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Port Townsend School District No. 50

Superintendent Newsletter, Vol. 16-17, No. 7

December 09, 2016

United Good Neighbors

Happy December! Where has the time flown? To date, 25 people have participated and have pledged \$3,320 towards the Fall fund drive combining districts:

- Chimacum has 5 pledges totaling \$645
- Port Townsend has 20 pledges totaling \$2675

We are only 15 donors and \$1,655 short of last year.

The Combined Schools Fall Fund Drive was scheduled for the Month of November. But, our teaching and support staff are welcome to make a UGN gift or pledge through the end of December (to be counted towards the combined schools campaign). Please join me to see if we can exceed last year's giving.

HR/Payroll News

As of February 1, 2017 ESD 114 Worker's Compensation Trust, located in Port Angeles, will move to ESD 113 Worker's Compensation Trust. ESD 113 is located in Tumwater, WA and will begin handling all new claim packets, wage information, benefit election forms, and letters to claimants. Kelly Early will be our new contact and will work closely with our payroll department. Employees will work directly with ESD 113 for all claim paperwork helping to reduce the workload we are currently experiencing. We're looking forward to a smooth transition in February.

Maintenance and Facilities

CAPITAL PROJECT - New Elementary School



We are well on our way in the design drawings for the new Grant Street School with the intent to go to permitting in January. The drawing above shows the layout of the rooms. The permitting process will take approximately three months to get us to the point of construction that is scheduled to begin at the end of this school year. There was interest and excitement at a recent Grant Street staff meeting as to the flexibility of the classroom design and the ability to create new learning environments that can incorporate the idea of collaborative teaching. The outside learning spaces in the courtyard will include a covered learning space with benches, tables and a operable sink. Remember, we will not make 100% of people 100% satisfied with the plan, but we know we will have a far superior facility than the current elementary school.

GROUNDS

Che Taylor the district grounds keeper continues to impress us with all the cleanup and improvements he is making. Check out the improvements he has made to the front of the the Stuart building and the courtyard side of the High School. Some of this was funded by high school students.



Title and LAP Programs - Jason Lynch

Port Townsend School District receives federal Title 1 funds and the state funded Learning Assistance Program (LAP) at our schools to provide additional assistance to struggling learners.

Grant Street provides a reading resource program called the Eagle Room where all students are provided individualized instruction. Kindergarten students and targeted first through fourth grade students receive four days of reading instruction per week. On Wednesdays, the reading specialist and paraprofessionals meet with each of the classroom teachers to collaborate on student progress and plan future reading instruction. Literacy instruction is provided in a small-group format, and lessons are targeted based on reading assessment data completed by the classroom teacher and Eagle Room staff. An Eagle Math Room is being established at Grant Street and the goal is to offer the same type of support in math as we do in reading. A part time math interventionist and math coach offer additional small group mathematics instruction and in-classroom support to targeted students.

Blue Heron is beginning its third year implementing the Read 180 program for students in grades 4-8. Read 180 personalizes the learning experiences through IT software and small and whole group instruction that engages students in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students are exposed to a range of fiction and nonfiction texts that are relevant to content-area classes. The Common Core State Standards, embedded in daily reading and writing tasks, require students to use textual evidence to support main ideas. Read 180 also develops student proficiency in conducting research on topics studied in class. Students are given multiple opportunities to practice oral reading fluency along with vocabulary development. Additionally, Blue Heron's 4th and 5th grade students receive literacy support by the reading specialist during their library classes.

Port Townsend High School is accessing LAP funding to offer credit recovery courses to students that need to regain credits from a failed class. The credit recovery courses are taught by PTHS teachers and are teaching credit recovery in core classes such as English, social studies, science and math. The goal of our after school credit recovery program is to support our district's goal of increasing our high school graduation rate.

From PTHS ~ Principal, Carrie Ehrhardt

Each year the high school ASB works to collect donations for the Port Townsend Food Bank. Monetary donations are collected by students who volunteer to sit at a table inside our local Safeway store. This year students also voted to give a portion of their Homecoming ticket sales to support this worthy cause. In total, the donation check from PTHS for this year is \$4,815.19. The check will be presented to Food Bank Manager Shirley Moss, by our ASB President, Sam Meier.

