

Port Townsend School District No. 50

Learning Through a Sense of Place



Superintendent Polm's Newsletter – Vol. 19-20, No. 12, March 06, 2020

Quote for the Week

"You can create a lot of meaning in your own life by helping someone else do something that is meaningful to them."

Board Meeting Summary from March 5, 2020

The Board of Directors met on Thursday, March 5 for a study session meeting. This meeting included recognition of Education Support Professionals Week March 9-12. The Board read a proclamation, and there are certificates and a short letter of thanks to all of the classified support employee groups. We presented certificates to representatives from paraprofessionals and secretaries who attended the meeting,



The board received the following reports:

- School-Based Health Clinic: Nurse Practitioner, Susan O'Brien reported on the 18-19 school year use of the clinic. She shared that the clinic saw an increase in access by students from the previous few years.
 - High School Master Plan: The planning for the high school campus, including the Lincoln School, has been underway for several years. Phase one of the plan was to improve ADA access. The biggest part of that process was the addition of elevators in 2020. John Kennedy of SKL Architects presented the work to date. Thanks to all of the people who have had voice in the process. You can find the draft of the plan at [link](#). The Board plans to take action for approval in their March 19 regular business meeting. The plan does not have any associated costs, nor is there a timeline for completion at this time.
 - Annual reports on 2018-2019 Special Education and Restraint and Isolation were provided by Sandy Gessner.
 - The Mathematics Curriculum report for Elementary and Secondary was also presented by Sandy Gessner.
-

Coronavirus Update: The superintendent presented the status of the district's preparations for the COVID-19 outbreak. The focus of work has been centered on:

1. Infection Control
2. Continuity of business services (payroll and accounts payable)
3. Continuity of instructional services (should there be a closure, this will be limited to what can be provided online)
4. Communication with community region, state, and national resources and partners

Pandemics and serious infectious disease outbreaks have been rare occurrences over the last century. Because of this, we will need to be "team oriented" and go beyond common practices given the need to prevent the spread of infection and respond in the absence of key staff.

Public Health recommendation consult with County Public Health Officer prior to making a decision to close a school. Keep in mind that school officials are not epidemiologists, and they will rely on the expertise of professionals. At this time there has been one reported case in Jefferson County with the most recent information located at the following [link](#). **Based on my (the superintendent's) conversations with Public Health Officials today**, there is no information that the person has had contact with individuals within the schools at this time. We remain in the prevention phase of preparedness, which is the case until we are instructed otherwise by Public Health. We continue to clean and sanitize to the highest degree possible.

Communications: We continue to pull together communication to the community and staff. Our district webpage is updated regularly. We are responsive to Jefferson County guidance. We know that King County issued more cautious guidance, and Snohomish County issued similar guidance yesterday. We will continue to keep up to date on the status of the situation. If **staff members** receive email or letters from parents or community pertinent to related school actions, please forward to the building principal.

What the Port Townsend School District is doing now:

- Increased cleaning of contact surfaces including doors and counters.
- Provide teachers with supplies to sanitize student desks daily.
- Food service offerings served by school staff, in place of a self serve salad bar.
- Daily school buses cleaning.
- Encouraging good student hygiene, with time for hand washing before lunch for all students.
- Sick students with a fever will be isolated from others and sent home.
- Monitoring all planned student field trips and staff travel and making decisions on a case by case basis to cancel.

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 School ~ Lisa Condran



100 year old Kindergarten Teachers

Do you recognize these 100 year old kindergarten teachers? Teachers Sally, Katie, Nora, and Stephanie dressed up on the 100th day of school to show what they would look like when they are 100 years old. Little Free Libraries Salish Coast is opening TWO Little Free Libraries (One indoor and one outdoor) Little Free Libraries are just that- free books for kids. Here's how it works: People clean their shelves at home and bring books they have outgrown into school for the Book Drive. We place the books into the Little Free Library. Any and all students can then take a book or leave a book to share. The important thing is, all kids have access to books in their home.

