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

Superintendent Polm's Newsletter – Vol. 19-20, No. 9, January 17, 2020

Personal Message from John

There are times in all of our lives when we reflect on relationships and the priorities of family. I am experiencing one of those times. Some of the staff and community are aware of some personal challenges my family has experienced over the past few years. I would like to share, and ask for your understanding.

My wife and I have three grown children and four grandchildren. We also have three of our four parents living in Longview, Washington. Our oldest daughter has been battling cancer for the past three and a half years. We have been trying to support her and her family throughout. She is mother to our oldest grandchild. They reside in Poulsbo. My middle daughter lives in Puyallup, and is healthy. She and her husband have three children (all under four), which has provided an opportunity for us to put some mileage on our vehicle visiting on weekends. Finally, like many people our age, our parents are getting older and in need of some additional family support as they are dealing with health issues.

I share this for context. Today the Puyallup School District plans to announce semi-finalists for their superintendent opening. I have been offered an interview as one of the semi-finalists. The interview is January 25. If they ask me to advance to a finalist, it would be the following week. They plan to offer a contract to a new superintendent as soon as January 31, 2020.

I would like to share that I feel honored to be here in Port Townsend. This is a unique and special district and community. We have exceptional teachers and staff, and we have an amazing school board. This is a place I feel is a good fit for my background, beliefs and abilities. However, life circumstances have called me to explore this opportunity in Puyallup. For this, I ask for your understanding.

There are no guarantees in life. Life can be hard. Life can also be short. My message to you is to be sure to make each day count as opposed to counting the days. I continue to learn lessons, and I am inspired by many of you who go about your daily lives uplifting others in spite of your own challenges. I will strive to do the same.

Board Meeting Summary from January 16, 2020

The Board of Directors met on Thursday, January 16 for a regular business meeting. The agenda included:

- District recognition as a National Board Accomplished District: One of 81 districts in the nation with over 20% of its teachers with National Board Certification.
- Board Appreciation month was celebrated as well. Special thanks to the students who attended and the students who made a video. https://drive.google.com/file/d/1s15UAn1PpQIsH72Vdgl4gEdejeeA1vaO/view?usp=sharing
- The Board acknowledged the acceptance of donations by Carl's Building Supply and an anonymous donor to clear lunch balances for students who qualify for free and reduced meals.
- The Board also discussed the proposed graduation requirement changes presented by Principal Carrie Ehrhardt.

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.

MDS, HiCap, Prof. Dev. and Community Outreach ~ Sarah Rubenstein

Maritime Discovery Schools
The MDS Community Advisory Committee met on January 15 to revise and set new goals for MDS. The program has successfully completed five years of implementation, and the committee is focused on successfully sustaining and growing the mission of the school district. The committee is made up of teachers, community members, and board members.

This month teachers and staff are attending three different professional development sessions to support MDS: *NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training Conference*, *Storming the Sound, Explore the Salish Sea*, hosted by PTMSC. These opportunities allow teachers to network with educators and community partners from across the region and grow the MDS vision for our district.

Highly Capable
The highly capable referral window is open until March 31, for services to begin in the 2020-21 school year. Anyone may refer a student. Forms and more information are found at https://ptschools.org/for_families/district_wide_services/highly_capable_student_services.

Highly Capable Services Referral Information Night - Grades K-11, Monday, February 3, 5-6pm, School Board Room, Stuart Bldg, 1610 Blaine Street.

Learn the basics of the highly capable services and how to refer a student. Parents, guardians, community members, and teachers can refer students in kindergarten through 11th grade for evaluation. A staff member will be available after a short presentation to answer questions, and help with referral forms as needed. Attendance at this information night is not required as part of the referral process. Referral forms are available in the school offices, online, and at the information session. Forms are due in the school office March 31.

In April, all second grade students will participate in the Cognitive Abilities Test Screener Form 7, unless parents/guardians opt-out. Forms were sent home with second grade families, or one can be requested from the school office.

