

Echo Lake News

Andrew Lohman, Principal



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ECHO LAKE CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER

Tues., 9/10	PTA Meeting, 7 PM
Wed., 9/11	<u>Early Release Day, 1:50 PM</u>
Wed. 9/18	<u>Early Release Day, 1:50 PM</u>
Thurs., 9/19	Curriculum Night (See details in newsletter)
Fri., 9/20	Taproot Assembly, 9:30 AM
Wed. 9/25	<u>Early Release Day, 1:50 PM</u>



NEWS FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Welcome to the 2019-20 school year! The start of the school year is an exciting time and it is wonderful to see our classrooms, hallways, and playground filled once again. As a school, our goal is to ensure a positive and safe learning community for all students. With the start of the school year, I wanted to share our vision of Echo Lake. This vision statement serves as the lens through which we make decisions, plan, and build community.

OUR VISION

“Echo Lake is a vibrant, diverse and engaged community that inspires shared leadership, character and kindness. We promote collaborative learning focused on growth and are committed to success for all students.”

This year we will also continue a focus on five key character traits of kindness, leadership, growth, collaboration, and empathy. These character traits are directly connected to our vision of inspiring student learners and leaders.

With the school year underway, please take time to review the information sent home by your child’s teacher or the school. There is a lot of important information that goes home in the first few days including updates of emergency contact information, volunteer background checks (required for all regular volunteers), and more. To stay updated, this year our newsletters will be sent home in an email and posted on our school website. Our newsletters provide you with important information about school-wide events and more. If you would like a hard copy of our news, please let your teacher or the office know. Hard copies will also be available in the office.

Thank you for the important role you play in preparing your students and staying informed.

Have a fantastic week! Mr. Lohman



THE DEAN'S EAGLE VISION

Hello Echo Lake Families,

This is Echo Lake Dean, Mr. Atencio welcoming you to another brilliant school year. I am excited to continue the work with our students I started last year as Dean. To our new families, I would like to welcome you to our beautiful community. We are thrilled to have you join Echo Lake Elementary and we are here to support you and your students.

As we get the year started, there are many important programs to communicate about. From the Dean's desk there are several important items to be shared. The first is about our Emergency Response program. This school year we will perform emergency safety drills each month to practice our response to an emergency. Each month I will communicate an update to the teachers and staff on the drills being performed so that we can prepare those students that may be sensitive to sudden alarms and changes in routines. After each drill is performed I will send out a follow up message to staff and families. I would like to ask for your support in reminding our students about the importance of being prepared and making safety our number one priority.

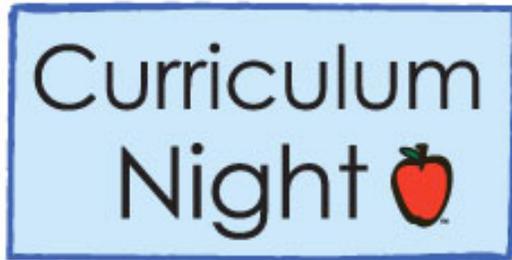
The Shoreline School District is starting the school year with a focus on school attendance. Here at Echo Lake Elementary we will be promoting attendance in the classrooms, through school projects and our Attendance Hero Club. Please help our students by promoting the importance of being in school on time everyday.

Also this month, our Eco Team will start its amazing work. This team provides volunteer students the opportunity to learn how they can become environmental leaders at their school by demonstrating how to properly recycle and sort waste. Students will also put what they have learned into practice through school wide projects, as well as classroom demonstrations and interactive games at lunch and recess. If you have a student that would like to join this awesome team or have any questions, please have the student contact me during lunch or recess you can send me an email.

We are looking forward to a great school year and thank you for your support!

GO EAGLES!

Jaime Atencio
Dean of Students
(206) 393-1266
jaime.atencio@shorelineschools.org



CURRICULUM NIGHT

Echo Lake is hosting our annual Curriculum Night on Thursday, September 19th. As in the past, classroom teachers will be hosting two identical sessions so that families with multiple students or those that need a later start can attend. Information from our counselor, PTA, and Family Advocates will also be available at the entrance of the school. The schedule for this year is as follows:

5:30-6:00 ELL Parent Meeting in the Library ***Interpreters will be available in the library throughout the night to answer questions.

6:00-6:30 1st Information Session

6:40-7:10 2nd Information Session

****5th & 6th grade teachers will present their information only during the 2nd session.** This will be followed by an important Camp Orkila information meeting in the library.

7:20 6th Grade Camp Orkila Meeting in the Library

Curriculum Night's focus is sharing important information with parents and guardians. If you are unable to find childcare, we will have a supervised area in the gym from 5:45-7:15 for students. Parents must sign in their students at the door.

Andrew Lohman
Principal, Echo Lake

OPT OUT FORM

If you are not interested in your student being in the school yearbook, school newsletters, school videos, classroom webpages, or social media, please stop by the school office and pick up a FERPA OPT-OUT Form. If you do not want your student to be in the PTA student directory and/or receive mailings regarding membership, meeting events and school activities, please fill out the same form.



SCHOOL START AND STOP TIMES

- School opens at 9:00 (the first bell is at 9:00; the tardy bell is at 9:10). Parents will be called to pick up students who are dropped off before 9:00. Students not eating breakfast may not arrive before 9:00.
- Breakfast begins at 8:45. Students eating breakfast may not arrive before 8:45. Parents will be called to pick up students who are here for breakfast before 8:45.
- We have Early Release Wednesdays. In weeks that have 5 school days, school will be dismissed on these Wednesdays at 1:50 PM. Parents should arrive promptly to pick students up. There is no after school supervision of students remaining after the 1:50 dismissal.
- All other school days, school ends at 3:30. Parents should arrive promptly to pick students up. There is no after school supervision for students remaining after the 3:30 dismissal.



