



Photo Credit, Jan Boutilier: Point Wilson Lighthouse and Mt. Baker

Port Townsend School District No. 50

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“The future depends on what you do today.” - Mahatma Gandhi

Disability Awareness Month



PT Schools were recently honored for their commitment to employing persons with disabilities. The picture at right is Superintendent Polm with the certificate presented by the Jefferson County Commissioners.

Each of the schools included Disability Awareness in their monthly activities in October. Please see the building reports below.

Some thoughts on Coverage versus Mastery ~ John Polm

I would like to share some thoughts about coverage of material versus deep understanding of concepts. I thought it might be a good time to visit this idea as we get close to winding up the first quarter and teachers have enough formative data to make some instructional adjustments with our students.

Jerome Bruner (one of my educational icons) said, “How do I know what I think until I feel what I do?” As we move through the process of education here in Port Townsend School District, it is important to keep in mind the goal is “understanding”. Sometimes we may need to slow down in order to speed up that understanding. The “ah ha” moments are rewarding for students (as well as teachers), yet these moments of coherence happen after the deep thinking has had a chance to take root. This understanding eventually becomes mastery, which leads to enhanced self-efficacy. Finally, positive self-efficacy leads to more confident learners and high levels of learning.

Bruner wrote *The Process of Education* in 1960. It is interesting to see his ideas continuing to be developed today. I encourage teachers to take some time to think about how well students are learning, engaging, and mastering course subject matter and concepts so far this year. Pacing guides are important, but they also need to be flexible. One mentor of mine advocated for 80-90% of the course planned with a pacing guide, and 10-20% of the course unplanned so the teacher can respond to student performance. This thinking of a flexible 10-20% allows for re-teaching in a different way, differentiation for classroom interventions, and extension for those students who “get it”. Perhaps now is a good time to

review the long-term plans and make some adjustments. Maybe we can build in some deeper learning opportunities in places that help students have the “ah ha” moments we are hoping for.

Reference: Bruner, J. (1977, 1960). *The process of education*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard College.

Immunizations ~ Information from our School Nurse

Many parents, community and staff members may not know that the public schools are required to comply with rules related to required immunizations. Children are to have proof of full immunization, a schedule of immunization, or a certificate of exemption signed by a licensed health care provider (RCW 28A.210.090). There are a number of students in our district who do not have a record of full immunization status or certificate of exemption on file. Families of these students will be receiving notices from the schools and/or the school health consultant with a deadline for furnishing the school with the necessary documentation. We appreciate your help with this.

Maritime Discovery Schools ~ Director, Sarah Rubenstein

Teachers from all of our schools have participated in productive project planning sessions in the last two weeks. Teams learned about deepening student thinking through incorporating student critique, and used tools from the Rural School and Community Trust to evaluate the projects they are developing. Thank you to Judith-Kate Friedman and Keeth Monta Apgar, from Songwriting Works, and Neil Harrington, from the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe for partnering with our 4th and 5th grade teachers during their project planning.

The Instructional Teacher Leaders had their first all-day meeting; learning about the elements of adult professional learning. The group provided important feedback on the plan for the November MDS professional learning on authentic assessment. Each teacher leader will take part in co-planning one of the other district Wednesday professional development sessions.

From PTHS ~ Principal, Carrie Ehrhardt

It's Homecoming Week at PTHS! Students are in a frenzy, enjoying fun 'spirit day' activities and finalizing plans for our Homecoming celebrations, including an assembly and football game on Friday, followed by the dance this Saturday. Homecoming week started off with a Monday night football game against Klahowya, due to the fact that the windy weather cancelled our athletic events from last Thursday and Friday.

Principal Carrie Ehrhardt attended a Youth Marijuana Prevention and Education Program meeting at the health department last Wednesday. The group is working to put together some educational materials and training modules for middle and high school age students and their parents about the dangers of underage marijuana use, and the health implications for regular marijuana users. Youth Marijuana Prevention Manager, Lyndsay Kellum and Prevention Educator Vickie MacKenzie were both on site from the Olympic ESD to discuss our needs and perceived community challenges with educating our student population. Vickie will be putting a marijuana prevention program together for our 9th grade health classes, and will deliver that curriculum later this school year.