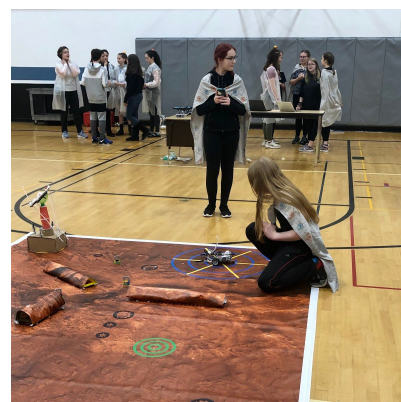
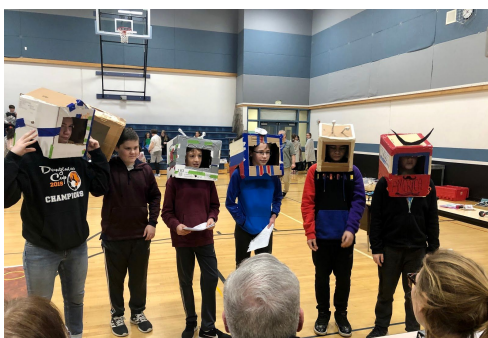


Blue Heron ~ Theresa Campbell

On Friday, February 28th, 3 teams from Mr. Waibel's STEAM classes competed in the school-wide ROADS challenge that included drones orbiting Mars, satellites, and Mars Rover activities.



On Thursday, February 27th, the secondary math teachers and students from Blue Heron and Port Townsend High School hosted a Mathia Parent Information Session to share how the program works and how they can support their students.





High School ~ Carrie Ehrhardt

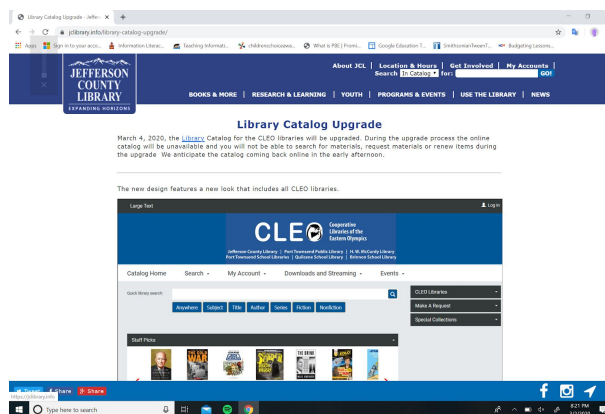
Congratulations to our Mock Trial and Knowledge Bowl teams! Both activity teams took first place in regional competitions and are heading to State later this month! Mock Trial is advised by Chris Pierson and Knowledge Bowl is co-advised by Ben and Julianne Dow.

Three PTHS high school students have announced that they will compete in the upcoming Race to Alaska (R2AK) this June. The Team FAST (Freaking Awesome Sailing Teens) crew will be captained by junior Odin Smith, who also owns the boat they will be sailing in the race. Other PTHS students on the crew include senior Dylan Tracer and sophomore Oscar Levine. The team is planning on doing some private fundraising later this spring. We will publicize event data for Team FAST as plans come together.

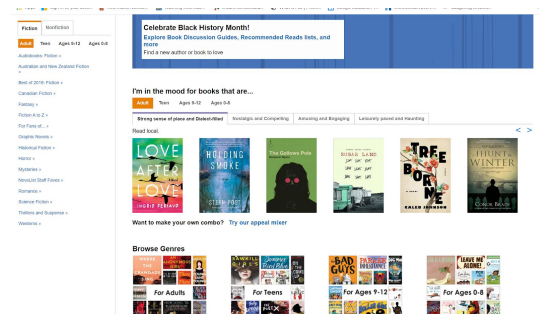
PT School Libraries ~ Joy Wentzel

New CLEO: One Card and One (now) Website Does it All

As you may know, your CLEO library card gives you access to books and resources from Jefferson County and Port Townsend public libraries. As of March 4th, we will now share a website. The week of March 4th will be a bit bumpy as we learn to connect services and navigate the new tools to



