



Rhino Roar

News for the Washington community

Published weekly (mostly)

January 29, 2021

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

## **Get yer paper here! [January Rhino Student Newspaper](#) and, in case you missed it: [December Rhino Student News](#)**

Black Lives Matter at School: We're excited to kick off Black History month by observing Black Lives Matter week February 1 - 5. The [School Board](#) established this to allow students, staff and families across the district to learn about the [13 guiding principles](#) of the Black Lives Matter Movement through classroom read alouds and activities. We anticipate rich age-appropriate discussions leading to deep learning and we're excited to share this with you.

How to access student information (Star tests, report cards) in the parent portal of Illuminate:

- Go to <https://www.berkeleyschools>. and follow the steps listed there to access the portal.
- Select the "Report Cards" option.
- In that section, there is an option to download a report card for Star Assessments.
- For Elementary, it is called "Star Assessment Scores".
- Middle School is called "Renaissance Star".

What do teachers do on Professional Development days, anyway? On January 25, elementary and middle school educators from across the district gathered virtually for a keynote address by [Dr. Gholdy Muhammed](#), author of *Cultivating Genius: An Equity Framework for Culturally and Historically Responsive Teaching*. Following this, breakout groups focused on curricular areas at the various grade levels. Teachers and staff worked to understand and incorporate Dr. Muhammed's ideas and framework within their classrooms and students. Finally, we came back together as a school and shared our progress with each other and worked further to refine the application of Dr. Muhammed's framework. This work

is by no means complete, and we are excited to continue the work of incorporating culturally responsive teaching practices into our classrooms. Staff will be reading and discussing Cultivating Genius throughout the winter and spring.

Berkeley Federation of Teachers Community FAQ on School reopening is available [here](#).

Welcome new Garden Instructor Emma Christie! Emma has over 4 years of teaching elementary school age children in gardens, comes highly regarded from one of California's best garden training groups, Life Lab, where she worked and got lots of professional development. She will start next week with the new schedule - look for her in the garden and say (a masked and socially distanced) Hello!

Washington's School Site Committee will have its next meeting on Tuesday, February 2nd at 7 pm. This meeting is open to all in the school community and the general public. Agenda is available [here](#).

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

ID: 87180008049

Passcode: 004695

6th [Annual African American Read In](#) is Sunday Feb 7, 11:30 - 1:30 pm PST. Join this community celebration of African American literature written by people of color. Participating in this year's production will be members of the DKG, Delta Kappa Gamma Society of Key Women Educators.

English Learners Advisory Committee (ELAC) will focus the February meeting on math story problems. This will take place on Feb 8 from 7 - 8 pm via zoom. Watch for a link from Ms. Hawkins.

Feb 11: PTA Parent Meeting on Thursday @ 6 pm: Supporting Your Child Through Distance Learning

6:00 - 6:30: General PTA business and vote on proposed budget changes

6:30 - 7:30: Washington counselor Michelle Tirella Ventura will lead a discussion for parents/guardians on how to support your kids (and yourself!) to survive and even thrive in the ongoing stressors of distance learning. If you have a specific question you'd like to see addressed, please submit it [here](#).

<https://zoom.us/j/5923706620?>

Feb 25: Black History Month: Black Music Through the Ages with Ms. Faye Carol: @ 1pm live-streamed program at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?>

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

Calendar Reminders:

- Feb 1-5 Black Lives Matter Week by [resolution](#) of the School Board
- Feb 2 School Site Committee 7 - 8 pm
- Feb 8 English Learners Advisory Committee (ELAC) - Focus on math for English Learners 7 - 8 pm

- Feb 11 Supporting Your Child Through Distance Learning 6 - 7 pm
- Feb 12 & Feb 15 NO SCHOOL Lincoln's Birthday and President's Day
- Feb 16 Parent/Principal Learning Circle #3, 6 - 8 pm
- Feb 25 : Live Stream of Black Music Through the Ages with Ms. Faye Carol

If your child is absent for any reason, please

email [washingtonattendance@berkeley](mailto:washingtonattendance@berkeley) and copy your child's teacher. Thank you!