A Note from the Principal

Dear Wade King Families,

The staff at Wade King, and across our district, work hard to maximize the growth your children make each year and we know that regular attendance plays an important role in maximizing that growth.

Attendance Works is a national and state initiative started in 2010. It promotes strengthening school attendance policies and practices by providing these messages about the importance of attendance.

- Good attendance helps students do well in school and eventually in the workplace.
- Excused and unexcused absences quickly add up to too much time lost in the classroom.
- Students are at risk academically if they miss 10% of the school year, or about 18 school days.
- Chronic absenteeism is a problem we can solve if everyone - the school, family, and community - works together.
- Chronic absences affect the whole school as teachers slow down instruction to reteach material.
- Relationships matter and its difficult for students and teachers to build relationships when students aren’t present.

There are several things we do at Wade King to support regular attendance. Our support staff intentionally makes connections with all students when they arrive at school, teachers use classroom meetings to strengthen connections amongst students and plan engaging instruction that students will want to be a part of. Students often write notes to peers who are absent to let them know that they were missed. The goal of all these things is to make Wade King a place that students want to be.

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Furthermore, Mrs. Murphy, in our office, and Mr. Gutzler, our Dean of Students, work together to track tardies, excused absences, and unexcused absences. When a student has a significant number of tardies and/or absences, they connect with families, partnering with them, to help students get to school. Sometimes this involves setting up morning routines at home and/or upon arriving at school, making contracts with students, strengthening connections with other students and staff, and setting up plans for students who frequently feel ill.

Attendance Works also shares ways that parents can support their children. They suggest that parents:

- establish and stick to the basic routines (going to bed early, waking up on time, etc.) that will help their child develop the habit of on-time attendance.
- talk to their child about why going to school every day is critical and important unless they are sick. If your child seems reluctant to go to school, find out why and work with the teacher, principal or afterschool provider to increase their excitement about going to school.
- have back up plans, knowing (another family member, a neighbor or fellow parents) to help get your child to school if something comes up (e.g. another child gets sick, your car breaks down, etc.).
- reach out for help if they are experiencing tough times (e.g. transportation, unstable housing, loss of a job, health problems) that make it difficult to get your child to school.

Other parents, your child’s teacher, principal, social worker, school nurse, afterschool providers or community agencies can help problem solve or connect parents to needed resources.

Our staff is here to partner with you! If your child is hesitant to come to school, please connect with your child’s teacher, Mr. Gutzler, Mrs. Regina (our Counselor), and/or me. We’re all here to help!

Stephanie Johnson  
Principal, Wade King Elementary

### Picture Day is Wednesday!

You can order photos online at mylifetouch.com or send money in the envelopes that were sent home. If ordering online, you will need our picture ID # LS517024Q0. Picture purchases are optional, but all students will have their photo taken. Retakes will be Wednesday, November 15th. Payments can be turned into our office through Friday, Oct. 13th. Questions about photos should be directed to Life Touch at (360) 305-6662.

### Volunteer Opportunities

#### Mail Volunteer Needed

We are looking for a volunteer who could spend ten minutes in the office each day, getting mail from the mailbox and putting it in our staff mailboxes. This is a perfect job for someone who picks up their children and could come 10 minutes before pick-up. Contact Debbie McMeel in the main office if you are interested.

#### Talent Show Coordinator

Our Wade King Talent Show is Friday, March 16th. We are looking for a volunteer to coordinate this event. Please email PTA co-presidents Randen Kovacevic and Kelsie Wheeler (by clicking this link) if you would like to learn more about this position.

### Donations Needed

#### Large Umbrellas

Do you have a large umbrella at home that you are ready to part with? If so, consider donating it to our office. Our PTA would love to decorate umbrellas for school staff who greets your kids in the morning.

#### Tonka Trucks

If you have gently used Tonka construction trucks that you no longer want, consider donating them to Wade King. Our kids LOVE playing with them during recess. You can drop them off in the office!

#### Legos

We would love to have more Legos on our rainy day recess carts. If you have Legos you are no longer using at home, you can drop them off in the office and we’ll add them to our rainy day recess carts!
PARENT CONNECT

Wednesday, October 11th from 6:00 - 7:30 PM
Wade King Elementary
Childcare Provided

Managing Conflict - How to help your child manage conflict with peers.
Come learn from the experts at Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center!

