

Port Townsend School District No. 50

Learning Through a Sense of Place



Superintendent Polm's Newsletter – Vol. 19-20, No. 14, April 03, 2020

School Closure ~ John Polm

Although Governor Inslee announced the extension of the stay home order through May 4, we have received no additional information on schools. Please try to enjoy some time off and not worry about it. I will send something to staff if there is a change.

Food Service ~ Stacey Larsen



The kitchen staff have been hard at work making wonderful breakfast and lunch for the kids in our community. Total meals served: 3,572 total

We are thankful for all the hard work of our staff. Thanks also to the bus drivers for braving the cold to hand out those sack lunches and delivering them to families that can not leave their homes.

It is so nice in these hard times to see the smiling faces of our students-although brief and from 6 feet away.

We will be providing meals during spring break so make sure you come out and pick up your sack breakfast.

As a reminder it is for youth 0-18 and if your child is sick the adult can pick it up.

Childcare Program and Music Boosters ~ Daniel Ferland and Melissa Love

The PTHS Music Boosters has donated 16 cases of Kettle Corn to our childcare program at Salish Coast for kids snacks.

The Port Townsend schools childcare program which was recently launched is being staffed by school employees including our dedicated classified staff with support from certificated teachers leading enrichment activities such as nature walks, piano keyboarding and art. Children are well fed by our school kitchen staff and are kept busy with safe, engaging activities. "It truly is a whole school community program with everyone participating to the best of their ability. I couldn't be more proud to be a part of this childcare program or this Salish Coast Elementary staff. Thank



you for the donation and for supporting our childcare endeavors, PT Music Boosters", said Melissa Love, Port Townsend Schools childcare supervisor and Special Education teacher.

The Kettle Corn was going to be used as a fundraising effort for the HS Orchestra trip to Los Angeles, which has been postponed until November of 2020. The music boosters had already purchased the kettle corn and instead of going unsold, wanted to see it used by kids in our community.

The Orchestra trip to LA was to see 70 students participating in a music clinic at UCLA and seeing the LA Symphony. The music boosters are currently working on rescheduling those plans for November of 2020.

Students of the Orchestra program are currently involved in a "virtual symphony" project where they are working on music at home which will be combined to be streamed online as a group. "We worked so hard on the music, so this is a chance for the kids to give a very special "gift" back to our community in the form of a virtual performance to thank everyone for their support" said Daniel Ferland, PTHS Music Director.

