



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

Port Townsend School District No. 50

Superintendent Newsletter, Vol. 16-17, No. 10

February 10, 2017

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### Quote

**“Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are.” ~ Benjamin Franklin**

**In light of the President’s Executive Order on Immigration: *Here in Port Townsend we will support all of our students regardless of national origin, religion, or immigration status.* The following message may provide some information for interest on this topic.**

### **Message from State Superintendent Reykdal (Sent to public on 2/3/17):**

The Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction has recently received questions from schools and districts about their responsibility regarding collecting and releasing the immigration status of their students. Below are some general guidelines we hope answers some of those questions.

The most relevant U.S. Supreme Court case is [Plyler v. Doe](#), from 1982. In *Plyler*, the Court ruled that undocumented students have the same right to attend public schools as U.S. citizens and permanent residents. As a result of the ruling, public schools:

- *May not* deny admission to a student during initial enrollment or at any other time on the basis of immigration status.
- *May not* treat a student differently to determine residency.
- *May not* engage in any practices that might have a “chilling effect” on school enrollment.
- *May not* require students or parents to disclose or document their immigration status, including Social Security numbers.
- *May not* make inquiries of students or parents that may expose their undocumented status. Examples include asking for a student’s status when enrolling the student as an English learner or when enrolling for free or reduced-price meals.

Some information – such as a student’s race, ethnicity and address (if the student is not homeless) – is collected. But the student’s personal information cannot be disclosed to the public, nor can it be used to deny enrollment.

In addition to federal law, Washington state law contains a chapter ([Revised Code of Washington 28A.642](#)), which prohibits discrimination, including discrimination based on national origin.

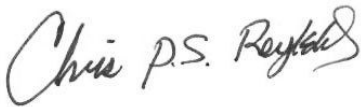
Our state's public education system exists to help our students learn. It does not function, nor will it function, as an arm of federal immigration services. OSPI is committed to our state's constitutional requirement that students are to be educated "without distinction or preference on account of race, color, caste, or sex."

OSPI will soon be updating our web site – [www.k12.wa.us](http://www.k12.wa.us) – with more information, which will be translated into different languages. Please feel free to share this with parents.

**Additional resources:**

- Guidelines on prohibiting discrimination:  
<http://www.k12.wa.us/Equity/pubdocs/ProhibitingDiscriminationInPublicSchools.pdf>
- Protecting student data: <http://www.k12.wa.us/DataAdmin/DataSharing/default.aspx>
- Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA):  
<https://ed.gov/policy/gen/guid/fpco/ferpa/index.html>

**Thanks for all the work you do to support our students,**



## **Special Education and Assessment ~ Patrick Kane**

Special Education: Current enrollment for students being served in special education is 195. We are serving 5 students in Birth to 3, serving 17 students ages 3-5, for students from kindergarten to twenty-one years old we are serving 173. The enrollment went up 5 students from the month of January.

There were twelve participants for Right Response training for behavioral intervention. Eleven participants were from Grant Street and one from the High School. The training took place on Feb 4 and it was a seven hour workshop. Most of the training focused on recognizing stress in oneself as well as others. There was also some training in protecting oneself and others during an escalation in a classroom. The second part of this workshop will take place on February 25.

Assessment Information: End of Course exams were completed last Friday, Feb 3. We had 36 students take the exams: 23 took the biology exam, 8 took algebra exam and 5 took the geometry exam. The district should know the results around mid-April to late April.

The ELPA21 exam is being given now until March 30. This exam is for students who are enrolled in the ELL program. Students from kindergarten to the high school are participating in this exam. OSPI hasn't released the final platform for test taking on Chromebooks. The Beta version has been released which is what the students currently being tested are using. The Beta version is creating some issues with the reading portion of the exam. The district is hoping OSPI will correct this soon to alleviate the stress of completing the exams on time.

**From PTHS ~ Principal, Carrie Ehrhardt**

The chilling winter weather has not dampened the spirits of our students at the high school. Students are busy finishing up their regular sport season for basketball and wrestling, and enjoyed the Winterfest dance last Saturday night. Students and parents filled the stands at a home basketball game last Tuesday, as PTHS Senior Nick Hamon was being filmed for a feature segment on 'Evening Magazine'. We've also started our second semester, which marks that important 'halfway' point in the school year. In the office, principals and teachers have been meeting to complete our mid-year TPEP conferences.

