



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

Port Townsend School District No. 50

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

June 16, 2017

Quote

“Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.”

George Washington Carver

End of year and staffing assignments.....

This is last installment of the Superintendent Newsletter for the school year. I would like to thank the faculty and staff for their efforts to provide students with the best learning experiences possible. I would also like to thank our community for the incredible support of students, teachers, coaches, and everyone who has been working with students.

I hope this newsletter has helped keep folks informed about various aspects of our school district. If you ever want to review any past issues, please know what we archive the newsletters on our district website.

Keep in mind a few upcoming PD opportunities:

Gmail and Google Calendar Training, June 20, 9AM-3PM

Become more familiar with how to use Gmail and Google Calendar to enable your smooth transition to these tools starting in July. Beginner through Advanced. Clock hours available. See Sarah's MDS Closing Out notice on other opportunities.

We have several changes in staffing for the upcoming school year (I can't believe I just wrote that).

Staff changes – 2017-18 School Year (at this time - hope I didn't miss anyone)

District Administration and Support Staff

- Ann Healy-Raymond will be assigned as part-time Assistant Principal at Grant Street Elementary - her focus will be supporting Principal Condran as the Salish Coast Elementary school construction project will be in full swing. Many of her duties will be assigned to other administrators next year.
- Sarah Rubenstein will continue as Maritime Discovery School Director, and will add some additional duties - not just within the MDS initiative: Professional Development Coordinator, Community Outreach Director, and Communication/Public Information.

- Lysa Falge, Athletic Coordinator, is running most phases of athletics, but principals will pick up some of the duties from Scott Wilson.
- Sandi Reid, Business Office Clerk, is retiring

High School

- Tim Behrenfeld moves to part time
- Alex Heilig is the new Dean of Students
- David Kelley takes over Science and Math from Lois Sherwood who is retiring
- Scott Wilson is moving on to Central Kitsap School District as AP at Olympic HS

Blue Heron

- Maria Briones is moving on from Reading Specialist
- Paula Collet moving from 4th grade to 5th grade
- Maggie Kelley moving from Kindergarten to 5th grade
- Kelsey Wolf will join Blue Heron as .5 FTE Psychologist
- Betsy Hart is moving from OPEPO to Blue Heron 5th Grade
- Amy Wilson is moving on to Central Kitsap School District
- Jen Cronin, Paraeducator, is retiring
- Chris Neuman, 5th Grade teacher, is retiring
- Matt Holshouser is moving on from Blue Heron.

Grant Street

- Jason Lynch is moving on to Chimacum as Elementary Principal
- Kirsten Behrenfeld is moving from .5 FTE Birth to Three to 1.0 FTE Preschool
- Mary Barnes is retiring
- Lisa Cartwright is moving from full to part-time Math Coach
- Sabrina Caverly will join Grant Street as part-time Counselor
- Corey Smith will be a leave replacement in Special Education
- Kriszti Bunica is moving on from her Music position
- Pat Range is moving from full-time Special Education to part-time Birth to Three
- Bonnie Stenehjem is moving from Grade 3 to Grade 2
- Heather Sanders is moving from Grade 1 to Grade 1-2
- Kaleen Steinke is moving from Grade 1 to Grade 1-2
- Dawn Braden is moving from First-Second Grade Loop to Grade 1
- Peter Braden is moving from Grade 1-2 to Grade 2

From PTHS ~ Principal, Carrie Ehrhardt

What a whirlwind of a year it has been at PTHS. Thanks to everyone who attended our Graduation ceremony on June 9. While we have a great deal of pride sending off another set of graduates out into the world, we know that it is a group effort, and there have been so many wonderful educators who have touched the lives of these young adults over their 13-year school career. Thanks to all of you who are a part of our educational village here at Port Townsend School District.

Three members of our Students for Sustainability Club have been accepted to participate in the Climate Reality Leadership Training in Bellevue, June 27-29. Our students will be working with renowned climate scientists and former US Vice President Al Gore. This is an international event, with participants coming from all over the world. One of the SFS goals is to connect with other Washington State participants to build momentum for the Bottle Bill that they are working to place on state's ballot. What an honor it is for our SFS students to participate in this event! I'm excited to see how our SFS members will turn their training into new projects for the high school to work on this next school year.

