



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

Port Townsend School District No. 50

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Partnering for Student Success



Public schools are often lamenting about a lack of resources, especially when it comes to systems to connect the school to the community, or the community to the school. In my short tenure in Port Townsend, I have learned there are ample opportunities for partnerships that are mutually beneficial to our community and our students within the school system.

Skillmation is one of those partner groups. Founders Ben Bauermeister and Martha Trolin have built a mentoring connection website that promises to be a wonderful resource. The goals of Skillmation are to:

- Integrate the talents and skills of individuals, non-profits, and businesses located in Jefferson County, Washington.
- Connect teachers, students, young entrepreneurs, and apprentices with skilled professionals, retired residents, and new members to the community.
- Build a bridge between those with specific areas of expertise to those with enthusiasm to learn.

Check out the website at: <http://skillmation.org/>.

United Good Neighbors

We are once again participating in a good natured competition with other area school districts in support of United Good Neighbors. Our drive will begin October 10 through November 14, and we will be tabulating our financial pledges for the wide range of health and human service programs supported by UGN. This group is good for our community, and I ask that you join me in supporting their work.

CEL 5D+ Framework and TPEP

Port Townsend is one of the many school districts that adopted the CEL 5D+ Instructional Framework that informs the new Teacher-Principal Evaluation Project (TPEP) criteria. This framework was developed at the University of Washington's Center for Educational Leadership (CEL). My thinking is that the framework is the "what" while TPEP is the "how". Think back to the 2010 legislation that enacted this new system, and now after six years, the system is now fully implemented. It seems like we have worked through a lot of the issues that come with such a significant change. Overall, I think it has been good in terms of establishing

common language with more specific performance indicators. The process is supposed to be growth oriented. That is, the system should enable professional growth while building in accountability. Healthy systems have balance. And, I am hopeful that the teachers and principals experience balance within their evaluation process this year.

I have had the opportunity to visit a few classrooms, and I look forward to seeing more of the great work and exciting learning that is happening every day. With that in mind, I would like to share some of my “look fors” based on the framework.

1. Entry tasks, bellwork or openers - to provide a connection to previous or future learning targets (P2) and get students into a routine. Although entry tasks are not stated in the indicator rubric, they do enable *purpose* to be addressed at the beginning of class. Entry tasks also enable the teacher to take attendance and other administrative tasks as students are working.
2. Learning Targets (P4) - this language is all over the CEL 5D+ Framework. I look for written learning targets or LTs in a consistent location in the classroom. The rubric language for *distinguished* in P4 reads, “Teacher communicates the learning target(s) through verbal and visual strategies, checks for student understanding of what the target(s) are and references the target throughout instruction”.
3. Success Criteria (P5) - how explicit should this be? I think very clear. My experience is that most of us need to know how we are expected to demonstrate our knowledge or understanding. Why not simply call it the success criteria with our students? P5 reads, “The success criteria for the learning target(s) are clear to students. The performance tasks align to the success criteria. Students refer to success criteria and use them for improvement.”

Since the CEL Framework uses this sort of language, why not use it in our classrooms? I encourage anyone interested to learn more about CEL 5D+ and TPEP by visiting:

<http://www.k12.wa.us/TPEP/Frameworks/default.aspx> or even reading the evaluation rubrics located on that page.

Human Resources - Laurie McGinnis

Our district Aflac representative will be in the buildings on the following dates to prepare for enrollment in the Aflac FSA plans and other voluntary insurance plans: **High School**, October 6, Staffroom 12 pm – 4 pm; **Blue Heron**, October, Staffroom, 8 am – 12 pm; **Grant St**, October 7, 10:45 am – 12:25 pm, 2:45 pm – 3:45 pm.

