

# RAM News

Ridgecrest Elementary \* 16516 10th Ave NE, Shoreline, WA 98155 \* 206.393.4272 \* Principal: Elizabeth Nunes

2021 ISSUE 2

October 6, 2020



## Your Virtual Support Needed

We are all learning so much during this new remote learning! I drop into classrooms as often as my schedule allows to see how our students are doing. Keeping them engaged and learning is our top priority right now. Here are a few ways families can help:

### 1) Keep video on:

One of the things I have noticed is several students turning off their videos while in class. Please encourage and talk to your child about keeping their video on during Zoom live meetings. When videos are on, teachers are able to help re-engage students and gauge whether they are participating, need a break, or are confused. Of course it is understood that, at times, students need to turn the video off, but our goal is to keep this at a minimum.

### 2) Check in with your child throughout the day:

As your own schedule allows, please check in on your child throughout the day. Because students can turn their video off and open up other tabs on their computer, we are not always able to ensure that they are on task and participating in learning. Some teachers have noticed students playing video games or watching YouTube videos during Zoom lessons. You can also check your child's browser history to see what they have been doing on their computer.

### 3) Check in on your child's Seesaw activities at the end of each day:

I appreciate the grace students and families are given regarding the completion of work, as not all students are able to access learning from 9:05 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please be sure to have your child show you their own Seesaw "To do" and "In progress" activities at the end of each day. You can only view this through the student's Seesaw account, not on the family app. Students should be trying to complete their Seesaw work during the school day, as teachers provide some independent work time. However, we understand that this may happen later in the day, given families' work schedules and other commitments. Viewing these activities in Seesaw will help inform you of what still needs to be done as you work with your child.

Thank you for your continued support of your child's learning. We all dream of the day when we can return to school in the building. Meanwhile, your partnership in this critical work is valued and appreciated!

Elizabeth Nunes, Principal

[elizabeth.nunes@shorelineschools.org](mailto:elizabeth.nunes@shorelineschools.org)

(206) 393-4274





## A Note from the Attendance Office

Beginning on October 5, all schools in Washington will begin marking absences from remote learning as excused or unexcused in accordance with rules set by the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI). An absence can be excused for any previously allowable reason and any COVID-19 related circumstance with the student or family member. A student's parent/guardian can excuse an absence by calling or emailing our school attendance secretary within five (5) days of the absence. Our school's attendance secretary can be reached at [rc.attendance@shorelineschools.org](mailto:rc.attendance@shorelineschools.org) or 206-393-1493.

Below are two common questions and answers about how students can demonstrate attendance in the remote learning environment. You can also find more information [HERE](#). If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact our attendance secretary.

### **Can a student demonstrate attendance before or after regular school hours?**

Yes. OSPI recommends that school districts provide multiple methods for students to access learning, outside of and beyond participation in live synchronous lessons. Our school district will count a student present if they engage in asynchronous activities, in place of a live scheduled session. This can include a student attempting an assignment, logging on for a part of the class, or asynchronously demonstrating participation. Students are encouraged to watch live teaching when possible.

### **Can a student demonstrate attendance over the weekend for the previous week?**

Yes. Our schools will provide flexibility for families unable to log into live sessions due to internet access, bandwidth, access to childcare, other family obligations and work schedules. If your child is not able to engage on a daily basis, you should contact our office to share that information in order to develop a plan to track their attendance.

Thank you.

**ATTENDANCE  
MATTERS.  
ALL DAY, EVERY DAY**

# Calendar of Events

## OCTOBER

- 12 Indigenous People's Day  
Black and Brown Families Town Hall Webinar, 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM  
Go to [www.shorelineschools.org](http://www.shorelineschools.org) to register for this event!
- 13 RC PTA Meeting and SIP Presentation on Zoom, 6:30-8pm
- 19 School Board Meeting, 7pm

## NOVEMBER

- 1 Daylight Saving Time Ends -- turn clocks BACK one hour
- 2-6 Fall Conferences
- 3 Election Day -- Don't forget to vote!
- 11 Veterans Day -- No School
- 25 Half Day Release
- 26-27 No School -- Thanksgiving Break
- 30-Dec 11 Holiday Baskets Food and Teen Gift Drive  
**to register for a basket, see form on last page of this newsletter or contact our Family Advocate, Evangelina Vederoff @ 206-393-1495**



