

Spring 2021

THE QUARTERLY CONNECTION

*Sequim School District
Family Newsletter*

HEADS-UP ACROSS THE DISTRICT



WELCOME BACK SHS!

On March 1st Sequim High School staff and student leadership welcomed back students for in-person instruction on the AA/BB model. With smiles hidden behind masks, students hurried to find their first class on campus.

PODCAST

Dr. Pryne's podcast, "Rise & Pryne" launched its first Friday morning series, "Getting to know you" on March 5th. Listen in every Friday morning at 6am for the next two series: "It Takes a Team" & "State Of Our Schools".

OPA SIGN PROJECT

Vince Carrizosa, an OPA student since 2nd grade, didn't like that our school has never had a sign. As part of his Passion Project he decided to work with his grandpa to complete the sign. Katherine Gould and Jill Adolphsen helped with the art for their portion of the Passion Project.

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SEQUIM SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMUNITY

Last week was a big day for our steady march back to in-person learning in Washington State. Governor Inslee issued an order amending the distancing requirement for students in school.

The six-foot requirement that has been in place since March 2020 has now become a three-foot minimum separation requirement for students. That change came about following the [CDC altering the recommendation on the national level.](#)

I believe this change is an absolute necessity to enable our planning for the return of students in the fall of 2021. I am equally convinced that any immediate switch to our learning models this spring will not be wise nor feasible.

As I shared with the board, the first inkling of some of the complications comes in the governor's order itself. The three-foot distance is for students in classroom settings, not for the adults, and not for the adults interacting with the students. That is more than a simple issue as you can picture the normal interactions in a school and classroom.

Beyond a variety of restrictions included within the order, even more severe complications are identified as we consider any changes to the present hybrid learning operations. Many of you are aware that we have recently completed our efforts to get in-person access for all students from preschool age through high school. Those efforts took lengthy, detailed planning because of the intricacy of the safety countermeasures required.

Three quick examples of the complications would include transportation, ingress and egress of students, and the realities involved in the COVID-19 world that includes health department routines involving those who may test positive. Something such as combining the elementary students who currently attend AA and BB would instantly challenge the entire system.

The three-foot amendment does not change the health department procedure regarding "close contact" follow-up. That standard would continue to quarantine anyone who was determined to be within six feet of a confirmed COVID-19 positive case, even though students had been operating within three feet all day.

To consider changing the model at grades six through twelve would necessitate changes to all student schedules and teachers, and this would create instant chaos. Many hours of planning have resulted in the present hybrid models of instruction and stringent efforts to keep students and staff safe.

One of the lessons learned over these past 12 months has been that any notion of quick "pivoting" does not work within school systems or businesses.

In short, the three-foot distancing represents a challenge that we believe is more disruptive than beneficial for the spring, but it also opens the door unconditionally for the fall. We will be focusing our efforts on a positive conclusion to this school year and a successful launch of the 2021-2022 school year. In the coming weeks, our families and students will be able to make decisions about their learning options for next year. Please watch for communications from the district and from your schools.

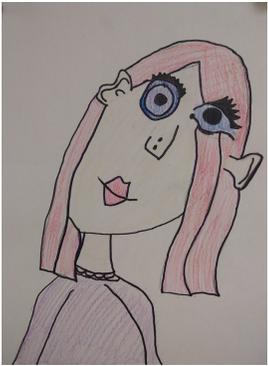
We want to thank all of you for the wonderful cooperation that has enabled us to bring students back this year.

Stay healthy and please continue to help keep COVID-19 at bay by practicing all of the recommended safety procedures.

*Dr. Jane Pryne
Interim Superintendent*

SPOTLIGHT

Helen Haller Elementary 5th grade students created portraits in the style of Pablo Picasso.



