Note from the PRINCIPAL—Dr. Sara Moore

Dear Washington Families

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone back for another great year at Washington and to welcome our new students and families as well. We look forward to working with you to help your students reach their maximum potential.

We continue to teach and reinforce our SOAR expectations, which were sent home with your student if you were not able to attend our opening family curriculum night. Copies are also available on our web page. We look forward to celebrating student success in these areas at our first V&O assembly.

This year we are planning six different family nights. Three will be events for the entire school; a Halloween Walkthrough, a Winter Family Fun Night, and a Spring Fling event. We will also be hosting 3 grade level curriculum based nights for K/1, 2/3, and 4/5. We hope to see all of you there.

Important Dates to Remember

- 9/23: Fundraiser Ends
- 9/27: V&O Assembly 1:30
- 9/27: Homecoming Parade 4:00
- 10/1: Picture Day
- 10/10: Fundraiser Pick up 1:00-6:00
- 10/11: ½ day; dismissal @ 12:00
- 10/17: K/1 Science Night
- 10/30: Halloween Walk Thru 6:00
- 11/1: Non School Day
- 11/4-11/8: Book Fair
- 11/4-11/8: Dental Bus
- 11/5 & 11/7: Parent Teacher Conferences
- 11/8: V&O Assembly 1:30
- 11/13: Picture Retakes
- 11/8: V&O Assembly 1:30
- 11/27-11/29: No School; Thanksgiving Break
- 12/6: V&O Assembly 1:30

Fall 2019

Attendance

New attendance incentives are being rolled out at Washington Elementary. Each week, students with perfect attendance the previous week (no absence, late arrival, or early dismissal) will have their name put into a drawing. One student from each grade will be drawn to receive a special surprise from the office. Please ensure that your student is on time and ready to learn each day!

Volunteers - Online application necessary

If you would like to volunteer at Washington Elementary, you must submit an application ONLINE, even if you have been previously approved. It is quick & easy, and the review/approval process is generally less than 24 hours. If you have any questions, or need assistance completing this application, please contact the office @ 894-2744. If you are reading this as a hard copy, go online and follow these steps:

1) Go to > bcschools.net
2) At the top of the home page, click on > PARENTS & STUDENTS Information for our families
3) Under FORMS & APPLICATIONS Click on > Volunteer Application (Online)

If you are reading this online, you can click on this link: Volunteer Application
Social Media/Technology Survey

Last spring, we conducted a school wide survey, asking our students about their habits, opinions, and their involvement with social media, technology (screen time) in general. We also offered the survey to our parents, for their perspective. We got some very interesting and conflicting results. Here are a couple of highlights from the survey.

1) Does student spend 2 hours or more on their device? **29% of parents** said yes, while **77% of students** said yes (in fact over half the students said they can stay on it as long as they want)

2) Is student allowed to use device in bedroom at bedtime? **26% of parents** said yes, while **65% of students** said yes

3) Does your student play FORTNITE? **21% of parents** said yes, while **60% of students** said yes (in fact 40% claim to be obsessed with it)

4) Has your student seen something inappropriate online? **22% of parents** said yes, while **55% of students** said yes

5) **66% of students** surveyed said they find themselves thinking about “screen time” sometimes or quite often, while they are doing something else (in class, homework, reading, etc.)

6) **53% of students** surveyed said they think their parent/guardian is on their phone/device a lot. (21% said all the time, 32% said quite a bit)

As you can see, there are some big disconnects between students and parents based on these results. There is also some alarming feedback from students regarding their level of focus on gaming/social media. More detailed results will be shared during upcoming parent workshops.

Together we can help bridge these gaps and start taking steps to reduce some of the technology overload.

Character Education S.O.A.R.

Washington Elementary is committed to reinforcing positive behaviors. To help the students focus on this positive approach, we have created S.O.A.R. behavioral expectations for them to follow. The detailed guideline/expectations for this initiative can be found in the Parent/Student SOAR handbook, which was given to parents at curriculum night. If you did not receive a copy of this handbook, please contact the office @ 894-2744, or have your student ask their teacher for one.