Last week when my son Mathis was getting ready for a swim lesson, with my wife teaching a piano lesson in our living room and another 6 year old child sitting on my couch, Mathis came out of the bathroom with little more than his birthday suit on. He had a very small towel covering the front part of his waist (thank goodness for that at least) while walking to the living room to see if his swim suit was in there. Standing in the kitchen I shrieked and ran into the living room and blocked his path preventing the people in the room from really seeing what was going on. It's one of those things that in the end isn't that big of a deal but not something you would really want to have happen. But it did bring something very important to mind.

We have all heard some of the nightmarish scenarios some people have had the misfortune of experiencing, such as unintended activities going on in front of a zoomed in audience or conversations that maybe we thought were muted but that actually were not. I even heard the story of someone taking a computer to the bathroom and forgetting to turn off their camera and mute their microphone. These situations can be really unfortunate and embarrassing. So I just wanted to take this opportunity to remind everyone that when your 2nd grade child is "in class" and their camera and microphone are on that you as the adult in the house are also in the classroom with your child and probably twenty or so other children. If you are saying something or doing something while your child is in the room and in class, be wary of what you are saying or doing because you may well have a lot of little ones listening in as well. Happy Zooming and stay safe, friends.

Nathan Christian  
Dean of Students

# RC Equity Team

Hello Ridgecrest Rams,

I am writing to introduce our school's equity team. These school site teams were developed a few years ago to examine the inequities that exist within our systems and communities and the impact that was having on our students.

This committee believes that working on dismantling the racially biased educational system is imperative for the success of our students. The status quo regarding racial disparities in student academic and social/emotional success in schools requires a structural change. We will support and engage staff in this work through conversations and professional development on culturally responsive teaching and issues of race and equity. Our goal is to normalize these conversations, develop a more common language, and identify strategies that staff can use to better educate students and support families.

We are committed to ensuring our instructional practices serve the needs of all students and families while creating a welcoming, safe and inclusive school environment. We look forward to welcoming parent representatives and student leaders to collaborate in this work. You are welcome to email me (andrew.eller@shorelineschools.org) with questions or comments for the equity team.

Sincerely,

## Your Equity Team

Elisabeth Heftel, Parent

Selam Ghebrehiwet, Parent

April Brown, Kindergarten

Monica Bender, 1st Grade

Deborah Wickliff, 2nd Grade

Rachel Roberson, 3rd Grade

Andrew Eller, 4th Grade and Equity Lead

Dominic Sickich, Counselor

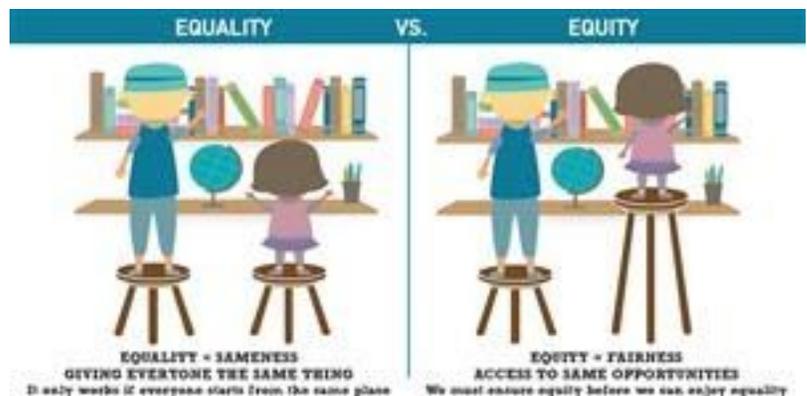
Sheryl Lundahl, Multilingual Learner Teacher

Joanna Freeman, Librarian

Nathan Christian, Dean

Elizabeth Nunes, Principal

Joshua Frank, Instructional Coach



# Nurse Notes

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Greetings RC Families,

Flu vaccinations are vitally important this fall. With Covid-19 still in the community, hospitals and physicians are concerned about overwhelming the health care system. The best way to avoid the flu is to receive the vaccination. Doctors recommend everyone over the age of 6 months get vaccinated, including pregnant women and those with chronic health conditions such as diabetes, asthma, heart and lung issues, and weakened immune systems. Those persons under the age of two, pregnant or with a chronic health condition are at higher risk for serious flu illness. Consult your doctor if you are considered at a higher risk before vaccination.

