

Rhino Roar



News for the Washington community

Published weekly

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

THANK YOU to everyone who has made a donation or started bidding at our
online auction! charityauction.bid/Rhinos2020

Don't miss the **FAMILY DANCE PARTY** this Saturday, June 6 from 6:30 - 8 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/>

Meeting ID: 942 198 1888

Password: 655707

Class of 2020: Come document your 5th grade promotion from Washington with a special photo next Wednesday and Thursday! A promotion backdrop will be set up at the orange gate, and

families may come by any time after 11am on 6/10 to collect a special memento and take a graduation photo while social distancing. Thank you to 4th grade parents Amy Callaway and Kate Cunnane for making this special effort and to 5th grade parent Sara Colburn for making keepsake rainbow Rhino posters for all 5th graders!

What will school be like in the fall? As soon as this information is available, it will be shared with you via email and on the BUSD website.

Please take a few minutes to answer this survey that will help us to understand your preferences and concerns about the possibility of returning to in-person learning in August 2020.

Family Survey: tinyurl.com/survey0820

Encuesta Familiar: tinyurl.com/encuesta0820

Estimadas Familias en BUSD: Les pedimos que tomen unos minutos de su tiempo para responder a esta encuesta la cual nos ayudará a entender sus preferencias y preocupaciones acerca de la posibilidad de regresar al aprendizaje en persona en agosto 2020.

Rhinos showed up to protest on Thursday evening and we were a beautiful sight to behold! It's a deeply held belief in BUSD and in particular at Washington that education must be a force for dismantling systemic racism. Utilizing a k-5 ethnic studies approach, we go beyond a 'heroes and holidays' approach to nurture a more critical worldview for our students. Here's a glimpse at how this works in a kindergarten classroom and in a 4th grade classroom:

From Hannah Kessel, kindergarten teacher: *"The recent police killing of George Floyd, the ongoing violence and targeting of communities of color by law-enforcement, and the current police violence against protesters and reporters, is extremely upsetting, if not heartbreaking and enraging. I want you to know that our teachers' union, BFT, stands in solidarity with the Movement for Black Lives, and I am personally using my grief and anger to motivate me to be as active as I can in the fight for justice. In times like these, being with my students gives me so much hope about the possibility of a more just world. I wish I could be with them to help them process what's going on around them, to help them cope with their emotions, and to help lift their voices to make change in the world around them."*

As we head into summer break, I wanted to offer a few resources to help you to support your child in this difficult time (there are lots more out there so feel free to share some that you've found helpful). I'm also including information on a Washington community protest organized by parents. Kindergarteners are not too young to talk to about race, and they can understand current events if presented in a developmentally appropriate way. Children pick up on things around them more than we may realize, so addressing the issues directly with them can lower their anxiety and empower them to feel like they can make positive change in the world."

From Dawn Bail, 4th grade teacher: "Dear Room 211 Families, "Crawl towards judgement, sprint towards understanding." was something children's book author, Jason Reynolds, said at a KidLit rally for Black Lives Matter yesterday.

I wanted to take this opportunity to share my deep frustration and sadness over the recent killing of George Floyd. I'm sure many of you are having conversations about this at home. Here I want to share what we have been talking about in our Zooms,

- We watched "Something Happened in Our Town", it's on the work expectations doc this week. It's a book exploring how a white family and an African American family seek to explain police violence towards the African American community. This led to a discussion about reasons behind police oppression, and our understanding of the protests.

- We did a picture walk through a book the children are familiar with, "Let the Children March" about the children's marches of 1963. This helped the class really think about what was the same and different between those marches that led to real change and the marches we are seeing today. Here the students did an amazing job of thinking about key similarities and differences and ponder if our current marches will lead to change.

- On Thursday we read, 'Stonewall' a book about the Stonewall riots in 1969 which led to the LGBTQ+ rights movement and discussed protest movements in general. I talked about the young student who in SF emerged as a key leader and organizer of

the huge peaceful march on Wed. We discussed the curfew and the president's threat of bringing in the military. In one group we discussed how key military leaders had pointed out it is a core value of the military to uphold the right to free speech, therefore quelling the protests violated that value.

