



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

Port Townsend School District No. 50

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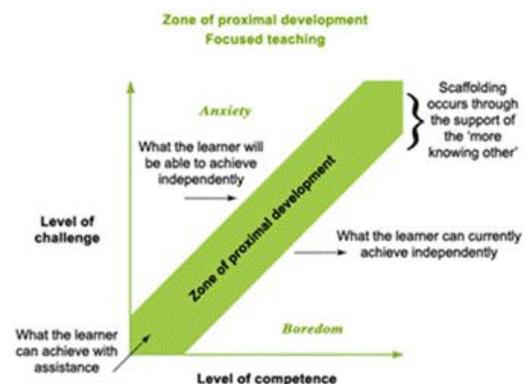
November 4, 2016

**“I am a fan of progress; it’s change I object to.” - Mark Twain**

## Scaffolding ~ John Polm

Scaffolding is a term that we hear in education and teachers will see in the Instructional Framework called CEL 5D+ (Center for Educational Leadership, 5 Domains Plus). I was recently reminded of the idea of the teacher’s role related to scaffolding. That is, the teacher’s role is to present information, but also to scaffold and respond to the students’ learning efforts. Many years ago Lev Vygotsky (1978) coined the phrase *zone of proximal development (ZPD)* to refer to the point at which the learner needs assistance to continue learning. His definition is: “the distance between the actual developmental level as determined by independent problem solving and the level of potential development as determined through problem solving under adult guidance, or in collaboration with more capable peers”.

When some of us educators think of Vygotsky, we think of younger students and their developmental acquisition of language. However, I think it is a mistake to avoid considering the ZPD and how it applies to anyone’s construction of knowledge. Secondary students are also still developing their higher mental functions through acquisition of complex subject matter. The art of the effective teacher is closely connected to helping students manage the processes of learning, which are unique to every student. That is: knowing when to assist, how to assist, when to introduce reflection, when to include student talk and other social processes, and when to release a student to independence. As we move into the second quarter of the year, I encourage all teachers to really focus on knowing their students and trying to find that place where they begin to need assistance (from teacher or peers). We may find the most rewarding signs of growth in that zone of proximal development.



Adapted from Hill & Crevola (unpublished)

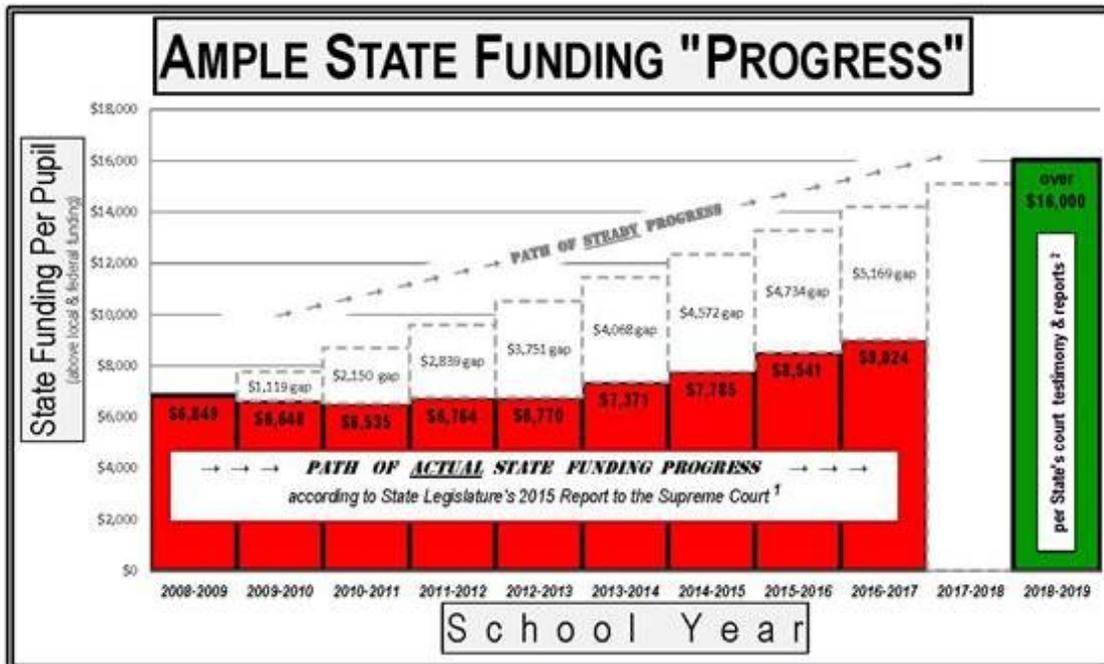
Reference:

