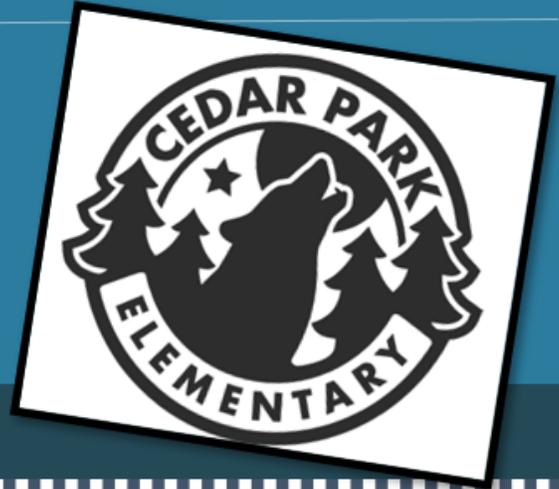


# Timber Wolf Times

*Be Informed  
Stay Connected  
Get Involved*



## February 2019

### February Calendar

**February 4-14**

Option School  
Open Enrollment

**February 7**

SPS Registration Event at CP 5-7 p.m.

**February 8**

PTA Mid-Winter Festival 5:30-8:00 p.m.

**February 12**

Cedar Park Tour 6 -7 p.m.

**February 18-22**

NO SCHOOL  
Mid-Winter Break

**February 26**

PTA Meeting 6-7 p.m.  
All Welcome

Thank you to all our families that attended the Marine Biology Open House on January 24<sup>th</sup>. It was great to dive into the deep with you!

Great Job Students on your research, projects, creations and presentations!



*Cedar Park Elementary School*

*13224 37<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE Seattle, WA 98125*

*T: 206-252-4300 [cedarparkes.seattleschools.org](http://cedarparkes.seattleschools.org)*

*School Hours: 7:55 a.m.-2:25 p.m. Early Release Wednesdays: 7:55 a.m. – 1:10 p.m.*

# Note from Principal O.

Greetings Cedar Park Families,

I wanted to take a few moments today to share some information about the homework policy at Cedar Park. Since opening our school 16 months ago, one of the guiding principles I have led with is the student-focused intentionality in building our programs, procedures and policies -- i.e. we don't NEED to do school the way it has always been done unless that way is beneficial for students. Multiage partnerships, recess before lunch, students most trusted adults (their teachers) providing supervision and support at recess and lunch -- these are a few of the ways we have implemented common sense policies for the benefit of our students, but which are unique in comparison to more established schools. They are key elements to the "option" provided at Cedar Park.

Last fall, we surveyed the staff and community on a variety of issues. Two clear themes emerged. Our community is interested in a focus on the whole child outside of their academic identity and in systems that benefit ALL students.

This led to the development of our homework policy (focused on all students reading at least 20 minutes a night), our enrichment for all philosophy (which led to IDEA Time), our determination that field work be offered as core instruction (through PTA grant funding) so that all pupils may participate.

Regarding homework, we know that students work hard in school all day, and then often have important extracurricular activities. We also know that a daily homework schedule of one or more hours can cut deep into valuable together time for working families. We value that important time with our own families, and we know you value it in yours.

Additionally, the research on homework is mixed and inconclusive. I am including a link to an article from Alfie Kohn (author and lecturer in the areas of education, parenting and human behavior) outlining these ideas (<https://www.alfiekohn.org/homework-improve-learning/>). There are strong correlations, however, between literacy/brain development and reading every night as noted in this article from the South Sound Reading Foundation (<https://www.southsoundreading.org/resources/reading-research/>).

