



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

Port Townsend School District No. 50

Superintendent Newsletter, Vol. 16-17, No. 11

February 24, 2017

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### Quote

***“We learn what we live and in the degree that we live it.” ~William Heard Kilpatrick***

The quote above jumped out to me this week. Kilpatrick (1871-1965) was a professor at Teacher’s College, and he advocated for progressive educational practices throughout his career. I am heartened to know that our school board is leading the district to continue a focus on experiential learning. I am also so happy that our teachers and district leaders believe in a student-centered pedagogy.

Another Kilpatrick thought is around the idea that learning has taken place when it stays on with a person to impact their further experiences. Place-based education with community-based (real) projects truly provides this opportunity to live the learning.

### **New School Name**

The Port Townsend School Board of Directors will hold a public meeting on Monday, February 27, 2017, 1610 Blaine Street, Room S-11 at 5:00 p.m. to gather community input regarding the naming of the new elementary school. The following names have been recommended: Chetzemoka, Kah Tai, Salish Point, Salish Sea, Salish Trails and Discovery. The Board will be hearing input, and (at this time) they plan to take action during the March 13 Board Meeting.

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

Special Education: The second session of Right Response training is scheduled for February 24 in the school board room from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. This training will also be delivered later in the school year. Information will be posted on the district email if district staff is interested in receiving training.

Changes for Birth to three program may take place by next fall. Currently, there is discussion in the State legislature that will redirect state funding from the school districts to the Department of Early Learning (DEL). This would have a big impact on how districts receive state money for Part C and would require districts to apply for funding. The bill is HB 1661 and is being led by Rep. Ruth Kagi. Interested readers can go to the website and look at the power point about these changes. The address is:

<http://www.del.wa.gov/providers-educators/early-support-infants-and-toddlers-esit>

Assessment Information: ELPA21 (English Language Proficiency Assessment) is currently being administered to students who are in the ELL program. There have been issues with test administration due

to updating the platform. Our tech department and I have been communicating the issues with the state. The testing window closes on March 31.

### **From PTHS ~ Principal, Carrie Ehrhardt**

The high school and district has joined the West Sound STEM Network, which is a collaboration of educators, business leaders and other representatives, working together to link students and teachers to the science, technology, engineering and mathematics resources in our region. Our goal is to enhance student learning district-wide in these key academic areas. The high school will be participating on the Work and Implementation Team, which is tasked with drafting a yearly strategic plan that supports STEM ideas and initiatives between classrooms and business/community partners.

Another new high school partnership is thanks to the hard work of one of our CTE teachers, Kelley Watson. She has worked to establish a Summer Vessel Operations class which will be sponsored as a West Sound Tech course in August, 2017, here in Port Townsend. Kelley will be the instructor for this course, which will be open to all area high schools, but provides a special opportunity for PTHS students. This spring Kelley will be collaborating with some of our existing maritime partners to design the curriculum for the course, all which will occur aboard the Schooner Adventuress.

This Friday the high school will host its monthly Salon series. This month our guest is Joshua Berger, the Governor's Maritime Sector Lead, speaking on "Where are the maritime jobs of the future?" And, "Can I support myself in marine trades?"

### **Athletics ~ Scott Wilson**

Last weekend marked the end of the winter sports season for The Redhawks. Our combined wrestling program, comprised of both PTHS and CHS students—all wearing Redhawk colors and representing Port Townsend—had five wrestlers compete at the 2017 "Mat Classic" State Wrestling Tournament in Tacoma. Jacob Massie, Tucker Booth, Henry Vietenhans, Cody McLain (CHS), and Ryan Caldwell (CHS) along with alternates Jesus Duran and Dylan Tracer all appeared in Tacoma for the tournament. All of the wrestlers represented well and had both wins and losses over the two-day event. In the end though, it was returning state wrestler Cody McLain who came home with a 3<sup>rd</sup> place medal around his neck. Only the top 8 wrestlers in the state earn medals. We are proud of Cody and his second appearance at state as a Redhawk wrestler.

