

Port Townsend School District No. 50

Learning Through a Sense of Place



Superintendent Polm's Newsletter – Vol. 19-20, No. 4, October 04, 2019



Board Meeting Summary from October 03, 2019

The Board of Directors met on Thursday, October 3 for a study session meeting at the high school. The agenda included recognition of Emily Hiatt who is “Farmer Emily” to the Salish Coast students, staff and parents. Emily has led visioning and development of the Salish Coast learning garden, which has become a wonderfully authentic outdoor learning space. We are thankful for her dedication, vision and energy. Thanks Emily!

The meeting took place at the High School, and the bulk of the time was dedicated to the annual high school report. Teachers and Principal Ehrhardt shared the school improvement plan, data from the past few years, and some of the goal areas for the upcoming year. The Board of Directors made several comments about the focus on inclusion of all students in core instruction, and their support for this challenging work.

The Board also received the annual assessment report for the district from Mr. Gaffney as well as reviewed the proposed agreement with West Sound Technical Skills Center in Bremerton.

All three schools plus OCEAN report students in each school that are not in compliance with their immunization records. This means some students will likely be excluded from school attendance beginning October 7, 2019 as per requirements.

Enrollment in October is 1,169.77 FTE, which is the official first reported count for OSPI. This count is just over our budgeted FTE of 1,162.00. This is good news overall. Typically, the district holds enrollment pretty steady until spring, and then drop some in April through June.

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. Also, the Board uses BoardDocs for meeting management. The website is: <https://go.boarddocs.com/wa/ptsd/Board.nsf/Public>.

SEBB (School Employee Benefits Board) Information for Staff

Now that SEBB is open to begin registration, some employees may be learning about the coverages and costs associated with the new system. One of the biggest changes is that the pooling that was previously local, is now at the state level. This change impacts the district because the district is required to pay for all eligible employees whether they select to take the insurance or not. This financial impact is significant and hits our local levy funding by an estimated \$168,000 for a 12 month period. Employees may also realize that local pooling assisted many who had dependents on their plans, which impacts classified employees the most. The extra pooled dollars were shared. The district is no longer allowed to participate in local pooling. The pooling is done only at the state level. The highest cost plan for an entire family in Jefferson County is \$294. Keep in mind that dental, vision, basic life, and AD & D coverage are at no cost to the employee. However, many who were at the minimum premium payment level will now be paying a significant amount more on their monthly pay warrants.

Please be sure to read your Enrollment Guide carefully. Page 2 and 3 of the guide have phone numbers you may contact for help in determining the plans you choose plus any medications that may not be covered.

The medical plans offered in Jefferson County are:

- Premera Standard PPO
- UMP Achieve 1
- UMP Achieve 2
- UMP High Deductible

If you do not live in Jefferson County, you may have other options available.

Additionally, Principal Ehrhardt did a nice job responding to staff with the following, and I thought this would be beneficial for all.

Employees can go onto the SEBB portal and set up their account without having to make all of the provider choices right away. Employees can explore the different plans, look up the area providers for each of the plans (whether medical, dental or vision), but don't have to sign up right away, if not ready to do so.

The one vision plan that Laurie knows is accepted by some of the PT optical centers is Met Life. But if employees use someone out of town, i.e. Costco, or live outside of PT, check with the provider to see which of the plans they take. And again, once registered onto the SEBB portal and set up an initial account, employees can search to see which providers are accepting the various plans.

Each of us are responsible for gathering and providing dependent verification forms. If you don't want to scan and upload those yourself, there is a process where you can provide those documents to Laurie, she will do the verification process for SEBB, and then will shred the documents when she is finished with them. The acceptable dependent verification documents are listed in the SEBB booklet, and includes things such as birth certificates, marriage certificates, joint tax returns, etc. If you are not sure of what documents you may need to provide, please check with Laurie or Carrie B. at district for individual assistance.

Laurie (the district) cannot make recommendations to anyone on which plans to take. But, as we as individuals find out information that may be helpful, it can be shared among ourselves. An example is when Julie Dow let everyone know on Monday that she had learned that the two opticians in PT both accept MetLife for vision insurance.

At the upcoming help session in the high school library on Oct. 23, both Laurie and Carrie B. will be there to assist with navigating the login process to SEBB and will answer what questions they can, but it will be up to you to decide on your individual insurance plan choices. Any employee is free to have their spouse/partner participate in the process. This is an optional session for folks who need the help. If you are comfortable with this process and want to get registered in the portal from your home environment, you are welcome to do that as well.

PTA Event

The PTA Carnival is at Salish Coast October 26, 1-4pm, with set up from 9am-11am, and clean up 4-5pm.

This is a fundraiser to benefit the PTA. Volunteers are needed to help throughout the day. People can sign up online for shifts the day of: <https://signup.com/go/oMJqbggu>

Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education ~ Sandy Gessner-Crabtree

Who Do We Serve?