Professional Development
Teachers can still register for Differentiation for Gifted Learners: One-Day Teacher Workshop with Richard M. Cash, Ed.D., Saturday, February 1, 2020, 8:00am -3:30pm, https://giftedlearnerworkshop.eventbrite.com

Upcoming Wednesday District Professional Development Topics:
January 22, Thinking Strategies and Workshop Model
February 19, MTSS
March 18, Culturally Responsive Teaching

Communications
If any staff members or families are not receiving automated communications via text, email, and phone, you may need to update your contact info with the school. To opt into text messages, send a text

message of “Y” or “Yes” to our district’s short code number, 67587. If you want to control your communication options:

1. Visit go.schoolmessenger.com
2. Log in with the email on file at your child’s school or your ptschools.org account for employees.
3. After you log in, select 'Preferences' in the menu and update your contact preferences

Please contact Sarah Rubenstein, srubenstein@ptschools.org or call 360-385-6661 if you are not receiving communications, or have difficulty making changes.

Community Outreach
Title 1: Parent/Guardian Presentation
Self-Regulation for Learning: Essential Skills for Success
February 1, 2020, 4-6pm, Salish Coast Elementary
Register for free at https://selfregulationworkshop.eventbrite.com

Port Townsend School District Parents/Guardians, please join us for this incredible opportunity to learn about self-regulation and student success. Award-winning educator, Dr. Richard M. Cash will be here Saturday, February 1st at Salish Coast Elementary from 4-6pm to provide this exclusive presentation. Childcare and light refreshments will be provided. Questions please contact: tcampbell@ptschools.org 360-379-4540.

In the News

- Port Townsend School Board approves Salish After Hours program - PDN 01.06.20
- ‘Hour of Code’ returns to Blue Heron for 2nd year - PTLeader 12.18.19

Libraries ~ Joy Wentzel

HI all. Students at BH and PTHS are putting kindness into the word through crafting. We have been stitching and adorning warm hats with hearts for kids in our community. Jan B and her service club will add a hat to all of the "food Backpacks" for kids and some will be donated to Chimacum Primary School students. Do you know of students or families who might like a hat? I will happily deliver them to you in the next few weeks...we are working on creating over 100!!!! Woah!!!

Let me know and hats with hearts will come your way.

Salish Coast Elementary School ~ Lisa Condran

Excerpt from a Great Article about Salish Coast student in the Port Townsend Leader by **Lily Haight**
When 8-year-old Grayce Schwindler asked her mom if she could have a lemonade stand three summers ago, the answer was no. “I wanted a lemonade stand, but no one comes to our road in the summer,” Grayce said. But that wasn’t the end of the conversation for the Schwindlers, who brainstormed a new plan together when they found out that their neighbor went all out with their Christmas

lights every year. The Ridgways who live across the street from the Schwindlers decorate their home on McNeill Street every year so that the light display matches up with music playing from a radio station, drawing people from around town to come and park their cars in front of the lights from 5 to 10 p.m. every night in December. “When we found out our neighbor does these lights every year, we threw the lemonade stand idea right out the window,” Grayce said.Three winters ago she and her mom set up a card table in her front yard and she sold hot cocoa, by donation, to the light display viewers.That year, around 300 people bought hot cocoa from Grayce, so the next year they upgraded her operation with a pallet stand. This year, they painted it and decorated it with lights. With music from the radio playing, the hot cocoa steaming, and the lights from the house across the street illuminating the street, Grayce has the perfect set-up for selling her cocoa. A third grader at Salish Coast Elementary, Grayce spends her after-school time at cheerleading practice. As soon as she gets home, she’s out in her stand, walking from car to car with the Ridgways to hand out candy canes and let people know she’s got hot cocoa for sale.This year, she has raised more than $300 with her hot cocoa sales. She used some of the money to pay for the supplies she needed, like paper cups and cocoa.But instead of profiting off of her sales, she decided to spend the rest on helping kids her age.“I wanted to be less greedy and more kind,” Grayce said.So she picked up six tags from the Christmas 4 Children donation tree stationed at her mom’s cafe. This tree is part of the larger organization that enlists families to purchase gifts for a kid in need. Each tag has the child’s name, age and what they might need or want for Christmas. In Port Townsend, the drive is organized in large part by the Kiwanis Club.