Juniors and Seniors in their English classes had the opportunity to view the documentary film "Un-Slut" on Tuesday, and followed up with a discussion and Q&A session with the director, Emily Lindin. PTHS was one of several stops for Ms. Lindin this week, as she also hosted the film for the public in both Port Townsend and Chimacum venues.

Our Redhawk Mentors have received training on Youth Marijuana Prevention strategies through a program sponsored by our local ESD 114 in Bremerton. Students are embarking on an anti-marijuana school campaign titled 'Be the Majority'. The students received their training along with several student leaders at Blue Heron. We plan to organize more opportunities for our student leaders in both schools to get together, collaborate, and learn from each other.

Finally, we have four students entered into the OESD 114 Regional Art Show. Hannah Wilson, Emerys Shaw, Cady Johnson and Madison Steckly will have their art displayed from February 6 through March 6, 2017. There is an open house on Monday, February 13 from 5-7 pm, and an awards reception on March 6 from 7-8 pm. For more information, to to <http://www.oesd.wednet.edu/artshow>.

## **Athletics ~ Scott Wilson**

### Redhawk Athletics

The post-season for Winter sports are upon us! All of our winter sports teams completed their respective regular season in strong fashion, with the boys basketball team notching first place in the 1A Division of the Olympic League with an undefeated record. The team also had impressive wins over strong 2A teams in the league this season. Because they are #1, they get an automatic bid into the district tournament and by-pass both the play-in game and the first round. Their first game will be the third official game of the WCD3 Tournament on February 15<sup>th</sup> at Bellarmine Prep against a team to be determined. They are guaranteed two games, so whether they win or lose the February 15<sup>th</sup> game, they will again play on February 18<sup>th</sup>. The top two teams from the WCD3 tournament will move on to the state tournament.

The Redhawk girls basketball team is sitting in 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Olympic League. They have earned the right to host the first game in the opening round of the WCD3 tournament. That game will be a LOSER OUT game and will be played on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 7pm at Port Townsend High School. The Nisqually #3 (to be determined) team will play against The Redhawks. If the Redhawk ladies win, they will play at 7:45pm **on** February 14<sup>th</sup> at Bellarmine Prep HS against the #1 team from Nisqually (we do not know who that is yet).

Our Redhawk wrestlers are having a great season. Nine of our boy wrestlers have advanced to districts and four of our girl wrestlers have advanced to wrestle this weekend. This is our strongest showing in recent years. The boys will be traveling to Aberdeen and the girls will be wrestling in Federal Way. We look forward to seeing how the Redhawks do this weekend as the outcome determines who makes it to the Mat Classic (state tournament) in Tacoma.

**GO REDHAWKS!**

## The Blue's News ~ Principal, Matt Holshouser.

### 1<sup>st</sup> semester BH Student Recognition assembly

- On Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> we hosted our 1<sup>st</sup> semester Student Recognition Assembly here on campus. We have so many wonderful and successful students here at Blue Heron. Below are just a few categories used to recognize Blue Heron Students for exemplary achievement this 1<sup>st</sup> semester:
  - Good and Perfect Attendance
  - Honor Roll and High Honor Roll
  - Winter sports – BH Boys' Basketball – great season under new coaching regime.
  - BH Band performance
  - 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Character Awards – Responsibility, Respect, Integrity and more.....marks of true scholars here at Blue Heron School.
  - Community Service recognition – BH Orchard & ASB Food Bank Drive
  - Devin Jensen & STEAM Teacher Jennifer Manning received an award from Jeff. Co. Emergency Preparedness team for their handmade stoves project and learning. See PDN article:
    - <http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/news/ymca-mentors-students-connect-in-building-futures-program/>
  - Blue Heron Mountain Bike team
- We are so fortunate to have so many great students, parents and faculty & staff here at Blue Heron School.



