

Rhino Roar

News for the Washington community
Published every Thursday (mostly)
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Absent? Email washingtonattendance@berkeley.net Links to [calendar](#) and past [newsletters on PTA website](#)

School Site Council (SSC) election ends tomorrow! Please vote if you have not already done so and return your ballot to school. Thank you!

International Walk and Roll to School Day is next Wednesday October 2nd!

Walk, bike, skate or carpool to school to reduce Washington's car traffic and keep kids active, having fun and safe.

[Bike train](#) and [walking school bus](#) routes to be announced soon,

Mr. Hunter's Conference Bike will be out - see 6 people ride a single bike at once!

We are looking for volunteers to lead walking school buses and bike trains! It's such an enjoyable way for your child(ren) to get to school! If interested, please contact Rebecca Meyer at

rebecca.hope.pix@gmail.com

Introducing the Washington Rhino Books to Home Program!

Is your child bringing their book bag home every night? Are they delighting you with their reading? One of the best ways to become a strong, lifelong reader is to read a lot! Studies show what common sense tells us: the more kids read, the better they read and the more pleasure they get out of reading. Unfortunately, the reverse also holds true: children who read very little usually have poor reading skills. Reading is a struggle for them, and they avoid it whenever possible. Our Books to Home program can help all of our children to become strong readers!

The Books to Home program is well underway at Washington! Every evening your child brings home their "Just Right" books and nightly reading log. The book selection in your child's book bag is tailored to their current reading level and should include a variety of fiction and non-fiction selections. Reading books at the appropriate level is key to increasing reading fluency, comprehension and reading pleasure.

The Books to Home program is an important part of our school wide literacy project. A key factor is our partnership between your home and the classroom. When parents/guardians support their

children by taking the time to talk to them about their books and to listen and help them read, it gives our children a strong message that reading is important and enjoyable.

Here are a few benefits that come from nightly reading:

Building a Love of Reading- Reading gives children a way to improve their knowledge, expand their general cultural awareness, have more fun, make their imagination fly, find new ways to express their ideas, and become experts on a variety of kid friendly subjects. Reading provides a quiet escape from our often hectic and overscheduled lives.

Improved Vocabulary- Continuous reading can increase your child's vocabulary, which will likely lead to a higher level of academic success. Your children will also amaze you with their growing conversational skills.

Develop Critical Thinking Skills - Reading and analyzing texts helps kids develop critical thinking skills, like observing, interpreting and evaluating. For instance, as your child reads a text, he or she will begin to make inferences about what is being read. Summarizing the key ideas and details of a text will also require your child to think critically.

Improve Learning in Every Subject Area - Regardless of your child's age, becoming a successful reader will benefit him or her in almost any subject area or career path. For instance, in high school science classes, your child will have to read lab directions, understand science texts or read test questions. No matter the subject area, it will be important that your child can apply his or her knowledge of reading skills in order to analyze the reading

Ways to Encourage Reading- Here are a few ways to build your child's enthusiasm for reading that are suggested by the Reading is Fundamental Program (RIF):

- •Ask your child to read the books from their Book Bag to you each evening. Talk about each book and remind them to fill out the nightly reading log.
- • Scout for things your children might like to read. Use their interests and hobbies as starting points.
- Leave all sorts of reading materials including books, magazines, and colorful catalogs in conspicuous places around your home.
- Notice what attracts your children's attention, even if they only look at the pictures. Then build on that interest; read a short selection aloud, or simply bring home more information on the same subject.
- Let your children see you reading for pleasure in your spare time.
- Take your children to the library regularly. Explore the children's section together.

- Encourage older children to read to their younger brothers and sisters. Older children enjoy showing off their skills to an admiring audience.
- Play games that are reading-related. Check your closet for spelling games played with letter tiles or dice, or board games that require players to read spaces, cards, and directions.
- Perhaps over dinner, while you're running errands, or in another informal setting, share your reactions to things you read, and encourage your children to do likewise.
- Set aside a regular time for reading in your family—the 20 minutes before lights out, just after dinner or whatever fits into your household schedule. As little as 20 minutes of free reading a day can help improve your child's skills and habits.
- Read aloud to your child, especially a child who is discouraged by his or her own poor reading skills. The pleasure of listening to you read, rather than struggling alone, may restore your child's initial enthusiasm for books and reading.
- On gift-giving occasions, give books and magazines based on your child's current interests.
- Set aside a special place for children to keep their own books.
- Treat your children to an evening of laughter and entertainment featuring books! Many children (parents, too) regard reading as a serious activity. A joke book, a story told in riddles, or a funny passage read aloud could reveal another side of reading.
- Limit your children's television viewing in an effort to make time for other activities, such as reading. Do not allow a TV or other screens in the bedroom before bedtime.

If you are short on books, stop by the free book shelf in the library! We also accept book donations that are age appropriate so drop off your donations there.

When I look back, I am so impressed again with the life-giving power of literature. If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young.” — Maya Angelou

Events coming up:

- Sept 26 Picture Day
- Sept 27 Food Pantry in courtyard 1:30 - 5:30 pm
- Sept 29 Community Festival in Civic Center Park, 12 - 5 pm FREE
- Oct 1 Make up Picture Day
- Oct 2 Walk and Roll to School Day
- Oct 7 English Learners Advisory Committee 6-8 pm, Library
- Oct 10 Family Math Night 6 - 7:30 pm
Food Pantry in courtyard 1:30 - 5:30 pm