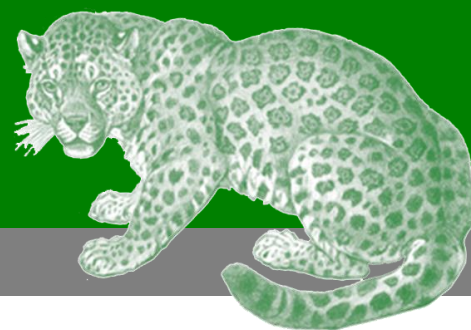


# Silver Firs Jaguar News

SILVER FIRS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



OCTOBER 2019

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

## From the Principal:

### Welcome to October!

It's been a great first month of school and your children have been hard working, engaged, and passionate learners. Thank you for your support in helping to ensure that your child has a successful start to the new school year. Thank you for attending our Meet the Greet, PTA 1st day of school coffee (1-5), and September PTA meeting, and Curriculum Night. Your support always matters.

The Everett Public Schools' High School and Beyond Week will take place October 9-11. On Thursday October 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:30-7:30pm, the evening begins at 5:30 in the Heatherwood Middle School cafeteria. They will be hosting the ***"2020 and Beyond: Preparing for the future in the Digital Age"*** with keynote speaker Jeff Utecht. At 6:40pm, families will transition to Jackson High School to visit the College and Career Fair with an opportunity to meet with college representatives and career professionals to learn more about career opportunities. Silver Firs and will be supporting student council by having a College/Career Spirit Day, October 10<sup>th</sup>, to emphasize the importance of being life-long learners. Wear your favorite college, university, trade school, military, or career gear!

Our 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers are currently administering i-Ready math fall diagnostic assessment and i-Ready reading diagnostic. The i-Ready assessment is a standards-aligned, computer adaptive assessment that measures how students are progressing toward grade level standards. Students are provided with personalized online learning based on their diagnostic results which helps students fill in learning gaps and allows them to learn at grade level. i-Ready does not replace daily instruction that students already receive, nor does it replace the curriculum. Our first and second grade teachers are currently administering the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA). This assessment tool provides teachers with excellent information to show us your child's reading progress. Please take the time to listen to your child read and/or read to them every day. Reading is the number one skill for success in school and a significant indicator for success in life.

**Aleta Smoot**

Principal

**Anca Wilson**

Assistant Principal

**Silver Firs Elementary School**

5909 146th Pl. SE,  
Everett, WA 98208

[www.everettsd.org/silverfirs](http://www.everettsd.org/silverfirs)

### **Oct 4**

2:15pm Dismissal – LIF Friday

PTA Movie Night 6:30pm

### **Oct 9-11**

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Camp Killoqua

### **Oct 10**

College & Career Spirit Day  
High School & Beyond; JHS  
5:30-7:30pm

### **Oct 11**

2:15pm Dismissal – LIF Friday

### **Oct 15**

First Grade CogAT Testing

### **Oct 17**

2019 Jags on the Run

### **Oct 18**

Non Student Day

### **Oct 23**

Picture Day

### **Oct 24**

Summer Reading Assembly  
2:30pm

### **Oct 25**

2:15pm Dismissal – LIF Friday  
PTA Fall Dance 6-8pm



Our school participates in a district-wide program called Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). PBIS is a systems approach to creating a safe and productive school culture and learning environment so that all teachers can teach, and all students can learn. The goal of PBIS is to reduce problem behavior as a barrier to student achievement by creating a safe, welcoming, consistent and predictable school culture that sets each child up for success. Strong and caring staff/student relationships are the most important element of a school community in which everyone feels called to show up as their best self each day.

#### Key components of PBIS:

- There are common school-wide behavior expectations for every campus setting.
- Direct teaching of expected behaviors occurs initially and throughout the year.
- Routines and language regarding expected school behaviors are consistent throughout the school.
- Students who successfully meet behavior expectations receive frequent, specific acknowledgment and recognition.
- Students who do not successfully meet behavior expectations are presented with reteaching opportunities to gain the skills necessary to do better next time.

At Silver Firs, during the month of September, all students engaged in and practiced our expected school-wide behaviors. Students observed meeting our PRIDE expectations may receive a PRIDE Ticket from any staff member and then be eligible for additional classroom and schoolwide recognition. As part of PBIS, we also have a clearly defined process for responding to problem behavior. We have identified certain problem behaviors as those that are minor and 'classroom managed' and others that are major and 'office managed.' No matter what the behavior in question is, our goal is to respond to each student and incident with the level of support necessary for their behavioral, social and emotional success in the same way we work to provide each student with the level of support necessary for their academic success. As needed, we contact parents to inform and work together. At the conclusion of every problem behavior incident, it is important that all affected persons are given the opportunity to have productive closure through steps designed to repair harm, restore trust and reconnect completely back into the school community. There are many things you can do to help your child stay on the path to positive behavior in the year to come.