Blue Heron School Band



6<sup>th</sup> grade honor roll students



7<sup>th</sup> grade honor roll students

- **8<sup>th</sup> Grade trip to Olympia**
  - On Friday, January 20<sup>th</sup> our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and teachers had a wonderful opportunity to travel to our Washington State capitol complex and enjoy some great real world civics learning with many of our state's leaders. While many learning experiences were noteworthy.....two highlights were:
    - Being in our state's capitol during our Presidential Inauguration in Washington, DC.
    - Interacting and enjoying a great learning session with Cyrus Habib.....our new WA Lieutenant Governor. His adaptation with his physical challenges and successful career left a big impression on our students.
      - <http://www.ltgov.wa.gov/>
- **5<sup>th</sup> graders – Dungeness Audubon Center and PT Marine Science Center –**

- Despite recent cool weather.....our 5<sup>th</sup> grade has been out and about learning in the field. They have been over in Sequim learning at the Dungeness Audubon Center and River with some great freshwater riparian learning and now enjoying some saltwater/marine learning with our partners at the PT Marine Science Center.
- **BH Winter Sports –**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> half of our winter season is on and we are excited to root on our Blue Heron Basketball Girls as well as our male and female wrestlers.
  - 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade Girls' Basketball – first home game – Thursday, Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> vs. Forks @ 3:30pm
  - Wrestling – 10 wrestlers from BHMS
- **Marijuana Prevention campaign**
  - Social Norms – PTHS & BH Mentors – On Friday, January 27<sup>th</sup> we hosted PTHS student leaders, Asst. Principal Scott Wilson, OESD Health Educator Vickie MacKenzie, and Blue Heron Middle School leaders to kick off our Marijuana Prevention Campaign across our 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade student body at PTHS and Blue Heron. Join and 'Be the Majority' of students who are choosing to be cool by staying clean and focusing and living a healthy lifestyle.
  - Coffee with the Principal – On Wednesday, February 1<sup>st</sup> we hosted our monthly Blue Heron Coffee with the Principal and our new OESD Health Education partners, Vickie MacKenzie and Lyndsey Kellum, presented to a great parent group our school based marijuana prevention campaign as well as facts, ideas and information for parents to help our teenagers navigate drug realities in our community and state.

## Grant Street News ~ Principal, Lisa Condran

Grant Street News, January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### Kids at Hope

On January 19<sup>th</sup>, a team of eight Grant Street Educators went to Federal Way to learn about Kids at Hope. Here's what a few of these educators shared with other staff members:

Emily Gustafson: The things that resonated most with me about this training: the conscious focusing of positive ways to support all kids at school instead of focusing on their deficits and risk factors which we cannot control; the reminder that envisioning success can have a broad focus; and that relationships are key. Because of the structure of the program, schools that implement this framework can sustain it over time and see their school cultures transform, including better behaviors out of all children. Especially since we are at a transition point and looking for ways to create a shared unified vision, this seems like a great approach for us to consider.

Heather Sanders: It is not the risk factors that hold children back from success, it is the absence of hope. We don't control most of the risk factors children experience but we do control most of the hope. Hope is taught and learned. Celebrate what is right with the world--vision creates perception, perception creates reality.

Kirsten Behrenfeld: We would like to carry the Hope message to Grant Street. Enhancing a cultural competence with awareness, knowledge, skills/strategies and advocacy. Every adult at Grant Street would not say anything that is not hopeful about kids, and we all have a 'hope'-filled shared vision. As a staff we would employ the strategies with greater intention, building relationships and connecting with kids.

Laurie Solchenberger: I was moved by the examples shared: real people who felt valued because at some point a person in their life really "saw" them, saw the good, and offered hope by noticing the good. We never

know what we might say that inspires someone to hope. I was also interested in the idea of shifting personal perspective - from looking through the lens of "at risk" to the lens of "at hope".

### Early Childhood Consortium

On January 30<sup>th</sup>, Grant Street hosted early childhood providers in Jefferson County at their library on the topic of building a strong foundation together for our children and families. Linda Dudzic-Sullivan, a national author and consultant, led this meeting and emphasized the fact that early childhood educators are crucial to a student's success in school. Questions addressed included:

- Who are the players?
- How can we build on success (strength based approach)?
- What trends are you seeing? (needs of our children)
- What would be the benefits of aligning our efforts – for children, families, staff?
- What priority would we like to set for our work together?



With that priority in mind:

- How do young children learn best (neuroscience)?
- How best to teach (What are exceptional teaching and learning strategies)?
- How do we share/exchange information?

Many thanks go to Jason Lynch and Kirsten Behrenfeld who organized this wonderful event. Also thank you to board members, Connie Welch and Jennifer James Wilson for attending and lending their support to this important work.