Vygotsky, L. S. (1978). *Mind in society: The development of higher psychological processes*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

## McCleary, the Levy Cliff and the Port Townsend School District

The State Supreme Court has dealt with the state's method of funding public schools before. The first was as a result of a lawsuit filed by the Seattle Public Schools in the 1970s, and became known as the Doran Decision. The funding model was deemed unconstitutional then, and now again in 2012 with *McCleary*. Although we do not know how the legislature will act, they do have a deadline for full compliance of September 1, 2018.

So, how are the PT Schools impacted? This is actually a multi-faceted issue. If the schools in our state are funded as required by the 2012 decision, then we will have more state funding for all school costs. Even if the Legislature makes minimal progress, PT Schools should have some level of increase in funding. However, this is not guaranteed, and the more pressing is what is known as the levy cliff. The levy cliff refers to the reduction in levy authority of four percentage points. That change is scheduled to occur in 2018 unless the Legislature acts to extend the current level. If the levy cliff occurs, our estimated loss would be \$788,328 for 2018 and \$674,108 in 2019. Legislation passed in the 2016 Session (E2SSB 6195) requires the Legislature to decide by April 30, 2017, about removing the cliff. Unfortunately, that is quite late for district budget planning. The following chart, provided by the Network for Excellence in Washington Schools (NEWS), shows the gap in funding that must be made up for the state to achieve the levels it stated in sworn testimony HB 2261 would achieve by 2018.



<sup>1</sup> The per pupil State funding amounts for 2008-2009 through 2016-2017 are the amounts stated in Chart B of the Legislature's 2015 Report to the Supreme Court.

<sup>2</sup> The per pupil State funding amount for 2018-2019 is based on the State's court testimony and reports. The State's trial testimony assured the court that ESHB 2261 would increase State funding per pupil to **\$9,710** before adding compensation increases to attract & retain school personnel, inflation after 2009, and capital construction needs. The State's Supreme Court filings acknowledge that the Final Report of ESHB 2261's Compensation Technical Work Group then determined the compensation funding increase needed "immediate implementation... to attract and retain" quality educators is at least \$2.1 billion a year before restoring all I-732 COLAs). \$2.1 billion equates to **\$2,100** per pupil for the State's approximately 1 million students. That brings the ESHB 2261 total to at least \$11,810/pupil (\$9,710+\$2,100=\$11,810). The past and forecasted CPI inflation rate adopted by Washington voters for school funding under I-732 is 16.6% for 2009-2019. This inflates that \$11,810 by **\$2,220**, bringing the ESHB 2261 total (before including capital construction needs) to \$14,030/pupil (\$11,810+\$2,220=\$14,030). The State's Superintendent of Public Instruction reported the additional classrooms required to implement the all-day kindergarten & K-3 class size reduction components of the State's basic education program under ESHB 2261's prototypical school model is approximately \$2 billion. That equates to **\$2,000** per pupil when spread out over the State's approximately 1 million students. These amounts bring the ESHB 2261 total to at least \$16,030/pupil in the 2018-2019 school year. (**\$9,710 + \$2,100 + \$2,220 + \$2,000 = \$16,030**)

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## **Kitchen News ~ Director, Stacey Larson**

Changes are a brewing-we are in the process of hiring a new Kitchen Assistant at Blue Heron to replace Savannah. Joanne is going out for hand surgery on November 8<sup>th</sup> so we are looking to have a temporary replacement for her as well.

We have been eating some great local food-squash from the High School and Red Dog for squash soup on Halloween, Russet potatoes for Baked Potato Bar and Cabbage from Dharma Ridge for Apple Slaw.

## **Maritime Discovery Schools ~ Director, Sarah Rubenstein**

A number of teachers at Blue Heron participated in teaching labs, observing student thinking in two different classrooms and discussing next steps for deepening thinking in their own classrooms. A special thank you to Melissa Nagy and Paula Collet for opening up their classrooms for a team of teachers to observe.

In collaboration with PTMSC, we hosted Dr. John Falk for three engaging days centered around free choice learning. Dr. Falk had the opportunity to share his research about learning, and how schools and community partners can work together to provide opportunities for all students. His passion and research were inspirational to the school board, administrators, community partners, and teachers. The three days were made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The MDS Curriculum Matrix team met and developed ideas for creating holistic accountability measures that will allow the district to monitor important indicators of learning connected with the Maritime Discovery Schools initiative and projects. In addition, they worked to further develop ideas connected to the student disposition that we are developing across all students in the district. The group will continue to hone this list and create teacher and student friendly tools to articulate the student dispositions.