Maritime Discovery Schools ~ Director, Sarah Rubenstein

Kelley Watson, our high school CTE teacher, and her volunteer assistant Bradley Schaff (pictures), participated in a summer training with Corey Freedman, where she learned to build the Aleut Ikyak, also widely known as the Baidarka. It has been used for thousands of years as the primary method of transportation in the Aleutian Islands. Students in her Maritime Academy CTE class will have a chance to build their own Baidarka this school year. They are off to a good start making their paddles as a first project.



Our high school freshmen, Kelley Watson’s maritime academy classes, and 12 mentor upperclassmen attended the Wooden Boat Festival. The trip engaged youth with our local maritime community and exposed students to a variety of potential careers that are currently in demand and are higher paying than average Washington State jobs. In addition, this field trip aimed to create opportunities for students to develop teamwork skills and to form bonds with both mentors and peers in the hopes for a successful high school career over their next four years at Port Townsend High School. The Northwest



Maritime Center graciously provided access to the Wooden Boat Festival, speakers, and staff organizational time.

All teachers in the district have been scheduled for a project planning and coaching session with MDS, as well as a teaching lab and peer observation session. These sessions will give teachers time to develop and improve their maritime and place-based learning projects, as well as develop strategies to deepen student thinking through innovative solutions to community needs.



From PTHS ~ Principal, Carrie Ehrhardt

Assessment News – The high school has received and reviewed our assessment scores from last spring.

Our SBAC results for English Language Arts show that we tested 100% of our tenth graders. We had a passage rate of 91% (compared to the state average of 75.5%) for high school. Additionally, 85% of the students hit the 'College and Career Ready' standard.

Our SBAC results for Math show improvement in the percentage of students who participated in the exam. All juniors are required to take the SBAC for federal accountability. Two years ago many students across the state refused to take the test, including many students at PTHS. In spring 2015, only about 32% of our students participated in the exam. This past spring (2016), 70% of our juniors participated in the 11th grade math SBAC. Of that tested population, 63% met standard (compared to the state average of 21.8%) and 45% hit the 'College and Career Ready' standard. This year's participants were a representative group of all ability levels at our school and we are very proud of the progress we have made in messaging the importance of participating in this exam. Of the tested students who did not meet the SBAC standard, all had already met the graduation standard on the math End of Course exam, so there is no graduation penalty for those students.

Our End of Course scores for Biology were also positive. Our students had a passage rate of 80.9% (compared to the state average of 72.2%). There were some students who did not meet standard on the exam, and we have put together a plan for these students to retake the exam in January. They will each be given a study guide/practice packet offered by the State to assist with content necessary to get them ready for retesting. Because their scores were all close to passing, we are hopeful that they will all be successful on the retake.

Overall, we continue to be proud of our student performance on state exams here at PTHS. When comparing our scores with other area schools, we outperform many of them in all three areas (ELA, Math and Biology). Our teachers are working hard to insure that students are receiving high quality instruction aligned with the state and Common Core standards.

HYS – We will be administering the Washington Healthy Youth Survey to all 10th and 12th graders on Monday, October 3rd. The survey serves as a risk behavior analysis for our school, community and state. The compiled data will be accessed by our local Educational Service District and Jefferson County Health Department. That data will also be shared with the school, and may be utilized as a tool to help assess the services being offered in our Student Based Health Clinic.

Attendance Awareness – With September being Attendance Awareness Month, we have been working with teachers and our student leaders to put together a proactive plan to try to decrease our overall student absences. Our current attendance rate is 89.9% and we are setting goals to try to reach 92% or more for the year.

College Fair – For the second year in a row, our counseling office has organized our participation in a NW Regional College Fair. This will occur in our high school gym on Thursday, September 29th, from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Students and parents will have the opportunity to visit with 30 college representatives from

schools in Washington, Idaho, Oregon and California. Our feedback from last year was that we had some of the highest participation numbers, compared to other schools on the Olympic Peninsula. Teachers and students are excited to have this opportunity come to our high school again this year.

