

EAGLE NEWS



Anderson Island Elementary

Good afternoon, Eagle Families!

We've had another great week at Anderson Island Elementary! Our students continue to work hard, learn, and grow, and it's been wonderful watching them settle into the school year.

This week, I'd like to take a little extra time to thank our families who have participated in our School Improvement Plan (SIP) conversations, either in person or through our parent feedback form. As we develop a plan that will guide our work over the next three years, I believe it's important that our families have a voice in the direction we're headed.

I've really appreciated the thoughtful and honest feedback we've received. One thing that stood out to me was how much our families value the relationships, communication, and sense of community that make Anderson Island Elementary such a special place.

Parents shared their appreciation for the creative and engaging ways our students learn, including hands-on STEAM activities, outdoor learning opportunities, and the positive relationships our staff builds with students and families. These are things we take pride in, and it's encouraging to know they matter to our community as well.

When asked about priorities for the future, several important themes emerged:

Reading and foundational literacy remain a top priority for our families.

Social-emotional learning and student belonging are important parts of helping children feel connected, supported, and excited to come to school.

Mathematics and problem-solving remain important areas of academic growth.

Our families want us to keep learning fun, engaging, and meaningful.

I also appreciated conversations about recognizing that every child learns differently, the importance of building strong classroom communities, and making sure students feel valued as individuals.

What I appreciate most about this feedback is that it reinforces much of what we believe about education at AIE. Academic growth matters, but so do relationships, confidence, curiosity, and a genuine love of learning. (continued next page)

- **Wednesdays are ACE days 1:30 dismissal**
- **October 9 No School (Pro Dev for staff)**
- **October 14 Pumpkin Patch Field Trip**
- **October 19-23 Conference Half Days (11:30 Dismissal)**
- **October 20 AI Fire & Rescue Field Trip**
- **October 19-23 Half Day Conferences**
- **October 28 AIHS Farm Field Trip**

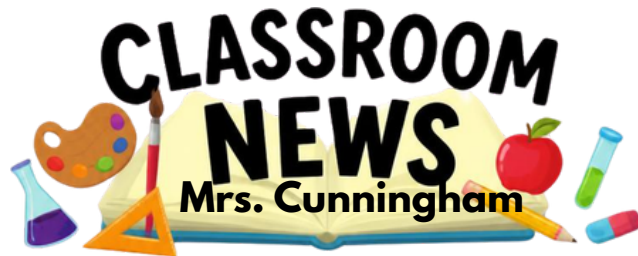
As we finalize our School Improvement Plan, this feedback will help shape both our priorities and the strategies we use to support our students. I want our families to know that your input is more than a box we're checking. It matters, and it will be reflected in the work we do moving forward.

Thank you again to everyone who took the time to share their thoughts. Our school is stronger because of the partnership we have with our families and our island community. Together, we'll continue building a school where students are challenged, supported, connected, and Anchored in Excellence.

I hope everyone has a wonderful weekend. Get outside and play, read a little, get some rest, and enjoy some time together.

I'll see you all next week!

– Mr. Miller



Although it was only 4 days, we filled each day with fun and learning. This week, the literacy focus was writing. For the older students, we wrote a short narrative about a "goat escape" with a clear beginning, middle, and end. Students also learned the importance of describing the setting not just with "where it happened" but what it sounded like and who else was around. Younger students worked on the basics of writing a complete sentence, recognizing sentence fragments, capitalization, and punctuation. In math, we continued with number recognition and adding numbers up to 5, subtraction methods, and rounding to the tens and hundreds place.

In science, we learned about the sunflower life cycle and dissected a giant sunflower head. Each student should have brought home a few sunflower seeds to plant if you would like. We also had our first visit from the Pierce County Library, and students could request or check out books. Pierce County Library books do not go home; instead, they stay in the classroom to be read during reading buddies or any free time.

Next week we have our first off-island field trip to Schilter Farm Pumpkin Patch. This is an exciting trip, and I hope everyone gets a good night's sleep before we go. If you have any questions regarding this trip, please contact the office at 253-884-4901 or send a Parent Square message.

Upcoming dates:

Friday, Oct. 9 - no school

Wednesday, Oct. 14 - Pumpkin Patch Field Trip

Mon-Friday, Oct. 19-23 - half days for conferences

Tuesday, Oct. 20 - walking field trip to AIFD

Wednesday, Oct. 28 - walking field trip to the Johnson Farm

Have a great weekend!

Mrs. Cunningham



Volunteer Request

EVENT: Booster Club Trunk or Treat

DATE: 10/24/2026

TIME: 3:45

WHERE: Anderson Island Elementary Field

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: 5

Duties Needed: Direct Traffic, Popcorn & Drink Station, General Help

CONTACT: dballou@steilacoom.k12.wa.us

REPORT TO: Sign in at volunteer Kiosk, Dana-Lynn Ballou

Highly Capable Program News

Mrs. Hannah Engstrom

Each year, we screen all second-grade students for eligibility in the district's Highly Capable Program. This year's screening was conducted using the iReady Fall Inform tests. These tools are the first step in the program's screening process. If a child meets the criteria for additional testing, a message was sent via Parent Square to their family. If you are the parent/guardian of a second grade student and do not receive this Parent Square message, you are welcome to apply for the Highly Capable Program in the Spring. If you have any questions about the program, feel free to contact me via Parent Square or email at hengstrom@steilacoom.k12.wa.us.