Port Townsend School District No. 50
Learning Through a Sense of Place

Superintendent Polm's Newsletter - Vol. 19-20, No. 2, September 07, 2019

Board Meeting Summary from September 06, 2019

The Board of Directors met on Thursday, September 5 for the first meeting of the school year. The agenda included some discussion on the Strategic Plan, a presentation from OlyCAP on a proposed low-income housing project, verbal reports from the HS student rep (Cedar Elliot) principals, and an annual report on athletics and activities for the school year. Further, policy 3207 received a first review with suggested updates, and there was a review of the Salish Coast Traffic and Parking Management Report from Heffron Transportation, Inc.

The Board meets on the first and third Thursday of each month for their regularly scheduled study sessions and business meetings. Further, the Board at times holds special meetings on particular topics. For more information, please see: http://ptschools.org/board___supt.

PT Schools in the News

Sometimes we are not aware of the great things happening in our schools. There have been a lot of articles published about our district. Thanks to Sarah Rubenstein for collecting and archiving articles. To see articles from this year and past years, go to:
https://ptschools.org/about_us/our_district/in_the_news

The most recent *Leader* article is at:
https://www.ptleader.com/stories/schoolroom-with-rowsof-cabbage,64422?

Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education ~ Sandy Gessner-Crabtree

New Carnegie Secondary Math Curriculum

After a two year process, Port Townsend School District adopted a new secondary math curriculum for students in grades sixth through high school. The name of the new curriculum is *Carnegie Learning*. If you are not familiar with the curriculum, you can learn more at their website:
https://www.carnegielearning.com/products/blended-solution/middle-school-math/

The program is "blended" meaning there are two components: teacher facilitated lessons and *Mathia*, an online learning platform that addresses individual student skill development. Classroom teachers, special education teachers, and Title/LAP math intervention teachers all attended a two-day training with a Carnegie Professional Learning Partner this summer in August before the school year began to learn how to use the new instructional materials.

Each part of the curriculum involves engaging students, developing math concepts and skills, and opportunities for students to demonstrate and apply new skills and concepts. The *Carnegie* materials help teachers engage students with real-world examples, encourage students to collaborate, and help students leverage personal experiences to make learning real for them. Both group and independent learning opportunities will help students get the specific 1-to1 support they need and the social interaction that will prepare them for their future. And we want students to really learn math, not just memorize it, so

ongoing formative assessments demonstrate what students are (or aren't) learning and allow for adjustments to accommodate individual needs.

Place-Based, Maritime and Professional Learning ~ Sarah Rubenstein

Port Townsend Maritime Academy Skill Center
Wednesday marked the first day of the PT Maritime Academy! Students were welcomed by teacher Kelley Watson and Sonia Frojen at the NW Maritime Center for a half day of learning together. Students ended their first day with a boat building design challenge to build their team work skills. This collaboration between West Sound Technical Skills Center, the Northwest Maritime Center and PT Schools allows students to get vocational training and prepare for on the water maritime careers.

School Gardens
Salish Coast's Learning garden is in great shape thanks to Farmer Emily and a dedicated crew of volunteers over the summer. Art teacher Wanda had students out on the first day of school drawing the plants using a variety of media. Composting is happening at lunch time at Salish Coast. Students are sorting their waste, and Denise on the custodial team is doing a great job managing the waste flow.

PTHS Garden is on this year's Farm Tour on Saturday, September 21. Composting will begin happening during high school lunch, after staff are able to meet with Students for Sustainability to do some planning to make it successful.

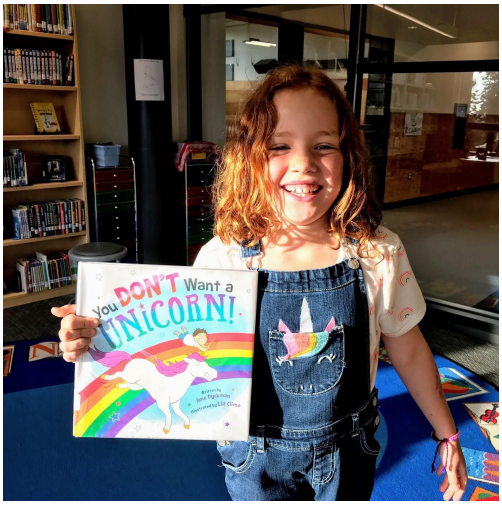
Professional Learning
August 27, we had a successful back to-school professional learning day for all teachers. The day was focused on Place-based learning, differentiation, and MTSS. Thank you to the administrative team who all took the lead on sessions, as well as our food service team for another outstanding meal. Teachers spent time planning and documenting projects for the 2019-20 school year, and Salish Coast teachers planned integration between the science curriculum and the school garden.

Teachers have an opportunity to sign up to participate in three different book studies this school year on differentiation to support highly capable students in the classroom. September 18 will be the first Wednesday early release district wide training focused on differentiating place-based projects.

News from Your Libraries ~ Joy Wentzel

Welcome back!

Shannon, Su, Denise, Derec and Joy are so excited to welcome everyone back to the library and the new school year. Come into your school library and you will find that it is much more than a room of books. The library is a learning commons full of energy and empty of shushers. It is a place to read, research and relax. Most importantly it is a place to connect. Come connect with technology, information, and people. Our first few days were a mix of quiet and flurry. Here are some smiling faces from PTHS (right), Salish (below, right) and Blue Heron (below left).



