



View Ridge OTTER KNOW

Tuesday, November 17, 2020

Para versión en español, de favor contactarse a [Shannon Otto](#)

Calendar items

**No School;
Conferences**
M-W 11/23-11/25

**No School;
Thanksgiving**
Th-F 11/26-11/27

Administrative

**Need to report an
absence?**
[Send an email](#)

**Parent/Guardian
Volunteer Form**
[Available here](#)

**You can also contact
about volunteering**
[Sunshine Feldman](#)

**[Principal Meeting
Notes](#)**

Community & Information Resources

**Click [here](#)
for a full list of
Community Resources**

Meet our Interim Principal, Paula Henn

In growing up with 9 siblings, I learned from day one the importance of "we" and how decisions impact others. This has guided me in my professional life on being collaborative and inclusive.

For the past 2 years, I have been an Assistant Principal at Genesee Hill Elementary. I led our instructional leadership team in building our curriculum to new academic depths through vertical alignment, teachers excited to lead their own professional development, and analyzing data in making school wide instructional decisions that benefited ALL children. In my previous district, I was summer school principal in helping our students who were falling behind have an opportunity to catch up and increase confidence in their learning.

My experience in teaching includes being an Adjunct Instructor in literacy at University of St. Thomas in MN, peer coach for teachers in observing and coaching on teaching practices, Intervention Specialist, National Board Certified teacher, and 16 years in the classroom.

Prior to teaching, I was a clinical social worker and coordinator in schools and day treatment programs. With my background in social work, my main strategy in impacting student learning is strengthening children from the inside out.

I believe in empowering students to grow toward being problem solvers, self-reliant, confident, and able to use resources around them.

With 32 years of experience working with children/families and staff in urban settings, I'm always left humbled by what can be accomplished by dedicated communities, and in awe of how much we learn/grow from each other through such experiences.

I'm excited to see what we as a staff and community will accomplish this school year in taking the best care of our children's social, emotional and academic needs. I'm honored to be your Interim Principal where I will fully invest in having a fun, safe, growth-filled year for our students!

VR GEAR ON SALE NOW!

This fall, the View Ridge apparel sale has moved online, starting today through Wednesday, December 2! Show your View Ridge pride during distance learning with sweatshirts and long

sleeved t-shirts with our school logo! Check out all the available options on our sales [website](#)

All items are unisex, including adult apparel, so please take this into consideration when choosing sizes-there are no exchanges, all items are printed as ordered. New this year is the option to make a donation toward the purchase of apparel for families in need of financial assistance, click the "DONATION" option on the website to add a donation to your order if you wish. If your family is in need of financial assistance to order View Ridge apparel, please contact our school counselor [**Joyce Cho**](#)

Apparel orders should arrive before winter break and distribution information will be shared via the Otter Know newsletter. Please note that there is an option to ship your order directly to your home for your convenience at additional cost.

Questions? Please contact [Melissa Koch](#).

Notes for Harmony

Hello Otters! Iyla's family would love to share their Diwali traditions and celebration with you! Be sure to check out the poster at the library playcourt for some great pictures and information! They decorated their home, made [Diyas](#), and Iyla drew an awesome picture of [Ganesha](#)!

Thanksgiving is fast approaching! Now is a great time to talk with your family about the history of the holiday. Experts say it's important to explain the real, complicated history of the Thanksgiving myth. At the same time, it's important to spend time giving thanks for all the good things in our lives. (Hey, what a great time to talk about privilege!) Answer their questions truthfully and sincerely, and ask them how they feel. These holiday memories will influence who your children become while bringing your family closer together around shared values. Check out these resources for more info:
[How To Teach Your Kids The Real History of Thanksgiving](#)
[How to Talk to Kids About Thanksgiving](#)

And check out these links to learn how other cultures celebrate giving thanks:

[Multicultural Traditions Around the World](#)
[How Countries Around the World Give Thanks](#)

Conferences and Report Cards

Conferences are coming up soon on 11/23-11/25: Please refer to your teacher's newsletter for information on how to sign up for conferences and what to expect during your conference this year, as they may run differently than previous years.

Report cards will be coming by December 18th. This year they will be delivered via [The Source](#). Please refer to your child's teacher communication about which subjects will be scored this trimester.

As you can imagine, assessment can be difficult in remote learning. Students who are not participating in the school-based lessons for a subject area will receive an asterisk (*) and

comment, rather than a score. For students who are participating, teachers will use the in-lesson check-ins when students share their work on camera, and through applications such as Seesaw, One Note, Schoology, and other online tools used for student work. For students who don't use cameras during the lesson check-ins, teachers will do the best they can with the information they have from our other tools. All grades (K-5) will be using the asterisk and comments for science for this trimester.

We appreciate your role in helping students gain academic independence during this trimester while learning virtually! At school, we are used to watching students struggle with new learning and we can appreciate that this can be hard at home. The struggle is where the learning happens. We are all learning a lot and we thank you for celebrating your child's willingness to do the hard things.

Dance for all ages!

Dance with us at All That Dance! With classes for dancers ages 3 to adult, we offer something for everyone at our spacious studios in Northeast Seattle.

Please see more information on our [PTA website](#). For more information on our class offerings, please go to our [website](#), send us an [email](#), or give us a call at 206-524-8944. See you at the studio!

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.