

# ***Kenmore Elementary Paw Prints***

January 2021

## **Principal's Message**

Happy New Year KE Families!

Here's wishing this newsletter finds you in rejuvenated spirits and optimism. It's 2021, I am sure you join me in looking forward to a year filled with positive shifts in what we've experienced as a nation and world.

As we approach the conclusion of our first semester, we plan on making a few additions to our virtual world. Students will be invited to join a virtual recess once a week, later this month. We would like to test out a new program, [Playworks](#). Playworks is known to incorporate social emotional strategies into recess games. We look forward to engaging our students and aim to bring the skills learned to the in person playground experience when we return. Thank you to our KEPTA for funding this virtual program.

This month, all of our students will be engaging in their "*winter diagnostic*" for reading and math using i-ready. These diagnostics are meant to help our teachers assess and identify students' strengths and specific growth areas for each student. While it is not the only tool, this is one of the ways teachers can measure and track student progress and growth in their skills and abilities as well as informs next steps for individual students. Because of the importance of this data, we want to make sure it is as accurate as possible and reflects the current understanding of our students. Please do your best to support students being independent in answering these questions. Please be on the lookout for communication from your student's teacher regarding more detailed information about what this will look like.

To help prepare your child for the i-Ready Diagnostic, encourage them to:

- Get a good night's sleep and eat a full breakfast the day of the assessment.
- Try their best on each question and try not to rush.
- Try not to worry about questions they do not know—remind them that it is expected they will get only about half of the questions correct.
- Help identify a quiet and comfortable place in your home where students can focus.

Some of you have requested additional communication from me, I would also like to honor that with a second newsletter that will be sent out in the middle of each month. I have found that too much goes unread, so, we'll be sure to highlight what's important, add a useful link or two and keep it brief. We will do our best to not be overly redundant.

Lastly, as a lifelong learner I am finding it a thrilling challenge to meet all the goals I personally have set for myself and our school. To that end, I'd like to bring a laser focus to the key areas we've committed to this year at Kenmore Elementary. As we continue to progress with the Racial Educational Justice Domain 2 Goal i.e. Climate, Culture, & Self Reflection I will be sharing links to further our perspectives and discussions in our community.

Additionally, the KEPTA Racial and Educational Justice Committee will be offering family resources to the community via Cub Notes. Thank you for extending this conversation.

You will hear from us again soon, in the meantime we've got a full newsletter with some important information.

Best,

Geetha George-Shapiro

## Important Dates

**Mon, Jan. 4th - WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!!**

**Thurs, Jan. 7th - 3rd Grade Only: Virtual Field Trip (zoom link will be provided by teacher)**

**Mon, Jan 18th - NO SCHOOL - Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

**Mon, Jan 25th - NO SCHOOL - Non-student Grading Day**

**Wed, Jan 27th - MATERIALS PICK UP DAY - More info will be sent in a mid-month newsletter!**

### **LUNCH BUNCH:**

Tues, Jan. 12th - Kindergarten & 1st Grade @ 11:00-11:25

Tues, Jan. 12th - 2nd Grade @ 11:30-11:55

Wed, Jan. 13th - 3rd Grade @ 11:00-11:25

Wed, Jan. 13th - 4th Grade @ 11:30-11:55

Thurs, Jan. 14th - 5th Grade @ 11:00-11:25

## Picture Day UPDATE!

**School Picture Day has been rescheduled to Wednesday, March 3rd!** This year, we will be having individual school pictures only. More details will come as we near March. For now, be sure to save the date!

## Attendance Policy & Pre-Arrange Absences

Washington State Law requires parents/guardians to inform the school of student absences.

Please report your child's absence including the reason by leaving a message on the school attendance phone line at 425-408-4810 or emailing the student's teacher.

If your child will be absent for 3 or more days for something other than illness, the absence must be pre-arranged. Please complete the Pre-Approved Absence Request Form that is attached to the

January Newsletter email. This form can also be found on the Kenmore Elementary website under "Resources > Report an Absence".