With the end of each school year comes the possibility of staff transitions. This year we are saying goodbye to two outstanding staff members. Lois Sherwood is retiring after 26 years at Port Townsend High School! Fortunately, Lois isn't completely letting go. She is still planning to be our Students for Sustainability advisor and will run the clock at our football and basketball games this next school year. And, after four years with the District, three of those years at PTHS, Assistant Principal Scott R. Wilson will be moving into another AP position at Olympic High School in Bremerton. We wish both Lois and Scott all the best in this next phase of their lives.

Thanks to everyone who has helped to make it another great year for our high school and district. Happy Summer!

Athletics ~ Scott Wilson and Lysa Falge

The 2017 Spring Sports Season is officially over...and what a season it has been. For my final sports report, I have teamed up with Lysa Falge to help summarize the great season our students had over the last few months. We have a variety of honors that range from state-level participation, gold medal finishes at state competition, *team* sportsmanship, all-league, academic state champions, and recognition for individual accomplishments. The Redhawks have truly represented our school and community this spring. We are catching the attention of a lot of people across the state. As the outgoing Athletic Director, I cannot be more proud of our athletes and our separate coaching staffs for their dedication and commitment to our Culture of Excellence and Redhawk PRIDE. I am also proud of the good work that Lysa Falge has put in to continue the vision and work in the best interest of kids. I am confident that the Redhawks will grow stronger each year under her direction and guidance. GO REDHAWKS!

With Redhawk Pride, -Scott R. Wilson

As we close out this 2016-17 school year, it is done with an abundance of awards and recognitions that our student-athletes earned this spring. I am always astounded by what our students are able to achieve! With every year's end, there is an excitement to see what our student-athletes and teams will accomplish next. Yet, this year brings some bittersweet feelings as we come to a close. My colleague and friend will not be here to enjoy all of the future Redhawk moments and celebrations with me. I will miss Scott Wilson as he moves on to his next adventure. I wish him all the best....even if he will be wearing blue!

I am also excited and honored to continue supporting the Redhawks in every athletic endeavor that the future brings. I plan to carry on Redhawk PRIDE and working in the best interest of kids.

2017-18....here we come!

The Blue's News ~ Principal, Matt Holshouser

4th Grade – the 4th grade team wrapped up the school year with visits from ONP Park Rangers, a field experience at Jimmy Come Lately Creek led by tribal biologists and a final visit and celebratory lunch at the Ft. Worden Kitchen Shelter and Beach.

5th Grade – the 5th grade team wrapped up the school year with visits to the Marine Science Center, Pt. Wilson Lighthouse as well as final visit and celebratory lunch at the Ft. Worden Kitchen Shelter and Beach.

6th Grade – 6th grade team wrapped up the school year with a great week out at Ft. Worden in partnership with Centrum for a great week of Tales, Text and Theatre. During the week all 6th grade students had a learning opportunity to learn more about drawing, life size puppetry, ukelele instrumentation, steel pan drumming and improve theatre and acting....just to name a few. Thank you very much to Martha

Worthley and the Centrum team as well as the PTEF team for helping make this possible for all of our 6th grade students.

7th Grade – The 7th grade team continues to wrap up this great school year down at our local NW Maritime Center. 8 days of great learning down there on the water and in the boat/wood shop. So many thanks to the NW Maritime Center as well as the PTEF for making this possible for all of our kiddos.

8th Grade – The 8th Grade S2O team continues to wrap up this great school year with a variety of projects and field experiences. With visits to Salt Creek on the peninsula, Camp Seymour in Gig Harbor and ONP – Sol Duc as well as experiencing and learning at our local PT Wastewater Treatment Plant as their final days here at Blue Heron School are coming to a close. Thank you again to the PTEF for making this rich learning available for all students. We will host and celebrate an 8th grade promotion assembly at 11:15am – Friday, June 16th in the Blue Heron School Gym with a family and friends reception in the BH Commons immediately following. Please join us if your schedule allows.

Grant Street News ~ Principal, Lisa Condran

Maggie Kelley, Kindergarten Teacher, featured in a new radio show!

A new local radio show is coming to KPTZ! Heather McRae-Woolf is hosting an interview series called "The Heart of Learning: Community Conversations About Education."