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

Happy November! With Homecoming events behind us, students and staff at the high school have quickly settled back into their learning routine. This past week many of our Juniors took the PSAT exam, and on Friday night administrators participated in an art opening reception at the PT Public Library, highlighting a special exhibit of photography and created objects, made possible by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe and Tribal Elder Celeste Dybeck. Included in the collection were photos from this past July, when PTHS student athletes and coaches assisted with the carrying of the canoes, from the journey which had landed on the beach at Fort Worden.

In the main office, we've been busy working on a variety of projects, including planning a credit recovery program for juniors and seniors who are short on the credits needed for Graduation. This program will be staffed after school by one or more PTHS teachers, giving students an opportunity to recover credit for courses they have previously failed, through a unit of study and/or project based approach. Thanks to Title/LAP Director Jason Lynch for coordinating some LAP funding for this opportunity. We are hopeful that the program will begin by the middle of November, and run throughout the end of May.

Our fall sports season is winding down, with only one home football game left for this Friday, November 4. Soccer and volleyball are finished for the season, but we do have swimmers and cross country athletes heading to postseason competition. Football also has an opportunity to move into postseason play,

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depending on the outcome of Friday night's game. Practice for winter sports, including basketball and wrestling for both boys and girls, as well as winter cheer, begins on November 14.

The high school drama club opens this Friday at 7:00 p.m. with "The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940". The play will also be performed on November 5, 11, 12, 18 and 19. Tickets are available at the door. This play does contain murder mystery and comedy of outrageous and exaggerated proportions and is therefore not appropriate for young children.

Also this coming weekend, student work from the Marine Trades and Manufacturing classes will be on display at the PT Woodworker's Show, hosted at the American Legion Hall. The show will run on Saturday, November 5 from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The admission to this event is FREE.

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

Happy November everyone! Hard to believe it is already November.....time flies when you are having fun.....and indeed the fun and learning never cease here at Blue Heron School.



**BH Athletics** – Another great Fall athletic season in the books. A very successful Girls' Volleyball and Boy's Football season for Blue Heron this Fall. Thank you to all the very dedicated student-athletes, coaches, and parents for their support throughout the season.

- Boys' Basketball is now on tap and we have hired a new Head BH Boys' Basketball Coach – Mr. Sean Smith will take the reins and we look forward to the hardcourt action.....first practice Monday, November 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Student Health and Well Being** – We always seek to honor and inspire the whole child/student here at Blue Heron School.....below is just a smattering of some recent events and growth projects:

- **Vision & Hearing Screening** – in concert with our school nurse and area professionals.....we conducted a vision and hearing screening with all 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade students. Parents and students were contacted if challenges were apparent and ensuring every student can see and hear the great learning and instruction here on campus.
- **Healthy Youth Survey and Marijuana Prevention programming** – In mid-October we administered the WA Healthy Youth Survey to all BH Middle School students. This data and feedback will be accessible in a few months.....as well as we have begun collaborating with some health educators from our local Olympic Education Service District 114 to implement some student leadership and health class learning around the negative impacts of marijuana in our young and growing mind and bodies: 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- **WA State PE Standards** – we have begun to endeavor toward a greater continuity and adherence to the WA State PE & Health Standards across our K-12 Health & PE classes and we are planning to host WA State PE teacher of the Year – Ms. Deb Lindgren to work with our PE teachers around standards and best practices in our PE instruction and lifelong physical activity and wellness focus. More soon.

### **Academics –**

- There is always great learning going on at Blue. Enjoy the pictures and details. Life Skills Culinary class – Kate Wenzel and team



Art & Design Modeling – Susan Doyle and team



### **Well Hydrated and Learning – Hydration Station update**

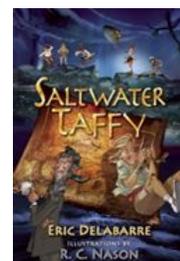
- Again, many thanks to the great PT Schools Maintenance team for helping us install our BH Hydration Station – Water bottles are everywhere here on campus, kiddos are well hydrated, and we have already saved 1,157 water bottles from the landfill.....in just 3 weeks of usage. Thank you.

