

Good News! ~ Ben Bauermeister

The *Connected Students Initiative* has the goal of providing free broadband internet access to low income student homes for the 2020-2021 school year. Already they have connected 9 homes of PTSD students and half a dozen in Chimacum. Overall, their list includes about 45 homes across Jefferson County who currently do not have internet access for the students in the home. These activities will slow down for summertime - but will shift into high gear come fall to ensure that every student in Jefferson County has access to the technology tools for education that they require. Connected Students Initiative is an all volunteer lead program of StrongerTowns and has received funding from the Jefferson Community Foundation and the Port Townsend Educational Foundation.

Board Meeting ~ June 4, 2020

The Board of Directors met on Thursday, June 4 for two meetings. One was a special session to discuss superintendent transition. The other was a work/study meeting. Both were virtual Zoom meetings with one that began at 4:00 pm for an hour, and the second was 5:30 pm. Thanks again to Katy Gaffney for all her work setting the meeting up and ensuring we meet all the Open Meeting Act rules during the emergency. The Governor extended the prohibition on “physically” open public meetings through June 17. Our next Board meeting is June 18.

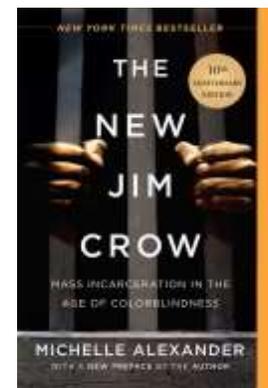
Reports included Safe Routes to School, summer maintenance projects, middle school science adoption recommendation, and superintendent search. Other topics included a description of commencement to include a serpentine as well as cars at Wheel-In. Safety and health requirements will be met as required by the Public Health Department. Finally, the technology committee is recommending the Board consider a one-to-one device program for SY 2020-21.

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>.

Library News ~ Joy Wentzel

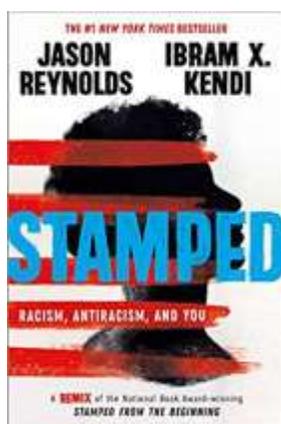
The Two Most Significant Books I have Read This Spring:

We, as educators, need to do the work of helping ourselves become antiracists. Here is an article from Teaching Tolerance to get started: [White Anti-racism: Living the Legacy](#). And [TFA Resources to Help Teachers Heal, Learn and Listen](#). I recently read these two books and would love to start a conversation, as a staff, as to how we move forward and create positive change.



“*The New Jim Crow* is a stunning account of the rebirth of a caste-like system in the United States, one that has resulted in millions of African Americans locked behind bars and then relegated to a permanent second-class status—denied the very rights supposedly won in the Civil Rights Movement. Since its publication in 2010, the book has appeared on the *New York Times* bestseller list for more than a year; been dubbed the “secular bible of a new social movement” by numerous commentators, including [Cornel West](#); and has led to consciousness-raising efforts in universities, churches, community centers, re-entry centers, and prisons nationwide. *The New Jim Crow* tells a truth our nation has been reluctant to face.”
([newjimcrow.com](#))

“Alexander is absolutely right to fight for what she describes as a ‘much needed conversation’ about the wide-ranging social costs and divisive racial impact of our criminal justice policies.” —
Ellis Cose, *Newsweek*



*This is NOT a history book.
This is a book about the here and now.
A book to help us better understand why we are where we are.
A book about race.*

“Through a gripping, fast-paced, and energizing narrative written by beloved award-winner Jason Reynolds, this book shines a light on the many insidious forms of racist ideas--and on ways readers can identify and stamp out racist thoughts in their daily lives.” (Goodreads.com)

Here is a 7-minute interview with Kendi and Reynolds on [Teaching kids the complicated history of racism](#)

Social Justice Booklist. I am curating a K-12 collection of books for our students and families to read now. Look to our school library web pages over the coming weeks to access lists for you and your families. For a start here are a few: [Coretta Scott King Award Winners](#), [Antiracism: A Starter Booklist by SLJ](#), [Project Lit](#), [We Need Diverse Books](#)



Returning books:

At this time we are collecting all (and only) school library books. If you need help accessing your library account, here is a short video to help you navigate our online library account: [How To Access Your Library Account](#).

