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### Superintendent's Message by Sandra Gessner-Crabtree

It is the month for thankfulness and gratitude. And I want to thank all of our stakeholders for supporting the common goal of giving each of our students a quality educational experience this school year. This hasn't been easy and we continue to learn what is working and what isn't working for our students both in blended learning and distance learning. And stakeholder feedback from our survey in October was very helpful and provided useful feedback. Thank you to all of you who took the survey. We had 211 families, 68 students, and 58 teachers complete the survey.

Sarah Rubenstein is chairing the Distance and Blended Learning Study Committee who crafted the survey questions together and provided recommendations on November 5th after working together to dig into the results and summarize the feedback through the lens of equity and educational justice. Here are the desired outcomes from the Study Committee:

#### **Systems**

1. We want systems that are streamlined, and user friendly.
2. We want students to have structures of support.

#### **Relationships**

3. We want strong teacher-student and teacher-parent relationships.
4. We want students to feel connected socially and academically, welcome, and supported.
5. We want students to have opportunities to recreate, connect socially, and have fun.

#### **Success and Self-efficacy**

6. We want parents to feel knowledgeable and confident in how to support students, and be clear about their role.
7. We want students to meet goals, feel accomplished, and feel successful.
8. We want all students to make academic progress on priority standards.
9. We want students to be intrinsically-motivated to learn and engage with school.

You can find the list of recommendations from the Study Committee here: [Nov. 5th](#)

[Recommendations](#)

A very big thank you to all of the folks who are serving on the Distance and Blended Learning Study Committee and to Sarah for facilitating this work.



I wish all of you and your families a time of rest and relaxation over the Thanksgiving Holiday. I know for many, the holiday will not be the same without friends and extended family members near to us. But we can remain thankful for what we do have right now and make the most of what we have. We can also look forward to the future and next year when we can celebrate with larger gatherings. Being grateful and hoping for the future will not take away the sting of our current reality, but it can help us to be mindful, helping us slow down and take stock of the good things that are all around us every day.



**Salish Coast Elementary News from Principal Lisa Condran**

Ellen Thomas and Peter Braden will be offering Love and Logic Parenting classes after winter break. Dates are January 12th, 19th, 26th, and February 2nd, 9th, and 16th. The time is 6:30--8:30 PM. Call 360-379-4535 to Register.



Parenting the Love and Logic Way™

### Student Work Around Salish Coast

We are so grateful to have students back in person!

Here's a gallery of some of the student work around the school.



Portrait

From Peter's Class



Portrait

From OPEPO, made with cut paper.



Labeled Apple

Labeled Apple by Kindergarten student in Ms. Nora's class



Daniel Saksa's class is doing Lego Robotics with Robotics Expert, Ella Ashford. Each student has their very own robotics kit. Ella provides instruction over zoom. Mr. Saksa monitors the classroom and ensures that students understand the directions for constructing the robot. Ella can also see the students in the classroom on her screen as the web camera is pointed toward them.

**Blue Heron and OCEAN Highlights by Theresa Campbell, Principal**



The Port Townsend School District Grounds Crew Shane Trammell, Cole Russell and Andy Kithcart worked with Jefferson County Master Gardeners' officer Honey Niemann to create the Memorial Garden at Blue Heron. Moving Earth Excavators, Shold's Landscaping and Garden Center, Port Townsend Garden Center and the City of Port Townsend all contributed to the newly created 350 sq' garden in front of the school.



Students were excited to participate in the building of this community garden. Students from 6th-8th grade enjoyed the opportunity to get fresh air, work in the dirt, using their muscles (and cool tools) as well as finding compassion and using teamwork to come together to build something beautiful and meaningful that can be enjoyed for years to come.



The garden is in part a memorial for student Travis Seebergoss. Shold's Landscaping also donated 300 daffodil bulbs to be distributed to the school community and planted in honor of



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Travis and anyone else. The Blue Heron Staff planted 13 bulbs in the garden, one for each year of his life. The daffodil symbolizes rebirth and new beginnings, and hope for a brighter future. It became associated with new beginnings (and the coming of spring) because it is one of the first perennials to bloom after the winter frost.



