Principal Letter Regarding School Safety

After lengthy conversations, reflections, bringing in more perspectives, and partnering between our school equity committee and our PTA DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) Committee, we are moving forward with additional plans at View Ridge Elementary. At View Ridge, the safety and the welfare of your children are our prime focus. In consideration of our ongoing conversations, here are some of the things we have in place, and some things we are working on for when students return.

To read the full letter click [here](#) or visit the PTA website.

Play Court Update & Feedback

View Ridge and the PTA are working with SPS Maintenance to improve our outdoor play courts.

Both play courts will have their lighting improved - replacing existing fixtures with LED fixtures and adding additional fixtures.

In the east play court, there are currently three fenced-in areas: one for bikes and two for storage. One of the storage areas will be removed. The second storage area will be updated, extending the fencing to the ceiling. The bike storage area already has fencing to the ceiling.

A future survey will be sent to gather feedback on the gates for each play court.

Please view the [survey](#) to see pictures of the proposed changes and give your feedback on painting.

View Ridge Supply Drive

In an effort to make sure all our children have the supplies they need for a successful school year, we’ve created an Amazon Wishlist based on answers to our recent survey. They range from hand soap and masks to fidget toys and headphones. The items purchased will go directly to kids in our school and community.

If you would like to donate items, please visit our [Amazon wishlist](#)

You will have the option to ship your donations directly to us by using the default address provided at checkout. If you would prefer to purchase these items on your own, you are welcome
Notes

Community & Information Resources

Click here for a full list of Community Resources

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Equi-Tea January 27th, 2021

DEI Committee is hosting a safe space conversation in an ongoing series to create a dialogue in our community around diversity, equity, and inclusion. Our safe space discussion 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 inspire our community to make View Ridge Elementary a safe space for ALL children.

Please email dei@viewridgeschool.org for a link.

Valentines at Library Check Out

Some classes are exchanging valentines this year; you should have had an email from your Room Parent on your child's class plan. If your child is in need of valentines to give to classmates, there are free sets available at library check out; please ask Ms. Young. If you're unable to get to library check out, please contact Joyce Cho or Pamela Altman for delivery options.

Diversity Equity & Inclusion Committee Listening Sessions

We are creating Listening Sessions for our SpEd, IEP, 504, and BIPOC families to have safe space conversations, and for us to openly listen to your experiences at View Ridge and the surrounding community. This would be a safe space to start conversations and for Principal Henn to be an active listener. These will be facilitated by our BIPOC (June Nho Ivers) and SpED Liaisons (Kristin Kleidon) for View Ridge Elementary School.

Wednesday, February 3rd from 3:00-4:00
Tuesday, February 23rd from 7:00-8:00

Please email viewridgedei@gmail.com for the link to the event.
District’s School Beat Newsletter

Are you receiving the bi-weekly district newsletter, School Beat? Last week's newsletter included important information on:

- Details on COVID-19 vaccines for educators/staff
- SEA bargaining updates, including a timeline of engagement
- How to sign up for text alerts for snow or school schedule changes
- Upcoming Special Education forums
- Kindergarten and new student registration
- Board approval of new high school course
- New Office of African American Male Achievement Newsletter

Copy of the 1/21 School Beat Newsletter

If you do not already receive the District's now bi-weekly newsletter, you can sign up here

Managing Working Parenthood in Current Times

Boys & Girls Clubs of King County's strives to provide the best possible support to our communities - including families not currently enrolled, particularly through the current pandemic. We are pleased to offer a special, no-cost resource for individuals who are working and also caring for children.

Please join us on Thursday February 4, 2021 at 8:00 PM for a virtual workshop on Managing Working Parenthood in Current Times. The session will be led by Daisy Dowling, working parent coach, expert, and columnist for the Harvard Business Review.

For more information on this session, please see the article on our PTA website.
Local Middle School Tours

Eckstein: Tuesday, 1/26 6:00pm
Eckstein's Tour Info

Jane Adams Middle School, Wednesday, 1/27 6:30pm
Jane Adams Tour Info

Ravenna Co-op Preschool Open House

Looking for preschool options? Come discover the University Ravenna Co-op Preschool at our winter sing-along and virtual open house! We'll bring the music, stories and fun-you can bring your whole family.

Join U-Ravenna Co-op Preschool for a Sing-Along Party!
**DATE:** Wednesday, February 3rd
**TIME:** 5:30-6:30 p.m.
RSVP here to get the Zoom event link or visit us at uravennacoop.com

This is a FREE event and everyone is welcome to attend.

Can't make the event but want to learn more about our school? Please email uravpre3info@gmail.com (for our Pre-3s Class) or univrav3to5s@gmail.com (for our 3-5s Class).

### 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.