In Boys' Basketball, the only sport at PTHS to make it deep into the post-season, the Redhawks made it to the district tournament ranked as the top team from the 1A Olympic League. A sluggish start in their first game followed by foul trouble for several starters proved to be too much for the Redhawks as they lost a close game to Cascade Christian. That loss put them in loser-out/winner-to-state contest at 2pm the following Saturday. Again, the Redhawks found themselves in a tight battle that lasted right to the end, with the PTHS boys watching time expire on the clock as they were down by 5 points, thus ending their season. With only one senior on this year's squad, the Redhawks are favored to return to form next year to revenge the district tournament losses and make their way to the state tournament for the first time in several years.

Spring sports—track, baseball, softball, golf, boys' soccer, and girls tennis—begins Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. Several student-athletes are expected to turn out this spring. We are excited for the sunny weather.

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

College Bound - According to the College Bound Fall Report, they considered our reconciled rate for the class of 2020 to be 68% of eligible 8<sup>th</sup> graders, just shy of the state average of 71%. For the class of 2019, our rate was 77% (and we received the gold star award, as well as for the year before). We are working with this year's group to get signups above the state average again.

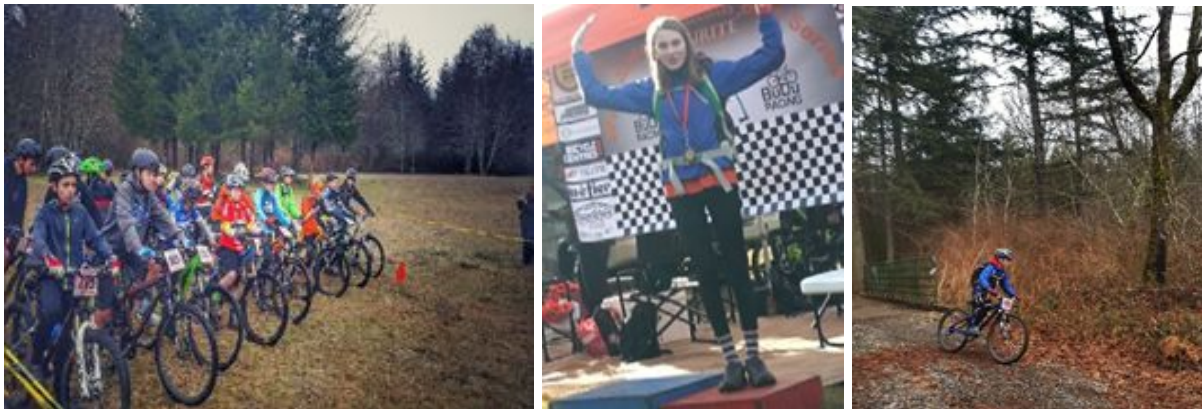
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Day – Next Week (Thursday March 2<sup>nd</sup> – 9am – 11am) marks our 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Day in collaboration with our AAUW partners. We have local and regional professionals via Public Utilities, Public

Health, Veterinary Science, Natural Science, Welding, Videography, Physical Therapy and a few more for all of our 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to learn more about as they grow and prepare for college and/or career readiness. Please stop by and join us for this event and many thanks to BH Counselor, Kirsten Bledsoe, and our AAUW friends for putting this event together.

Squids for Kids – Last Thursday we were able to host a great event with 7<sup>th</sup> Grade ELA Teacher Brett Navin, 8<sup>th</sup> grade Science Teacher Jennifer Manning and Stanford University Professor, William Gilley, entitled Squids for Kids. BH Middle School students had a hands on opportunity to dissect and analyze a Pacific Humboldt Squid. Great experience and many thanks to Brett Navin, Professor Gilley and Chris Chase at the Shipwrights CO-OP for helping organize this event as well as shooting some video of the learning. I will share out as we acquire that footage.....for now enjoy Professor Gilley's site below:

<http://gillylab.stanford.edu/outreach.html>

Blue Heron School Mtn. Bike Team – Great job Blue Heron School Mtn. Bike Team – The Ratfish rode well in a recent competition and several team members were on the podium with medals. Proud of you all!



## Grant Street News ~ Principal, Lisa Condran

### Music

Music Teacher Kriszti Bunica has been taking several classes from Grant Street Elementary in grades kindergarten through third grade to perform at San Juan Villa, which houses thirty-two residents. The students perform several songs for the residents. Pictured is Kelsi Johnson's kindergarten class. Teacher Bonnie Stenehjem, who teaches second and third grade said that she "was so touched to watch my kids perform and to witness the happiness they brought to the folks at San Juan Villa."