Please ask people in your life to get a flu vaccination. If the flu is contracted after receiving the flu vaccine, the symptoms are often milder.

Note: Children under the age of 8 years may need 2 doses of the vaccine one month apart.

Flu symptoms are: cough; sore throat; sneezing; fever; runny/stuffy nose; body aches; chills; tiredness; diarrhea; and vomiting.

These symptoms are very similar to Covid-19. If you have these symptoms, please contact your doctor for guidance.

Easy ways to stay healthy:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use alcohol-based hand cleaners (over 60% alcohol).
- Wear a mask when out in public.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Touching these areas spreads germs.
- Avoid close contact with people (6 feet apart).
- Get plenty of rest.
- Cover your nose and mouth with your sleeve or a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Stay home from work and school if you are sick until at least 24 hours after your fever is gone.

To obtain a flu vaccination: schedule an appointment with your doctor or go to <https://vaccinefinder.org/>

Sources:

1. <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/immunization/flu-season.aspx>
2. <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/immunization/flu-season/for-families.aspx>
3. <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/index.htm>

Nurse Joan and Nurse Stacey

[joan.forbush@shorelineschools.org](mailto:joan.forbush@shorelineschools.org) and [stacey.chesnut@shorelineschools.org](mailto:stacey.chesnut@shorelineschools.org)

206-393-4276

# Halloween: Knowing Better Means Doing Better

We are constantly assessing our work and its impact on our students and school community. One of our primary goals at Ridgecrest is to be inclusive, respectful of the diverse population of families we serve. To ensure that we are creating an environment of inclusiveness, we are joining with other schools in Shoreline and across the country in not celebrating the Halloween holiday. Halloween celebrations are exclusionary for students who come from certain cultural or religious backgrounds. In the past, such families have opted out of school during our Halloween activities. We want to ensure that each of our students is engaged every day at school. We will not be having a virtual Halloween parade or party, Halloween activities in Seesaw, or inviting students to wear Halloween costumes in class. This decision is based on answering the district's essential question: "How will we put into place structures, routines, and rituals for creating intellectually and socially safe classrooms and school communities where all students are engaged in challenging and meaningful work?" If you do celebrate Halloween as a family outside of the school day (in whatever form that may take during the pandemic), we wish you a happy and safe time.



The Life Skill for October is:

## Cooperation

co·op·er·a·tion

/kō, äpəˈrāSH(ə)n/

noun

the process of working together to the same end

Cooperation

Together

Everyone

Achieves

More





*Holiday Baskets provides holiday food and gift support to Shoreline School District families in circumstances that make it challenging to provide either for their children.*

**Holiday Baskets Distribution to Families**  
**Saturday, December 12th, 2020**  
**11:30am - 4:00pm**  
**Shoreline Center**  
**18560 1st Ave NE, 98155**

**\*Due to health and safety concerns, this event will be drive through with minimal contact.**

**For families needing assistance with Winter break food & holiday gifts. Registration begins October 1st.**

**There are two ways to register!**

- Register online at:  
[https://secure.lgiforms.com/form\\_engine/s/2uSguEr6sX9rPbmQ9xgzjg](https://secure.lgiforms.com/form_engine/s/2uSguEr6sX9rPbmQ9xgzjg)
- Contact your family advocate (or the school office if you don't know your advocate). They will help you with online registration.

**Deadline for Registration is November 12th.**

For more information go to: [www.shorelinepta.org](http://www.shorelinepta.org) and click on Holiday Baskets.

*Members of the Holiday Baskets partnership: The Shoreline PTA Council, the Shoreline Fire Department, Hopelink, Rotary Club of Lake Forest Park, the City of Shoreline, & Dale Turner Family YMCA.*



hopelink