

Rhino Roar



News for the Washington community

Published weekly (mostly)

January 8, 2021

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

Dear Washington Community: As you may know, one of our families has been devastated recently by the loss of a beloved parent. They have set up a Gofundme and would be grateful for any support. Please join in however you can, as this is when a community can really step up to offer help. Here is a message from mom and the link:

Our sweet and studious Mylei lost her dad Michial to liver cancer on January 1, 2021. Michial didn't have life insurance and we didn't financially prepare for this.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/> Thank you!

We're excited to host members of the local Ohlone community at an assembly on Wednesday 1/13 @ 10 am. The presentation will be geared to 3rd - 5th

grade students but is open to all.

Topic: mak-'amham: Ohlone Assembly

Time: Jan 13, 2021 10:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

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

Meeting ID: 898 1109 6377

Passcode: 544813

- Here's a sweet look at some Washington students at the [Chess School](#) learning pod. Thanks Berkeley Public Schools Fund for all your support!

Ed Hub NEW HOURS: Starting Nov. 29 the Ed Hub will be open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3-5pm.

Hot spots are now in!

STAR tests, round 2: All California school districts are required by the state to have an objective test to measure student learning during remote instruction. BUSD has chosen to use STAR computer adaptive tests as a three times a year, quick (less than 30 minutes on average) assessment that can be used as an additional data point when measuring student learning. Computer adaptive tests are designed to offer easier questions if a student gives a wrong answer and harder questions if a student gives a correct answer, until the student's learning level can be determined. All students are expected to take the STAR, as they would be expected to take a spelling or math test given as part of classroom instruction. This is a low stakes assessment, meaning that there are no consequences for high or low scores. Teachers continue to learn how to administer the test and best interpret the results. Parent/guardians should be able to access student results through the Illuminate parent portal.

You can help your child feel ready for STAR by [watching this short video](#) which

explains, among other things, that computer adaptive tests like the STAR keep asking you harder questions if you're getting them right, so it can see where kids "top out". So everyone will get some questions wrong, and that's ok! In fact, if you're getting really hard questions, you're probably doing just great! Just choose what you think is the best answer and keep going.

Calendar Reminders:

- Jan 18 NO SCHOOL Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service
- Jan 25 NO SCHOOL Teacher Professional Development
- Feb 12 & Feb 15 NO SCHOOL Lincoln's Birthday and President's Day

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

Questions or concerns? Plans for Jan. 20? Please email Principal Katia Hazen at katiahazen@berkeley.net