

# Jefferson Charger News

JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



December 2020

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 4

## From the Principal

I hope your December is off to a great start! With just two more weeks before the winter break, **every moment counts**. Thank you for supporting your child's full engagement each day. We know that school is not the only thing going on in your lives, and we are grateful for your involvement. With school happening in your homes, day cares, and other settings, adult family members and caregivers are far more involved in children's learning than in the past. Here are **two helpful resources**:

- *Wondering what your child should be learning this year?* [Family Guides](#) for each grade level in English and Spanish help adults learn what children should know and be able to do in math and literacy, and offer tips on talking with teachers as well as how to reinforce learning with everyday activities.
- *Wondering how much you should help your child, and when?* There's a really important concept called productive struggle. Though it can be hard for caregivers to watch, students actually need to struggle with new things, and persist to overcome those struggles, in order to learn! [This video](#) by a teacher in another school district gives a great overview, as well as some tips and prompts for adults. Hand in hand goes the importance of students doing their own work – teachers want to see what your child can do independently so that they know where more teaching is needed.

And here are a couple of **tech tips**:

- *Should my child reset their computer/network password?* YES! You received communication from Everett Public Schools on Monday about taking this very important step, which will prevent others from being able to log in as your student. Directions are [here](#).
- *How I can check my child's Zoom sound settings?* Each day, we experience many students with very loud microphones. You can check and adjust your child's sound settings: 1. Click on the volume symbol in the bottom right corner of the Chromebook (not in Zoom). 2. Go to the speaker symbol and click on the arrow on the right. 3. Go down to Input volume (microphone internal) and adjust the volume down to about 50%.

Even though school looks really different this year, as a staff we are always focused on how we can get better at our work to improve student learning. Each year, our **School Improvement Plan (SIP)** drives this work. You'll find this year's "SIP at a Glance" included with this newsletter. I encourage you to familiarize yourself with this document, and to look for evidence of this work as you support your child's learning this year.

Have a wonderful, healthy December and winter holiday season!

**Mrs. Kelley**

**Elizabeth Kelley**  
Principal

**Jefferson Elementary School**  
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**Dec. 21-Jan. 1**

No school: Winter break



## News from Around Jefferson



### What do you wish for in 2021?

Thank you to those students and families who participated in our Hands of Gratitude Community Project around Thanksgiving – we made quite an impressive turkey!

We have another project going on through Dec. 13 – the **Wishes for 2021 Community Project**. You can find this in the Jefferson Student Body Canvas course, [here](#).

Directions:  
Think of something that you wish for yourself, your family, our school community, or the world in 2021.

Choose a shape and type in your wish, first name, and grade.  
You can do more than one!

Mrs. Kelley's example:

I wish for us to go back to school!

Mrs. Kelley  
Principal

Type wish here

Type first name

Type grade

Type wish here

Type first name

Type grade

### News from the Virtual Art Room

Welcome, winter! This month we will celebrate all things *winter* through the study of how artists use **space** in their artwork and create **movement** through the use of lighting and texture. We will talk about the shortest day of the year (December 21<sup>st</sup>) and do festive projects to “bring back the light”! During the week just before winter break, we are lucky to have a special guest from the Seattle Art Museum! She will guide us on a LIVE virtual field trip to the Seattle Art Museum. We will learn how art can help us be mindful and practice empathy. Have a restful winter break!

**Ms. Gardner**, [agardner@everettsd.org](mailto:agardner@everettsd.org)

### News from the Math Coach

Up for a little S.T.E.A.M.? Not the kind you think (although it would be nice to warm up from the cold), but the kind that means *Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math*! Even though it is cold outside, you can use the elements, and a little engineering, to construct this [Winter Ice Lantern](#). This fun project requires only a few materials, and it finishes in the freezing outdoors. Just make sure you leave it outside when temperatures drop below freezing! If you do make one, you can send pictures to us at Jefferson by posting on our Twitter or e-mailing me. Have a festive December!

**Mrs. Roach**, [sroach@everettsd.org](mailto:sroach@everettsd.org)



## News from the Virtual Music Room

As we wind down to the end of 2020, I want to acknowledge the hard work that Jefferson students and families are doing in our virtual music room. So many students make the effort to be at our Zoom each week, and I'm seeing such progress as we continue to learn in a new way this year.

On the other hand, I would like to recognize that it's not easy for every child to connect each week, and that's why I post every song and every activity on our Canvas page each week. This is also a good way for students to see what they may have missed due to a bad connection or a distraction at home.

No matter how you connect in music, I hope to see you in music this December!

**Mrs. Rockwell, [drockwell@everettsd.org](mailto:drockwell@everettsd.org)**

## News from the Virtual Gym

Welcome back from a long November weekend. I hope you and your family were able to take a technology break and rest your eyes from the screen. Here we are in December, the last month of 2020. As the days grow shorter and the temperature drops, physical activity and fresh air are just as (or more) important in the darker winter months for our health and well-being. It may be more of a challenge to get outside and move, but many of the same activities we do in the other seasons can be done wearing a little more warmth and some rain gear! You and your student can continue such activities as going for a walk, riding bikes, hiking, chasing bubbles or playing games. Get creative! I've already heard some students share how they have enjoyed splashing in puddles with their family!

