

# NEWS

## The Calendar



**April 13-17**  
Spring Break, EEU Closed



**May 9**  
EEU Auction



**May 25**  
Memorial Day, EEU Closed



**June 3**  
EEU Carnival

## EEU Merch is Back

If you missed out earlier this year...or were waiting for more children sizes, look no further. EEU merch is back with toddler, child and adult gear to show your school spirit. You can peruse the store here:

<https://stores.pierceapparel.com/EEUUniversityofWashington/>

Keep in mind: the store is open until Sunday, March 22nd at 10 p.m.



## Let's Involve Everyone

It is so fun to see the EEU school spirit captured by students, staff and parents proudly sporting EEU apparel. As the merchandise store opens this month, it serves as another opportunity to live our shared value of taking care of each other. In order to give everyone who wants to represent the EEU the chance to do so, there will be a "Branching Out in Spirit" display in the EEU lobby. On our Together Tree will hang tags with a desired order for those who experience placing an order for themselves a barrier. Please consider taking a tag and placing that order separately, or alongside yours. Once delivered to the school, it will be given to the intended recipient.

It is important that when opportunities such as this arise, everyone in our community is able to take part.

If you would like to have a tag placed on our "Together Tree" so that someone in your family can also proudly wear EEU apparel, please send an email to Kristin Coulter ([kaleta@uw.edu](mailto:kaleta@uw.edu)) with the specifics: design, color and size. This will be displayed on the tree anonymously for someone to fulfill.

## Classroom of the Month



### Room 140 Elephants with Teacher T!

The Elephants just finished up a special music program, which highlighted African American musicians as part of Black History Month. It was quite popular, as many of this year's elephants play instruments from the violin to the piano.

The Elephants are a creative bunch! They spend free choice periods making sculptures out of clay and illustrating their own comic books, with stories that range from superheroes to the origin of puddles (spoiler alert: rain, rain, and more rain).

## Step Right Up for Inclusion

Shark parents and Auction Co-Chairs, Rosana and Nathan Rimmer, invite you to join the Haring Center community under the big top for the 2026 Step Right Up for Inclusion Auction on Saturday, May 9 at 5:00pm at the Haring Center! This joyful annual tradition fuels our ability to operate the EEU, keep classrooms strong, and retain our amazing teachers

Ways to Join the Fun:

- Attend: Registration is open! Early bird tickets are \$175 through March 31.
- Donate an Item: We are still collecting items for our auction! Gift cards, tickets, services, and getaways are at the top of our wish list.
- Volunteer: Lend a hand with setup, cleanup, or event-night roles. Sign-ups coming in April or contact Noam at [nsoker@uw.edu](mailto:nsoker@uw.edu).
- Help Sponsor the Magic: Families can pitch in by sponsoring parts of the event so more dollars raised go directly to the EEU.
- Spread the Word: Follow us on Instagram and Facebook and share the excitement with your community.

Together, we can keep inclusive education strong...and have a magical night while doing it!

## EduTalk March 31

We're excited to invite EEU families to this year's EduTalks, hosted by the UW College of Education, on March 31 at 5:00 p.m. at the Jones Playhouse Theatre on campus. It's free and open to the public.

EduTalks features 5-minute talks built around one powerful image and one big idea for education. This year's theme, "Solving for X," invites speakers to challenge assumptions and imagine what's possible in education.

We're especially excited to share that Jordan Taitingfong, our Director of Equity at the EEU, will present "Our Children Are Whole: Centering Disability Identity, Culture and History."

Other highlights include Shea Lawson, a local middle school student speaking on disability justice in schools, and Candis Eckert, Program Director of P-3 Education, who will speak to play-based, equity-centered approaches in early childhood and early elementary classrooms.

You can learn more about the speaker lineup and RSVP [here](#).

## Haring Center Staff Spotlight

**Phoebe Yeung**  
Program Assistant, Professional Development



Many EEU families see Phoebe around the building but never get a chance to learn more about such a valuable member of our community!

Phoebe has worked at the Haring Center for 8 years, where she helps facilitate tours, trainings and seminars. She also gets to hand out a lot of snacks.

Before coming to the Haring Center, Phoebe was a preschool teacher at the Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA). After a few years there, she wanted to remain in education but out of the classroom.

"I love that I get to see the kids everyday. And the warmth and support from the community here is special. Everyone is immediately ready to jump in and help out."

When Phoebe is not at the Haring Center, she can be found NOT trying new things or new environments. She likes spending her time watching cooking shows and hanging out with her Corgi named Pancake.

## Help Us Jump Into Spring!

Look how these kids have grown! Children learn so much in their first 6 years and we're sure you've seen that growth since September. We're planning a new Spring-themed bulletin board and we'd love your contributions.



Look for the colored papers on the table in our lobby and take a moment to write down one thing your child has learned, mastered or solved for themselves this school year.

