



# View Ridge Otter Know

**Friday, April 2, 2021**

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

## Upcoming Calendar Events

- **K-5 Students return to school:** M 4/5
- **Spring break, No School:** 4/12-4/16
- **PTA Board Meeting:** T 4/20
- **Music Night Out:** TH 4/29 5:00-7:00pm

## Reminders, Notices, Etc.

- **Community Chat "Returning to In Person" PowerPoint** [HERE](#)
- **Donate to our PTA Annual Appeal** [HERE](#)
- **Sign a card for Ms. Young by 4/2:** [HERE](#)
- **Deadline to order View Ridge apparel** [HERE](#): F 4/9
- **Deadline to [order](#) Yearbooks (school code: 991202):** T 4/20

## Co-President Note

Hello Families!

Wow, it's hard to believe that this day is upon us—Back to in person school for many students! A friend shared an email with Dr. Susanna Block's guidance about how to get ready to return to classrooms and thought I'd share the cliff notes here. These suggestions will work for students that continue with online learning too, as there will be a change next week regardless of your learning environment.

**Do a feelings check:** Different kids will have different feelings ranging from excitement to anxiety. Living through a global pandemic is truly an exercise in flexibility. Praise your kids for being flexible and remind them that they will need to remain flexible.

**Dress rehearsal:** For some students the school will be familiar, for others, this will be their first time going to the school. Visit the campus, walk around, and find the different areas at the school.

**Start or resume rituals:** Routines help children feel calm and prepared for the day. The "back to school" ritual is a great way to set the stage and help with the transition to in-person learning. Every family has a different ritual, but they can include gathering school supplies, picking the first outfit, etc. Plan morning and evening routines, homework time, and school transportation. Remember that "back to school" will also mean packing an extra mask. Reminders to continue following the COVID safety measures will also be important too: Continue to wear masks, wash your hands, and maintain social distance.

**Avoid over-scheduling:** Kids have gotten used to the slower pace. Allow time for them to get used to being back in school before starting extracurricular activities. Kids may feel a little overwhelmed and

need some home downtime.

**Celebrate:** Mark this day with a celebration! Praise your child and let them know you are proud of them for being flexible, resilient, and strong during this pandemic! This was a hard year, and the return to school is a milestone to celebrate!

Ms. Henn gave a lot of great information last night at her Community Chat; please find her PowerPoint [HERE](#). We are excited to see your student, whether in person or online! Thank you for all the support you give your student(s) and school!

We can do this,  
Kathryn Lachenmaier, VRE PTA Co-President

## Crosswalk Helpers Needed!

We are looking for parent volunteers to help with crossing safety and student drop-off/pick-up in the church parking lot. Shifts are MTThF: 7:45-8:10, 10:45-11, 11:30-11:55, and 2:30-2:45 with 4 locations and 6 volunteers needed. Please see sign up [HERE](#). Ms. Crossman will provide a short training to all parents. Ideally we'd like to have parents sign up for a full week, but understand if that's not possible. Thank you in advance for your help in keeping our walkers safe!

## School Parking Reminders

- No parking in Bus Zone, all day.
- Please avoid parking on the two dead-end streets nearest the primary play-grounds, 48th and 49th Ave. NE, as it is difficult for neighbors and parking is very limited. Students may walk through the school grounds to get to their designated entry points.
- Sandpoint Community Church: White spaces only.
- Best on street parking areas: NE 70th Street, NE 75th Street, NE 73rd Street.
- Note: 50th Ave from 75th to 70th gets very crowded with school and metro bus traffic.
- Also, be mindful of distance from driveways when parking, to allow our neighbors easy in and out access.

## Website Update

A big thank you to Martin Frasch for updating our [PTA website](#) for multiple languages! An automated translation engine was used, so if you are fluent in another language and have time to peruse the site, we would love the [feedback](#). We are still working on translating images, so please know some sections of the website are still a work in progress.

## 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 Friday before the Tuesday publication. Articles can be sent through the website, or to the [Communications Committee](#).