



ORCA K-8 SCHOOL

October 7, 2016

Principal Tonie

WE ALL BELONG!

EVENTS NEWS UPDATES

THE ORCA WAY—WE SOLVE PROBLEMS TOGETHER

We solve problems together means that:

- There is room to make mistakes and learn together.
- We address problems by gathering information, developing and implementing solutions, and observing outcomes.
- We support students to show concern for others, appreciate different perspectives, and value cooperation.
- We strive to deal with problems directly and positively.

Throughout the school, we are helping students **Solve Problems with The Blueprint** as part of our RULER approach.

Solve problems with The Blueprint		
Describe	What happened?	
RULER Skill	Me	Other Person
Recognize & Label	How did I feel?	How did ____ feel?
Understand	What caused my feelings?	What caused ____'s feelings?
Express & Regulate	How did I express and regulate my feelings?	How did ____ express and regulate his/her feelings?
Reflect & Plan	What could I have done to handle the situation better? What can I do now?	

COMMUNICATING WITH FAMILIES

Effective communication to staff, students, parents, guardians and the wider community is a key goal at Orca K-8. There are several ways communication from school to home is provided:

- Newsletters and other important information from the school or individual teachers are sent home either through U.S. mail, with students or email.
- Orca K-8 website- orcak8.seattleschools.org
- Orca PTSA Digest/website—orcaptsa.wordpress.com
- School Messenger
- School Events (handouts and programs)

How to get in touch with a teacher

The time before and after classes is used to do the many tasks necessary for classes to run smoothly. As such, teachers are not always available for a 'quick' conference. If the question is one that can be answered over email, that route is strongly recommended.

If you would like a focused conversation, feel free to schedule a time with your child's teacher. Please contact teachers directly with questions or concerns about your individual child's educational experience. Parent/Guardian Teacher Conferences will be held November 21-23, 2016; however, teachers are available throughout the year to meet with families.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMY NEWS by Donte Felder, Head Teacher

Toyia Taylor, educator and motivational speaker, currently works with the Orca Middle School Academy teaching scholars the art of communication through public speaking and performance arts. Below is a synopsis of an article taken from the October 2016 magazine, **City Arts**, written by Leah Baltus, which talks about Ms. Taylor and her phenomenal program.



Toyia Taylor is warrior, queen and B-girl all in one.

BY LEAH BALTUS

Toyia Taylor, the 41-year-old poet, performer and educator behind the education organization *We.App (Act, Present, Perform) and its Young Artists Academy program, where students grades 4—9 find their voices by learning to write and present original works about subjects like bullying and diversity. Born in Seattle, Taylor spent most her childhood in Louisiana, where her family is from, before returning to the Pacific Northwest at age 13. After graduating from the University of Washington, she moved to Washington D.C., where she created an ongoing youth employment program for the housing authority, and later to Brooklyn, where she founded an

after-school program focused on social justice and leadership for students of color. She came back to Seattle in 2009.

This fall, Taylor is working to expand We.App into more partner schools and increase the professional development services it provides to schools and teachers. Eventually she hopes to open a charter boarding school for global leadership. "Moving a child from the back of the classroom to the leadership in the front," she says. "There are no words for that."

*We.app program at Orca is funded through PTSA.

LGBT FAMILIES DINNER

The annual lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) Families Dinner will be held **Thursday, Nov. 3 from 6–8 p.m. at Washington Middle School**. Members of the school board will be there to welcome LGBT families and their friends. All SPS families and staff are welcome to attend! This event is brought to you by the Health Education Office and the Office of School Family Partnerships. Dinner and entertainment will be provided.

To reserve space at this popular event, RSVP with the number of people in your party to Lisa Love in the Health Education Office at llove@seattleschools.org or 206-252-0982

October 2016						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3 BLT—8:15am Conference Room	4	5 4th Grade Camp Colman	6 4th Grade Camp Colman	7 4th Grade Camp Colman Garden Work Party 9:30-Noon	8
9	10 Indigenous Peoples Day Healthy Youth Survey Middle School (Oct. 10th-21st)	11 Harvest Festival Elementary	12	13 Harvest Festival Middle School CURRICULUM NIGHT Elementary <i>6-6:40pm & 6:45-7:25pm</i> Middle School <i>7:30-8:10pm</i>	14 NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS Professional Development Day for Teachers	15
16	17 Potential Truncation Meeting Orca Lunchroom 6:00pm-7:30pm	18	19 PICTURE DAY! Yuen Lui K-8 Students	20 1st Grade Tillicum Village	21 Orca Move-a-thon	22
23	24	25	26 2 HOUR EARLY DISMISSAL Students dismissed at 2:05pm	27	28	29
30	31					