

Kenmore Elementary

December 2021

Principal's Message

Seasons Greetings!

Here we are at the tail end of another year. Established routines at KE have made in-person learning a little easier. In the midst of all the protocols and learning the excitement is palpable as I roam the hallways and classes. As always there is a lot going on behind the scenes.

Welcome Sarah Hoff, our new Mental Health Specialist who joined us a few weeks ago. She has fast become a popular member of our Kenmore team, albeit even though it is only for one day a week.

A big thank you from all of us for your participation in parent conferences. Your partnership matters in your child's trajectory. We thank you and appreciate all you do on the homefront to support us in their journey.

Thank you to our PTA volunteers for helping us on picture day, picture retakes, a generous luncheon and assisting with our playground/blacktop beautification project, and leveling books. Soon, we will have Art Docent volunteers working with students in grades K-5 and library support. Speaking of volunteers, I believe this is a good time to share a reminder about student confidentiality. It is the law. I've attached a picture of the confidentiality expectations from the [Northshore School District Volunteer Orientation](#).

Confidentiality

Confidentiality

- Federal law prohibits school districts from releasing student information without parent/guardian permission. Disclosing this information is a violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA).
 - Keep ALL student information confidential, including student names.
 - All information concerning students and teachers is strictly confidential and should not be shared with others. Keep ALL student information confidential, including scholastic and health records, test scores and grades, discipline and classroom behavior, and children's character traits.
 - Share concerns with appropriate school staff only—not with the child's parents or others.
 - No taking images (photo, video, audio or otherwise) of students without authorization from school staff
 - Volunteers are restricted from taking, using or distributing images for personal use of students at school, school sponsored events or on field trips. Student images may not be posted on any social media, sent via email or distributed using other communication channels.
 - If a volunteer is taking images for school-related use, appropriate district and school procedures must be followed. If you are unsure about these procedures please contact the partnerships@nsd.org.
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Recess Reboot by Playworks

This past week, our staff overwhelmingly supported the initiative to implement Recess Reboot at Kenmore. To find out more about this, please click on the [campaign](#) link. If you have employer matched giving or are seeking year-end giving opportunities, Kenmore Elementary is pursuing a crowdfunding opportunity through the Northshore Schools Foundation to enhance the opportunities for play and physical activity for our recess programs via Playworks! Visit FoundationGIVE:

<https://foundationgive.com/campaigns/6154/recess-reboot-by-playworks> to learn more and donate today!

K-2 Foundational Reading

This year students in grades K-2 will be screened for indications of areas of weakness in foundational skills associated with dyslexia(phonics, phonological awareness, and phonemic awareness). Information via training and resources has been disseminated to our K-2 teachers to aid in instruction for foundational skills.

Keep in mind the dyslexia screener is not a diagnosis for dyslexia.

Listed are short descriptions of what is being piloted, most lessons are done in the class with no homework assignments.

Amira, by Houghton Mifflin (HMH). The Amira resource utilizes unique technology--artificial intelligence (AI) in its efforts to support and improve reading proficiency. The AI within Amira is designed to listen to readers read out loud, assess progress, and provide coaching and instructional lessons based on a student's performance. Teachers have recently begun their training for Amira.

Heggerty Phonemic Awareness lessons-Phonemic Awareness: This resource contains 35 weeks of lessons intended to develop phonological/phonemic awareness. Lessons are short and only take between 5-10 minutes per day to complete. These lessons are designed to support and work with any existing core curriculum.

Star/Accelerated Reader (2nd-5th Grade) - Lastly, we are piloting Star and Accelerated Reader. I have used this program over the years and it has improved independent reading practice in many of my classes. Currently, our focus group are students receiving Title and LAP services. I personally have

connected with a number of 4th and 5th grade students. It does make for a very busy office, however, I treasure this time with our students and it is worth every minute. Soon, we will be expanding this to our 3rd graders. If your child does not require Title or LAP services but is interested in connecting with me about books please have them reach out to their teacher. I will find a way to fit them into my schedule. My focus is our most struggling readers, who are making progress as I write this!

KE Choir!

We are thrilled to have our very own KE Choir, thank you to Ms. Hamilton (KMS) who has been teaching a group of 4th and 5th graders every Tuesday after school. We look forward to their virtual performance in the weeks ahead.

Student Leadership at Kenmore - *From Mr. Finkelstein*

Our first meeting on Wednesday, December 1, will be focused on brainstorming ideas for Spirit Week. At other future meetings, we will discuss the Annual Kenmore Food Drive and brainstorm other ideas on how to be socially active and be a positive force of change in our community. As of right now, our meeting will be during the first recess on Wednesdays (10:55) and we will meet at least once a month.