Salish Coast Gains New Staff Members

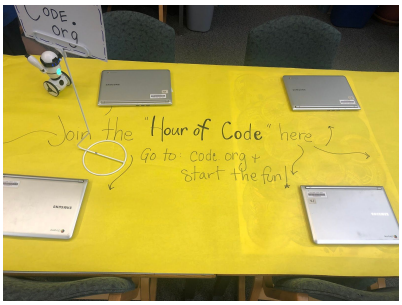
Please help Salish Coast welcome new staff members that have started (or will start) and will be officially hired pending school board approval:

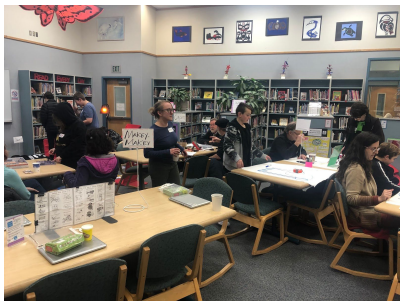
- Amanda Christofferson, Behavior Paraeducator (temporary until the end of the year)
- Tyler Smith, Behavior Paraeducator (temporary until the end of the year)
- Kayla Taylor, Behavior Paraeducator (temporary until the end of the year)
- Lainie Johnson, Supervision Paraeducator (the position Hannah Spitzbart was doing before she moved to the Eagle Reading Room)
- Cole Russell, Special Education Paraeducator, working primarily in Stephanie's classroom and the Fifth Grade Classrooms
- Chiarra Klontz, School Secretary, beginning January 28th, 2020
- Merri Emerson, 4th Grade Teacher, replacing Betsy Hart, beginning February 3rd, 2020

Middle School ~ Theresa Campbell

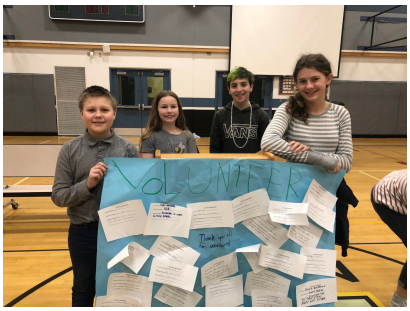
On Wednesday, December 11th, the 6th-8th grade band students played for a packed gymnasium, performing classic holiday favorites and more under the direction of Band Instructor, Kim Clarke.

On December 10th, Blue Heron students and families gathered for pizza, coding, and family fun as part of the “Hour of Code” nationwide initiative.





Our ASB representatives were hard at work in early January, preparing for theTemperance and Good Citizenship Assembly. On Thursday, January 16th, Blue Heron students and staff were treated to an informational presentation celebrating the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., highlighting the value in volunteering, and stressing the importance of anti-bullying in our school and community.



High School ~ Carrie Ehrhardt

While we avoided the Tuesday evening winter blast in Port Townsend, several staff who live out of town woke up to a winter wonderland on Wednesday morning! This photo (on right) is courtesy of Darlene Marmol, who lives between Sequim and Port Angeles.

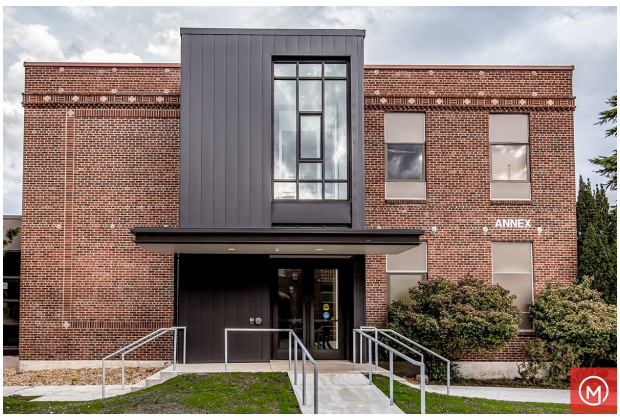
The winter chill has put students in Winterfest mode! In recognition of our approaching semester completion, students enjoyed spirit week activities and themed dress up days including flannel day, sports day, collegiate day, crocks, socks and polka dots day, and Redhawk colors day. The week ends with a dance on Friday night from 8:00 - 11:00 pm.

On January 16th, students participated in Temperance and Citizenship Day, through a variety of writing activities in their English classes. Juniors participated in the Future Voter Program, which allows students age 16 or older to get pre-registered to vote.

Teachers have also been engaged in their mid-year TPEP meetings, as we prepare for our second round of inquiry cycle observations.

Finally, in recognition of School Board Appreciation, the high school sends out a special thanks to our hard working school board members. We appreciate your time, dedication, and support of our schools,

students, teachers and programs. We also appreciate the support in making the elevator project happen. Our students, staff and patrons all appreciate the focus on equity and access. See the great pictures Merit Construction sent us below.



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