

***DOLPHIN BYTE******Principal News***

Hello Samantha Smith Families,

We have had a successful start to another year at Samantha Smith Elementary. It was nice to see you all at Meet and Greet and K/1 Curriculum Night. I look forward to seeing the rest of you soon.

Some dates to remember:

- Curriculum Night: September 10<sup>th</sup>:
  - Grades 2-3 5:30-6:10
  - All parents meet in big gym at 6:15-6:30
  - Grades 4-5 6:35-7:15
- SBA results are scheduled to get to parents mid-late September. Grades 3-5 only.

A big thank you to the Lake Washington Schools Foundation for supporting our Smith students with IXL for every grade level! Thank you to the PTSA for all that you do for our school and for partnering with the school to get a new reader board! The reader board will be coming soon. I hope you enjoy the last few days of summer with your children. We look forward to welcoming you and your children back for another wonderful year at Smith!

Sincerely,

Jamie Warner  
Principal

***District News***

LWSD formed a Long Term Facilities Task Force composed of district, school and community members last December to tackle the difficult job of figuring out how to deal with the issues of overcrowding and aging facilities. Our district is growing rapidly and we are already bursting at the seams. Since the bond measure did not pass we are facing the complicated issue of what to do to remedy these situations. Some of these solutions could greatly affect you (for instance, a year round school calendar) so your input is very important. The Task Force has

**Mon 09/07/2015**

Labor Day

**NO SCHOOL**

**Thur 09/10/2015**

Curriculum Night

Grades 2-3

5:30-6:10-Classrooms

Everyone in Big Gym

6:15-6:30

Grades 4-5

6:35-7:15-Classrooms

**Thur 09/10/2015**

PTSA General

Membership Mtg.

8:30am PTSA Portable

**Thur 09/17/2015**

Watchdog Recruit!

6:30-7:30

Big Gym

**Wed 09/23/2015**

Girl Scout Info Night

6:00-7:00

Library

**Fri 10/02/2015**

Dolphin Dash

During lunch Recess

11:10-12:15

**Tues 10/06/2015**

Picture Day

made initial recommendations to the school board and we are now seeking your guidance. You can provide feedback on the Task Force's draft recommendations in a number of different ways:

- Visit an online open house to review the recommendations and provide input between Sept. 1 and Oct. 11. Visit <http://lwsd-facilitiesplanning.publicmeeting.info/>
- Join the conversation in person by attending a community meeting that will be held in each Learning Community:
  - Juanita Learning Community, Sept. 16, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Juanita High School
  - Lake Washington Learning Community, Sept. 17, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Rose Hill Middle School
  - Redmond Learning Community, Sept. 28, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Redmond High School
  - Eastlake Learning Community, Sept. 30, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m., Eastlake High School
  - A Task Force Town Hall on Wednesday, Oct. 7 at 6 p.m. at Rose Hill Middle School – Commons (13505 NE 75th St., Redmond).

The Task Force will consider all the input and make final recommendations to the School Board, which will take final action.

## **School News**

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**ATTENDANCE- PLEASE READ:** If your child is going to be absent from school for **any reason**, please call our Safe Arrival Line at 425-936-2711. Please do not email your child's teacher or the office staff, as there are times that we would be absent and not get the message. If a call is not received reporting the absence, your child's absence will be marked as unexcused. **When you call to report the absence, please make sure that you spell your child's name, state the reason for the absence, say the teachers name and the date. Thank you**

**INJURIES:** Parents, if your child has sustained an injury and requires specific instructions for care at school, please email me a letter listing the following:

- The type of injury
- Please include a doctor's note if you should have one
- Specific instructions to any care needed at school
- If there any restrictions, ie. no PE or recess. Please be specific as to what the needs are and how long the restrictions will be.

**MORNING ARRIVAL:** Please do not drop off or have your child arrive before 8:15 in the morning, we do not have the staffing before that time to supervise the students. Thank you

**ON CAMPUS:** If you are on campus for any reason, you must sign in at the office and be wearing identification. If you need to get an item to your child, please bring it to the office and your child will be called down. Thank you

**VOLUNTEERING:** If you are planning on volunteering at Smith, you must submit a volunteer application to the Lake Washington School District. You can either submit online or there are packets in the office.

### **GIRL SCOUTS: Discover Girl Scouts at Samantha Smith Elementary!**

Girl Scouts do lots of fun activities where they discover, connect, and take action to make the world a better place! Open to all girls grades K-12, we invite you to attend our Girl Scouts Information Night on **Weds., Sept. 23rd at 6 pm** in the library.

Parents can meet with other families looking to start up a new troop, join an existing troop that's looking to expand, or have all your questions answered. Bring your girls along to learn some Girl Scout songs and traditions from current troop members. For more information, check out our website at [www.SammamishGirlScouts.com](http://www.SammamishGirlScouts.com). We hope to see you there!

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you!

Tiffany Dibble-Burton

**ELEMENTARY BAND AND ORCHESTRA:** For fourth and fifth grade students only. On September 9<sup>th</sup> there will be an informal meeting at 6:30 in the Eastlake High School Theater. In September, all fourth and fifth grade students will be

eligible to sign up for Elementary Band or Or-chestra. Classes are FREE, you will just need to provide an instrument, a music book, and get them to class. Classes are held from 7:40-8:25 AM. Band classes are held at Eastlake High School and Orchestra classes meet at Inglewood Middle School. At the end of each class, bus transportation is provided back to each elementary school. Our local music stores will be there if you would like to rent an instrument at that time. If your child did not participate in the instrument testing in the spring, we can help them choose and instrument. Please visit our website to sign-up and contact us via email with any questions.

