

# news

**REMINDER:**  
**Re-Enrollment  
 Contracts Due  
 January 30<sup>th</sup>**

## Calendar

2/03: **Jumping Mouse!**  
*Carpe Diem*

2/10: **Crafternoon!**  
*Carpe Diem*

**NOON Dismissal**  
*CD & THS*

**Auction Preview Party**  
 Starts at 7PM  
*(see page 3 for details)*

**Childcare for Preview Party**  
*Harbor School campus  
 from 6:45PM - 9:45PM*

2/14: **Valentine's Day  
 Celebration**  
*at Carpe Diem*

2/17: **Jumping Mouse!**  
*Carpe Diem*

2/20 - 2/24  
**NO SCHOOL**  
*Mid-Winter Break*

3/03: **Jumping Mouse!**  
*Carpe Diem*

3/04: **VOYAGERS AUCTION:  
 In Our Own Backyard**  
*at Open Space*

3/10: **NO SCHOOL**  
*Teacher In-Service Day*

3/12: **Daylight Savings**  
*Spring Forward!*

3/13 - 3/17  
**Voyagers Week Trips**  
*Grades 4 - 8*

## Play is the Highest Form of Research

After school on Monday I joined children from Carpe Diem and the wider community to spend an hour playing math games. The energy and engagement in playing was tangible, and I was reminded of a quote attributed to Albert Einstein: *'Play is the highest form of research.'* The games were fun, but at the same time the students were analyzing, experimenting, applying and synthesizing as they played.

On Wednesday I found myself at the back of the room as our 8<sup>th</sup> graders presented their research in the **Big Wide Wonderful World Project**. Our 8<sup>th</sup> graders had researched 'The Sacred.' Together they gave a presentation that included a sacred ceremony and a sacred gift as well as the appearance of Miss Frizzle and the Magic School Bus!

It was a thoughtful, considered and serious presentation that was wrapped up in joyfulness and play. This led me to think that if Mr. Einstein had been with us on Wednesday he may have reflected on his thought and turned it around, pondering whether research is in fact the highest form of play.

The Big Wide Wonderful World Project was indeed a research project rooted in play. It provided a dynamic environment that encouraged our 8<sup>th</sup> graders to reason, solve problems, predict, use language and symbols, think creatively, and interact with others - exactly the environment that early years teachers aim to create to encourage play in their classrooms.

And so as I left school on Wednesday, it felt that I could draw a direct line between our Carpe Diem students playing math games on Monday and our 8<sup>th</sup> graders playing with the concept of 'sacred' on Wednesday. That line felt strong and vibrant and the perfect way for us to live out our mission of inspiring our students to contribute their wisdom, compassion and personal best in the classroom.

Congratulations to our 8<sup>th</sup> graders on sharing a high quality research-play project and of course to their inspirational educator, Loretta Hyde, for her work in inspiring and guiding their work.

- Mark McGough



## Congratulations VFW Essay Writers!

It's an honored tradition at Harbor School for our middle school students to participate in the VFW Youth Essay Writing Contest. A nationwide competition sponsored by the Veterans of Foreign Wars, more than 130,000 students across the country put their writing skills to work to express their views on democracy. Winners are selected at the local, district, state and national level.

On Vashon, our local VFW Post 2826 held their award ceremony at McMurray Middle School where they awarded 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prizes to both Harbor School and McMurray students. Our winners were:

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Kai
- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Claire
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Eric
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Charlotte

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Sam
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Amelia

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

- 1<sup>st</sup> Place - Freddy
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Place - Lorelei
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Place - Nick

Kai (8<sup>th</sup> Grade) and Freddy (6<sup>th</sup> Grade) were also recognized at the VFW District award ceremony in Seattle on Saturday. Both received 3<sup>rd</sup> Place at the district level for their respective grades.

Congratulations to all who participated and a big round of applause for our winning writers!



