



Covid-Related Community Updates

Welcome back, Wildcats! While families enjoyed the holidays, many members of our younger Wildcat community were also getting vaccinated! Great job and thank you to our incredible community!

As she mentioned in her email, Principal Watters will continue to follow guidance and science from community health partners as our community as we continue adopting vaccines and navigate the new variant. This guidance includes continued mask wearing by our Wildcats and adopting a slightly modified lunch process to adapt to colder weather. Principal Watters has also shared that she intends to continue keeping campus closed during morning drop-off throughout the school year, as it streamlines the entrance process for all classrooms.

Additionally, Principal Watters intends to potentially open some parent volunteers opportunities as the school year progresses, particularly for small-group special events or for specific on-campus projects. Please stay tuned to Principal Watters' community update emails for the latest on how Whittier is evolving its policies to keep our community safe.

As a reminder, please follow [SPS recommendations for Covid-testing](#) if your scholar has Covid-like symptoms, has traveled, or been potentially exposed to Covid. For more information on Covid testing opportunities, please read [SPS' Covid Testing info](#) and [King County's Covid Testing resources](#).



Upcoming Events

JUN 14	5th Grade Adventure Day
JUN 16	5th Grade Promotion (during school)
JUN 17	End of Year Assembly & Last Day of School (1-hour early dismissal)
JUN 17	Donut You Think It Was a Great Year?! Main Entrance @ 1:25pm

Follow Us!



Useful Links

- Whittier Elementary School Website

School Levies: What You Need to Know (& Why!)

Even if you're a seasoned Seattle resident, you may feel confused when you hear about our city's upcoming vote to renew two school levies on February 8. If you're a long-term WA resident, you might remember hearing about the [McCleary decision](#) nearly 10 years ago that mandated WA state public schools be "fully funded." Unfortunately, the amount of funding delivered by the state (in combination with federal funding), only represents a portion of the budget required to provide education in our city. The only way to close this funding gap, whether a district is planning on large-scale capital projects or simply budgeting for typical operational expenses, is using city levies.

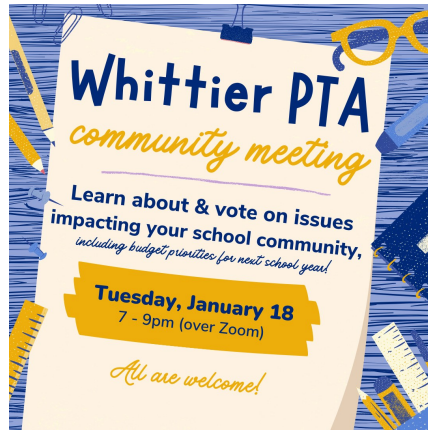
If you're a numbers person, here are the details:

- Educational Programs & Operations (EP&O) Levy:** This levy refers to the operations budget needed for typical, planned annual expenses. This levy is traditionally reviewed and renewed alongside a second levy every year. This EP&O budget is funded almost 60% by WA state with another 12.2% with federal funds, leaving a 28% funding gap in its projected required operations budget. For example, with WA state funded budgets, SPS has enough funding for 9 nurses across the district. Levy funds bridge the gap to fund 68 employed nurses across SPS. Want even more details? [Learn more.](#)
- Buildings, Technology, and Academics/Athletics (BTA) Levy:** Often called the Capital levy, this levy covers school construction and renovations, safety and security upgrades, building systems improvements, and major maintenance. Unlike the EP&O levy, the BTA Levy itself is the main source of funding for all projects covered under this levy. Rather than filling a gap, this levy is the actual funding source for these required improvements. For elementary schools in the district, this levy covers technology tools, including computers, technology software, presentation stations, operational support for students and staff, and more. For our Whittier school specifically, this levy covers replacing our Fire Alarm system. Want more details? [Read on.](#)

Over the next couple Wildchat issues, we'll continue exploring the role of these levies, school funding more generally, and how our PTA can play a role in shaping and improving educational funding in our

Thank You to our 2022 Sponsor!

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Reminder: 1/27 Make-up Day

Thursday, 1/27 (previously a scheduled school break for "day between semesters") is now a regular school day.

Hungry?

 UPCOMING LUNCH MENU				
1/3	1/4	1/5	1/6	1/7
NO SCHOOL	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Beef & Cheese Burrito• BLT (Turkey bacon) sandwich• Hummus Lunch Box• Seasonal Veggie• Seasonal Fruit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bean & Cheese Quesadilla• Florentine Chicken Pasta Salad• BBQ Turkey Salad• Seasonal Veggie• Seasonal Fruit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cheesy Pasta with Marinara & Roll• Chicken Banh Mi• Veggie Tex Mex Salad• Seasonal Veggie• Seasonal Fruit	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chef's Choice• Moroccan Quinoa Chicken Salad• Chicken Caesar Salad• Seasonal Veggie• Seasonal Fruit



Calling All 2nd Grade Families!

Every month the PTA organizes a Whittier Staff Appreciation. 2nd grade is up for January (20th) and we would love to provide the staff with grab & go snacks. Each month as are also asking for a couple key Supplies the school is in need of - this month Rubber Balls for Recess Play and nut free granola bars.

[Please sign-up to bring snacks or supplies.](#) Thank you for helping make Wildcats great!



Sign-Up Reminders: Little League, Winter School Breaks, and More!

Now that it's officially 2022, sign-ups begin for many upcoming programs!

- Ballard Little League: Registration is open for both Spring baseball and softball leagues. Practices start in March and games run through early June. [Learn more about the league and register.](#)
- ILS School Break camps: Learn more about upcoming camps offered by Illumination Learning Studios, covering Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Mid-Winter break and more. [Submit a registration request.](#)

- Woodland Park Zoo spring break camp: They've returned! [Learn more about the Spring Break program](#) (and bookmark the page for Summer camp updates, coming later this month).
- NEW: Math for Love Day Camps: This unique camp for grades 1-5 (held at the PNA) aims to help students fall in love with mathematics. Current offerings include Mid-Winter break, Spring Break, and Summer Break. [Learn more.](#)

Know of another camp, sport, or activity you think the Whittier community should know about? [Contact us!](#)



Thank you, Wildcats!