

# Helen Haller Elementary

Newsletter  
2023-2024



350 W. Fir St., Sequim, WA 98382

360-582-3200 OFFICE

Rebecca Stanton, Principal

360-681-8543 FAX

Casey Lanning, Ed.D, Assistant Principal

OFFICE HOURS: 7:30-3:30

Dear Helen Haller School Community,

Wow, the 2023-2024 school year is here and the Helen Haller Staff is excited to see all of your smiling faces. Our custodial staff has done some amazing work preparing the building for families and staff. If you see any district or Haller technology, custodial or maintenance staff around please thank them for their hard work this summer!

The talented educators listed below are new to the Sequim School District and to Helen Haller. Please say hello when you see them, they are a joy.

School Counselor – Baili Shaw

3rd Grade – Becky Lewis

5th Grade – Stephanie Lancaster

Paraeducator – Arnold Black

5th Grade – Sarah Castell

Paraeducator – Kylee Salazar

**Dr. Casey Lanning** – He is our new Assistant Principal and joined us from the High School.

The beginning of the school year is all about starting anew, starting fresh, and creating great new habits and routines. We will be creating a culture of leadership and hope for all students at Helen Haller and becoming a *Leader in Me* School. Staff will receive training on “The 7 Habits” that pair with *Leader in Me*. Professional Learning Communities (PLC) is another training that all staff will receive training on in August.

**Pink Slip Reminders** – *In order to safely facilitate change of plans within the school day we are taking pink slip calls before 2pm.* After 2pm our secretaries are making sure that our students and teachers are getting those changes in plans. Within the first two weeks of school our two very sweet secretaries will make changes after 2pm and also **kindly remind you of our 2pm cutoff time.** Your help in sticking with the **2pm** time helps us make sure all 580+ kids get where they need to go and that your individual student gets where you want them to go.

We appreciate you sending your students to Helen Haller Elementary and we look forward to a great year together.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Stanton – Principal  
Helen Haller Elementary

## Popsicle Social!



You are invited to our Back to School Popsicle Social

September 5, 2023

4:30pm - 6:30pm

Helen Haller Elementary

The first Day of School is Wednesday, September 6, 2023.

Our school day begins at **8:15am** and ends at **2:45pm**. Students may enter the cafeteria for breakfast at **7:45am (Tue-Fri) & 8:45am (Mon)**. Classroom doors open at **8:05am (Tue-Fri) & 9:05am (Mon)**.

If you are dropping your student off - PLEASE drop off NO EARLIER than **7:45am** - THANK YOU!

## SCHOOL HOURS

Monday 9:15 - 2:45  
Tuesday - Friday 8:15 - 2:45

## MEET OUR COUNSELOR

Baili Shaw is Haller's school counselor. She is happy to be a resource for you, so please don't hesitate to contact her by calling our office (360-582-3200).

There are openings in our **weekend meal program**. Students receive bags on Friday with breakfast, lunch, dinner, and snacks for Saturday and Sunday. Please contact the office if this would be helpful for your family. If you are interested in having your child receive meals and snacks for the weekend, please call our office at 360-582-3200.

## Upcoming Events Calendar

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| September 4  | Labor Day                                  |
| September 5  | Back to School Ice-Cream Social, 4:30-6:30 |
| September 6  | <b>1st Day of School, grades 2-5</b>       |
| September 19 | Picture Day                                |

**Be sure your child knows how they are going home.** Send a note or pink slip so there is no confusion. Bus route information is available from the bus garage at **582-3274**.



### Does your child walk to school? Do you drive your child to school?

1. Please review with your child safe walking habits and routes.
2. Our parking lot is very congested just before and after school. If you drop off or pick up your child, please read the following information:
  - Our parking lot is one way; east to west.
  - Enter the main parking lot on the east end of the campus. Exit on the west end. This is also the exit for the Boys & Girls Club. It can and will be congested.
  - Pull ahead as far as possible along the sidewalk/curb closest to the building and stop only long enough to pick up your child. Please do not pull into the upper parking area and have your child cross in front of other cars. Children should enter your car directly from the sidewalk. Once your child is safely in the car, pull out into the other lane and proceed out of the parking lot.
  - Go slow – be aware – stay safe – buckle up.

