



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

Port Townsend School District No. 50

Superintendent Newsletter, Vol. 16-17, No. 15

May 05, 2017

Quote

"If you think you are too small to make a difference, you haven't spent a night with a mosquito." ~African Proverb

Teacher Appreciation

May 8-12 is this year's designated Teacher Appreciation Week. The Board of Directors and I want to recognize teachers and plan to adopt the following this coming Monday.

**RESOLUTION 17-04
Proclamation of Teacher Appreciation Week**

WHEREAS, the National PTA has proclaimed May 8-12, 2017 as Teacher Appreciation Week, and May 9, 2017, has been proclaimed National Teacher Day, as sponsored by the National Education (NEA), the District wishes to join with these associations in honoring certificated school employees; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that teachers be recognized for their dedication and commitment to educating their students; therefore Port Townsend School District and its Board of Directors would like to thank our teachers for being an integral part of our district's educational team; and

WHEREAS, the teachers have continuously demonstrated their exceptional abilities, knowledge, and skill in the performance of their duties as indicated by maintaining consistently high levels of academic achievement, and;

WHEREAS, the success of the district is predicated upon teachers' dedication to their profession and their genuine concern for the total development of each student, and;

WHEREAS, teachers provide opportunities for students to connect with the world around them, develop basic skills for success in life and work, experience the realization of high expectations and the fulfillment of steps toward achievable goals; and

WHEREAS, teachers should be accorded high public esteem, reflecting the value placed on their skills and abilities, and the importance of public education;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Port Townsend School District Board of Directors hereby proclaims May 8-12, 2017 as **Teacher Appreciation Week** in the Port Townsend School District.

ADOPTED by the Board of Directors of Port Townsend School District No. 50, Jefferson County, Washington, at an open public meeting held May 8, 2017.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
PORT TOWNSEND SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 50

Special Education and Assessment ~ Patrick Kane

Special Education - Changes will be taking place on providing students at the high school with transition services. Our staff has been meeting to discuss how we can best serve students who need support for job skill training and self-care training. Currently the model we have has the students going to Ft. Worden for a partial day and the student goes home or comes back to the high school for a few hours. Our goal is to keep the Ft. Worden experience, but to make working at Ft. Worden the capstone to the transition training. Therefore, we will be placing students on the school campuses, or in other appropriate locations, until they are a year away from their 21st birthday, then they will participate at Ft. Worden. Students staying on campus will learn about job and independent life skills. This is a new look to what we are currently offering; however, the students still are receiving education and training on how to prepare for the world beyond high school.

Assessment Information - Assessment is now into its third week and there have been minor glitches with testing but nothing has created a big problem. There will be three more weeks of testing at various sites in the school district. The last scheduled assessment is expected to be taken on May 25th.

From PTHS ~ Principal, Carrie Ehrhardt

On Friday, April 28, the high school hosted a group of presenters organized by Liz Coker of the Jefferson County Home Builders Association. Representing local employers such as the Port of Port Townsend, East Jefferson Fire and Rescue, the Maritime Center, and Work Source Development, interested juniors and seniors attended presentations on what our community has to offer in living wage careers, here in Port Townsend and in Jefferson County. There were ten local businesses/industries represented, and over 80 students attended.

On Wednesday, Grant Street School students came to see a mini-production of our spring production, *The Heart of Robin Hood*. This coming weekend, May 5th and 6th, are the final dates to see the play. Don't miss it!

On Thursday, PTHS hosted Culture Night. This event involved a collaboration between our Spanish, French, and Art programs and classes. Parents, community members, and others enjoyed an evening of fun and interactive cultural events and presentations, all created by PTHS students.

On Friday, the high school special education department will be hosting individual transition meetings for our upcoming 9th graders and their parents. Families will receive a one-on-one meeting with their special education case manager/teacher, meet the administration and office staff, build their child's course schedule for next year, and go on a campus tour.

Athletics ~ Scott Wilson

We are nearing the end of the regular season for all high school spring sports. With that, comes post-season, individual honors, and team recognitions. The boys' soccer team has qualified for post-season and will be taking on Bellevue Christian this weekend in the first round of the West Central District 3 Tournament. Also, it should be noted that this is the third consecutive year that Coach Ahmad Baabahar has led the Redhawks to the 1A post-season. Our track team expects to send about a dozen athletes to the district track meet in Renton next week. Several of our athletes have set school and league records in individual performances and Coach Ian Fraser expects to see some strong performances in the next two weeks as PTHS kids represent the Redhawks in both league and district meets. A handful of Redhawk golfers are swinging their way into the league tournament next week. Coach Gabe Tonan has been pleased with all of the performances and is hopeful that several golfers—including our one female golfer—will produce victories and make it to the state tournament. Our lone girls tennis' player is volleying for a spot in the finals and both our boys' baseball team and the girls' softball teams are wrapping up their final games this coming week. Both programs are rebuilding for a strong run in the future. Go Redhawks!