Back by popular demand, the high school library will now be open during student lunch times and after school. We've made some adjustments to the library staff lunch times to allow student access during lunch. This is an important time for many of our students who ride the bus to and from school, to check out books, print assignments for class, etc. After school, our newly designed Credit Recovery program allows any student to access the library after school until 4:00, four days per week.

This Friday PTHS will host our third Friday Salon for the year. Award-winning journalist and author, Mary Ellen Hannibal will be here to present and discuss her book, "Citizen Scientist: Searching for Heroes and Hope in an Age of Extinction". She will also be presenting this Sunday with the Marine Science Center, 2:00 p.m. at Fort Worden Chapel. Our Friday Salons are open to the community, and are held from 1:50 – 2:50 in the high school auditorium.

Congratulations to **Rene Olson** who was recently selected as Claes Nobel Educator of Distinction by The National Society of High School Scholars! She was nominated by a student for her outstanding dedication and commitment to excellence in the classroom.



The Blue's News ~ Principal, Matt Holshouser



We are celebrating the National & International Hour of Code here on the Blue Heron School campus. All 4th to 8th grade students have had multiple opportunities through this week to code and work on computer programming via their math and science classes as well as we are hosted a fun Hour of Code evening on Thursday, December 8th from 6pm to 7pm to foster parent and child coding fun.

- Link to Hour or Code video ~ <https://hourofcode.com/eu>

Marijuana Prevention Campaign

In kicking off our Marijuana Prevention campaign with our young people here at Blue Heron School we recently hosted Lyndsey Kellum, from OESD 114, and Jefferson County Sheriff's Deputy and Drug Recognition Expert (DRE), Brandon Przygocki to share a little more about ways we can assist our kiddos in making good decisions around marijuana and other drugs. We have a collaborative PTHS and BH mentor program planned and "social norms" activities around "It is cool" to stay away from drugs and alcohol. More info soon and Lyndsey will be presenting at our February Blue Heron Coffee with the Principal to BH Parents.

Two helpful family links ~

- <http://www.drugfree.org/MJTalkKit/>
- www.StartTalkingNow.org

BH Student Recognition Assembly

Just prior to our Thanksgiving Holiday break we hosted our 1st quarter student recognition assembly. So many wonderful things going on here at Blue Heron.....we were able to recognize students for successes in academics, athletics, good & perfect attendance, and service projects in our community as well as enjoyed some great music by the BH Orchestra. Join us February 2nd, 2017 for our 1st semester culmination student recognition assembly.

Parent Teacher Conferences

We hosted a very successful BH Fall Parent-Teacher Conference week before our Thanksgiving Break. Well over 90% of our parents attended these conferences. This strong home & school connection makes our entire learning community stronger and we are grateful for the trusting, supportive, and engaged families we serve at Blue Heron School.

Attendance rates

We continue to seek ways to ensure we are serving all students and families and the first vital portion of this service is faithful daily school attendance. We are pleased to note that we have 94+ percent overall student daily attendance thus far for the 1st quarter of the school year.

- Resource we are using to Make Every Day Count with Students
<http://www.attendanceworks.org/>

6th Grade and PT Marine Science Center

Next week our Sixth Grade students will be enjoying some great field experience learning with the Port Townsend Marine Science Center. Each 6th grader will have a two day learning experience rich in local maritime ecology, sea life biology, and local environmental factors that will affect their stewardship as they grow in our community. Thank you PT Marine Science Center for partnership.



Writer's in the Schools & PTEF



Blue Heron School has enjoyed *Writer's in the Schools* group from Seattle for the last two weeks. Each grade level and every student via their English Language Arts class works with a professional writer and enjoys daily writing activities, inspiration, and skill building over a two-week period. This experience will culminate this Friday, December 9, with a Cocoa House and Open Mic reading/sharing in classrooms and the BH Library. A special thank you to the Port Townsend Education Foundation for grant monies to offset our expenses as well as Centrum for providing housing for our Professional Writer guests.

Grant Street News ~ Principal, Lisa Condran



The nomination period for new K-5 elementary school scheduled to be opened Fall 2018 is currently open. The nominations will be reviewed by a committee of community and staff members. This committee will recommend three to five names to the school board. The school board will make a final decision on which name will be selected.