### School Improvement Teams

Grant Street Elementary has the school improvement teams listed below that will be meeting regularly throughout the rest of the school year.

- A team led by Kirsten Behrenfeld, Birth to Age Three Educator, on strengthening early childhood education in the community and ensuring every student starts strong in kindergarten.
- A team led by Jason Lynch, Title I Director and Reading Specialist, on improving success in literacy for all students with both reading and writing.

- A team led by Lisa Cartwright, K-5 Math Coach, on improving numeracy success for all students.
- A team led by Emily Gustafson, School Psychologist on supporting student success with social and emotional learning.

An example of the work of one of these teams is the social emotional learning team, who is working on implementing Positive Behavior Intervention Supports (PBIS). They have conducted a survey of all staff members—teachers, paraeducators, custodians, secretaries, and food service workers to find out about the perception of the current status of behavior support systems in school-wide and classroom settings, as well as the perceived priority for implementation. The team’s goal is to devote time to refining efforts in social/emotional learning to support all students in their development as well as giving teachers additional strategies for working with students who have these needs.

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

### ***Tree Planting at Tarboo Creek***

Illness notwithstanding, we started out the month with many students from OCEAN participating in the annual tree Plant-a-Thon at Tarboo Creek with the Northwest Watershed Institute. Many of the students in the high school English/Marine Biology course attended, as did several middle schoolers and a couple of elementary students. Over the course of five hours, we planted willows, evergreens, and madronas along the creek’s new path to help encourage it to meander, naturally.



### ***Maritime Boats and Environmental Science***

With the rising temperatures, we are getting out on the water again! After the winter spent conducting maintenance on the Townshend, the long boat was launched this past week for rowing and sailing again. Students are starting a project in which they are learning about purple martins with community member Ron Sikes, a local Audubon board member. They will be making boxes to create nesting environments for the martins in cooperation with the Port of Port Townsend. Each student has started researching a different local bird and writing articles for the Maritime Boats blog about them.

### ***Improv with Leif Hansen***

We had the pleasure of hosting OCEAN parent Leif Hanson of Spark Interaction where he led students in a short series of lessons in improvisation. He taught its value not just in theatre, but in life. The importance

of saying “Yes, and…” instead of “but…” was a key concept that students learned for all types of situations. The four improv sessions were facilitated by Teacher Daniel Molotsky and joined by a group of OCEAN students in grades 5 through 10.

### ***Film Director Visits OCEAN High Schoolers***

Last year in our OCEAN Film Class, we viewed a film that the students felt very strongly should be seen by all young people in high school and college, one that addressed not just bullying, but specifically, bullying toward girls and young women. As a result of our students’ strongly stated feelings about the film, the Port Townsend Film Festival showed the film and received great public reviews. PTFB brought back Emily Lindin,

director of the film, “UnSlut”, to The Olympic Peninsula in February, where Emily presented and discussed her film, and her book (which has been adapted as a play), publicly with various school groups around the Kitsap and Olympic Peninsula, including our combined OCEAN English classes. Students participated in role quizzes, identifying priorities, and addressing preconceived ideas. Emily greatly appreciated the OCEAN students’ informed and complex questions and comments. Janette Force, Executive Director of the Port Townsend Film Institute, stated in a follow-up email, “I was so very proud on behalf of our community today, as I watched all of you. What a kind, well informed and thought provoking morning. ... [The students] make me so hopeful for the future!”

OCEAN students have already begun screening films for the 2017 Film Festival.

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

The Learning Assistance Program (LAP) is funding extended day learning opportunities for students who need extra academic support. The Port Townsend School District has been making strides in offering learning options for our students that extend beyond the school day and into the summer.

Blue Heron and Grant Street Elementary are both offering after school tutoring on early release Wednesdays. Certificated teachers and educational assistants are tutoring small groups of students in literacy and mathematics. Blue Heron has thirty students in grades 4-8 participating in their after school tutoring program. Grant Street has thirty-seven students consistently participating from grades K-5.

Port Townsend High School has been offering a credit recovery program. This after school program allows students to make up necessary coursework needed to graduate and is taught by certified teachers. Seventeen students have signed up for this opportunity, and already one student has made up the necessary credits to graduate on time.