



ARDMORE ELEMENTARY

Eagle News – September 7, 2017

www.bsd405.org/ardmore | facebook.com/groups/ardmoreptsa

Si necesita traducir esta información, por favor comuníquese con el Centro de Conexión Familiar al 425-456-4762.

Key dates & events

SEPTEMBER 7 8:05 AM	First Eagle Mail parents' group meets in the Ardmore teachers lounge to assemble weekly take-home packets. All are welcome to join, enjoy coffee and meet other parents. See details in "Help Wanted."
SEPTEMBER 14 6:00 – 7:30 P.M.	Curriculum Night (all grades) Join Principal Miller, Assistant Principal Whitten, and your teachers as they walk through Ardmore educational and behavioral programs. Then, visit your child's classroom to hear from your teachers about in-class programs.
OCTOBER 13 ALL DAY	No school – Professional Development Day
OCTOBER 19 ALL DAY	Save the Date: School Picture Day Watch your Eagle Mail packets for details in the coming weeks.

To keep up with new events as they are scheduled, visit the [Ardmore PTSA calendar](#).

Help wanted

Parents: Make a difference (and make new friends)

Whether you have 15 minutes or a few hours, there are many ways to help out at Ardmore.

- Eagle Mail on Thursday mornings:** Come enjoy coffee and good company as part of the Eagle Mail crew! Help assemble our take-home mail packets each week. This is a fun, casual way to help out. For details, contact Alison Payne, alibpayne@gmail.com.
- Hearing screening helpers, Sept. 15th:** Our school nurse, Ms. Reid, needs 6-8 parents to help escort students to and from the screening area, and to assist the audiologists with screenings as needed. Contact: Marianna Sarbandi, mariannasarbandi@gmail.com.
- Writers and photographers:** We are always looking for parents who love to take photos at school events, or put together stories or news. Contact: Robin Buckmiller, robinonino@yahoo.com.

Stay connected: Join the PTSA

The PTSA (Parent, Teacher, and Student Association) is the driving force behind Ardmore's extracurricular funding, family fun nights, teacher grants, multicultural programming, and more.

If you have questions about the school or how parents can get involved, the PTSA is a great place to start. There is no requirement to volunteer.

Join the PTSA by visiting <http://www.pt-avenue.com/join/>. \$11 membership fee will be waived for families who need financial assistance. Please see the Family Connections Center for details.

Curriculum Night is Sept. 14th, 6 - 7:30 p.m.



Visit your child's classroom on Curriculum Night

Please plan to join us for this important overview of Ardmore's educational and behavioral programs. **Principal, Mr. Miller and Assistant Principal, Mrs. Whitten will give an orientation in the gym**, and then you'll be invited to **visit your child's classroom and teacher** to hear about the daily in-class programs. Special education, music, art, and other teachers will also be available to meet.

News & announcements

Gifted Program applications are due by October 31

The Bellevue School District Gifted Program is currently accepting applications for students in grades 1-11. (Kindergarten students are automatically assessed – no applications needed.) The deadline for applications grades 1-11 is October 31, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. **We do not invite students to test based on achievement data.** Any parent whose child lives within the Bellevue School District service area may apply for their child to test. The applications, list of types of academic data, and proof of residency information can be found at www.bsd405.org/programs/gifted.

It's not too late to drop off school supplies

Teachers are grateful for any supplies you can bring, at any point in the first month of school. Feel free to send supplies with your child to drop off in class. To see the list of needed supplies, visit <http://www.bsd405.org/ardmore/2017/07/2017-18-school-supply-lists/>.



Do you know about the Family Connections Center?

Ardmore strives to be a place where every child's basic needs are met. Families who need assistance with meals or snacks, school supplies, school fees (including PTSA membership fees), and more are encouraged to visit the Family Connections Center (FCC) at Ardmore and learn about resources available to you. For more information, contact Ligia Calvo de Anleu, calvol@bsd405.org.

