

Port Townsend School District No. 50  
**Superintendent Polm's Newsletter**  
**Vol. 17-18, No. 1**  
**September 5, 2017**

Photo: High School Campus: 2017 (credit unknown)

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## Introduction ~ from Dr. Polm



The summer ends and a new school year begins! Each year I am filled with excitement as students (and many of us adults) arrive eager with anticipation. There will be reuniting with friends, sharing of stories, and meeting with new people. For little ones, school is exciting, but also frightening as they must learn how to “do” school. Our older students often look forward to their activities with friends. We adults have a mix of excitement as well as a heavy sense of responsibility.

This newsletter is a tool that I would like to use every couple of weeks or so to share information about the district. As we begin school, I would like to take the opportunity to share some of my beliefs and commitments that I like to refresh each new year. I hope you will join me in these ideas as we march into the 2017-2018 school year together.

- I believe the education of each student is a responsibility shared by students, families, schools and communities. This belief leads to my commitment to the continued development of our place-based curriculum and Maritime Discovery Schools initiative. This belief is grounded in the idea that students need to be engaged in collaborative and meaningful educational activities in order to build the skills and knowledge needed in the 21st century.
- I believe we all are guardians of the school district values, mission, vision, and goals. My commitments are to be fair, truthful, reliable, and respectful while we diligently work to deepen the learning experiences for our students. These deeper experiences take a lot of effort and thought around how we can leverage our place-based ideas, engage our community based on real needs, and assure that rigorous standards and assessments are part of every project.

Further, I would like to share a short list of what students really need.

- Challenge and rigor
- Interest and choice
- A sense of belonging and community
- A safe environment
- A teacher who believes they are valuable and capable
- Support
- Growth and development intellectually and socially/morally

I hope you will join me in these beliefs and commitments. We can all be committed to the student experience. That is, we can understand that our public schools are where our students experience a significant part of their life. Let's work together to ensure we are centered on creating quality opportunities for students that are rigorous, relevant and connected to our community.

## September is Attendance Awareness Month

The Port Townsend supports September as Attendance Awareness Month. This means each school in the district will be paying special attention to recognizing excellent attendance as well as identifying

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students who have barriers to regular attendance. For more information on building activities, please see your building principal.

## **Security Cameras**

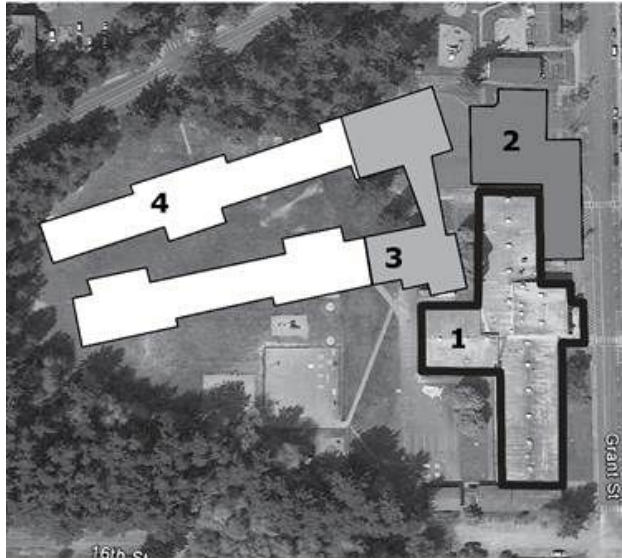
Security cameras have been installed in Blue Heron and the high school. We will be developing formal policy on the camera use, but please be assured that cameras are a preventative security and safety measure. Nationally, the standard is to have security cameras in schools. We worked closely with consultants and our local police department to ensure maximum coverage on exterior areas of the schools and coverage of most common areas of the schools. The cameras do record digitally, and footage can be accessed in the event of the investigation of an incident. The footage is stored for up to 20 days and is on a secure server within the district. There will not be staff assigned to monitor cameras, nor will cameras be used for employee evaluations. Cameras will never be used to infringe on the privacy of any student, teacher, visitor, or staff member. Cameras are not placed in restrooms or classrooms. Viewing of footage captured by the security cameras will only be conducted by administrators (building and system), deans, or school resource officer(s). The security cameras' primary purpose will be for use in instances of unauthorized visitors on campus to promote student/staff safety, incidents of property damage, and for viewing student discipline incidents. If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact a building administrator.

## **Salish Coast Construction**

Construction is underway on the new Salish Coast Elementary! Absher Construction Company, the general contractor for the project, has begun pouring the foundation concrete and will continue over the next few weeks. Subcontractor Interwest Construction completed a new water main loop around the perimeter of the site and is working on installing the new storm drain system. They are also working on excavating foundation zones, which will continue in September.

Since the existing playground lies within the construction area, Absher and Interwest created a temporary play area for students. PSW Electric also completed their temporary rerouting of telecommunication service to the school's portables. Absher is working to construct a viewing area for the project, and they will be providing regular updates and photos, so everyone can stay informed about this exciting progress! Additionally, Absher will be providing quarterly updates for the students in kid-friendly language, so they can follow along with the progress of the school, learn about careers in construction, and be continuously reminded of safety tips. Keep an eye out in November for information about Absher's Holiday Lights program! Through this program, Absher provides food baskets to community members in need. They will coordinate with the school to identify families to receive this donation during the holiday season. Following is a description of current construction activities and those scheduled for the upcoming months, labeled according to their location on the map.

1. The existing school remains in use during construction.
2. We have installed a temporary playground for use until the new school is finished. The permanent playground will be constructed after the existing school has been demolished.
3. This is the first building zone for the new school. We removed a portable and started foundations for this zone in August. After foundations have been completed, framing will commence in September.
4. Excavation and foundations for this zone will take place from August through October.



Following is a general construction timeline, from now through the end of the project:

- Concrete Foundations: July 2017 – October 2017
- Underslab Electrical and Plumbing: September 2017 – November 2017
- Absher’s Holiday Lights Program: November 2017 – December 2017
- Concrete Slab on Grade: October 2017 – December 2017
- Structural Framing: October 2017 – January 2018
- Building Envelope: December 2017 – April 2018
- Interior MEP Rough-In: December 2017 – May 2018
- Interior Finishes: March 2018 – August 2018
- Demolition of Existing School: June 2018
- Site Restoration: April 2018 – September 2018

## Parenting Resources

There may be a lot of different resources available for parents. One such resource that may be worth investigating is Parenting Wisely <https://www.parentingwisely.com/>. This program is published by Family Works Inc. This resource was recommended at a recent meeting of the Jefferson County Truancy Reform Committee. However, it has a lot of information and suggestions for parents.

## Photo ID - for Faculty and Staff

All staff members need to have a photo ID. Please take yours during your building picture day. Also, a special request to HS and District Staff members....there are two scheduled photo days at the high school this year. One was Monday at the Back-to-School Day from 10 am - 1:30 pm, and the make-up day is Thursday, September 14 from 8 - 10:30 am. Coaches, maintenance, food service, IT, and the district staff all need ID cards made, as well as the PTHS staff.

## Quote for Thought

*“Let the main ideas which are introduced into a child’s education be few and important, and let them be thrown into every combination possible. The child should make them his own, and should understand their application here and now. From the very beginning of his education, the child should experience the joy of discovery.”*

~A.N. Whitehead (from *The Aims of Education*, Presidential address to the Mathematical Association of England, 1916).