

Kinship Caregiver Newsletter

WHATCOM COUNTY HOLIDAY EVENTS

Thanks to Whatcom Kid Insider, we are able to list some events going on within Whatcom County.

Holiday Festival of the Arts:

10am—7pm

Starting November 17, 2017

This is a five week long indoor arts festival. Free admission.

Closed Thanksgiving day.

Washington State Parks FREE Day:

November 24, 2017

No Discover Pass is required in observance of Autumn Day.

Fairhaven Winterfest:

Starting November 24, 2017 @ 3-8 pm

Holiday Port Festival:

December 1, 2017 12-8 pm

Free family friendly event includes bands, choirs and dancers performing, gingerbread house displays, FREE cookies and hot apple cider, visit with Santa, kids art activities, Horse Drawn & Tractor Wagon Rides, Winter Princesses. Bring a non-perishable food item to benefit the Bellingham Food Bank.

Find the Elves Treasure Hunt:

November 25, 2017

10 am each Saturday, Father Christmas's eight "elves" will be tucked away in eight separate Fairhaven venues. Participants can collect a passport from Village Books, that will be stamped for each elf they find. All completed cards (turn in at any location that hosts an elf) will be entered into a drawing on Saturday, December 23rd.

Everson-Nooksack Winter Festival:

December 1, 2017 @ 6 pm

Join the community at the Everson City Park. Santa and his elves will arrive at the park at 6 pm and there will be FREE hot cocoa, FREE Wagon Rides and the first 160 children will receive a FREE goodie bag. The Grinch will make a special appearance.

Downtown Ferndale Tree Lighting:

December 1, 2017 @ 5 pm

The community will gather in Centennial Park to light the tree to kick off the holiday season. Complimentary cookies and hot cocoa and Santa & Mrs. Clause.

Tour of Trees:

December 1-2, 2017

Uniquely decorated Christmas trees in The Leopold's Crystal Ballroom. Check out details on Facebook.

The Lights of Christmas in Stanwood, WA:

November 30– December 3, 7-10, 14-17, 19-23, 26-30; from 5-10 pm

More than one million Christmas lights will be displayed during 22 days in December. The Lights of Christmas is the largest holiday light display in the Pacific Northwest that combines live entertainment, children's activities, food, holiday shopping and more. Check out their facebook page, website: TheLightsofChristmas.com or 800-228-6724.

Bellingham Jingle Bell Run for Arthritis:

December 9, 2017 @ 8 am

Jingle Bell Run/Walk is a fun & festive way to kick off your holidays by helping others! Wear a holiday themed costume & tie jingle bells to your shoelaces. Register online: <http://www.jbr.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1173468&lis=1&kntae1173468=492D4C569E88410F886F84B-FA8953A80&login=t>

Teen Nights

Ages 12-19

Every 1st and 3rd Friday of the month

4:00 PM-7:00 PM

Youth Social Services Building

Dinner and snacks provided

Nov. 17
Dec. 1
Dec. 15

For More information contact Joanna Lane at: (360) 384-7152 or JoannaL@lummi-nsn.gov

ANGEL TREE/HOLIDAY GIFT PROGRAMS



Lummi Nation 's Santa's Workshop:

Completed applications and copy of tribal ID or CIB can be submitted to Lummi Youth Social Services building located at 2530 Kwina Road (Green Modular next to the gym) or LYSS@lummi-nsn.gov.

Applications are due December 1, 2017 by 6:00 PM. This is for enrolled Lummi Tribal members.

Toys for Tots:

Gift Distribution on first three Friday and Saturdays in December. Dates: December 1st, 2nd, 8th, 9th, 15th, 16th from 9am-5pm. Location: 4151 Meridian St., Suite 110 (near the Burlington Coat Factory) Toys for children 0-17, required documents; picture ID for adults, social security cards or birth certificate for children and proof of custody.

<https://bellingham-wa.toysfortotl.org/local-coordinator-sites/lco-sites/default.aspx>

Salvation Army:

The Giving Tree Clothing and Toy Shop is a program that helps to provide Christmas presents for children ages 0-14. Items are given based on donations received and are not guaranteed.

