

Whittier Wildcat News

WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



November 2023

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 3

From the Principal

Welcome to November Whittier families! I want to first start off by thanking our amazing Whittier PTA for their hard work in organizing the PTA “Trunk of Treat” event that took place last week. What an amazing gathering for our students and families. Thank you so much to all families who created incredible vehicle displays to make it such a meaningful experience for everyone. Thank you to our Natural Leaders parent and staff team for creating the “Día de los Muertos” booth to provide students and families with an opportunity to recognize family members who have passed. We really appreciate seeing all families supporting the Whittier community. It was a great way to finish the month of October!

Whittier would like to honor and recognize family members of students who have served or are currently serving in the military by having students complete a Veterans Day “Wall of Honor” Star. Stars were distributed to all students last week, but students can also pick up additional stars in the office. Please drop off returned stars to the office so they can be placed on the “Wall of Honor” in our cafeteria. This will be an opportunity to recognize the veterans who have served our country as well as those who are currently serving our country. Thank you!

Parents, **Whittier’s fall parent/teacher conference week will take place Monday, November 13 through Friday, November 17.** You will have the opportunity to meet with your child’s teacher to find out about their individual progress, learn about the great things happening in your child’s classroom, and find out how to support your child at home while working in partnership with your child’s teacher. If you have not already scheduled a parent conference with your child’s teacher, please contact your child’s teacher right away. During parent/teacher conference week, student dismissal will be at 12:20 p.m. every day (11/13-11/17).

As the season of giving thanks and the beginning of our winter weather arrives, I hope you can all find the time to stop and reflect on the many wonderful things in our lives. Here at Whittier, I am very thankful to be able to work with a dedicated, kind, caring, and passionate staff to help every child succeed. I am also thankful that you have chosen to bring your children to Whittier. It is our goal and responsibility to teach, inspire, and prepare your children to do great things with their lives.

I want to thank all our parents and guardians for the love and support you give your children to be successful learners and kind, caring young individuals. Your support makes a significant difference in their success at Whittier. Have a wonderful Thanksgiving season and stay happy and healthy. Thank you for everything you do!

-Tony Wentworth, Principal

Tony Wentworth

Principal
Whittier Elementary School
916 Oakes Avenue,
Everett, WA 98201
www.everettsd.org/whittier

November 3

Favorite College Spirit Day
Early Release-12:20 PM Dismissal

November 6

Natural Leaders Meeting - Library 6PM

November 8

Veteran’s Day Assemblies

November 9

Popcorn Thursday
Natural Leader’s World Potluck

November 10

NO SCHOOL-Teacher Workday

November 13-17

Parent Conference Week
12:20 PM Dismissal All Week

November 15

Designated Evening Conference Night
5-7 PM

November 22-24

Thanksgiving Break-No School

November 27

PTA Meeting in Library 7PM

Whittier Library

November 2023 Library News

Hello Whittier Families,

November is Native American Heritage Month in the United States of America. It is a time to show appreciation and recognize the many contributions of Indigenous peoples.

During library, classes will watch some short videos and hear a story to learn about some of the cultures and experiences of Indigenous peoples. Students are also encouraged to check out a book from our heritage month display.

Throughout the year students will have similar opportunities for heritage months, such as last month we had opportunities for Hispanic Heritage Month. Please refer to our library website for more information and support.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Heininger
Whittier Librarian
sheininger@everettsd.org
(425) 385-4308



A **BIG thank you** to all who shopped during our September book fair. Money earned goes directly to our library, and I have been busy ordering books that students recommend. Erin Sylvester is our PTA parent that organizes our fairs and volunteers. We really appreciate all our volunteers!

We have a wide variety of students with experiences and needs that we are providing resources for. Inclusivity is seeing yourself in print. Learning is seeing someone else's perspective in print. Families should work with their student to select reading material that is in keeping with their values. We are providing materials for all.

How does book checkout work? Every 3 days!

K-1 can bring 1 book home.

2nd graders can bring home up to 2 books.

3-5th grades can bring home up to 3 books.

*Please help your student take care of books at home and return them to school. Books are overdue after 2 weeks. Your student can ask to renew books too. Thank you.



Whittier PTA



Hello, Wildcats!

It has been a fun but busy fall here at Whittier! Thanks to our community's past generosity, the PTA has done some exciting things this fall. Our 3rd annual Trunk or Treat was a huge success thanks to PTA member, Alexa Sheraton, and all the staff/family volunteers. We loved having the Natural Leaders join us with their Día de los Muertos display and activities too!