### OPEPO Production of Missoula Children's Theater's Aladdin

On February 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, OPEPO held two performances of Aladdin at Port Townsend High School. In this production, Aladdin enlists the help of a genie and others to be able to date the beautiful and kind princess. All students in the OPEPO program had an acting or backstage part. The play had its usual humorous characters such as the four Cave of Wonders: Stone Hens, The Not So Amazing Pyramid, Egyptian Aqua Duck, and the Leaning Tower of Pizza.



## **OCEAN ~ Liz Quayle, Coordinator-Teacher**

**PROJECT WEEK AT OCEAN:** At the end of each semester, we delve more deeply into learning through projects and experiential learning in a week of intense focus. In January, our greatest focus is on the annual OCEAN Play, but that is not the only option for students during Project Week!



This year's play, "A Wrinkle in Time", is an adaptation of the novel by Madeleine L'Engle, and was kicked off with intensive rehearsals, six hours a day, Monday through Thursday.



Many students worked on "Tech", creating a Charles Wallace puppet and set pieces for the play. Casting for the play took place in December, and lead actors have been

working on their lines throughout and since Winter Break. The performances will take place in March.

### *African-American Quilts*

On Thursday, Several students learned about and created African-American quilts using fabric and glue. This project will continue in the K-8 LA/SS class this month and students continue their studies about the African-American experience, past and present.

### *Periodic Table of the Elements*

In the science world, some students made a card game using the elements of the periodic table. K-8 students will continue these studies in their science classes.

Friday brought place-based learning to the forefront. Many students met with Ranger Josh to learn about the geology of the Olympic Mountain range, while others joined in a film screening marathon, reviewing films submitted to the Port Townsend Film Festival as teen members of their official screening committee. The film screening team will continue Wednesday evenings through May. Some students will extend the experience, completing a Film Appreciation credit through a portfolio process, evaluating big-screen films and completing essays and biographies in a genre of their choice.



## **Title/LAP ~ Director, Jason Lynch**

Blue Heron and Grant Street both have completed their Title 1 school improvement plans using the Indistar program. Each Title 1 school is required to conduct a needs assessment using student learning data in order to apply Title 1 funds to improve the deficiencies found in student achievement. These plans focus improvement efforts in the following areas: planning professional development to meet student needs, organizing teachers into grade level or subject area teams, increasing parent involvement and community connections, implementing expanded learning programs, aligning instruction with standards and benchmarks, and supporting transitions from pre-K to kindergarten, grade to grade, and school to school.

Some highlights from Grant Street's School Improvement plan:

- Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Reading Assessments implemented in grades K-5
- Bridges in Mathematics used in classrooms K-5 for all students
- Electronic standards-based report cards using Skyward
- Improve extended day learning opportunities such as after school tutoring and summer programs for struggling learners
- Supporting the Grant Street PTA
- Continue to refine interventions for students who struggle in mathematics
- Implement a PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) to support students who struggle with social and emotional learning needs
- Use data from WA Kids in kindergarten, writing prompts, Fountas & Pinnell reading assessment, Bridges Mathematics assessments, and STAR reading & math to inform instruction
- Implement Thinking Strategies across all content areas to address differentiation by sending a team to PEBC (Public Education and Business Coalition)
- Support the many community partners that support our school and students
- Improve the transition to preschool to kindergarten

Some highlights from Blue Heron's School Improvement Plan:

- Implement Bridges in Mathematics in grades 4-5
- Research a Common Core Standards Aligned math curriculum for grade 6-8
- Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Reading Assessments implemented in grades 4 & 5
- Develop and implement team and PLC norms

- Include parents in the transition process across grade levels
- Review and research a new master schedule to better support project based learning & align to the high school
- Support and grow the Blue Heron PTA
- Maintain and grow our community partners that support our school and students
- Implement Thinking Strategies across all content areas to address differentiation by sending a team to PEBC (Public Education and Business Coalition)
- Implement extended day learning opportunities such as after school tutoring and summer programs for struggling learners
- Support implementation of the workshop model in mathematics and literacy

Full Title 1 improvement plans will be linked to the school's website in the Title 1 menu. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly if you have any questions regarding the improvement plans at Blue Heron and Grant Street.

