

Port Townsend School District No. 50

Learning Through a Sense of Place



Superintendent Polm's Newsletter – Vol. 19-20, No. 7, December 06, 2019



Inclement Weather and Potential Delay or Closure

As the fall and winter storm season arrives, we have prepared this message to explain Port Townsend School District's procedures and expectations during inclement weather and school delays and/or closures. Below you will find guidelines to make this process easier, plus explain how weather decisions are made.

School late start or closure will be posted on the district website, made available on Seattle television and radio stations KIRO 7, KOMO 4, KING 5 and FOX 13, sent via automated calls and messages over the school district communication system to all families, and available by calling the District Emergency Information line 360-379-4500 extension 4587 .

Delay or Closure Decisions:

- Weather information is reviewed the day and evening prior to a decision. The superintendent reviews the current weather and expected weather conditions, consults with the Co-Op Transportation Director and neighboring district(s).
- Starting at 4:30 a.m. or sooner, district officials drive routes and further review conditions in the school district.
- The district may choose to operate on a normal schedule, start two (2) hours late with buses on snow routes, or close entirely.
- Late starts allow us:
 - Time to monitor and adjust decisions to changing weather and road conditions;
 - Time to clear sidewalks and apply de-ice;
 - Safety of daylight for students and Transportation personnel;
 - Additional time for staff to arrive to work; and
 - Time for the Transportation Department to further critique snow routes and make necessary adjustments or modifications.

2-Hour Late Start Times

Salish Coast Elementary	10:15 a.m.
Blue Heron Middle School/OCEAN	10:25 a.m.
Port Townsend High School	10:25 a.m.

- When school is closed, principals of each building will make the decisions to cancel or not any scheduled events for after school and evening, and the decision will be communicated to families through the methods listed in Paragraph 2.

Bus snow routes are available on the [Transportation Page](#).

Types of Communication in the event of a closure or delay:

- The SchoolMessenger® System notifies all staff and parents within 30 minutes by phone, text, and/or email.
- An alert will be posted on the school district website and social media pages
- Emergency weather procedures can be found on the district webpage [Weather and Emergency Closures](#).

- You may also dial 360-379-4500 and enter extension 4587, closure information will be there.
- Local TV and radio stations will provide timely updates.
- For questions regarding your child's emergency bus route, contact the Transportation Department at 360-302-5811.

Please remember that weather conditions may vary from area to area within the district. This may warrant a closure or late start for the entire district due to conditions impacting only limited areas. Student and employee safety is our highest priority.

Board Meeting Summary from December 5, 2019

The Board of Directors met on Thursday, December 5 for a regular business meeting. The agenda included:

- Recognition of Fall HS Student-Athletes who received all league, district or state recognition.
- Oath of Office for Nathanael O'Hara, Jeff Taylor, and Doug Ross as Board Directors
- Introduction of a policy for the use of Naloxone (Narcan)
- Approval of the Blue Heron Title 1 plan and the Transitional Bilingual plan

There was also a celebration of formal completion of the Salish Coast Elementary School project. This means the only remaining items are warranty items. We are so thankful for the support of our community, the work of committee members, and the work of staff in helping make the new school a reality.

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. 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



Fall Carnival: PT PTA Family events, such as the Fall Carnival, are a huge success and so appreciated by the Salish Coast community. In the picture at left, Candace Mangold, one of the PT PTA Co-Presidents, hands out treasure to students who attended the carnival.

