



A Publication for South Whidbey School District Parents and the Community

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1) South Whidbey School District is continually reviewing protocols for **safety and emergency preparations**. Please find a review from last week's events below. On Thursday, October 24th, the SWSD in partnership with SWCC, RTL and Forefront are presenting a parent and community program on [Suicide Prevention at the SWCC. Please see the flyer linked here.](#) On Wednesday, October 23rd, Island County will hold an [Emergency and Preparedness Fair at the new Bayview Fire Department. Please see the flyer linked here.](#)
- 2) Every month, the South Whidbey schools practice different emergency drills with the students. These drills are planned by the administration and the safety committee. The drills include lock downs, lock outs, fire, earthquake, evacuation and shelter and more and are always being reviewed by the administration and the safety committee for improvement. This week, all South Whidbey Schools participated in the Great Washington Shakeout to prepare for earthquakes. See more here: <https://www.shakeout.org/washington/>
- 3) South Whidbey School District has emergency protocols in place. Every summer, the district and schools review and update the Emergency Response Plan. This year, the district has adopted the [I Love You Guys](#) safety program. Detailed information can be found online and in the [SWSD Family Handbook](#). This program has been implemented by over 25,000 schools, agencies and organizations across the US and Canada. Principal James Swanson is our Safety Director. Any questions or concerns should be brought to his attention at jswanson@sw.wednet.edu.
- 4) School Messenger is our robo notification system to provide messages to the entire district. This system is used to send out our email notifications including the bi-monthly SWSD Navigator, the quarterly SWSD Newsletter, school emails and emergency notifications. When the notification is an emergency, these notifications are sent by phone, email, sms text, app push and posted on our website and Facebook. This system is managed by Kristina Macarro, SWSD Communications Director. Any questions or concerns should be brought to her attention at kmacarro@sw.wednet.edu.
- 5) South Whidbey School District is in close contact with the Langley Police, Island County Sheriff and iComm (911 response system). We have worked together with our drills, our facilities and our plans so that they are familiar with our protocols and we are prepared with theirs. iComm has assured our administration that in the case of an emergency we will be supported with any assistance needed.



[School Board Calendar Linked Here](#)

On [Wednesday, October 23rd at 6:30pm](#), there will be a business meeting ([agenda linked here](#)).

[Agendas and minutes from previous meetings and SWSD policies can be found on Board Docs linked here.](#)

Future Meetings:

November 20 Workshop/Meeting

December 11 Workshop/Meeting

January 8, 2020 Workshop

January 22, 2020 Retreat

Letter from the Superintendent....

On Wednesday, October 11th, students reported second hand information of a potential threat to the high school. Thank you to the students who brought the information to us immediately and to the law enforcement who took this matter seriously. This was a scary situation for many families.

While law enforcement and school investigations found no means, motive or opportunity of an actual threat, we used this as an opportunity to review our processes and communications. Here are a few highlights of what we learned.

The good news is that even though this particular threat turned out to be unfounded, everyone in the South Whidbey community took it seriously. Students reported what they heard to caring adults, school administrators responded immediately and engaged law enforcement, and local law enforcement conducted a thorough investigation working closely with the school district.

That said, we also found important opportunities where we can improve our response and communication to families. From here forward, we are:

- Updating our response plans to include more thorough and immediate communications. Communication templates are being created to ensure all messages provide complete information to address the information most important to our families.
- Reviewing the School Messenger Robo Program back up plans and are doing more internal practice using the system. We are re-subscribing all family emails and phone numbers where families previously requested to unsubscribe to school messages..

- Strengthening protocols regarding staff IDs and building security. All doors at the SWHS will be locked after 8:00 am, except for the main entrance.
- Creating a website page on Emergency Preparedness for staff and families
- Ensuring better follow-up with all staff, students and families after incidents as needed

This issue brought our communication, security and safety to the forefront of everyone’s attention. We are always reviewing, updating and practicing to make South Whidbey better. We welcome any further feedback. Please email Superintendent Moccia at jmoccia@sw.wednet.edu.

Don't forget to come out and support your students....

Fall is a busy time for the [South Whidbey Band](#) program under the direction of Chris Harshman, here are some of the exciting highlights: Pep Band has begun, and is always a crowd favorite. You can now purchase your [pep band gear \(linked here\)](#) which is available through Oct. 21. Our boosters has also begun our [poinsettia fundraiser sale. Flyer linked here.](#) Our high school jazz band will be taking a trip to Bellingham on Oct. 21 for an engaging clinic at Western Washington University. [Our Creepy Concert and Carnival will be held on Oct. 30 at SWHS beginning at 6:00pm. Flyer linked here.](#) This is a fun fundraiser for all ages. We hope you can come! We appreciate your support!

Come support your home teams! [Athletics home page Linked Here.](#) The following are the upcoming scheduled HOME games (all are subject to change due to weather):

Falcon Soccer	Thurs 10/21 @ 4pm (JV 6W&4L)) 6pm (V 12W&0L)	Coupeville
Cougar Volleyball	Wed 10/23 @ 3:30pm	Kings JH
Cougar Football	Thurs 10/24 @ 3:45pm	Sultan
Falcon Volleyball	Thurs 10/24 @ 5:15pm (C/JV 8W&1L)), 7pm (V 11W&0L)	Cedar Park Chr
Falcon V Football	Fri 10/25 @ 7pm (4W & 2L)	Granite Falls
Cross Country	Sat 11/2 at 10am	District Championship
Falcon JV Football	Mon 11/4 @ 5:30pm	Kings

