

ORCA K-8 SCHOOL



Principal Tonie

October 6, 2017

WE ALL BELONG!

EVENTS

NEWS

UPDATES

Hello Orca Community!

Orca was founded on the principles of social justice for every student, every day, in every classroom by empowering and encouraging them to think critically, boldly; daring to imagine! Social Justice is the practice of treating everyone equally, being equitable and being inclusive. In order for social justice to be fully imagined and implemented, it *MUST BE* practiced consistently - with intent, with purpose and through our actions.

At Orca, it is our mission to educate our students in a nurturing surrounding, providing them with a rich academic environment and a great place to learn. We have a very dedicated staff committed to a vision of educational justice. Orca is one of eleven K-8 schools in the district. We currently have 395 students: 6% Asian, 21% African American/Black, 54% White, 7% Hispanic, 0.5% Native American, and 12% Multi-Race.

Orca Pride has been a repetition from which our social and emotional beliefs are centered. *Dignity, respect* and *esteem* are rehearsed daily - this is the foundation in which we are rooted, with a strong commitment to academic integrity. Our goal is to be on the cutting edge of 21st Century Progressive Education by providing quality educational programs where all student learn and have equal access.

“Justice as equity”

“Justice as equality”

“Justice as inclusive”

Tonie



Donte Felder, Head Teacher

Greetings Orca Community,

In November we will launch our First Friday Volunteer Day. This will be an opportunity for families to donate their time and talents to the school. Maybe you have a desire to work in the garden, or clean the halls, frame pictures, sharpen pictures, or help with class projects. Every first Friday of each month, families will have an opportunity to help support your child's school and build relationships with staff, students and other parents by volunteering in any way that best fits you. Here at school, from your home or however you can. I will post more about this next week.

And don't forget that on October 12, we will have our first Learning/Observational Walk. Hope to see you there.

Have a great weekend!



Ian Reid Safety News

As the weather changes during the fall season, it is always important for students to dress warm for school. It is also important for students to bring whatever they need for lunch recess down to the lunchroom. Students are doing a better job of not wandering the halls during lunch recess, but there still is work to be done.

We are very excited that this year every class gets a basketball, a bouncy ball, and a football. Next week, I will be bringing each class a soccer ball as well. Don't forget to thank Ms. Cynthia, because it was her wonderful idea to get a set of playground equipment for each classroom. In order for this program to be successful, it is imperative that students keep track of the balls that they have in their classrooms.

Well, that's all the safety news for now. Take care and GO HAWKS!!!

Meet Our New Middle School Science Teacher, Girard Montejo-Thompson



Dear Orca Families,

My name is Girard Montejo-Thompson, Mr. Mountain to the students. I am the new 6th and 7th grade science teacher. I started calling myself Mr. Mountain when I first started teaching. I introduced myself to the class using my whole name but, told the students that they could call me Mr. M-T. One of the students suggested Mr. Mountain since Mt. is the abbreviation. I thought it was a great idea. I researched my name and the origination of *Montejo* means ‘*people of the mountain*’.

Science has been a passion of mine as long as I can remember. Spending my childhood investigating every bug I found, all the way to college where I conducted an ongoing study of the effects of cigarette butts on soil quality. Science is the best of ourselves—natural curiosity blended with precise observation.

I am very excited to have become part of the Orca K-8 community. The close-knit relationship between school and families at Orca reminds me of my previous school. It is already feeling like home here. I hope to stay in touch with you all in order to help all of our students grow into strong and confident adults.

If you should need to get in touch with me for any reason, you can call my school number 206.252.6860 or email me at pgmontejotho@seattleschools.org. If you are interested in just a casual meeting in person, I am happy to meet with you.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mountain

Parent Volunteers, Cynthia Rainwater

I wanted to give a shout out to all of our parents who brought in paperwork to secure a position as a volunteer here at Orca. A big thank you for parents dropping off copies of their ID's, this was essential in completing the Background Checks. Your help and commitment is much appreciated and needed. Donte had challenged our middle school parents on Curriculum Night to give us a Friday and I'm happy to report that we had several parents come through this week helping in both the elementary and middle school.

Thank you for helping us grow our children!

Cynthia

News from our School Nurses—Nurse Marsha and Nurse Dodgson



Linda Dodgson Marsha Burnworth

Are wondering if your child should come to school or stay home when they are not feeling well?

Here is the link for a guide to help you decide:

https://www.seattleschools.org/UserFiles/Servers/Server_543/File/District/Departments/Health%20Services/Too%20Sick%20for%20School%20ADA.pdf



WE.APP YOUNG ARTISTS ACADEMY (YAA):

Developing Youth Ambassadors through Public Speaking!

