

Rhino Roar



News for the Washington community

Published weekly

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Links to [calendar](#) and past [newsletters](#) on [PTA website](#)

You can watch the inspiring and heartwarming Berkeley Public Schools Fund Spring Tribute video [here](#).

This year, BPSF honors 11 individuals who represent the “Hearts and Souls” of our 11 elementary schools. Please help us pay tribute to these community heroes who are the beloved after school program staff, custodians, instructional assistants, family engagement coordinators, and teachers of BUSD's elementary community. To see a list of honorees by school, click [here](#).

5th grade parents: you still have to register your child at their new middle school. This year, it's all online, just click [here](#).

New staff video: [Give a Little Love](#) - check it out!

Washington's School Site Committee (SSC) is open to all members of the Washington

community. Monday's 7 pm SSC meeting is open to public comment on the [budget plan](#) for 2020-21. To join Zoom Meeting:

<https://berkeley-net.zoom.us/>

Meeting ID: 825 2209 0300

Password: 3YaUKy

5th grade poetry (from guest teacher Laura Walker): This spring, fifth graders explored the power of "Let..." to write poems that might heal the world. We were inspired by the work of Danez Smith and Lucille Clifton. I was just about to display excerpts from their poems when schools closed. Instead, [please read their words here: laura-walker.com/let.html](#) They have written some truly powerful lines. You can also leave a comment for the poets. All my best, Laura Walker/ Poetry teacher/ lauralynnwalker@gmail.com laura-walker.com

Distance Learning Behind the Scenes

Washington Rhinos get to see teachers on Google Meets, but that's just teachers' stage time. Teachers are working behind the screen to keep everything running and make distance learning as successful as possible.

Here's a look behind the curtain at some of the things that are happening ...

Teachers are communicating with families via email, text, phone and video. Different parents prefer different means of communication and have different availability, so teachers are working to get everyone connected and fully informed.

Teachers are tech support and trouble shooters. Just like families, they are figuring out how to navigate through the many technological learning tools and make them work not just for teachers, but your families too. They are constantly adapting in real time to rise to the tech challenge and reach all learners. Teachers seek to accommodate different levels of experience and access to technology.

Teachers give emotional support, cheerleading and advice to families who reach out about their children struggling in this strange new environment. They connect families to crisis

resources and ensure that children's emotional needs are met by caring adults. Teachers look at assignments submitted, and send supportive feedback to families and students. They connect with families to ensure that everyone is aware of the ever-changing expectations.

Teachers check in with each other constantly to ensure students across the grade level are having a uniform experience. Each week, they receive distance learning plans from a central committee of teachers and district staff, which they interpret and adapt. They are collaborating to redesign lessons, to ensure learning is accessible to all students. Many teachers are creating daily morning messages, math help slide shows, and read alouds.

It's important to remember that the teaching profession has been flipped on its head. Our teachers are working hard to develop an effective way forward to reach all learners and teach new content without being able to use the tried and tested tools and strategies developed over years in the classroom.

Finally, just like all of you, our teachers have family both young and old that they need to keep safe and cared for during this time. Our teachers really appreciate all the support, patience, and flexibility in this ever changing time. None of this would be possible without our partnership with families, and we are so grateful for this.

When we return to school in August, there will almost certainly be a distance learning component for all students. Teachers are eagerly anticipating getting to work with students in the classroom again and building on the skills developed in this period. Working together, we will come through this even stronger and help all of our children meet the challenges of this new reality.

In partnership, Principal Katia Hazen and the Washington Staff

If you do not plan to return to Washington in the fall, please email washingtonattendance@berkeley. or call (510) 644-6310. Thank you!

Questions or concerns? Please email Principal Katia Hazen at

katiahazen@berkeley.net

Go Rhinos!