



Rhino Roar

News for the Washington community

Published weekly (mostly)

January 27, 2023

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

I Am A Performer is an assembly featuring the Berkeley Symphony performing with Washington's students! It will be held on Feb 10 in the cafeteria at 10:10 am.

Ms. Desi retiring Feb 10. Our beloved office secretary extraordinaire, Ms. Desi Green, will be leaving us after 12 years. Her kindness and care of children and adults will be greatly missed!

Q: When does the 2023-24 school year start? A: The school board determines the start date and will let us know when they decide this!

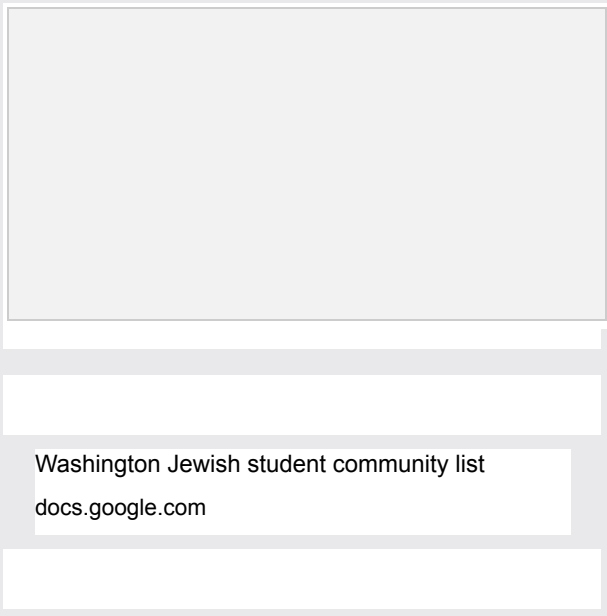
Jewish group at Washington Elementary

Dear parent(s)/guardian(s) of Jewish-identifying students at Washington Elementary, My name is Jessica Pearlman and I am mom to a Washington kindergartener. This is our family's first year at BUSD and I, along with my sister Ilana (also mom to a kindergartener), have been concerned about the lack of visibility/acknowledgment of Jews and Jewish culture within BUSD and Washington specifically. Especially considering the current displays of antisemitism within our broader Berkeley community (distribution of antisemitic flyers on people's doorsteps, vandalism of billboards, etc.) and, frankly, the largely silent response to those acts, we want to bring a bigger Jewish presence and awareness to Washington's campus.

Our vision is to:

- 1) find fellow Jewish-identifying members who would like to form a community within Washington
- 2) create events for us to connect and have fun, perhaps once a month and around Jewish holidays
- 3) bring awareness of Jews and Jewish culture to Washington specifically, and eventually more broadly within BUSD

I have created a google form below to gather contact info for those interested in participating:



Please consider filling out this form and forwarding this message to anyone you feel might be interested so that they may do so.

Thank you and Shabbat shalom,

Jessica Pearlman, Mom of Akiva (5) and Zahava (3)/ Ilana Pearlman, Mom to Ezra (13), Talia (5) and Adina (3)

Quick library update: While we are waiting for the library to be back in commission after slight flooding during the storms, I have been visiting classrooms for stories and checking out books by grade level. This means that while students are still getting books, the computer doesn't know who specifically has each title. If you have been receiving email reminders about your kiddo's overdue item, those emails are going to be on pause for a while. Please still read, love and then return Washington Library books in the meantime just as you always have! Let me know if you have any questions:

jackieoverlid@berkeley.net.

Free chromebook loan for home use BUSD supplies chromebooks for students to use at home, [just fill out this form](#) and send to librarian Jackie Overlid

jackieoverlid@berkeley.net

The **Affordable Connectivity Program** is an FCC benefit program that helps ensure that households can afford the broadband they need for work, school, healthcare and more.

The benefit provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if they contribute more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price.

**One of the ways to be eligible for this program is to be approved to receive free or reduced-price school lunch. If you have not signed up for the free lunch program this year it's not too late.

Two Steps to Enroll

1. Go to AffordableConnectivity.gov to submit an application or print out a

mail-in application.

2. Contact your preferred participating provider to select a plan and have the discount applied to your bill.

Eligible households must **both apply for the program and contact a participating provider to select a service plan.**

[Click on this link for more information about Sonic's ACP program](#)

Questions? Contact Carol Finis Perez, MPA/ Family Engagement and Equity Specialist
Office of Family Engagement and Equity/ Work cell: 510-849-7396

Washington Safety Committee- Do you think the orange gate should be locked during the school day? Are you concerned about campus safety and security at Washington? Please email Principal Hazen if you would like to be included. katiahazen@berkeley.net

COVID tests: Positive results should be reported to the [BUSD Student COVID-19 Case Reporting form](#)

Young Gifted and Black is accepting new members in January 2023.

Young Gifted and Black teaches and learns Black History through poetry, rap and freedom songs. The group is made up of Black children grades 2 - 8 who are interested in performing on stage, learning Black History, becoming Black heroes and representing our ancestors as teachers for future generations.

Rehearsals are Tuesdays and Thursdays in Berkeley, Ca and Mondays and Wednesdays in Oakland, Ca.

To register or for more info see their website:

<http://proud2beblack.org/#young-gifted-and-black>

Calendar Reminders:

- ★ Feb 10 I Am A Performer Assembly 10:10 am
- ★ Feb 17 NO SCHOOL Lincoln's Birthday
- ★ Feb 20 NO SCHOOL Presidents Day
- ★ Feb 23rd 1 pm Black History Month Assembly
- ★ Feb 23 6 pm Black History Month Celebration
- ★ Mar 3rd 9 am Washington Oratorical Festival
- ★ Mar 16 BUSD Oratorical Festival (Washington representatives will compete!)

If your child is absent for any reason, please email washingtonattendance@berkeley.net and copy your child's teacher. Thank you!