## PINK SLIPS

Pink slips are used to notify students, teachers and office staff of changes in plans or routine for individual students and are used as bus passes. Bus drivers will not let a child ride any other bus except his own without a pink slip. If a child has a change of plans for the day, please complete a pink slip and send it with him/her in the morning. You need to include the child's 1st and last name, teacher, date, name, telephone number and complete address of where they are going to (grandma's house is not enough information). **If plans change during the day, please contact our office before 2:00 p.m.**

**Pink slips will be sent home with students on the first day of school.**

WELCOME  
back  
COUGARS!

## Want to volunteer?

**Are you interested in volunteering at Helen Haller?** We are eager to grow our numbers of parent/caretaker volunteers this school year. We are looking for the following:

**Room Parent:** Would you like to assist your child's teacher in parent communication, community building efforts and more? Please reach out directly to your child's teacher.

**Lunch Recess Support:** We host student lunches and recess from 10:45 - 12:35. Each grade band has it's own 35 minute time slot for a 20 minute lunch and a 15 minute recess. Our students thrive with structure and support and would benefit greatly from additional adult presence during these two hours. Do you enjoy playing kickball, refereeing soccer, tetherball, hopscotch, talking about Pokémon or watching a vast array of themed TAG?

**Reading support:** reading to students, listening to students read to you, practicing sight words

**Math support:** working with students and numbers, working through specific math strategies

**Interested in volunteering?** A new volunteer application must be completed each school year. Click [here](#) to complete your volunteer application.

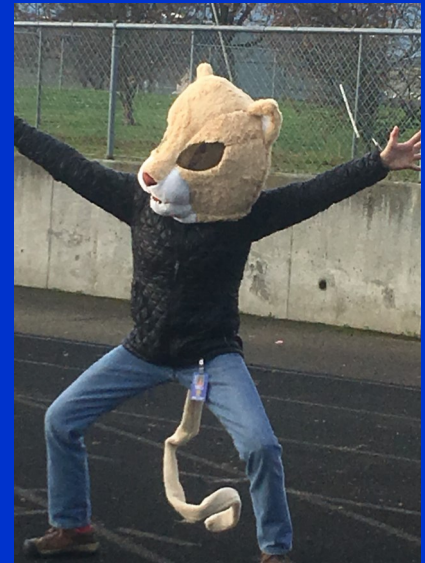
A **School District Calendar** was recently mailed to current students families. Extras are available in the office.

An on-line **Haller Calendar** can be found on our home page [hhe.sequimschools.org](http://hhe.sequimschools.org)

A printable **District Calendar at a glance** like the one on the right is available on their homepage under "Our District."

[www.sequimschools.org](http://www.sequimschools.org)

| SEPTEMBER 2023 |    |    |    |    |    |    | SEQUIM SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 323<br>2023-24 CALENDAR   |  |  |  |  |  |  | FEBRUARY 2024 |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|---------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| M              | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  | Classes Begin - September 6, 2023<br>Dismiss Until - June 18, 2024<br>(18) *Start Attendance School Year: 180 Days (15/108)  |  |  |  |  |  |  | M             | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  | S  |
| 1              | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  | * START OF SCHOOL<br>Q1 - QUARTER ENDS<br>W - VACATION<br>ER - EARLY RELEASE<br>H - HOLIDAY<br>NS - NO SCHOOL<br>(20/78) PD - 1 HOUR LATE START (21/139)<br>PLD - PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 8             | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 8              | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | <b>HOLIDAYS, BREAKS, &amp; VACATION DATES</b><br>Labor Day - September 4<br>Veteran's Day - November 10<br>Thanksgiving - November 23 & 24<br>Winter Break - Dec 25 - Jan 5<br>New Year's Day - January 1 (17/146)<br>MLK Jr. Day - January 15<br>Semester Break - February 7<br>President's Day - February 20<br>Spring Break - Apr 2 - Apr 5<br>Juneteenth Day - May 29<br>Juneteenth - June 19<br>(16/77) |  |  |  |  |  |  | 15            | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 15             | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | <b>GRADING PERIODS (G)</b> (20/166)<br>1st Gr. Ends - November 13 (45 days)<br>2nd Gr. Ends - February 1 (45 days)<br>3rd Gr. Ends - April 12 (44 days)<br>4th Gr. Ends - June 18 (44 days)  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 22            | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 22             | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | Conference Days for ES/MS/HS: Oct 11 & Nov 1<br>Sequim High School Graduation - June 14, 2024<br>(17/88) (12/178)  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 29            | 30 |    |    |    |    |    |
| 29             | 30 | 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 1st Day - August 30 (District Morning/Buildings Afternoon)<br>PD (Certified Staff) - No Students August 31, September 1, October 1<br>*190th WALK-UP DATE (if needed) - May 10, New AL, June 20  |  |  |  |  |  |  |               |    |    |    |    |    |    |



