



# Rhino Roar

*News for the Washington community*  
Published every Thursday (mostly)  
January 23, 2020

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

Goodbye beautiful tree: the Italian Stone Pine that has stood at the McKinley entrance to Washington for decades will be cut down this weekend, after a branch fell this week and arborists determined the rest of the tree was unsafe. A new tree will eventually be planted in the space.

**ELAC Awards** tonight: students who are learning English in addition to another language will be recognized in an awards ceremony tonight at 6 pm in the cafeteria. Great job, students!

Parent/guardians can access information about report cards and other student information on the Illuminate Parent Portal <https://www.berkeleyschools.net/illuminate-access>

Is your child being exposed to slurs and racial epithets while playing video games? We don't allow their use at school, so please have this conversation with your child if they are a gamer. Here's a recent [article](#) with great advice for parents helping kids navigate the online world.

**REMINDER: No School on Monday** due to Staff Professional Development

Washington **Climate Club** Launches! Thanks to the efforts of parents Meghan Lang and Jessica Arnold, students in 2nd to 5th grades can learn more about what they can do to protect the environment and connect with kids who have similar interests. Climate Club will meet during lunch recess in the garden the 4th Tuesday of every month.

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 [katiahazen@berkeley.net](mailto:katiahazen@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 as future scientists 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](mailto:washingtonattendance@berkeley.net) if your child is late or misses school with the date and reason for the absence.

Events coming up:

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| Jan 23 | ELAC Student Awards Night   |
| Jan 27 | NO SCHOOL Teacher Professional Development                                |
| Jan 28 | Climate Club meetings for 2nd - 5th graders at lunch recess in the garden |
|        | Washington Green Team meeting 2:45 pm in room 212                         |
| Feb 4  | PTA Board Meeting in the library 6 pm                                     |
| Feb 10 | PTA Fundraising Meeting in the Library 6 pm                               |
| Feb 13 | School Site Committee 6 pm  |
| Feb 14 | NO SCHOOL Lincoln's Birthday  |
| Feb 17 | NO SCHOOL Presidents Day  |
| Feb 20 | English Learner's Advisory Committee (ELAC) 6 pm in room 1                |
| Feb 21 | Assembly: I Am A Performer 10:10 am                                       |
| Feb 24 | Snack with a Scientist  |
| Feb 28 | Black History Month Celebration 6 pm                                      |