



Anderson Island Elementary

November 26, 2025

Good afternoon Eagle Families,

As we head into Thanksgiving break, I want to take a moment to wish all of our Anderson Island Elementary families a very happy Thanksgiving and a restful, restorative break. I hope you're able to enjoy time with loved ones, slow down a bit, and recharge.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Thanksgiving Feast. Sharing that space together — celebrating our students, our community, and the work our students do every day — is one of the highlights of our year. We are grateful for your partnership and the way our Eagles continue to stay Anchored in Excellence. During the break, I encourage all of our students to rest, read, and stay active. Even a little bit of reading or outdoor movement each day goes a long way. Enjoy your holiday, Eagles.

See you all next week.

– Mr. Miller

**We are thankful
for our students
and their families**



**Save the Date Winter Program
Wednesday,
December 17, 2025
5 p.m.**

**Please let us know if your child will
not be able to be in the play**

**Nov 27 & 28 No School Thanksgiving
December 4 Magic School Bus Play @ Pantages
December 17 Winter Program 5 p.m
December 20 Winter Break Begins**

Notes from the Classroom

Mrs. Cunningham

Thank you for a wonderful 3 months of school. This month, we focused on being Thankful for the things we have and also learned about the Native Americans who came before us.

I hope everyone has some time to rest and enjoy the long Thanksgiving weekend. When we return on Dec. 1, we are going straight into a week filled with a fantastic field trip to the Pantages Theater in Tacoma to see the Magic School Bus. I've included the link in case you want to check it out:

<https://www.tacomaartslive.org/magic-school-bus/>. This is an exciting trip and can be a little overwhelming as we will join many other schools in the theater. This trip is also perfectly timed as we are getting ready for our own production of The Grinch.

Next month, we will start learning about different holiday traditions from around the world. December is a month filled with excitement as the holiday draws near.

Please let me know if you do not want your student to participate in learning about the different holiday traditions. These countries include: Australia, Germany, England, The Netherlands, USA, Mexico, Brazil, Russia, France, Canada, Italy, and Sweden. We will learn about the geography, landscape, and holiday events (and sample some food).

Thank you to everyone that joined us in our Thanksgiving Feast on Wednesday! See you on Monday!

Happy
Thanksgiving





Turkey Trot



Highly Capable Program **Kindergarten** Referral window
December 1-19, 2025

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@stellacoom.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...

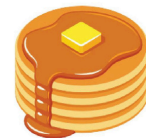
Knows the answers
Is interested
Is attentive
Has good ideas
Works hard to achieve
Performs at the top of the group
Learns with ease
Enjoys peers
Is accurate
Enjoys school
Absorbs information
Is pleased with own learning
Gets A's
Popular with peers
Is socially mature
Understands complex/abstract humor

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 19, 2025
- Evaluation and testing will be done in January
- Families will be informed of scores and status in late January or early February.



FLAPJACK FUNDRAISER

Join us for breakfast in support of:
SHS Music Boosters

Saturday, Dec. 13, 8:30–10:30 a.m.

**10407 Gravelly Lake Dr
Lakewood, WA - 98499**

Tickets: \$15
(\$9 goes directly to support the Boosters!)

Buy tickets at SHSmusicboosters.org

*Doin' Good in
the Neighborhood*
Applebee's



The Steilacoom Historical School District does not sponsor or endorse this event.