The Revised Code of Washington State, RCW 28A.150.210, states that the goals of school districts in our state will include a basic education that is an evolving program of instruction intended to provide students with the opportunity to become responsible and respectful global citizens, to contribute to their economic well-being and that of their families and communities, to explore and understand different perspectives, and to enjoy productive and satisfying lives. Additionally, the state of Washington intends to provide for a public school system that is able to evolve and adapt in order to better focus on strengthening the educational achievement of all students, which includes high expectations for all students and gives all students the opportunity to achieve personal and academic success.

Our District's Vision says that we create and enable the culture, competence and conditions to ensure each student is prepared for meaningful work and engaged citizenship in our diverse and rapidly changing world. And our District's Mission states that through community focused maritime place-based projects, students develop effective thinking, effective action, and effective relationships. As a result, our students demonstrate meaningful accomplishments as engaged citizens.

It is interesting to note that in both the state's and district's foundational language there are high aspirations for all students, not just some or a few. And the District's Vision and Mission statement claims who these students belong to: us. Sometimes it is good to review foundational documents that were carefully wordsmithed to provide the "why" of what we are doing and who it should benefit. All means all. ALL of OUR students demonstrating meaningful accomplishments as engaged citizens.

MDS/Communications/Professional Development ~ Sarah Rubenstein

Maritime Discovery Schools

Teachers will be meeting with community partners and improving maritime and place based learning project design on October 16 from 1:30-3:15 at Blue Heron. If teachers have not already invited a partner they should do so.

Highly Capable

The next Differentiation book study is starting in a few weeks.

Advancing Differentiation Thinking and Learning for the 21st Century by Richard M. Cash, Ed.D, Book Study

- October 30, and November 13, December 4, 3:30-5pm. (Note there is a date change)
- Stuart Bldg, Room 7, facilitated by Sarah Rubenstein.
- [Register Here](#)

Other Upcoming Paid Optional Professional Learning

All teachers of highly capable students are invited to join any of these sessions. All primary preK-2 teachers are eligible. Meeting time will be compensated on a timesheet, and clock hours will be provided. If you aren't sure if you teach highly capable students, just ask!

- How to Differentiate Instruction in Academically Diverse Classrooms, 3rd Edition by Carol Ann Tomlinson , Book Study, Feb 6, Feb 20, Feb 27, 3:30-5pm, [register here](#)
- Differentiation for Gifted Learners: One-Day Workshop with Richard M. Cash, Ed.D., Saturday, February 1, 2020, 8:00am -3:30pm, Salish Coast, [register here](#)

PT Schools In the News

<https://www.peninsuladailynews.com/news/port-townsend-high-school-musicians-raising-money-for-trip-to-los-angeles/>

<https://www.ptleader.com/stories/pths-joins-global-climate-strike.65063>

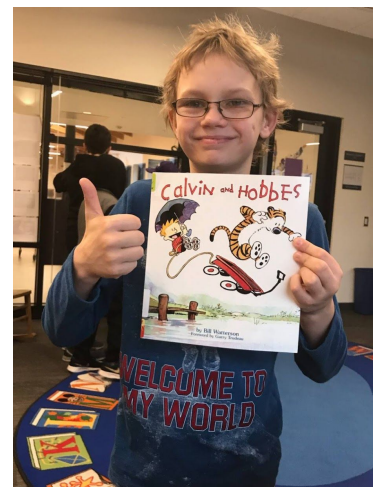
News from your PTSD Libraries ~ Joy Wentzel

After Hours at SCES Library

After a successful summer pilot program ("Summer @ Salish Library"), the collaborative team of PTSD and PT Public Library (PTPL) are excited to announce "Salish Coast Library After Hours". Hilary Verheggen, Youth Services Librarian at PTPL, and Derec Velez will team up and host a



casual library program for SCES students and families every early release Wednesday from 1-3. Spread the word as this is our chance to invite local families to enjoy the Salish Coast Library and its family-friendly book collection.



Tea House Tuesday @ BHMS Library

The word is out...every Tuesday we have a tea party in the BHMS library! Students can come in to enjoy a cup of herbal tea and chat, play games, craft or read. "Wait! What!? This is awesome...this happens EVERY week? Yesssss!" said Aidan Patton, sixth-grader. He enjoyed a cup of Bengal Spice and perused our WWII book collection. Aidan is not alone in his happiness. On any Tuesday, one can find sixty or more students sipping tea and enjoying their library space. Come join us for a cuppa!



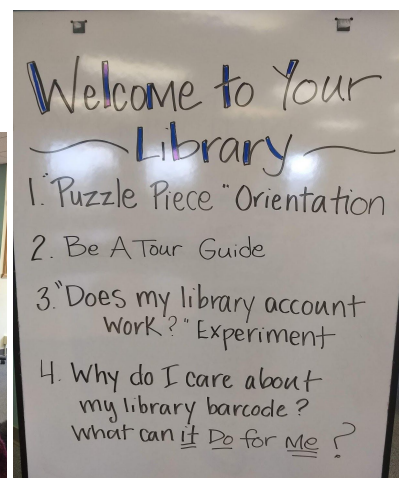
Banned Book Week @ PTHS Library

A curious collection of books has been sitting on the display shelf in the high school library. Students were posed with the question of what they all had in common. Emilia Nunn's name was picked out of the "guess jar" and she was correct. All of the books, from Captain Underpants to Fahrenheit 451 to The Color Purple have all been on 'banned book lists'. Why celebrate Banned Book Week (BBW) in September? BBW reminds us to celebrate our freedom to read and access information. It is a celebration of our intellectual freedom, which the American Library Association defines as "the freedom to access information and express ideas, even if the information and ideas might be considered unorthodox or unpopular" (ala.org). Taking time each year to highlight our freedom to read reminds students that "censorship leaves us in the dark" and we must "keep the light on and read!"

