



# Rhino Roar

*News for the Washington community*

Published weekly (mostly)

December 2, 2022

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

## ❄️ 🧑‍🎄 **Winter Wonderland Party - Sunday, Dec 11th, 3-5:30pm** 🧑‍🎄 ❄️

The annual Washington Winter Party is next *Sunday, Dec 11th from 3-5:30pm!* This special PTA sponsored event will be on the Washington courtyard, with a delicious tamale dinner, crafts, a photo booth and plenty of playground/social time for kids and adults. Kids and families are encouraged to wear their PJs or ugly holiday sweaters, and to dance to the beats of Washington's own DJ's Mr. Leaks and Marquise under the holiday lights! Bring a dessert to share...or just yourselves!

*Please also stay tuned for a special Kwanzaa theme at the party, celebrating African American culture, history and unity, with Washington's African American Unity Group (AAUG) and the Washington PTA.*

Party volunteers are needed! To join us, please contact Jenafir at [jenafirh@gmail.com](mailto:jenafirh@gmail.com)

Principal Hazen is journeying down under to Australia in December, so retired Emerson Principal Susan Hodge will be in charge from Dec. 5 - 16. Principal Hodge has extensive experience with elementary school and has been at Washington previously. Beginning Dec 5, she can be reached at [susanhodge@berkeley.net](mailto:susanhodge@berkeley.net) or at the school phone number.

**FOOD PANTRY TODAY** The Berkeley Food Network provides bags of fresh fruits and vegetables and also packaged dry and canned foods for all Washington families and staff. Due to the December holidays our pantry days will change to the 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month. Our next food pantry day for December will be Friday, December 16th (the last day before the break).

COVID tests are coming home with your student again next week and on Dec. 16. Positive results should be reported to the [BUSD Student COVID-19 Case Reporting form](#)

### **Please Join Us in Supporting Berkeley School Families this Holiday Season!**

The Berkeley Public Schools Fund and the Office of Family Engagement and Equity (OFEE) are working together to raise money for the Holiday Gift Card program, providing extra support to families in need at Washington and every other school in BUSD. Our goal is to raise \$35,000 to provide \$50 gift cards to 700 BUSD families.

*“The holiday time is challenging for our families who are already economically stressed. The holiday gift cards help ease this stress and show these families that the District and our community cares about their wellbeing.”* Carol Perez, Office of Family Engagement & Equity

**We ask for your generous support of this year's Holiday Gift Card fund. Donations can be made [HERE](#).**

*If your family is needing extra support during the holiday season, please contact contact Carol Perez, Washington's representative from the Office of Family Engagement and Equity: Work cell: 510-849-7396 or [carolynperez@berkeley.net](mailto:carolynperez@berkeley.net)*

**ATTENTION 5th grade Families:** Information about middle school enrollment will be shared with families of 5th graders in December. All enrollment documents will be due on **February 3rd** (unless you live outside of Berkeley and need to request an inter-district permit).

The process can be a bit challenging, so it's highly recommended that you have all of the required documents ready by January 2nd. The [Enrollment Checklist](#) shows which documents need to be submitted online for enrollment of your child to middle school. The online enrollment form should be available in early January.

Families living outside of the City of Berkeley should review the inter-district permit process on the BUSD Admissions website for [Inter-district Permits & Transfers](#).

Plan to submit the documents at least 2 weeks ahead of the deadline in case there are glitches or problems that need to be addressed.

**Middle schools host in-person informational nights in January. They are all at 7pm.**

January 11 - Willard Middle School, 2425 Stuart Street

January 18 - Longfellow Middle School, 1500 Derby Street

January 25 - Martin Luther King Jr. Middle School, 1781 Rose Street

Feel free to contact Carol Perez, Washington's representative from the Office of Family Engagement and Equity if you have questions or need help with the process. Work cell: 510-849-7396 or [carolynperez@berkeley.net](mailto:carolynperez@berkeley.net)

**NO SCHOOL Dec 19 - Jan 2 Winter Break**

**First day back is Tuesday, January 3, 2023**

The City of Berkeley Recreation Department has sent out its Winter/Spring 2023 Activity Guide. There are lots of classes and camps, for children and adults available now - but they fill up fast! See below:

<https://berkeleyca.gov/community-recreation/parks-recreation/recreation-programs>

Calendar Reminders:

- ★ Dec 11 Winter Wonderland Party: Sunday, Dec 11th, 3-5:30pm
- ★ Dec 12 Food Pantry
- ★ Dec 19 - Jan 2 NO SCHOOL Winter Break (First day back is Jan 3)
- ★ Jan 16 NO SCHOOL MLK Day

**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!