



Rhino Roar

News for the Washington community
Published every Thursday (mostly)
February 28, 2020

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

COVID-19 (coronavirus) update: Washington follows the guidance of BUSD, which in turn is guided by the City of Berkeley Health Office, the Alameda County Office of Education and the Centers for Disease Control. Contingency plans are in the works, and will be shared in the event they become necessary. Please follow the previously shared recommendations for keeping sick children at home and stay tuned for updates. We're offering hand sanitizing gel to kids at lunch. If you'd like to donate hand sanitizing gel, please drop off at the office. Here's a [kid-friendly coronavirus explanation](#) that we're sharing with kids.

Oratorical Festival News:

- Do you know a local business owner, religious leader or other community member who would be able to be a **judge** at our annual Oratorical Festival? It's on March 12 from 8:45 - 10 am. We will train! Please email katiahazen@berkeley.net
- Family friendly movie about Oakland's Black History Oratorical Festival, available online <https://www.hbo.com/documentaries/we-are-the-dream> You don't need HBO to watch it!
- **Parent coaches** needed for the Oratorical Festival! We need adults to practice with students who are learning speeches or poems for Washington's 3rd annual Black History Oratorical Festival on March 12. Please contact your child(ren's) teacher if you're available during the day or the LEARNS coordinator Mr. John Alford-Leaks at johnalfordleaks@berkeley.net if you're available 3-6 pm). The top two performers from grades 3-5 will go on to represent Washington at the District competition at Longfellow on 3/19. Go Rhinos!

Ms. Whiting and Ms. Waddel's 3rd grade class got a super surprise Tuesday when one of the "**Bay Area's Black Change Makers**" they have been studying walked by their room 104 classroom, saw their writing about her on a bulletin board, and stopped to talk with them. Poet, educator, playwright and screenwriter [Chinaka Hodge](#) chatted with students about her friends and fellow BHS alums Daveed Diggs and Joshua

Redman. She mentioned her current work writing for TV with Black Panther director Ryan Coogler. The 3rd graders were completely starstruck! It was amazing to see one of the Bay Area's Black Change Makers chatting with our own Rhinos!

This week at the Faculty Meeting, staff learned about **trauma-informed practices**. Children who have experienced trauma need to build a foundation for learning which starts with basic trust, so staff talked about building relationships through connection and consistency, leading to increased regulation and resilience in students.

New schedule for 2020-21 school year: **First day of School is August 17, 2020.**

This allows first semester for the high schools and middle schools to end before Winter Break

The final day of the 2020-21 school year will be Friday, June 4.

The first three days will have a 1:30 pm dismissal: Monday - Wednesday August 17-19, 2020.

Here is a link to calendar information for next year:

<https://www.berkeleyschools.net/calendar/>

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

Events coming up:

Feb 28	Food Pantry 1:30 pm to 6 pm
Mar 7	Readathon begins!
Mar 10	PTA Board Meeting 6 pm
Mar 11	Read in the Trees 1 pm
Mar 12	Oratorical Festival 8:45 am
	School Site Council (SSC) 6 pm
Mar 13	Food Pantry 1:30 - 5:30 pm
Mar 15	Readathon ends
Mar 19	BUSD Oratorical Festival at Longfellow