Calendar Items

**No School**
M 1/18; MLK Jr. Day

**Volunteer Event**
M 1/18 1:30pm

**DEI Committee Meeting**
W 1/20 7:00pm

**Equi-Tea**
W 1/27 7:00pm

**No School**
Th 1/28; Day between semesters

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**Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

Join us for some community-building and a day of service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on **Monday, January 18th at 1:30 pm**. Meet at the primary playground to collect materials for a schoolyard clean-up. We will also honor Dr. King’s Legacy with an opportunity for community reflections and art on-site at the outdoor playcourt. All are welcome.

**Community Art Project**

We will reflect on the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, "Life's Most Persistent and Urgent Question is, "What are you doing for others?" Children will write or draw on paper and hang it on the play court fencing. The children can respond in art or words. Materials will be provided.

For other ways to celebrate, Dr. King while we are socially distanced, please check out the following:

**VIRTUAL EVENTS**

- [MLK Jr. Day of Service](#) - Points of Light
- [9th Annual Schombberg Center Black Comic Book Festival](#) 1/13-1/16, 2021
- [King County Annual MLK Celebration](#) 1/14 at 12:00pm
- [Local MLK Virtual Youth Event](#) 1/17 2-4pm
- [Northwest African American Museum King Day Celebration](#) 1/18 (Time TBD)
- [National Museum of African American History and Culture - The People's Holiday celebration](#) 1/18 1-2:30pm

**LOCAL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

[United Way Volunteer Options](#)
Dear View Ridge Families:

First off, I just want to say that it is such an honor and joy getting to know you at different meetings and seeing you informally during library check outs or on the playground. Your children are at the center of our care and all decisions we make. What stands out as we surveyed families deciding if they want in-person is their child's relationship to the staff at View Ridge. Those relationships have remarkably been built even through our remote screens.

I. The following is some updated information regarding return to in-person learning:

- We have received the survey results from majority of our families. The responses to in-person or continuing with remote learning is close to 50/50 with a slight preference toward in-person. Principals will get final counts through follow up phone calls by January 20th.
- On January 8th, Superintendent Juneau sent a letter to Governor Jay Inslee, Washington Secretary of Health and Health Officer for Public Health to advocate for January vaccination of educators and school-based staff.

II. We are very excited to have Gordon and Judith be district support for our dedicated Special Education staff. They have a wealth of knowledge and resources to support individual educational plans.

III. Our Equity and Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) Committees have been engaged in conversations leading to school-wide share of monthly themes and activities. January is focused on respect and February is focused on caring. We are excited to partner with our PTA around equity.

IV. Dr. Martin Luther King Day and Black Lives Matter: We are collaborating between school and our community/PTA to have lessons for our children. We are also centering our activities around Dr. King's quote of: "Life's most urgent questions is: 'What are you doing for others?"

V. A huge shout out to Sunshine, Alynda, Laura S. and Denise K for putting together comprehensive virtual tours of View Ridge Elementary. It really shows all what View Ridge offers students and surrounding community. These virtual tours are scheduled for Tuesday, January 26th at 3:00 p.m. and Thursday, February 4th at 7:00 p.m.

VI. We are in process of updating our play courts with keeping safety in mind which will be funded by our district maintenance facilities. We will be putting in LED lighting, update the doors (still getting input on this), and looking at a mural with student voice and involvement. We will start some things hopefully soon and have the rest unfold through the year with ongoing feedback.
We are stronger together,
Paula Henn
Interim Principal

Virtual School Tours!

Help us spread the word! VRE is having 2 virtual school tours for interested families. See below for dates, times and meeting links. If you have any questions regarding school tours please contact our VRE parent volunteer Sunshine Feldman.

January 26th at 3:00-3:30pm
Microsoft Teams meeting
Join on your computer or mobile app
Click here to join the meeting
Or call in (audio only)
+1 206-800-4125
Phone Conference ID: 875 706 780#

February 4th at 7:00-7:30pm
Microsoft Teams meeting
Join on your computer or mobile app
Click here to join the meeting
Or call in (audio only)
+1 206-800-4125
Phone Conference ID: 718 917 944#

Updates, Reminders, Information, Etc.

- **LIBRARY**: Starting this week, library's checkout will be every week! Please visit 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.