**Port Townsend High School News by Carrie Ehrhardt, Principal and CTE Director**

**November Parent Conferences**

The high school has been challenged to rethink our conference structure for this year. We are excited to offer a conferencing format via Zoom where interested parents have signed up to meet with all of their child's teachers in a single breakout room. This format has caused us to extend conferences to a second day/evening, which is a good way to say that we have a lot of parents who want to conference with teachers! During this current time in education, we know that communication is so important, and we are thrilled to be able to offer this conferencing option to our parents.

**Clubs, Activities, and Opportunities**

The high school has hosted a month of after school workouts to 40 students who registered for a 10 person conditioning cohort group. Each group of 10 met twice per week. This was a very successful opportunity and we hope to be able to continue with it, once the health of our Port Townsend community improves.

Other clubs are still in full swing, in a virtual format - Mock Trial, Knowledge Bowl (Quiz Bowl for this year), Students for Sustainability, ASB, Interact and Key Club, are all meeting regularly through Zoom!

**Thanks and Gratitude**

With the Thanksgiving holiday approaching, I want to take a moment to extend my thanks and gratitude for everyone who is working together to make in-person education possible for our students. The ability to have that personal connection makes a huge, positive difference for our students, as well as ourselves.



**Food Services: By Stacey Larson**

A big thank you to all the FS staff that are working so hard to make wonderful meals to the students in the district and the bus drivers who are delivering the meals. So far we have served about 20,000 meals!

The fundraiser for the school garden went well - we raised enough money to get fencing for the production garden at Salish Coast! Thanks to all who donated.

Speaking of the production garden at Salish Coast, we got a truckload of soil delivered from Short's Farm yesterday. Thanks to Shane for spreading the soil and Candice Costler for laying out where the veggie beds will be. We are hoping to get veggies in the ground there in the spring.

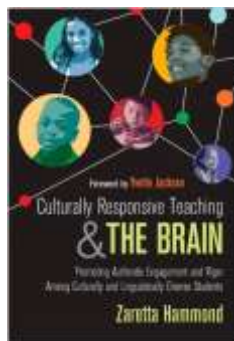


**Professional Development**

**Racial Equity and Cultural Competency**

We will continue to learn together on Wednesday, December 2nd with our facilitators from the Mandala Center for Change about Racial Equity and what culturally competent schools and learning look like and sound like.

One of my favorite books I've read in the last five years on understanding the importance of being a culturally responsive educator, written by Zaretta Hammond, addresses the brain science behind the practice. Here is a link to an interview with Zaretta Hammond on the 4 common misconceptions about this topic: <https://www.cultofpedagogy.com/culturally-responsive-misconceptions/>



**Maritime Discovery Schools by Director Sarah Rubenstein**

Place-based learning continues during this school year, and teachers are combining in-person and virtual experiences to create meaningful experiences for students. From a virtual field trip to the local mortuary in Forensics Class to garden lessons at Salish Coast Elementary,



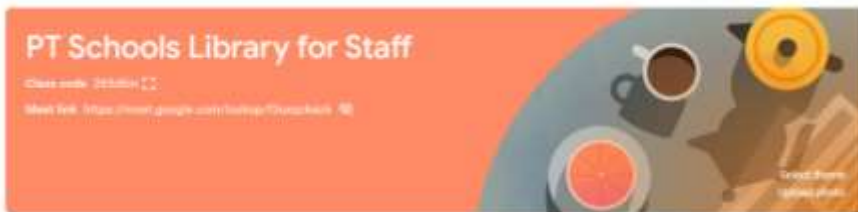
students are staying engaged with learning through a sense of place even when we can't all be together. The Skills Center Maritime Academy continues to meet and allow students to get hands-on skill building.

Teachers spent time planning projects during a district wide professional development, and modifying previous projects for our new context.

**Highly Capable**

The referral window (an extension on the spring 2020 window) closed Oct 30. Students that were referred will complete assessments and the Multi-disciplinary selection committee will meet to determine services.

The regular referral window will open in January for 2021-22 school year services.



**News From Your PT School Libraries**

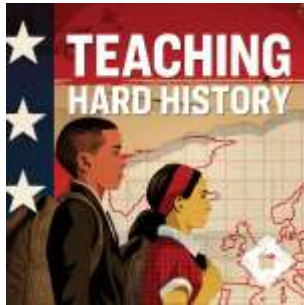


**Teaching Tolerance:**

November is Native American Heritage Month. There are many resources to help our community explore narratives and perspectives of indigenous people. Stop by our library to peruse our growing collection of books and connect to helpful teacher tools or visit our library homepages to learn how to get books in your hands. As we turn to celebrate Thanksgiving next week, it is crucial we recognize, as Teaching Tolerance (TT) shows in their lesson [Thanksgiving Mourning](#), “For some Native Americans, Thanksgiving is no cause for celebration, but rather serves as a reminder of the devastating effect of colonialism on indigenous peoples.” TT

is a great resource for educators because they help us delve into challenging discussions with our students in order to help them think critically about our global history and whose perspectives we see and whose voices we hear.