The Blue's News ~ Principal, Matt Holshouser

BH Track & Field – The Blue Heron School tracksters are lining up in their starting blocks and enjoying ample success on the track and in the field. We enjoyed a great track meet on Wednesday night against Coupeville and Stevens. Great job Coach Little & Fenton and BH Tracksters. Next meet in Coupeville on Tuesday, May 9th.

8th Grade Students on Indian Island – A big thank you to Blue Heron 8th Grade teachers, students, Naval Magazine Indian Island team, Commander Nick Vande Griend, US Navy – Phil Guerrero, US Geological Survey team & Jake Gregg, NOAA and UW Biology for a great learning experience for all of our 8th grade kiddos last week. Enjoy the photos!



Smarter Balanced Assessment – We are three quarters of the way through our Smarter Balanced Assessment with our Blue Heron School students. Middle School students are now complete with ELA, Math and Science assessment and Elementary (4th & 5th grade) kiddos will navigate their math component next week and we will securely close the books on another state assessment season without a hitch here at Blue Heron. Kudos go to our students, teachers and BH Counselor, Kirsten Bledsoe for a job well done and a smooth testing experience. Many thanks.

Two-wheeled fun – All Things Bicycle – PE Bike Program with BH PE Teacher Mark Tallarico & The ReCyclery – in full swing this spring.

- Jennifer Manning & 8th Grade STEAM class rode to Mt. Townsend Creamery for a great field experience along with sampling some excellent local cheese.
- National Bike & Walk to School Day – Wednesday, May 10th
 - Assembly – Thursday, May 11th
 - Guests and partnerships – PT Police, PT Masons & The PT ReCyclery. The PT Masons have generously donated 5 brand new bicycles for “Caught Reading” ticket winners.

Grant Street News ~ Principal, Lisa Condran

Gallery Art Walk - The Gallery Art Walk on April 21st was an amazing community event. Wanda Leclerc and her crew of volunteers prepared and hung over 3500 pieces of art in the school made by Grant Street Elementary Students. This represents ten pieces of art for each student who attends Grant Street Elementary. Jennifer Kruse and her wonderful culinary students catered this event. Additionally, there were generous donations from community members and local businesses such as Henery's and Mount Townsend Creamery. This picture shows tree paintings inspired by the work of the Canadian artist, Emily Carr.



Grant Street Facebook Page - In response to parent requests, the Grant Street/Salish Coast Facebook page was made by Jason Lynch. This page will help parents keep informed about school events, as well as the construction project. In addition to this communication method, Grant Street has a television monitor outside of the office that will loop important announcements. Thanks to Ann Healy-Raymond, Steve Haveron, and Robert Heck for getting this in place for us. We would love it if you would like our new Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/salishcoast/>

Kindergarten Orientation - Kindergarten orientation was held on April 25th, 2017. Over one hundred prospective students and parents attended this event. Principal Lisa Condran provided information about the kindergarten program at Grant Street with the parents in the art/music room. New students stayed with kindergarten teachers and other staff for story time, games, and a short screening of math and literacy skills. At the end of the evening all of the students and parents had an opportunity to take a very exciting ride on the school bus. In fact, this experience was so popular that the bus had to come back for a second group.

Title/LAP ~ Director, Jason Lynch

The Learning Assistance Program requires that all third grade students who don't meet standard on the English Language Arts (ELA) portion of the Smarter Balanced Assessment (SBAC) be offered a summer learning opportunity. These third graders, along with students in grades kindergarten through grade eight who need academic support, will be invited to a summer learning program.

The Port Townsend School District's summer learning program has been operating for the past two years and will continue again this summer. This program is LAP funded and will provide a variety of learning opportunities in mathematics, literacy, art, and physical activity. Due to the construction at Grant Street this summer, the summer program will be housed exclusively at Blue Heron July 10-28.

Our district's food service will be providing "scratch-cooked" breakfast and lunch to students enrolled in the program. Additionally, Blue Heron will be an "open food site" where any child 18 years and younger can receive free meals for the duration of the program.

Maritime Discovery Schools - Sarah Rubenstein, Project Director

In our third year of the Maritime Discovery Schools initiative, we are continuing to grow our maritime and place-based learning projects, as well as refining projects developed in previous years. Through the generous support of many funders and partners, our district has been able to provide rich place-based learning experiences for students at every grade level. Our creative teachers in Port Townsend have

worked hard to weave into the curriculum meaningful learning that connects state standards to important facets of our community.