Where do you bring them? Please bring your books to your school’s library and use the usual dropbox. If you are unable to access the school buildings, there is a dropbox in the Gael Stuart lobby. While we are closed, the public libraries will “open” sometime in late June for curbside pickup of requests placed online. Here is a video on how to get books into your hands (from the public libraries) over the summer: [How Do I Get Books this Summer?](#)



Free Stuff: Watch this short video to see what wonderful resources your library barcode can give you over the summer: [What Can I get from the Library this Summer?](#)

High School ~ Carrie Ehrhardt

The Show Must Go On: The Port Townsend High School music department will hold its annual Spring Senior Concert Thursday June 11th at 7pm. This will be a "virtual" concert online with live streaming found at www.PTHSmusic.com.

The concert will consist of several musical components. One major part involved students recording themselves individually and sending in recordings. "This has been a very steep learning curve for me and the students" commented music director Daniel Ferland. "Our students are used to playing in groups, so this is a totally new experience for all of us." Local audio engineer George Rezendes of the Tool Shed Lab has been helping to reassemble the parts.

Students were sent metronome click tracks and music online for the performance. There will be selections from the Symphony Orchestra, the Jazz Band and some smaller ensembles including a student rock band.

David Egeler, who teaches media production at Port Townsend HS, has also been helping to create a video component for the virtual concert along with some of his students. They used a combination of video from previous performances, video of students playing from home and photos from this school year.

Some previous performances from earlier in the year will be included as well as some senior solo works. "We have an amazing group of seniors with unbelievable talent. We can't let this year go without showing them off to our community" said Ferland.

Blue Heron Middle Schools ~ Theresa Campbell

The staff at BH is in high gear planning for student materials drop off and pick up next week.



Trisha and Barb are hard at work painting the pods and making BH shine. Just look at those Commons area floors! Check out our new office area safety precautions (above right). Thanks Andy!

Continuous Learning through June 19 - Blue Heron teachers are busy preparing for engaging learning project opportunities for

students to finish up their last two weeks. We can't wait to see what creative ideas our BH students will come up with using the skills they've learned this year. Projects include:

- 6th grade- Life of a Water Droplet
- 7th grade- Build a Boat
- 8th grade- Novel Engineering

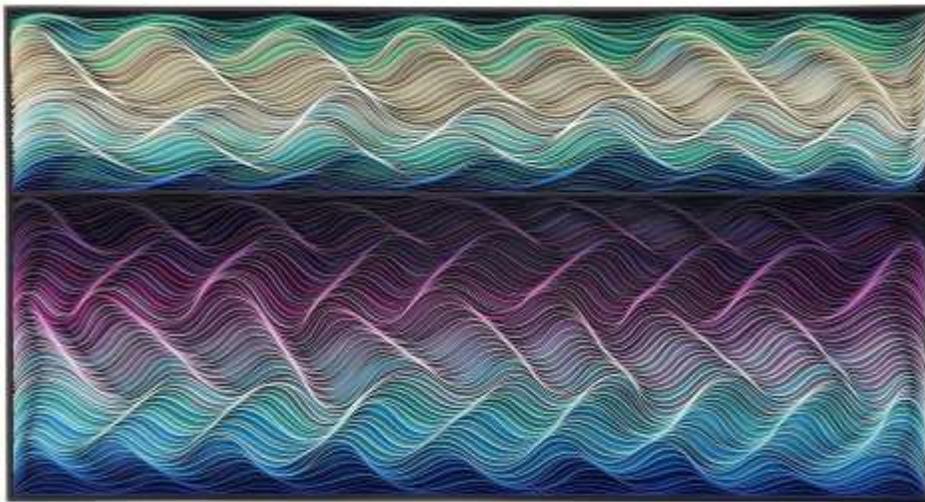
Salish Coast Elementary ~ Lisa Condran

The big news at Salish Coast Elementary is that our art committee, which included the members listed below, approved the selections of our Art Curator, Lele Barnett, which are funded by a grant from Arts WA. The plan is to install these works of art this summer at the various main entrances of the school.

Committee: Xep Campbell, Parent; Lisa Condran, Principal; Wanda Leclerc, Art Teacher; Catherine Kapp, Volunteer; and Nicole O'Hara, Parent



Above is a rendering of Andy Arkley's *Chromamotion* for the Salish Coast Elementary School commons area.



Far above: Taste the rainbow each 24 x 72 inches and just above: Troposphere 42 x 78 inches by Jason Hallman and Stephen Stum of Stallman Studio. Below are works by Counsel Langley, which are still in progress. Counsel Langley is a PT graduate living in Alaska.





Above is *Following the Light* by Maria Coryell-Martin of Port Townsend. Maria is a Port Townsend artist inspiring stewardship for the Arctic through her powerful imagery based on field art and science. Her paintings of sea ice and Arctic Terns inspire learning about our global environment.