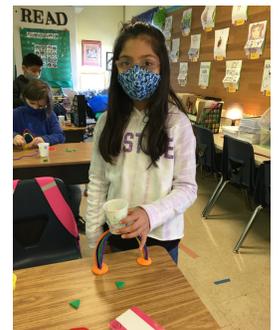
Mrs. Hall & Mrs. Catelli's Kindergarten Class-Greywolf Elementary

Their class has been working hard on addition to 10 facts. The students in their class worked hard to complete the rainy day math art project to come up with their own addition sentences to 10 using raindrops! Great Job!



Mrs. Ellefson's 3rd grade Class-Helen Haller Elementary

After learning about the Viking Age and reading several Viking myths, students in Mrs. Ellefson's 3rd grade class constructed rainbow bridges with pipe cleaners and play doh. They were challenged with balancing a small cup on their bridge. They added triangle pattern blocks to their cups and made adjustments to their designs.





Mrs. Benjamin's 4th grade class-Olympic Peninsula Academy

During their study on Medieval Europe, Mrs. Benjamin's class created Medieval crests that each student got the opportunity to design, pick the colors and chose their symbols.



Mrs. Burke & Mrs. Green's 3rd grade classes-Greywolf Elementary

Our Team of 3rd Grade Doctors at Greywolf Elementary in Mrs. Burke and Mrs. Green's classes, have been hard at work. They were busy analyzing and problem-solving code blues; broken bones, patients that needed stitches, and reading x-rays to determine if casts needed to be applied. They completed Word surgery to cut out and re-attach words using pre-fixes and suffixes. They put skeleton bones together while naming and labeling the bones they were working on. This team of doctors has been studying The Human Body Unit. They are being given insight into the complex nature of the human body and the countless different systems that make it up.



Ms. Canepa's 3rd grade class-Olympic Peninsula Academy

Ms. Canepa's 3rd grade class designed treehouses to illustrate area/perimeter



K-5 Classroom
SPOTLIGHT
coming out with the
Summer Newsletter

THANK YOU FOOD SERVICE & TRANSPORTATION!

Have you met the Sequim School Districts Food Service & Transportation Teams? They have been essential boots on the ground since the COVID-19 pandemic hit organizing, packing and distributing to our Sequim School District families.

Now, 1 year into this pandemic the Transportation team has developed and adopted new pick up/drop off systems and cleaning protocols. The Nutrition Services team has changed the way they prep, serve and feed students safely.

Accomplishments:

- Served 126,692 meals to our community!
- Given out over 800 fresh produce boxes provided by the Sequim Food Bank.
- Partnered with the YMCA for meal delivery for our home bound families.
- Worked with the Boys and Girls Club to provide a source to purchase items needed to feed students over the summer.
- Completely changed the way our students get meals.
Our teams embraced the change and made a difference in the community!



The Transportation Department played a major part in getting meals out to families by offering meal pickups at designated locations. Food Service could not have done it without the team in Transportation. Thank you to Rich and Heather and all of the Drivers who made it possible, THANK YOU!!

Click on the menu flyer below to view April lunch menus



Pandemic EBT
For More Information

CLICK Here

SPRING: A TIME TO RESET

Spring has sprung, and it is so nice to hear the birds singing, watch the trees budding, and experience the flowers as they are blooming in full colors. As we observe Spring resetting from winter and gearing up to summer, it gives us an opportunity to see why Spring is a favorite season both in nature and our own lives for so many reasons.

Temperatures Become Pleasant: During Spring the axis of the Earth is at an angle in between our closest and furthest point from the sun. The temperatures become more moderate and people can say goodbye to the cold of Winter and enjoy the transition before a warmer Summer arrives.

More Hours of Daylight: Not only do the clocks move forward an hour right before Spring in most states, days get longer, and nights get shorter. This is due to the earth's horizon and its alignment with the Sun.

Peoples' Mood Improves: After a dreary winter, sunlight is the best remedy. Scientists have proven that sunlight exposure increases your body's release of serotonin in the brain causing people to be happier. Sunlight also lessens the amount of melatonin in people during the day and increases it at night allowing for a better night's sleep.

Sunlight Provides Us with Vitamins: Yes, it's a fact. Ultraviolet B rays from the sun meets our skin and provides us with Vitamin D. This important vitamin helps strengthen bones and teeth.