**Safe**: We will follow routines and procedures to ensure a safe learning environment.

**Organized**: We will be prepared to learn by having all materials needed for class. We will follow routines and procedures to maintain an orderly learning environment.

**Accountable**: We will be responsible for our actions and our learning. We will give our best effort. We will take responsibility when we make mistakes and help find solutions.

**Respectful**: We will be kind with our words and actions. We will help and support others. We will stand up for others and do what is right. We will respect others boundaries and property.

As a parent, understand that you have the greatest impact in helping decide the behavior you want to see in your student. This can be achieved by:

- Teaching the behavior you want to see
- Demonstrating with your own actions, the behavior you are expecting
- Providing meaningful reinforcement for positive behavior
- Enforcing logical consequences for negative behavior

As a TEAM, the parent & school can teach, support and help ensure positive behavior.
Chess Lunch Club

We will be kicking off our Chess Lunch Club at the end of September. This club is open to 3rd, 4th and 5th grade students. Students who join this club take their lunch to an activities room where they learn, and play chess for their entire lunch period. There will be a “beginners” session two days a week, for first time members. There will also be an “advanced” session one day a week for those students that have participated in this club in the past. Chess club was a big success last year, and it appears that it will continue to be a popular activity. It is a great opportunity for students to exercise strategy and patience alongside their grade level peers.

To support this excellent opportunity, we are looking for a few volunteers that may be able to help regularly, or occasionally. They would be assisting Ms. Kelly, our Family Liaison, with this effort. If you don’t know how to play chess, no worries, everyone learns together! Please fill out the volunteer information on the last page, or contact Ms. Kelly @ 9894-2744 ext. 1701 if you are interested.

Parent Workshops

Ms. Kelly, our Family Liaison, will be offering several parent workshops throughout the year, each one focusing on different academic and social/emotional support tactics for you to help your students do their best at school and at home. In addition to these group workshops, Ms. Kelly is available for one on one meetings to help parents in any way she can to make sure your student is achieving the most they can.

The first workshop, which will focus on reading & language arts skills will be in mid November. Dates and times regarding this event will be sent home in the near future. If you have any suggestions, questions, or would like to make an appointment with Ms. Kelly, please call her @ 894-2744 ext. 1701.

Following are the Washington home games - 4:30 PM.

- **Boys Flag Football**: Sept 19th & Oct 10th
- **Boys Basketball**: Jan 16th & Feb 6th
- **Girls Basketball**: Nov 14th & Dec 12th
- **Girls Volleyball**: Feb 27th & Mar 19th

5th Grade Sports!

We are excited to announce that all Bay City Public Elementary schools will be supporting a 5th grade athletics program this year. The sports that will be offered at the school are boys flag football (Sept/Oct), girls basketball (Nov/Dec), boys basketball (Jan/Feb) and girls volleyball (Feb/Mar). Flag football is underway, with Mr. Brzezinski, our Physical Education teacher, coaching the boys. Details regarding the remaining sports will be coming as the dates get closer. All other youth programs, for grade 4 and below, will still be coordinated with the Dow Bay Area Family YMCA. If you have any questions, or would like more details, please contact the office @ 894-2744.
Upcoming Non School Days
October 11th (Friday) is a ½ day. Dismissal @ 12:00 Noon
November 1st, (Friday)-No school
November 27th-29th (Wed-Fri)-No school; Thanksgiving break

FRIDAY is POPCORN day!
Only .25 cents a bag!!

Office Phone Extensions
Main Number: 894-2744
Ms. Katelyn: 1706
Dr. Moore: 1703
Ms. Kristine: 1700
Ms. Ruggles: 1704
Ms. Kelly: 1701
Nurse Carol: 1730
Tina Miller (DHS): 1728

Volunteers Needed
Chess Lunch Club Mondays (details on previous page)—Thursdays; 10:50 AM-1:00 PM,

Yes; I would be interested in helping 1 or more days a week
No, I am not interested, or unable to help

Parents Needed
We will be hosting several School Improvement meetings, during school hours, for parents interested in having a voice in our improvement efforts. Dates will be sent when determined.