Maggie Kelley's kindergarten class nominated these names:

- Jellyfish Elementary, Eagle Mountain Elementary, Owl Elementary, and Falcon Elementary

Dawn Braden's 2nd grade class nominated these names:

- Alex Morgan Elementary, David Shannon Elementary, Evergreen Elementary, and Olympic Elementary

Online nominations from community, staff, parents, etc. so far are:

- City of Dreams Elementary
- Salish Sea Elementary
- Admiralty Inlet Elementary
- Kah Tai Elementary
- Sea Star Elementary
- Olympic View Elementary
- Grant Street School
- Port Townsend Elementary School of Dreams
- Quimper Elementary School

- Evergreen Elementary
- George Earl Elementary School
- James G. Swain Elementary School
- Discovery Elementary School
- Francis W. Pettygrove Elementary School
- Chetzemoka Elementary School
- Cedar Waxwing Elementary

Nominations for school names will be accepted until January 7th at tinyurl.com/ptschoolname

OCEAN ~ Liz Quayle, Teacher



K-8 Exhibition Night

Many of our elementary and middle level students and their parents attended our K-8 Exhibition Night on Tuesday, November 22. Students had the opportunity to share their “Books of Knowledge”, which included their studies about culture, inventions, geography and civics. Each student created their own culture and developed flags, maps, foods, costumes, animal species, and more.

They wrote stories about an aspect of their culture, complete with complex characters and plot lines. After sharing in small groups and individual presentations, we followed up with a potluck and opportunity for parents to get to know one another.



Languages

High schoolers aren't the only one learning languages at OCEAN! Elementary Language Exploratory class has been learning languages that coordinate with the invention studies in their social studies classes. We learned the Greek alphabet and basic greetings, semaphore (flag alphabet), and German greetings and names of body parts.

Watersheds

Colder weather brings out the creative side of core studies. High school students put together their knowledge about watersheds and shoreline vegetation to create 3-D representations of a watershed, most of which were complete with shoreline vegetation and salmon cycles in addition to the geographic representations. Students made keys to understanding the complex diagram. They completed self-evaluations of the group and personal effort and quality, and presented their projects to the class.



School Board Presentation

On Monday, November 28th, Liz and Daniel shared celebrations of the 2015-2016 school year and priority goals for the current school year to the school board. We are especially proud of our maritime connections, community partnerships, OCEAN Play, student blogs, and expeditionary learning. We set out priority goals for the year in the areas of Literacy, Mathematics, Maritime Discovery Schools/Project-Based Learning, Graduation Rates, and Attendance. To see the full slide presentation, go to our website!

Maritime Discovery Schools ~ MDS Project Director, Sarah Rubenstein

December is full of activity. The 3rd grade team and a group of high school teachers spent a day planning exciting maritime and place-based projects. Port Townsend School of the Arts received a grant from the Port Townsend Arts Commission that will support getting Grant Street students out to work with teaching artists at the Fort. Katy Karschney worked with our teacher leaders who will be leading many of the Wednesday afternoon, district wide, professional development sessions this year. They planned and tuned sessions, and will be leading the December session on Project Dimensions. High school staff is all participating in teaching lab rounds, observing student thinking, and reflecting on their leading edge in their teaching practice. Many teachers are completing their first maritime or place-based project with students, and will be diving into a second project in the New Year.

Special Education and Assessment ~ Director, Patrick Kane

Special Education –

Two teachers, Rene Olson and Darlene Marmol, attended a workshop in Port Angeles to learn about writing transitional goals for students with an IEP. This workshop was sponsored by OESD 114 and was very valuable plus tied in nicely with the work the district is doing on transitional services. Attending North Kitsap SD and the OESD 114 informational meetings, Sara Mitchell and Laura Cook picked up some valuable information on helping students communicate and using augmented technology to help improve communication disorders. They were really excited with the information they received at both locations and they are looking forward to using it their respective buildings.

On Wednesday, November 30, I held an hour meeting with parents and educators regarding services the school district should provide for students and teachers in non-profit private schools in our school district boundary. There were good questions and conversation about how the district can support who have special needs at those private schools.

Assessment Information –

There is a webinar next week to refresh information about the State assessment, SBA. The State assessment is not that far away and it is nice that the State is providing this information for districts throughout the State.