

December 16, 2016



## A Note from the Principal

Language can be a “hot button,” and I was reminded of this at a Special Education Committee meeting that included families from across our district. They gathered to talk about children served by the Life Skills programs. Our district has Life Skills programs that support all grade levels from elementary, middle, and high school. On our website, the Life Skills program is described as using, “a functional academic and skill domain curriculum, with supported integration in general education and opportunities for community-based instruction to students with moderate to severe developmental disabilities.”

At the meeting a parent shared a story about how she and her child were at the grocery store and another child from their neighborhood school said, “Hey I know that kid. She’s a Life Skills student.” The mom sharing this story wasn’t embarrassed about her child’s disability, and she didn’t think the child meant any harm in the comment. She did feel sad that her child was being identified as “a Life Skills kid.” I wonder if you and your child met another student in a public setting how would your child be identified? Possibly by their grade level – “He is a fourth grader at Cozier.” Or linked to their teacher – “She is in Ms. Holum’s class.” Maybe even by their interest- “She is a great artist.”

There has been a movement across the globe to use [Person First Language](#). The American Psychological Association advocates the use of person-first language to refer to individuals with disabilities in daily discourse and to reduce bias in psychological writing. When I did a quick scan of the information about person-first language I also found arguments against it. This left me confused and worried about how to best support our learning community. We have such a diverse community at Carl Cozier, which I truly believe gives us strength, and I don’t want to excluded any group or make them feel marginalized. Then I came back to a core belief of mine; building relationships is the best way to make people feel included and build peace. When we have a solid foundation of positive relations we can weather the hurt feelings related to unintentional missteps. I look forward to learning more about each person in our community. This takes time, but it is a worthwhile investment.

I wish for you a safe and joyous Winter Break!

Eric

### Upcoming Dates

#### December

16th  
PTA Craft Night 6:30 – 8:30 pm

Dec. 19th – January 2nd  
Winter Break – no school

#### January

3rd  
School Resumes

4th  
PTA Meeting 6:30 – 7:30 pm

5th  
Early Release 1:15 pm dismissal

12th  
Early Release 1:15 pm dismissal

16th  
Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
no school

19th  
Early Release 1:15 pm dismissal  
A Taste of Culture 5:30 – 7:30 pm



# Carl Cozier Mission Statement

Our Carl Cozier community is dedicated to the care and education of all our members. Open-mindedness is taught as a means to foster respect for the differences that exist among the people of our global community. We model the importance of leading balanced and principled lives, and we take action based on thoughtful inquiry and our current knowledge.



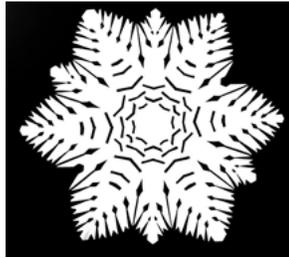
## IB Learner Profile Attribute of the Month: Thinker

We use critical and creative thinking skills to analyze and take responsible action on complex problems. We exercise initiative in making reasoned, ethical decisions.

### Winter Craft Night

Please come join us for the Winter Craft Night on Friday December 16, 2016, from 6:30 – 8:30. As part of the this fun, free, family event, you will have the opportunity to learn how to make:

- Pop-Up Snowflakes
- Candy Airplanes
- Glitter Pinecones
- Puppy Dog Ornaments
- Shell Angels
- Paper Snowflakes
- Dough Ornaments
- Paper Bag Reindeer
- Popsicle Stick Snowflakes, Reindeer, and More!



There will also be a card making station, gift wrap station, cookie decorating, and hot chocolate. Come enjoy a fun filled evening and express your inner crafter!

For more information please contact Shelley Jefferson at [shelley.jefferson@bellingshamschools.org](mailto:shelley.jefferson@bellingshamschools.org).

### Winter Enrichment



Sign up forms for winter enrichment classes will be sent home Friday, January 6th. New classes will include tennis and choir will be back!

### Free Events at the Bellingham Public Library



The Central Branch of the public library, located at 210 Central Avenue, will be hosting many free activities during the two week winter break. A children's matinee, suitable for preschool and school age children will be shown at 2 pm on December 19, 21, 22, 27, and 28. A Papercraft Party will be held at the library on December 22 from 3 – 6 pm. The library will be observing a holiday schedule. Check [the website](#) or call to verify the library hours and times for activities.

### Mt. Baker Ski Area 5th grade ride free Program



Any 5th Grader who is enrolled in the program is eligible for a FREE lift ticket any time he or she visits Mt. Baker during the current season.

There must be one accompanying adult who has a season pass or purchases a lift ticket per two FREE riders.

Students must have proof of 5th grade enrollment for the child; either a report card, school ID, teacher note, or certified letter of intent.

Participants must be between the ages of 9-11 as of December 31, 2016 to qualify for the 2016-17 Fifth Grade Ride Free Program. Details about enrolling: <https://www.mtbaker.us/prices/ticket-programs/5th-grade-ride-free-program>