



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

Port Townsend School District No. 50

Superintendent Newsletter, Vol. 16-17, No. 9

January 20, 2017

Quote

“We only think when we are confronted with problems.” ~John Dewey

New School Design and Construction ~ John Polm

The Port Townsend community will soon be breaking ground on a new elementary school. This is exciting and fulfills community dreams to have a beautiful, healthy and up-to date school for our students. Any building process contains uncertainties. However, many community members, industry and educational experts continue to meet regularly to guide the process. Excitement is the dominant emotion!

A new school brings many opportunities for innovation. Given the facility is intended to last at least 50 years, the ideas of flexibility in terms of space within and outside the building have been strong themes. The vision expressed for the school includes:

- Connection to nature and the outside spaces
- A place for deep collaboration between students, teachers, community and staff
- Integrated garden spaces with wellness
- Supportive of place-based, project-based learning, and meeting individual student learning needs
- Supportive of 21st century learning and skill development

Elements that converge in this vision may not appear in any one document or research article, but are well researched and have design implications. These are:

- Place-based projects as a central model for learning- this means spaces for projects, with students able to move to different areas of the classroom and between classrooms to work and collaborate in groups and individually.
 - Collaboration in all its forms- Collaboration dispels teacher isolation and keeps teachers learning and improving practice day-to-day, moment-to-moment. Students collaborate in a variety of groups and in a variety of ways.
 - Differentiation- Teachers working together can meet students' learning needs, whether creating a small group for students who need more challenge, or helping individuals who need a moment for extra explanation and guidance. Collaborative teaching models may provide more opportunities for teachers to work together to meet individual student needs.
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- Preparing students for 21st Century Learning and skills- “ Learning and Innovation Skills: Learning and innovation skills increasingly are being recognized as the skills that separate students who are prepared for increasingly complex life and work environments in the 21st century, and those who are not. A focus on creativity, critical thinking, communication and collaboration is essential to prepare students for the future.” See the following link for more information: <http://www.p21.org/our-work/p21-framework>. Preparation for 21st Century learning assumes that previous, familiar models of classroom instruction, while increasing students’ learning, may not be sufficient to fully prepare students for the future.

We will continue the work of gathering staff input to help the architects design the school. Construction should begin as school gets out in June, and the school will be constructed during the 17-18 school year. We plan to open the school in fall of 18-19. Updated design and floor plan pictures will be on the Grant Street website very soon.

Special Education and Assessment ~ Patrick Kane

Special Education –

On December 28, 2016 the US Department of Education released a resource guide to Section 504 in public Elementary and Secondary schools. This guide can be downloaded from the US Department of Education website. The link is: <https://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/504-resource-guide-201612.pdf>

This guide is written to help parents and educators understand how a student can qualify under a 504 plan and what is the meaning of a 504 plan for a student in public education.

Information on how the Port Townsend SD can apply for financial recoupment through OSPI Safety Net will be presented this Friday, Jan 20 in Port Angeles.

The Special Services Administration office and the staff at Grant Street wish Shelly Kienle all the best as she and her family take on new adventures in Sammamish and Lake Washington SD. Shelly worked with Pat Range’s reading, math and ELA program and helped many students gain confidence in their ability to read, write and understand math concepts. Shelly and her family will be missed.

Assessment Information –

End of Course exams for high school students for math and science will be given on January 19 for math and January 25 for biology. The exams are a requirement for graduation.

WCAP: Spring Manuals and Training Materials - Due to the extensive updates being made to the manuals for the spring test administration, the spring Test Coordinator’s Manual (TCM), Test Administration Manuals (TAMs), and training materials will not be posted to the portal until mid to late January.

From PTHS ~ Principal, Carrie Ehrhardt

Over 80 students turned in community service project hours for tasks completed during Monday’s honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday as ‘a day on, not a day off’. Well attended projects included working in the Blue Heron orchard, volunteering at San Juan Assisted Living care facility and supporting activities organized through local churches. As a follow up to these activities, the high school building budget and our Students for Sustainability club will each be funding a bus on Saturday, February 4 to transport volunteers and PTHS crew leaders to the annual Plant-A-Thon in the Tarboo Creek Watershed. PTHS’s partnership with the Northwest Watershed Institute, and the YES Environmental Stewardship program makes this one of our community-connected, place-based projects for the year. In all, we are expecting to transport 150 volunteers to the planting site.