Students have begun their learning of mind-body health, which includes flexibility, physical activity and brain health, self-awareness, breathing techniques as well as calming strategies. You might hear your student talk about a "mood meter." A mood meter is a way for a student to check in with themselves to recognize and name how they are feeling. These are the beginning steps of self-awareness skills, which will build into social awareness.

I want to again express my appreciation to all the parents, caregivers, family members, and anyone who is supporting a Jefferson student in live Zooms. You continue to be the lifeline helping and supporting your student to be successful on the other side of the screen; thank you! Feel free to send me a message in the Canvas Inbox or e-mail me with any questions.

**Ms. Rowe, [srowe@everettsd.org](mailto:srowe@everettsd.org)**

## News from the Library

For the last few months, we have been gradually introducing a system for curbside pickup of library books. We began with fifth-grade students at the end of October, then fourth grade, and are gradually working down through the intermediate grade levels while we hone our system to efficiently fulfill holds. We plan to expand to primary grade levels in early December. In addition, students are practicing library materials searches so that they can create a favorites list in Destiny Discover. Using search tools in Destiny helps students find good-fit books that are a topic of interest and at their reading level. Books on their favorites list can be held for checkout if the student chooses. You can find information including directions for placing a book on hold on our library webpage. Thanks for your support and patience!

**Mrs. Klujber, [aklujber@everettsd.org](mailto:aklujber@everettsd.org)**

## News from the Reading Team

We want to thank all families for your incredible support in helping your children participate in remote instruction and practice this year. We know it's been a challenge, and we are so grateful for your efforts to help your child attend classroom instruction and small-group time daily. Our goal is to ensure that **all** students receive high-quality literacy experiences every day. We couldn't do it without you!

As we head into a December unlike any we've experienced before, here are a few suggestions for supporting your child's literacy development:

- Continue to ensure that your child is attending all learning opportunities, whether with the teacher, reading support teacher, or in reading at home.
- Consider starting a read-aloud at home this month. There are many great seasonal titles that can add a special "extra" to your holidays. One benefit of reading aloud to your children is that they are exposed to new vocabulary that may be above their independent reading level.
- Encourage your child to write notes, letters, or lists – every bit of writing practice matters.

We wish you a happy holiday season and look forward to 2021 believing that all our Jefferson students will have the opportunity to meet their learning goals.

**Mrs. Erickson, [jerickson@everettsd.org](mailto:jerickson@everettsd.org)**

**Ms. Gil, [sgil@everettsd.org](mailto:sgil@everettsd.org)**

**Ms. Rowland, [mrowland@everettsd.org](mailto:mrowland@everettsd.org)**

# 2020-21 Jefferson Elementary School Improvement Plan at a Glance for Families

All areas: Planning instruction and extra supports based on standards, common assessments, and student data

Reading	Writing	Math	Science
Ensure all students interact with grade-level text as they read	Ensure all students interact with grade-level text as they read sources in order to write about them	Focus on higher-level student thinking through questioning and response opportunities	Support teacher understanding of what students learn about science across the grade levels
Build students' academic and content vocabulary	Focus on how narrative, informational, and opinion writing are organized across the grade levels	Support teacher planning for all levels using district core and supplemental curriculum	Focus on higher-level student thinking and engagement
Monitor student progress to identify those needing more help, and to evaluate our supports	Teach revision and editing (marks, checklists, and vocabulary) across the grade levels	Monitor student progress to identify those needing more help, and to evaluate our supports	Build students' academic and content vocabulary

## Nonacademic Areas

### Welcoming Culture

- Foster and maintain a feeling that all families are welcome regardless of background or language, and that they can access teachers and school leaders easily
- Increase family communication through a variety of channels

### Physically, Emotionally, and Intellectually Safe Environment

- Target student growth mindset and self-management
- Regularly monitor and respond to student social-emotional data at both teacher and office level

### Equitable and Accessible Opportunities

- Analyze student achievement by subgroup and provide interventions to close achievement gaps
- Refine processes (Student Intervention Team and PBIS Tier 2 Team) to target underperforming students

### Attendance

- Improve attendance through follow-up with families from all levels (teacher, office, administrators)
- Increase student engagement by developing a system to monitor and respond to concerns

### Family Partnerships

- Increase the amount of home/school interaction about academics and social-emotional learning through family engagement nights, resources shared at conferences, and newsletter articles
- Launch Natural Leaders program to engage diverse families

### Instructional Technology

- Provide students with engaging and rigorous standards-based assignments in Canvas and Google Classroom
- Increase staff knowledge of and fluency with giving students feedback via digital tools
- Provide regular opportunities for students to use online i-Ready lessons for individualized learning, with the goal of passing three math and two ELA lessons per week