Redhawk Athletics ~ Scott R. Wilson, Athletic Director

Fall sports are in full swing as we are just beginning to see a change in the weather. The Redhawk football team has already put three games in the books behind some impressive play from its veteran players. Under new head coach Alex Heilig, the Redhawks lost a close home opener by one point to 2A Sequim, followed by a 35 point win over 2A Port Angeles. Last weekend, the team traveled to the Northwest Conference and took on one of the toughest teams in the state, Mount Baker, and lost to a tougher opponent. The team starts its newly formed combined league play this week as they travel across the sound to play Bellevue Christian.

In Girls Soccer, the Redhawks hosted a couple of tough 2A teams to start the season in non-league play. After suffering some tough losses and rough battle with rival Coupeville, the Redhawks took on the Chimacum Cowboys and came home with a huge 7-0 win with scores from five different players.

The girls volleyball team has suffered the absence of several players because of eligibility issues, but was able to come away with a big early season win over Vashon Island. The team is looking forward to having all of its players back on the court as we move into the heart of the regular season. With several tall and talented freshmen on the team, the future looks bright for the Redhawk Volleyballers.

Our boys and girls Cross Country team is back on track with strong performances from several runners. With a carefully designed schedule that has the team competing against some of the best teams in the Pacific Northwest, and a roster full of more than 30 athletes, the Redhawk runners are looking stronger each week.

The boys tennis grew three times in size by adding two more players! Our team of three future Wimbledon stars travel to Chimacum every day for practice but don a Redhawk Polo to represent the Redhawks when it is match time. We expect to see some post season finishes from the Redhawks this season.

As the fall season moves forward, the Redhawk coaches are adhering to our Culture of Excellence and Redhawk PRIDE. With the newly formed Captain's Council beginning its work by the end of the month, we are hoping to increase student attendance and school spirit.

The Blue's News ~ Principal, Matt Holshouser

September – Attendance Awareness Month ~

September has been proclaimed and marked as "Attendance Awareness" month in our PT community as well as across the State of Washington. We have crafted additional methods for inspiring and monitoring student attendance data as well as..... imploring to ALL to consider that diligent attendance is vital to each and every learner's current and future success and growth. Please enjoy the link below to Why Attendance Matters:

- <http://www.attendanceworks.org/about/why-it-matters/>



Emergency Preparedness Plans ~

Blue Heron School continues to strive for safety and excellence in all capacities. In partnership with local PT Emergency Personnel, we hosted our first Fire Drill this past Friday. PT Asst. Chief, Brian Tracer, helped us supervise a very calm and successful Fire Drill here on campus. We were able to evacuate our entire campus and orderly collect all 400+ students and staff on our Blue Heron School Football field in four (4) minutes. We have a robust Emergency Plan in place for all

potentialities and will be implementing drills and practice each and every month throughout the school year to ensure the safety and security for all BH Learning Community members.

Washington State Healthy Youth Survey ~

On October 13th, we will be administering the Washington State Healthy Youth Survey to all Blue Heron Middle School students. This is a comprehensive risk behavior analysis for our learning community students and one that is conducted in grades 6 to 12. Please see link below for more detail and we will make sure all Blue Heron School Learning Community members are privy to the data once garnered from the state.

- <https://www.askhys.net/>

Star Gazing Night ~

BH Science teacher Jennifer Manning will again host a “Star Gazing Night” event for all 8th grade science students one clear night next week between September 21 and October 3, from 7:30 to 10:30 pm on the Blue Heron Football Field. We have a special guest joining us, John Goar, an astronomer and North Kitsap High School Teacher who also leads special presentations on Hurricane Ridge each summer. See the following link for more information-

<http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20140719/NEWS/307199962>.

We look forward to hosting local space & planetary experts and learning and exploring our beautiful night sky as a science and learning community. More details and picture to come.

Fall Sports ~

The Blue Heron School Fall Sports season is in full swing. Our Football squad, Volleyball team and our Blue Heron Harriers look forward to some great Middle School athletic competitions this week and throughout our sports seasons. Go Herons!

