



# Rhino Roar

*News for the Washington community*

Published weekly (mostly)

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Links to [calendar](#) and past [newsletters](#) on [PTA website](#)

## **Parent-Teacher Conference Week Early Release Schedule** October 24 - 27

TK and Kinder 12:30 pm and Grades 1 - 5: 1:15 pm **NO SCHOOL on Friday, Oct 28**

EVERY STUDENT needs to have a Parent-Teacher conference! Schedule yours now!

**Halloween Update:** NEW Parade Time for 1st - 5th grades: 8:45 am on the playground on 10/31

- TK and Kinder won't be participating in the whole school parade.
- Students should come to school in costume on 10/31 if they celebrate Halloween. No weapons or scary masks, costumes must be "school appropriate".
- Students who don't celebrate Halloween or don't wish to participate will be given an alternate activity and location during the parade.
- Students should bring clothes to change into after the parade if they won't be able to participate in recess/PE in their costume.
- Grades 1 - 5 will line up on the playground in a big circle at 8:45 am. We will parade once around in a circle and then go out the gate on MLK on the sidewalk to Channing, right on Channing to McKinley, right on McKinley back to the gate. By 9:20 am, we will likely be back in classrooms.
- Parents are welcome on campus and are invited to join the parade.
- After the parade, most students will choose to change out of costume, and be ready for PE/recess and to function in the classroom.
- Please don't send candy to school after Halloween.
- Please contact your child's teacher for more information.

Let's make Washington a [Green Ribbon School](#) !

Please fill out this [quick survey](#) about sustainable transportation from Sofia Peltz, BUSD Sustainability Program Coordinator <https://www.berkeleyschools.net/sustainability/>

**Washington Library Update:** This fall, students have read stories about wrestlers, lowriders, beards, rotten days, volcanoes and more. We have found a missing mouse, listened to book-inspired mixtapes, predicted rhymes and mixed up words with a sneaky cat. Most importantly, students have borrowed books, lots of books!

Right now, there are over 500 books that are overdue. Please help your kiddo return library books so that we keep sharing the library love. Email reminders for overdues go out on Fridays so keep an eye out! Books can be returned any day of the week into any of my return bins plus the white bin out on the courtyard. If you happen to have books from last year too, you can still return them for other students to enjoy.

Thanks in advance for your support! Best, Ms. Jackie, [jackieoverlid@berkeley.net](mailto:jackieoverlid@berkeley.net)

**FOOD PANTRY** The Berkeley Food Network provides bags of fresh fruits and vegetables and also packaged dry and canned foods for all Washington families and staff every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month except for holidays when school is closed.

Our next food pantry days for October will be Friday, October 14th and then October 28th. There will be tables with the bags at the McKinley Street entrance in front of the orange gates at 1:00 pm.

In November and December, the schedule will change to the 1st and 3rd Fridays due to the holidays. Our food pantry days will be 11/4, 11/18, 12/2, and 12/16.

For more information, please contact Carol Perez, our Family Engagement and Equity Specialist at 510-849-7396 or carolynperez@berkeley.net.

**Thank you to all the volunteers** who helped with the Walkathon on Thursday! Now it's time to get those pledges in - deadline is Oct 27. We're already halfway to the goal!

[Click here](#) to see a [very fun short video](#) put together by parent volunteers, and get a sense of the great energy at Washington yesterday.

**LET'S PLAY!** SUNDAY, OCT 23RD 10AM-NOON: Save the date for a fun PTA association event at the Washington courtyard. Our beloved Coaches, Don and Matt, will share the school philosophy of play and strategies for bringing equity, inclusivity, and conflict resolution to sports and recess. This in-person event will end with a friendly kickball game between parents (kids can join, too). Childcare, coffee, and baked goods will be provided. Come as you are; bonus points if you show up in athletic wear! Agenda is [here](#).

**Día de los Muertos** BUSD will partner with Latinos Unidos de Berkeley, Bahía, and many other community organizations on October 29 for a Dia de los Muertos event held from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at Berkeley High School. This event also includes an altar and art exhibition, children's activities, a Lowrider car show, Mariachi & performances, raffles, bike repair and tuneups, arts and crafts vendors, a food pantry and flu vaccines.

**REMINDER** There is NO car drop off or pick up south of the barrier on McKinley - it's dangerous for our kids on bikes and you can get a ticket!

How to stay safe and speed up the drop off and pick up lines before and after school: **pedestrians can use the street crossing protected by the barricades to cross McKinley.** That way, cars can get out of the way a little faster :>)

**The Lost and Found** will be emptied soon, please take a look and reclaim your lost jackets.

**COVID Testing** Tests are sent home when there has been a case in the classroom. Test results should be reported to the [BUSD Student COVID-19 Case Reporting form](#)

Calendar Reminders:

- ★ Oct 20 Great California Shakeout Earthquake Drill @ 10:20 am
- ★ Oct 20 School Site Committee meeting on Zoom, Agenda with links is [here](#)
- ★ Oct 23 Let's Play PTA Meeting 10 am - 12 pm on the playground
- ★ Oct 24 - 27 EARLY RELEASE for Parent-Teacher Conferences
- ★ Oct 28 NO SCHOOL Parent-Teacher Conferences
- ★ Oct 29 Dia de los Muertos at Berkeley High 10 am - 2 pm
- ★ Oct 31 Halloween Parade @ **8:45 am on the playground**

★ Nov 3 & 4 Picture Day

★ Nov 11 NO SCHOOL Veterans Day

★ Nov 21 - 25 NO SCHOOL Thanksgiving Break

★ Dec 19 - Jan 2 NO SCHOOL Winter Break (First day back is Jan 3)

**If your child is absent for any reason**, please email [washingtonattendance@berkeley.net](mailto:washingtonattendance@berkeley.net) and copy your child's teacher. Thank you!

Questions or concerns? Please email Principal Katia Hazen at [katiahazen@berkeley.net](mailto:katiahazen@berkeley.net)