"One Card for All"

It is official! Our collaborative libraries (Port Townsend School District, City of Port Townsend, Jefferson County, Quilcene and Brinnon) have adopted a new name, card and logo. We are now CLEO (Cooperative Libraries of the Eastern Olympics). One card gives you free access to a multitude of databases, online classes, language lessons, free streaming videos and so much more. Come talk with your friendly school librarian to see how we can help you and your students this year. Need a faculty card? We can do that as well.

Food Service ~ Stacey Larsen

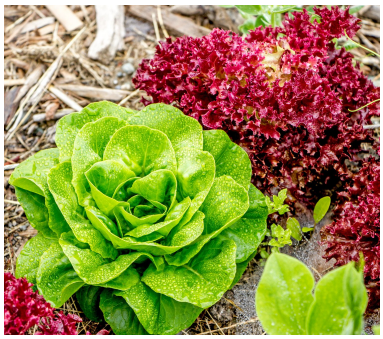
Things are humming along. We are getting lots of produce from the high school garden including green beans, carrots, lettuce, and zucchini, and fruit is coming in from the Quimper Gleaners. Apples, pears and plums - oh my.

We have a new cashier at Salish Coast Elementary. We are happy to have Rochelle Raines back with us in food service. We are still looking for a dishwasher at Salish to round out our team. Previous food service experience is preferred.

Composting is happening at Salish Coast along with the use of metal forks! This is great to help our district cut down on our waste stream. Thanks to all the students and teachers who, with the help of Laura Tucker of Jefferson County Environmental Health, made this happen.

Speaking of cutting our waste, Blue Heron is using a milk machine for their white milk-lots of saved cartons from the landfill.

Salish Coast News ~ Lisa Condran



The Salish Coast Garden was featured in a Port Townsend Leader article. Dean Miller writes the following, “Now is the time for teachers to return to their schoolhouses for a week of training and meetings and planning and preparing their rooms for the return of pupils.

But at Salish Coast Elementary one classroom is already decorated to the max: the 5,000-square-foot teaching garden where Emily Hiatt will help students and teachers learn about soil biology, seed development, vegetable production and the joys of outdoor work.”

Back to School Night

Back to School Night was a huge success. Parents and students met teachers and got help with filling out online forms. The newly opened courtyard was a big hit. Students have also been enjoying the courtyard to sketch plants and pass between classroom wings.

New Drop Off Area

We had a great first day of school! A new option we have for morning drop off is the drop off area on Grant Street, which is a much safer option for student drop off in the morning. Below is a picture of the entrance to the drop off area and exit to the street:

Blue Heron ~ Principal, Theresa Campbell

It was a great start for Blue Heron Middle School students who showed up on September 3rd with bright smiles and enthusiastic attitudes. This includes our former BH 4th graders, now returning and welcomed back as 6th graders. Staff have kicked off this new year in style with the annual “Happy New Year” celebration greeting students as they entered the doors Tuesday morning. Each morning students have the opportunity to socialize with friends, play games in the gym, or visit the BH library. We are looking forward to a fantastic school year.

PTHS ~ Carrie Ehrhardt

The high school had a smooth start to the new year! On Tuesday, the sky was blue, the weather was warm, and returning students arrived ready to reconnect with old friends, while new students arrived ready to locate their classes, chat with classmates and begin making new friends. The sunny day brought many students out onto the lawn for lunchtime, which really made it the ideal place to relax and breathe in our fresh PT air before tackling the second half of the school day!

For our First Friday, students participated in a variety of team building and class experiential-activities. The freshmen stayed on the high school campus, engaging in fun sessions led by our Redhawk Mentors. Sophomores went down to the Wooden Boat Festival, and juniors boarded charter buses headed to Olympia, to take a campus tour at Evergreen State College. The seniors spent the morning touring some businesses in our local PT community, and then worked with some of our Skillmation mentors in the afternoon, beginning to work on their senior projects.

Students involved in activities and athletics are also off to a great start. Fall play director Kelly Doran held auditions for "Our Town" this week. We had a strong turnout of students looking to get involved in this production, which is based on the idea that we often go through life without really appreciating what it has to offer. Athletes are also busy getting ready for their debut on the court, field, and in the pool! Our first home events will lead off with a volleyball game vs. Cascade Christian on September 12. Our first home girls soccer game will be against Klahowya on September 17, followed by a home swimming meet on September 19 vs. Kingston, and then a home football game the following night, on September 20. Our cross country team will hold a home event against Bremerton and North Mason on September 25. Please remember to come out and support our high school athletes and activity participants this year.

It has been a successful (and busy) first week at PTHS, and we look forward to a fun, productive, and positive year ahead! GO REDHAWKS!

Maintenance and Facilities ~ Justin Gray

With the first day of the 2019 school year in the history books, all of us in the custodial and maintenance departments hit the ground running! After coming off of a very productive summer it was great to see students welcomed back to enjoy all of our amazing facilities!

Already, not even a week into the start of the new school year, we are reminded of the incredible efforts of our maintenance team to be able to drop what they are doing and refocus efforts. Shown in this picture (at right) is a fresh water leak that was identified and repaired within an hour by Shane and Andy, way to go!

In an effort at Salish to improve traffic flow and relieve congestion during the busy morning drop off times, a student drop off area was created. Shown below is Shane laying down some nice clean lines.

We are also wrapping up with the newly constructed ADA ramp at Salish which will consist of an anti slip deck coating as well as fresh paint.

Our biggest project, which continues to take shape on a daily basis, is the High School elevators located in the Main building as well as the Annex. These are sure to be crowd pleasers once completed.

During the last days of August, we also had the opportunity to say goodbye to long time custodian Ken Stone (pictured with team members) as he begins to enjoy retirement. Ken provided many years of commitment and dedication to the District and will be greatly missed as a member of our team.