

Rhino Roar Newsletter May 9, 2019

Rhino Roar

News for the Washington community

Published every Thursday (*mostly*)

May 9, 2019

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

The **Readathon** was a great success! So much reading..... Now get those pledge\$ in to school, the deadline is May 21! **Open House** is Thursday, May 16th from 6 - 7:30 pm. Please try to arrive as close to 6 pm as possible, as PTA will be having a budget approval meeting.

There is a "Statewide Day of Action" to rally for more funding for public education in Sacramento on **May 22**.

We strongly support the call for more state funding for public education, and we also know that you count on our schools to provide a safe learning environment, and our students need school activities, as well as healthy meals and other supports.

16 of Washington's 20 classroom teachers have notified us that they plan to be absent to attend the rally. Our plan for the day is to have substitute teachers and assistance from district office staff, and we are also planning activities that can be done in a group for all or part of the school day.

School WILL be open on May 22. We are required to follow Ed. Code and may not excuse student absences for this day.

We are trying to plan for the day and it would help to know whether families are participating in the rally or plan to send their students to school that day.

Please take a moment and complete this [survey](#) so we know how to schedule the day.

Thank you for your understanding and support. Another update about plans for May 22 will go out next week.

How can you advocate for more state funding for **afterschool programs**? It's never been easier to contact your Senator, Assembly Member, and the Governor: **Text "AFTERSCHOOL" to 52886**

Use this new tool to contact your representatives in less than 5 minutes From this platform, you can quickly email, call, and tweet your legislators. Take a few minutes to tell them to Save Afterschool. Then, tell your friends and family to do the same. From the [Partnership for Children and Youth](#)

Get to Know Your Rhinos

Welcome to a new feature in your Rhino Roar, as we find more about the Rhinos in our school herd!

Ms. Moustakas, Literacy Coach

Did you know that Ms. Moustakas is a bit of an Asian language expert? She speaks some Mandarin, Korean and Vietnamese. She even taught high school in South Korea after college.

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Ann Arbor, Michigan. I lived there my whole life until I went to college when I was 18 years old. I went to Pitzer college in Southern California. I wanted to go to California to escape the horrible Michigan winters. Going to a college where I could swim and play water polo was important to me as well.

How did you get into teaching?

My step mom and step dad are both teachers, so I was around teaching my whole life. When I was in high school I taught swim lessons. I ended up teaching kids to swim for 8 years. After a while I thought, "This is something I like to do, this is something I am good at," so I decided to make a career out of it.

What do you like to do for fun?

I like hanging out with my children. I have three children, a son in 2nd grade at Washington, a daughter starting kindergarten next year and my youngest is almost 3 years old. That means I spend A LOT of time at the park. If I'm not with them I like to hang out with my friends and go out for dinner. Of course I love reading, sometimes I just veg out and watch a little TV.

What advice do you have for students?

I think the biggest thing is be a kind person. It is something that will help you your WHOLE life. When you are kind, it spreads and you attract kind people. Pretty soon you have had this big impact on lots of people around you. It makes school a much more pleasant place to be.

In terms of reading, find something you really like to read. It is especially important to find a series, that way you know the characters and how the story tends to go. Once you find a hook and something you are excited about, you will just naturally become a better reader.

So if you ever feel the urge to chat in Mandarin about water polo or the latest in the *Keeper of the Lost Cities* book find Ms. Moustakas up in Room 206, or out and about in a Washington classroom!

State standards testing is starting on May 13 for our 3rd - 5th graders. We want kids to have a positive experience with this, so please make sure they are well rested and at school on time. Your child's classroom teacher will share the specific schedule with you. Thank you for your support!

Events coming up:

May 10 All Rhino Assembly 8:10 am

May 14 School Site Committee - open to all! 6 - 8 pm in library

May 16 Open House 6 - 7:30 pm

May 17 Traffic safety committee meeting, 10 am

4th grade dance showcase 9:20 am

May 22 Day of Action for Public Education

May 23 Spring Music Concert 1 pm

May 30 Middle School Visits for 5th graders

June 13 5th grade promotion 9:30 - 11 am

June 14 Last Day of School!