Through the support of Washington Sea Grant and The McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation, select elementary and math teachers have been participating in a year-long, Math and Maritime Project-Based Learning professional development program led by math coach Lisa Cartwright. This program has supported integrating math fluency into project-based learning. Grant Street teachers Kaleen Steinke and Heather Sanders developed a sailing and math unit for their first grade students that included a field trip to learn about the math on the *Schooner Martha* and at Port Townsend Sailloft, as well as students applying their math skills through constructing their own model sailboats back in the classroom.

Across our schools students are learning about environmental stewardship through maritime and place-based learning. Grant Street students participated in their annual salmon release after observing the eggs hatch and release in the tank at school. Students at Blue Heron had opportunities to monitor and restore native fish habitat, and test the water quality across the Olympic Peninsula. These programs are supported through community partners such as the North Olympic Salmon Coalition, and donors including the Port Townsend Education Foundation (PTEF), and NOAA's Ocean Guardian Schools program.

In our high school, students are learning about writing with visits and interviews at local businesses, from which they craft a piece of long-form journalism. With support from PTEF and the Farm-to-School Coalition, students in ninth grade health are learning to grow food in the school garden. The vegetables from the garden are harvested and used in our school lunch program. With the support of the PTEF and Edensaw Woods, students in our Maritime Academy Boat Building course are constructing their own Baidarka, a skin on frame kayak design from the native people of the Aleutian Islands. Students will complete their kayaks and launch them in Port Townsend Bay.

The success of our maritime and place-based learning projects are dependant on our strong community partners and funders. Our vibrant community is reflected in our schools through the dedication of our staff and community to make these projects valuable learning experiences for all of our students.

Maintenance and Facilities ~ Director, Brad Taylor

SUPPORT SERVICES: We are in the process of pricing of up to 70% of the new Salish Coast Grade School. This process will take about two weeks and then will go to the Board for their approval. At the end of the process we will have opened over 25 separate bid packages. This is where we will establish the true cost of the new school.

The contractor (Absher) and myself met with the Grant Street staff this past week to discuss the logistics of the project. There was discussion around the noise, what equipment was to be on site when, the phasing of the building, the amount of the property that will be needed to build out the project, parking challenges, and other good questions from staff. We will be having a ground breaking ceremony on the last day of school.

GROUNDS: Most everyone knows by now that Che Taylor took a job with the city. He was a great asset to the district and will be missed by all.

Library, Technology and Curriculum News ~ Director, Ann Healy-Raymond

K-5 Science Curriculum - At the April 24th Instructional Materials Committee meeting, the K-5 Science Review Team presented their review of science material for K-5 and then submitted their choice. The K-5 Science Review Team consists of Dorothy Stengle, Denise Aedan, Paula Colette, Karmen Meier, and Lisa Condran. Ann Raymond facilitated the meetings. Lois Sherwood and Brandi Hageman served on the

committee as guests with the eye of K-12 alignment of science instruction and learning. The K-5 Science Review Team recommended the adoption of the Building Blocks of Science materials to the IMC committee. The K-5 Science Review Committee found that this curriculum is well aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards and with the district's Framework for Materials Selection. After a question and answer period and rich discussion, the IMC voted unanimously to recommend the K-5 Building Blocks of Science materials. This recommendation will now go to the school board to be considered for adoption. The board's first read of the Science Review Team's recommendations will be on May 8. Members of the K-5 Science Review Team will attend to answer questions. The following Board meeting will see the action to approve or deny the recommendation.

Native American Curriculum - This week Sarah Rubenstein and Ann Raymond attended Trainer of Trainers for the Since Time Immemorial (Native American Curriculum) training given by the Office of Native Education/OSPI. The training emphasized State law RCW 28A.320.170 that says districts are required to incorporate lessons about the history, culture and government of the nearest federally recognized Indian tribe or tribes into instruction. OSPI has sponsored the creation of a free "Since time Immemorial: Tribal Sovereignty in Washington State" curriculum. It is an on-line, standards-aligned curriculum that includes a menu of tribal sovereignty information, short lessons, and entire units for teachers to use.

Plans are underway to offer training next year for English Language Arts and Social Studies teachers district wide. The training will include examining the updated and improved Since Time Immemorial website <http://www.k12.wa.us/IndianEd/TribalSovereignty> and time for teachers to develop integration of lessons into existing instruction and projects.

Google Transition - Steve Haveron and Ann Raymond are working on the transition to Google as our email and calendar platform. The transition will occur after the end of the school year, and exact dates will be sent out soon. All staff will have their email messages and calendars transferred into their Gmail and Google Calendar. Teachers will soon have detailed information regarding the transition, with a website of detailed instructions and help linked to the district website. The Tech Committee has assisted Steve and Ann in identifying the information staff will want to know to make a smooth transition to Google. With many staff already using their Gmail and Google calendars, the transition should be fairly seamless. Training is planned for June for those who would like to explore Google Calendar and Gmail this spring. Clock hours will be available.