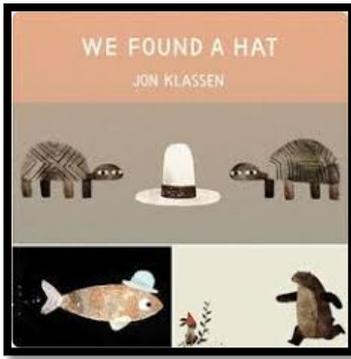
Our staff and Building Leadership Team (BLT) continue to strive to ensure our school-wide policies are focused on a universal program accessible for ALL students. This focus on programmatic equity is not meant to exclude parents from making personal choices for their child and family. If a parent wants a structured academic time at home after school, start by checking with your child's classroom teacher for suggestions on areas of focus. There are wonderful resources available for free on-line (math programs like IXL, PBS Kids, Discovery.com) and through various outlets (Costco, Target, Barnes & Noble, Amazon and Lakeshore). You can also work learning into your daily lives at home in fun and simple ways. Bake with your child and have them do the measuring, have your child figure out the tip the next time you go out to dinner, take your child grocery shopping and have them weigh all the produce. There are simple ways to work learning into your everyday lives and ways for your child to put their knowledge into action.

**Doug Ouellette**, MIT Cedar Park Elementary Principal

Phone 206.252-4300 | Cell 206.552-4726

Doug's Email: [dcouellette@seattleschools.org](mailto:dcouellette@seattleschools.org)

Doug's Twitter: [https://twitter.com/Principal\\_SPS](https://twitter.com/Principal_SPS)



## Cedar Park Big 3 Expectations

Cedar Park Citizens are CARING, RESPECTFUL, and RESPONSIBLE. During the month of February Cedar Park will be focusing on the character trait of INTEGRITY.

INTEGRITY is doing the right thing even when no one is watching. Our wonderful Librarian Ms. Levin has chosen the books *We Found A Hat* by Jon Klassen and *The Library Lion* by Michelle Knudsen for our classes to discuss. Perhaps you could read them at home!



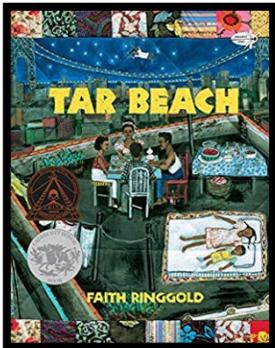
## Morning Safety

Spring is just around the corner and as the weather starts to improve so will the number of walkers and bikers coming to school in the mornings. Please remember to go slow in the school zone, don't block the cross walks, watch out for each other and make safe choices. It is still a bit dark in the mornings so pedestrians can be hard to see.



## January Art Docent Program

January's PTA Art Docent sessions featured artist, author, social activist, and teacher, Faith Ringgold (b. 1930, Harlem, NY). The 3-5th grade class spent time observing her quilted painting, "Tar Beach," (1981). This art piece features a flying figure, which is an important motif of freedom in African American folk literature. The K-2/3 classes watched a short, animated clip of "Reading Rainbow: Tar Beach," (1992), which brings Ringgold's award-winning book "Tar Beach" (1991), to life. The story takes the perspective of a young girl who flies above New York City and reflects on her experiences as a child of color living in Harlem during the 1930's.



As the students then set out to create their own artistic scenes, we asked them to consider the following questions: Where would you fly to, if you could go anywhere in the world? Or, what is one of your happiest memories? Students were encouraged to use oil pastels and watercolor for their art pieces. It was fun watching them explore the reaction between oil and water on watercolor paper. We also had strips of colorfully designed card stock available for those who wished to add a "quilt" border to their scenes. It was a fun week indeed! "



**REMINDER NO SCHOOL**  
**February 18-22 Mid-Winter Break**

## A Look Ahead...

### March 4-6

K-5 Classroom Field Trips  
Children's Film Festival

### March 9

PTA Timberwolf  
Park Playdates 10:00 a.m.

### March 19

PTA Membership Meeting  
Equity & Diversity Workshop  
6-8 p.m.



### Did You Know...

Each pack has a male and a female leader. They are called the Alphas. The Alphas lead hunts, solve fights and keep order within the pack.

## ELL Student Information

During the months of February and March our ELL (English Language Learner) Students will be participating in ELPA (English Language Proficiency Assessment). The assessment will be given during regular school hours on Fridays by Ms. Jordan our ELL Specialist.