*If your student cannot make a zoom for any reason please have them message the teacher by email or in Schoology.*

## Office Communication

**The Kenmore Elementary Office is currently closed until the school buildings reopen.** Office staff are working remotely at this time. You can contact office staff by email, or you may leave a voicemail on their direct office phone line. Voicemails will be checked daily.

## Kenmore Coats & Sweaters

If you are in need of coats and sweaters to keep warm this winter, please visit the Kenmore Coats and Sweaters Website. <https://sites.google.com/apps.nsd.org/kenmore-coats/home>

Requests should be emailed to Trish Giuffrida directly at [tgiuffrida@nsd.org](mailto:tgiuffrida@nsd.org).  
Questions or concerns? Email Trish or call 425-408-4806.

## Virtual Choir

A virtual choir for 3rd, 4th and 5th graders will begin January 6, 11:30-12:15.  
Mrs. Sandusky will be leading this choir. There will be a 45 minute practice each Wednesday through the end of May. The choir will have one or more virtual performances in the spring and a celebration at the close. More details and the zoom link can be found in the choir folder in the student's Schoology music course. If you love to sing – this is the place for you!



## KE Library Check-Out

Please use the link below to request books (or scan the QR code).  
Books are available for pick-up on Tuesdays at multiple locations.  
Please contact Chris Brush, KE Library Teacher, with any questions. [cbrush@nsd.org](mailto:cbrush@nsd.org)

[go.nsd.org/kebooks](https://go.nsd.org/kebooks)





## Counselor's Corner

### Motivating Kids During Online Learning

Motivating our kids to do their best can be a challenge any time but encouraging them to stay on-task and engaged during online learning can be especially difficult. I've been keeping an eye out for tips and tricks to help make this experience better for everyone involved and coming back from break can be a great time to start fresh and try something new. Here are a few ideas I have come across:

**1. Encourage movement.** Kids need to move their bodies frequently throughout the day. Allow time for physical activity before your child is expected to focus on a distance learning task and encourage movement anytime, they get a break. Some examples I've seen include:

- "Go outside and run around the house three times."
- "See how many times you can go up and down the stairs in 2 minutes."
- "How many light switches can you turn off and on with your elbow in 3 minutes?"

Also, some children focus better on tasks when standing. Consider having your computer or tablet be on a raised surface so that your child can stand.

**2. Establish structure and routine.** Sticking to a schedule provides the stability kids need to keep plugging away. Although you can expect there to be pushback for the first several days of a new routine, sticking with it leads to fewer arguments, and meltdowns. For some children, a basic visual checklist of daily tasks can be motivating and helpful.

**3. Checklists (continued):** Speaking of checklists, they can be helpful for schoolwork as well. Multi-part assignments become less overwhelming when they are divided up into smaller tasks. To a kid whose brain is feeling fried, tackling an assignment in chunks while checking off "watch," "read," "write," feels more manageable than taking on a paragraph of tasks to be completed. (Note that for some students, it works better to just show them one check at a time) Positive feedback is an important part of celebrating those small victories, and small tangible rewards can be helpful as well.

**4. Phrasing is important!** Research shows you'll get more mileage out of:

- Using positive statements like "you can watch that video after you finish," rather than negative statements like "you can't watch that video until you finish."
- Telling your child what to do rather than what not to do.
- Trying to always start and end the day with a positive statement rather than a negative one (even if they wake up on the wrong side of the bed).

### 5. Misc. Helpers:

- Timers (either kitchen timers, or timers set on a tablet or device)
- Silly putty (save it for non-writing zoom time only – resist letting them play with it at other times)

Small rewards: stickers, treats, favorite activities, etc.

### Samantha Nunes

Counselor--Kenmore Elementary

Monday, Wednesday and Friday

(425)-408-4816

[Mrs. Nunes's Website](#)

## Thank You

Thank you for the incredible generosity and outpouring of support during this holiday season. Our Kenmore community helped sponsor many of our families and students in need. There were a grand total of over 100 Holiday Wishes recipients! Thank you to everyone for making the holiday season extra special!