Once again, thank you to all who have reached out with your thoughtful and kind words these past few weeks. May you enjoy this exciting time of year with your loved ones.

For all celebrating... Happy Hanukkah, Merry Christmas, A Joyful Kwanzaa, and Happy Holidays to all!

Ms. George-Shapiro

Principal

Important Dates

Wed, Dec. 1st - Early Release @ 2:10pm

Tues, Dec. 7th - KE Choir @ 3:45-4:30pm (Music Room/Gym)

Tues, Dec. 7th - PTA Meeting @ 6:30pm (Activity Room)

Wed, Dec. 8th - Early Release @ 2:10pm

Thurs, Dec. 9th - Nature Vision Visits Kindergarten Classrooms

Thurs, Dec. 9th - Shelter In Place Drill

Tues, Dec. 14th - KE Choir @ 3:45-4:30 (Gym)

Wed, Dec. 15th - Early Release @ 2:10pm

Mon, Dec. 20th - Fri, Dec. 31st - NO SCHOOL - WINTER BREAK!!

Mon, Jan. 3rd - Welcome Back!!

Important Reminders

Arrival

- Drop off in the morning will remain in the upper parking lot.
- Staff vehicles will be permitted in the lower parking lot.
- YMCA -Childcare drop-offs at the lower parking lot before 8:30am

Dismissal

- Please do not park alongside school buses during dismissal, this is a safety directive from our transportation department. We appreciate your cooperation as we continue to work with transportation and safety to improve this process.
- Please do not cut in line during student pick up.

SBA Scores

Will be released in February.

Hi-Cap Testing

Will be mailed to families.

Library Volunteers Needed

The library needs volunteers to help during class times. This may include checking in and out library books, shelving books, helping students, and other projects. If you would like to help, please visit <http://go.nsd.org/kelibvol>

All volunteers must complete the Northshore School District Volunteer Application Process. Please visit <https://www.nsd.org/get-involved/volunteer/become-a-volunteer> to complete this information.

Please contact Chris Brush, KE Library Teacher, with any questions.

cbrush@nsd.org

425.408.4812

Thank you!

Early Childhood Education

Our Early Childhood Education Programs in Northshore School District are currently recruiting for the Head Start, ECEAP and Ready Start Preschool Programs.

NSD Families that have children ages 3-4 years old can contact Stephanie Gonwa at 425-408-4829, or Emily Birchman at 425-408-4862 to receive program information and help with applications.

Thank You!!

Thank you **Elisabeth Lepine** and **Maria Cone** for both stepping in to sub at a moments notice this month. We appreciate you so much!

Thank you **Tiffany Masen-Smith** for volunteering to help run individual picture retake day. We couldn't have done it without you!

Thank you to our PTA for the generous staff appreciation lunch that you provided us with on November 4th. All of the soups, sandwiches, drinks and desserts were delicious and put a pep in our step for sure!

On Tuesday, December 7 at 6:30pm the Kenmore Elementary PTA will be hosting our next General PTA Meeting. This meeting will be both in person and via Zoom!

The agenda for this meeting includes a guest speaker from the Northshore School District that will be providing information on three funding measures on the February 8th ballot. Included in the ballot measures is a capital projects bond that will help the district address the highest facility needs, including those at Kenmore Elementary. For more information, visit <https://www.nsd.org/our-district/overview/bond-levies>.

If you would like to attend the meeting in person, join us in the Kenmore Elementary School Activity Room. It is located in the courtyard near the library. We will have chairs set up to allow for social distancing, we will have both doors and the window wall open for airflow, and as per Washington State guidelines, masks will be required.

If you would like to attend the meeting via Zoom, here is the link:
<https://zoom.us/j/95314697887?pwd=WcTlUXFYcnhLL3hjZzdoeTNVYktRdz09>

Meeting ID: 953 1469 7887

Passcode: vxUe9q

District News

The North Creek High School Theatre Co. is proud to present our Holiday 'Two-for-One' Musical Production- "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and "Timmy Perlmutter's Extraordinary Hanukkah."

Showtimes:

Friday, December 3rd at 7pm

Saturday, December 4th at 4pm and 7pm

Friday, December 10th at 7pm

Saturday, December 11th at 4pm and 7pm

Purchase tickets here:

Purchase Tickets Here: <https://wa-northshore-lite.intouchrecepting.com/nchstheatre>

These activities are not sponsored nor endorsed by the Northshore School District or any of its schools. The district assumes no responsibility for the conduct during or safety of the activities. Northshore School District shall be held harmless from any cause of action, claim, or petition filed in any court or administrative tribunal arising out of the distribution of these materials including attorney's fees and judgements or awards.