**Band:** Chelsee Moe [chmoe@lwsd.org](mailto:chmoe@lwsd.org)

Andrey Spichak [aspichak@lwsd.org](mailto:aspichak@lwsd.org)

**Orchestra:** Valerie Harris [vharris@lwsd.org](mailto:vharris@lwsd.org) Patricia Lyon [palyon@lwsd.org](mailto:palyon@lwsd.org)

**Website:** [https:// sites.google.com/site/ plateaelementarymusic/home](https://sites.google.com/site/plateaelementarymusic/home)

**FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH:** If your student was on free/reduced lunches last year you need to reapply this year. Forms were included in the packet you received when you got your students' class assignment. The application needs to be in by October 5th so that they can be sent to the businesses office for review. You can send them back to school and they will be forwarded. Feel free to make any changes. Thank you

**QUEST PARENTS:** GEAC (Gifted Education Advisory Council) welcomes you to a new school year! We are the parent group for the highly capable community in the Lake Washington School District.

**Our first general meeting** will be Wednesday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the LWSD Resource Center (at Redmond Town Center - 16250 NE 74<sup>th</sup> Street, Redmond 98052). **While all are welcome as usual, this meeting is primarily dedicated to questions from new Quest parents.** Dan Phelan from the Accelerated Programs Office will be there, and we plan to have at least one teacher from each of the Quest programs (full time, pull out, and middle school) there to help address any questions or concerns that have arisen in the first week of school. Questions? Contact GEAC at [info@lwsdgeac.org](mailto:info@lwsdgeac.org).

**Save the date:** We are excited to announce a great talk for our October 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Anne van Roden and Gloria Sandford, local treasures on gifted parenting, will be presenting on the social and emotional aspects of giftedness. You are sure to glean some valuable insights on understanding and nurturing the unique experiences, intensities, and sensibilities of gifted children!

**Check out the GEAC website** at [www.lwsdgeac.org](http://www.lwsdgeac.org) for tons of information and resources. Also, please check [GEAC on Facebook](#) for regular updates on events and information related to GEAC, Quest/highly capable programs, and other local and national gifted resources.

*If you have any questions regarding the information in this email, please **do not** contact the Quest office; please email GEAC at [info@lwsdgeac.org](mailto:info@lwsdgeac.org).*

Carol Lewis

GEAC President

[Gifted Education Advisory Council \(GEAC\)](#)

## PTSA News

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Welcome back!

First couple days of school is a whirlwind, so I will keep this short and sweet...

- Thank you to our Back 2 Business Chair Jennifer Mosca and the seven volunteers who helped us.
- If you had a chance to look at our Spiritwear this year, you can order them at [Shirt Sales](#)
- Our After School Programs are almost scheduled. Keep watching the [After school Programs](#) page for more information and the schedule.
- The first General Membership meeting of the year will be held on [September 10<sup>th</sup>](#), in the PTSA Portable at 8:30am.
- The WatchDOGS recruiting event is on September 17<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30pm in the Large Gym or you can sign up at [WatchDOGS](#)

Some of you may have noticed a few tables were missing at Back 2 Business. We are still looking for a Yearbook Committee, a Volunteer Coordinator, a Social/Family Luncheon Chair and a committee to run Winter Wonderland. These

positions have mentors but are in need of chairs. If no volunteers are found, we will unfortunately drop these programs this year.

Should you have any questions, or would like to volunteer, please contact myself at [president@smithptsa.org](mailto:president@smithptsa.org) or the PTSA Board at [board@smithptsa.org](mailto:board@smithptsa.org).

See you around the school,

Cara Leitch  
PTSA President  
Samantha Smith Elementary



## Other Links



[PTSA Website](#)



[School Lunch Menu](#)



[School Website](#)



[Community Info](#)

## Calendar, continued

**September 7<sup>th</sup> -No School**

**October 12, 13, 15, Conference Week**

**Early dismissal at 11:30**

**October 16<sup>th</sup> -No School**

**November 11<sup>th</sup> -No School**

**November 25<sup>th</sup> Early dismissal at 11:30**

**November 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> -Thanksgiving Break**

**December 21<sup>st</sup> -January 1<sup>st</sup> -Winter Break**

**January 18<sup>th</sup> -Martin Luther King Day-**No School****

**January 26, 28, 29<sup>th</sup> Conference Week**

**Early dismissal at 11:30**

**February 11-15<sup>th</sup> Mid-Winter Break-**

**March 11<sup>th</sup> -**No School****

**April 4-8<sup>th</sup> Spring Break**

**May 30<sup>th</sup> -Memorial Day-**No School****

**June 15<sup>th</sup> -Last day of school**

**Dismissal at 11:30**

*The Lake Washington School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, gender, marital status, creed, religion, honorably discharged veteran, military status, sexual orientation including gender expression or identity, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or the use of a trained guide dog or service animal by a person with a disability, in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. [Complete policy statement.](#)*