



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

Port Townsend School District No. 50

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

May 19, 2017

### Quote

***"You may leave school, but it does not leave you." ~Andy Partridge***

### Special Education and Assessment ~ Patrick Kane

Students and staff from Grant Street and Blue Heron Life Skills Program went to Kitsap Fairgrounds on Monday, May 15 for Corey's Day at the Farm. This is an annual field trip in which the students have the opportunity to see all types of animals from the farm, including an opportunity to pet the animals, ride hay wagons, and ride on horses. This event is sponsored by the Corey family of Silverdale and has been going on for forty years strong. The students enjoyed the day and the weather cooperated almost to the end before some rain dropped on the festivities.



#### Special Education Update – OSPI

New Special Education Assistant Superintendent announced, effective July 1. Glenna Gallo has been hired as the new Special Education Assistant Superintendent. Glenna comes to us from the Utah State Board of Education, where she is currently the State Director of Special Education. Prior to, she held the positions of Special Education Coordinator/State and Federal Compliance Officer and Education Specialist at the Utah State Board of Education. She has worked in the classroom as a special education teacher and coordinator in the Jordan School District in West Jordan, Utah; and spent some time at Utah State University as an Adjunct Professor, providing instruction to Master-level students in the Alternative Teacher Preparation program for the SPED 6060: Legal Issues in Special Education course. Glenna is currently serving as president of the National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDE). Glenna holds a Bachelor's of Science degree from University of Nevada, Las Vegas. She earned her Master's degree from Utah State University, and is currently in the process of obtaining her M.B.A. from Western Governor's University.

#### Assessment Information – Ready WA - Learn More about Smarter Balanced Assessments (OSPI)

Washington is in the final stretch of the spring Smarter Balanced testing window. Between now and June, students in most grade levels will complete their Smarter Balanced assessments in math and English Language Arts. Teachers across our communities and the country use the test to measure student

progress and gain valuable insight into areas where students might benefit from additional help or accelerated learning opportunities. In a video classic from the Ready Washington archives, learn how teachers at one school, North Hill Elementary School in Des Moines, use assessments to know who's on track and who needs extra help.

Want to get more familiar with the test, learn what the score means, or get other questions answered? Ready Washington has created a number of communications tools to help students, parents, and teachers use these assessments to help students plan their path. Visit [ReadyWA.org/Smarter-Balanced](http://ReadyWA.org/Smarter-Balanced) to find FAQs, flyers, videos, and more. Smarter Balanced has additional resources available for students and parents.

The state is also transitioning to the ELPA21 Screener in August 2017; the Screener is used to determine initial student eligibility for English language development services. The ELPA21 Screener must also be administered to any students with a disability whose family answers "a language other than English" to question #2 or #3 on the Home Language Survey. Refer to the state guidelines for identification of English learners. On April 27, 2017, an ELPA21 webinar was provided that reviewed various issues that districts need to consider during the transition (e.g., online administration, braille version of the Screener not available until 2018–19, use of the WELPA during the spring 2017 Kindergarten Roundup, accommodations, etc.). The OSPI Assessment Office will be sending out a survey within the next few weeks to District Assessment Coordinators seeking feedback on the second testing window.

CEE surveys have been compiled and received by the school district. This survey was taken by school district staff, students from kindergarten to twelfth grade, and parents of students at all instructional sites in the district. District staff and school building administrators will review the data soon. Information will be shared with staff, parents and the public in the near future.

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

Seniors and their dates had a great time at Prom this past Saturday. The event this year was held at the Elks Lodge, with decorations representing a 1920's party theme. Several parents supported the group by providing food and assisting with chaperone duties. The next big event for Seniors is the Senior Symposium, Tuesday, May 23 at Fort Worden. The Keynote begins at 8:30 a.m., followed by presentations running every 20 minutes in eight different rooms. Special thanks to our Symposium room hosts who make sure that everything goes smoothly for the presenters and our community panel members: Ann Raymond, Chris Pierson, Amos Freeman, Brandi Hageman, Julianne Dow, Rene Olson, Mark Welch and Tim Behrenfeld. We have over 60 confirmed community members serving as panel members this year.

Registration for the 2017-18 school year is happening this week in the high school library. Students have a choice of several new elective exploration courses this next year, thanks to the addition of our 7th period classes, which only meet once per week for an hour. New classes which have never been offered at our high school before, such as SAT Prep, Psychology, and Astronomy have quickly filled to student capacity!

