

# Port Townsend School District No. 50

## Learning Through a Sense of Place



Superintendent Polm's Newsletter – Vol. 19-20, No. 6, November 21, 2019



### Thanksgiving Message

Each year as we near Thanksgiving I am reminded about the need to think about and express gratefulness. We can all get bogged down in the negative circumstances and challenges we face in our personal and professional lives. Long ago I realized that things are not always going to take place the way I would like. So, I try to remember to be thankful for the everyday experiences, especially the opportunity to interact with colleagues, students and parents.

- I am thankful for the many kind and generous people in Port Townsend who support our schools.
- I am thankful for our hard working staff who come daily to school in an effort to make a difference in the lives of their students.
- I am thankful for a wonderful school board, who care about students, staff, and community. I am especially thankful for the service of outgoing board members, Laura Tucker and Keith White. We wish them well as the transition off the Board of Directors, and we welcome Jeff Taylor and Doug Ross who join continuing members Connie Welch, Jennifer James-Wilson, and Nathanael O'Hara.
- I am thankful for family and friends.
- I am thankful for the beautiful community in which we live. Some mornings the sunrises make me stop and admire.

As you experience the upcoming week(s), I would encourage you to express thankfulness to others. You very well may lift up yourself with others. In quoting William Arthur Ward, "feeling gratefulness and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it".

### American Education Week

This week (Nov 18-22) is National American Education Week. The first observance of American Education Week occurred December 4-10, 1921, with the NEA and American Legion as the cosponsors. A year later, the then U.S. Office of Education joined the effort as a cosponsor, and the PTA followed in 1938. If you would like to learn more, see: <http://www.nea.org/grants/60960.htm>

### Board Meeting Summary from November 18, 2019

The Board of Directors met on Monday, November 18 for a regular business meeting. The agenda included:

- Recognition of Director Tucker and Director White and their service.
- A presentation by the PTA. Our local PTA has become a K-12 group. In the past there were PTAs in the elementary and middle schools.
- Enrollment and Budget: Enrollment is holding at just under six (6) FTE students over budget (1,162 to 1,167.77).
- Several policies were approved and will be disseminated to buildings and Principals will share with staff members.
- The high school presented on stocking naloxone (Narcan), athletics, graduation pathways, and school lunch and start times.
- A review of the strategic plan

The Board normally 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](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>.

## Salish Coast Elementary ~ Principal Lisa Condran

### **Congratulations to our Art Committee**

Our art committee, led by Teacher Wanda, has been awarded an Arts WA grant for art work in our new school. The art work will be selected by a curator who will work with our committee. This committee includes Katherine Capp, Sandi Gulin, Xep Campbell, Kestrel Campbell, Lynn Anju, Lisa Condran, and Nicole O'Hara.



### **Math Lesson**

Tristan Marcum, 5th Grade Teacher, teaches his students about math. Tristan made this chain mail through many hours of work. Students estimated the number of chains, as well as the time it took Tristan to make this item.

### **YMCA Childcare**

The YMCA licensed child care is now at Salish Coast Elementary. It runs from 2:50--6:00 PM on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. It also runs on Wednesdays from 12:50--6:00 PM. On days school is not in session, the YMCA operates extended hours except for observed holidays. For more information, contact the YMCA at 360-385-5811.



After the Bell is designed to promote and enhance academic achievement, spark your child's imagination and expand their confidence, skills and talents by pairing physical activity with homework support and project based learning. This program is available at the YMCA of Port Angeles and the YMCA of Jefferson County.

Everyday at the Y we create outstanding child-centered programming in a nurturing learning community where the values of honesty, respect, responsibility and caring are learned and developed. After the Bell is designed to be flexible enough for working families, with classes that empower kids to make healthy choices and try new skills.



## Message from Jefferson Health Care

JHC is looking for ways to spread the word about their Master Site Planning and is seeking input from the community to discover a shared vision of future healthcare delivery and services needed in the

---

community. Results from survey and community meetings are to inform and shape how the Jefferson Healthcare campus and other facilities need to look and function over the next 10-15 years in order to address current and future needs and expectations. Please consider taking part by completing this survey <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VT735C5>.

## **Maintenance and Facilities**

Pictured below is the HS Main building with the elevator shown - with landscaping and cement in place. We are very close to completion of the elevators. Also, pictured is a new glass/door partition that was put in place to help reduce the sound that has been disruptive to the elementary office space.



## **MDS/Communications/Professional Development ~ Sarah Rubenstein**

### **Maritime and Place Based Learning**

There are great projects happening across the district this time of year. At Blue Heron students have been engaged in a waste audit. Salish Coast 5th graders are completing research on renewable energy for Port Townsend and 1st and 2nd graders are hard at work learning about salmon. At Port Townsend High School Spanish classes have been learning about the different varieties of corn and making tortillas from scratch.

We would like to get great photos and videos of students engaged in place based learning. Please let Sarah Rubenstein know if there is a good activity to capture some photos.

### **Professional Learning**

Based on teacher feedback and survey data the Professional Learning Leadership team has shifted a few topics for our district wide certificated trainings this year. December 11 will be focused on Trauma Informed Practices. There will be a few choices of sessions so that everyone can find the best place for their learning on this important topic, more information will follow soon. Thank you to the teachers on the leadership team: Molly O'Brien, Carol Light, Kiley Gard, Becca Gimlet, and Michelle Soderstrom.

### **Highly Capable Services**

This time of year school counselors are meeting with families to complete advanced learning plans at Blue Heron, OCEAN, and Salish Coast. High school students meet with the counselor to ensure they are enrolled in courses at the right level and have a plan in place for next year.

The referral window for services for the 2020-21 year will be open in January, and more information will be available in the schools then.

**In the news:**

[‘Our Town’ teaches PTHS players to appreciate brief moments, each other](#)  
[PT Library celebrates their third annual ‘Day of the Dead’](#)  
[Maritime Academy course allows students to gain professional credentials](#)

## Blue Heron ~ Principal Theresa Campbell

The Blue Heron Veterans Day assembly was held on Thursday, November 7th. The ASB planned and presented a beautiful tribute to all American veterans who served our country in the past and present. The Wind Ensemble, conducted by Kim Clarke, played songs and Taps, following a moment of silence to honor veterans. There was a question/answer session with ASB leaders asking student generated questions to our own staff veterans, Julie Russell and Don Oliveira. Student artwork honoring veterans, created by Mr. Chollar’s 7th/8th grade art classes, was also displayed and recognized.



---

## **PTHS ~ Principal Carrie Ehrhardt**

Winter sports begin this week, with PTHS hosting girls basketball, boys basketball and wrestling; as well as cheerleading. Our first home events start during the first week of December. The winter athletic calendar is posted on our school website, and in our daily bulletin. Come out to the PTHS gym and support the Redhawks in our winter athletic season!

Each year the high school identifies juniors and seniors who have met the criteria to be invited to apply for the National Honor Society. NHS has been recognizing excellence in scholarship, service, leadership, and character since 1921. This year, PTHS has identified over 40 students who have met the initial criteria, to be invited to apply for membership! Students will be working to submit their application materials, and teacher recommendations over the next week.

**Port Townsend School District** does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of race, religion, creed, color, immigration status, national origin, age, honorably-discharged veteran or military status, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, marital status, the presence of any sensory, mental or physical disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal by a person with a disability. The district provides equal access to school facilities to the Boy Scouts of America and all other designated youth groups listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination:

Laurie McGinnis, Title IX

Amy Khile, Civil Rights Compliance;  
Shelby MacMeekin, 504 Coordinator & ADA Compliance