The Read-a-Thon fall fundraiser ended last Friday. A special thanks to our PTA secretary, Emily Bott, for organizing another successful fundraiser which brought in \$9,608.00 for our PTA! This money goes into our general fund and helps with 5th grade camp, curriculum support tools, teacher

grants and much more. Way to go Wildcats!

Our Teacher Grants Committee has been busy reviewing grant applications and are happy to share ALL requests were funded this year! This year's grants will help improve parking lot safety, provide social emotional learning tools, sensory support items in the classrooms, a book repair machine for our library and so much more. Nothing we love more than putting our PTA dollars back into the classrooms!

Our hospitality team, Mara Wiltshire and Heather Lockhart, put on an incredible lunch for our staff in October. We are so thankful for the love and talent they pour into our Whittier staff.

We are kicking off the holiday season with our Stadium Flowers wreath sale. Fliers have been sent home with students. Don't forget to place your orders!

Everyone has a place in PTA. We help you stay informed, connect you to other families and make those elementary years fun for our students! We hope you'll join PTA, and we believe any amount of participation is important. Membership is \$10/member this year. You can join online at this link or by scanning the QR code below.

<https://www.memberplanet.com/packetview/whittierpta7-3-55/joinwhittierpta>

Wishing you and your families a happy, healthy fall!

The Whittier Elementary PTA
Amanda McCaskey - President
Trista Taylor - Vice President
Emily Bott - Secretary
Heather Ethier - Treasurer



IMPORTANT INFORMATION: SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Please read below for essential information regarding school attendance.



- **ALL families must report student absences to the Whittier OFFICE.**
You may report an absence one of two ways:

1. Call the Attendance Line at **425-385-4305** and leave a voicemail.
2. Send an email to WHEAttendance@everettsd.org

It is great to notify your teacher of an absence, but **the only way to excuse an absence is by contacting the office.**

- **To excuse an absence, a parent/guardian must provide a reason.**
(Examples: illness, mental health day, travel, doctor appt, etc.)

- **Students arriving after 8:35 AM are tardy and must check-in at the office for a pass.**
- **Students arriving after 9:05 AM are considered absent and must check-in at the office for a pass.**
A parent/guardian must provide a reason to excuse the partial day absence.
- **Students are granted up to 5 excused days each school year for travel/vacation.**
Complete and return the [Prearranged Absence Form](#) to the office BEFORE your trip.

Whittier Watch D.O.G.S.



❄️ **Tis the Season for Dads to Shine at Whittier Elementary!** ❄️

As we head into the holiday season, what better gift to give your child than your time?

Hey there, awesome Dads and father figures! Looking for a way to sprinkle some holiday magic into your child's life? We've got just the thing – the Watch D.O.G.S. program at Whittier Elementary School. It's the most wonderful way to make your child's eyes light up with joy!

Join our Watch D.O.G.S. team and become a real-life superhero to your child and their friends. Imagine you at school, playing games during recess, and helping in class. It's a holiday treat in the making!

But wait, there's more: Your role as a Watch D.O.G.S. volunteer isn't just fun, it creates lifelong memories and boosts your child's education and well-being. Studies prove kids with positive male role models excel academically, socially, and emotionally.

Don't wait! Email us TODAY at watchdogs.whittier@gmail.com to get on the list for upcoming events or for more information on joining the Watch D.O.G.S. at Whittier Elementary School and gift your child a caring super-dad who ensures their safety and education. It's the most wonderful way to be your child's hero!

Ready to make this season special? Sign up today and let the Watch D.O.G.S. adventure begin!

Email: watchdogs.whittier@gmail.com | Link: <https://www.whittierwatchdogs.com>

Scan the QR code for more info!





Native American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month

November is Native American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month. What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S., has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose.



Daylight Saving Time Ends



November 5, 2023, Daylight Savings Time Ends and we “fall back” one hour.

Remember to vote Nov. 7

Remember to deliver your ballot to a ballot drop box near you or put it in the mail by Nov. 7. Postage is not required for ballots.



November Holidays – schools closed

This is a friendly reminder there is no school on November 10 for Veterans Day and for Thanksgiving break, which is November 22 - 24.

School performance report

Each school's performance report is available online on our school's website. More information is available on the [Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction website](#). At the bottom under data and research, click on “School Report Card” and select Everett from the list of districts.

Harvest of the Month

This month, the Food and Nutrition department brings you squash grown in the PNW! Be sure to give them a try this month in our roasted squash or pumpkin custard!

Did you know there are two groups of squash, winter and summer? Find out more by checking out the Harvest of the Month flyer on the district [website](#).

May the gourd be with you!





There is still time to enroll your preschooler!

