Mark Your Calendar

Dec 13          Kindergarten
                Reindeer Revue, 9am

Dec 15          1-hour early release

Dec 18 - Jan 1  No School
                Holiday Break

Jan 10          Safety Skills Class
                K-2nd, after school @ LH/JM

Jan 15          No School
                MLK, Jr. Day

Jan 24          Safety Skills Class
                3rd-5th, after school @ LH/JM

Jan 26          Winter Family Dance
                TBD @ LH/JM

Jan 30          New Family Orientation
                1:15-2pm & 6-6:45pm @ LH/JM

Feb 1           New Family Orientation
                1:15-2pm @ LH/JM

Feb 19 - 23     No School
                Winter Break

Feb 27          Multi-cultural Night
                TBD @ LH/JM

Mar 24          LHPTA Auction
                5pm @ Fisher Pavilion
**New Family Information Sessions**

Know a new family that will be starting at Loyal Heights next year? Have an incoming kindergartner and want to learn more about our school? Join us at one of our three New Family Orientation Sessions. These will take place on the following days and times:

- **January 30th, 1:15 - 2pm**
- **January 30th, 6 - 6:45pm**
- **February 1st, 1:15 - 2pm**

All sessions will be held at LHE @ John Marshall. Attendees should check in at the office.

**Corporate Matching Requests**

The end of the year is quickly approaching. Reminder to please submit all corporate matching requests to your employers by the end of 2017! Many companies will match donations you made to Loyal Heights Elementary PTA this year so help us earn as much as we can for our kids! Questions? Email Stephanie Gardner

---

**Staff Spotlight**

*Rekeda Rountree, Counselor*

Greetings, my name is **Rekeda Rountree** and I am your school counselor! I was born and raised in the south end of Seattle where my parents still reside, and I am the youngest of three. My husband, Thomas, and I enjoy raising our three children Riley Jae (7), Thomas IV (3), and Ria Su (15 mo).

Prior to becoming a school counselor in 2013, I served children and youth in the areas of mental health/community counseling, case management, tutoring and advocacy. This is my 5th year delivering a Comprehensive School Counseling Program at Loyal Heights Elementary, and I am very grateful for the support and encouragement from staff, families and the loyal heights school community.

As your school counselor, I provide the following services:

- Affinity group for families of African American and Black families co-organizer & facilitator
- Beaver Buddy Block (BBB)/Beaver Friend Finder (BFF) coordinator & mentor
- Beaver Bus Box overseer
- Beaver Voice Forum coordinator & facilitator
- Community resource referrals
- Crisis intervention
- Family support and consultation
- Individual brief counseling/check-ins
- Lunch and recess supervision
- Peer mediation and conflict resolution
- PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports)
- Student Wellness Team member
- Race & Equity Team member
- Roots of Empathy instructor
- RULER Team member (Regulating, Understanding, Labeling, Expressing and Regulating emotions)
- Small group counseling
- Student Support Team member
- Whole classroom guidance lessons

This year we launched two exciting programs! With the support of our principal and assistant principal, I organized our first affinity group for families of African American and Black students. I look
Safety Skills Classes are back

We are thrilled to offer free safety skills & self defense classes for LHE students again this year. These parent/child classes help children learn safety skills in an age-appropriate setting. There are two different classes offered:

**Free Safety Skills and Self Defense for Kids Grades K-2:** This 90-minute class will be offered on January 10 and April 20 after school in Gym B at LHE @ John Marshall. Topics include using your voice as a safety tool, moving away from possible problems, and listening to "uh-oh" feelings. Parents should attend with their children. To sign up and learn more, [click here](#).

**Free Safety Skills and Self Defense for Kids Grades 3-5:** This two-hour class will be offered January 24 and April 27 after school in Gym B at LHE @ John Marshall. Topics include how to be aware and calm, identifying safe-adults, personal boundaries, avoiding peer pressure, and more. Parents should attend with their children, and the last 15 minutes of the class is oriented towards parent education. To learn more or sign up, [click here](#).
Math Challenge Drawing Winners

Congratulations to Maya H and Asya G who are the winners of this year’s first Math Challenge participation drawing. They have both won a gift card to Menchies! Keep up the good work and we will have another drawing shortly after Winter Break!

UNICEF Donations

The students in Ms. Saltsman, Ms. Bill and Mr. Hamel’s classrooms participated in Trick or Treat for UNICEF during Halloween and raised $520.62. This year, funds raised through Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF will support UNICEF’s emergency relief work for children affected by recent disasters. Since 1950, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF funds have helped UNICEF save and improve children's lives around the world through immunization, education, health care, nutrition, safe water and sanitation, emergency relief, and more.

