Welcome Back From Your PTA Co-Presidents

We hope that you were able to find some rest over the break and to find ways to spend time with your family and loved ones, though perhaps differently than previous years. We both enjoyed time with our families, delighting in new and old family traditions.

We look forward to "seeing" you in our children's classes and also at upcoming meetings (DEI Committee Ws 1/6 & 1/20 at 7:00pm; PTA Board T 1/12 7:00pm). Please reach out with any questions and/or concerns at president@viewridgeschool.org.

Kathryn Lachenmaier & Megan Flaherty
VRE PTA Co-Presidents

K & 1st Back to In-Building School Survey

Dear View Ridge Families of Kindergarten and 1st grade students:

On December 16th, the Seattle School Board voted to reopen schools for PreK, Kindergarten and First Grade students no later than March 1st. In preparation, Tuesday, January 5th, all families with students registered for Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten and 1st grade will receive a survey asking that they confirm their intent to return to onsite learning or remote learning. The survey will close on Sunday, January 10th at midnight.

Ensuring we receive confirmation for each student's intent to either return to in-person or stay in remote learning will guide the preparation and planning of a safe reopening for staff and students at each school site. District staff will work with building leaders using these student projection numbers to ensure that mitigation and safety requirements, equipment and procedures are in place prior to student and staff return.

Sincerely,
Paula Henn
Interim Principal

Opportunities To Get Involved

Maybe one of your New Year's Resolutions involves community service - if so, here are some opportunities for you!
• Come to our VRE Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee meeting! Wednesday, 1/6/21, at 7 PM! Email the DEI committee for a link to the meeting at dei@viewridgeschool.org. Learn how you can be involved in our efforts to be a more welcoming, equitable, and inclusive community.

• Volunteer on MLK day, Monday, 1/18! The PTA will be hosting an outdoor, socially distanced cleanup event! Save the date and stay tuned for more information!

• Email Genny Costin on the Family Services committee to learn more about collecting items for families in need! There is both a Tech/School Supply and Food drive (run by our very own Student Council) in the works!

SCPTSA Student Safety Committee Kick-off Meeting

For student abuse to stop, systemic change is needed or we go back to the same cycle: shock - outrage - demands - promises - move on until the next case is made public. We want ALL students to feel safe when returning to school, both physical and emotionally. You are invited to join this critical advocacy.

The Student Safety Committee will address issues of student safety, abuse of students on school grounds or within the school community including and especially harm perpetrated by school district employees. Accountability is the primary tool for reducing harm to a student's well-being. This committee will be focused on supporting families to properly report and follow up of complaints as well as advocacy at the district and state levels to hold district and state authorities accountable.

An informational meeting will be held on Thursday, January 7th at 7PM (registration required here) to discuss positions, membership, scope of work and budget.

Committee Interest Forms will be accepted until January 15th, 2021. Selected members will be notified via email on Friday, January 22nd. The time commitment is currently to be determined, but consistent engagement is expected through the 2020-21 school year.

QUESTIONS? Email StudentSafety@scptsa.org

Equi-Tea

Please join us on Wednesday, January 27th at 7pm for an open forum to discuss community issues that affect our school. While the meeting is open for anyone to bring up concerns, questions, and ideas, there will be special time set aside at this virtual event to discuss setting community values. Think a bit on what you’d like your children to learn from being a part of this community and what's important to you and your family. Hope to see you there! Email the DEI committee for a link at dei@viewridgeschool.org!

Seattle School Board Statement on Student Abuse

As leaders, we must take accountability for the failures of our system.
As such, we hereby acknowledge significant wrongs experienced by Seattle Public Schools students and families. For too long our families have experienced violence and irreparable trauma at the hands of police, security guards, administrators, educators, and support personnel. For too long our students and families have endured "misconduct" in the form of isolation, restraint, criminalization, adultification, and physical and verbal micro and macro aggressions.

Read more of the letter [here](#).

### Updates, Reminders, Information, Etc.

- **LIBRARY**: Starting this week, library's checkout will be every week! Please visit us on **Tuesday: 3-5pm**; **Wednesday: 11:15-1:30pm**; **Thursday: 3-5pm**. Contact [Ms. Young](#) with questions.

- **iPad Cases**: If you received an iPad from the district, cases are now available. You can pick them up during library check-out (see days & hours above).

### OTTER KNOW SUBMISSIONS

The Otter Know is published during the school year once a week on Tuesday, with an Otter Know Update on Friday if needed. Articles for the Otter Know are due the Thursday before the Tuesday publication. Articles can be sent through the [website](#), or to the Communications Committee.