The first episode focuses on how we can support the development of empathy in young children. I was honored to interview two dedicated local educators: Koshalla Flockoi, Kindergarten and first grade teacher at Sunfield Farm and Waldorf School, and Maggie Kelley, Kindergarten teacher at Grant Street School.

This episode aired, on 91.9 FM, on [Monday June 12, at 12:30pm](#), repeated on [Tuesday June 13, at 5:30pm](#). If you missed the broadcasts, you should be able to listen to the show in podcast form at kptz.org.

Please feel free to send me your ideas for future topics or suggestions of local people whose perspectives on education you would like to hear.

Heather McRae-Woolf, (734) 545-2864, hmwoolf@gmail.com



Grant Street Fun Run was a tremendous success!

Congratulations to Jog-a-Thon Winners:

Kindergarten: Ian Elias and Owyn Stark (13 laps)
1st grade: Talu Binger and DJ Wiggins (15 laps)
2nd Grade: Malek Amer & Noah Isenberg (19 laps)
3rd Grade: Adeline McMillen (14 laps)
4th grade and up: Keifer Tichgelaar (15 laps)

From Joy Wentzel, Teacher Librarian:

We had our Grand Opening June 2nd of the Little Free Library near Grant Street's front door. Everyone went home with a book to read. Come around for a book to read this summer. Spread the word. Also, the

second (LFL) near preschool and Headstart will have its Grand Opening on Friday June 9 (focus on parenting and preschool books).

A big thanks to Bryan Wentzel for building these LFLs and the teachers for supporting this project.

To read more:

https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1JyM09WU7w-gDt-xilaiWB7Vc1xHCwgePXDmfFGd7L0c/edit#slide=id.g1df3793b38_0_437

OCEAN ~ Liz Quayle, Coordinator-Teacher



*Congratulations to our OCEAN graduates!
Shown: Cassandra Lane, Gavin Futrelle, Catarina Sonandre.
More are graduating later this month!*

May and June has been busy at OCEAN! We have been wrapping up units of instruction, and heading out into the world in so many ways!

Maritime and Place-Based Learning:

Throughout the year, we have partnered with the NW Maritime Center and with the Recyclery. These partnerships have allowed our students use of the Bear for Rowing and Sailing, learning about Sailors' Arts and studying environmental science. Students in the Maritime boats built houses for Purple Martins which were occupied by the birds within a week of the installation! The San Juan Islands was the destination for both classes for their year-end expeditions.



Biking in the San Juans – and, no trip can be without music! Exploring the tonal qualities of bull kelp.



Shoreline Vegetation: OCEAN 9th-11th grade English/Marine Biology students with Blue Heron Life Skills

High school students wrapped up their Marine studies and community



project by taking the students in the Blue Heron Life Skills class to the beach for shoreline vegetation instruction and shoreline safety. Students had fun walking around the headlands and on the beach, identifying plants and finding treasures on the beach.



K-8 Exhibition Night

At the end of the spring unit on World Mythology, students displayed their Tri-fold boards and shared music at the year-end Exhibition Night and celebration – and then did the Plunge into the Bay.



Art Wave!

Collections of student art was displayed in local businesses as part of the Art Wave!



Students in K-8 displayed their art at Abracadabra and high school Visual Arts students displayed theirs at 1012 Coffee Bar.



Thank you to all our students, parents, and community members for supporting the learning at OCEAN! Have a great summer –

Read, find math in your daily life, explore the cultures and science around you. See you in the fall!

Title/LAP ~ Director, Jason Lynch

As we close this school year, I am reflecting on the great work that teachers, staff, and community members do with our students on a daily basis. Title 1 and the Learning Assistance Program (LAP) have helped fund and coordinate initiatives and programs that support student learning district-wide. Some these programs included:

- After school tutoring programs at Blue Heron and Grant Street
- Credit retrieval programs that helped 7 students graduate who would have not otherwise graduated
- Supported community partnerships such as AAUW tutoring and math support at Grant Street
- Funded seven teachers and one principal to attend the “Thinking Strategies Institute” in Denver to learn how to teach students a structure to think and solve problems in all content areas
- Love and Logic parent classes at Grant Street
- Teacher workgroups to implement best practice in early learning, social emotional learning, literacy and mathematics
- K-5 literacy materials to teach struggling learners and English language learners in the general education classroom
- Support implementing the Bridges in Mathematics curriculum
- Read 180 and Eagle Reading Room literacy interventions at Blue Heron and Grant Street
- Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark reading assessments in K-5