We.APP (Act. Present. Perform.) Young Artists Academy (YAA) is a public speaking program serving Orca scholars grades 5th - 8th every Monday and Friday! WE.APP YAA cultivates leadership through writing, speaking and presenting. Taught by **Toyia Taylor** who is a well-known public speaking coach, motivational speaker and orator, Ms. Taylor believes that **NO child should be censored!** As a result, YAA provides an in-school platform that inspires young scholars to write powerful narratives that captures their deepest feelings and aspirations. These narratives combat silence to promote literacy and inclusion which are critical towards disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline. By integrating writing and performing arts each young scholar's speech is written and spoken in unapologetic vernacular, drawing upon personal perspectives on life and what it takes to progress as a community and nation.

To learn more about We.APP please visit the [website!](#) Also, check out the We.APP [Rising Voices Oratory Competition](#) that We.APP YAA scholars participate in annually!

Counseling Corner

In a world full of opportunities, how does one make a decision regarding their future? How can we as a community come together to best support our Orca students in finding their passions? One of the roles of a school counselor is



to help facilitate these conversations and bring programs and resources in to help our students begin to explore the wide variety of pathways they can take post-high school. We will be participating in a week long program called **DiscoverU Oct. 23-27** which will be just the tip of the iceberg to help our students start their exploration.

Why DiscoverU?

DiscoverU is an effort to help build a “beyond high school” culture. According to a study by the Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, 67% of jobs in Washington State will require some form of postsecondary credential by 2018. Currently, only 28% of students from our region receive a two or four-year degree by their mid-20s. Research finds that attending a school with a college-going climate is one of the most important predictors of students attending college. Career and college exploration is also important because:

- When students think about and plan for their futures, they do better in school
- Currently too few students are exposed to career awareness activities
- Research shows young women and students of color often limit their career choices early
- Middle school is a time when kids are forming ideas about careers, however they often lack awareness about careers or have unrealistic ideas about the world of work
- Experiential learning opportunities help students develop and connect their interests to their academic pursuits

DiscoverU provides schools and organizations the opportunity to carry out many of their existing career and college lessons, but with the added boost of:

Doing them at the same time—So students in all grades are exploring career and college together

Using the same language—So that the importance of education beyond high school is being reinforced with students and families across all districts

Bringing more stakeholders into the mix—So that the broader community, from mayors to libraries, shares a commitment to student success beyond high school.

For more information about DiscoverU or any other school counseling questions, please feel free to reach out!

Erin McCullough

ecmccullough@seattleschools.org

More information on the roles of a school counselor here:

<https://sites.google.com/view/mcculloughscounselingpage/home>

FYI 8th Grade Parents! Dates for HS Planning:

January: High School open houses

Spring: Counselor to work with each 8th grade student for 4 year HS plan

June: Area High Schools visit Orca

5th GRADE TEAM

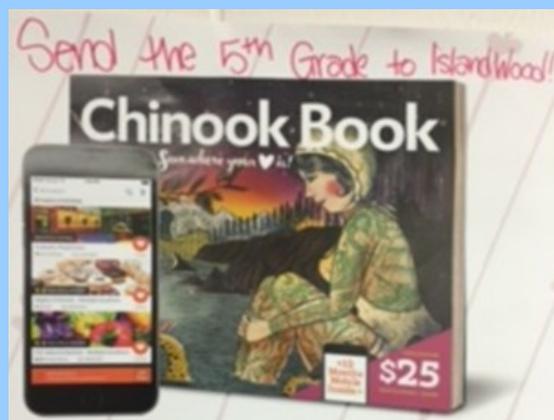
We need your support!



Ms. Georgi

Mr. Zimmerman

Help support our 5th graders in reaching their fundraising goal of \$1000 by purchasing a **Chinook Book**. Money raised will help send our students to Island Wood environmental program on Bainbridge Island. The books are filled with coupons to local and sustainable businesses, grocers, family attractions, and more. Coupon books can be purchased from any 5th grade student, teacher (Ms. Georgi and Mr. Zimmerman), or stop by room 201 or 203. The Books are \$25 and come with the mobile app. Apps can be purchased separately from the book for \$15 by using this link: <https://chinook.co/orcak8>



Thank you for the support!!”

October 2017

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3 PTSA Meeting 6-7:30pm Orca Cafeteria	4 Early Dismissal 2:10pm	5	6	7
8	9	10 Harvest Fest Elementary	11 Harvest Fest Middle School Early Dismissal-2:10pm	12	13 NO SCHOOL for Students Teacher PD	14
15	16 BLT MEETING	17	18 Early Dismissal 2:10pm	19	20 PBIS School-wide Assembly	21
22	23	24	25 Early Dismissal 2:10pm	26	27 Picture Make-up Day MOVEATHON	28
29	30	31				