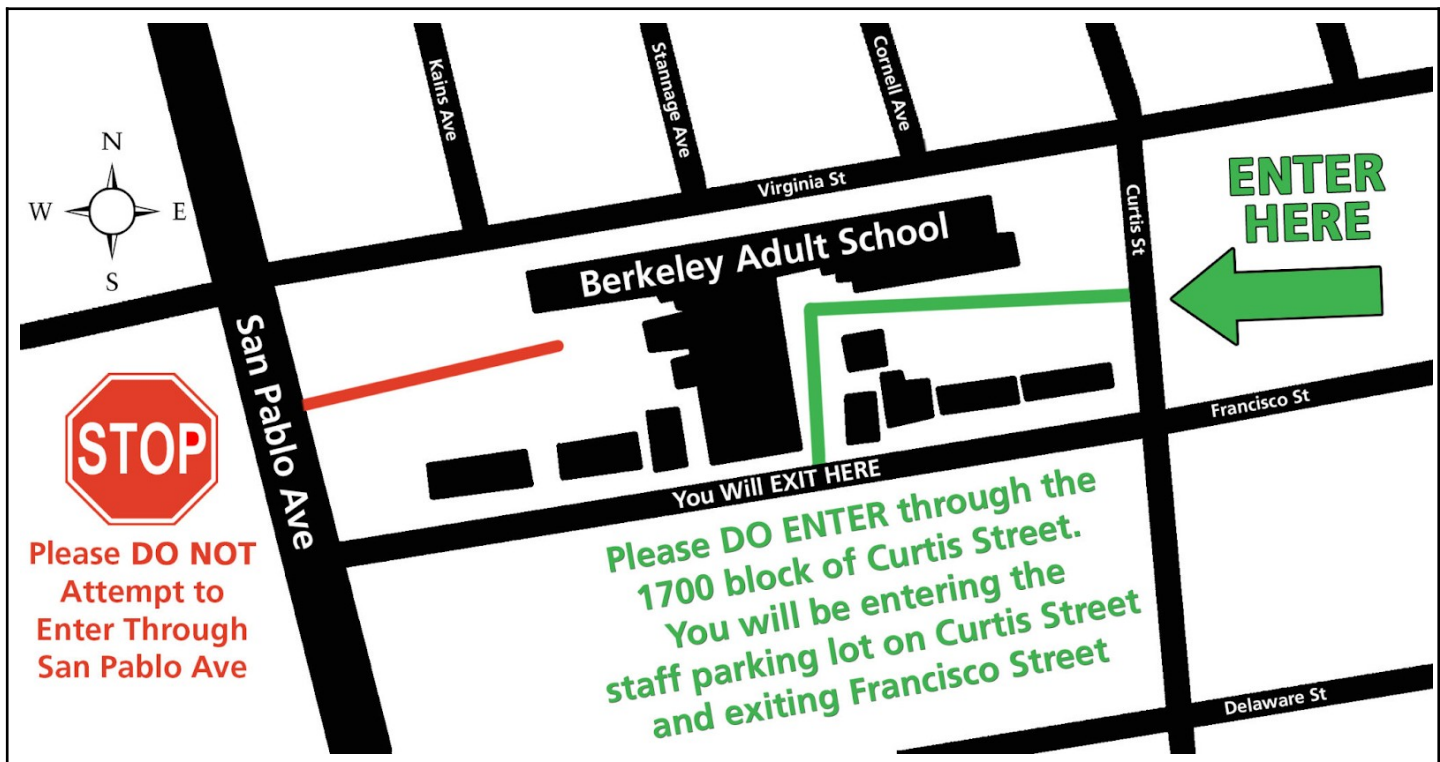
- One thing we haven't talked about much is our feelings around this. I decided not to do this because I didn't want our African American boys in class to be put on the spot, (to help us all process our feelings.) I think family discussions about feelings about systemic police violence and racism are more appropriate.

Have all these discussions been enough? Probably not...As we head into summer let's keep challenging our children to continue discussing, protesting, voicing our opinions, analysing the world around us. Just a couple of days ago I got a kid made BLM flyer through my door; anyone can make a difference.

In the words of our fabulous class t-shirt, "We can do this Together."

We are most powerful in this work when we are in community with each other. You can join the efforts to dismantle racism by being active in parent groups at Washington, or by starting a new group if you don't find one that appeals to you. This is our core mission at Washington: to empower children and families to create positive change in the world.

The [Ed Hub](#) is your summer source for all things teaching & learning. This drive-through site allows you to pull in, pick up supplies like the **summer learning packet**, and **free books at your child's reading level** and head back home while staying safely inside your car. It's open Monday & Friday from 12 Noon to 2:00 PM, and Wednesday from 3:30-5:30 PM.



Washington PTA [Online Fundraiser](#) There are loads of gift cards that can be used now for curbside pickup. We also have some virtual teacher events and sign-up parties! Please be generous in your support of Washington's students.

If you weren't able to come pick up your child's belongings this week, they will be available in the cafeteria 9 am - 3 pm next week. Please do not go to other areas of the school.

- Students who have chromebooks may keep them over the summer if they are returning to a BUSD school.

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

Stay Strong, Rhinos!