#### Here are a few suggestions:

- Please talk about our PRIDE expectations with your child. Ask questions like: 'How were you kind on the playground today?' 'How were you responsible in the cafeteria today?' 'How were you respectful in your classroom today?' 'How were you safe during dismissal today?'
- Ask your child about his/her learning every day.
- Help your child establish and follow through on healthy nighttime and morning routines that maximize the chances for success at school.
- Provide a quiet time and space for your child to do homework.
- Keep in touch with your child's teacher.
- Practice polite phrases like, 'Thank you,' 'Excuse me,' 'Please,' and 'I'm sorry.'
- As your schedule allows, we would invite you to be a visible part of your child's school experience by volunteering and attending school activities.



Thank you for your support. Our students are off to a great start in demonstrating “PRIDE” expectations. Parents, thank you for your continued support in making Silver Firs a great place to learn. Let’s make it an outstanding October!

## Counselors Corner



Thursday, October 10th is College and Career Spirit Day at Silver Firs! Please join your friends and show off your favorite college, university, trade school, military, or career gear!

**STUDENT COUNCIL HOSTS**

**COLLEGE AND CAREER SPIRIT DAY!**

**Thursday, October 10th**

**Wear your favorite college, university,  
trade school, military, or career gear!**

Also on October 10<sup>th</sup> families are invited to participate in the annual High School & Beyond event at Heatherwood Middle School and H.M. Jackson High School. Please see details below! Hope to see you there!

**HIGH SCHOOL & BEYOND**  
MAPPING YOUR FUTURE

Silver Firs Elementary families are encouraged to participate in the annual High School & Beyond event at Heatherwood Middle and H.M. Jackson High schools!

**Thursday, October 10th**  
**5:30-7:30 p.m.**

**Schedule for Elementary Families...**

**Start at 5:30 p.m. in the Heatherwood Cafeteria:**

- Enjoy free pizza
- Hear Keynote Speaker: Jess Utecht "2020 and Beyond: Preparing for the Future in the Digital Age"


**At 6:40 pm, walk to H.M. Jackson High School to:**

- Visit the College & Career Fair.
- Meet with college representatives and career professionals to learn more about career opportunities!

Interpreters available!

**HEATHERWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
1419 Trillium Blvd. SE  
Mill Creek, WA 98012

**JACKSON HIGH SCHOOL**  
1508—136th Street SE  
Mill Creek, WA 98012



**EVERETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION**  
Proud Sponsor of High School and Beyond Week!

Use #EPS\_HSB and share your pics on social media!

**EVERETT PUBLIC SCHOOLS™** FOLLOW US @

3100 Broadway • Everett, WA 98201 • 425.382.4800 • www.everettsd.org



## From the Assistant Principal:

Dear Parents,

I begin with great joy my third year as Assistant Principal at Silver Firs! We are off to an exciting and smooth start, and our students are doing a terrific job navigating their school routines and procedures, focusing on their studies, and consistently showing P.R.I.D.E.

One of my responsibilities as school administrator is to oversee our students' attendance. The information below highlights important attendance items for our families. Please take a few minutes to browse, and let me or our Office Assistant, Mary Fuda, know if you have any questions or concerns.

In Everett Public Schools, we are committed to providing a world-class education to your student. Consistent school attendance supports student learning and achievement. Regular school attendance helps connect children to school, helps them succeed, and prepares them for future success in college and career. Students who do not regularly attend school often fall behind and do not perform as well as their peers.

### **Chronic absenteeism affects learning**

- Starting in Kindergarten, more than two absences per month (excused and unexcused) can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10 percent (or about 18 days per school year = chronic absenteeism) increases the chance that students will not read or master math at the same level as their peers.
- Absences can disconnect students from the classroom and their peers.
- By sixth grade, absenteeism is one of three signs that a student may drop out of high school.
- By ninth grade, regular school attendance is a better predictor of whether or not students will graduate on-time than their eighth-grade test scores.

You are an important partner in your child's education, and we appreciate your support in helping your child maintain consistent school attendance.

### **What to do when your child is absent**

If your child is absent, please contact our school by emailing the attendance office [SFEAttendance@everettsd.org](mailto:SFEAttendance@everettsd.org) within 30 calendar days from the date of the absence. We will be able to excuse your child's absences as long as this time requirement is met AND the reason is valid, in accordance with the state attendance laws. Please refer to the student handbook or visit the district website, [www.everettsd.org](http://www.everettsd.org), for more information about the district's attendance procedures (3122P).

### **Our promise to you**

We know there are a wide variety of reasons why students may be absent from school, from health concerns to transportation challenges. Silver Firs Elementary is prepared to help if you or your child face challenges getting to school regularly or on time. Please contact our school counselor, Kim Nunnally-Hirata, or our administrators if you would like to schedule a meeting to discuss any barriers your family is facing that may affect your child's attendance.

### **School policies and state laws regarding attendance**

We want to ensure you are fully informed of our district attendance policy (3122) and procedure (3122P), as well as Washington State Law, to ensure your child is successful in school. State law for mandatory attendance, called the Becca Bill, requires children from age eight to 17 to attend a public school, private school, or a district-approved home school program. Children who are six or seven years old are not required to be enrolled in school. However, if parents enroll their six- or seven-year-old child in school, the student must attend full-time. Youth who are 16 years or older may be excused from attending public school if they meet certain requirements, see <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/rcw/default.aspx?cite=28A.225.225>.