In honor of Disability Awareness Month, teachers are completing classroom based activities to make students more aware of the history of disability awareness, exploring 'disability etiquette' and celebrating the accomplishments of disabled individuals throughout history. For example, did you know that....

- Harriet Tubman, the woman who led many slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad, was struck in the head as a child, resulting in seizures and partial blindness for the rest of her life;

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- George Washington, the first President of the United States, had very poor grammar skills and could barely write because of a learning disability;
 - Stephen Hawking, who is perhaps the most accomplished astrophysicist of our time, is diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis, which is also known as Lou Gehrig's Disease.

Roger Parker from Jefferson County Environmental Health has been working with our Science department to improve our chemical storage system and update teachers on chemical hygiene responsibilities. Roger's visit also gave us an opportunity to test that our ventilation systems, emergency stations and chemical storage lockers are all working properly. We appreciate Roger's time and knowledge to insure that our science classrooms are a safe environment for students and staff alike.

Attendance:

PTHS overall attendance rates for Sept. was at 97%. By grade level the breakdown is as follows:

9th – 97.25%; 10th – 97.35%; 11th – 97.02%; and 12th – 97.06%

PTHS: 61 students were absent two (2) or more days.

- The high school disaggregated all the absences by type. There were 27 absences for illness.
- Interventions include 34 personal contacts with students and/or parents.
- Incentives included 2 weekly drawings for students in class on time all week; 1 parent outreach meeting with Freshmen parents
- Noted: PTHS checked on the data for 15-16, and they found 141 students had 18+ absences, 135 students had 6-18 absences, and 84 students had five or fewer absences. These data become the baseline for the HS.

PTHS ATHLETICS ~ Scott Wilson, AD

With homecoming week upon us, there is energy in the air and wacky outfits on students! The last few weeks leading up to now have been exciting to say the least. All of our athletes are enjoying various degrees of success and are doing a nice job of adhering to the tenets of Redhawk PRIDE and adopting the finer elements of the Redhawk Creed established by Coach Heilig and the Redhawk Football program.

In football, our mighty team has been doing quite well and find themselves at the top of the Olympic League with a showdown looming in the distance against the Nisqually leader, Cascade Christian. Two weeks ago, The Redhawks defeated rival Chimacum in a 55-7 point blow-out, followed by another huge win against Coupeville. On Monday of this week, playing in a rescheduled contest against Klahowya because the Hood Canal Bridge was shut down in the windstorm, the Redhawks won a tough battle 27-19, securing their playoff hopes. On Friday, the 'Hawks take on Vashon Island from the Nisqually league for their official homecoming game. Senior Quarterback Berkley Hill was nominated for Wendy's High School Heisman annual award and was officially recognized as a state winner this week. Congrats to Berkley!

In Girls Soccer, the Redhawks recently won a tough game against rival Chimacum to secure the third seed in league play. Next week, the team will host a team from Nisqually in a winner-to-post season/loser out game. Port Townsend will be hosting at Memorial Field on Thursday night.

The girls volleyball team has shown some great success this season. In the last two games the team has battled some strong teams behind solid play from the veterans who are now finally healthy. Last night, the team pushed a strong Cascade Christian team to three close sets, losing each in 5 points or less. The Redhawks are getting stronger!

As we get closer to the postseason in Cross Country, expect to see a decent representation from the Redhawks. Coach Fraser is happy to report that yet again, we have a strong team that will send several individuals to state.

The girls Swim and Dive is continuing its string of successes behind some strong performances. Records are close to becoming broken again and the team is poised to take high marks at the district meet. The latest set back is a broken boiler at the Mountain View pool, forcing the team to move its meet to the Bremerton area.

Our mighty 3-man tennis team will compete in the district meet this week which will be held at Chimacum High School. We are hoping that the continued success of this group will encourage others to join the team next season. We are proud of these three boys and their efforts this season.

Until next time, be sure to check the local paper or go to Olympicleague.com for the most current schedules and standings.

The Blue's News ~ Principal, Matt Holshouser

Academics

Mid-term 1st Quarter and Progress Reports – October 7th marked our mid-term of our 1st quarter. All BH students and parents received a hard copy of academic progress to date.