- Mathematics interventionist and Math Coach to support struggling learners in mathematics in K-5
- Positive behavior training for teachers to implement positive discipline practices this summer
- Online programs such as RAZ kids, NewsELA, Reading A-Z, STAR, SeeSaw, and IXL
- Second Steps behavior support curriculum for the Grant Street counselor

Maintenance and Facilities ~ Director, Brad Taylor

Facilities:

As of Monday the 12th of June it is official, the contractor Absher Construction has officially moved onto the Salish Coast Elementary site to begin the construction of our new school. They are setting up their job shack in the old Ocean school building. The official groundbreaking ceremony is to take place on the last day of school at 7:45 in the morning starting with coffee and pastries under the canopy at the north end of the building, then they will move to the upper field where the ground breaking itself will commence at 8:15 am. We are working with the city to have the first phase of the construction begin on Monday the 19th. This will involve mobilization, removing trees that are set for removal and, selective site clearing (70% of the trees will be turned into mulch to use on the project).

Maintenance:

At the end of June we will be launching a new work order system called FMX. This will replace the current system School Dude. The new system is a lot more user friendly and has features built in that are extras on School Dude like online facility requests and the ability to schedule sporting events. The transition will occur with all users receiving an email invite to join and some instructions as to how to use the system. Once we switch over if you have an outstanding work order that has not been completed you will have to reenter that request (sorry).

Changes are happening in the maintenance office with the new arrival of Shane Trammell as our grounds keeper and the moving on of Shannon Holshouser and Robert Heck, they both played an integral part of the great personality this department has. Best wishes to both of them in their new adventures.

Food Service ~ Stacey Larsen

What a great year!

Shannon Minnihan, our great head chef, will be cooking as part of the Summer Meals program this summer. The school district will be providing breakfast and lunch for all community members 18 and under. We will be serving at Blue Heron Middle School and the program runs July 10th-28th Monday-Friday. Breakfast is from 8:30-9:00 and lunch is from 12:00-12:30. We are excited to be able to provide food for kids this summer while Jason Lynch and Patrick Kane run their summer enrichment programs. Please share this information with families that want breakfast and lunch during those three weeks.

Four of our new tables have arrived at the High School and we cannot wait to see them in the cafeteria-the ASB contributed money to help buy the tables.

Both school gardens will be producing food this summer with the help of our school gardeners and many volunteers. Much of this food will be preserved and used in the cafeteria next year.

We were awarded a grant by the Master Gardener Foundation of Jefferson County that will help us buy signs for the cafeteria that shows the diners where their food is coming from. This will be unveiled at the schools in the fall.

We are saying goodbye to Dan Walvatne at the High School-he will be missed and we wish him luck with what is next. Joanne Mackey will be moving from Grant Street to the High School-she will be leaving a large hole at Grant Street. We will be looking for a great person to take her place. Thanks for all your support and see you in the lunch line next September!

Special Education and Assessment ~ Patrick Kane

Special Education

Extended School Year (ESY) will take place from July 10 to July 21 at Blue Heron school. Students from the elementary school to high school will be participating. Classes start at 9:00 am and will finish at 12:00 pm. The school district will offer breakfast from 8:30 am to 9:00 am and lunch from 12:00 pm to 12:30 pm.

We are looking for general education teachers who would be interested in attending a three-day workshop in August through the U of Washington. The workshop is Aug 1-3 and will run from 8 am to 3 pm. The focus of the workshop is to learn about inclusion in the general education classes for students with autism. Teachers will work in teams with the special education staff. If you are interested please contact me before June 30.

Special education district workshop on August 30, 2017 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm. The workshop will be held at the high school library and all of the certified and classified staff serving special education students will be attending. This will be a great time of the year to discuss special education in the district and plan for the coming school year.

Assessment

The SBAC is done and information regarding test results have been reported. Please do not share any testing information with parents or students until the results have been certified by the school district. Information about the assessment will be made available to families in the fall.

Information from the CEE survey taken by staff, students and families will be given out at the start of the new school year. Administration will be given the opportunity to review the information and prepare to share and discuss with staff at the beginning of the school year.