View Ridge OTTER KNOW
Tuesday, January 19th, 2021

Para versión en español, de favor contactarse a Shannon Otto

Calendar Items

DEI Committee Meeting
W 1/20 7:00pm

Equi-Tea
W 1/27 7:00pm

No School
Th 1/28; Day between semesters

Thank you!

Thank you to all the volunteers for showing up to clean up the school grounds! We sincerely appreciate all the hard work in keeping our school looking well kept! Thank you especially to Sarah Rathbone, Bonnie Menon, June Nho Ivers, and Shannon Otto for their help in planning the activities; and Rebecca Guss for the gorgeous MLK Jr. banners now hanging on the play courts!

Yearbook Photos!

Good news! We are planning to have a yearbook this year! However, we will need your help in this collaborative effort.

Please email a headshot photo of your child with name, grade level, and teacher name to VRYearbook@gmail.com. Simply, ask your kiddos to stand against a wall or plain background and snap a pic from shoulders up using your phone. Think passport photo - not glamor shot.

Please submit by FEBRUARY 15 so that we can meet publisher deadlines. It would be extremely helpful to follow this format in the subject line: STUDENT LAST NAME, FIRST NAME, GRADE LEVEL, TEACHER NAME

Also, if you are interested in joining the yearbook committee please email lizchang@ymail.com or aoberdeck@icloud.com. Thank you! --Yearbook committee

Washington State COVID-19 Vaccine Plan Feedback

Washington State is accepting feedback on their current COVID-19 Vaccine Plan. Teachers and staff are currently included in Phase 2. You can send feedback to request teachers and staff receive the vaccine sooner as SPS is planning to start in-person school in early March.

Feedback on the Washington State COVID-19 Vaccine Plan

Advocacy Opportunities Through WSPTA

Did you know that the Washington State Parent Teacher Association advocates on behalf of education funding, digital equity, special education and a host of other issues before the Washington State Legislature in Olympia? With the Washington State Legislative Session beginning on January 11, you can make your voice heard through the WSPTA Action Network.
During the Washington state legislative session, WSPTA will send action alerts and informational broadcasts to WSPTA members who have subscribed to WSPTA’s Action Network Group. These action alerts are quick, easy ways to communicate with your legislators on topics they are actively working on. To sign up, click on the link above. Learn more about the WSPTA’s legislative priorities on their Advocacy webpage.

Notes for Harmony 1/18/2021

This week is Advocacy Week!

See here for details on how YOU can participate and positively impact our school community!

Also, be sure to join us for our DEI Committee meeting this week on Wednesday, 1/20/21, at 7 pm! We are looking at important updates to our PTA structure and function in order to be more inclusive, and we need YOUR voice and YOUR help! Our agenda for this week covers creating goals for our PTA DEI strategic plan, discussing our plans for celebrating Black History Month, drafting resolutions for the PTA to adopt, and creating action steps for future Equi-tees.

Email DEI@viewridgeschool.org for a meeting link and more information on how you can be involved!

Upcoming Equi-Tea

Wednesday, January 27, 2021 Equi-Tea: What are Our Community Values?

DEI Committee is hosting a safe space conversation in an ongoing series to build a community charter. This conversation is about discovering what we value and where we need to grow. This conversation is about laying down the foundation as we build a community charter to challenge our community to make View Ridge Elementary a safe space for ALL children.

Please email dei@viewridgeschools.org for a link.

Ending the Silence: A Youth Mental Health Event

The intense emotional burden of 2020 has definitely taken a toll on some of our community's students, school staff, and families. To address this, we're partnering up with PNW Parent Education and the National Alliance on Mental Illness with an early intervention and educational presentation titled, "Ending the Silence: A Youth Mental Health Event". This FREE online event is on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 6:30 pm. If you are interested in attending, please register here.

This relevant and engaging presentation will help attendees identify early signs and symptoms of mental illness in youth, provide information about treatments, and we'll have a young adult who will share their lived experience coping with depression and anxiety. The goal of this event is to begin a larger discussion about mental health so that young people dealing with mental health conditions realize they are not alone.

Lastly, while watching the event, you can also order a delicious
family meal from The Extra Ingredient. Please click on the link titled, "Jan 27th: PNW Parent Education Event - Pre Order". All orders must be placed by Wed, January 20, 2021 and 20% of all proceeds will be donated to PNW Parent Education.

**Family Films About Civil Rights**

There's a lot of movie nights (and days) for our families these days, and as Black History Month is around the corner, we would like to celebrate positive representation and educational films that View Ridge Families can enjoy at home. Check out our recommendations for Kids, Documentaries for Adults/Teens and Narrative Films for Adults/Teens [here](#).

**Updates, Reminders, Information, Etc.**

- **Food Drive**: Reminder that the Student Council is still accepting food and items to benefit the University Food Bank. Your donations can be dropped off at library checkout now through the end of the school year. For information on which items are needed, check out this [link](#).
- **VR Virtual School Open House**: Help us spread the word! VRE is having 2 virtual school tours for interested families - 1/26 3:00 pm & 2/4 7:00 pm. For more information, see our [article on the PTA website](#).
- **Middle School Open Houses**: The dates are in for virtual open houses at our middle schools. Jane Adams Middle School will be on **1/27 6:30-9:00 pm** and Nathan Eckstein Middle School will be on **1/26 6:00-7:30 pm**. If you are considering another middle school, please visit the [SPS middle school webpage](#) for more information on their open houses.
- "a poem called life" MLK Jr. Poem by K. Williams, VRE parent

**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.