Senior Ian Coates has written, produced and directed a musical production for his senior project, "The Disaster in Verse", which follows the adventures of William McGonagall, who was considered the worst poet in the English language. The final showing is this weekend, January 20 and 21 at 7:00 p.m. in the PTHS auditorium. Ian is a very talented young man. Come and enjoy his show so that one day when he becomes famous, you can say that you saw his debut as a writer and director in high school! Entrance to the show is by donation.

On Saturday, January 21, our Students for Sustainability club is sponsoring a bus to Seattle for PTHS students who would like to participate in the Women's March. The students will be joining up with former SFS members/PTHS graduates, and walking as a single group. Their participation has been inspired by the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., "injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere". The students will be joined by faculty chaperones.

Athletics ~ Scott Wilson

Both of the Redhawk girls and boys basketball teams completed their best-out-of-three series with rival Chimacum this week. The team with the most wins in the series earns the traveling trophy and holds onto it until the series hits again next year. This year, the Jenelle Perillo Trophy—goes to The Redhawk girls for winning two of the three games. Jenelle was a Chimacum student who developed a rare form of cancer in her junior year of high school. She overcame significant odds and was able to appear for one more basketball game before having to undergo more treatment. The next year, 2001, in which was to be her senior year of high school, Jenelle passed away. The trophy was named in her honor because her fighting spirit is so like that of the competition between Port Townsend and Chimacum.

The Redhawk Boys also earned the Widge Black Traveling trophy for sweeping the Chimacum Cowboys, winning all three games. Widge Black was a former student and coach at Port Townsend High School who was known for his everlasting support of athletics. He eventually became an official and was part of the booster club. He passed away at the age of 90 and will forever be remembered as one of the most influential figures in PTHS sports.

We are more than halfway through the winter sports season with all of our programs keeping an eye out for potential post-season play. The WIAA has initiated a formula system to determine state berths this year. The system is based on strength of schedule, wins and losses, score margins and a few other items that take way too long to explain. That said, the key to participation at state is no different than any other time: win games. We will see how both the girls and boys fare at the end of the month before we make predictions for league, district and state qualifications.

The Redhawk Wrestlers continue to battle! With only two home matches on the schedule this year, the team has been focusing on several weekend tournaments to prepare our wrestlers for a trip to the Tacoma Dome for the annual Mat Classic. This weekend the team travels to Lakes High School to compete with wrestlers from all classifications. We look forward to hearing a strong report from the coaching staff by weekend's end.

The Blue's News ~ Principal, Matt Holshouser

MLK Recognition & Celebrations –

- At Blue Heron School we recognized and celebrated MLK Day with:
 - An all school assembly on Friday, January 16th to recognize Martin Luther King and his work in our country.
 - Also, we hosted an MLK Day work party in the BH Orchard on Monday, January 16th. We had a great school and PT community contingent arrive to help us distribute compost and

mulch to ensure bountiful future harvests from our orchard. We are already looking forward to those sweet apples, pears, and plum this fall. Watch for the PT Leader article.

Teacher Tech learning –

- We hosted and enjoyed a great afternoon of tech learning for all PT School District staff this past Wednesday afternoon. The focus was all things Gmail and Google in planning well for our transition across the district to this platform next school year. Teachers are very excited about the many opportunities via the Google platform, Google Classroom, and Google for Education. More soon and thank you for the support to ensure we are meeting our targets for 21st century learning skills with all of our students.

Girls' Coding Club –

- Speaking of tech learning.....we have embarked and implemented a fun new club here on campus for our young ladies. We started a Girls' Coding Club. This club meets once a week to inspire and promote our young ladies to consider professional experience in the computer science and engineering fields. Thank you to Paula Collet, Amy Wilson, and Chris Neuman for providing the instruction and leadership with this group/club. Please see the link below as our resources utilized for this club.
 - <https://girlswhocode.com/>

Chemical Dependency Counselor – Discovery Behavioral Health

- In collaboration with PTHS and Discovery Behavioral Health we will welcome a new Chemical Dependency Counselor here on campus. Tara Phillips will be serving here on the Blue Heron School campus one day a week along with two days a week at PTHS. More soon about the many ways we are fostering a healthy mind, life-style, and decisions for all of our students.

