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Superintendent's Message by Sandra Gessner-Crabtree

We CAN do hard things!

Whenever the grind of the business side of this work starts pulling at me, I head to the school buildings. And today was the perfect day for a visit providing a plethora of evidence that we CAN and we ARE doing hard things in service of those we serve.

Here are some of those things:

- Teachers putting together last minute care packages for students who need a bit of support this holiday season
- Envelopes, amaryllis bulbs, treat bags waiting in the Salish Coast Elementary vestibule for distance-only elementary students to pick up from their teachers
- Staff making the most of each in-person moment with students
- Teachers ZOOMING their way through lessons
- Paras working hard to connect in-person students to the ZOOM lesson so teachers can reach both the in-person cohort and the remote cohort
- Elementary students dressed up in their holiday best for the last day before the break
- Secretaries managing the multitude of last minute tasks in order to head into the break
- Weary and tired staff wishing me a happy holiday as visions of break start to swirl in their heads
- District Office staff taking care of paying the bills, onboarding new substitutes, answering the phones, and addressing community inquiries
- Principals working with staff planning for progress monitoring in January
- Teachers planning with other teachers for next month
- Custodians keeping our workspaces clean and safe
- Nutrition staff delivering lunches
- Maintenance staff keeping each school site in tip top shape
- And parents outside of school buildings waiting for dismissal

A year ago at this time, we had never heard of COVID-19. We didn't know that the governor would close schools in March and send us all into the adaptive challenge of our careers. We didn't know how to use ZOOM or create a Playlist or why priority standards were so important.

We had no idea that a virus would change the very nature of public schools. We never visualized a school building without students during the school day. We never imagined trying to teach virtually or teach to students who might not turn their cameras on. We used technology, but didn't rely on it as an essential learning tool. We didn't know how important connectivity was or how inequitable the digital divide could be. We never thought that we'd be in the meal delivery business or that buses would only have a few students on them at a time. We also took for granted that students would be in front of us on a daily basis and we would share a laugh and lunchtime with our co-workers in the staff room or hallways.

When you think about how much the nature of our work has changed in these last nine months, the change is staggering and how we've adapted is nothing short of a miracle. Is our new way of doing things perfect? Nope, not yet, but we have given it our all and we've risen to the occasion together. Indeed, we CAN do hard things! Thank you for the extraordinary effort you all have made. No wonder we are so tired. Enjoy each moment of this well-earned break.



Salish Coast Elementary News from Principal Lisa Condran

OPEPO Garden Project Video, 2019-2020:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Ado7oRx9Z1_NM276SWH-kBMd2nrdK1Mp/view?usp=sharing

A message from Heather Sanders, who coordinated this project:

A huge thank you to my incredibly talented teaching partner, Cherry Geelan, for mastering Wevideo and putting this awesome video and project library together. Much gratitude to the garden committee for all the work you have done and continue to do to create a space for students to learn about and grow healthy food, to get that local, organic, healthy food into their school lunches, to encourage them to grow and eat healthy food at home, and for working to create another source of food security in our community. Thank you to Sarah Rubenstein for



her leadership in the Maritime Discovery Schools Place Based Learning happening in our district, for encouraging teachers in this work, and for initiating grants to support it. And of course, many thanks to Jacqueline Laverdure for seeing the value in what we are doing here at Salish Coast and supporting our endeavors through the Ocean Guardians Grant.



**Port Townsend
Leader Chooses
Salish Coast
Winners**

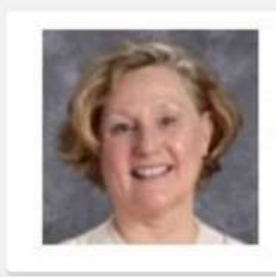
READER'S CHOICE

People like to be acknowledged for a job well done, and that's where the Port Townsend & Jefferson County Leader's 2021 Reader's Choice awards come in.