Library ~ Joy Wentzel



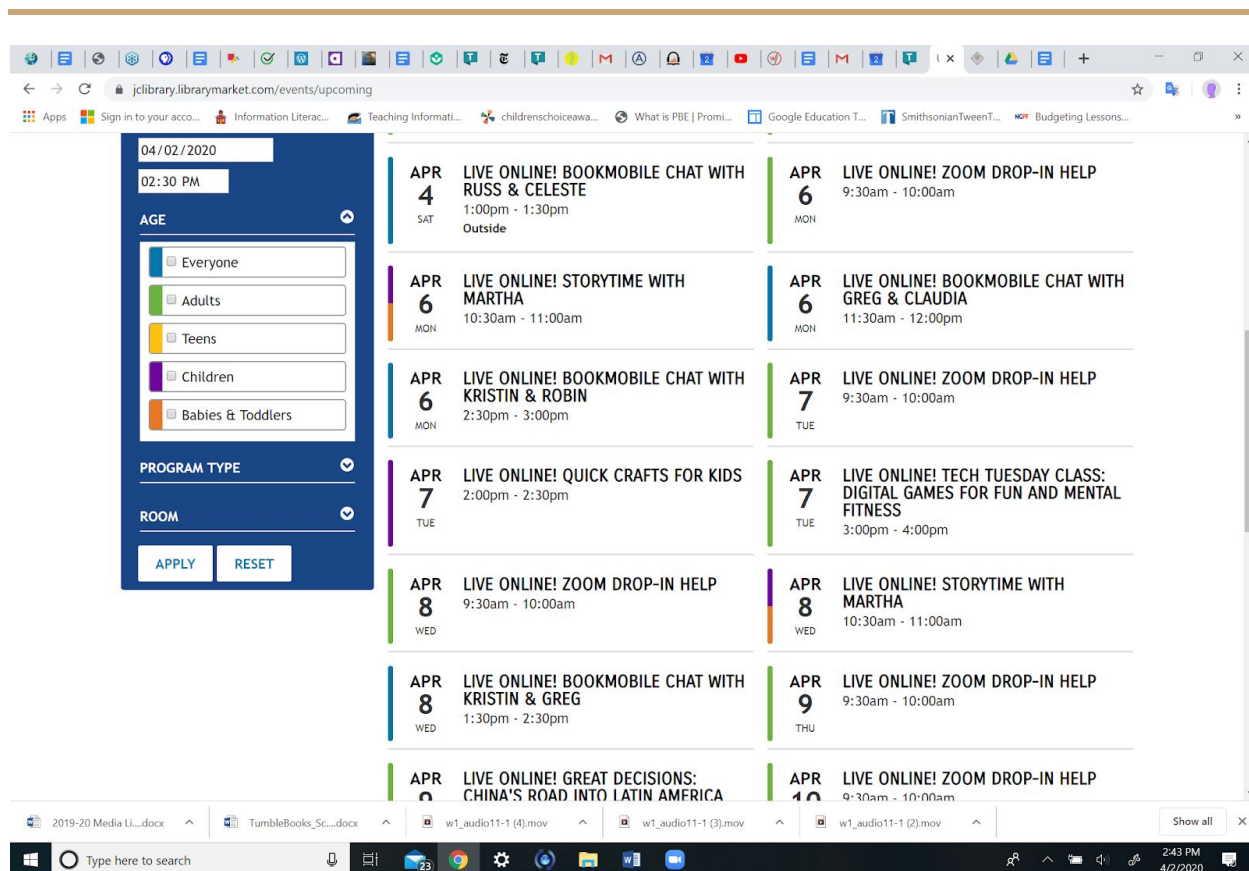
PTSD Library News: Finding Silver Linings and Rainbows

To say that our lives have changed in the past few weeks would be a gross understatement. While we move through these days, I am trying to find silver linings among the dark clouds. One silver lining is that you now have time to wade through the sea of 24/7 resources that our libraries offer with your 14-digit barcode. I am here to help and hope to start weekly "Office Hours" for each school library. Stay tuned for more information on that. In the meantime, enjoy your stay-cation and take advantage of these resources. Stay well.

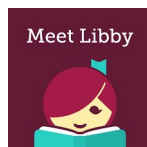
Joy's Top 10 Picks of Online Resources from our 24/7 Library:

JCL Live Events:

The Jefferson County Library has risen to the challenge of being available during this time in history. They are offering fun, free events for people of all ages. Jump here to see some offerings: ([Upcoming Events](#))



Washington Anytime Library:



Have you run out of books and want to read more? Consider adding the Washington Anytime Library to your world. Here you will find a robust collection of e and audiobooks. This digital library has grown with more titles and more copies! I

have included a how-to video to help you get started (<https://jclibrary.info/use-the-library/how-to/>)

Kanopy Streaming:

