

BEN RUSH eNEWS

December 12, 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Thu, Dec 15 African Rhythms Night, 7-7:30 in the gym
- Dec 19 – Jan 2 No School- Winter Break
- Tues, Jan 3 School Resumes
- Fri, Jan 6 Spirit Day

Dear Rush Families:

This is the time of year we often reflect and think about just how blessed we are to live in a community like Rush. I'm reminded that anyone who works with children, teachers, parents, and volunteers do so because they want to make a difference in the lives of children. I know that together we have the power to help students believe in themselves and give them a glimpse of what they might become. In these times of a budget crunch, larger class sizes, standardized tests, etc., the challenges can seem insurmountable. Because of these factors we need to work together more than ever in order to provide opportunities that will have a lasting positive impact on children. Thank you for the many opportunities you help to provide the children of Rush. May you have a most joyous holiday time with your families.

Sincerely,

Brad Stolz

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE:

Over the next few weeks they will be rerouting power and will conclude on the 21st. They also will be completing the big north vault by placing the decking on the top and back-filling. We continue to make good progress over-all.

REMINDERS:

- The school phone numbers changed last year but the old phone number is no longer forwarding calls and will ring busy. Please double check your saved school numbers to reflect 425-936-2690 for the office and 425-936-2691 for safety arrival.
- Please remember to call safety arrival prior to 8:45 to alert us of an absence or late arrival.
- Please make arrangements about afterschool activities prior to coming to school. Any messages into the classroom disrupt the learning environment. We understand emergencies happen and will relay any necessary message but we receive too many messages at the end of the day that could be avoided with planning.
- Please use the X-walks at all times! Do not walk through traffic!
- Please pull forward in the drop off and pick-up zone

- Please use the drop off and pick-up zone it is still the quickest and safest way to get your child to school. Please do not drive into the parking lot, stop your vehicle and walk your child to the x-walk as it blocks traffic and is an unsafe practice.

RUNNING CLUB UPDATE:



We had 89 kids signed up for Running Club this fall! We've run through sun and rain, an 80 degree day and days where the mercury hovered just above freezing. We've stretched and duck-walked our way through warm-ups every week and run up and down hills and around in circles. We've run laps galore and we tackled our ultimate goal - the Seattle Kids' Marathon. We had 47 kids complete their marathons at the Seattle Center over Thanksgiving weekend! We also had 4 kids run the Marathon's 5k race!

Congratulations everyone! We're so proud of you!

We'd also like to thank parent Jason Cobb and teachers Mrs. Fouhy, Ms. May, Ms. Briggs, Ms. Holly and Ms. Hodges for running with our kids - we couldn't do it without you and we love the help!

Thank you,
Lisa Sturgeon and Holly Clark
Running Club Volunteer Coaches

TTL 4 INFO FOR STUDENTS TO USE AT HOME:

- **For use at home**, students need to download and install the program to their home computer <http://ttl4.sunburst.com/downloads>. They will need to install the Full versions and then the update.
- For Windows it takes about 30 minutes to download. For a MAC it takes much longer...
- The **User Guide is available** on the download site: <http://ttl4.sunburst.com/downloads>.
- For additional product information go to <http://ttl4.sunburst.com/>.

Students should use the same username and password that they use here at school. They may be asked for an account number the first time they log in on their home computer. It is **107283**.

LOST AND FOUND:

Every child needs to wear appropriate jackets/coats out to recess, especially with the cold weather now. There are many coats that have lost their owners. Please mark your child's outerwear with last name or teacher name, to make finding the owner a little easier. If you are missing items, please check the lost and found just outside the main office.

EXPLORER CHOICE SCHOOL:

Lake Washington School District parents are invited to Explorer Community School's Enrollment Information Night - Thursday, January 12, 2012 at 6:30pm at the Emily Dickinson school commons - 7040 208th Ave. NE Redmond, WA.

Explorer is a Lake Washington School District choice elementary school located on the Emily Dickinson campus in Redmond. One of three choice elementary school programs in the Lake Washington School District, Explorer offers a small elementary school environment staffed by three certified teachers in multi-aged classrooms grades one through five. Explorer's curriculum promotes academic excellence, strong self esteem, a love of learning and a belief in the importance of community. Parent volunteers are vital to the school's success in meeting these goals and a high level of parental involvement is required.

Attendance at this evening information night is a requirement for all families who wish to enroll a child for the 2012/2013 school year. Additionally, attendance is required to maintain a child's spot on the waitlist. Failure to attend will result in your child's name being removed from the waitlist. We are unable to offer childcare; therefore this is an adult only evening.

Details regarding Explorer enrollment can be found at <http://www.lwsd.org/school/explorer/About-Us/Pages/Explorer-Enrollment.aspx> or call (425) 936-2533.

Middle School and High School options booklets coming soon Because of the changes in grade configuration, two classes of students will move from elementary school to middle school next year and two classes will move from junior high to high school. As a result, two different booklets will be mailed in early December to parents outlining the opportunities in these respective levels. Parents of students in grades five and six will receive a middle school options booklet. Parents of students in grades eight and nine will receive a high school options booklet in the mail. These booklets cover all of the school options available to students including neighborhood schools and choice schools. The booklets will also be available on the [district website](#).

SNOW DAY COMMUNICATION:

With winter quickly approaching, it is a good time to review how decisions are made about school cancellations or delays and to remind parents where this information can be found.

In emergency situations, such as snow and icy weather conditions, the top priority is the safety of students and staff. The district also recognizes that snow days often disrupt family schedules and mean the school year may have to be extended. So the decision to close schools is not an easy one. The process is complex and involves many people. The decision-making process is outlined on the district's website.

LWSD notifies parents using the School Messenger calling system beginning at 6 a.m. if school will be delayed or cancelled. Local media is also contacted and will report any closure/delay information. The district and school websites will also contain an emergency alert if school has been delayed or cancelled. You can also call the district's main phone number at 425-936-1200. An emergency message will be recorded on this system as well.

If you have any questions about snow day communication, please contact the Communications Office at 425-936-1300