There is space available in our Early Childhood Education & Assistance Program (ECEAP)! This incredible program is for 3- and 4-year-old children from families with limited income and are enrolled in our schools. Learn more at www.everettsd.org/ECEAP.



Is your family prepared?



[Snohomish County Emergency Management](#) has helpful online resources to help you create and practice emergency response plans with your family and neighborhood in preparation for bad weather.

Important FAFSA/WASFA changes



Big changes are coming to financial aid applications this year! The 2024-25 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will not be available until December 2023. The WASFA (Washington Application for State Financial Aid) will also be delayed until the FAFSA opens.

Applications usually open October 1 of a student's senior year, so this is a major shift in the college planning process. The good news is that this delay is due to positive changes. The FAFSA form will be shorter and less complex, more students will be eligible for federal Pell Grants, and the average Pell award will be larger. Stay tuned for more information and find [resources](#) from the Washington Student Achievement Council.

Online safety tips

- Keep the computer in a busy area of your home.
- Use an app to keep an eye on your child's online activity on their device.
- Talking about cyberbullying; ask if someone they know has been a victim. Ask if they have been victimized.
- Set up email and social media accounts with your children. Know their screen names and passwords and explain the reasons for not including any personal information in profiles.

Know who is in the "buddy lists." Get to know the cyberfriends just as you do those who visit your home. Parents and guardians may find the following resources helpful to begin a conversation about the dangers of engaging in cyberbullying and how to stay safe online:

- [Stop Bullying Now](#)
- [Ms. Parry's Guide to Correct Online Etiquette](#)
- [Common Sense Media](#)

Find out what Everett Public Schools students learn about digital citizenship on the [district website](#).



Is my child too sick for school?

Is my child too sick to go to school? It is no fun being sick, but we also care about protecting students and their families from contagious diseases, so we ask you keep your student home when they are sick.

Keeping ill students at home and encouraging frequent hand washing protects us all. While we regret any inconvenience this may cause, following these guidelines will result in fewer absences and less illnesses overall.

Please visit the [district's website](#) to learn more. If you still have questions about whether your student is healthy enough to come to school, contact the school nurse or your child's health care provider.

Is my child too sick to go to school?

Because we care about protecting students and their families from contagious diseases, we ask that you keep your student home when they are sick. Keeping ill students at home and encouraging frequent hand washing protects all.

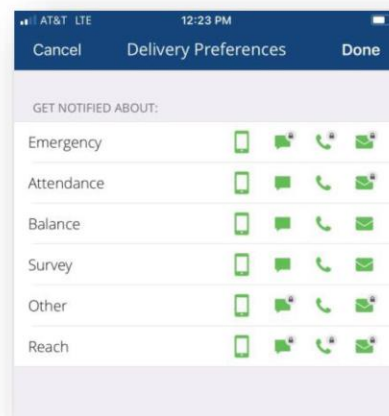
While we regret any inconvenience this may cause, following these guidelines will result in fewer absences and less illnesses overall.

EVERETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Receive information the way you prefer

This is a friendly reminder that parents and guardians can select their preferred method of communication so they will not get the same message in multiple formats unless they choose to. Below are some steps to take:

- Download the district's mobile app. One of the many features is to select your delivery preferences. Once you have signed into your account, click on your profile tile and then "Edit Delivery Preferences" at the top.
 - Click on the icon for app, text, phone or email to turn off that mode. Green indicates the mode is turned on. Some modes are locked, as indicated with the lock in the upper corner of the icon.
- Keep your contact information current by updating the "Annual Student Update Form 2023-2024" in Home Access Center or by letting your school office know anytime there is a change.
- Please visit the communications department webpage for a list of timely and relevant information to strengthen connections among families, staff and community.



Play and Learn



Play and Learn is a free program for children from birth thru age five and their parents or caregivers to have fun playing together, creating art, listening to stories and singing songs! Sessions are held five days a week from 10:30 a.m. to noon at four locations.

[Click to learn more and see calendar.](#)

Please visit [GoFan](#) to get your tickets today or scan the QR code.



EVERETT
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MODEST
FREE MARKET

Emerson Elementary School
8720 7th Ave SE
Everett, WA 98208

<https://everett-wa.safeschoolsalert.com>

[illegible]



3900 Broadway
Everett, WA 98201
425-385-4000
www.everettsd.org

• 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 and ADA Coordinator:**

• Chad Golden
• 425-385-4100
• CGolden@everettsd.org
• PO Box 2098
• Everett, WA 98213

Section 504 Coordinator:

Dave Peters
425-385-4063
DPeters@everettsd.org
PO Box 2098
Everett, WA 98213