Library Orientations for All!



September is always a busy month in our schools. One can find us running (err...walking) to our mailboxes with full hands and a far-off look in our eyes that seems to say, "...now what day is it and what class is next?" It is hurried, positive energy that we all hold but one can feel overwhelmed. The library staff is here to help. We are here to connect you and your students to useful resources. It is



our goal to make your (and your students') lives easier and more efficient.

How can your library help? Come in and get oriented! Get a tour to discover how our libraries are organized and what power your library card holds. Did you know that ALL of our PTSD students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade, have received a school library orientation in the month of September? Yes and yahoo! This is a huge milestone! In addition, the juniors have been oriented and freshman ELA classes are being scheduled as you read this! Come in and schedule a visit.

Salish Coast News ~ Lisa Condran



Fort Worden Field Trip for 1st and 2nd Graders: Salish Coast is so lucky to have a partnership with Fort Worden that allows our students the use of a classroom in the schoolhouse building, as well as many opportunities for outdoor learning. On September 27th, four classes enjoyed activities at the Fort. These included: Sandie Marcum's 1st graders; Glenna Nelson's 1st graders; Tina Giulvezan's 1st graders; and Don Halquist's 2nd graders. All groups

started with learning that Fort Worden expectations are the same as the expectations at Salish Coast Elementary of being respectful, responsible, safe, ready to learn, and kind. They also learned that packing in, packing out, and not taking anything from a state park are additional rules for Fort Worden. Students had opportunities to complete measurement activities for math learning. In this picture, students are using unifix cubes to estimate, measure, and find differences in measurements.

City Library and Salish Coast Library Collaboration: The Summer program at Salish Coast Elementary kicked off its pilot program this summer June 18 - August 8, 2019. In a collaboration between the Port Townsend Public Library and the Port Townsend School District, each organization provided an employee, Hilary Verheggen and Shannon Grewell, to staff the library. Each week, Hilary Verheggen provided a preschool storytime including read aloud books, songs, finger plays, flannel boards, puppets, and more. Both Shannon and Hilary answered questions, checked out books, shelved books, and interacted with children and their families. The library was open each week from 10am-1pm.



Patron Experience: Throughout the Summer, the program averaged about 30 attendees per session. This includes storytime participants as well as children and families who came to check out books and the school library after storytime had concluded. We had many families who were excited to come week after week to ensure that their five-year old children felt comfortable in the space, as they would be attending Salish Coast for the first time in September. Several parents also expressed that it made them feel at ease getting to see the space and meet some teachers before the school year started. Kids commented that they loved playing with puppets and blocks at the end of each storytime and following up with the really cool playground afterwards!



- Summer @ Salish! by the numbers
- Total programs: 8
- Total visitors to storytime and library: 239

This program will continue starting October 2nd from 1-3pm after school on Wednesdays at Salish Coast Elementary.

Visitors from Haiti: Shary Irwin, pictured on the right, brought Mr. and Mrs. Giles to visit Salish Coast Elementary from Haiti on September 27th, 2019. The Giles provide education for several hundred children "on a shoestring." Shary has visited them in Haiti and was very touched by their challenges and accomplishments. The visitors went to the Disco Dragons classroom of Dorothy Stengel and Peter Braden. While there, they were given the book, Hope for Haiti by Jesse Watson, who has a son in the Disco Dragons Classroom.



Blue Heron ~ Principal, Theresa Campbell

Mr. Mill's sixth grade science classes visited the special NASA sponsored, Exoplanet Exhibit in September.



PTHS ~ Carrie Ehrhardt

College and Career Fair

The high school hosted over 30 organizations representing university, college, arts & technical schools, and military, at the 2019 College and Career Fair this past Friday afternoon! Students and parents had opportunities to meet with individual schools, learn about application processes, and explore career fields supported through the various institutions. This represents the fourth year that PTHS has hosted this event at our high school.

Freshman Mentor Program

The Freshman Mentor Program is in its third year at PTHS. The high school has 49 adult mentors working through Jennifer Kruse's Freshman Health and Careers classes this year. Mentors had their first meeting with the freshmen on September 30. One new goal for the program is for mentors and their students to engage in a collaborative book study, [What Color Is Your Parachute, For Teens](#). Mentors will be working with their students on a monthly basis throughout the school year.

Here Comes Homecoming

Students will be enjoying Homecoming activities this next week. There are a variety of spirit days planned throughout the week, leading up to the football game on Friday night, versus Bellevue Christian. Game time is 6:30 pm for the kick-off. The dance will take place on Saturday night. The Homecoming theme for this year is Mardi Gras!