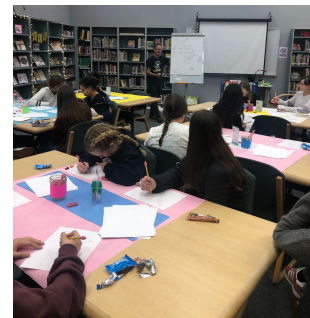
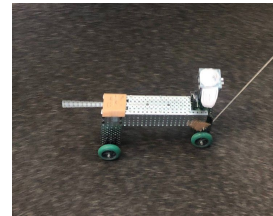
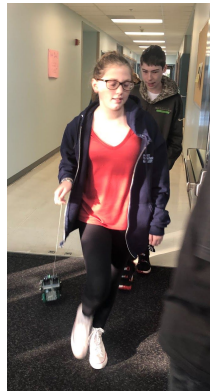
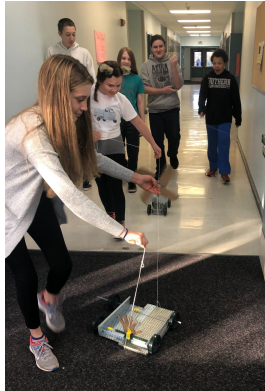
For many years, students at Grant Street Elementary, and now at Salish Coast Elementary, have enjoyed working with cross-age buddies. The younger students are able to see more mature students and imagine what it will be like to be an older student. The older students get the opportunity to act as mentors to the younger students. Some of the learning topics explored in this field trip were community helpers and emergency preparedness.



The tradition continues. Students and their families enjoy lunch in the hallways with pie and more pie on the day before Thanksgiving break in the first and second grade hallway.

Blue Heron ~ Principal Theresa Campbell

Mr. Mill's STEAM (Automation and Robotics) class proudly showcased their uniquely designed robots during the Pull-Toy Parade on November 25th. STEAM is an elective class available to Blue Heron students interested in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math.



On Tuesday, November 25th, Dana Sullivan, a local author, illustrator and graphic artist visited Blue Heron students as part of the "Lunch @ UR Library" sessions, a collaboration between PTSD and PT Public Libraries. Our own Joy Wentzel teams with Hilary Verheggen to do this at the middle and high schools every month and will (next month) start running programs at SCES. Students highly enjoyed this "learn to draw" opportunity and we are grateful that Mr. Sullivan shared his time and his skills with us. He also donated a copy of his new graphic novel to our library! Check out his website at: <http://www.danajsullivan.com/>



Every Early Release Wednesday, registered students participate in the BH Tutoring and Enrichment Program (TEP). Students spend one hour in academic tutoring and a second hour with the featured enrichment opportunity. Earlier this fall, there was a six week pickleball session and the current nine week session features steel pan drumming.

PTHS ~ Principal Carrie Ehrhardt

New Elevators!

Next week marks the final week of the elevator construction project at the high school. While awaiting the final inspection, our groundskeeper Shane Trammell has been busy helping to beautify other areas around the entrance to campus to tie in with the new landscaping that was completed as part of the overall project. The district is planning a ribbon cutting for the project, which will be announced at a later date.



Winter Stringfest

The orchestra will hold the 6th annual Winter Stringfest on Saturday, December 7th at 3pm in the PTHS Gym. This concert features not only the HS orchestra, but also orchestra students at Blue Heron and elementary students involved in our YEA! Music program. There will be over 150 students involved in this event. The YEA! Music program is taught by Larry Pepper and Faith Pray. This is a great community event and a perfect chance to see a fun afternoon, relaxed concert. Admission is free, and donation jars will be available for anyone wanting to donate to the HS orchestra trip to Los Angeles this spring. A Special Guest Artist this year is our own Patrick Gaffney who will be performing as a soloist on the Boomwacker instrument.... don't miss it!

Winter Sports Parent Meeting

The high school had over 40 parents attend the winter sports meeting (see picture below). District Athletic Coordinator Lysa Falge gave a presentation on important topics such as eligibility, concussion management, and the role of parents in the high school athletic program. Winter athletic options at PTHS include basketball (boys and girls) wrestling (boys and girls), and cheerleading. The schedules for our home games are posted on the high school website. Come out and support our student athletes at a home game this season. GO REDHAWKS!



Writers in the Schools (WITS) at PTHS

The high school is pleased to be hosting Gary Lilley, as the WITS writer assigned to Mr. Pierson's English classes. This is the third year that Mr. Lilley has worked at PTHS on behalf of the Writers in the Schools program, hosted by Seattle Arts and Lectures. During the first two weeks in December, our students will write, edit and share their own poems and stories, as they hone their craft and skills for creative self-expression.

