



EAGLE NEWS

Anderson Island Elementary

November 27, 2024

Good afternoon Eagle Families,

I hope this message finds you well and excited for the upcoming Thanksgiving break! We do not have school on Thursday and Friday as we take time to celebrate the holiday and spend time with loved ones. I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for each of you in our Anderson Island Elementary community. Your continued support for our students, staff, and programs makes all the difference, and I am truly thankful to be part of such a caring school family.

Looking ahead, next Friday we will be heading out on a fun field trip to the Johnson Family Farm to check out the model trains—something our students are really looking forward to!

I wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving break. Take some time to relax, get outside, and maybe find a good book to enjoy.

See you all on Monday!

– Mr. Miller

**November 28-29
No School**

**December 6
AIHS Johnson Farm
Fieldtrip**

**Winter Program
December 18
5 p.m.**

**Winter Break
December 21-Jan 5**

We are thankful for our students & families!



Anderson Island Elementary proudly presents

Snowmen At Night



Rainier Mountain & Community Sing Along

Wednesday, December 18

5-6 p.m.



News from the Classroom

Why is snow white?

This week we discovered that snow isn't white, it's clear... After watching a Mystery Science lesson, we made our own "snowflakes" out of wax paper. We learned that snow is made up of many clear (or transparent) snowflakes piled on each other. We also discovered that snow can appear white, pink, or orange depending on the color of light that it reflects. To test this, we brainstormed different ways to change wax paper from transparent to opaque. The end result was amazing wax snowflakes (and lots of wax paper strips on the floor).

It was great to see some of you at the Thanksgiving Feast! I hope everyone has a relaxing Thanksgiving Break. See you on Monday!



GREAT NEWS! We have received a Steilacoom Kiwanis Grant for STEAM which included funds for cardboard building kits, digital cameras, and straw activities!

STEAM Wish List

- Flattened cardboard boxes
- Paper towel rolls
- Toilet paper rolls



Highly Capable Program Kindergarten Referral window December 2-20, 2024

Are you interested in making a referral?

The Steilacoom School District provides services to students who are identified as Highly Capable through an assessment process. Kindergarten students may be referred by parents and teachers in December or during the regular spring referral window for all grades, in mid March. *Keep in mind that students can be referred and tested only once every two years.* Referral forms can be found here: [Highly Capable Program referral forms](#). You may also email **Hannah Engstrom** directly at hengstrom@steilacoom.k12.wa.us to request forms.

Is my child a bright child or a gifted learner?

"Identification of gifted students is clouded when concerned adults misinterpret high achievement as giftedness. High-achieving students are noticed for their on-time, neat, well-developed, and correct learning products. Some adults assume these students are gifted because their school-appropriate behaviors and products surface above the typical responses of grade-level students.

In situations in which they are respected and encouraged, gifted students' thinking is more complex with abstract inferences and more diverse perceptions than is typical of high achievers." ~Bertie Kingore

The following comparisons hopefully will assist parents and teachers in identifying students as highly capable.

~Adapted by Kingore from Szabos

A bright child...

Knows the answers
Is interested
Is attentive
Has good ideas
Works hard to achieve
Performs at the top of the group
Learns with ease
Enjoys peers
Is accurate
Enjoys school
Absorbs information
Is pleased with own learning
Gets A's
Popular with peers
Is socially mature
Understands complex/abstract humor

A gifted child...

Asks the questions
Is curious
Is selectively mentally engaged
Has wild, silly, creative ideas
Plays around yet tests well
Is beyond the group
Already knows
Prefers adults or older children
Is original
Enjoys learning
Manipulates information
Is highly self-critical
May not be motivated by grades
May not fit in with peers
May be emotional and immature
Creates complex, abstract humor

Please Note

- ◆ Referral forms can be found on the district website or here: [Referral forms](#).
- ◆ Please complete ALL 3 forms: Cover Sheet (with parent signature), Parent Referral, and Teacher Referral
- ◆ Return paper or electronic forms to Hannah Engstrom at either Cherrydale or Chloe Clark
- ◆ All forms are due by Friday, December 20, 2024
- ◆ Evaluation and testing will be done in January
- ◆ Families will be informed of scores and status in late January or early February.