The ELPA summative assessment is an online assessment given to all students who qualify for English language development (ELD) services with a placement test. The ELPA21 summative assessment measures students' English language proficiency, both knowledge and skills, in reading, listening, writing, and speaking. If you are the parent of an ELL Student and you have questions about this assessment please contact Ms. Jordan at [ulhall@seattleschools.org](mailto:ulhall@seattleschools.org)

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## Notes from the Library

### Reading Without Walls

We believe that **stories break down walls** and that books hold the power to help us see ourselves more clearly, connect more deeply with others, and nurture our development of empathy and growth of character. To enact these values all year long, we'll launch a **"Reading Without Walls" Challenge in February** (first introduced by Gene Luen Yang as the 5th Ambassador for Young People's Literature). Students will be challenged to read a book about a character who does not look like them or whose life is different from their own. As students add to our display of completed titles, they'll be invited to give "book talks" and share reflections and recommendations with peers.

### You Can Make a Difference!

NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS to **Library Love Letters**, an upcoming zine archiving the impact of K-12 SPS libraries.

If Libraries matter to you, we need your Voice!

**INVITING** drawings, comics, handwritten notes, photos, letters, essays, stories, fan art, poems, collages, songs, films, and voice recordings.

**Deadline February 15<sup>th</sup>!**

Email your submissions to: [spslibraryloveletters@gmail.com](mailto:spslibraryloveletters@gmail.com)

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### Seattle Public Schools provides Equal Educational and Employment Opportunities

Seattle Public Schools, SPS, provides Equal Educational Opportunities and Equal Employment Opportunities and does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex; race; creed; color; religion; ancestry; national origin; age; economic status; sexual orientation, including gender expression or identity; pregnancy; marital status; physical appearance; the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability; honorably discharged veteran or military status; or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal. SPS also provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. SPS complies with all applicable state and federal laws and regulations, including but not limited to: Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008; and the Washington Law Against Discrimination RCW 49.60. SPS's compliance includes, but is not limited to all district programs, courses, and activities, including extra-curricular activities, services, and access to facilities.

# Nurse's Notes and Health Updates

## Measles:

Governor Jay Inslee has issued a State of Emergency due to the outbreak of Measles primarily in Clark County. There is currently one confirmed case of measles reported in King County. Measles is extremely contagious as the virus travels through the air. We do not currently have any cases of measles in the Seattle School District.

Please monitor your child for signs of measles (fever, diarrhea, coughing, runny nose, red and watery eyes, tiredness with a rash that begins on the face and spreads to the entire body). For more information about measles in multiple languages go to: <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/communicable-diseases/disease-control/measles.aspx>

Make sure to protect yourself and your children with MMR vaccine (<https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/Immunization/DiseasesandVaccines/MMRMeaslesMumpsRubellaVaccine>) . If you have questions about your child's MMR vaccination status, please contact your health care provider, your school nurse, or Health Services at 206-252-0750. The MMR vaccine is available to children through our 25 school-based health center sites. To find a school-based health center go to: <http://www.seattle.gov/education/about-us/about-the-levy/health/school-based-health-centers>

## Immunization Registry:

A great way to track your child's immunizations is through MyIR. MyIR allows you to manage your family's immunization records securely online. Once you register, you can access the records any time you need them. You can also print your child's Certificate of Immunization Status (PDF) for school and child care entry. You can do all of this without an extra trip to your healthcare provider or school.

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/Immunization/ChildProfileHealthPromotion/ForParents/AccessyourFamilyImmunizationInformation>

## Flu:

We have had a few cases of Influenza within our Cedar Park community. Let's all work together to prevent the spread of the flu and illness. Annual flu vaccination is the best method of prevention against illness, followed by covering your cough, proper hand washing, and staying home from school or work when you are sick. Students need to be fever free for 24 hours before returning to school without medications to reduce the fever. The flu vaccine takes up to two weeks to provide full protection and only protects against flu strains, not against colds or other viruses that may show similar symptoms.

Stay healthy!

Amy Jones BSN RN, Cedar Park School Nurse

[abjones@seattleschools.org](mailto:abjones@seattleschools.org)

206-252-4307

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