Maintenance and Facilities ~ Justin Gray

The High School elevator project is pretty much complete and just waiting on final inspection approval. Hopefully, they'll be open for business by next week. Additionally, in preparation, District Groundskeeper Shane Trammell has been putting some finishing touches around the new entry to the main building. Shown at right, is some of Shane's hard work with a before and after picture of the landscaping.



Salish Coast Custodian Denise Larson wraps up another day of helping make the school look great! Here, Denise shows that a dirty floor is no match for the Windsor Chariot. This is one of our newer pieces of equipment that our custodial team uses to help with daily cleaning duties.



Food Service ~ Stacy Larsen

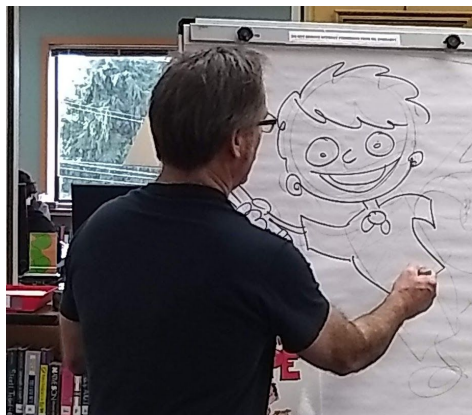
Last week the Food Service Department served the students and staff around 600 Thanksgiving lunches. The staff worked really hard to serve turkey and gravy, homemade rolls, roasted sweet and regular potatoes and corn. Some of those students may not have a Thanksgiving meal at home.

The soil of the production garden was tilled up today and the wood chips turned into it for the winter. In the spring we will add top soil and soil amendments as well as put up some fencing. Thanks to Greg at Moving Earth for donating his time and equipment to the project-one step closer! Also thanks to Farmer Emily for a great fall in the garden with the students. We will see her back in February.

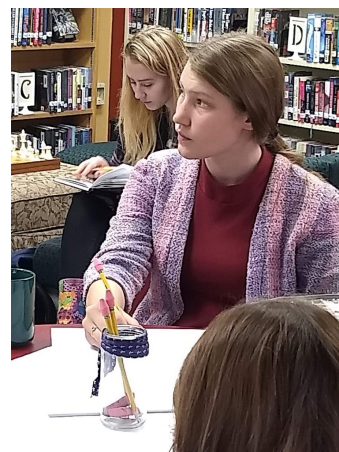


News from You PTSD Libraries ~ Joy Wentzel

We Love Dana Sullivan!



Local author, illustrator, art teacher and general all-around-good human Dana Sullivan has visited all three of our school libraries this month and taught students how to embrace their inner artist and share their story. His classes had students laughing and experimenting with quick sketches and ignoring their erasers. "Just go for it! Have fun!" was his message. A BHMS eighth-grader stated, "It was fun to just draw and not be worried that it had to be perfect. I want to spend the rest of the day



doodling..." His assembly at Salish Coast was a hit and he generously donated his books to all of the classrooms and our libraries. Thank you Dana! Look for information on his book launch at the PTSA Grover Gallery in January!



Computer Science Education Week is December 9-15

In honor of Computer Science Education Week, we will be hosting a fun, family-focused, free event at the BHMS Library. Come join us on Tuesday, December 10th from 5-6:30 pm. We will tinker, create, code, connect, race robots and eat pizza! This event is a collaboration between the PTSD, the PT Public Library and the PT Tinker Club and PT STEM Club.