Reading running records for 4th & 5th grade students – In our continued effort to ensure exemplary literacy instruction and learning.....we have fully implemented a trimester reading running record to gauge and communicate every student's reading independent and instruction level. With the use of Fountas & Pinnell reading running records we are able to track, monitor, and communicate each of our learner's reading skill set to date.

Math interventions – we have begun implementation for some of our identified struggling math students with additional and strategic math instruction during the school day.....a double dose of math in hopes of bringing all to the established grade level benchmark.....as well as we are working on seizing our early release time on Wednesdays and establishing an after-school tutorial literacy and math component to further assist and instruct students to meet grade level benchmarks. More soon on these strategic interventions to meet all of our learners.

STEAM & Science – Take a peek at our 6th grade young scientists in action ensuring that they understand and can manipulate the metric system in projects.....now and in the future. Thank you, Ms. Doyle.



BH Athletics – Blue Heron School Girls Volleyball and Football are still in full swing. Please come out and join us soon for some great home field/court action.

- BH Volleyball – last home game – Monday, October 24th @ 3:30pm – vs. Stevens
- BH Football – last home game – Wednesday, October 26th @ 4 pm – vs. Forks

Hydration Station – Fill your water bottle and get hydrated – Many thanks to Brad Taylor, Robert Heck, Che Taylor and Swift Plumbing for making this happen for our students and learning community.

- We have saved 115 plastic water bottles in the first day of operation. More soon and happily hydrated and learning here at Blue Heron School.





WA State Earthquake & Tsunami drill – Thursday, October 20th

This Thursday marks our state wide Earthquake & Tsunami Preparedness Drill. Given Blue Heron School's geographical and topographical setting, as a part of this drill we will @ 10:20am on 10-20-16.....Drop, Cover, and Hold On.....then calmly and orderly evacuate the building; convening on the BH football field.....and then move all students and staff to higher ground to an established destination of St. Mary's Church next to PTHS. Our Blue Heron School Emergency Manual is continually updated and routinely practiced to ensure we are well prepared and all student and staff security is optimized at all times.

Attendance goals and inspiration: We continue to celebrate and strive for great attendance by all of our students here at Blue Heron School. We are averaging 95% attendance rate to date. At our first BH Student recognition assembly (end of November) we will celebrate and recognize those students with perfect & good attendance amongst their peers, staff, and parents.

Disabilities Awareness month: October is Disabilities Awareness Month – One of the many great things about Blue Heron is.....Everyone is always included.....join our classrooms and other settings and you will see. To target and communicate this diversity this month, we will be having our Life Skills classroom and team as well as our BH Counselor conduct some activities at a variety of times during the day to make all of our students more aware of and celebrate the diversity in our learning community and world.



Attendance

Attendance has been a point of emphasis in Port Townsend and around the state. Our data for September is in and is as follows:

- Blue Heron: 97% overall average daily attendance (students present); 66 students with two (2) or more absences (12 unexcused and 54 excused); no trancies

Grant Street News ~ Principal, Lisa Condran



Fort Worden Classroom Use Begins at Grant Street Elementary

On Monday, October 10th, Teacher Peter and Teacher Dawn's 1st and 2nd graders traveled to Fort Worden for the first time to use the newly available classroom space. It was a crisp, sunny fall morning and the classes broke into three rotations – utilizing both the outdoor and indoor learning opportunities. All students studied schema and the process of accessing background knowledge with Peter. Dawn's groups actively practiced estimating and measuring distances in the field, around the Fort and on the stairs. Another reviewed patterns and leaf types, and made leaf rubbings with Student Teacher Kate. This experience touched on thinking strategies, plant science, mathematics, art and place-based learning. The students and teachers are so grateful for the chance to visit this locally cherished spot and the students enjoyed the change of pace and environment! Next week additional classes from Grant Street will take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

Grant Street teachers are focusing on disability awareness through class discussions about accepting differences. Depending on the age of the student, teachers will present further information regarding

disabilities in class. The school counselor also focuses on lessons about diversity and empathy for all students, including those students with disabilities. Our Raptor Room, which serves our Life Skills students at Grant Street, facilitates the integration of students with a range of disabilities into the general education program.