Grant Street News ~ Principal, Lisa Condran

Collaborating Teachers: Left to right, Dorothy Stengel, Denise Aedan, Kaleen Steinke, Sheri Shaw, Kate Miller, Heather Sanders, and Dawn Braden

Part of the process of building a new school is deciding what is really important to our community and will provide the best learning environment for years to come in Port Townsend for Kindergarten through 5th grade students. Through a number of events with community members, the architects who are designing the school, families, and school staff, priorities were established. The four most important elements for the new school vision from all groups identified were:

- Collaborative relationships between teachers and teachers; students and students; and teachers and students
- Flexible spaces for a variety of teaching formats
- Classrooms that support project-based learning to continue our work with the Maritime Discovery Schools
- Classrooms with a connection between the inside and the outside

With these priorities in mind, several teachers this year have embraced a more collaborative approach to teaching. In some cases classrooms have opened walls partially for part of the day or all of the day. In other cases where teachers don't share a wall, teachers are trading or regrouping students for different subjects or learning needs.

There are several approaches that are being taken to this collaboration. All teachers are doing some of their instructional work in small groups, as well as some large group time, depending on the learning task. Many teachers are having one teacher specialize in math and the other specialize in English Language Arts. This



collaborative approach to teaching and learning is based on a body of research that includes the 21st Century Skills Framework, which focuses on:

- Creating learning spaces that will support the teaching and learning of the 21st Century Critical Thinking Skills.
- Supporting professional learning communities that enable educators to collaborate, share best practices, and integrate 21st century skills into classroom practice.
- Enabling students to learn in relevant, real world 21st century contexts, such as project-based learning through the Maritime Discovery Schools Initiative, Port Townsend's place-based community centered approach to curriculum and instruction.
- Allowing equitable access to quality learning tools, technologies, and resources.
- Providing 21st century architectural and interior designs for group, team, and individual learners. Supports expanded community involvement in learning, both face-to-face and online.

There are many benefits to these collaborative teaching models. Some of the main benefits Grant Street teachers are seeing already are:

- Increased opportunities for small groups, individual teaching focused on student learning needs
- Common lesson planning results in more creative lessons.
- Teachers can divide the teaching of subjects so each teacher is teaching the subjects in which they have the most expertise.
- This division of subject material allows the teachers to focus on subject matter and student learning needs more deeply.

Quotes from parents, students, and teachers:

- Faith Pray, Grant Street Parent, says, "I love it. I am thrilled. More than one teacher for my students means more resources for their learning needs. Also, different teachers provide different learning approaches that I know will result in my students learning more."
- One second grade student says, "It's more awesomer. Different teachers can teach me things in different ways that helps me learn more."
- Another second grade student said, "We get more help with learning with two teachers."
- Heather Sanders, a first grade teacher states, "It's fabulous so far! Having two heads is always better than one!"

Mathematics and Bridges ~ Jason Lynch, Title/LAP Director and Lisa Cartwright, K-5 Math Coach

It's been a very busy start to K-5 math at Grant Street and Blue Heron Schools! We welcomed an official school board adoption of *Bridges In Mathematics*, a K-5 resource published by The Math Learning Center, and distributed the materials to classrooms in August. *Bridges* – and its math fluency component called *Number Corner* – come highly rated for their coverage of the Common Core State Standards, for their hands-on approach to building conceptual knowledge, and for promoting rich and rigorous student thinking. Teachers spent one professional development day with a *Bridges* trainer the week before school began and are excited about the new program. Both buildings are looking at building improved intervention programs this year. Students in grades 3-8 are screened using the STAR assessment. Now with the adoption of *Bridges In Mathematics*, teachers have classroom level common assessments to evaluate and plan for interventions to meet student needs. Our district work around project-based learning also continues in many math classrooms. Last but not least, ten teachers are looking at student math fluency and its interaction with PBL through funding by the McCarthy-Dressman Education Foundation.

