



Rhino Roar

News for the Washington community

Published weekly (mostly)

May 20, 2022

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

Indoor Masking Required at BUSD Beginning Monday, May 23

Our collective goal in the final weeks of school is to ensure the last two weeks and accompanying celebrations can be attended by as many of our students and families as possible. We are experiencing [high levels of COVID in our schools and community this week](#), and because of this strong recommendation from the City of Berkeley Public Health Officer, **BUSD will reinstate mandated indoor masking on Monday, May 23**. All students and staff are required to wear masks indoors, regardless of vaccination status.

Testing Residential households in the U.S. are again eligible to receive 8 free, at-home tests which [can be ordered at this link](#). This is a new round of test distribution and you are eligible even if you have previously ordered tests through this program. We will continue with Wednesday testing at school.

Multicultural Night Potluck on Sunday, May 22nd, 4-6:30pm on the yard at school!

You don't want to miss this fun PTA sponsored event! Families can bring a potluck dish (for 8-10 people or more) to share. PTA will give out tickets at the gate so every kid can get a dessert treat, everyone will be able to do fun activities (including a crafts table for making flags representative of one's family tradition) and enjoy world music played by Washington's own DJs Leaks n' Marquis.

Berkeley Arts Magnet

will host BUSD's first
district-wide

Rainbow Families Playdate

When: Sunday, May 22, 2022, 2 PM - 4 PM

Where: BAM's Big Yard, 2015 Virginia St.

Come connect with community members from across Berkeley and help us celebrate Harvey Milk Day with chalk drawing, rainbow snacks, and playing with friends old and new.

All students and family members who identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community AND allies from ANY BUSD elementary school are encouraged to attend!

Pride at Washington School, 2022 This Year's Theme: Live out Loud. Be You. Be proud.

- **What is Pride?** Pride, held in June, is a month of celebration and action in the LGBTQ+ community (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer; the "+" represents the infinite forms of gender identity).
- **All families should celebrate Pride: Here's why**
- **You show love to your own family.** One never knows where one's journey of gender and family will lead. By celebrating Pride, you show your children and loved ones that you love them always!
- **You show love to others in your community.** By celebrating Pride, you help LGBTQ+ individuals and families to feel seen, accepted, and welcomed. You teach your kids to be open to all.
- **You make LGBTQ+ topics comfortable for everyone.** You demonstrate that it is

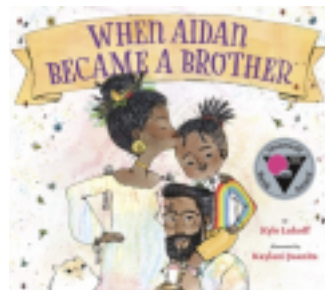
acceptable, natural, and healthy to talk about gender identity and family diversity, and that it is not something to keep quiet about or something that applies only to “other” people.

- **All families should celebrate Pride: Here’s how Attend Pride celebrations.** Details for Washington’s celebrations are on the following page. San Francisco’s Pride Parade is June 26 this year, and events throughout the Bay Area can be found online.
- **Take the opportunity to have a conversation.** You can show your support simply by *asking* your child how Washington’s Pride celebrations went! Or, make a dinnertime *toast* to Pride, and start a conversation about how we love and celebrate people with every kind of gender expression, relationship, and family. You can talk about how LGBTQ+ people have *happy, wonderful lives*. It can be helpful to talk about how LGBTQ+ individuals have been around in *every time and every place in history*, and we live in an exciting time when more LGBTQ+ people are out. You can bring up *connections to other movements* that promote rights in terms of race, ethnicity, religion, and disability. Read about and *celebrate renowned LGBTQ+ individuals*, from Audre Lorde to Oscar Wilde, Janelle Monáe, Queen Latifah, and James Baldwin.
- **Say “Happy Pride” or make a “Happy Pride” card.** Get creative to show your love and acceptance to family members and friends.
- **Make or buy a rainbow flag.** The usual colors are: red (symbolizing life), orange (healing), yellow (sunlight), green (nature), blue (art), and purple (serenity). Some flags add brown and black lines to represent people of color, as well as pink, white, and blue lines for trans pride.
- **Read a book about LGBTQ+ individuals and diversity.**
- Washington community members recommend these books as wonderful conversation starters. Many more can be found by Googling “LGBTQ+ children’s books.”