A Message from the Attendance Office

This year, we will be working with our families toward making sure ALL of our students are attending school in order to take advantage of all the available learning activities that are offered. Your help, as parents, is critical in helping us to educate your children. The graphic below illustrates the importance of regular, punctual attendance. We appreciate your support in our endeavor to give our best to your children. Here is a family-friendly link to a message from our Superintendent, Rebecca Miner, about the importance of attendance: <https://www.facebook.com/shorelineschools/videos/709529356139466/>

1 or 2 days a week doesn't seem like much but...

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
1 day every 2 weeks	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years of school
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

How about 10 minutes late a day? Surely that won't affect my child?

He/she is only missing just...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 mins per day	50 mins per week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ¼ year
20 mins per day	1 hr. 40 mins per week	Over 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 mins per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years

EVERY DAY COUNTS

If you want your child to be successful at school then, YES, attendance does matter!

IMPORTANT ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

Thank you to those who are calling the Echo Lake office to let us know your child will be absent or tardy. The office must have a phone call, email, or note from the parent in order to excuse a student's absence. If we do not hear from the parent before or on the morning of the absence, we call home. If there is no answer we leave a message asking that parents call us to report the absence and a reason for it. If we do not hear from a parent, the absence will be unexcused.

In complying with School Board Policy #3122, students are expected to attend all assigned classes each day. Regular school attendance is necessary for mastery of the educational program provided to students of the district. At times, students may be appropriately absent from class (examples are illness, medical appointments, family emergency, or religious observances). However, please note that our attendance policy is very strict because we do not want students missing any instruction. Staying home for birthdays, out of town guests, or because a sibling has an appointment are considered unexcused absences. If your family is planning a trip, please ask for approval to have it excused. Please make it a priority to have your child at school every day and on time.

It takes just a moment to call (206) 393-4338 to let us know your student will be absent or tardy. This phone line is available 24 hours a day. You may also email us to let us know at el.attendance@shorelineschools.org

BIRTHDAYS AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS

In fairness to the equity and health concerns of all Echo Lake students, we respectfully ask that parents and guardians keep all birthday snacks and celebratory items for at home celebrations. This includes all food items, "healthy" or not. At school, Mr. Lohman will recognize students with a card delivered to their classroom. Also, please do not send birthday party invitations to school for distribution unless the entire class is invited and will receive an invitation.

In June of 2017, a new district Nutrition and Wellness policy was adopted. As part of this policy, the district is implementing new nutrition standards for snacks and celebrations at school. We will be sending out more information as the year continues. For now, you can find information about [:https://www.shorelineschools.org/Page/1265](https://www.shorelineschools.org/Page/1265)

A MESSAGE TO OUR PARENTS

We are very proud of our highly qualified staff at Echo Lake Elementary School and would be pleased to share any information regarding the professional qualifications (teaching certificates, endorsements, college degrees) of your child's classroom teacher, specialists, or instructional assistants. Please contact Mr. Lohman if you would like to request these facts.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY



TRAFFIC SAFETY

A big thank you to all of our parents who have been following Echo Lake's traffic rules already. These are important for keeping everyone safe.

Driving clockwise around the school helps keep the flow of traffic moving in one direction, and cuts down on the need for dangerous U-turns.

Please don't have your student run out into the street to jump into your car. Yes, it saves time, but it is too dangerous to have students darting in and out of traffic.

There is no parking allowed in the street on NE 195th, as it causes congestion for everyone. There is no parking in the striped no-parking area on the south side of NE 195th. There is no parking on the north side of NE 195th between Ashworth and Wallingford. Parking along the shoulder stops traffic, narrows the road to passing cars, blocks drivers' views of parents and kids walking between cars, and causes parents and students to cross 195th illegally. It isn't safe to walk your children across the street where there isn't a crosswalk, and it is very unsafe to send your child running across the street alone.

We block the front of the school parking lot with cones at the beginning and end of the day to keep the bus zone free from traffic. Please don't attempt to enter or leave the front parking lot when buses are in the bus zone and the cones are in place.

As in all school zones, the speed limit around Echo Lake is 20 mph. Please slow down and help us keep our students safe. Thank you.

Shoreline School District #412 does not discriminate against any protected classes. For further information on notice of nondiscrimination, including the address and phone number of the Title IX officer, visit:
http://www.shorelineschools.org/info/title_ix.php

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH PROGRAM

The National School Lunch Program is a federally funded program that assists in providing nutritionally balanced low-cost or free meals to students each day.

To qualify for the meals, **you must submit an application form (available in the main office). One form must be fully completed for each household, each school year.**

If your student received free/reduced meals last year and you want to continue receiving the meals, you must fill out a form for this school year. **A new application must be submitted and approved prior to October 15th, 2019 to avoid full-price charges on your student's account. Parents/guardians will be responsible for any accrued fees.** (Daily meal fees: Breakfast \$1.75, Lunch \$3.25)

Not sure if your household qualifies for free/reduced meals? Just submit an application and you will be notified of your eligibility.

EVERY KID IN A PARK

Did you know that you own millions of acres of national parks historic structures, cultural artifacts, ancient forests, snow-capped mountains, and clear blue lakes? Our federal public lands and waters belong to all Americans and are waiting for you to explore them.

Every year, beginning September 1st, all kids in the **fourth** grade have access to their own Every Kid in a Park pass at www.everykidinapark.gov. This pass provides free access to national parks across the country.

The Every Kid in a Park pass is good for the 4th grade school year, until August 31, 2020.