Registration Dates and Hours: Monday-Thursday, Oct 2nd November 16th, 9:30am-3:30pm at 2912 Northwest Avenue. Must provide picture ID, proof of legal guardianship, proof of income for past two months for everyone in household, ID for each child being registered showing date of birth, and proof of Whatcom County address. Please do not bring children to the registration.

Lynden Project Hope: (Lynden Only)

Christmas food baskets on Monday & Tuesday on Dec. 18th & 19th from 9am-3pm. Gifts provided for children under 12 years of age. No pre-registration and Lynden resident confirmation requested. 205 South BC Ave #354-4673

Community Toy Store:

Donated gifts are sold at 75-90% off regular retail price. Saturday, December 9th from 12:30-3:00 pm at Roosevelt Elementary School Gym, 2900 Yew St. Limit 2 gifts per child, one shopper per family, Cash only. Children under 18 not allowed in shopping area, childcare available. Festive and Fun program coordinated by partnership of local organizations, churches and community members with proceeds benefitting non-profit programs such as Whatcom Dream, Rebound and Bellingham Promise. Contact:

info@communitytoystore.org

Samish Coalition & Fountain Community Church:

will provide Christmas gifts at their Christmas Eve Brunch, Dec. 24th 10am-12pm at 2100 Broadway St., Bellingham

NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER SCHOOL CALENDAR

Lummi Nation School

11/10: No school, Holiday
 11/17: Student half day
 11/20-11/22: K-12
 Conferences, student half days
 11/23-11/24: No School,
 Holiday
 12/8: Student half day
 12/19: Student half day
 12/20-1/2/18: Winter break

Ferndale School District

11/3,11/6-11/9: K-5
 Conferences, early dismissal
 11/10: No School, Holiday
 11/17,11/20-11/22: Secondary
 conferences, 6-12 early
 dismissal
 11/22: K-12 early dismissal
 11/23-11/24: No School,
 Holiday
 12/13: K-12 early dismissal
 12/20-1/2/18: Winter Break

Blaine School District

11/10: No school, Holiday
 11/13: Teacher work day
 11/16/11/22 K-8 Conferences,
 early dismissal
 11/23-24: No School, Holiday
 12/4: Late start day
 12/18-1/1/18: Winter break

Lynden School District

11/1: 1 Hr. Late
 11/8: 1 Hr. Late
 11/9: No School
 11/10: No school, Holiday
 11/15: 1 Hr. Late
 11/16-11/21: K-5 Conference,
 Early dismissal
 11/22: P-12 Early dismissal
 11/23-11/24: No School,
 Holiday
 11/29: 1 Hr. Late
 12/6: 1 Hr. Late
 12/13: 1 Hr. Late
 12/20-1/1/18: Winter Break

Nooksack Valley School District

11/1: Middle school
 conferences, early dismissal,
 High school evening
 conference
 11/2: Middle school
 conference, Middle & High
 School early dismissal
 11/3: Middle school
 conference, Middle & High
 School early dismissal
 11/10: No School, Holiday
 11/13: Teacher work day
 11/16-11/21: Elementary
 School conferences
 11/23-11/24: No school,
 Holiday
 11/29: Early dismissal/late
 arrival day

12/18-1/1/18: Winter Break

Bellingham Public Schools

11/2: Elementary & Middle
 Schools early dismissal
 11/3: Teacher work day
 11/9: Elementary & Middle
 Schools early dismissal
 11/10: No School, Holiday
 11/16: Elementary school
 early dismissal
 11/22: All schools early
 dismissal
 11/23-11/24: No school,
 Holiday
 11/30: Elementary school
 early dismissal
 12/7: Elementary & Middle
 School early dismissal
 12/8: Teacher work day
 12/14: Elementary School
 early dismissal
 12/18-1/1/18: Winter Break

FREE ENTRY TO THE SEATTLE AQUARIUM FOR KINSHIP CAREGIVERS (RELATIVE PLACEMENTS & FOSTER PARENTS)

We have a limited supply for the full time kinship caregivers to take the kiddos to the Seattle Aquarium for a family outing.



This is an example of what the Seattle Aquarium Pass looks like.

card. This card will need to be provided by the Kinship Navigator or the supervisor. The card is good for two years from the date it is issued.