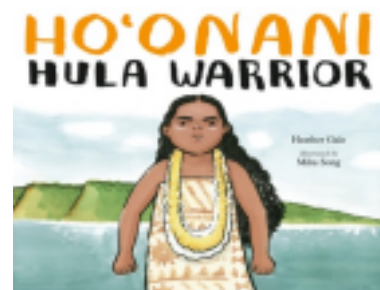
The Family Book
by Todd Parr

A great introduction to the wide diversity of families. Ages 3-6.



When Aidan Became a Brother
by Kyle Lukoff

A first look at the idea of transgender identity. Ages 5-9.



Ho'onani, Hula Warrior
by Heather Gale

A story of strength unlimited by gender expectations. Ages 5-8.



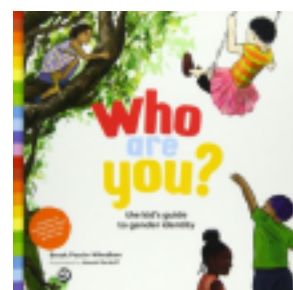
Melissa
by Alex Gino

A chapter book that explores transgender identity. Ages 8-12.



This Day in June
by Gayle E. Pitman

An overview of gender identity and Pride celebration. Ages 4-8.



Who Are You?
by Brook Pessin-Whedbee

An introduction to the idea of gender. Ages 5-8.

- **What’s happening at Washington for Pride**
 - Monday, May 23 Pride kickoff and Harvey Milk Teach-In. Students will learn about LGBTQ+ Pride history, including Stonewall, and about key leaders in the

movement.

- Tuesday, May 24-
- Tuesday, May 31 Students will participate in a variety of activities, including:
 - Exploring the history and meaning of the Pride flag, and making their own.
 - Crafting a colorful “Free to Be Me” set of feathered bird wings to be a photo backdrop at the Pride parade.
 - —Creating class banners and instruments for the Pride parade.
- Wednesday, June 1 Pride parade and dance party, 12:45-1:30. Families are welcome to join!

5th grade promotions will be held on Friday, June 3 in the cafeteria

Masks are required for everyone

8:30-9:15 Jokela/Kelly room 208

9:30-10:15 Hedgecock room 210

10:30-11:15 Geminder room 204

5th grade promotion will be held in the Washington cafeteria, one class at a time. We will have capacity for 2-4 guests per student. At the conclusion of promotion, students will file out into the courtyard for photos.

If you choose to take your child home after promotion, please make sure to sign them out on the clipboards that will be available in the courtyard and email

washingtonattendance@[berkeley.net](mailto:washingtonattendance@berkeley.net)

Please also keep in mind that the last day of school is a minimum day and all students will be dismissed at 1:30 pm.

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) and District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) Representatives are needed for Washington. Please contact Principal Hazen at katiahazen@berkeley.net if you can help out.

Future PAC Meeting Dates: Meetings are 6:30-8:00pm

[5/23/2022](#)

Future DELAC Meeting Dates: Meetings are 6:00-7:30pm

[5/24/2022](#)

The last day of school is June 3 and it's a minimum day - all students will be dismissed at 1:30 pm.

Please email washingtonattendance@berkeley.net

- if your child tests positive for COVID while at home. We will reply with information on return dates.
- with negative COVID tests to return to school
- with other absence information

Calendar Reminders:

- ★ May 22 **Multicultural Potluck 4** - 6:30 pm on the playground.
- ★ May 21 Berkeley Public Schools Fund Block Party Center @ Shattuck 12 - 3 pm
- ★ May 30 NO SCHOOL Memorial Day
- ★ June 1 **PRIDE parade** @ 12:45 pm

★ June 3 **Last day of school - School dismissed at 1:30 pm (minimum day schedule)**

★ June 3 **5th grade Promotion** ceremonies in cafeteria.

- 8:30-9:15 Jokela/Kelly room 208
- 9:30-10:15 Hedgecock room 210
- 10:30-11:15 Geminder room 204

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

Questions or concerns? Please email Principal Katia Hazen at katiahazen@berkeley.net