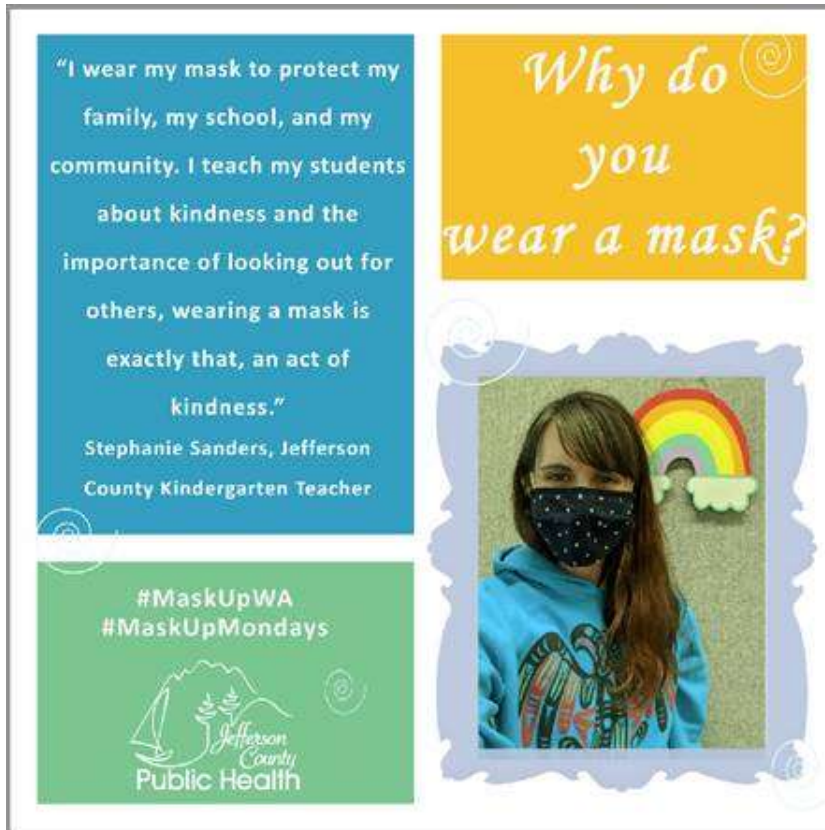
Best Secretary

The best secretary Reader's Choice went to Salish Coast Elementary's own LaTrecia Arthur.



Best Teacher

The best teacher went to 4th Grade teacher, Lois Polley.



"I wear my mask to protect my family, my school, and my community. I teach my students about kindness and the importance of looking out for others, wearing a mask is exactly that, an act of kindness."
Stephanie Sanders, Jefferson County Kindergarten Teacher

Why do you wear a mask?

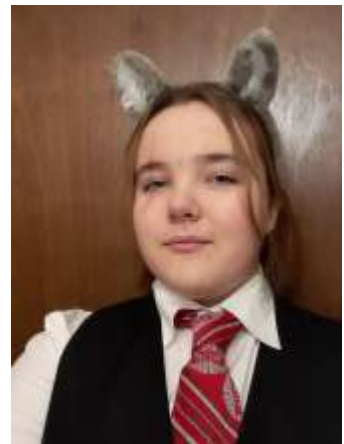
#MaskUpWA
#MaskUpMondays

Jefferson County Public Health



Blue Heron and OCEAN Highlights by Theresa Campbell, Principal

The Blue Heron students and staff enjoyed Spirit Week Dress up Days in person and through Zoom and some very creative office elves spread "12 Work Days" of Holiday Cheer to staff!







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

High school orchestra students put on a virtual Stringfest 2020 concert this past Saturday night. The concert was broadcast from Blue Heron school where small groups of musicians were socially distanced among eight classrooms, all playing together. The concert was streamed on YouTube. Thanks to director Daniel Ferland for working so hard to put this opportunity together for our students, as well as David Egeler and George Rezendes who assisted with the audio and technology aspects of the program. We also appreciate the parents who helped supervise the classrooms, and performed the health checks on students as they arrived at the event. Stringfest 2020 was also a fundraiser for the Kiwanis Backpack Program, which provides weekend food bags to families of Salish Coast and Blue Heron students who are in need of extra food. Stringfest 2020 raised \$5000 for the program!

Also this past week, Knowledge Bowl took four teams to our first-ever virtual competition. Playing in the Quizbowl format, popular in other parts of the country, our knowledge-bowlers hung tough and competed with an array of mostly private schools from across the country. It was a truly unique event and all teams were excited to play more at the end of the day. One of our team members was honored for being a top scorer in the tournament of 30+ teams!



On Friday, Chris Pierson held an Open Mic Poetry Zoom for students who participated with poet Gary Lilley through the Seattle Arts and Lectures Program. The activity was funded through a PTEF mini grant. The zoom was open to all students who either wanted to read their own work or enjoy the creativity of their PTHS classmates and peers.

On behalf of the staff at PTHS, I wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season. And we look forward to putting the struggles and challenges of 2020 behind us, as 2021 brings the return of better health for our community and country!

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 everyday:

- 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 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