

# Rhino Roar



*News for the Washington community*

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

The Washington Read-a-Thon is Coming Soon!! Get ready for NINE EPIC DAYS of reading: **Saturday May 8 - Sunday, May 16.**

This school-wide event—whether students are in-person or in distance learning—puts a spotlight on the power of reading by providing an opportunity for students and their families to focus on books and reading together. The Read-a-Thon is our final fundraiser for Washington this school year. Money raised will go to support teachers and the PTA general fund, which will help pay for school-wide needs like physical education with Coach Don, enrichment classes (like poetry and movement), Restorative Justice, and counseling services.

More information is also available on the PTA's [Read-a-Thon page](#).

**IMPORTANT SAFETY NOTICE:** Do not drive in to McKinley from Channing:

dropoff is prohibited because it is unsafe for both the child being dropped off and for children arriving via bicycle. Please always use the north side of McKinley from Bancroft to drop off children. Berkeley police will ticket cars dropping off on the south side of the McKinley gates, and you don't want a ticket! Thank you for helping to keep all students safe!

**School Photo days:** On Tuesday, May 4th, the following classes will take pictures: Jagger, Mitchell, Hedgecock, Wash, Thames, Tubbs, Zarate, Sanchez and Bail.

On Thursday May 6, these classes will take photos: Davidson, Hancock, Kasle, Talbott, Trevor, Clark-Riddell, Jokela/Kelly, Watson, Geminder.

If you have any questions, please check with your child's teacher.

Message regarding Open House 2021 from Baje Thiara, Associate

*Superintendent: As you know, BUSD and schools in particular have been making unrelenting efforts over the last several weeks to return in-person learning. Given this work and the many transitions that our students and teachers are undergoing, we will not be requiring schools to host open houses in May.*

*Open houses are a great opportunity for students and teachers to showcase their best efforts. That said, they also require a degree of preparation and time dedicated, before and during. In light of the many different and new directions students and staff have been pulled, it has been decided to postpone this year's spring showcase. We do look forward to an in person open house in May 2022.*

*In Community, Bajé Thiara Associate Superintendent, Educational Services*

Washington is looking forward to a whole school celebration on Zoom on May 21, from 6 - 7:30 pm.

**Free Food Pantry** Saturday, May 1 from 11 am - 12 noon at First Presbyterian Church, 2407 Dana at Channing. Drive through pickup, first come first served. 1st and 3rd Saturdays.

**Reminder:** [Daily Health Survey](#) must be completed for every student,

**every day. Thank you so much!**

The office reconciles daily attendance with responses from the survey.

Calendar Reminders:

- May 4 and 6 - School Photos
- May 5 Distance Learning School Photos 1:30 - 3 pm
- May 7 Berkeley Public Schools Fund Spring Luncheon
- May 11 COVID Testing
- May 21 Whole School Celebration on Zoom and Dance Party
- May 25 COVID Testing
- May 25 PTA Family meeting on Zoom 6 - 7:30 pm: Learn more about Restorative Justice, Counseling and Family Support at Washington
- June 2 5th grade promotion
- June 4 LAST DAY OF SCHOOL!

If your child is absent for any reason, please email

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

Questions or concerns? Please email Principal Katia Hazen at

[katiahazen@berkeley.net](mailto:katiahazen@berkeley.net)

Katia Hazen  
Principal  
Washington Elementary  
2300 Martin Luther King Jr. Way  
Berkeley, CA 94704  
510.644.4525