It's Rhody Week here in Port Townsend, and students are making plans for the upcoming events of the week. We have at least one group of students who are in the bed races, and of course everyone is looking forward to the carnival starting on Thursday. Our high school band will be marching in the Grand Rhody Parade on Saturday. And don't forget to waive to our Rhody royalty, Princess Sarah Smith and Princess Taylor Tracer as they pass by on their float!

## **Athletics ~ Scott Wilson**

As we hit the middle of May, our spring sports season is coming to a close. Out of the six sports offered at PTHS, only two remain with a handful of athletes set to compete in postseason.

Competing at the district meet this weekend in Renton are: Seren Dances, Kyle Blankenship, Gerry Coker, Berkley Hill, Erik Pokorny, Brenna Franklin, Ari Winter, Aubry Botkin, Anika Avelino, Sira Wines, Nathan Cantrell, Dylan Tracer, Luke Absher, and Tate Munich. Each of these athletes has an opportunity to place high and earn a spot at the state track meet in Spokane.

Currently, we have four golfers who have qualified for the West Central District 3 golf tournament. Those student athletes are Patrick Morton, Jacob Madison, Caleb Johnson, Mackenzie Lake. Continued success on the links from these students will surely put them at the state tournament.

Stay tuned for an update in our next report to see how The Redhawks fared in post-season.

GO REDHAWKS!

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

### BH Track & Field –

- The Blue Heron School Track & Field squad continue to perform well. We just competed over in Port Angeles with several individual and team victories. Our last competition will be next Wednesday for the Olympic Leagues Championships held over at the Forks Oval. Good luck team and thank you for representing our school and community very well.

### Art on Display Downtown & Water Street –

- You may have noted the great student artwork on display at many of the Water Street retail shops. Kudos to Blue Heron School Art Teacher, Susan Doyle, and many to the Port Townsend Main Street Program. PT Schools Art Wave is making great waves and celebrating students and great partnerships in our community. Thanks all and enjoy the photos.



### • Smarter Balanced

- We have closed the books on another smooth and successful season of state assessments. Kudos and many thanks to:

- Steve Haveron – IT Guru who made all online platforms sing.
- Kirsten Bledsoe – BH Counselor
- BH Teachers and Paraeducators – Great Proctors
- BH students – for working diligently with a smile on!

### • Two-wheeled fun –

- All Things Bicycle – Thank you to the PT Masonic Lodge, PT Police Department and the PT ReCyclery. Another great year of our National Bike and Walk to School event. Congratulations to the bike winners via our Caught Reading Raffle. Enjoy the new bike and helmet.



### Assessment –

### • 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Dinner Dance –

- We recently celebrated a great 8<sup>th</sup> grade Dinner Dance and many thanks to the wonderful BH parents, staff members and Arrow Lumber for their generous donation to redesign our Blue Heron Commons into a beautiful dinner and dance setting for our kiddos. Excellent job all and our 8<sup>th</sup> graders enjoyed every minute of this event. Thank you.
- **Teacher Appreciation Week – May 8<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>**
  - We celebrated Teacher Appreciation Week in fine fashion last week. Kudos and thank you to the great BH Classified team, Blue Heron School PTA and many BH Parents as they served lunch, sweets and many gifts to our teachers throughout the week. Thank you for the recognition and celebration. We are all very appreciative of a great school and work environment.

## Grant Street News ~ Principal, Lisa Condran

Salmon Release: First and Second Grade Team, Coordinated by Dorothy Stengel



From the Jefferson Land Trust Website:

A Grant Street Elementary student wishes “happy travels” to the coho salmon fry he’s about to release into Chimacum Creek. One hundred fifty first and second graders from Grant Street Elementary School came out to Illahee Preserve. The kids brought the coho salmon fry they’ve been raising in their class. It was a joy to watch as they brought the tiny fish in cups one-by-one into Chimacum Creek. And everyone was delighted later when some kids found some of their newly-released fry making themselves at home along the creek! Later, the students reflected in their journals and ran wild during a plant scavenger hunt. The coho release is an annual event, and has become a memorable signature experience for every Grant Street first and second grader. This experience is deeply personal – the students raise the fry themselves and often even name them. They learn what the young fish will experience over the course of their lives. They build empathy, and this is crucial to a future where people care about fish and wildlife. Research indicates that a loss of empathy is a by-product of the digital age. And when kids have fun and memorable experiences in nature, it creates connection and love of the outdoors that can last a lifetime. Together, we’re nurturing the next generations of salmon and stewards! To see more pictures follow these links: <https://saveland.org/young-fry-salmon-release/>  
[https://www.facebook.com/pg/JeffersonLandTrust/photos/?tab=album&album\\_id=829878433817012](https://www.facebook.com/pg/JeffersonLandTrust/photos/?tab=album&album_id=829878433817012)



