



Rhino Roar

News for the Washington community
Published every Thursday (mostly)
January 16, 2020

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

“What if Feelings Were People?”, a new poetry unit with poet Laura Walker, teaching artist with our 4th & 5th graders. *Anxious won't eat anything but What-ifs* - Ruby, *Courage is always trying to cheer up Lonely and Shy* - Davi, *Excited is like a horse in a race* - Zaraq, (and my favorite) *Optimism always runs to school* - Or. These are your PTA contributions at work!

Washington is always in need of volunteers for playground supervision during lunch, which is 11 am to 12:45 pm. Just sign in at the office, where you'll receive a safety vest and a set of guidelines.
If you're available every day, you might consider applying for the position of School Campus Aide, which you can do [here](#).

Washington's **African American Unity Group (AAUG)** meets this Thursday 1/16 @ 6 pm in the cafeteria. This group is open to all parent/guardians at Washington who are interested in improving the academic achievement of Black students at Washington. Pizza and a welcoming environment is provided!

Young, Gifted and Black is a student performance group that practices at Longfellow Middle School on Tuesday and Thursdays from 4:30 - 6:30 pm. It's open to all 2nd - 6th graders.
Sign up at <http://proud2beblack.org/enrollmentform>

In observance of Martin Luther King Jr Day, **school will not be in session on Monday, January 20, 2020**. For many, this is not a “day off” but a “day of service”. If you are interested in finding a volunteer opportunity, I wanted to share this resource with you:

<https://www.nationalservice.gov/serve-your-community/mlk-day-service>

You can narrow down your search by location and the kind of service you're interested in.

Ready Rhinos! Teachers are very pleased to report an increased number of students in line when school starts in the mornings. Thank you and please keep up the efforts to arrive on time each day. Our goal is 100% of students in line when the bell rings at 8:10 am.

Community Judges needed for Oratorical Festival on March 12 from 8:30 - 10:30 am. If you know a local business person or community member who could serve as a judge at Washington, please contact Principal Hazen at katihazen@berkeley.net

Snack with a Scientist 2020 is here and we are looking for STEM professionals who can come and engage with students on Monday, February 24 or Monday, March 2nd. For more information read on below.

Are you a STEM professional who enjoys inspiring students? Washington Elementary is starting a new program to engage young scientists with the larger STEM community in the area. Many students don't see themselves at future scientist because they don't have access to STEM professionals. Joining us allows you to be the "face of science" to our most impressionable kids, possibly launching them into STEM careers of their own. Together we can change the world. With that in mind, we welcome all and are specifically interested in PoC and women who can come in and chat. Small groups of students will sit down with a scientist for about 15 minutes. Scientists will give a small, "snack size" talk about their work, providing pictures or a brief hands-on activity for students to gain insight into their work. Then students will move on to work with a different scientist.

Actual snacks will be provided! Convinced? [Sign up here.](#)

Please email washingtonattendance@berkeley.net if your child is late or misses school with the date and reason for the absence.

Events coming up:

Jan 16	African American Unity Group (AAUG) 6 - 7:30 pm in the cafeteria
	Kindergarten Information Night, 7 pm
Jan 20	NO SCHOOL MLK Day
Jan 22	Zero Waste Lunch Wednesday
Jan 23	ELAC Student Awards Night
Jan 27	NO SCHOOL Teacher Professional Development
Jan 28	Washington Green Team meeting 2:45 pm in room 212