Instruction and Technology ~ Ann Healy-Raymond

Library News

The Grant Street library has recently received new books to enhance its multicultural collection. These books were purchased through a grant from the Jefferson County Literacy Foundation. The Foundation has worked closely with libraries in Jefferson County to update collections focusing first on northwest American Indians and now their multicultural collections. The northwest American Indian materials were purchased for all three district libraries. Joy Wentzel will soon display titles from the recent grant. The photo (at right) shows Joy teaching kindergarteners about the library.



Shannon Grewell is the new Library Assistant at Blue Heron. She takes over after Cheri's excellent tenure in the position. Shannon is taking up the position with enthusiasm and is quickly learning about the many complexities of the position. She recently spent an hour at the Port Townsend Public library learning more about the library computer system. She said her head was very full after an hour! She is doing a wonderful job maintaining the welcoming library environment for Blue Heron students. The picture on the left shows an election themed display Shannon created for the library.

The high school library is in full swing with students coming in to study, use Chromebooks and check out materials. Su Johnson's themes this fall focus on the upcoming PT Film Festival and the Friday Salon featuring the film festival guest speakers. The picture on the right shows a display Su created to highlight the collection of books that have been made into movies.



Technology Committee

This year's technology committee began meeting this week. This group consists of representatives from all schools: Ben Dow, Amy Wilson, Peter Braden and Betsy Hart (who share their position), Lois Polley, and Liz Quayle. In addition, board member Keith White, Grant Street Librarian Joy Wentzel, Blue Heron Principal Matt Holshouser, Steve Haveron and Ann Raymond serve on the committee. Next year's committee membership will be open to teacher application to create an opportunity for other teachers to serve on this important committee. This year we will work to finalize the update of our 2017-2020 Technology Policy. The policy delineates our technology priorities for the coming years, and will include items such as guidance for teachers' integration of technology with students at each grade level, the next steps for keeping our technology infrastructure strong and technology professional development. The plan also includes ways to create access to laptops for students who don't have technology at home.

The committee's work this year will also include studying our use of Google, with consideration of moving to Gmail as our primary email server. We will research some of the many districts who have made this decision and come up with recommendations based upon our needs and the information we gather.

Grant Street Professional Development

This week Grant Street teachers spent Wednesday afternoon learning how to identify Power Standards. Identification of Power Standards is important so that teachers can focus on the standards that have **leverage** (knowledge and skills necessary for successful study in several disciplines), **endurance** (a "timeless" idea that may apply to other fields of learning, students will need the skills and knowledge beyond

a single test date) and **readiness** (the essential knowledge and skills that are necessary for success in the next grade or the next level of instruction). Will it provide the knowledge and skills *this* year's students need so they will enter *next* year's class with confidence and readiness for success?) This week's training will be followed up with another session devoted to application of their chosen power standards and aligning instruction to these standards.

Food Services ~ Stacey Larson

Greetings from the Kitchen!

We are off to a great start as our staff jumped right in and are again cooking and creating great food for our students.

We are doing a couple of exciting things this school year:

- We are now using Westbrook (from Chimacum) grass-fed beef in our burgers. This meal will be once per month.
- Meatless Mondays and Taco Tuesdays are also on the menu, and we are using Key City fish in our fish tacos on Tuesday the 27th

Our high school garden has provided a lot of tomatoes, basil, zucchini, raspberries and green beans this year. Soon we will have potatoes, salad greens and beets. Thanks to Farmer Zach and Jen Kruse and her students for taking such good care of the garden and growing amazing food that is used in the cafeterias. (See picture by Jan Boutilier at right.)

The high school cafeteria was painted this summer-more painting to come.

We are having an open house/information night/fundraiser in the Blue Heron Orchard on Sept 29th at 5:30. Come on down to learn what we are doing in both school gardens and the cafeteria and what is in the future. Thanks for the support in creating change in the food service program - well fed kids learn better!