You may come into the Lummi Employment & Training Center (LETC) office and see if you are eligible to receive a pass for up to two adults caregivers and five children (who are under the full time, on-going custody and care of the caregiver). The pass is entry to the Seattle Aquarium during regular hours of operation. You will need to present a valid, legal form of ID and the Kinship Navigator

The Seattle Aquarium is located on the scenic downtown Seattle waterfront at 1483 Alaskan Way, Pier 59. Open daily 9:30 am– 5:00 pm. Last entry is at 5:00 pm; exhibits close at 6:00 pm. For more information, visit www.SeattleAquarium.org.

FREE-ACCESS PASS TO PACIFIC SCIENCE CENTER FOR YOUTH AND FOSTER PARENTS OR RELATIVE CAREGIVERS

Seattle Pacific Science Center inspires a lifelong interest in science, math, and technology by engaging diverse communities through interactive and innovative exhibits and programs. They have announced their Youth Access Membership. If you are a foster parent, relative

caregiver, tribal caregiver or kinship caregiver you will want to learn more about this amazing resource for children, youth and caregivers throughout Washington.

Please stop by the LETC office if you are interested in learning more information about your

eligibility for this amazing offer and how to sign up for it. This comes with more than just the entry.

Youth ages 14 and up will be able to sign up for their own membership, but we encourage their caregivers to come in with them to get the information.



Blue Skies for Children's Winter Warm Up Program
address: 2505 Cedarwood Ave, Ste. 5, Bellingham, WA 98225

Blue Skies for Children's Winter Warm Up program is now distributing new and gently used coats, hats, gloves, scarves & blankets for children ages 6 to 18, who are homeless, low-income or in foster care. Blue Skies may provide items for up to five children per family.

This program will be available through Dec. 22nd, and is by appointment ONLY. If your child is eligible for free or reduced lunch, please call to schedule an appointment at 360.756.6710.

A Parent may prove their eligibility by bringing their free or reduced lunch verification or their income verification (paystubs, unemployment, TANF, SSI, SSD letter, etc.)

15TH ANNUAL VOICES OF CHILDREN CONTEST 2018

The Family Education & Support Services, Washington State Department of Social Services & Health Services, Area Agency on Aging and TwinStar Credit Union are having their 15th annual Voices of Children Contest for 2018.

This is our chance to let our youth get their voices heard about their experiences of living with a relative in a positive way.

What is the contest?

Voices of Children Raised by Grandparents and Other Relatives is a contest for children in Washington State who are being raised, now or in the past, by a relative other than their parents. The contest honors both the children, and the more than 45,000 grandparents and other relatives in Washington State who are raising them.

How do you enter the contest?

-Write a poem or short essay, or draw a picture that describes how living with a relative (such as a grandparent, aunt, or uncle) has made a positive

difference in your life

-Mail entries to: Voices of Children Contest, 1202 Black Lake Blvd. #B, Olympia, WA 98502.

-All entries must be submitted or postmarked by April 2, 2018.

What are the rules?

-All participating children must live in **Washington State** and be **5-19 years old**

-Entries will be judged in three age categories: ages **5-7, 8-12, 13-19**

-Poems should be 21 lines or less

-Essays should be 200 words or less

-Make your art as **big and bold** as possible and add a statement that explains your drawing

-Artwork must be submitted on the entry form

-do not include any names within artwork

-Artwork must be flat and within the box on entry form

-Entry must be original, in English, and **unpublished**

-Winners will be notified in early May and all decisions of the judges are final

-Award ceremony for winners

will be held at the Governor's Mansion in Olympia

-We reserve the right of first publication and use of writings and drawings

-All entries may be published in a 2018 book called Voices of Children-Raised by Grandparents and Other Relatives

What are the prizes?

The top two entries in each age category will receive: **\$100.00 from TwinStar Credit Union**

For more information and/or to pick up your entry form please stop by the Lummi Employment & Training Center Office (2665 Kwina Road, Bellingham, WA 98226). If you cannot stop by please feel free to call (360)312-2086 or email chastityj@lummmi-nsn.gov. Chastity Jeffries, Lummi Kinship Navigator, will have the entries. We are more than happy to mail off your entries as well once they are completed.

Santa Word Search

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| Elves | Sled |
| Fairies | Sleigh |
| Jolly | Sleigh Bells |
| North Pole | St. Nick |
| Reindeer | Toys |



Lummi Employment and Training Center

Soaring to new heights

Lummi Employment and Training Center

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