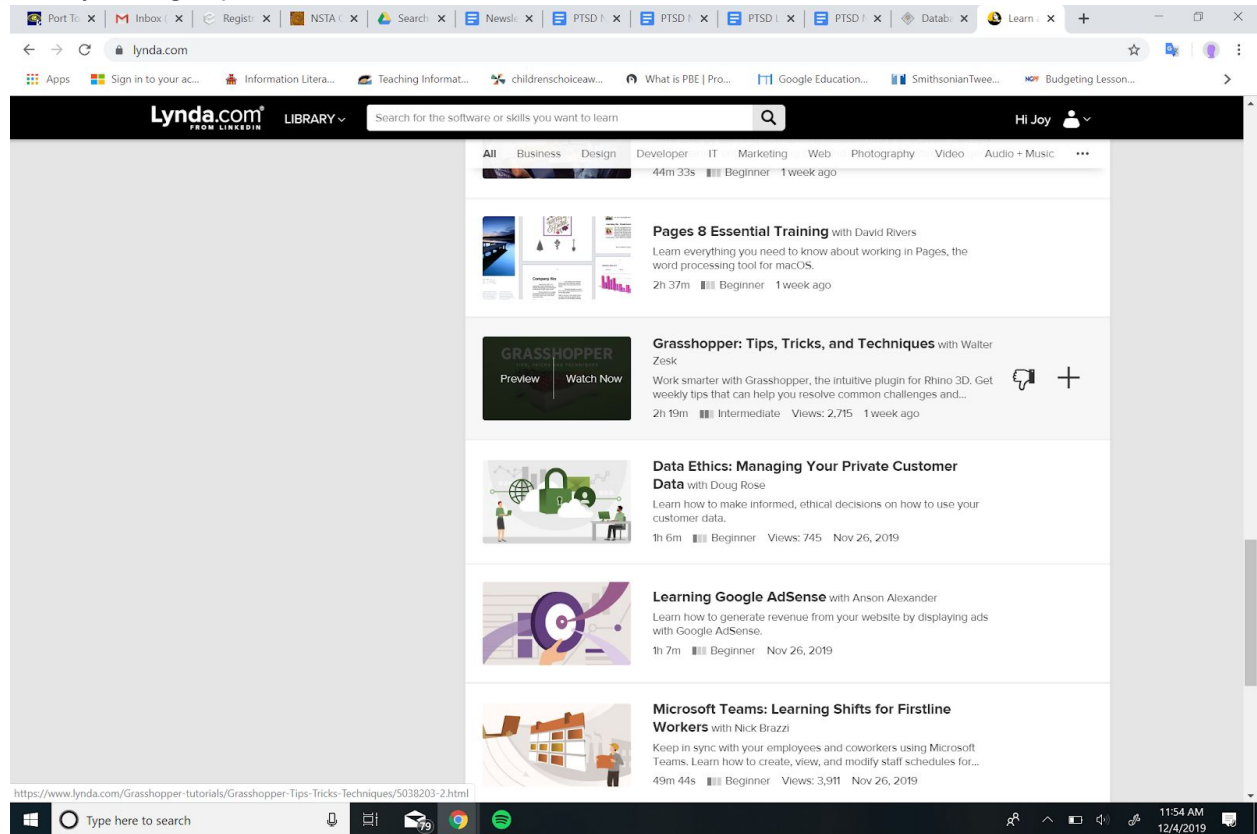
Newsletter Series: What Can My Library Card Do for Me?

Have you heard of Lynda.com? "Lynda.com is a leading online learning platform that helps anyone learn business, software, technology and creative skills to achieve personal and professional goals. Through individual, corporate, academic and government

subscriptions, members have access to the Lynda.com video library of engaging, top-quality courses taught by recognized industry experts." (ptpubliclibrary.org)



This web-based tool is like having a free university delivered to your living room. Topics are quite varied and you can approach the information as a beginner, intermediate or advanced student. There are sessions on Business, IT, Marketing, Web Design, Videography, Photography and more. Want to know how to solve common IT issues? Want to learn Google Doc essentials? How about gleanng some time management tips? Have you any interest in how to use the newest version of Microsoft? What about this little beauty on the screenshot: “Data Ethics: Managing Your Private Customer Data”? So many options are at your fingertips!



Click here to get to the sign-in page:

<https://www.lynda.com/portal/sip?org=ptpubliclibrary.org&triedlogout=true>

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

Shelby MacMeekin, 504 Coordinator & ADA Compliance

Amy Khile, Civil Rights Compliance;