Teaching Tolerance also has a series of 10 videos for teaching and learning about the history of slavery in the United States. There are k-5 and 6-12 frameworks to examine and explore. The key concept videos feature scholars like Ibram X. Kendi and Annette Gordon-Reed. Find these resources [here](#). In addition, TT has on-demand webinars for teachers who want to gain strategies for teaching topics like race, enslavement and resistance. For example, there is a webinar focused on the bestselling book *The Color of Law*, by Richard Rothstein. Find [PD opportunities from TT here](#).



**Listenwise:**



[Listenwise](#) is another powerful tool. It is a website archive of non fiction public radio stories, both current and historical. The podcasts cross all disciplines and connect students to authentic stores that can enrich units of study. Check out the site to explore podcasts, lesson plans and helpful tools for CCSS alignment. Research has shown that students can generally listen two to three grade levels above what they can read. Listenwise uses this information to curate a library of podcasts to help teachers access resources to harness the power of listening. The idea is that through podcasts, students can be introduced to more complex language and topics, and by building background knowledge through listening, student comprehension increases. Here is a list of [teaching resources](#) to help you bring indigenous peoples' perspectives into your classroom.



**Follow us on Instagram**

@BlueHeronMiddleSchoolLibrary and  
@PortTownsendHighSchoolLibrary. See  
weekly posts on what to read next,







upcoming programs and library-related news and awesomeness! Just peek at a recent post to see a student's embroidery work from our November "Lunch @ UR Library" session...



**Thank You PTEF!**

A generous donation of wireless mice came in from our wonderful PTEF folks! Stop by the library to grab some for your students.

**Port Townsend School District Annual Report:**

Here is a link to our district's annual report [PTSD Annual Report](#)

Each district in Washington State is required to publish an annual report providing an overview of how financial resources such as levy funds are used.



**United Good Neighbors'  
Annual Give Jefferson  
Campaign**

*Give Love. Give Hope. Give  
Jefferson.*

For over 60 years, United Good Neighbors has championed local organizations that provide for the basic human needs of individuals and families. Through Give Jefferson, UGN raises critical funds to support frontline efforts that deliver food, shelter, healthcare, education, and hope to those most in need in Jefferson County.



Workplace Giving Campaigns represent over 50% of the total funds raised each year and are essential to Give Jefferson's success, to our Partner Organizations' success, and ultimately our community's success!

**Thank you for generously supporting Give Jefferson! Your donations ensure that our community can weather uncertainty and recover from crisis.**

The extraordinary impact of COVID-19 challenged our [2020 Partner Organizations](#) to rapidly respond to an unprecedented demand for aid, and add new services to meet the crisis head on. Beneficiaries of these essential efforts are folks you interact with every day:

- Restaurant and hospitality workers
- Retail and customer service staff
- Skilled laborers, tradespeople, and farmers
- Public agency and government employees

**Give Jefferson Mission:**

To provide critical support to local nonprofits that improve health, education, and economic stability for people who live in Jefferson County and to provide extra support to meet increased needs in a time of pandemic.

**What is Give Jefferson?**

Give Jefferson is the United Good Neighbors' 2020 Annual Campaign. For 64 years, households and workplaces in Jefferson County have provided for the basic human needs of those who need a hand up by supporting United Good Neighbors' Give Jefferson Campaign. United Good Neighbors serves as the United Way for Jefferson County and every dollar raised stays in Jefferson County.

**When is Give Jefferson?**

Give Jefferson runs from November 14, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

**Here is the link from their website for staff members wishing to donate:**

<https://www.givejefferson.org/ugn2020port-townsend-school-district>



**PORT TOWNSEND**  
School District  
LEARNING THROUGH A SENSE OF PLACE

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**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 Coordinator**

**Shelby MacMeekin, 504 Coordinator & ADA Compliance**

**Amy Khile, Civil Rights Compliance**