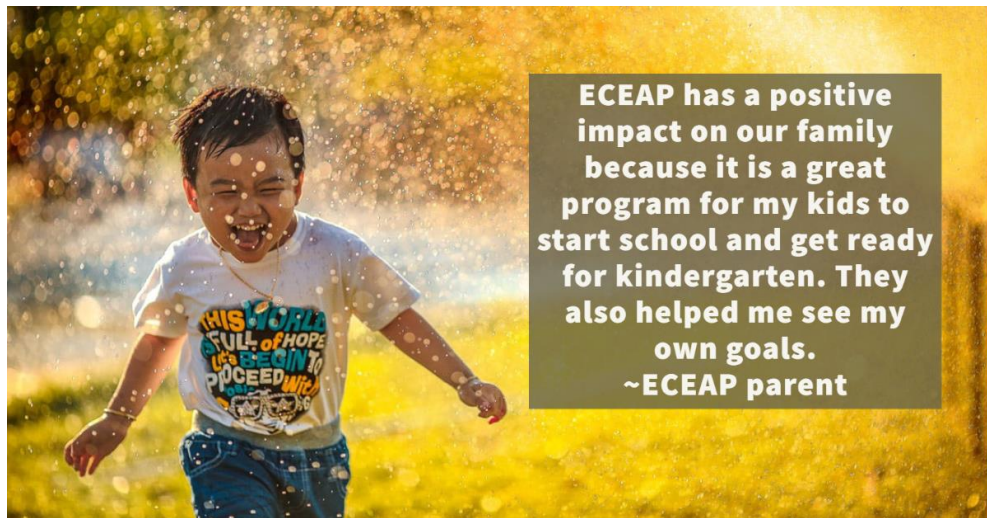




## District News

### ECEAP preschool is still enrolling for 2020-21

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 includes family support and health and nutrition services. It is funded in partnership with [Snohomish County Human Services](#) and [Washington State Department of Children, Youth and Families](#).



**ECEAP has a positive impact on our family because it is a great program for my kids to start school and get ready for kindergarten. They also helped me see my own goals.**  
~ECEAP parent

ECEAP is providing remote preschool services this fall including virtual circle times and small groups, video libraries of fun, engaging activities, and learning materials for home-based activities. Additionally, ECEAP supports parents as their child's first and most important teacher through regular parent-teacher check-ins, family support coaching, resources, and online family support groups and informational classes.

The six ECEAP sites within our schools are Cedar Wood, Garfield, Hawthorne, Lowell, Madison and Silver Lake elementary schools. Additional community locations are available. Space is limited – apply today! For an application or more information, please call 425-385-4628, email [eceap@everettsd.org](mailto:eceap@everettsd.org) or visit our website: <https://www.everettsd.org/Page/5962>

### 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.



### 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



## Transitional Kindergarten Program

Everett Public Schools is offering a **Transitional Kindergarten** program this winter for children scheduled to enter kindergarten in the upcoming fall (2021). 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 December and early January and may qualify based on ability and/or need. This program will be located at some of the elementary schools in our district or remote, depending on the current district learning plan; sites will be determined based on enrollment and space availability. The anticipated start date is February 4, 2021. **Transitional Kindergarten** will run through the last day of school, which is currently June 21, 2021.



To qualify for screening, children must:

- be 5 years old by August 31, 2021
- live within the boundaries of Everett Public Schools
- not be currently enrolled in an early learning program
- demonstrate academic and/or social-emotional needs

The parent inquiry form is available online. Families who are interested should visit the early learning website and submit the form by December 6, 2020. For assistance or questions, contact Helen Cooley at 425-385-4088 or Early Learning at 425-385-4024.

## 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 6, 2021.

## Delayed start or closed schools

If weather and road conditions call for closing school buildings, all learning will be cancelled, including remote learning. Remote learning must be cancelled because students who are learning in the building may not have their devices at home, and teachers who have been working in the building may not have the equipment or resources to teach from home. 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 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

## Board of Distinction

Everett Public Schools board of directors earned high honors with the designation as a *Board of Distinction 2020*. Applications are reviewed by a panel of judges that includes former and current educational service district superintendents, State Board of Education board members, former school directors and other education leaders in Washington state. Scoring is based on how well applicants show alignment with the Washington School Board Standards, support their statements with data and demonstrate a link between outcomes and decisions made by the board.



Everett Public Schools board of directors front: April Berg, Caroline Mason, Andrew Nicholls. Back: Pam LeSesne, Traci Mitchell

## Stay connected

With the increase of communications due to remote learning, it is very important the district has an updated phone number and email address in the communication system. Everett Public Schools believes communication with parents and the community is important and recently published a new resource called "[Stay Connected](#)" which shows the different ways you can regularly keep informed. Visit the communications overview page on the district's website for details.



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- 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:**

- Mary O'Brien
- 425-385-4106
- [MO'brien@everettsd.org](mailto:MO'brien@everettsd.org)
- PO Box 2098
- Everett, WA 98213

- **Section 504 Coordinator:**

- Dave Peters
- 425-385-4063
- [DPeters@everettsd.org](mailto:DPeters@everettsd.org)
- PO Box 2098
- Everett, WA 98213

- **ADA Coordinator:**

- Randi Seaberg
- 425-385-4104
- [RSeaberg@everettsd.org](mailto:RSeaberg@everettsd.org)
- PO Box 2098
- Everett, WA 98213