



# Rhino Roar

*News for the Washington community*  
Published every Thursday (mostly)  
October 10, 2019

Absent? Email [washingtonattendance@berkeley.net](mailto:washingtonattendance@berkeley.net) Links to [calendar](#) and past [newsletters](#) on [PTA website](#)

**Family Math Night TONIGHT:** a night of math fun for the whole family!

We start with pizza in the courtyard from 6:00 - 6:30, followed by activities in the cafetorium until 7:30 pm. There are prizes and activities for adults and kids, including homework passes!

Who decides when to close schools? The Superintendent works with the County Office of Education and other local agencies to make this decision. It's not up to principals, honest! Watch your email and the [district website](#) for the latest information.

Washington still needs a parent representative to the district **Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)**. This group meets the third Thursday of every month to discuss and make recommendations for how Local Control & Account Plan funding will be used for the 2020-2021 school year. Members are asked to serve for two-year terms. Please email Principal Hazen if you can represent Washington at PAC. [katiahazen@berkeley.net](mailto:katiahazen@berkeley.net)

Want to know the big picture with the **school budget**? Join SSC and ELAC on Oct 17 6 pm at Longfellow 1500 Derby St, Berkeley, CA 94703 for the Budget Big Picture presentation by Superintendent Stephens and Natasha Beery. This is something committee members have been asking about for a couple of years, and it's exciting to be able to address some big questions. This budget presentation will talk about state and local factors that impact BUSD budget cuts, the upcoming BUSD tax ballot measures, and resulting impacts on groups like SSCs, PTAs, the PAC, etc. For this reason in particular, the invitation to attend this meeting is open to anyone from the Washington community who may be

interested in getting more informed! Please use this [link](#) to rsvp to the meeting at Longfellow, as dinner and childcare are available.

*The message below was shared with all 3rd- 5th families earlier this week, but it's good information for all.*

**Should you let your child be on Social Media such as Tik Tok, Instagram, Snapchat?**

Social media can be very attractive to our children, and it falls to all of us to keep kids safe and age appropriate online. At school, we do a series of [Digital Citizenship](#) lessons to give students a good grounding in appropriate school computer use, but we also need your support and cooperation to monitor student online activity at home, especially if your child has a smartphone.

It's also important to remember that children can be held responsible at school for inappropriate social media activity that occurs at home and after hours if it impacts the school environment by targeting other students with bullying or threats. If you see any online posts by Washington students that you find concerning, please take a screenshot and send it to Principal Hazen at [katiahazen@berkeley.net](mailto:katiahazen@berkeley.net)

A great resource for families is [Common Sense Media](#) .

Please also be aware that sites such as TikTok require all users to be a minimum of 16 years old. For Snapchat, Instagram and Facebook, 13 years old is the minimum age. Younger children can be exposed to very mature content on these sites and it is the parents' responsibility to make sure their children are not being exposed to inappropriate media content outside of school.

**Fall Report Card Conferences** November 5 - 8 are shortened days (Kindergartners will be released at 12:30, grades 1-5 will be released at 1:15 pm) to allow for parents and teachers to meet to review student progress. Every student should have a report card conference. Contact your child's teacher to schedule yours today!

**Young Gifted And Black**

The District is relaunching for the second year the Young Gifted and Black afterschool program for students in grades 2 – 6. Held at Longfellow Middle School and led by community partners, the program is designed to provide our young people with an opportunity to explore their cultural heritage, have performance opportunities and to network in a warm and supportive environment.

The program began earlier this week, but there is still time to join. If you know of a student who might be an excellent member of this group, please be in touch with Ann Callegari at [anncallegari@berkeley.net](mailto:anncallegari@berkeley.net).

Events coming up:

- Oct 10 Family Math Night 6 - 7:30 pm
- Oct 11 Food Pantry in courtyard 1:30 - 5:30 pm
- Oct 14 NO SCHOOL for students - staff development day
- Oct 17 SSC/ELAC meeting at Longfellow 6 - 8 pm
- Oct 18 Walkathon Fundraiser!
- Oct 25 End of first grading period
- Oct 28 Meet the Symphony 8:15 am
- Oct 31 Halloween Parade 12:45 pm
- Nov 4 NO SCHOOL Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Nov 5-8 Early Release for Parent/Teacher Conferences
  - Kindergarten released at 12:30 pm
  - 1st - 5th grades released at 1:15 pm
- Nov 11 NO SCHOOL Veteran's Day