**View Ridge OTTER KNOW**  
**Tuesday, December 15th, 2020**

Para versión en español, de favor contactarse a Shannon Otto

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### Calendar Items

- **Principal Meeting**  
  T 9:15-9:45am

- **DEI Committee Meeting**  
  W 12/16 7:30pm

- **SCPTSA Meeting**  
  Th 12/17 7-8:30pm

- **1-hour early dismissal**  
  F 12/18

- **Winter Break**  
  12/21-1/01 - No school

- **First Day Back**  
  M 1/4/21

- **PTA Board Meeting**  
  T 1/12

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

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### Message From Your PTA Co-Presidents

As you are likely aware, the community is watching and paying attention to how we move forward following the information released in the KUOW article. We have been disheartened by the threats targeting our school. The article does paint a very troubling picture of our school. We are not here to debate what happened. Harm occurred at our school and that is not ok.

While this has been and will continue to be hard, we need to keep fighting to make real change. As the PTA co-presidents, we stand committed to our community to help to drive these changes so that this never happens again. Will we falter and get things wrong? Certainly, but with your help we will learn along the way and become better. Our students, families, and community deserve better. We need you, our community, to help guide these changes. We need to hear from you and yes, we all need to do this work. We will have opportunities coming up to become involved in training, activities to do at home with your family, and conversations to have with your social groups. It is time to face it, together, to make our school and community a better place for each and every student.

Please see Shannon Otto's invitation below to View Ridge's DEI Committee Meeting Wednesday evening.

Please also see below for a meeting hosted by the Seattle Council (SCPTSA) this Thursday evening. During this time we have been seeking support and guidance from our SCPTSA and School Board, as the response from the district has been unacceptable. The meeting this Thursday evening is a chance for families in SPS to share their frustrations and questions in more of a community forum.

Please contact us at president@viewridgeschool.org to continue to share your feedback and suggestions.

Kathryn Lachenmaier & Megan Flaherty  
VRE PTA Co-Presidents

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### Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion (DEI) Committee Meeting

My name is Shannon Otto, and I am currently serving as chair for the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee. I write the Notes for Harmony for the Otter Know because I believe it’s important to provide resources for talking to your kids about...
You can also contact about volunteering sunshine feldman

Principal Meeting Notes

Community & Information Resources

Click here for a full list of Community Resources

Having a positive impact on the world is a really ambitious goal. It may sound unobtainable, but it's not. Start where you are. You, personally, are here in this neighborhood. You can do what I did - you can join the PTA.

Did you know the national PTA was founded by women of color to advocate for their children? We can follow in their footsteps. Try the Family Services Committee for serving our most vulnerable neighbors. Try the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee for working towards fairness for all. Show up to a meeting - even if you don't say anything, you might hear something that inspires you.

This is a time of hurt and confusion. Trust has been broken. Anger is justified. Grief is natural. What can you do in the face of these difficult emotions? You can do your part to make sure that what happened to Jaleel, what continues to be a reality for Special Education students and Black, Indigenous, and students of color - stops. The way we do that is by coming together as a community. This looks like building relationships with each other, sharing values and trust with your neighbors, and mobilizing to hold our public institutions accountable for serving our families.

Mobilize. Use our considerable power for the good of all. Join us on the PTA.

Join us Wednesday, 12/16 at 7:30pm for the DEI Committee Meeting. Please email for the meeting link.

Seattle Council Parent Teacher Student Association (SCPTSA) Meeting

SCPTSA represents over 80 PTAs and PTSAs in SPS. Centering the voices of those furthest from educational justice, they support, inform, and advocate for and with school communities all over Seattle.

This coming Thursday, December 17th, 7 to 8:30PM, SCPTSA will facilitate a meeting for our communities to discuss student abuse and culture of retaliation in SPS. The purpose of the meeting is to create a space for communities across the district to have their voices heard and demand action to protect our children from harm, and to protect reporting adults from retaliation.

Guests:
- Chandra Hampson, school board President
- Brandon Hersey, school board Vice President

We will also hear from family therapist Dana Del Monte on how to support children victims of abuse and how to talk to kids that might have witnessed abuse in the school setting.
Pre-registration is required. Interpretation will be available.

Register in advance for this meeting: link

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

**Library Check Out CANCELLED**

Due to safety concerns, Library check out is cancelled for the week. Please stay tuned for school materials pick up and drop off locations.

**Group Greeting Card for VRE Staff**

It's been quite the week of emotions and stress for us all. Some of you have asked what we can do to show care for our staff who are understandably stressed with all that is going on. You are always welcome to send an email directly to your teacher expressing your gratitude, or mail a hand written card to them at school, 7047 50th Ave NE, Seattle, WA  98115.

We've also set up an online card that families can sign that will get sent to all staff. Please help us send a message of care to our dedicated staff by signing the card by **Thursday, 12/17 by 12pm**. To sign the card, go here: Group Greeting Card

**Dandylyon Drama Virtual Winter Classes**

Through a variety of fun online programs and exciting theater productions, they build a creative, compassionate, and courageous community. Head to their website for a full listing of their winter online courses starting in late December.

**Art with Adah!**

Art with Adah is back! Visit her website (artwithadah.com) where you can find art sets for sale and online classes to sign up for. With an art kit purchase your child is invited to attend a complimentary "Art Kit Class" where Adah will demonstrate how to build certain parts as well as chat about everyone's ideas! These Art Kit Classes will be on December 14th and December 21st. The five week art class sessions will begin in January! Check out the website for more details!

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

- Please have your student complete their playground survey (link) by Friday, 12/18.
- Starting in January the library's playcourt checkout schedule will be the same each week **Tuesday: 3-5pm; Wednesday: 11:15-1:30pm; Thursday: 3-5pm**. Contact Ms. Young with questions.

**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.