

Rhino Roar



News for the Washington community

Published weekly (mostly)

September 10, 2021

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

Water bottles and jackets - kids need them, please label them! The lost and found is located outside the orange gate on McKinley. We always need parent volunteers to hang jackets and reunite labelled items with their owners. Every student should have a refillable water bottle at school and a jacket - both labelled with their first name and last initial.

Looking for a way to get involved? We need you! Check out the Washington School Site Committee: Member Nominations due September 16! Serving on SSC is a great way to get involved in the school community. There's one meeting a month on Zoom with other parents and staff and you get to learn about school and district level issues. You can nominate yourself for SSC by filling out this short form: <https://forms.gle/>

Dear Berkeley Sustainability Champions,
Welcome to a new school year! The Sustainability Program is preparing for our first big event - Environmental Sustainability at BUSD! Join me in learning about our incredible partners and how you can participate in climate action projects. We have been closely paying attention to COVID-19 rates and have decided that it's best if this event is virtual. However, as soon as COVID-19 safety protocol allows for us to be in groups again we will plan on having in-person events and sustainability celebrations!

When: September 21, 2021, 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm

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

Purpose: This event will provide teachers, parents, and students with the opportunity to learn how to engage in sustainability projects at home and in the classroom. You will hear from StopWaste, Safe Routes to School, Kids for the Bay, and a special student environmental group.

Get to Know Your Rhinos Each week, we'll shine the spotlight on a different Washington staffer so we can all get to know each better. This week answering the **4 Questions:** Principal Katia Hazen

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: I grew up mostly in Madison, Wisconsin, which has sometimes been called the "Berkeley of the Midwest". I went to a different school every year until I started high school. My parents divorced when I was young and my mom's formal education ended at high school, so she had to get creative to find good housing for us, which meant a lot of

moving around. My older brother and I had what would now be called a “free range” childhood: we played frisbee and other games outside until it got dark. It was awesome! The Madison public schools were excellent: my brother won the lead role in a full school production of The Music Man when he was in 5th grade, which was a huge thing for our little family. I can still recite it by heart because I ran lines with him. I graduated from UW-Madison (B.A. Portuguese) and much later got a Master’s in Education from UC Berkeley.

Q: How did you start out in education?

A: I began in Oakland as an Instructional Assistant for the Office of Indian Education. Oakland has a fair number of Native families and even though that’s not my background, I was very kindly taught by the community how to be respectful of their history and culture in school. I speak Spanish and Portuguese (see below) so I eventually became a bilingual 1st grade teacher in Oakland. I taught 1st - 3rd grade in OUSD at Hawthorne Year Round School, then moved into reading intervention and teacher coaching. I was Principal at Sequoia Elementary in the Diamond District (Go Squirrels!) before being recruited by Berkeley. The community support for schools in Berkeley is inspiring! I’ve been Principal at Washington since 2015 and I especially enjoy riding my bike to school from my home in Albany every day.

Q: Anything else we should know about you?

A: When I was 15, I left Wisconsin on a bitterly cold January winter day and stepped off a plane into the hot, vibrant summer of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, thanks to AFS (American Field Service) a cultural exchange program. I lived with a Brazilian family for a year, went to high school and was immersed in the Portuguese language. Becoming fluent in a second language was transformative, and experiencing another culture in this way opened the world to me.

Q: What do you like to do for fun, Principal Hazen?

A: I have 2 kids, (now 22 and 20) so spending time with them and my husband Nick doing anything together is always my first choice. I enjoy riding horses, hiking, reading and thinking about what I’ll be doing next.

Friday Coffee Hour! Your Washington PTA provides delicious free coffee (regular and decaf) every Friday morning

on McKinley between the barriers from 8:15 - 9:15 am ish. Come and celebrate Fridays!