Blue Heron School in the News –

- Please enjoy the link below as a recent Peninsula Daily News article featuring Blue Heron School and a great YMCA volunteer, Francesco Tortorici, and Jennifer Manning's STEAM class.
 - <http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/news/ymca-mentors-students-connect-in-building-futures-program/>

8th Grade team to Olympia and Capital –

- On Friday, January 20th our 8th grade students and team will be traveling to our state's capitol building and campus in Olympia, WA. Our students will have and enjoy a great opportunity to interact with several lawmakers as well as Supreme Court Justices. The inauguration day for our nation's President on this day will provide added learning. More pictures and details in upcoming newsletters.

Grant Street News ~ Principal, Lisa Condran

There have been a number of recent meetings regarding planning for the new elementary facility. These include:

- Grant Street's technology committee met with Integrus Architecture and Travis Fitzmaurice Electrical Engineers to discuss audiovisual and audio systems for the new elementary school.
- Grant Street PTA held a meeting on Tuesday, January 10th, in which long-term facilities committee members, Jeff Randall and Rick Jahnke presented the history of recent facilities planning in the district and Integrus Architect, Loretta Sachs, presented information and images of the new elementary facility, while addressing parent questions. Integrus Architecture will be back on January

17th to meet with Pre-K to fifth grade staff in small groups or individually to address storage needs, office needs, and special education needs.

Kriszti Bunica, Music Teacher, in collaboration with Sage Coy, Cellist and Community Member, Jeanne Turner, Counselor, Chris Montgomery, Grant Street Custodian and Pianist, and OPEPO teachers, Cherry Chenruk-Geelan and Betsy Hart is leading an emotions, music, and place-based project. Throughout the months of January and February, students will work together to explore the relationships between music and emotions. The project will culminate with making tire drums, PVC instruments, and painting a piano for outdoor use.

The District's School Naming Committee for the new elementary school met for their final time on January 11th, 2017. The committee was able to narrow down the 131 name nominations to five finalists for the school board's consideration. The selection criteria for names nominated in the category of geographic features was as follows (each criterion was worth 1 to 5 points depending on the degree of alignment for a total possible of 30 points):

- This name reflects the geographic/natural characteristics of our region or its geographic related industries.
- This name is unique and inspiring.
- This name would be meaningful to elementary school students.
- This name has a connection with our people, our place, and our community values.
- This name has a connection with the geographic/natural characteristics of the school site.
- The name should sound pleasant and be easy for students to pronounce.

The selection criteria for names nominated in the category of notable individual was as follows (each criterion was worth 1 to 5 points depending on the degree of alignment for a total possible of 30 points):

- The contribution for which this individual became notable reflects our place, our people, and the values of our community.
- Naming a school after this person would provide a name that is unique and inspiring.
- This person and their contributions would provide a school name that would be meaningful to elementary school students.
- Naming a school after this person would not create significant controversy or disagreement in our community.
- The name should sound pleasant and be easy for students to pronounce.
- This individual and his or her contributions reflect the vision of our school and its goals for the education of students.

The board will be receiving information on the five finalists at its January 23rd meeting and will ultimately select the final name for the new elementary school scheduled to open in the Fall of 2018.

OCEAN ~ Liz Quayle, Coordinator-Teacher

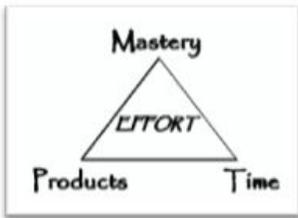
Mid-year Assessments

We are now in the midst of our mid-year district assessments to evaluate and document the wonderful forward momentum that we see in our classes! Elementary students will be completing their Fountas & Pinnell reading fluency assessments by appointment with Daniel. Most of our students in grades 3-8 have completed the reading and math STAR assessments; make-ups will be with Daniel during Project Week. Parents will receive reports for the STAR assessments during the next couple of weeks at monthly progress review conferences. These reports show their child's progress so far this year as measured by these assessments. A few of our 11th and 12th grade high schoolers are participating in make-up End of Course exams in math



and biology, both of which are requirements for graduation. Other high schoolers will take the Smarter Balanced and English and math assessments in the spring to meet these requirements.

