

# Forest View Elementary Falcon News

FOREST VIEW ELEMENTARY PARENT NEWSLETTER

December 2019



## *From the Principal*

Dear Forest View Elementary Community,

Welcome to December! This is my favorite time of the year – the holiday season is a time of thanks, gratitude, and appreciation. Going into this month, coming out of the Thanksgiving Holiday, I have been reflecting on the many things that I am thankful for here at Forest View and I wanted to share some of them with you.

- We have an amazing student body. From our kindergarteners and their eagerness to be engaged learners, their wonder at the content they are exposed to and the joy of being a student, to our fifth graders and the wisdom they have gained, the dreams they are developing, and the character they have developed. I am grateful that your children show respect and kindness to each other every day. I am grateful that your children show an excitement for learning here each and every day. And, I am grateful that your children give their best efforts and show a growth mindset to be their very best every day!
- We have a wonderful and supportive parent community. I can't express enough gratitude for our parent volunteers, our PTA, our art docents, our WatchDOG dads – thank you so much for supporting your children both here and at home. We know that each of you are committed to your children's success in education and life, and we are grateful for your decision to partner with us in their journey through elementary school!
- We have an amazing and talented staff here at Forest View and I am grateful and lucky to get to work with each of them every day. Our paraeducators and classified staff, who oversee so many important aspects of the school day, care deeply about our students and work hard to constantly improve our school processes, educational program, and student culture. Our teaching staff is committed to the learning and mastery of standards for each student and works tirelessly together to support your children in their learning and growth. We have amazing support staff as well in the office and in other programs who collaborate so well to support all of our learners, no matter their needs or challenges.

**Darren Larama**

*Principal, Forest View Elementary*  
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Everett, WA 98208  
[www.everettsd.org/forestview](http://www.everettsd.org/forestview)

### **December 2**

G2 – G5 Winter Concert 7:00

### **December 6**

LIF Early Release at 2:15

### **December 6**

PTA Toymaker Night at FVE

### **December 11**

FVE Violin Program Concert 7:00

### **December 13**

LIF Early Release at 2:15

### **December 18**

HC Parent Referral Packets due to District

### **December 20**

LIF Early Release at 2:15

### **December 23 – Jan 3**

No School – Winter Break



### **January 6**

Back to school!

I am so grateful to be a member of this school community. Before the Thanksgiving break I asked the staff to engage in a culture building activity – to write a brief note to a colleague expressing thanks or appreciation. I was so thrilled to see these little yellow notes tacked up around the building in classrooms and offices and it was a great reminder of how wonderful it feels to say something kind and encouraging to someone, and to receive such a note. Going into the holiday season I would encourage each of you to engage in the same activity at home to foster and strengthen our students' spirit of thankfulness and attitude of gratitude. Please let me know if you would like some of our Thankful cards for your family to use!

On Monday we got to hear an amazing performance from our 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at the Everett Civic Auditorium. I am so proud of our students showcasing what they have learned so far in music under the teaching and direction of Ms Nye. We are so glad to have her as part of our Forest View team this year! Thank you parents for packing out the Civic Auditorium in support of your children, for staying through the whole show, and for enthusiastically applauding our talented performers! Now, let's just hope those songs celebrating Snow are not prophetic!

Please take time this month to enjoy the winter holiday season with your loved ones. I want to, once again, express my appreciation for your support of your children, our school and our staff; and to repeat that it is a joy and privilege to work with your children each day. I wish each of you all of the best in this holiday season!

Darren Larama  
Principal, Forest View Elementary

## School Safety Updates

Parents who use rolling drop off – you may have noticed two new sandwich board signs warning of pedestrians crossing. A safety concern was reported that some cars are speeding to the parking lot exit after dropping off their children in the morning. This is an unsafe practice as some families choose to cross to the sidewalk from the parking lot near the exit and may not always be visible with the high volume of cars in the lot. The signs are meant to draw drivers' attention to the absolute necessity of driving slow and alertly through the lot, through the exit, and obey traffic laws and speeds on 156<sup>th</sup> and Puget Park drive.

## 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%

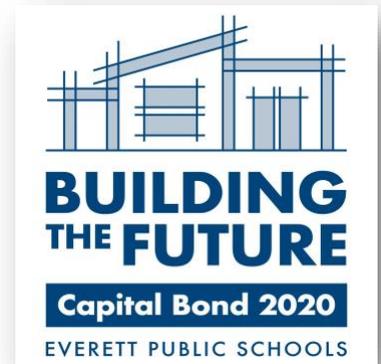
Our graduation rate jumped even higher for the 12th year in a row. Now 95.9 percent of our students graduate on time, the highest rate on record. The increase in graduation rates can be attributed to the strategically aligned work of district and school staff. It is a focus for everyone, no matter their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

## 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

## 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.**

## 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](#).

## 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.

## 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 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

## 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!



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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.

Designated to handle inquiries about nondiscrimination policies are:

- Title IX Officer/Civil Rights Compliance Officer – Mary O'Brien, [MO'Brien@everettsd.org](mailto:MO'Brien@everettsd.org), 425-385-4106, PO Box 2098, Everett, WA 98213
- 504 Coordinator – Becky Ballbach, [rballbach@everettsd.org](mailto:rballbach@everettsd.org), 425-385-4063, PO Box 2098, Everett, WA 98213
- ADA Coordinator – Randi Seaberg, [rseaberg@everettsd.org](mailto:rseaberg@everettsd.org), 425-385-4104, PO Box 2098, Everett, WA 98213