Yes; I would like to be involved in the school improvement meetings
No; I am not interested, or unable to attend these meetings.

Weekly School Sales!

Tuesdays
School Store
Pencils, erasers, and other inexpensive items can be purchased. Prices range from .25 cents to $2.00.

Wednesdays & Thursdays
Popsicle Sales
$1.00 per popsicle. All proceeds go to 3rd Grade Mackinaw fund.

Did you know?
In French schools, mealtime is part of the curriculum. The schools try to source their food locally, and is cooked fresh daily. Students learn about different foods and where they come from. They are also expected to display good manners and etiquette.

---

Yes, I have read the Fall 2019 Newsletter

Student______________________ Parent (optional)_____________________

Parent Signature______________________ Phone #:____________________

Any comments, concerns, suggestions, or congratulations are appreciated!
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

Weekly School Sales!

Tuesdays
School Store
Pencils, erasers, and other inexpensive items can be purchased. Prices range from .25 cents to $2.00.

Wednesdays & Thursdays
Popsicle Sales
$1.00 per popsicle. All proceeds go to 3rd Grade Mackinaw fund.

FRIDAY is POPCORN day!
Only .25 cents a bag!!

Upcoming Non School Days
October 11th (Friday) is a ½ day. Dismissal @ 12:00 Noon
November 1st, (Friday)-No school
November 27th-29th (Wed-Fri)-No school; Thanksgiving break

Volunteers Needed
Chess Lunch Club Mondays (details on previous page)—Thursdays; 10:50 AM-1:00 PM,

Yes; I would be interested in helping 1 or more days a week
No, I am not interested, or unable to help

Parents Needed
We will be hosting several School Improvement meetings, during school hours, for parents interested in having a voice in our improvement efforts. Dates will be sent when determined.

Yes; I would like to be involved in the school improvement meetings
No; I am not interested, or unable to attend these meetings.

---

Weekly School Sales!

Tuesdays
School Store
Pencils, erasers, and other inexpensive items can be purchased. Prices range from .25 cents to $2.00.

Wednesdays & Thursdays
Popsicle Sales
$1.00 per popsicle. All proceeds go to 3rd Grade Mackinaw fund.

FRIDAY is POPCORN day!
Only .25 cents a bag!!

Upcoming Non School Days
October 11th (Friday) is a ½ day. Dismissal @ 12:00 Noon
November 1st, (Friday)-No school
November 27th-29th (Wed-Fri)-No school; Thanksgiving break

Volunteers Needed
Chess Lunch Club Mondays (details on previous page)—Thursdays; 10:50 AM-1:00 PM,

Yes; I would be interested in helping 1 or more days a week
No, I am not interested, or unable to help

Parents Needed
We will be hosting several School Improvement meetings, during school hours, for parents interested in having a voice in our improvement efforts. Dates will be sent when determined.

Yes; I would like to be involved in the school improvement meetings
No; I am not interested, or unable to attend these meetings.

---

Weekly School Sales!

Tuesdays
School Store
Pencils, erasers, and other inexpensive items can be purchased. Prices range from .25 cents to $2.00.

Wednesdays & Thursdays
Popsicle Sales
$1.00 per popsicle. All proceeds go to 3rd Grade Mackinaw fund.

FRIDAY is POPCORN day!
Only .25 cents a bag!!

Upcoming Non School Days
October 11th (Friday) is a ½ day. Dismissal @ 12:00 Noon
November 1st, (Friday)-No school
November 27th-29th (Wed-Fri)-No school; Thanksgiving break

Volunteers Needed
Chess Lunch Club Mondays (details on previous page)—Thursdays; 10:50 AM-1:00 PM,

Yes; I would be interested in helping 1 or more days a week
No, I am not interested, or unable to help

Parents Needed
We will be hosting several School Improvement meetings, during school hours, for parents interested in having a voice in our improvement efforts. Dates will be sent when determined.

Yes; I would like to be involved in the school improvement meetings
No; I am not interested, or unable to attend these meetings.