

Falling in Love with FALL

By Principal Farias

Hello, families. Fall is one of my favorite seasons for the food, fun, and beautiful changes that occur outside! Remember to send your children with a warm coat as the temperature starts to drop! It can get quite chilly during our morning line-up, recess, and afternoon dismissal. Some other reminders I'd like to share follow:

If you have a 3rd-5th grader, they may soon share that they've been able to practice Smarter Balanced Assessment on our Chromebooks with our District's Director of Assessment and Research, Dr. Matthews. These practice tests and interims are intended to give students exposure to the test format, an understanding of the tools, and to give teachers information to assess what skills and targets students already know or need more instruction for the Summative State SBA in May.

Some of our students are already taking their learning OFF CAMPUS through engaging and safe field trips. As more and more classes get to tackle real world learning with their class offsite, I want to remind parents interested in chaperoning to have a current volunteer application completed. Also, if you are a chaperone, volunteer at school, or attending one of our school events, please remember to keep students' privacy in mind. I've had a few families wondering about taking pictures at events. Of course we want you to capture

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A Word from Your PTA Presidents...

Oct. 28, 2016

Many of you may know that I have been a Cub Scout Leader for several years. In Cub Scout, we focus on a trait every month that the boys try to work on and develop. For the month of October our Cub Scout Pack focused on acts of kindness. This focus on kindness seems very appropriate after attending this month's PTA meeting. For those of you who were unable to attend, the main topic of conversation was PTA Grants. PTA Grants are generally requests from teachers to fulfill wish lists of items that the district and building do not cover. This year the PTA was faced with a dilemma, \$5,000 in Grant money and over \$7,000 in Grant requests. We were going to have to tell some of the teachers that we would be unable to fulfill their requests.

Before the meeting started, a parent asked to donate an item on the wish list. Then we had a family ask if they could pay for one of the grant requests and take it off the list. Teachers were offering to remove items from their wish lists so we could lower the amounts requested. Ms. Farias agreed to cover a few of the items so that they could be removed from the list. Amanda's phone kept ringing with anonymous text messages with other donations. By the end of the evening, we were able to bring the grant requests to \$5,000 and cover everyone's requests either with donations or by teacher's removing a few items from their lists.

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Walk-a-thon!

Thursday, November 3

Remember to volunteer for our largest, annual fundraiser.

Red, White & Blue Day

Thursday, November 10

Show your school spirit in patriotic colors.

PTA Meeting

Thursday, November 10

Veterans Day - No school

Friday, November 11

Seahawks Day!

Friday, November 18

Celebrate in your finest blue and green Seahawks attire.

Popcorn Friday

Friday, November 18

Remember to bring your \$2.50 donations!

Free Family Movie Night

Friday, November 18

Join us for a screening of Zootopia. Cafeteria opens at 6 pm. Movie begins at 7.

Thanksgiving Break

November 24-25

Upcoming Events:

Winter Music Program

Tuesday, December 6th

7:00-8:00 p.m.

Everett Civic Auditorium at Everett High School

First Grade Musical

Thursday, March 23th

7:00-7:30 p.m.

Third Grade Musical

Thursday, April 27th

7:00-7:40 p.m.

Fifth Grade Musical

Monday, May 15th

7:00-7:45 p.m.

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memories—for example, our Winter Concert (which our amazing music teacher, Ms. Williams produces) is a great time to capture those WOW moments—but we should remember to be careful to maintain confidentiality and privacy for the safety of all students.

One tradition that View Ridge is excited to bring back this month is Storybook Character Day. With such a great celebration for our Summer Readers and Reading Challenge winners, the timing couldn't get any better! On October 31st students are encouraged to dress up as their favorite storybook character. This day should NOT be confused for Halloween, as this is a holiday NOT celebrated at school. Instead, this should be a day to celebrate literature and our love for reading. Therefore, participating students should wear clothing that reflects a real character from a real book that is kid appropriate. Students should know the title and/or author of the story where their character can be found, and to even wear this as a nametag! Many classrooms may be also taking this as an opportunity for having goodies, such as a Harvest Party. As always, let's strive to promote healthy choices and remember that all treats must be store bought.

Natural Leaders is having its first meeting on Nov. 3rd at 6 pm. If you speak another language other than English and want to get involved in the school community, please come, enjoy some food, and learn more! Red, White, and Blue Day is November 10th: To celebrate our nation and our veterans, students are invited to wear the colors of the flag on this special day! I hope to see many families at our assembly that day!

