

Eisenhower Patriot News

EISENHOWER MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



DECEMBER 2018

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 4

From the Principal

Eisenhower Families,

It has fascinated me over the nearly 30 years I have been in education, how this time of year brings out such divergent emotions from students and staff. The energy level in a school between Thanksgiving and Winter Break is often at the highest level of the year, only closely followed by the energy heading into summer break.

There is a lot of energy for many students based on the excitement that the holidays represent for them and the change of venue for two full weeks. There is also a fair amount of angst and dread for many students as the two week break is an absence from the consistency and predictability of school, and this does not represent an exciting time for them.

This year, the staff at Eisenhower has begun to focus a significant amount of our time together on Social Emotional Learning. We recognize, and have inherently known for years, that more important than content knowledge to students at this age is how they feel about their experience in middle school. Maya Angelou said it best when she penned: *I've learned that people will forget what you've said, people will forget what you did, but they will never forget the way you made them feel.*

Some of you may remember a letter that was sent home earlier in the year letting you know that students would be taking a perception survey. This survey is put out by Panorama Ed and helps the staff at Eisenhower get a sense of how students feel about their experience within the walls of our school. We have taken that data and have begun to work as a staff to address areas where we can improve how students feel about their middle school experience.

One step we have taken is to provide our students with some specific social and emotional learning. We are utilizing a curriculum titled Second Steps, which addresses and provides students opportunities to discuss how to handle situations that they may experience in middle school. The most recent topic was peer relationships and how to handle difficult situations. These vignettes are facilitated by teachers and each month there is a different topic for viewing and discussion.

In the spring we will once again administer the Panorama survey to students and see if our efforts have improved students' feelings about school in the specific areas we have targeted.

As always, thank you for sharing your children with us. The energy they provide, the challenges they present, and the growth they exhibit throughout their time with us, provides us with the greatest joy of all.

Respectfully,

Kevin

Kevin Allen
Principal

Eisenhower Middle School
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Dec. 7

Learning Improvement Friday

Dec. 14

Learning Improvement Friday

Dec. 21

Learning Improvement Friday

Dec. 24-Jan. 4

Winter Break – School closed



Counselors will be presenting the yearly Signs of Suicide training through Science classrooms during December and January. The curriculum is aimed at helping students recognize signs of depression and how to get help from a trusted adult. Letters with additional information will be sent home with students prior to the lesson.

Robotics Regional Qualifier is December 9th at Cascade High School
Come support IKE Robotics teams and watch their robots solve problems about outer space!

Eisenhower Toy Drive

The Eisenhower ASB is proud to be holding a toy drive benefitting Christmas House, a non-profit organization benefitting the Everett community. In addition to new toys, they are in dire need of stocking stuffers for middle and high school age students! Please bring in all donations to the office or Mrs. Sadowsky's classroom by Friday, December 7.

Suggestions for stocking stuffers: gloves, mittens, hats, small toys, Chapstick, cosmetics, cards, silly putty, puzzles, books, pencils, erasers, highlighters, pens, nail polish, jewelry, bath bombs, travel size toiletries, and toothbrushes.





Chess Club

Thursday's from 3-4pm in Portable 2

All skill levels are welcome, beginner to expert!

Contact Mr. Aitken for more information: SAitken@everettsd.org

PTSA News

Thank you very much to everyone who donated items and or money for the Conference Week Staff Appreciation and Thanksgiving Pies for staff. We really appreciate your generosity!

Please save January 8, 2019 for our second PTSA Membership Meeting of the year. Officer Coats will be our guest speaker at this meeting. If you have any questions or would like him to address a specific topic, please email ikeptsa@hotmail.com and we will forward it on to him.

Nominating Committee elections will be held at our January meeting. This team will identify candidates for President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer for the 2019-2020 school year. If you would like to be elected to this committee, please let us know. This is a great opportunity to help shape the future of our PTSA.

Fun Run sponsors needed! The PTSA's Annual Fun Run is taking place on March 21st. We are seeking prize sponsors. If you are interested in being a sponsor as an individual, family or business, please email ikeptsa@hotmail.com and a sponsorship package will be emailed to you. Sponsorship levels are:

- \$50.00 - \$99.00 - Prize Sponsor
- \$100 - \$199 - Top Tier Prize Sponsor
- \$200 - \$299 - Splash Chair Sponsor
- \$300+ - Grand Prize Sponsor

With your sponsorship, more of the funds raised by our students during the fun run will go back to supporting PTSA programs including, but not limited to staff grants that support all students and staff at our school. Please let us know by January 31st if you or someone you know would like to be a sponsor. Thank you!

Help Wanted! The PTSA still needs your help with the following teams: Family Fun Nights, Spelling Bee, Advocacy, Family and Community Engagement, Procurement, Staff Appreciation and 8th Grade Dance. If you are interested in helping on any of these teams, please email ikeptsa@hotmail.com and you will be connected to the other team members.

If you have any questions, please email the PTSA Board of Directors at ikeptsa@hotmail.com. Thank you!



Library News

Coming Soon...

Drop Everything and Read Day!

Students can pick up a field trip form from Mrs. Papenhausen in the library. Fill out the permission slip with all your teachers signature and get signed up. There is limited space. Join us all day in the library, Friday, December 21 8:25-1:35. Bring a pillow and great books to have a quiet read day.



DEAR Day
Bring your book!

6th graders are invited to join The Lunch Bunch Book Club. Students meet with friends at lunch once a month to pick and discuss interesting titles. Attend our first meeting, December 13. Club will start after Winter Break. See Mrs. Estabrook in the library for more details.



Complete the Winter Break Reading Bingo and earn a seal!
Forms will be available December 21.



Ongoing Programs:



Makerspace
at your library

Movie Theater Library



Happy Reading, Gwen Papenhausen
Teacher Librarian
gpapenhausen@everettsd.org
425-385-7624



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 situation.

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
- watch district [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) accounts



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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, 425-385-4104
- Title IX Officer – Mary O'Brien, MO'Brien@everettsd.org, 425-385-4106
- 504 Coordinator – Becky Ballbach, rballbach@everettsd.org, 425-385-4063
- ADA Coordinator – Becky Clifford, rclifford@everettsd.org, 425-385-5250