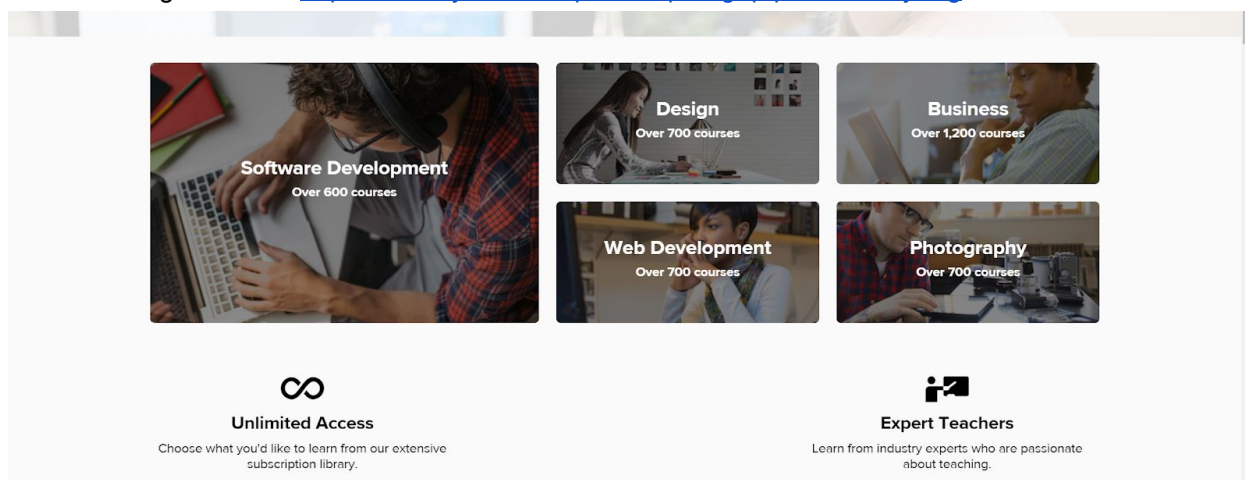
Kanopy is a free streaming service that offers movies to watch on any device. It is a well-curated collection of movies, documentaries, kids movies (Kanopy Kids) and oodles of "Great Courses". Here is a how-to video to get started: <https://jclibrary.info/use-the-library/how-to/>
Click here to jump right to Kanopy: <https://jclib.kanopy.com/>



Lynda.com:

Lynda.com is a great resource if you want to take courses in the fields of technology, business and/or photography. More PD in your PJs!!!

Click here to get started: <https://www.lynda.com/portal/sip?org=ptpubliclibrary.org>



The image shows a promotional banner for Lynda.com. It features five course category tiles: 'Software Development' (Over 600 courses), 'Design' (Over 700 courses), 'Business' (Over 1,200 courses), 'Web Development' (Over 700 courses), and 'Photography' (Over 700 courses). Below these tiles are two benefit sections: 'Unlimited Access' with an infinity symbol icon and the text 'Choose what you'd like to learn from our extensive subscription library.', and 'Expert Teachers' with an icon of two people and the text 'Learn from industry experts who are passionate about teaching.'

Newsbank:

"Find global information on topics related to business, economics, education, government, health, homework help, international studies, politics, science, social issues, sports, STEM and more from a variety of news media featuring newspapers, videos and web-only content" (ptpubliclibrary.org).

Jump here to get started: <https://infoweb.newsbank.com/signin/PortTownsendPublic/AWNB>

Chilton Library:

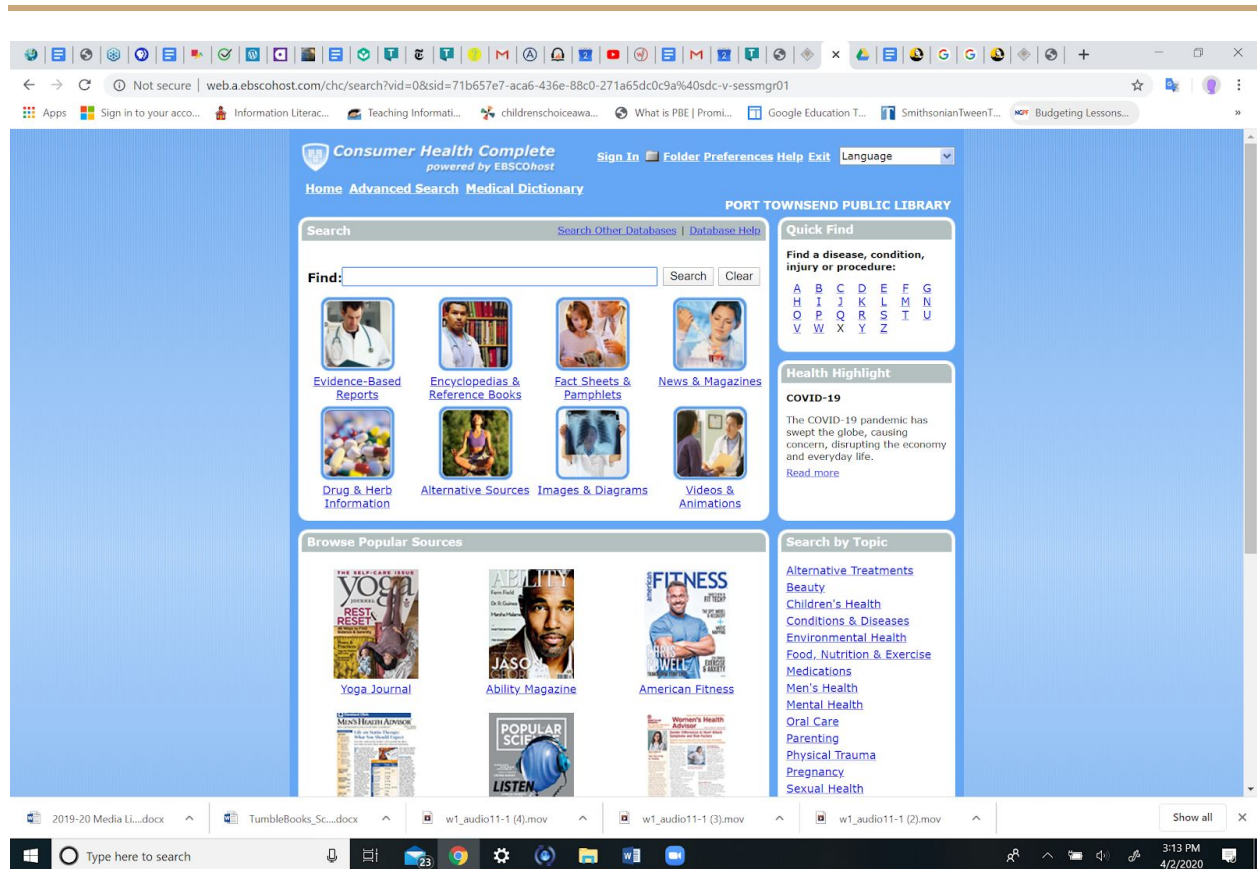
"Do-it-yourself mechanics have access to photographs, diagnostics and step-by-step repair procedures, maintenance schedules, wiring diagrams, recalls and technical service bulletins for automobiles and light trucks" (ptpubliclibrary.org). Jump here to get started:

https://galeapps.gale.com/apps/auth/wsl_jeffco?cause=https%3A%2F%2Ffind.gale.com%2Fmenu%2Fstart%3FuserGroupName%3Dwsl_jeffco%26prod%3DCHLL%26finalAuth%3Dtrue

Consumer Health Complete:

Look here for information on health and wellness. We also have access to ProQuest Family Health Database. Jump in right here:

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?authtype=ip,cpid&custid=s9224775%20&profile=chc>



Ancestry.com Library Edition:

While this library version is not as extensive as Ancestry.com, it offers much of the original content. This service will be available until the end of April (as of right now). Jump here to get started:



<https://cleocat.jclibrary.info/polaris/Search/misc/esources.aspx?ctx=1.1033.0.0.15&Category=145>

Community Resources Link:



Stay informed and get connected to local resources for you and your families. Jump here to see what is happening around Jefferson County:

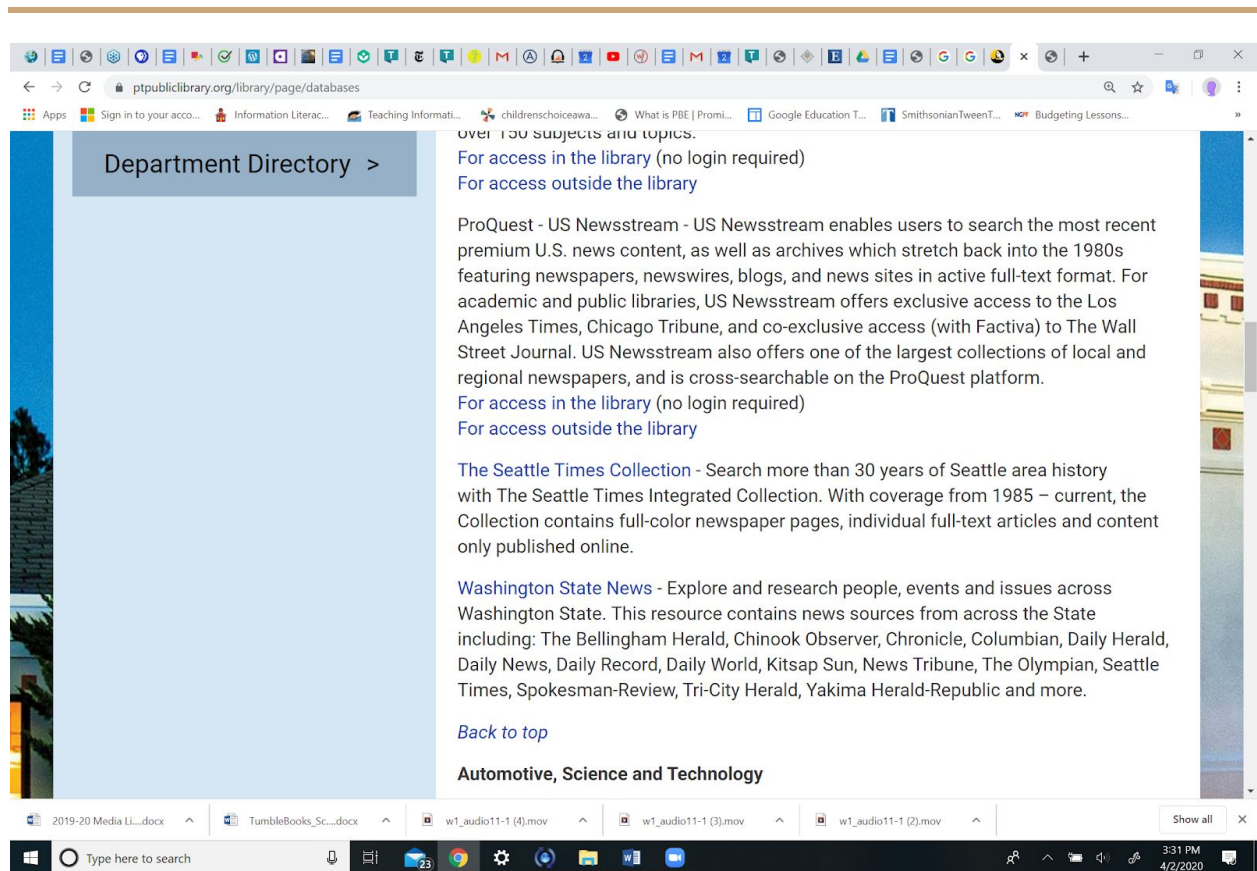
<https://jclibrary.info/community-information/>

The screenshot shows the Jefferson County Library website. The header includes the library's logo with the tagline "EXPANDING HORIZONS" and a navigation menu with links: About JCL, Location & Hours, Get Involved, My Accounts, Search, In Catalog, and a search bar. Below the header, the main section is titled "Community Information" with the subtitle "Community Resources in Jefferson County, Washington". It features two columns of resource links: Business, Covid-19 Help and Information, Education, Local Events & Recreation, Libraries, Government, Local News Sources, Services & Utilities, and Weather & Tides Information. A blue banner below the main content encourages users to "Subscribe to get our latest e-news!" with an email input field. The footer contains "NEWS and UPDATES" with a video player showing "kanopy" and "INCOME TAX", a "CONTACT US" section with the library's address (620 Cedar Avenue, Port Hadlock, WA 98339), and social media icons for Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube. The browser's address bar shows the URL "jclibrary.info/community-information/" and the Windows taskbar at the bottom displays the date and time as 3:27 PM on 4/2/2020.

ProQuest and Academic Premier:

Find full text articles from such sources as The Wall Street Journal, NY Times and National Geographic. If you need help navigating this site, reach out and I can help you. Jump here to see all of the offerings:

<https://ptpubliclibrary.org/library/page/databases>



Novelist:

Novelist is an addition to the search function in our catalog. Create wish lists for books to read this vacation or dream big for summertime. You can search by similar themes, authors or story elements. There are also book guides (good for discussions) and award winning lists. You can find Novelist by looking up a book title and skimming to the bottom of the page. Start a search here:

<https://cleocat.jclibrary.info/polaris/search/default.aspx?ctx=1.1033.0.0.15&type=Keyword>

The world is your oyster, as my Nana used to say (in her thick New York accent).