About this newsletter

The Ardmore Eagle News goes out every other Thursday, except for holiday weeks. Send questions and submissions to news@ardmoreelementary.org. Submissions are due one week in advance of the next newsletter, must be relevant to the broad Ardmore community, and may be edited for space and clarity.



Want your news faster? Join the Ardmore Parents group at [facebook.com/groups/ardmoreptsa/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ardmoreptsa/)

UPDATE: Anti-Bullying and Diversity

***Note:** This update from PTSA President JJ Cadiz was originally posted on the Ardmore Parents Facebook group. We are republishing it here to ensure that all parents see this important information.*

Dear parents,

I'd like to update everyone on the conversations on bullying that we started at the end of last year. A set of actions have already been taken, and there's a plan for community engagement throughout the year.

Action Already Taken

Rather than type a long list here, I'll provide a few highlights:

1. **Over the summer, 100% of Ardmore teachers and staff went through an equity training called Beyond Diversity.** This training had already been planned for several months, and Ardmore is the only school in the entire Bellevue School District where everyone was provided with this training. I'm betting parents will start noticing changes in how teachers and staff approach some situations.
2. **There will be several changes to recess.** There will be a better adult:student ratio, and there will be an increased focus on recess as a time for teaching behavior and conflict management skills.
3. **We completely redid the event we used to call "Taking care of business"** to focus on welcoming parents and providing information on how the school works—everything from where to drop off kids in the morning to how the school addresses issues with student behavior. We hope everyone found the Welcome Tour and BBQ valuable, and we'll continue these conversations throughout the year, with Curriculum Night being our next focus.
4. **We found an outside, highly qualified expert to help facilitate community conversations** on discouraging bullying and embracing diversity. Read more in the next section.

What Comes Next: Listening Tour

By no means do we think we're done, and now that everyone is back from vacation, it's time for a set of community discussions.

During the summer, we started working with an outside consultant: Erin Jones. From The Seattle Times: Jones "has served in the state superintendent's office as an assistant superintendent and has been a teacher and district administrator. She won the 2008 Washington State Milken Educator of the Year award and the state PTA Educator of the Year award in 2015." (<http://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/education/2016-election-results-washington-state-schools-superintendent/>) Among these and other accomplishments, Erin is an expert facilitator for the community conversations we'd like to have.

During the first part of the school year, we will hold a listening tour at venues throughout the community, facilitated by Erin or one of her delegates. These meetings are intended to be small-group sessions where we listen to your experience at Ardmore. We'll use what we hear to build a list of issues to address. We're aiming to complete this listening tour in 8 weeks.

Then, we'll use a committee of parents, teachers, administrators, and school district staff to talk through the issues and propose solutions. The committee will be built with equitable representation of members from throughout our community, and it's just one place where the staff's "Beyond Diversity" equity training will come in handy.

What do we need YOU to do?

Right now, our ask is that all parents engage in the listening tour. We'll provide lots of ways for folks to sign up to host a stop on the listening tour. We'll have more asks throughout the year, but the listening tour is what to focus on now.

But as your PTSA President, I will make a more general ask of parents:

Please engage as a partner with the Ardmore staff and your fellow parents to help educate all students in our community about proper behavior and conflict management.

Math, science, and reading instruction don't stop when the bell rings at the end of the day, and neither does instruction about socio-emotional learning (SEL). Ardmore has a research-backed methodology for teaching SEL. Take time to learn about it throughout the year, and partner with the adults around you to help teach our students.

Curriculum Night on September 14th from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. is the next opportunity to hear about Ardmore's approach to SEL and the methodology "Positive Behavior Interventions and Support" (PBIS).

Our students will make mistakes on their math and spelling tests, and they'll make mistakes when interacting with each other. Ardmore will not shy away from more traditional forms of what we'd call "punishment," and when certain lines are crossed, that's what's called for—students must learn that society will not tolerate certain behaviors, and there are real consequences for those behaviors. But in most cases, Ardmore's first motion will be to use behavioral mistakes as moments to teach, not moments to punish. And if our students can't be taught behavior and conflict management as elementary school students, it won't get easier later in life—for them or for us.

