

A photograph of Washington Elementary School, a modern building with stone accents and large windows. The sky is blue with some clouds. The text "Washington Elementary School News" is overlaid in black, and "December 2024" is overlaid in green below it.

# Washington Elementary School News

## December 2024

### **Greetings from Mrs. Borger**

Thank you for taking the time to meet with your students' teacher during Conference week. Our students are most successful when we build a strong and positive connection between home and school.

We have an enjoyable month ahead! December always brings an extra essence of excitement and joy to an elementary school building! Students are encouraged to participate in our Holiday Spirit days. The calendar has been shared on our Washington Class DoJo and is also included as an attachment to this email.

As we head into the Thanksgiving holiday tomorrow, I would like to extend my thanks to our Washington families for your support and partnership in our students' education. I hope you each have a wonderful break and are able to enjoy quality time with your loved ones.

### **Winter Activities**

During the entire month of December, Washington students and staff will be participating in fun daily winter themed activities. Additional fun activities are in the process of being planned for December 20th. Please look for specific information regarding the schedule of activities for that day, in your student's teacher communications.

### **Winter Break**

December brings so much activity and excitement as we prepare for the upcoming holiday, while continuing with our daily educational routines. Please continue to read with your student(s) throughout the winter break to help keep them on track academically.

Our last day of school in December will be **Friday, December 20th**. This will be a full school day. We will return to school on **Thursday, January 2nd, 2025**. Encourage your student(s) to read and practice math facts while they are off during the break. This will make a smoother transition for coming back in January.

If anyone is planning to start vacation early or to extend it, please remember to submit a trip request form to the office before the trip date. You can contact the office and request an Educational Trip Form, or you can log on to the Sapphire Parent Web Portal and fill out the Educational Trip Request Form found under the Student Data Forms section.

### **Notes from the Nurse**

It is hard to believe it is December already! Please make sure your student(s) dress warmly for recess. Your student(s) should have a warm coat, hat, and gloves. Students still go outside on most winter days, and we want to ensure they are properly prepared for the colder temperatures.

Vision, hearing, height, and weight screenings were conducted before winter break. If your student had difficulty with the vision or hearing screening, a referral letter was mailed home. If you received a referral letter, please notify the school nurse if your student was seen by an eye doctor or audiologist and the results of the exam.

Reminder: All students in Grade 3 are required to submit a current dental exam form for the 2024-2025 school year. Please contact the school nurse if you have any questions.

If your student(s) has outgrown sweatpants or other comfortable clothing that you would like to donate, please consider sending them to the school. Extra clothes come in handy when students fall in a puddle at recess or spill water or milk on themselves at lunch.

### Veteran's Day

Thank you to everyone who submitted a brick to add to our Wall of Honor display for Veteran's Day. Washington students and staff participated by wearing red, white, & blue and students had their coloring contest papers displayed outside of their classrooms on the wall. Here is a photo of the Washington Wall of Honor.



### Weather Announcements, Late Starts and Closings

December is here and the cold weather will soon be coming. There may be days when the weather will dictate a late start or no school at all. There are also times when we may be forced to have an early dismissal. The Blackboard Connect system allows Dr. Hendershot, Superintendent of Schools, to send a message regarding these cancellations. Please keep your phone number and email address up to date, so that you don't miss these calls. You can easily update your contact information by logging in to your Sapphire Community Web Parent Portal. Information for closings, delays and early dismissals are also posted on our district web site: <https://www.bangor.k12.pa.us/>. This is a good time to create an emergency plan with your student(s) in the event of an early dismissal.

With the anticipation of inclement weather, this is a reminder of our Parent Pick Up and Drop Off procedure in the event you need to plan for extra time getting your student to and from school.

The doors to the school do not open until 8:10 a.m. Please do not leave your student(s) outside before this time, as there is no one to supervise them. Students should remain in the car until the school doors are opened.

Please note: The doors to the school close at 8:30 a.m. If your student arrives after 8:30 a.m., please bring your student into the office entrance and sign them in.

Parent Pick Up ends at **3:20 p.m.** In the event of an emergency situation and you are unable to pick up your student by 3:20 p.m., please contact the office to ensure that we have a staff member available to supervise, because we have limited staff after that time.

### **PTO News**

**Holiday Shop:** The PTO will be hosting their annual "Holiday Shop" in December. The scheduled shopping dates for Washington students are **Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> through Friday December 6<sup>th</sup>.** Holiday Shop flyers and budget envelopes were sent home with your child last week.

If you would like to volunteer as one of the shopper's assistants, please visit the PTO website for more information and online sign-up. Reminder: Clearances need to be on file and verified with the school office prior to your scheduled sign-up date and time.

Visit the Bangor Elementary PTO Website for up-to-date information about PTO events and information:

[www.bangorelempto.ptboard.com](http://www.bangorelempto.ptboard.com)

### **Coming Attractions**

**12/3-12/06** – Washington Holiday Shop during school hours

**12/9-12/11** – Slater Sweat Sale Order Pick Up at **JCC Screenprinting** –  
Contact Jen Smith at 701-240-9395 or [jccsmith3@hotmail.com](mailto:jccsmith3@hotmail.com)  
to arrange Slater Sweat Sale Order Pick Up (12/9 through 12/11)

**12/20** – Last Day of School before Winter Break

**12/23 & 12/24** – School's Closed/Offices Open

**12/25 & 12/26**– School's Closed/Offices Closed

**12/27 – 12/31** -School's Closed/Offices Open

**01/01** – School's Closed/Offices Close

**01/02** – School Resumes