. 18
Find forms, information and evening events on the Highly Capable website. Referrals are for students currently in grades one through four for winter testing, which will take place on February 1, 2020.

Food and Nutrition
This month, the Food and Nutrition Department brings you kale grown in the PNW! Be sure to give it a try this month in our Kale Caesar salad and on the salad bar!

Did you know that just one serving of kale has more vitamin C than an orange? Find out more by checking out the Harvest of the Month flyer on our website at https://www.everettsd.org. It’s not easy being green! Don’t kale my vibe!
Bond 2020

The Everett School District’s board of directors on Tuesday, October 8, 2019, approved placing a $317.4 million capital bond on the April 28, 2020 ballot to fund STEM career-connected learning pathways for students, ensure equitable access and opportunities for all students, increase safety and security and ensure students have enough room to learn by adding 21st century learning classroom space.

The 2020 capital projects bond prepares our students for the future by:

- **Giving our students facilities and tools necessary for STEM career pathways**
  - The bond funds modernization and upgrades to high school classrooms to support the Science, Technology, Engineering, Math (STEM) career pathway programs and new science standards.

- **Increasing safety and security for students and schools**
  - Secure locks and keying systems will be added districtwide.
  - Access control systems at two high schools
  - Upgrades to fire alarm systems, security systems and fencing

- **Ensuring students have enough room to learn by adding 21st century classroom space, modernizing and repairing building systems**
  - Adds new elementary school classrooms throughout the district to reduce overcrowding, keep class sizes low and keep more kids at their neighborhood schools
  - Repairs aging school systems in our schools like HVAC, roofing and flooring replacements, that extends the longevity of schools

- **Providing equitable access and opportunities for students** by funding capital projects at all schools throughout our district, while reducing the overall school district tax rate

More information is available on the Capital Bond 2020 district webpage.

Delayed start or closed schools

If we must cancel school or delay the start of school, we will use our parent communication system to call in the morning, typically around 5:30 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 an 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 https://www.everettsd.org/
- watch district Facebook, Twitter or Instagram accounts
Snow routes are online
School drop off and pick up locations may change in an emergency situation. If your child rides a bus to school, please become familiar with the snow route information on the district transportation department’s webpage.

2020 Census
The 2020 Census is closer than you think! Here is a quick refresher of what it is and why it is essential that everyone is counted.

- **Everyone counts.** The census counts every person living in the U.S. once, only once, and in the right place.
- **It’s about fair representation.** Every 10 years, the results of the census are used to reapportion the House of Representatives, determining how many seats each state gets.
- **It’s in the constitution.** The U.S. Constitution mandates that everyone in the country be counted every 10 years. The first census was in 1790.
- **It’s about $675 billion.** The distribution of more than $675 billion in federal funds, grants and support to states, counties and communities are based on census data. That money is spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs.
- **It’s about redistricting.** After each decade’s census, state officials redraw the boundaries of the congressional and state legislative districts in their states to account for population shifts.
- **Taking part is your civic duty.** Completing the census is mandatory: it’s a way to participate in our democracy and say, “I COUNT!”

Every household will have the option of responding online, by mail or by phone. Nearly every household will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census from either a postal worker or a census worker.

**Look for your invitation to respond starting in mid-March.**
New Transitional Kindergarten Program

Everett Public Schools is offering a Transitional Kindergarten program this winter for children scheduled to enter kindergarten in the upcoming fall. The program will focus on basic academic, social and self-help skills to jumpstart qualifying students toward success in school. Students will be screened in early January and may qualify based on ability and/or need. This program is located at several of the elementary schools in our district; sites will be determined based on enrollment. The anticipated start date is January 28, 2020. Transitional Kindergarten will run through the last day of school, which is currently June 15, 2020.

To qualify for screening, children must:
- be 5 years old by August 31, 2020
- live within the boundaries of Everett Public Schools
- not be currently enrolled in an early learning program
- demonstrate academic and/or social-emotional needs

If you are interested and believe your child qualifies for this program, please visit our website at https://www.everettsd.org/earlylearning and submit the Transitional Kindergarten form by December 6, 2019. For assistance, contact Helen Cooley at 425-385-4088 or Early Learning at 425-385-4024.

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
- 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.