

Rhino Roar



News for the Washington community

Published every Thursday (mostly) January 16, 2019

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

Safety First! Please drive safely and park legally for pickup or drop off. Staff will care for your child in the office if you are a few minutes late for pickup. PLEASE do not block the drop off/pickup lane on McKinley Ave or MLK during posted hours - you put kids at risk by blocking other families who need to use it. You also risk getting a ticket! See Washington's Traffic Safety Plan [here](#)

Literacy Night a great success! A hearty crowd turned out last night despite the rain to learn how to support reading at home. In case you weren't able to attend, here are some takeaways:

- Don't try to be a reading teacher - even reading teachers don't do that with our own kids. Parents provide a snuggly lap, a quiet space and no distractions for reading.
- You can say, "Try that again" or "Get your mouth ready to make the sound" when your child gets stuck on a word. If they hesitate for 4 seconds or more, just tell them the word so they can focus on the meaning of what they are reading.
- Stop every once in a while and talk about what the child is reading: *What's going to happen next? Were you surprised by ___? That reminds me of when ___.*
- Check out the resources on the [library website](#) like [Toon Book Reader](#), [Tales to Go](#)
- Screens off 1 hour before bedtime - young brains need to wind down after a busy day. Providing a quiet environment for the last hour before bedtime helps kids sleep better.



Just say NO to cell phones in elementary school!

If your child needs a phone for safety or other reasons, please consider getting them a "dumb" phone that can only make or receive phone calls or texts. There's a lot of research showing that giving young kids unsupervised access to the internet is a bad idea.

Events coming up:

- Jan 21 NO School MLK Day
- Jan 22 Kindergarten Information Night for prospective families
- Jan 25 8:10 am All Rhino Assembly
- Jan 28 NO SCHOOL Staff Development Day
- Jan 30 English Learners Parent Meeting 6 pm Library
- Feb 12 School Site Committee Meeting 6 pm Library
- Feb 28 Black History Celebration 6 - 8 pm

Thank you for all your support of Washington!

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