One exciting collaboration at Grant Street is between 1st and 2nd grade teacher, Denise Aedan, Raptor Room Special Education Teacher, David Egeler, and the Behavior Interventionist, Laurie Solchenberger. They are working together to improve the academic discourse of the students they serve. Part of their work involves helping a student in the classroom communicate through the use of assistive technology. To read more about this assistive technology, please follow the links below.

There are two videos about this eye tracking device embedded in this web page.

http://www.abilities.com/community/assistive_eye-control.html

There's also a link to an article from the Cerebral Palsy organization that describes how this assistive technology helped a child to communicate with the world.

<http://www.cerebralpalsy.org/inspiration/children/lianna-bryant>

Student Wearable Art Class and Show

Grant Street students have been fortunate to be part of wearable art classes with local artist, Margie McDonald, on early release Wednesdays at the Port Townsend School of the Arts. The students involved in this class were part of the first Port Townsend Wearable Art Student Show at 2:00 PM on Saturday, October 8th at the Key City Public Theater.

One Grant Street student artist was Ruby Mills, Age 10, a student in the OPEPO program. Her entry used mostly materials from her father's fishing boat. Including her wearable art piece were small-mesh netting from sardine seine, larger-mesh salmon netting, and discarded orange ball buoy. Below is a picture of Ruby working with Judith Bird, who was the runner-up winner of the 2016 Wearable Art Show. Also pictured is another Grant Street student artist, Anora Kuzma, Age 6, whose entry was called Fire Goddess.



Attendance

Grant Street: 95% overall average daily attendance for the month; 87 students with two (2) or more days absent; We have focused attention and/or interventions on the students who have missed more than two days of school.



OCEAN ~ Liz Quayle, Director/Teacher

This year has started out with some changes to our school program. After 20 years on the Grant Street School campus, OCEAN K-12 spent the summer moving into portables at Blue Heron School. We are now settling into two rooms in the "Quad" and in part of the double portable near the orchard.

Student Culture

OCEAN students are respectful of each other and get along well, emulating and supporting our classroom banner, "Everyone Must Be Safe". This has been especially important as we have brought in quite a number of new students to our school, and have been adapting to our new location.

Place-based Learning

Several of our students are studying natural plants through our Horticulture class; they are exploring the wetlands of Blue Heron and gaining knowledge as to which plants are edible, potential uses for them, and using Latin to understand their scientific names.

On the Water

We are the BRAVO Team! Middle and High school students involved in the Maritime Boats class are learning about weather patterns, and gaining experience on the longboat, "Townshend".

Nanowrimo – Write a Novel in November!

National Novel Writing Month is coming up and our students K-12 are getting a headstart with narratives on a variety of topics. K-8 students have been focusing on Inventions through history and are creating their own cultures, and in the process are developing characters in their identified culture. High schoolers are incorporating Marine Sciences in their stories.

Accountability

OCEAN students in grade K-8 recently completed DRA and STAR assessments for reading and math. These short assessments will be taken again in January and in April to see how much the students have grown in their skills.

Audit – Last spring, OCEAN had a state audit on our compliance with Alternative Learning Experience rules, and we came out with very high marks. Thank you to all our parents and students who are diligent in their documentation!



Libraries, Instruction and Technology ~ Director, Ann Healy-Raymond

Blue Heron library assistant, Shannon Grewell, is creating excitement about the season and books through displays to support students' reading.

On Saturday, October 14th Ann Raymond and Melody Eisler, Port Townsend Public Library Director, presented at the Washington Library Conference in Highline SD. The presentation focused on the longstanding collaboration between the school district and public libraries. Students and teachers may request books from the Jefferson County Library, Port Townsend Library, Quilcene, Brinnon, and the Maritime Collection. The books are then

delivered to the school library for the student. The Port Townsend Library and our district libraries co-plan events and programs for students and the community. Our collaboration is unique, and other public and school libraries across the state have sought to replicate it.



Instruction

Lisa Cartwright, Amy Wilson, Karmen Meier, Heather Sanders and Kaleen Steinke, teachers from Blue Heron and Grant Street, met to work on improving math fluency and embedding math into place-based learning



projects. This professional development opportunity is the result of a successful grant written by Lisa Cartwright, and funded by the McCarthy-Dressman Education Foundation.

