

Whittier Wildcat News

WHITTIER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



December 2023

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 4

From the Principal

Welcome to December! The holiday season is a time of gratitude, and it is also a time for all of us to purposefully appreciate the wonderful things we have in our lives, such as our children and how inspiring they can be. As we head into the month of December and the holiday season, I see many things at Whittier that makes me thankful to be here working with your children. I want to thank your children for being the great people they are who make Whittier a great school community. They consistently demonstrate the "Whittier Way" every day to be safe, to be respectful and to be their best, and they are leaders who take care of each other so we can all be our best selves.

- I appreciate how your children demonstrate respect and kindness to each other every day.
- I appreciate how your children care for and support each other every day as a community.
- I appreciate the passion and excitement for learning your children bring to class every day.

Parents and guardians, I would like to thank you for your incredible partnership with Whittier to ensure that your children are coming to school every day, ready to learn, and engaging in learning so that they have successful experiences at Whittier. During parent conference week in mid-November, we had 97.5% parent participation for parent conferences with teachers. This is amazing and it is a significant indicator of the importance of our partnerships with families. Thank you!

As we head into the final month of the calendar year, I do want to remind families that our Whittier All-School Winter Concert which has traditionally be in December, has been moved to Tuesday, January 30, 2024, so please mark your calendar. However, we do have some fun holiday festivities planned. This Friday, December 1st, we will be hosting Whittier's first movie night of the year and we will be showing "The Grinch" (2018 animated movie version) at 6:30 p.m. in the Whittier cafeteria. Doors will open at 6:00 p.m. and snacks will be available for purchase. The Whittier PTA will also be hosting a cookie raffle at movie night during the intermission, so you can bring a batch of cookies/sweet treats to the main office or directly to the event on Friday (homemade or store bought). Raffle tickets will be on sale during movie night. We hope you can join us!

We will have two upcoming Whittier spirit days in December - next **Friday, December 8th will be Whittier's "Holiday Ugly Sweater Spirit Day"** and **Friday, December 15th will be the "Dress Your Holiday Best Spirit Day."** And as a reminder, Friday, December 15th will be a half-day so we will have a 12:20 p.m. early dismissal as we head into the winter break. The Everett Public Schools Winter Break is from December 18th – January 1st.

Whittier is always here to support all families, and we know there may be Whittier families who might be struggling to secure basic needs like food and shelter. Please reach out to us if you need any help or access to urgent basic needs during the holiday season. If you are currently experiencing a hardship and need assistance over the holidays, please contact Stefani Koetje, Whittier's school counselor at SKoetje@everettsd.org or Marci Cooper, Whittier's office manager at mcooper@everettsd.org. We are always willing to discuss all options and possible resources to help and support you.

Please take the time to enjoy the winter holiday season with your loved ones. I want to express my appreciation for your support of Whittier and say again what a joy and pleasure it is to have your children attend Whittier. I wish you all the best in the holiday season.

-Tony Wentworth, Principal

Tony Wentworth

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

December 1

PTA Movie Night in Cafeteria-6 PM
LIF Early Release 1:35 PM Dismissal

December 3

Robotics Competition at EVG MS-all day

December 8

"Ugly Holiday Sweater" Spirit Day
Popcorn Friday
LIF Early Release 1:35 PM Dismissal

December 15

Dress your Holiday Best Spirit Day
Early Release 12:20 Dismissal

December 18-January 1

NO SCHOOL-Winter Break

January 2

Return from Holiday Break

January 3

Hearing Screening Day

January 5

LIF Early Release 1:35 PM Dismissal

January 8

PTA Meeting in Library 7PM

January 30

Winter Holiday Concert
EHS Civic Auditorium 6:30-7:45

Whittier PTA



Hello, Wildcats!

November saw our fall fundraisers: Read-a-thon and Stadium Flowers wreath sales. Our students read over 40,000 minutes collectively and raised over \$10,000.00 for our second ever Read-a-thon! Thank you for encouraging your child to read, helping them fill out reading logs and donating. The money raised will build up our PTA general fund, which is allocated to teacher grants, popcorn Fridays, all of our events, uniform assistance, WOW prizes and so much more. Our sincere thanks to our fundraiser chairperson, Emily Bott, for spearheading and running the Read-a-thon.