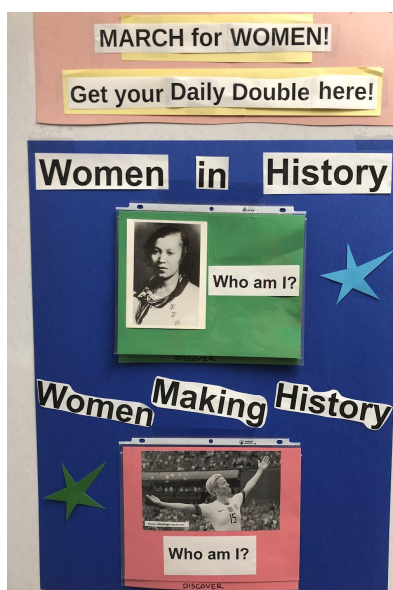
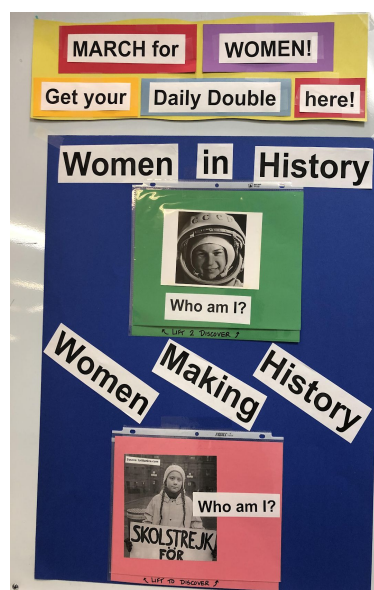
better serve you. Look for upcoming sessions on how to access all of your library needs. If you would like a tutorial or a tour before then, please come see us in the library.



One wonderful silver lining is that Novelist will be integrated into the search tool. Novelist is like having a 24/7 librarian available to you to help you find your next good read. Here is a snapshot of what it looks like. You can find “book alike”, search by genre or age group. It’s awesome!

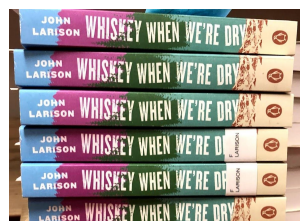
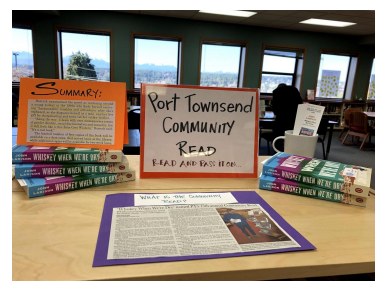
March Is Women’s History Month

Come into your Blue Heron or PT High School Library every school day this month and learn about women IN and MAKING history through our interactive displays. We are calling it the “Daily Double”. We also have recommendations and a bookcase full of ideas of what to read next. Remember that we are here to help you and your students discover vetted tools and inspiring resources. A list of databases and primary sources will be sent out to you as a staff as we work on upgrading our school library websites.



Community Read Available @ PTHS

March is also, as proclaimed by the City of Port Townsend, the official “Reading Month” of the annual PT Community Read. Come to the PTHS Library to get your free copy while they last. The Community Read is “designed to promote closer ties among community members through the shared experience of reading, sharing and discussing the same book and ideas related to topics raised by the book” (ptpubliclibrary.org).



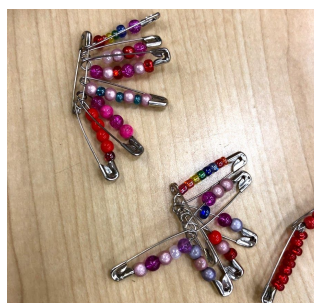
Your challenge, should you accept it, is to read the book and pass it on to others. There are a variety of connected community events as well. Look to the website for details.

Wonder what it is about? Look to those in the community wearing the “I am reading it” pin or read this: “In the spring of 1885, finding herself alone, seventeen-year-old Jessilyn Harney sets out to find her runaway brother, Noah. But it’s dangerous to be a young woman travelling in the West. Without options, she cuts off her hair, binds her chest, saddles her beloved mare, Ingrid, and sets off across the mountains. Written in Larison’s lush prose that brings the wild landscape to life, Whiskey When We’re Dry is a brutal, heartbreaking tale of bravery, loss, and identity in the American West. Growing up, Jessilyn learned sharpshooting from her father. Now known as Jesse, her skills catch the eye of the territory’s violent, capricious Governor, who offers her employment. But Noah is now an outlaw, and the very men Jesse travels with are trying to hunt him down. The journey is long, bitter, and violent, and Jess finds herself committing acts that take her further and further away from the girl she once was.”



Lunch @ UR Library Highlights

Our most recent Lunch @ UR Library program brought us back to the 1980s. We created, shared and donned Friendship Pins. “I had no idea how much fun this could be.” stated one 12th grader. “Can we make these all month?” added another student. Sometimes the beauty is in the simplicity. Would you like a friendship pin to wear on your sneakers? Come into the library and we will “hook you up”.



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