### **Veteran’s Day Assembly – Thursday, November 10<sup>th</sup> @ 2:15pm – BH Gym**

- We will celebrate and recognize our community’s veterans next Thursday with a great Veteran’s Day assembly. BH Choir and Band to perform, Marine veteran and BH Teacher – Don Oliveira to speak, and ASB student leadership to present. Please join us and celebrate our country and community veterans.

### **Guest Author on campus – Eric DelaBarre – SaltWater Taffy**

- This Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup> – we will host a children’s author – Eric DelaBarre and his Book – SaltWater Taffy. This assembly will host 3<sup>rd</sup> grade kiddos from Grant Street and our BH 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to learn more about the inspiration and enjoyment of reading and writing.



### **Grant Street News ~ Principal, Lisa Condran**

#### **Naming Committee for New Elementary School**

The Naming Committee for the new elementary school had its first meeting on October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Members of the naming committee include parents, community members, and district staff. During this meeting, the committee discussed the reasons for creating a new name for the elementary school that will open in fall of 2018. These reasons are as follows:

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1. The new elementary school represents a new vision for the future of education in Port Townsend.
  2. The new elementary school is bringing together the staff of two facilities: Grant Street School and Blue Heron School.
  3. The name of the school should speak to our values as a community and be a name that is unique and inspirational to students and the community at large.

The naming committee reviewed district policies and procedures for naming facilities and discussed ways in which they will seek nominations from students, parents, and the community. More information will be forthcoming on this process. We look forward to receiving everyone's ideas in this exciting process.

### Grant Street Elementary Carnival

The annual Grant Street Elementary Carnival was held on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 12:00 PM—3:00 PM. This fun family event was packed with students and parents in Halloween costumes.



Pictured is Jason Lynch, dressed as the Man in the Yellow Hat, from the Curious George books, and his kindergarten daughter, Eleanor, who is dressed as a dragon.

The Grant Street PTA met their fundraising goal of \$1200, in a large part due to the hard work of 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from Blue Heron. Students were there all day and helped with every task including setting up games, decorating, running game stations, taking part in the haunted house management, and then a fantastic clean up job. A number of students stayed for the entire carnival including set up and clean up.

In a large part the carnival was successful because of the dedication of the Blue Heron student helpers. Blue Heron students were kind and patient with the many young kids. They helped make sure that all of the Grant Street kids enjoyed themselves. It was very much appreciated how they encouraged kids to try again and told them "good job for trying."

### Port Townsend High School Orchestra Concert at Grant Street Elementary

On October 28<sup>th</sup>, Grant Street Elementary students were fortunate enough to hear a concert performed by the Port Townsend High School Orchestra in the Grant Street Gym under the direction of Daniel Ferland.

Students at Grant Street also learned about the instruments in the orchestra and the different sounds these instruments make. Students identified which instruments make lower or higher sounds and had the opportunity to participate in a petting zoo in which the high school students facilitated the students making sounds on a variety of instruments.



Many thanks to both Daniel Ferland, his orchestra students, and Grant Street Music Teacher, Kriszti Bunica, for this fun learning experience.



School Construction: Recent activity at Grant Street involved drilling 40 foot holes to test soil drainage in preparation for the construction. Preliminary reports are favorable.

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## OCEAN ~ Liz Quayle, Director/Teacher

Autumn is upon us and we are settling into our spaces like the warm-colored leaves are settling upon the ground.



Student Writing: Nanowrimo means Write a Novel in November!

OCEAN students are jumping into National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo), with pens, pencils, and Chromebooks, exploring details in narrative writing, through character descriptions, detailed settings, and complicated plots. High school students are extending their writing through partner stories, and in making “Dark and Stormy Night” story intros that explore writing conventions, while K-8 students are developing their plots for their Nanowrimo stories. ([ywp.nanowrimo.org](http://ywp.nanowrimo.org)). We look forward to reading and hearing these completed stories later this month!



*OCEAN high schoolers work with our elementary students on their literacy skills.*

### Place-Based Learning

Many of our students and parents took advantage of an opportunity to learn more about the Elwha River and the dam removal. Several families met to watch “Return of the River”, a film made by OCEAN parent and local filmmaker Jessica Plumb. The following day, a large group of students in all grades visited the river and met with experts to learn about the course and history of the river, and the effects of the dam, before and after its removal



*Students taking water samples of the Elwha River; Viewing the river in its natural state.*

### Creating New Cultures

First through eighth graders are finishing up their creative cultures, having designed flags, determined “national” foods and traditional wear, geographical features, and inventions that are unique to their lands.