Emergency Drill Procedures

Loyal Heights Elementary completes an emergency drill each month. In an effort to educate parents and families on what these exercises entail we have provided descriptions below.

Fire
During a fire drill everyone evacuates the building and meets in the back parking lot. Attendance is taken and we wait for the fire department’s “all clear” to re-enter the building.

Earthquake
Everyone is instructed to drop, cover and hold on. In the event of a real earthquake we would evaluate the safety of the building and evacuate if needed.

Reverse Evacuation
This is the process for moving students and staff indoors quickly. A reverse evacuation occurs when there is community violence. Schools are notified by law enforcement or Seattle School District Security if we need to bring students inside.

Shelter-in-Place
Shelter-in-place is the process of keeping students and staff safe from danger when there is a threatening event in the community but not occurring at the school. All students stay inside the building and all exterior doors are locked. No one may enter until an “all clear” is confirmed by law enforcement or Seattle School District Security. During shelter-in-place academics are ongoing.

Lockdown
A Lockdown is used when there is an immediate threat of violence within or immediately around the school. All interior and exterior doors are locked. All students and staff must remain in locked rooms or secured areas until specific directions or an “all clear” is given directly from law enforcement.
State Remains In Contempt for Failing to Fund Basic Education

On November 15, the Washington State Supreme Court unanimously ruled that the state remains out of compliance with its prior order to fully fund basic education by September 1, 2018. While the State concedes there is enough money in its Near General Fund to fully pay for basic education and teacher salaries, the Court found a $1 billion funding gap exists. The monetary penalty against the state will continue to accrue at $100,000 per day. The state must return and update the Court, by April 9, 2018, as to actions taken during the 2018 regular session and will address whether or not the state remains out of compliance at that time.

Now, more than ever, our contributions to PTA are so needed. The PTA’s fundraising efforts will help close the gap that persists between district funding and the actual cost of basic education at LHE. If you have not done so already, please consider becoming a member today.

LHE Book Fair Success

The fall book fair was a success! Open from Monday, November 6 through Thursday, November 9th, we enjoyed four days of enthusiastic school shoppers. Popular items included the new Diary of a Wimpy Kid (The Getaway), the memoir Ugly, locking journals/diaries and chocolate-scented calculators.

We met our sales goal of $10,000 and were able to redeem over $5,000 in Scholastic Dollars for library purchases. In addition to this, we used All for Books donations to purchase a book for every LHE student identified as needing additional support and we collected over 300 books for Wing Luke students.

Congrats to Antonio M. and Nora R. for winning the prize baskets from our Wing Luke book drive/All for Books drawing. Thank you to Katie Kaku for co-chairing the book fair and running the donations portion of the event. None of this would have been possible without your generous support and the time given by fabulous volunteers! I am also tremendously grateful to the LHE front office staff, Mrs. Blangy and our PTA co-presidents Sarah Mann and Natalie Ward for the extra time and guidance they put in!

- Claire Elam, Book Fair Chairperson
October Beaver Behavior: RESPECT

Respect was our Beaver Behavior during the month of October. Respect is a feeling that someone or something is important and should be treated appropriately. With people it means simply treating others the way you would want to be treated. Everyone deserves respect. We show respect at school by being kind to our classmates, listening to our teachers, taking care of materials, and keeping the school clean – that’s showing respect for our school and our environment.

“Respect is learned, earned, and returned.” - Unknown

“The following students were recognized in showing respect last month:


LHE Spring Concert - Save the Date
Thursday, April 5th at 7:00pm will be our all school Spring Concert and PTA Awards Night. It’s an important celebration for the school, bringing students, staff and parents together to acknowledge all that we do to make Loyal Heights such a great place to be. We’re looking forward to seeing you there!

N.O.I.S.E. is coming back to Loyal Heights
N.O.I.S.E., (Northwest Opera In Schools, Etc.) is a professional opera company dedicated to making opera fun and fascinating for kids. They were a real hit last year with “The Doll Act” from Tales of Hoffmann, and this year’s performance is a well-known tale: a fully-staged adaptation of Hansel and Gretel. Time to bring out your books and puppets and remind your kiddos of this classic story. Showtime is Friday, March 16th at 1:45pm.