Assessment and Special education ~ Director, Patrick Kane

Special Education

The Port Townsend School District now has a district license with Co-Writer Universal. This software application is available through a Google account that all students, from Grant St to PTHS, have with the school district. The software is a text recognition tool that helps students with their writing skills. The program will suggest words for the student when he/she is writing. The added benefit for this application is the availability on any platform and location. The student can access the account on a Chromebook, laptop, Ipad or smartphone. Please visit <http://donjohnston.com/cowriter/> for more information on how your student can utilize this application.

Assessment Information

WCAP: Request to View Process

Parents and legal guardians of students who were enrolled full-time or part-time in Washington public schools during state testing may view their child's online tests, test booklets, and/or collections. This includes, Smarter Balanced, MSP, HSPE, EOC exams, Off-Grade Level assessments, WA-AIM, COE (high school only).

Information for parents and guardians on the request to view procedure and guidelines, as well as the form for a parent to fill out to submit a request can all be found on the WCAP Portal, Students and Families Card, under the General Information subfolder: <http://wa.portal.airast.org/resources/?section=1>

Please note, we have updated the Guidelines on Request to View, to correct a discrepancy of when requests to view tests can be submitted. The previous version of the Guidelines stated that the request form had to be submitted to OSPI within 30 days of the parent/guardian's receipt of their child's Individual Score Report. We are going to be removing that stipulation.

Requests for review may be filed after all post-test administration procedures are completed. This includes item scoring, reporting of scores, and archiving of test booklets.

At the high school level, after reviewing their child's work, if the parent/guardian, 18 year old or emancipated student believes the student's score did not meet standard because of a scoring error, they may request a score appeal to verify the score on an assessment.

A student's building principal, in coordination with the DC, may file a score appeal on behalf of a student who is younger than 18 and who does not have advocacy of a parent. Advocates may file on behalf of parents/legal guardians with disabilities, limited English or other special needs who require assistance. District Test Coordinators may also, on a very limited basis, file a score appeal on behalf of a 12 grade student for the purpose of meeting graduation requirements, understanding, however, that this will require the parent giving up their rights to request to view their child's test, or file a score appeal of their own.

Title 1 and LAP ~ Director, Jason Lynch

The Port Townsend School District receives two funding sources that support our students. Both the Learning Assistance Program and Title 1 programs offer customized instruction and curricula that help our students achieve high academic standards.

Title 1 is a federally funded program that supports struggling learners with additional supports beyond the regular classroom. In order to qualify for Title 1, schools must have high concentrations of students whose families are considered low-income. Both Blue Heron and Grant Street operate schoolwide Title 1 programs. At Grant Street, Title 1 provides a math interventionist and math coach that support struggling learners by instructing small groups of students as well as providing coaching support for classroom teachers. At Blue Heron, a math coach supports math instruction and a reading specialist addresses the literacy needs of students through the Read 180 program. In addition to supporting programs that directly support students, Title 1 funds high quality professional development is offered to all district teachers.

The second funding source for struggling learners is the state funded Learning Assistance Program (LAP). LAP funds are used predominantly for the literacy needs of struggling learners in grades kindergarten through grade four. LAP funds the Eagle Reading Room at Grant Street, as well as the reading specialists at Grant Street and Blue Heron. Our district has been able to provide quality summer school programs at Grant Street and Blue Heron using LAP funds. During the summer of 2016-17 students at the Port Townsend High School will also be accessing LAP funds to provide credit recovery and small group instruction for struggling students.

Support Services ~ Director, Brad Taylor

New Card Readers at the High School

The High School door lock change out is 40% complete and we hope to have a 90% completion by the end of the month. The locks we ordered got back ordered so it will be a few more weeks for that last 10%.. If you are having access problems you can always put a work order into School Dude and it will get to the proper person.

Hydration Stations

We now have Hydration Stations operable at Both Blue Heron and the Annex. Blue Heron's is located in the Commons (see picture in Blue Heron section above) and the High School Annex location is on the second floor next to room 202. The next installation will be at Grant Street and this will happen over a weekend that has not yet been scheduled.

Grant Street Elementary

The design drawings will be complete by the end of this month. At the start of next month I should have a full set of drawings that will be 90% complete. We will then be at the start of the permitting process. The permitting process will continue into the new year.

Any questions or comments please feel free to contact me at btaylor@ptschools.org