Deborah Forgays, Ph.D. is a certified family mediator. She has a PhD in Clinical Psychology, and her teaching and research focused on issues important to children, adolescents and families. Emily Machin-Mayes is the Youth Program Manager at Whatcom Dispute Resolution Center, and focuses her work on supporting adolescents engage in healthy conflict. We hope you can join us in the Wade King library to listen to these experts, and engage in meaningful conversations with each other!

Wade King, Lowell and Happy Valley Elementary schools, with the support of their PTAs, are each hosting a
PARENT CONNECT EDUCATION NIGHT

• Navigating Friendships, Happy Valley, February 21st
• Using Technology Safely, Lowell, April 25th

Please RSVP

Questions? Need Help RSVP’ing?
Email Mrs. Regina
On Tuesday, September 29th, more than 220 volunteers and visitors joined Wade King students as they challenged themselves to run laps as part of our PTA’s annual Globe Trot fundraiser. In past years our PTA has raised approximately $25,000 that is used to fund family nights, special assemblies and guests, events like the World Tour, playground equipment, and field trips beyond what is funded by our school district.

We have currently raised $17,496.13, which means all students celebrated with extra recess time on Monday the 9th. If we raise $20,000, we will celebrate with crazy hair and hat day and if we reach our goal of $25,000 we will have a drawing to choose a primary and intermediate principal for the day to work alongside Mrs. Johnson, planning a special day for all!

You can still turn in your Globe Trot Donation envelope and/or make online donations, if you haven’t already!

A special thanks to…

Winco for donating popsicles for students.
Walmart for donating a balloon arch to run through.
Wood’s Coffee for donating coffee for our volunteers.
Papa John’s for donating a pizza lunch for our volunteers.
BOX TOPS for Education

Please turn in box tops to the box located in the PTA office window. There are two opportunities a year for us to earn money for our school through box tops. Please turn in box tops by October 27th to help meet the first box top goal! Thank you!

Volunteer at Wade King

Wade King staff loves having volunteers work with students and complete projects that support student learning. All volunteers, including parents, guardians and grandparents who plan to volunteer in classrooms and on field trips, are required to complete an online application prior to volunteering.

- The volunteer application can be found on the Wade King web page under ‘Families’ – ‘Volunteer’ or under the ‘Families’ tab on the district’s homepage or by clicking on this link: https://bellinghamschoolsvolunteers.hrmplus.net/.
- The application requires all volunteers to upload photo identification to be processed through the Washington State Patrol (WATCH) system. If you have difficulty uploading your photo identification, school secretaries can scan a copy of your ID and send it to our District Volunteer Coordinator, Jennifer Gaer, for uploading.
- It takes an average of one week to process and approve applications so please plan accordingly.
- If you need assistance with the application or need access to a computer, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 360-647-6848 or email Jennifer.Gaer@bellinghamschools.org

Mark Your Calendars

Family Inquiry Night
November 16th from 6-8pm

Stay Connected to Wade King

Wade King Elementary Facebook Page
Wade King on Twitter
Wade King Web Page
Wade King PTA Facebook Page
Wade King Music Facebook Page
Wade King Library Facebook Page

1st -5th grade parents – Read daily Agenda messages with your child!
14th Annual
Whatcom County Buddy Walk

Many Wade King kids and families met downtown on Sunday, October 8th, to participate in Whatcom County’s Buddy Walk. The Buddy Walk is an opportunity to promote the acceptance and inclusion of people with Down Syndrome. It is an opportunity to celebrate Down Syndrome awareness!

It was amazing to see so many familiar faces at this year’s Buddy Walk!

If your family wants to learn more about kids who have Down Syndrome, the Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City has created a great video for kids that your family could watch and talk about together. You can watch it by clicking this link: Just Like You – Down Syndrome. This video features kids who have Down Syndrome, along with their best friends and/or siblings, talking about the things they love doing together and how they are much more alike than different. If your or your child have questions about Down Syndrome, let us know! We’d love to answer them!