Child Nutrition ~ Stacey Larsen

We have served 28,864 meals so far! Thursday we handed out vegetable starts at our meal locations from 9-11 a.m. We will have kale, Swiss chard, zucchini, squash, lettuce and sunflowers. The starts were grown by Farmer Emily at Salish Coast, Candice Costler and a few of the local farms. Planting/growing instructions will be included with the plants. The Organic Seed Alliance will also donate 150 packets of chard and spinach seeds. The families are very excited to be able to grow their own veggies.

Childcare Program

The district plans for childcare service to end on June 17, 2020. The YMCA is working on plans to offer summer childcare. The district is not in a position to continue to provide this service as our employees are finished working for the year on June 19, 2020.

Port Townsend PTA Happenings ~ Debbie Sonandre

As you may or may not know this was the first year of the district wide PTA, how did we do?

Membership:

- This year was at 90 members: 55 families, 31 teachers (28 Sponsored by families), 2 administrators and 2 staff
- Goal was to raise \$1500 in memberships - we raised \$1350
Goal for sponsorships was to raise \$4000 - we raised \$1150

Fundraising:

- Goal was \$10,000 - we raised \$9300 (unfortunately our last two fundraisers had to be canceled)

Grants:

- Teacher Grants – over \$4300 awarded & Community Grants – over \$1200 awarded

Overall, we are a small, very small, district and so we do what we can to “fill” the gaps. Membership is crucial to making things happen. Unfortunately, we did not get to put on Spring Events such as: PTA Color Run at the End of the Year Celebration BBQ but there is always next year. Speaking of next year,

what are you doing? Want to be a part of things, help make a difference and get to know your school district? *Being on the PT PTA Board is a fantastic way to make a difference and get to know more about each of the schools, and the educators as well as the school district.*

What does the Port Townsend PTA need? It is simple – **it is you.**

When? Thursday, June 11th from 7pm to 7:30pm via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/95032714649> Meeting ID: 950 3271 4649

We **MUST have at least 10 members** because we have to approve our updated “Bylaws/Standing Rules” as well as our proposed budget for 2020-2021 school year (Email porttownsendpta@gmail.com for copies) AND we need leadership rolls to be filled. Those are the following:

Co-President

Commitment is for 2 years - Monthly PTA Board Meetings one hour long as well as 2-? Hours to prepare, the investment is up to you but as a “CO” leader you are in a position of learning.

Co-Treasurer

Commitment is for 2 years - Monthly PTA Board Meetings one hour as well as 2-? Hours to prepare, the investment is up to you but as a “CO” leader you are in a position of learning.

Vice-President – 3 needed, one from each school

Commitment is for 2 years - Monthly PTA Board Meetings one hour as well as listening to those from your school to help “fill the gap”

Membership Chair

Commitment is in the Fall and Winter (5 to 10 hours)

Help gain members and keep members as well as data entry of membership to the State

Grants Chair

Commitment is meeting as needed, determining who is to get funding and following up

Hospitality Chair

Commitment is five times a year - Fall: Welcome Back, Winter: Ice Cream Social, Spring: Staff appreciation, student testing & End of Year Celebration

Fundraising Chair

Commitment is ideally 2 years

Working to make this a co-chair position so we can have an experienced person in place as well as a “learning” position. Time commitment is meeting as needed, determining what fundraising events to do and when. This work is vital to the students of this community. Our small PTA helps to “fill the gaps” and it is so much fun to show our students how much we CARE. Restore your faith in this community and what we are to each other. Become a part of this great team.

Part time summer workers also needed

The schools will need masks, so the PTA is hoping to recruit a few wonderful people to sit and sew. Ideally, we can get 600 smaller masks and 400 larger masks made before September 1st. If you can help out, please bring your finished masks to Celtic Crossroads NW at 2205 E. Sims Way (across from the Co-Op) between 10am and 6pm Daily (except Wednesdays).

Remember

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Facilities ~ Justin Gray

As we wind down to the official end of the school year, both the custodial and maintenance teams continue to work very hard in planning and preparations for the eventual return to school.

For custodial services, we have purchased electrostatic sprayers that will help us continue to be on the leading edge in the fight against covid 19. These sprayers will



play a key role in our team being able to thoroughly disinfect areas to try to maintain a safe and healthy environment.

Looking ahead and trying to put elements in place that help promote safety, you will notice the addition of plexiglass dividers that have been installed in the different office areas.

Our maintenance team has been getting caught up on numerous safety projects throughout the district. Seen here are some

before and after photos showing off maintenance worker Andy Kithcart’s amazing skills for concrete repair.

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