End of First Semester



Students at the high school levels are finishing up assignments, assessments and January progress reviews for their first semester grades. Students in OCEAN receive narrative reports in grades K-8, and letter grades in grades 9-12. High school credits are based on our format of Products-Time-Mastery, all held together by Effort, and grading is a combination of those three, including assessment measured through parent-student-teacher conferences. No regular classes meet during Project Week; students are expected to complete final assignments and participate in a project, study time and/or

conference during this time.

Project Week

Twice a year, in winter and late spring, OCEAN has its Project Week where we participate in intensive projects that support our learning. The first is coming up January 23-27. Projects include the annual OCEAN Play's initial intensive rehearsals, student-developed games around the topic of the Periodic Table of the Elements, early African-American quilting, Film Screening for the Port Townsend Film Festival, snowshoeing on Hurricane Ridge, and reading assessments. It's always an exciting time!

Title/LAP ~ Jason Lynch

Math, Math, and More Math!

Students at Grant Street Elementary and Blue Heron Schools are receiving extra mathematics support this year through intervention groups directed by Tracy Williamson, Grant Street Math Interventionist and Lisa Cartwright, K-5 Math Coach. The program is funded through Title 1 funds. Nearly 100 young mathematicians are honing skills around their sense of number, operations, and algebraic thinking. Students meet in small groups at various times of the day; they work on foundational skills and concepts that help them access the grade-level math received during whole class instruction.

The Common Core State Standards in Mathematics emphasize not only concept and skill building, but place importance on understanding how the number system is structured. This is called mathematical fluency. Students spend time using a variety of base 10 models – block models, number lines, 10-frames, and 100-charts – and do activities to gain experience with quantity, place value, and operations. Basically, young mathematicians are learning multiple different ways that numbers are put together – and in the process, gaining a deeper understanding of the number system.

To support our adoption of Bridges in Mathematics, a training for teachers is scheduled for Wednesday, February 22nd at the Blue Heron library. Janie Overman, a Bridges in Mathematics trainer and Mathematics Coach from Bellingham School District will be presenting to our staff for the second time this year. This training will support the use of Bridges curriculum, as well as how to use these materials to address the needs of all learners.

Library and Curriculum News ~ Ann Healy-Raymond



Technology Training Follow-Up

Responses to last week's technology training were very positive. Of the fifty-nine respondents, fifty-three (90%) said that the on-line, self-paced format worked well for them. One colleague said "I appreciated the self-paced tutorials, so I was able to look for/work on subtopics that I needed in each session." Another noted that they liked "...spending time with the new material is very helpful along with someone close-by to help when stuck." While another attendee said, "Yes, I loved it. I didn't feel rushed, and the facilitators were knowledgeable and approachable."

We received feedback that will improve other tech professional development, such as a suggestion to have some sessions designed for experienced users, and other for more beginning levels. Some attendees would like to have longer sessions, and if we use this format again, the introduction can be shortened as people will be familiar with the process for finding the Google Classroom with resources.

Your Technology Committee met on January 12th to discuss the training and survey results. The discussion focused on how we can provide more sessions after school for those who are interested. Peter is planning additional sessions on SeeSaw, and more sessions on using your website are being planned. Information and dates will be sent out as they are scheduled. Remember, attendees can return to the Google Classroom at any time to view the tutorials.

Library News

Library staff will be submitting a winter book order in the next few weeks. If teachers and students have book requests for student research or to use in your instruction, please let your library staff know. While the library does not order class sets of materials, ordering materials for teachers and students is a high priority. Every library has a Requested Materials form where suggestions can be noted. Students may also request titles.

Our Libguides are another resource for students and teachers. These guides were created to support instruction and learning on topics of interest to Port Townsend's teachers and students. Port Townsend's Libguides can be found at: <http://libguides.ptschools.org/index.php>