## **Our district is required to take daily attendance and notify you when your child has an unexcused absence.**

If your child has **3 unexcused** absences in one month, state law (RCW 28A.225.020) requires the district to schedule a conference with the principal/assistant principal/designee. During this conference, we partner with you to identify the barriers and supports available to ensure regular attendance. The district is obligated to develop a plan that may require an assessment to determine how to best meet the needs of your child and reduce absenteeism.

In elementary school, after **5 excused** absences in any month or **10 or more excused** absences in the school year, we are required to contact you to schedule a conference at a mutually agreeable, reasonable time, to identify the barriers and supports available to you and your child. A conference is not required if your child has provided a doctor's note. **Doctor's notes are required when the absence threshold has reached 10 excused absences in a school year.** If your child has an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or a 504 Plan, the team that created the plan will reconvene.

If your child has **7 unexcused absences in any month or 10 unexcused absences within the school year**, we are required to file a petition with the juvenile court, alleging a violation of RCW 28A.225.010, the mandatory attendance law. The petition may be automatically stayed, and your child and family may be referred to a Community Truancy Board, or you and your child may need to appear in Juvenile Court. If your child continues to be truant, you may be required to go to court.

## **Ways you can support your child's learning**

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Prepare for school the night before, finishing homework and getting a good night's sleep.
- Send your child to school every day unless he/she is truly sick.
- Develop back-up plans for getting your child to school on time.
- Keep track of your child's attendance. Missing multiple days of school could put your child at risk of falling behind.
- Establish expectations with your child about the importance of attendance.
- Talk to your child's teachers if you notice sudden changes in behavior.

Working together, we can remove barriers that keep students from the classroom and help each student graduate college, career, and life ready. Thank you for your support!

Sincerely yours,  
Anca Wilson, Assistant Principal

## **Access to public records (updated information)**

District records are public records. Parents and other citizens have the right to ask to view or have copies of records defined as "public" under state and federal laws. Parents or guardians seeking education records may simply request those records from their individual schools, as they are entitled to such records under state and federal law and through district policy and procedure.

The district's office of general counsel handles public records requests. Records may be requested in person, by phone or by sending an email request to [publicrecords@everettsd.org](mailto:publicrecords@everettsd.org). Wendy Snider is available to answer public records questions at 425-385-4188.





## 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 <https://www.everettsd.org/>
- watch district [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) or [Instagram](#) accounts

## Did you miss a call from us?

If you missed a call from your school, please first check your voice mail, email or mobile app for the message rather than calling the school. Schools are often inundated with phone calls from parents after they send an automated call and cannot answer all of the calls.

## Is your contact information up-to-date at school?

If your contact information has changed, please let your school know so we can reach you.

## Back-to-school safety reminders

It's helpful to talk with your child from time to time about staying safe and alert, especially when traveling to and from school. Here are just a few quick reminders:

- Walk with a buddy
- Be aware of your surroundings (cell phones and ear buds put away)
- Wait with a friend or adult at bus stops
- Report anything suspicious to an adult right away
- For adults, [stop for buses](#) when they have the stop arm out

## Mobile app

Families can [download the district mobile app](#) to easily access student information, grades, attendance, lunch balances, borrowed library books, calendars and more! Translate notifications and app functions into the language you prefer.



## Mapping your future

Students K through 12 and their families are invited to the High School and Beyond family nights to:

- Enjoy free pizza



- Keynote speaker: **2020 and Beyond: Preparing for the Future in the Digital Age**
- Learn about cool careers – it is never too early for elementary, middle and high school students!
- Visit the college & career fair
- Get help with financial aid and college admissions
- Get help registering for College Bound scholarships (grades 7 and 8)
- Interpreters available

**Wednesday, Oct. 2 – Cascade HS**

**Wednesday, Oct. 9 – Everett HS**

**Thursday, Oct. 10 – Jackson HS**

## Middle and high school students

Can you fluently read, write, speak, and listen in a language other than English? Students in grades 7 through 12 in Everett Public Schools can earn high school credit in a world language by successfully passing district-approved assessments and demonstrating language proficiency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing in this language. Assessments are available at \$10 for many different world languages. See the district [assessment website](#) for details.

**Test dates:** Nov. 13, 2019 and March 18, 2020

**Fall registration:** Sept. 16 – Oct. 11, 2019

**Spring registration:** Jan. 13 – Feb. 14, 2020

Also, check out the [new practice site](#) which was created to give students an overview of each kind of exam. Students can search their language and see what their specific exam will entail. There may even be a practice test available.

## Website tools for you

The website has tools to make your life easier. Sign in with your LMS password to:

- Add your student's school and teachers' calendars to your calendar view
- Filter calendar items by category
- Export calendar items to your personal calendar
- Access *Grades & More*, lunch menus and staff contact information from the home page
- Find directions and maps to event locations listed on the calendar



3900 Broadway  
Everett, WA 98201  
425-385-4000  
[www.everettsd.org](http://www.everettsd.org)

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