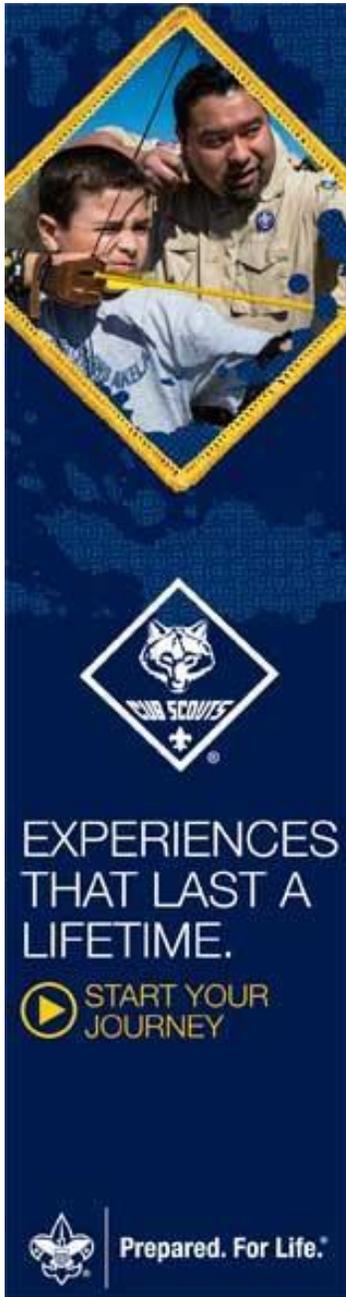
If you have questions or input, please contact us at ardmorepts1@gmail.com. Otherwise, we look forward to seeing you at Curriculum Night and on the Listening Tour!

Thank you,

JJ Cadiz
PTSA President

Marianna Sarbandi
PTSA Vice President

Nicholle Miniero
PTSA Anti-Bullying & Diversity Workgroup Chair



Welcome to Cub Scouting 2017/2018!

Pack 665 meets at Ardmore Elementary

Join us on Sunday, September 10th from 4-6 p.m. at Ardmore Park (168th Pl. NE 30th St. in Bellevue) to reconnect and meet new scouts.

Why Cub Scouts?

Boys want to have fun, while parents want them to learn **positive values** and skills that will last a lifetime. If your son is in 1st through 5th grade, Cub Scouting may be exactly what you are both looking for. Don't forget that Cub Scouts is part of the Boy Scouts of America, which is part of Scouting around the world.

How do I know that this is the right pack?

Pack 665 serves North East Bellevue. Most of our boys attend Bennett, Ardmore, and Sherwood Forest Elementary Schools.

The pack is divided into smaller groups called **dens**. Each den has about six to ten boys. All of the Cub Scouts in your den are in the same grade and may even go to the same school.

What are examples of things that the Cub Scouts do?

Cub Scouts do things and go places. There are lots activities that are planned during the year for the whole pack and in your den to help scouts with skills that help kids grow.

We go to camp, hike, do crafts, learn about the outdoors, safety, nutrition, citizenship, orienteering with map & compass and GPS, computers, and many more. Here are some events planned for this year: Community service projects, Pinewood derby car build and race, Blue & Gold Dinner, Raingutter Regatta build and race, Bicycle Rodeo, Family Campouts, advancement ceremonies and picnic.

Price

The cost of Cub Scouts is 100 dollars/year + fundraisings. If payment is a challenge, don't hesitate to contact us.

Commitment

We have two Wednesdays meeting per month from 6:30pm – 8:00pm at Ardmore Elementary School. Sometimes we have other activities with the pack and den.

How can I learn more about Cub Scouts?

Come and join us! This is a casual get together where new families and scouts can ask questions of our experienced leaders and parents and the kids can reconnect on the playground.

For general information about the Cub Scouting program see <https://beascout.scouting.org>

Cubmaster: Erik Jones, Pack Committee Chair: David Lawton

Email: cubscouts@computations.com