The Stadium Flowers wreath sale is always a Whittier holiday favorite. This year we raised \$1,435.00 to go towards our 5th grade camp fund for next year. Your orders will be ready for pick-up here at Whittier on December 5th. Thank you to our chairperson, Trista Taylor, for organizing this successful fundraiser! She will be contacting everyone who ordered soon with more details.

The art docent program is in full swing. Art docents do an art project in each class once a month. Students learn something new and get to express themselves creatively. Would you like to volunteer to lead or assist with a project in your student's class? The project and guidance are provided. If interested, contact Tiffany Nash at whittierartprogram@gmail.com

Join us in your favorite pajamas this Friday, December 1st for our first ever holiday themed movie night & cookie dessert raffle! Doors open in the cafeteria at 6:00pm, movie (The Grinch animated version) starts at 6:30pm. Bring your wrapped homemade or store-bought holiday treats to the office by Friday to contribute to our dessert raffle. All money raised will go towards our 5th grade camp fund!

The PTA has many fun events planned after December, including the Glow Dance and a Bingo night! If you would like to help with any of these or other upcoming events, or just stay in the loop-become a PTA member! It puts you on our email list so we can keep you informed about events and volunteer opportunities. You can join the PTA at [memberplanet.com/s/whittierpta7-3-55/joinwhittierpta](https://www.memberplanet.com/s/whittierpta7-3-55/joinwhittierpta)

Wishing you and your family a very happy winter holiday season!
Hello, Wildcats!

<https://www.memberplanet.com/packageview/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

The gift of attendance

Absences spike in the weeks before and after the winter holidays as families squeeze in a few more vacation days. Just a few missed days here and there, even excused absences, can add up and lost learning time can 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.



Every day of school is an important opportunity for students to learn as well as to connect with their peers and teachers. As long as your child is healthy, please encourage showing up to class when school is in session.

If your child is absent, please email the school at their attendance email address, which you can find on the school website. If email is not possible, and even if you leave a message with the school attendance line, please send a written note to the school office within 30 days after your student returns to school.

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.



Harvest of the Month

This month, the Food and Nutrition Department brings you brussels sprouts grown in the PNW! Be sure to give them a try this month seasoned and roasted!

Did you know that brussels sprouts are packed with more vitamin C than an orange? Find out more by checking out the Harvest of the Month flyer on the district [website](#).

Sprouts of Joy!



Play and Learn

Play and Learn is a free program for children from birth through 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.](#)



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.

The six ECEAP sites within our school district are Cedar Wood, Hawthorne, Jackson, Lowell, Madison, and Silver Lake elementary schools. Space is limited – apply now! For an application or more information, please visit the www.everettsd.org/ECEAP or call 425-385-4628.

Transitional Kindergarten Program

Did you know Transitional Kindergarten is designed to give your child a strong start on their educational journey? EPS offers Transitional Kindergarten for children who are not currently in an early learning program and age eligible to enter kindergarten in EPS in fall 2024.

Enrollment for Transitional Kindergarten begins with the submission of an Interest Form, which is available on our [website](#). This will be followed by a screening, which is a fun and interactive assessment used to determine your child's developmental strengths and needs. During this time, your child will engage one on one with the screening proctor for a variety of games and activities. Screening will be held in late November and early December.

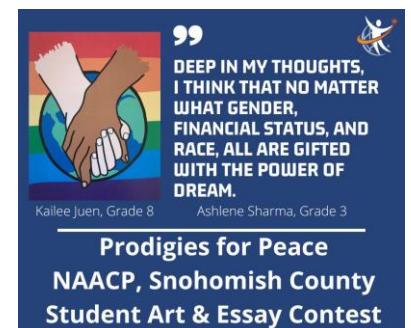


For more information, visit: www.everettsd.org/TransitionalKindergarten. Deadline to submit Interest Form is December 12.