## 11th Annual Back to School Fair

**What:** Community Back-to-School Fair  
**When:** Saturday, August 26, 2023  
**Where:** Boys & Girls Club  
**10AM- 1PM**  
 For more information click [here](#)

Sequim School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Title IX and Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator: Victoria Balint, vbalint@sequimschools.org 503 N Sequim Ave., Sequim, WA 98382, 360-582-3260, and for Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Cheryl McAliley, 503 N. Sequim Ave., Sequim, WA 98382, 360-582-3402, cmcAliley@sequimschools.org

# PARENT INFORMATION

- **Update information** – If you have a **new address, email or telephone number** or need to change your child’s emergency contact person, please contact our office or you may login to the Skyward Family Access portal and make changes to your phone number, email, or address. If you don’t know your Skyward login or password, please contact the office. **Please make sure your phone number is current and your voicemail is set up so the school can contact you if necessary.**
- **Email addresses** — We have been sending notices through Family Access and the email system. If you haven’t been receiving email notices from the school, your current email may not be entered correctly in our system. Contact the office to check. Also, check your junk email — your email settings may have routed them there.
- **What time does class start** – Drop off starts at **7:45 am (8:45 on Mondays)**, classroom doors open at **8:05 am (9:05 am on Mondays)**. Students need to be in the classroom no later than **8:15 am (9:15 am on Mondays)**.
- **Late start every Monday** — classes district wide will start one hour later—**9:15 every Monday** due to staff development. Buses will run one hour later for pick up. Students are dismissed at the regular time.
- **School supplies** – School supply lists were sent home with students at the end of the year. Copies are available in our office or visit our website at [hhe.sequimschools.org](http://hhe.sequimschools.org)
- **Thursday** is the day we send home flyers, classroom newsletters and other important information. Please check with your child weekly!
- **School lunch price** - Breakfast and lunch is free to all students this year.
- **Volunteers** - We love our volunteers! A new volunteer application must be filled out every year. Click [here](#) to update your volunteer status.
- **Absences/tardies** – **All absences are recorded as unexcused until excused by a parent.** State legislation (Becca Bill) requires unexcused absences to be reported as trancies. When your child is absent, please contact our office at 582-3200. Absences must be excused within 5 days. Be sure your child is in his classroom no later than our **8:15 a.m.** start time, **9:15 on Mondays**. An automated calling system will contact you if your child’s absence has not been excused. The district will be sending home information to all families when school starts. For more attendance information click [here](#).
- **Accident insurance** is available. The school district does not provide coverage while your child is attending school. Application forms will be sent home the first day of school.
- **Medication at school** – Any child taking medication at school must have a current medication form, on file, signed by the parent and the physician. We can not give aspirin or any other non-prescription drug (including cough drops) without explicit directions from the doctor. Please bring the medication and completed forms before the first day of school to avoid any confusion or delay on the first day. Adults are required to hand deliver medicine to school – it should never be sent with the child.
- **Lost and Found**—Students misplace coats and lunchboxes easily. Please check our lost and found often to check for lost items. Labeling your child’s jackets, lunchboxes, and backpacks with their first and last name really helps.

*Below is your Fridge Reminder - cut it out and post on your fridge*



## **Back to School Night on September 5<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

*This will be a great time for your entire family to meet and greet our staff members. Here is how our Back to School Night will work:*

1. *Just like always, start Back to School Night in your child’s assigned classroom(s).*
2. *Prepare your student to share, with their teacher, **three** strengths about themselves.*
3. *Come to the cafeteria for a popsicle and community building.*

***We cannot wait to see you!***  
*Rebecca Stanton – Principal*  
*Helen Haller Elementary*