WatchDOGS Kickoff is coming on Nov 15th @6:30pm! Are you a dad, uncle, grandpa, or important male role model for a View Ridge student? Join us to find out how you can participate in this amazing program and spend time at school with your student! Come to View Ridge, bring your student, have some pizza and take part in a terrific event! See you here!

Attendance Updates and Reminders- A Must Read!

Attendance is a critical component of academic growth and success, so it is important for students to be here, on time, every day. If they are ill, it's always best to keep them home, but try to keep other types of absences and/or tardies to an absolute minimum.

The state BECCA Law now requires elementary schools to expand parent/guardian conferences for students who have acquired 5 days of excused absences in a month or 10 or more excused days in a school year. This new legislation went into effect last June. Under the old statute, this conference was only required for students who had unexcused absences. On top of this, every time your student acquires 4 tardies, it now equals 1 absence. We have begun sending out our initial BECCA letters, which might come as a surprise to many families as this did not happen in previous years. With the new legislation, families are given multiple notifications, but after 10 or more absences, it is possible to be summoned to court.

Please be aware of the consequences of frequent absences, both academically and legally, and schedule appointments, vacations and other events after school hours. We want your student here so we can help them learn! If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the main office.

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In all my years at View Ridge, I have never witnessed such a wonderful outpouring of kindness and community. Amanda and I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the grant donations. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Among other things happening at View Ridge is the Walkathon, which is our major fund raiser for the year. The students have been raising money for the month of October and we will have the actual walk on November 3rd. There is a sign up for volunteers on Sign Up Genius. Come cheer your students on during the Walkathon. The money from Walkathon will finance most of PTA's activities throughout the year and if we raise enough we can revisit the idea of spring grants.

Also Ms. Williams will be hosting View Ridge Annual Veteran's Day assembly. Students are invited to bring a veteran to the 2:30 pm assembly. The Cub Scouts of View Ridge will conduct the flag ceremony. This is a wonderful ceremony and one of my favorites of the year. Well keep your eyes open for more fabulous acts of kindness around View Ridge. Thank you all again for what you do for our school and see you at Walkathon.

Your PTA Co-Presidents,
Marie Jackson and Amanda Cabana



Walkathon is almost here!
Please turn in all pledge
envelopes and money on

Wednesday, November 2nd, the day before the big walk on Thursday, November 3rd! Many local businesses match employee donations of \$25 or more. Ask your employer and help us double your gift! Instructions for Boeing matches are on our website www.viewridgepta.org! We are still looking for volunteers to help with this fun event. Check out the online form <https://m.signupgenius.com/#/showSignUp/70A0E44ABAC23AA8-20161>

Book Fair

Our book fair runs through Friday, October 28. We will close Friday at 2:30 PM. If you did not get a chance to visit our book fair or would like to order additional books, you can go to the fair online. Our online fair continues until November 10!

The online fair can be found at:

<http://www.scholastic.com/bf/viewridgeelementaryschool>. There is no charge for shipping and the books come right to our school!

~Ms. Eggink, Librarian

BOYS ONLY READING

Ms. Eggink is looking for men to read to the "Boys Only Reading" group on Tuesday mornings. The reader would need to check in to the office no later than 8:55 in the morning and then come directly to the library. The reader would then be introduced to the boys and read from 9:00-9:10. The time commitment is a small one but the impact on the boys is HUGE! If you are interested in being a reader, please email Ms. Eggink at keggink@everettsd.org or call her on the library phone at 425-385-5408.



PTA Reflections - What Is Your Story?

Let your imagination fly and unleash your inner artist? Choreograph a dance, produce a film, write a poem or story, compose a song, take a picture or create a piece of visual art and tell us what the theme:



"What Is Your Story" means to you. Pick up a PTA Reflections Entry Form today from the View Ridge office and return by November 11, 2016. More info can also be found on the WA state PTA website: www.wastatepta.org/programs/reflections/



HOLIDAY STORE

Holiday Store donations are welcome to begin arriving at the school front door. We're looking

for new and gently used items for all ages and genders. We are also seeking donations of new and gently used holiday wrapping paper (the thick kind), gift bags, bows, tape, ribbon, tissue paper and other items. You can drop off your donation in the holiday wrap box located just inside the first set of entry doors.