### First Grade Mathematics Field Trip

Heather Sanders and Kaleen Steinke’s first grade classes toured a schooner and visited Port Townsend Sails sail making shop near Port Hudson Marina. Carol Hasse explained the process of making new sails to students and how it is related mathematics. This trip helped students understand the real-world applications math has, as well as expose them to a maritime industry. This field trip experience was funded by the Washington Sea Grant. Additionally, K-5 Math Coach, Lisa Cartwright

secured an additional grant through the McCarthy Dressman Education Foundation to support a math fluency project, which is called Math and Maritime Project-based Learning.

Public Education Business Coalition Thinking Strategies Institute in Denver

A group of Blue Heron and Grant Street teachers (Cherry Chenruk—Geelan, Lisa Condran, Allen Fox, Karmen Meier, Lisa Olsen, Cleome Rowe, Sally Shaw-Dankert, and Dorothy Stengel) went to Denver during the first week in May to the Thinking Strategies Institute. This institute, which many teachers, called “life changing” for the impact it had on their thinking about teaching and student learning, is described as follows: Learning is a complex intellectual activity. It is the thinking strategies that enable learners to make sense of complex texts, academic standards, and content. In this institute, educators learn how to explicitly teach, support, and plan for deeper thinking with the thinking strategies within in the context of instructional best practices.

The team not only learned about the thinking strategies and the workshop model of education but also visited lab classrooms for two days to see teachers and students actively using thinking strategies. Participating teachers also explored ways to promote deep learning by fostering engagement and understanding, and how the workshop model, rich student discourse, and thinking oriented classroom communities provide time for teacher modeling, student practice, and self-reflection.

The team will be sharing their learning with other teachers in a variety of ways. The goal is to send more and more teachers to this valuable professional development over time until all teachers have had a chance to attend.

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

Summer Programs... continued

Postings for the Port Townsend School District’s summer program have recently been published. We are looking for at least two teachers each of literacy and math, as well as educational assistants to support the program. A fine arts teacher is also needed to incorporate art and music into the literacy and math curriculum.

Our summer program will be housed exclusively at Blue Heron this year due to the construction at Grant Street. Classroom teachers in grades K-8 will identify and invite students for the summer program based on academic need. The program will run from July 10-28 and will operate from approximately 8:30-1:00. This program will be free to students will include a scratch-made breakfast and lunch. Blue Heron will also be an “open food” site where all children 18 years and younger can receive free breakfast and lunch during the duration of the summer program.

Please contact Jason Lynch at [jlynch@ptschools.org](mailto:jlynch@ptschools.org) if you have any questions regarding this program.

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

It is a busy time of year across all of our schools for maritime and place-based learning. OCEAN students in the BRAVO program completed a service project building bird houses that can be seen at Point Hudson. Grant Street students released salmon that they watched grow from eggs. Kindergarteners presented their Port Townsend A to Z books to the visitor’s center. You can see them on display now in the kids’ corner of the visitor’s center. High School students visited the historic Pocock racing shells after reading *Boys in the Boat* in English class. Fourth graders headed out to the Blue Heron orchard to measure the trees in preparation for their trip to Johnny Come Lately Creek to learn and study the



restoration projects undertaken by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe. Many other exciting projects are happening at all grade levels thanks to our creative teachers and dedicated community partners.

A program review is underway across the district and will include focus groups with students and teachers, and surveys to families, teachers, and students. This year-three program evaluation will help us determine the next steps towards sustainability of the MDS Initiative into the future of the district. A report is expected in August and will be shared with the school board and staff.

An end of year celebration of this year's maritime and place-based learning projects will be held for teachers and community partners June 15, 1:10-3pm. Location still to be determined. Teachers are invited to bring their families to this celebratory end of year event.