Winter Break Dance Camp
December 18th, 8:30am - 12:30pm
at Ingraham High School, Main Gymnasium
1819 N 135th St, Seattle, WA 98133
$25, ages 6-12
Snacks are included and there will be a performance at the end. RSVP via email

Music Notes

Washington Music Matters license plates help fund music education. Funds are earmarked for assisting music departments and students in K-12 public schools. The majority of money is distributed via grants to schools where the music programs are in dire need of additional funding. More info
2018 LHE PTA Auction

A NIGHT IN MONTE CARLO is happening! Time to get busy.

The LHE auction is not just the party of the year, it’s the fundraiser of the year. Dollars raised pay for instrumental music, school counselor, math and reading tutors, art, library, support for our staff and teachers, field trips and many more “essentials” that are not provided by the school district, but help make our school so special.

Save the Date
Saturday, March 24, 2018
5 pm at Fisher Pavilion

It certainly takes a village to make this happen! One of my goals this year is to have 100% participation in our auction. Whether you volunteer on a committee, come up with a procurement idea, find a friend or business to donate an item, or attend the auction in March, every bit helps us get closer to our ultimate goal; to support the outstanding Loyal Heights teachers and staff as they give our children a most awesome educational experience. Please email me if you are able to help.

More often than not people are very happy to help out their local schools, but often don’t know how or aren’t asked. When out and about this holiday season, think about asking for a gift certificate from your child’s dance studio, a favorite restaurant or a bottle of something that tickles your fancy from the local brewery, distillery or winery. Please email Sara Adelman with auction procurement ideas. We ask that commitments are solidified and procurement forms are submitted by Jan 31, 2018 so our amazing Procurement Team can work its magic. Procurement forms can be filled out online or paper copies picked up at school.

Cheers to you all and ’tis the season!
Katrina Hupp
2018 LHE Auction Chair
Q. Where does a snowman keep his money?
A. In a snow bank

Q. What kind of math do Snowy Owls like?
A. OWLgebra

Q. What do snowmen eat for breakfast?
A. Snowflakes

BEAVER RAVES for a job well done!

Huge shout out to all the Kinder and K/1 chicken hat makers: including Angela Larsen, Lael Kremer, Denise Khambatta, Zina Hurd, Andrea Colwell, and Mia Naficy! Thank you for making our students look so cute!
Raves to Michelle Rodelo for helping with picture retake day!
Raves to Anna Nodolf for her photographs of Harvest Night! (many are featured in this issue)
Big thanks to Matt Marshall for organizing the Lagunitas Brewery fundraiser and to Melissa Murray for making the BINGO fundraiser happen at The Dane!
Major raves to Sara Stevens and all her awesome volunteers for an amazing Harvest Night!
Gratitude to Mrs. Payton for her time, effort and patience to prepare the Kindergarteners for their Chicken Dance performances!
Raves to the many Kindergarten parents who put on an awesome Halloween party for the whole class!
Thanks to Morgan Cox for organizing the coffee fundraiser!
And so much beaver love to Kathy Katzen for organizing the Giving Hands lunch!
Principal’s Message
Ms. Guerrero, LH Principal

We are at our very best during times of crisis. This was apparent during November’s Bus Strike. Families communicated and arranged for their children to be dropped off and picked up at school with efficiency. I’m pleased to report that Loyal Heights absences were relatively low that day and that every child went home with the appropriate adults or to their after-school care without incident. Well done everyone!

December is the month of GENEROSITY for our Beaver Character. At our monthly Community Circle last Wednesday, November 29th, our Student Council representatives presented a skit on what it means and looks like to be a student who is generous and giving to others. This set the stage for our GIVING HANDS lunch event the following day. It was such a celebration to see parents, grandparents, younger siblings, aunts, and uncles join our students for lunch. We have a strong, giving, and generous school community that supports our children and families in need during the holiday season and throughout the year. Thank you to all the families, PTA (and their incredible Volunteer crew), Corinne Collins (LHE’s caring and awesome Lunch Manager), our custodial staff, school staff, students, and most of all to Kathy Katzen (LHE’s phenomenal Admin Secretary) for ensuring that the event went smoothly and successfully. Most of the GIVING HANDS mittens were pulled from the Snowman wall but we still have a few mittens left. If you would like to help a family in need, please contact Kathy Katzen at (206) 252-1500.

Finally, I want to wish you and your family a safe, healthy and happy Holiday celebration (Hanukkah, St.Lucia Day, Christmas, Kwanzaa, Omisoka, Ta Chiu, Boxing Day, and New Year)!

“A kind gesture can reach a wound that only compassion can heal.” –Steve Maraboli