Campbell Soup Labels

This is the last year to turn in Campbell Soup Labels. The soup labels can be found on many Campbell Soup cans. Any soup labels that you have can be turned in to Ms. Eggink in the library. Thank you!

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Music Exploration and **FIT Games** are underway for our fall session. Thank you to the parent helpers and instructors for making these enriching classes possible for our students. PTA is excited to bring back **Taekwondo Way** for a special winter session beginning in January on Tuesdays. Registration forms will be available in early December. Give the gift of experience with Taekwondo at View Ridge!

Family Movie Night - Friday, November 18

Come join us for a screening of "Zootopia" at 7 pm in the cafeteria. By attending this fun, social event, you can also help support our school by purchasing something from concessions. All concession money raised will go toward fifth grade camp fundraising!



POPCORN FRIDAYS

We are looking for donations to go toward our Popcorn Friday events in order to allow all students to receive popcorn for free again this year! A suggested donation amount of \$2.50 or more per child would make it happen, but we would gladly appreciate any donation amount. Please send your donation in an envelope marked Popcorn Friday and turn it in at the office or to the teachers. Thank you!

SUMMER READING PROGRAM

We are so proud of all our Summer Readers! This year we had double the participation with 162 Vikings participating! 79 students met 75% of their summer reading goal and were published in the October 18th edition of the Herald! Check it out! 59 students met 100% of their reading goal and three lucky winners walked away with a Kindle Fire. Thank you Dr. Stewart for rewarding all their hard work! Next summer will be even better so keep up all the GREAT reading!!!

Thanks!

Greta Fleckenstein

Reading Specialist

amazonsmile



Did you know that Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases to View Ridge PTA whenever you shop through their AmazonSmile program?

Simply use this link <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/91-1095591>.

AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service. Start using it today for our school!

FITNESS CORNER

In November, Taekwondo Way will again graciously donate their time to teach students Taekwondo, a form of Martial Arts originating in Korea.



Along with skills, they will teach about respect, safety, and impress upon the students that Taekwondo is a Martial Art of self-defense and self-control.

You can find more into about adult and youth classes available at Taekwondo Way at:

www.taekwondoway.com

Next, we will begin our bowling unit. Evergreen Lanes allows us to use plastic pins, rubber bowling balls, and carpeted bowling lanes for students to improve their skills. Bowling is a fun, smoke-free, family activity!

Happy Health!

Ms. Jan Anderson, NBCT

Fitness Specialist

View Ridge Elementary

****Please help your student to be prepared and wear **tennis shoes, pants/shorts (no dresses/skirts) on Fitness days.*****

DISTRICT NEWS

Remember to vote Nov. 8, 2016.

Accepting Highly Capable nominations until Dec. 1, 2016

Find forms and more information and evening information events on the Highly Capable website. Nominations are for students currently in grades one through four for winter testing, which will take place in January 2017.

Smarter Balanced assessments for grades 3 through 8, MSP grade 5 and 8, ELPA21, and WA-AIM for grades 3-5 are available for parents to review up to one year after the test is administered. Information and instructions for parents on requesting a review of their student's state assessments can be found on the WASHINGTON COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM portal in the Students and Families section under General Information.

Tips to help kids and parents in digital age

The Daily Herald shared an article from The Washington Post about things you can do at home to help keep your kids safe and healthy in a digital world: <http://bit.ly/1RWx3if>.

Find out what Everett Public Schools students learn about digital citizenship on the district Learning Management Services website.

Free research-based tools to help stop bullying

Stopbullying.gov has bullying prevention information and strategies. There are training modules, PowerPoints, toolkits, videos, resources, state-by-state laws and policies, suggestions about how to talk about bullying with your kids and much more.

Nondiscrimination statement

The district shall provide equal educational opportunity and treatment for all students in all aspects of the academic and activities program without regard to race, color, national origin, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, veteran or military status, the presence of any physical, sensory or mental disability or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a student with a disability. Designated to handle inquiries about nondiscrimination policies are:

Affirmative Action Office – Carol Stolz, cstolz@everettsd.org, 425-385-4106 | Title IX Officer – Randi Seaberg, rseaberg@everettsd.org, 425-385-4104 | 504 Coordinator – Becky Ballbach, rballbach@everettsd.org, 425-385-4063 | ADA Coordinator – Becky Clifford, bclifford@everettsd.org, 425-385-5250

Address: 3900 Broadway, Everett, WA 98201