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL cleocat.jclibrary.info/polaris/search/title.aspx?ctx=1.1033.0.0.15&pos=3&cn=294266. The page displays search results for 'The Overstory' by Richard Powers. It features two main sections: 'Similar Titles' and 'Similar Authors'. Below these, there are filters for 'Story elements' and 'Mix and match to explore similar stories' with buttons for Appeal, Character, Genre, and Theme.

Similar Titles:

- The Overstory by Richard Powers
- The Trees by Barbara Kingsolver
- The Daylight Marriage by David Shields
- The Book of David by David Shields
- The Book of David by David Shields
- The Book of David by David Shields

Similar Authors:

- Nancy Kress
- David Mitchell
- Carl Djerassi
- Jeffrey Eugenides
- Fiona McFarlane
- Cynthia Swanson
- John Banville
- Gwenaelle Aubry
- Ahmed Bouanani

Story elements:

Mix and match to explore similar stories:

Appeal: Hopeful, Issue-oriented, Lyrical, Stylistically complex

Character: Complex, Large cast of characters

Genre: Literary fiction

Theme: Green reads, Web of connections

Highly Capable ~ Sarah Rubenstein

Highly Capable Referral Deadline Extended. Due to the school closure, the deadline for Highly Capable Services Referrals will be extended. When school resumes a new deadline will be set allowing families and staff time to complete referrals in a timely manner. Questions about the highly capable services can be directed to school counselors. More information is available at https://ptschools.org/for_families/district_wide_services/highly_capable_student_services.

Staffing

In the midst of the school closure, we are working on staffing and budgeting for 20-21. Last week I announced that Shelby MacMeekin will be moving into the Director of Special Services role, which means she will be leading all categorical programs and assessment. This is part of a reorganization of district level support that is designed to reduce expenditures in the coming year. Further, the district needs to budget conservatively, specifically as it relates to adding programs or filling vacated staff positions to mitigate the statewide budget risk that lies ahead because of the coronavirus. Staff may become aware of some reductions planned in some areas, and the principals are working with lower staffing allocations than they have had in previous years. Principals will be making decisions and working with their leadership teams after spring break. We are all crossing our fingers that the stay home order will be lifted after May 4 and the economy can get going again. The funding implications and state revenue forecasts may have an impact on school funding for 2020-2021 and beyond.

Building Access ~ John Polm

A couple of weeks ago Port Townsend was not experiencing community-level transmission of coronavirus, but now we are. This is mostly a repeat of what was sent to staff a few days ago.

We are beyond the prevention stage of this virus, and we are now focused on slowing the spread. This is why we announced limited access to the buildings for staff. No non-essential employees should be in the schools until further notice. The only people in school buildings are those providing essential services as defined by the governors order. **Beginning Friday, April 3 we increased restrictions.** The following are new and updated directions regarding building access.

New Limited Building Access

For staff with no assigned onsite duties:

- **Staff members may not be onsite** in school buildings. Staff members who need access to any building need principal permission before entering.
- Do not use your key card or physical key to access any building without principal permissions.
- **No children, guests, or family members** of staff should be in the school buildings.

For staff with onsite assigned duties:

- All staff must **maintain social distancing** in the buildings. Wash or sanitize hands before entering, stay six feet away from all other people, avoid being in the same room as another person whenever possible.
- All staff must **sign in and out** of the buildings.
- Staff with assigned duties **at Salish Coast may only enter the building after completing a health check outside of the commons.** Staff may not enter the building until they have been cleared through this process. This is to ensure the safety of children in our childcare program as well as each other.

Anyone wanting to see a simple explanation of pandemic versus seasonal flu, go to this [link at the CDC](#).

[CDC guidance](#) is clear. Handwashing, avoiding handshaking, and avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Even with the CDC guidance, we know there are some concerns by staff about serving in the childcare area. If you are one of those staff, please contact Laurie McGinnis for your options. I am asking, though, that we approach this as a civic responsibility and meet this increasing need in our health care community. Thanks for your cooperation.

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