

# Rhino Roar



*News for the Washington community*

Published weekly (mostly)

October 9, 2020

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

## **No School On Monday, October 12** due to Teacher Professional Development Day

Washington's School Site Committee (SSC) and the English Language Advisory Committee (ELAC) will hold their first meeting together next week on 10/14 from 6 to 8 pm via Zoom. These meetings are open to the public, you don't have to be a member of either committee to attend. You can see an agenda with zoom links [here](#).

**BUSD Science Teachers taking action during the pandemic by pledging to plant 5,000 trees** to combat global warming and wildfires, \$1 per tree. We know that families have a lot on your plates and a lot happening in your life, but if you, or anyone you know, is able to give we would really appreciate it. Please visit the [donations page](#) and feel free to share with your social media! Hooray for trees!

Your Washington PTA invites you to a general meeting on 10/22 @ 6pm on the topic of “What Do I Need to Know About Possible School Reopening?” [Link to Zoom here](#). If you have burning questions that you want to make sure are answered, [please submit them in advance here](#) . You can also share your ideas for future PTA Meeting topics.

It is with sadness that we inform Washington families that garden teacher Ket Kornbluth has given her notice and will be leaving before the end of the month. A new garden teacher is being actively recruited, and will be hired as soon as possible. Interested in learning more about the position? Have knowledge and experience with garden teaching? [Here's the website for applying to the position](#).

If your child is absent for any reason, please email [washingtonattendance@berkeley](mailto:washingtonattendance@berkeley). and copy your child’s teacher. Thank you!

**Join the fun on International Walk and Roll Week:** Monday-Friday, October 19-23, 2020

The students, parents, and teachers at Washington will celebrate International Walk and Roll Week from October 19 -23. This is a great opportunity to celebrate our health, the environment, and our school spirit. With the suggestions below, we’re hoping every student will participate.

**What’s going on?**

- Lots of walking and rolling!
- Individual “passports” for students to track progress and log activities.
- Fun theme days every day!
- Activities for kids to do in their neighborhood or inside their homes.
- Drawing for prizes for kids of all ages.
- **A physically distant celebration!**
- While students are learning at home, students and their families should take active breaks throughout the school day. Kick off this healthy practice with this fun walking and rolling experience in your neighborhood, while maintaining physical distance.
- Visit the IW&RW website to [download](#) the “passport” or [fill it out online](#) and log your activity! Students who complete the passport can enter into the prize drawing – a scooter and helmet for elementary students, and a gift card to a sporting goods store for middle and high school students. Students can e-mail a picture of their completed passport to [info@](mailto:info@)

[alamedacountysr2s.org](http://alamedacountysr2s.org), or text a picture to (510) 459-4137.

- Post a fun photo to celebrate the week on social media! Don't forget to tag @AlamedaCoSR2S on Twitter with #WalktoSchoolDay and #WalkAndRollWeek, and post on Facebook at [facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/).

## Racially, Ethnically, and Culturally Based HALLOWEEN COSTUMES: **Cultures are not Costumes**

By J. Ito-Gates, adapted from an article by Kat Lazo, sharing with the Washington Community

Many people in our community love Halloween and the magic of dressing up. Part of creating a safe school community for ALL students on Halloween is making sure racially, ethnically, and culturally based costumes are NOT part of our festivities because cultures are not costumes.

We invite families to reflect on the questions below.

1. Is the costume racially, ethnically or culturally based?

If so, it's probably going to make people from those racial/cultural/ethnic groups feel unsafe and disrespected. If you're not sure, the names of the costumes usually make it very clear: "Hey Amigo Costume, Geisha Costume, Native Child Costume" etc.

2. Does Your Child Belong to That Group of People?

If the answer is no, please reflect on what it means to borrow someone else's culture or race for a day-- because for many people it's not a costume, it's their everyday lives.

3. If The Costume Is Meant to Be Funny, Why Is It Funny?

If the costume is meant to be funny because it is making light of an ethnic or racial group, then it is most likely a caricature and hurtful.

4. How Would Everyone Feel If Someone Wore That Costume Around That Group of People?

If an Indigenous family were to welcome a child into their home wearing an Indian Child Costume, what would the impact be on everyone? What about wearing a Hey Amigo Costume around a Latinx family? A geisha costume around a Japanese family? If the impact is harmful on any given day, then Halloween is no exception.

We also invite our amazing caregivers to explore the resources below as a way to help nurture a safer, more inclusive anti-racist community for all of our children!



the conscious kid

[The Conscious Kid Website](#)

[So You Want to Talk About Race](#) by Ijeoma Oluo

Visit [Embrace Race](#) to deepen your conversations about race with your children.

Fun Fall Activities:

- Monster Mash Dance Party! 10/29 from 12 - 12:30 pm online with Mr. Leaks! [Link to Zoom here](#)
- Special PTA activity in the works for 10/31, updates next week!

If you use the school lunches provided by BUSD, please fill out the meal applications on [ezmealapp.com](#).

We encourage all parents/guardians to join Illuminate Home Connect this school year! This is the portal for parents/guardians to view grades, assignments and attendance data. See [here](#) for how to access.

Questions or concerns? Please email Principal Katia Hazen at [katiahazen@berkeley.net](mailto:katiahazen@berkeley.net)