

EAGLE NEWS

Anderson Island Elementary

December 5, 2025

Good afternoon Eagle Families,

We had another great week here at Anderson Island Elementary. Yesterday's field trip to the Pantages Theatre was a highlight — our students were absolutely perfect. They represented our school with pride, kindness, and outstanding behavior. A massive thank-you to our chaperones for helping make the trip run so smoothly. Other than the weather, it was a pretty perfect outing!

Next week brings more fun and learning. Island Arts will be here on Monday as our students continue preparing for the Winter Play. It is going to be an incredible show. Our students are excited, working hard, and getting ready to make you proud. A big thank-you to the volunteers who have been helping with the set — your creativity and time mean a lot to all of us.

We'll wrap up the week with another outdoor classroom experience, which is always a favorite for our Eagles.

As we head into the final stretch before Winter Break, I want to remind everyone how important consistent attendance is. Every day of learning matters — especially in a small K-3 school where each lesson builds momentum. When students are here, engaged, and learning together, they stay Anchored in Excellence. Of course, if your child is sick, staying home is the right choice, but when they're healthy, we want them here learning with us.

I hope you all enjoy a great weekend. Get outside, get some exercise, rest up to fight off the winter bugs, and don't forget to read!

See you all next week.

– Mr. Miller



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**

December 17 Winter Program 5 p.m
December 20 Winter Break Begins

Notes from the Classroom

Mrs. Cunningham

Only two more school weeks left of 2025! Can you believe it? This week we spent time learning about the solar system and getting ready for our incredible field trip to the Pantages Theater. Thank you so much to our wonderful Booster Club for making this (and all the other) field trips possible.

We learned 2 different ways to remember the order of the planets.

My- Very-Educated-Mother-Just-Showed-Us-Nine (planets)
and

My-Very-Excellent-Monkey-Just-Served-Unicorn-Noodles

We also had time to fit in I-Ready, folktales for 3rd grade, plenty of math, music, PE, STEAM, play practice, and the holiday traditions for Australia and Germany! Whew...

Please remember to have your student practice their lines at home (if you need an extra script please let me know). The amazing production elves are working above and beyond to make a beautiful set and transform our multipurpose room into Whoville and Mt. Crumpit. Thank you!

I can't wait to watch The Grinch on Dec. 17!

*Thank
You*

Chaperones and play
volunteers were busy this
week!

We appreciate your support!



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