Whether its a large milestone or a small one, its all growth, and its all worth a celebration. The bulletin board will go up to celebrate the first day of Spring, March 21.

## ECHO Autism Communities

Get ready for an event that will empower, inspire, and connect you with leading autism experts dedicated to advancing high-quality care. The 6th Annual ECHO Autism Communities Symposium is your opportunity to explore best-practice care, effective interventions, and practical strategies in autism advocacy and services—all from the comfort of your home.

[Register Here](#)

### Why This Event Matters

Autism care is strengthened when we learn from experts who share evidence-based practices and from the lived experiences of autistic people.

### This Symposium is Designed to:

- Share best-practice strategies that support high-quality services and advocacy.
- Provide practical, actionable tools to help address everyday needs.
- Elevate the voices of autistic individuals, offering perspectives on what truly matters to them.
- Highlight diverse expertise from autism professionals committed to improving care and support.

Whether you're a professional, autistic person, family member, educator, or advocate, this event has something for you.

Date: April 2, 2026  
Time: 8:00 AM - 3:15 PM (CT)

Location: Zoom  
Cost: Free!

## Coffee and Conversations

Don't miss this month's Coffee and Conversations!

Wednesday, March 18 at 6:30-7:30 via Zoom!

## Play is Love

### This is How We Play

(Reminder you can check out a copy is this book from the lobby)

Everyday we see children learn through play. Playtime is full of problem-solving, language, creativity, and connection. In early childhood, play and learning aren't separate play is the way learning happens.

One of the most powerful things we can offer children is time and space to play. Through free play children can follow their ideas and work through frustration. Play helps children organize their bodies. They use their imagination and build confidence. Playtime supports regulation, by allowing kids to calm down after big feelings or next time so they can try something new or press scenarios.

Sitting on the floor, following their lead, building what they build, copying their actions and words or entering their pretend world strengthens connection. When adults join play without directing or correcting, there are so many opportunities for joy and learning.

We also know there is no single "right" way to play. Children engage in different ways like through imagination, movement, repetition, deep focus on an interest, or parallel play and those differences are a wonderful part of being human.

As we approach Autism Acceptance Month in April, we want to affirm that all disabled children (including autistic children) may play in ways that don't look typical, and those ways are valid and valuable. Play does not need to look the same to be real learning.

When we celebrate and protect all play, we are living our values: caring for ourselves and each other, valuing everyone by honoring difference, and building a community where everyone belongs.



## Staff Appreciation

### EEU Community!

Our Staff Appreciation Week falls on a different schedule than the rest of the school district. This is the schedule we will be celebrating our amazing teachers and staff. If you would like to coordinate donations of any kind, contact the front office!

### Monday May 11

Flowers from yard/gardens to create a class bouquet & first day of the mural for messages

### Tuesday May 12

Morning Pick-Me-Up Bar (drop off items in the lobby)

### Wednesday May 13

Afternoon School Luncheon (lunch is provided for lunch, feel free to bring enhancements)

### Thursday May 14

Treats (Sweet or Salty)

### Friday May 15

Surprises (Flowers, Cards, homemade crafts, kid art)

## School Meal Calendar

EEU SCHOOL MEAL CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF March 23-27					
MEAL	DATE	LOCATION	TIME	REMARKS	CONTACT
Breakfast	3/23	Room 140	7:30-8:00	Open House	Phoebe Yeung
Lunch	3/23	Room 140	12:00-12:30	Open House	Phoebe Yeung
Breakfast	3/24	Room 140	7:30-8:00	Open House	Phoebe Yeung
Lunch	3/24	Room 140	12:00-12:30	Open House	Phoebe Yeung
Breakfast	3/25	Room 140	7:30-8:00	Open House	Phoebe Yeung
Lunch	3/25	Room 140	12:00-12:30	Open House	Phoebe Yeung
Breakfast	3/26	Room 140	7:30-8:00	Open House	Phoebe Yeung
Lunch	3/26	Room 140	12:00-12:30	Open House	Phoebe Yeung
Breakfast	3/27	Room 140	7:30-8:00	Open House	Phoebe Yeung
Lunch	3/27	Room 140	12:00-12:30	Open House	Phoebe Yeung

## Sickness and Bussing

If you need to let the bus driver know that your child is out sick, you can call the SPS Bus Student's (206) 252-0900 to let them know. Please have your students' ID number ready when you call. Again, this is just for day-to-day communication.

For long-term changes to bussing (i.e.: if you are moving) please see Meghan in our front office or call them at (206) 543-4011.

If you need immediate assistance during the school day regarding things for your child, or if you need to communicate something pressing, please call the main office at (206) 543-4011. Teaching teams likely will not be able to answer their classroom phones. While they check the TalkingPoints app throughout the day, it is always best to communicate important and timely information through the main office, to ensure the information is relayed properly.