



Rhino Roar

News for the Washington community

Published weekly (mostly)

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

[The Superintendent's update](#) today shares the recent school board approval of plans for a January 13 reopening date for elementary schools, with k-2 grades returning first, followed by 3-5. Additionally, it was shared that Washington will not be a part of the initial Phase 1 small group supports planned at 4 elementary schools prior to January. With the availability of additional staff, this program may expand. You can track progress on re-opening at the [BUSD COVID-19 RISK REDUCTION DASHBOARD](#) Questions? Join the PTA meeting on 10/29 at 6 pm. You can submit your questions ahead of time and even suggest topics for future PTA Meetings [here](#).

The Community Advisory Committee (CAC) is a parent-driven group formed to advise the Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA) on issues which affect children with special needs. If you are the parent/guardian of a child with an IEP, this may be for you! The Special Education process can feel overwhelming and isolating. Many parents often feel voiceless when seeking better outcomes for their children. Through the education, advocacy, and community provided by joining the CAC, parents find their voices and become more informed and empowered. We ask the tough questions you may not feel comfortable asking on your own and speak on behalf of families and students with IEPs. As a group, we prioritize and champion effective Special Education programs and services within our SELPA to improve outcomes at the District-level.

Family members, teachers, administrators, community representatives, and others are welcome to attend this advisory planning meeting:

Community Advisory Committee (CAC) 2020-21 Planning Meeting

Monday October 26, 2020 from 6:00pm-7:15pm

Join Meeting Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/>

To call in: 1 (669) 900 6833; Meeting ID: 848 1786 0126

*Translation services are available as needed: To arrange for translation, send an email by October 21 to mkakihara@ausdk12.org and specify what language you require

This meeting will focus on:

Clarifying voting rights and temporary officers

Identify Meeting dates for 2020-21

Developing Mission Statement for CAC and Goals for 2020-2

The city of Berkeley has openings in a November Berkeley Fun Camps program from Monday, November 2, 2020 through Friday, November 20, 2020. These camps will be offered in Berkeley parks between 2:00pm and 5:00pm, Monday through Friday and will comply with the current Health Order requirements. In order to have stable groups/cohorts of 14 children, and to practice social distancing, there are a limited number of spaces available. If you have questions or need assistance, please contact the City of Berkeley Recreation Administration office at recreation@cityofberkeley.info or call (510) 981-5150 open 8:30am to 4:30pm.

Calendar Reminders:

- October 30 will be a regular school day.
- Veteran's Day November 11 NO SCHOOL
- Parent-teacher conference week: November 16 - 20
- NO SCHOOL on Nov. 20 for parent-teacher report card conferences

From Girls Leadership:

In the midst of trying times (and good times!), the practice of finding joy can be helpful, especially in our relationships and connections to others. It provides a sense of belonging, and supports the development of resilience and hope.

Here are three ideas to spark joy and keep our connections strong:



EVENING CHECK-IN

Right before bed, check in with your children and ask them to share a funny moment of the day or something that made them smile today. Be sure to share your funny moment with them!



DANCE PARTY

Turn on music from your childhood and invite your family to dance with you! There are several variations of this activity. You can ask your children if they want to be the DJ and share their favorite music and dance moves with you. If dancing isn't your thing, make it a music lounge night – an opportunity to share your favorite music.



WEEKEND ACTIVITY

Every member of the family writes on a slip of paper, a fun activity they would like the family to do together. This could be anything from watching a movie, to building a fort, to playing a card game, having a sing along. Grab an empty jar, basket or hat and drop in all the suggestions. Elect one member of the family to choose (no peeking!) one paper out of the jar and that becomes the family activity for the day.

As you consider trying out a tool, make it your own by adapting it to your family's culture and way of being. Above all, be patient with yourself and your family, knowing that parenting (within or outside of a pandemic) is a series of trials and errors as we raise unique beings.

Looking for more ways to stay connected this fall? Sign up for one of our upcoming programs starting the first week of November and read our post on [Wellness and Connection At Home](#).

Dear Washington Families: I sometimes see parenting advice that seems very helpful and want to share it with you. The letter below is from [this website](#).

Dear Care and Feeding:

Our 5-year-old is in distance learning. She is a new reader. She can read most one-syllable words and many two-syllable words. She does a good job reading single words and does well in her small remote reading class. But she's resistant to practicing reading.

Her teacher said one of the most important things to do right now is have her read to us 20 minutes a day. It's not happening because she says it's so hard. We have some easy beginner reading books she should be able to read. We've tried FaceTime reading with her grandma, but my daughter doesn't want to do it. We've suggested that she and Grandma read a book together over FaceTime. Again, the answer is "No."

At this time, I'm thinking we should wait until school is over and then prioritize reading when she doesn't have other schoolwork. But how do we get her past the fear she has that she doesn't know some words? And how do we decipher if this is laziness, fear, or embarrassment? I'll add she has some attention issues we are in the process of diagnosing.

I want her to continue to improve so she's not behind next year. I also don't want to push too much in this stressful time.

—Want to Raise a Reader

Dear WtRaR,

It sounds to me like your daughter is developing at a pretty normal pace. It's completely common for kids to reject reading at this age, no matter how fun we adults think we are making it. Think of learning to read like working out: When you're just getting started, it can be very uncomfortable, but over time we begin to enjoy it. Your daughter's teacher is absolutely right—reading for 20 minutes a day is probably the most important academic activity you could be doing right now. That said, you've got some options on how to achieve that goal.

For example, practicing reading individual words counts toward her 20-minute goal. So does having someone read to her. Many teachers think of this 20-minute rule sort of like sports practice. You're not going to do the same thing every time, especially in the beginning. Sometimes you're lifting weights or running drills; other times you're watching film or studying the playbook. When practicing how

to read, sometimes you read a book; other times you work on phonics; still other times a grown-up reads to you. While she may not want to read to Grandma, she can still get a lot of educational value from having Grandma read to her.

I'd also try breaking that 20 minutes up into five-minute chunks over the day. In my years of teaching I've found that a kid's attention span is usually equal to their age in minutes (5 years equals five minutes). So breaking it up into four quick sessions a day and gradually combining those sessions over time will help ease her into a more dedicated reading block. Additionally, I'd check to see if the books you have for her are books she's interested in. Providing her with some choice in her reading material could also inspire her to read more. I hope this helps!

—Mr. Hersey (second grade teacher, Washington)

Your Washington PTA invites you to a special (distanced, masked) event: on Saturday, October 31 from 11:30 am to 4 pm: students and families are invited to come (in costume if you celebrate) to the orange gate to take their picture with a life sized cut out of Coach Don in one of his amazing Halloween costumes as Cruella DeVille! PTA volunteers (masked and gloved) will be on hand to give candy (through a long tube) to spread only joy!

More Fun Fall Activities:

- Monster Mash Dance Party! 10/29 from 12 - 12:30 pm online with Mr. Leaks! [Link to Zoom here](#)

If your child is absent for any reason, please email washingtonattendance@berkeley and copy your child's teacher. Thank you!

Questions or concerns? Please email Principal Katia Hazen at katiahazen@berkeley.net