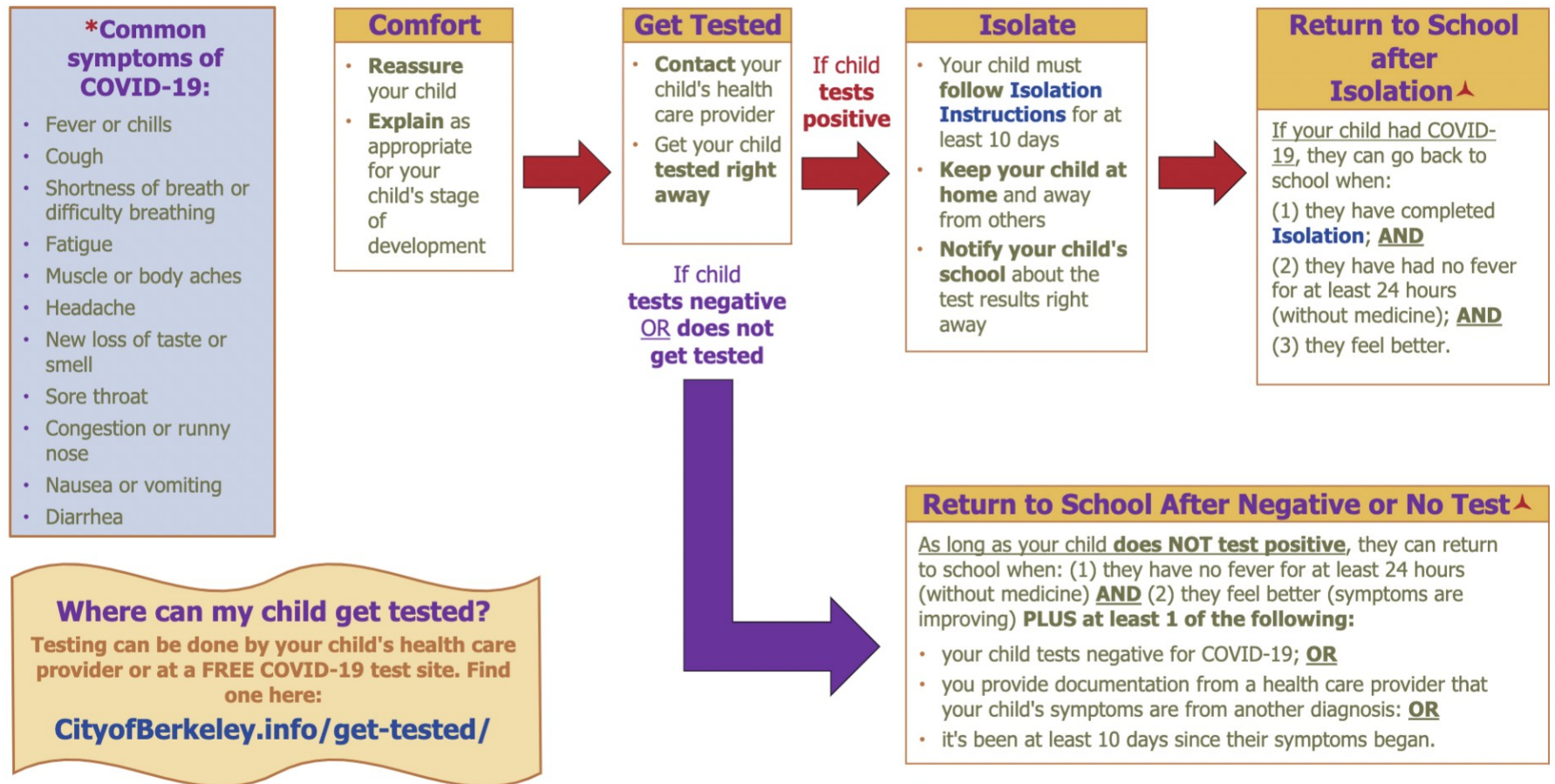
You can now volunteer at Washington! We especially need help at lunchtime 11 am - 12:40 pm.

- If you can volunteer at lunchtime, please [Join BSV First, HERE](#)
- Proof of full COVID vaccination required of all in-person volunteers, to be registered and on file with Berkeley Schools Volunteers.
- Parent/guardians seeking to volunteer in their own child's classroom must schedule with the teacher first and then register with Berkeley Schools Volunteers:
 - [Become a New Classroom Volunteer](#) or [Returning BSV Volunteers Re-register HERE](#)
- Volunteer assignments may be at **one** school/one classroom **only**
- Volunteers wear masks indoors and out, at all times on BUSD campuses
- Volunteers sign in/out at main office and always wear volunteer identification
- [BSV COVID Safety Protocols](#)
- **For contact tracing**, BSV provides a weekly roster of screened volunteers (by site) to Principals. The roster will include volunteers' assignments (incl days/times).

Did you get a WiFi Hotspot from BUSD? Here's a message from Tech Services: *We are notifying all families that all hotspots will be disconnected at the end of the month, unless they complete [an online form](#) letting us know that they still need it.*

What do I do if my child has COVID-19 symptoms* with no known exposure?

(applies to **VACCINATED** and **UNVACCINATED** children)



Where can my child get tested?
 Testing can be done by your child's health care provider or at a FREE COVID-19 test site. Find one here:
CityofBerkeley.info/get-tested/

▲ Check school/program policy before sending your child back.

Rolling Drop Off gets safer and faster! Thank you to the PTA volunteers from the Safety Committee who had signs made for the rolling drop off area on McKinley. We are all safer because of your efforts!

COVID testing is scheduled to happen at Washington every Wednesday morning 8:30am to 12pm
[One-Time Student Testing Registration here](#). **We want 100% of Washington students to test every week!**

Campus opens at 8 am Please do not drop your child off prior to this time unless they are enrolled in the [BEARS](#) before school program. Thank you!

Q&A from the [Health & Safety Presentation](#):

Q: My child was just tested yesterday and they were negative. Why do they have to go home today if they have symptoms?

A: If symptoms of COVID develop *after* testing, we are required to send home and only permit return when symptoms have improved and there is a negative test (see flowchart). If the symptoms developed *before* testing, & test was negative, the student may attend school as long as symptoms are improving.

Calendar Reminders:

- **September 11:** 3rd grade gathering at Washington playground 10:30-12:30; 4th-grade gathering 1:30-3:30
- **September 12:** 5th-grade gathering at Washington playground 1:30-3:30
- **September 16:** PTA meeting 6 - 8 pm via [Zoom](#)
- **September 16:** SSC nominations due

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