Windows Can Be Opened: With the warmer Spring weather, no longer do you have to be bundled up indoors relying on heaters to stay warm. Open your windows and let the fresh air in!

Animals Return: Many animals migrate to the south or hide out during the winter. When Spring comes and things warm up, the animals come back too! In addition, food becomes abundant for animals and many reproduce in the Spring – a great time to see your favorite baby animals!

Fruits and Vegetables Become Abundant: During Spring many of our most popular fruits and vegetables sprout and become ready for us to eat!

Flowers Start Blooming: Beautiful colors become apparent in many landscapes as flowers come out of hiding and start blooming!



Plants and Grass Turn Green: In most parts of the U.S., winter is full of white snow and brown vegetation. During Spring, plants and grass convert the additional sunlight into energy and generate chlorophyll, turning them green.

Trees, Trees, Trees! After surviving the cold winter in their dormant state, deciduous trees come out of dormancy in the Spring and provide us with vibrant and beautiful blooms of red, pink, and orange, among other colors. It's also a great time to plant new trees.

Now that Spring has officially arrived, and rejuvenation is everywhere around us, we can take a deep breath, enjoy the resetting, and review how we are doing since Spring of 2020. It is apparent the rules are continuously changing when it comes to educating our children in this environment. While all these changes were and are taking place, there are many positive outcomes that have resulted during the upheaval over the last year. Having the opportunity to really investigate and delve into how we are interacting, engaging and teaching our students fosters the question that keeps surfacing in our discussions. What have we learned? We will continue to keep moving forward, reflect on challenges and solutions, take time to recognize and focus on student engagement, effort, and progress. And no matter how big or how small we will always celebrate the wins.

Have a wonderful Spring Break!

*Dr. Jane Pryne
Interim Supertintendent*

SPRING ACTIVITIES LIST

1. Pack a picnic and enjoy a meal *al fresco*
2. Go berry picking
3. Go bird watching
4. Hike a new trail
5. Paint rocks
6. Plant an herb garden
7. Fly a kite
8. Spring clean your house
9. Take a bike ride
10. Write a Spring-Themed Haiku

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What is a Haiku?

Haiku is a short versed Japanese poem that has just seventeen syllables, traditionally written in three lines:

- Line One has 5 syllables
- Line Two has 7 syllables
- Line Three has 5 syllables

It's been a while since school...what is a syllable?

A syllable is a single sound or beat in a word.

For example, ad-ven-ture has three syllables and the word ex-pe-ri-ence has four.

We would love to see what creative adventures you and your family take this Spring, you can send pictures to:
mlyke@sequimschools.org

A LOOK AHEAD...

April

- 5-9-No School-Spring Break
- 12-School Board Meeting, 6pm
- 22-Earth Day
- 26-School Board Meeting, 6pm

May

- 3-School Board Meeting, 6pm
- 3-7-Teacher Appreciation Week
- 14-No School-Snow Make-Up Day
- 17-School Board Meeting, 6pm
- 31-No School-Memorial Day

June

- 7- School Board Meeting, 6pm
- 11-High School Graduation
- 17-Last Day of School
- 21-School Board Meeting, 6pm

Traveling out of state for Spring Break? Washington State and Clallam County have new Covid-19 travel self-quarantine guidance that pertains to all staff and students.
[Click Here](#) for more information

Sequim School District does not discriminate in any programs or activities on the basis of sex, race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, veteran or military status, sexual orientation, gender expression or identity, disability, or the use of a trained dog guide or service animal and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following employees have been designated to handle questions and complaints of alleged discrimination: Title IX and Civil Rights Compliance Coordinator: Victoria Balint, vbalint@sequimschools.org 503 N Sequim Ave., Sequim, WA 98382, 360-582-3260, and for Section 504/ADA Coordinator, Matt Duchow, 503 N. Sequim Ave., Sequim, WA 98382, 360-582-3402, mduchow@sequimschools.org

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