Prodigies for Peace Essay and Art Contest

Please see the Snohomish County Black Heritage Committee sponsored [23rd Annual 2024 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prodigies for Peace Essay and Art Contest](#). The deadline this year is December 15, 2023.

Awards will be presented at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration the weekend of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



Accepting Highly Capable referrals until Dec. 15

The Highly Capable (HC) Program in Everett Public Schools is designed to meet learning needs and challenge students who have advanced thinking and academic abilities. Highly Capable classes are open to students in second, third, fourth and fifth grades. HC students learn and study in self-contained classrooms with a fast-paced curriculum that encourages and inspires them to develop higher-level thinking skills. HC classrooms are held in seven schools in the district, based on qualified enrollment. For more information on the Highly Capable program, please visit the district website to view an informational power point and timeline: www.everettsd.org/highlycapable and [Parent/Guardian Information PowerPoint](#)

If you think your student would benefit from a challenging option like the Highly Capable Program and you would like to refer them for testing, you must complete the [Parent Referral for Testing Form](#).

The deadline to submit the referral form is Friday, December 15, 2023. If you choose to refer your student for testing, the results will be shared with you in May. If you have questions about this process, please call the Highly Capable Office at 425-385-4033.

Information regarding school closures and late starts



New resources have been added to [Parent University](#), including a video highlight information regarding school closures and late starts. [Watch the video here.](#)



If you have additional topics you would like to suggest for Parent University, please email communications@everettsd.org.

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 5:00 a.m. (or sometimes the night before if it can already be determined) with a brief message about the reason for closure or delay. We will also use local media, social 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

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](#) under the "Snow Routes" icon in the center of the page.

Board of Distinction

Everett Public Schools board of directors earned high honors with the designation as a *Board of Distinction 2023*. 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.



Calendar reminder

This is a friendly reminder that **Winter Break is December 18 to January 1**, with classes resuming on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

New features on the mobile app!

Registering for middle and high school sports AND school athletic schedules can now be found on the EPS App! Grab your smartphone and go to the iTunes App Store® or Google Play®, search Everett Public Schools, then select our app for free download. Game ON!
Learn more at www.everettsd.org/MobileApp



Guaranteed Admissions Program



Everett Public Schools (EPS) is in its second year partnering with the Washington Guaranteed Admissions Program (WAGAP), which guarantees admission to Central Washington University, Eastern Washington University, The Evergreen State College, Saint Martin's University, University of Washington Tacoma, Washington State University and Western Washington University, and its first year partnering with the Automatic Admissions Partnership, which guarantees admission to Pacific Lutheran University to help students meet their college and career goals.

To be eligible for guaranteed admissions to the eight participating institutions, students must have or be on track to earn by graduation a 3.0 GPA (3.3 for Pacific Lutheran University) and complete the college academic distribution requirement coursework.

The primary objective of this collaboration is to reach students who may have never contemplated pursuing a college education or didn't consider themselves college ready. The partnership is committed to nurturing the college and career aspirations of Washington's students. If a student dreams of earning a bachelor's degree, there is a place for them at one of the state's public baccalaureate institutions or two of the state's private universities.

In EPS, 560 seniors were identified this fall as guaranteed admission eligible (446 for Pacific Lutheran University) and received acceptance notifications. After receiving the letter, students then complete an admission application and additional requirements by the institution. The guaranteed admission program does not provide financial aid or cover the cost of college, so students will need to complete the FAFSA or WASFA and contact the financial aid office of the colleges for financial aid and scholarship information.

Meet your Regional Superintendent

Each Regional Superintendent recently recorded an introduction video for [Parent University](#). Click the link below each image to watch.

Meet your Regional Superintendent

Region 1



[Dr. Pete Mizner, Region 1](#)

Meet your Regional Superintendent

Region 2



[Dr. Cathy Woods, Region 2](#)

Meet your Regional Superintendent

Region 3



[Larry Fleckenstein, Region 3](#)



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