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They are excited for their Exhibition Night, November 22, where they will be presenting their Cultures and their Nanowrimo stories.

#### Inter-Scholastic Music and Athletics

At this year's PTHS Homecoming football game, we had four students in the band and two more on the field, playing football! Many more were out there in the stands cheering them on, and several attended the Homecoming dance. A few of our middle school students also participate in the music program at Blue Heron. We are all part of the Port Townsend community and enjoy our connections with our peers!

## **Libraries, Instruction and Technology ~ Director, Ann Healy-Raymond**

### Northwest American Indian Inspired Art

Susan Doyle's 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are learning about Northwest American Indian art in order to create displays in the Blue Heron Library.



Susan's students researched a Pacific Northwest tribe to learn about their art and culture. Working in teams, students then selected an animal to design using shapes and colors inspired by northwest tribes. The student's art will soon be on display in the library for students and community members to enjoy.

### Board Policy Review Committee

The Board Policy Review Committee met on Monday. This committee meets once a month to review and update board policies. Some updates are needed based upon changes in state and federal laws. The committee also reviews policies to reflect district vision and recommendations made by district committees. For example, the Wellness Committee studied updated health and fitness practices at the state and national level. After a couple of years of work, the committee made recommendations for updating the board policy. The policy review committee then worked to revise current policy with both new laws and the committee's recommendations in mind. The updated policies then go before the board for study. After any suggested changes are made, the board votes to accept the updated policy. This year's Board Policy Review Committee consists of Dr. Polm, Jennifer James Wilson, Daniel Ferland, Matt Holshouser, Kris Mayer and Ann Raymond.

## **Special education and Assessment ~ Director, Patrick Kane**

### Special Education –

Kirsten Behrenfeld, Jason Lynch, Lisa Condran and I participated in a telephone conference with Linda Sullivan-Dudzic; Director of Special Service for the Bremerton SD. Linda is nationally recognized for her work with early childhood education and was helping us plan to form a co-operative with Headstart, the Port Townsend SD and private pre-school groups in the Port Townsend SD. This planning is taking place to formulate an idea on how to combine school district resources and resources outside of the district when the new elementary school is open in 2018. Linda shared with the group ideas of different models of instruction for students at the pre-school. This meeting was designed to gather information on what currently is being offered to children at the age group within the district's boundaries. More meetings are expected to take place in the future that would involve more participants and visitations to pre-school programs that have blended with district and community services.

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High school IEP case managers met for the inaugural meeting regarding the grant received for transitional services for students at the high school level. The special service teachers at Chimacum and Quilcene as well as the directors of both districts were included in this meeting since the grant includes all three districts. Meetings will take place until December of 2017 and the goal for each district is to formulate a transition program that will work to give the students with an IEP support needed when leaving the high school and moving into post-secondary life. There will be a lot of thought and work put into this grant but the expected outcome will be highly supportive of the students.

#### Assessment Information –

I participated in the OSPI Assessment Analytics webinar on Monday afternoon. The webinar was very beneficial and informational. Districts are able to go to OSPI website and look at information regarding student performance who took the SBA ELA and SBA math. This information is broken down by grades and various sub-categories. Districts have the capabilities to measure themselves with other districts that are comparable in size. This information can be attained in several ways and can create dialogue in a district to look further how they are doing things right or trying to find solutions for improvement. I am looking forward to sharing this information with members of the superintendent's cabinet team.

## **Support Services ~ Director, Brad Taylor**

### **New Card Readers at the High School**

The High School door lock change out is 40% complete and we hope to have a 90% completion by the end of the month. The locks we ordered got back ordered so it will be a few more weeks for that last 10%.. If you are having access problems you can always put a work order into School Dude and it will get to the proper person.

### **Hydration Stations**

We now have Hydration Stations operable at Both Blue Heron and the Annex. Blue Heron's is located in the Commons (see picture in Blue Heron section above) and the High School Annex location is on the second floor next to room 202. The next installation will be at Grant Street and this will happen over a weekend that has not yet been scheduled.

### **Grant Street Elementary**

The design drawings will be complete by the end of this month. At the start of next month I should have a full set of drawings that will be 90% complete. We will then be at the start of the permitting process. The permitting process will continue into the new year.

Any questions or comments please feel free to contact me at [btaylor@ptschools.org](mailto:btaylor@ptschools.org)