### **Finance ~ Director, Amy Khile**

The district will be implementing online payment options for families soon. The target date is just after Spring Break, and we plan to make online payment via credit or debit available for fees. This is not an “in person” service, but online only. Please look for additional information from the building staff in April.

### **Maritime Discovery Schools - Sarah Rubenstein, Project Director**

A number of teaching teams have been busy planning new maritime and place-based projects. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade team spent time collaborating with the Jefferson County Historical Society Archivist, on a place-based history research project. They learned about the vast resources in the archives and how to access some of them online, <http://www.jchsmuseum.org/Resources/Resources-OnlineSearch.html>. Other grade level teams are planning a biking project to support language skills, a Free Little Library project to support early literacy, and a watershed and outdoor learning classroom project near the OCEAN portables. It is exciting to see the creativity and energy each team is putting into their work.



Projects are underway in classrooms across the district. Our kindergarteners took a trip earlier this year to Fort Worden, and are undertaking non-fiction writing about the Fort, as well as other places in Port Townsend. At the high school our Maritime Program Students are busy building skin on frame kayaks. Stop by the kindergarten hallway or the high school shop to see some of these projects in action.

### **Maintenance and Facilities ~ Director, Brad Taylor**

The new keyless locking system for both the high school and the middle school is nearing completion. Thanks to Justin Gray and the Door Pros, both schools now have a card reading system that allows us to monitor who and when people enter a building. Most main doors will be left in the open position during school hours and remain closed the rest the time. The big advantage to this system is the ability to be controlled from maintenance staff laptop computers; the old system did not have that capacity. There is some additional programming that needs to be done but we are functional.

We are about 100 days away from the start of construction for the new elementary. We have started planning the staging for all of the building components like the construction trailers and materials and equipment that will be needed for the start of construction. When the plan is complete we will post it online



and at the elementary school before we start construction so everyone will know what changes are being made.

## **Library and Curriculum News ~ Director, Ann Healy-Raymond**

### Hi-Cap Referral Window

The annual HCP referral window is underway. Teachers and/or parents may nominate students for HCP services. After completion of referral forms required by HCP legislation, the student will be assessed using the COGAT test. This test is used to determine the “most highly capable” students. Students who qualify will receive services that include instructional adaptations or extensions in the regular classroom, in the student’s identified area. According to Susan Weinbrenner’s *Teaching Gifted Kids in Today’s Classroom*, strategies teachers use to meet gifted student’s learning needs are to: Lessen the amount of grade level work they must do because they can demonstrate mastery with less practice; increase the pace of a lesson and allow them to spend considerable class time working on extensions or independent work; adjust the content so it extends beyond the grade-level parameters and includes students’ particular interests; allow gifted students to work with each other on extension activities (and limit their time assisting other students); guide their learning to extend their thinking and interests; welcome parents as important partners in learning.

Student referral packets are in each school office; they can also be found on-line

<https://sites.google.com/a/g.ptschools.org/reach-program/>

Training for teachers with HCP students will be held this spring.

### Science Review

Teacher representatives from Blue Heron and Grant Street begin a K-5 Science Curriculum Review this week. The teachers, Paula Collet, Karmen Meier, Denise Aedan, and Dorothy Stengel, along with Lisa Condran, will examine three highly rated science curriculums. Brandi Hageman will provide support. In consideration are: Engineering is Elementary <http://www.eie.org/eie-curriculum/curriculum-units>, Foss Science Kits <https://www.deltaeducation.com/foss/next-generation>, and Building Blocks of Science <http://www.carolina.com/stem-science-technology-engineering-math-curriculum/building-blocks-of-science-elementary-curriculum/10791.ct>

Why are we reviewing K-5 Science at this time? We are reviewing science materials this spring due to a change in the OESD Kit program. With this change comes an opportunity to consider our K-5 Science curriculum. The team may recommend continued use of FOSS Science kits, or recommend a different program. If the recommendation is made to adopt a different program, the Instructional Materials Committee (IMC) will review the curriculum and send a recommendation to the board for adoption.



### Library News

Blue Heron students have been “Caught Reading”. Shannon Grewell is running this reading incentive program for grades 4-8. When students check in a book they receive a coupon that will be entered into a drawing for a new book. The books are available through the Scholastic Book Fair proceeds. Congratulations to this week’s drawing winners!