## District News

### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Our Early Childhood Education Programs in Northshore School District are currently recruiting for the Head Start, ECEAP and Ready Start Preschool Programs.

NSD Families that have children ages 3-4 years old can contact Stephanie Gonwa at 425-408-4829, or Emily Birchman at 425-408-4862 to receive program information and help with applications.

### HIGHLY CAPABLE TESTING

The Accelerated Models and Programs Department is working on the 2020-2021 testing plan for students in grade K-5 with highly capable needs. The Department will update families when there is an assessment schedule.

### REQUIRED FORMS

If you have not already done so, please log in to ParentVUE to review and acknowledge forms that are required annually by NSD. **Starting on December 7th there is no longer the option to bypass these forms when you log in to ParentVUE. It is important to acknowledge these forms now so that there is not a disruption in checking future grades posted on ParentVUE.**

The District provides parents/guardians with notification of forms that must be acknowledged, including:

- State Attendance Letter
- Rights and Responsibilities Handbook
- Weapons Letter
- Student Housing Questionnaire
- Immunization Record Sharing Form

Typically, these forms are included in welcome back packets, but because of COVID-19 they have been

logged into ParentVUE, you will find instructions on how to do so when you click the link above. Please know that when you next login to ParentVUE, you will be prompted to download, read, and take action for each of the forms listed above. Families are encouraged to review the handbook together in ParentVUE with their students. Learn more by visiting the District website.

**If you experience difficulty, here are some solutions to the most common questions:**

**1. ParentVue/StudentVue will not accept your signature. (Invalid Signature Error)**

Please refer to the spelling of your name in the upper right-hand corner of the form. Your signature needs to match the spelling that is listed there. If your name is spelled incorrectly, please email us with the correct spelling.

**2. You receive an error when trying to download the Rights and Responsibilities Handbook letter.**

If you are using a cell phone to download this letter, please try again on a desktop computer or a laptop. If you are still unable to download it, please let us know ASAP.

**3. Verify that the forms have all been completed. (What is the current status of your forms)**

Go to "my account" tab at the top of ParentVue/Student Vue and scroll down to acknowledged documents, this will show the status of all your forms.

## **Kenmore Elementary PTA**

### **UPCOMING PARENT EDUCATION**

Thursday January 28th 6:30pm on Zoom

#### **Inclusion in the Early Years with Rosetta Eun Ryong Lee**

Join us in learning how we can, in age appropriate ways, instill positive self identity in our children and coach them to be positive influences on others' identities. Learn conversational tools and advice for age appropriate ways to develop intentionally inclusive and identity conscious children, such as

- modeling behaviors for kids
- coaching them for reacting to difference
- choosing/using media mindfully

Together, we can co-create inclusive communities that work toward success for all. Visit

<https://kenmorepta.org/enrichment/parent-education/> to register. Spanish interpretation will be available.

Visit <https://kenmorepta.org/enrichment/parent-education/> to view ongoing parent education offerings.

### **COMMUNICATION**

To learn about upcoming PTA sponsored events, you can visit the PTA website at <https://kenmorepta.org/> or on Facebook at Kenmore Elementary PTA.

You can also stay up-to-date with the PTA's weekly e-newsletter, Cub Notes.

To subscribe, email [vp@kenmorepta.org](mailto:vp@kenmorepta.org) with your name and email address.

### **SCHOOLGY**

Kenmore Elementary PTA now has a Schoology group! Join us for updates on upcoming meetings and events and for helpful resources.

Here's how to join:

Go to your (parent) Schoology account.

Click "**Groups**" from the menu and then in the top right corner you'll see "**My Groups**." Click on that.



Click the blue **"Join Group"** box in the right column.

Paste in this access code: **797R-R95H-Z9F3H** and click the blue **"Join"** box.

*These activities are not sponsored nor endorsed by the Northshore School District or any of its schools. The district assumes no responsibility for the conduct during or safety of the activities. Northshore School District shall be held harmless from any cause of action, claim, or petition filed in any court or administrative tribunal arising out of the distribution of these materials including attorney's fees and judgements or awards.*