**At the Local ceremony,** left to right: Head of School Mark McGough, Sam (7<sup>th</sup>), Amelia (7<sup>th</sup>), Kai (8<sup>th</sup>), Charlotte (8<sup>th</sup>), Claire (8<sup>th</sup>), Lorelei (6<sup>th</sup>), Nick (6<sup>th</sup>), Freddy (6<sup>th</sup>), and Todd Wooster, English Teacher. *Not pictured: Eric (8<sup>th</sup>)*

**At the District ceremony,** left to right: VFW Rep Roy, Todd, Freddy, Kai and Mark.



We'll be featuring our winning VFW essays in the **CORNERSTONE NEWS**. Look for more in the next issue!

## VFW Essay by Eric, 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

“ The America I believe in is a very good one. Our country is great, but it has a few problems to be worked out. This is a very important time of year, the campaigning for president is stronger than ever. In this election, there are many different beliefs on the current state of the United States of America. On one hand, Donald Trump pictures the USA as a dystopian wasteland ridden with shootings and crime. On the other hand, Hillary Clinton believes that the USA is an amazing country, but with a few holes to be patched. Trump is wrong, America is already great.

The “American Dream” is all about freedom and liberty, or at least it used to be. It seems that the American Dream has become the right to sit on a couch all day and watch television. This relates to the topic “the America I believe in,” as some seem to believe that America is just a place where you are free to not care at all. There is not at the moment a very good solution to this psychologic problem.

Our country is a beautiful one, but it does have some problems. Obesity and our country's massive debt are some of the more pressing difficulties, among others. Diabetes is a huge problem in our country, while there are also many who are hungry. Our national debt has already almost hit 20 trillion dollars. These are problems that we, as citizens, do not have much say in. We can only leave this up to our president.

As Mitt Romney once said, “I believe in an America where millions of Americans believe in an America that's the America millions of Americans believe in. That's the America I love,” this is a beautiful quote. Many Americans have begun to think that America is an atrocious country, but they are just wrong.



Harbor School presents



# 2017 Voyagers Auction IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

**SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 2017**

**DOORS OPEN AT 5PM | OPEN SPACE FOR ARTS & COMMUNITY**



The 2017 Voyagers Auction invitations should be arriving today or tomorrow in your mailboxes. If you do not receive an invitation by early next week please contact us right away so we can be sure we have your correct address.

If you are looking forward to attending this year's event, do not delay in returning your RSVP. We have a limited number of tables and chairs,

and this event has sold out in the past. We want to encourage all current families to get their RSVP cards in as soon as possible!

## BE A TABLE CAPTAIN

If you enjoy sitting with parents from your own child's class, please consider being a Table Captain for this year's Voyagers Auction. Or, if you're an alumni or alumni parent, you may want to plan an entire table of alumni friends. You don't have to purchase an entire table of 10, just let us know who you've lined up to sit at your table, make sure your guests include your name on their RSVP card and we'll do the rest. You can email Allison Reid at [allison@harborschool.org](mailto:allison@harborschool.org) to reserve a table and provide the names as soon as you have them confirmed.

## IN SEARCH OF DONATIONS

The Voyagers Auction procurement team is working hard and we're seeing lots of great items coming in, but we still have a ways to go to fill our Silent and Live Auction areas. No item is too small or too large!

Donations may be delivered to Harbor School's main office with completed forms. If you'd like someone to pick up an item donation, please email Niamh Prince at [nprince@harborschool.org](mailto:nprince@harborschool.org) to arrange a convenient time.

Wish Lists and Donation Forms were distributed last week to all current families. If you did not receive them, let us know.

## WANTED: BRANCHES

The decorations team is looking for very large branches that can be wrapped in twinkly lights to create a lovely backyard ambience this year. If you have a lead on branches, please contact Allison at [allison@harborschool.org](mailto:allison@harborschool.org). Ideally, we are looking for several 6-8 feet long pieces. We'll even pick them up so you don't have to deliver!

## PREVIEW PARTY

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10 | 7PM**

SAVE THE DATE for our annual pre-auction Preview Party on February 10 at the home of Tom & Stephanie Baker. Festivities begin at 7PM. Come and check out a sampling of auction items, enjoy scrumptious appetizers and signature cocktails!

**RSVP:** If you are planning on attending the Preview Party on February 10, please **RSVP to [allison@harborschool.org](mailto:allison@harborschool.org)**.

**CHILDCARE OFFERED ON CAMPUS:** Harbor School will provide on-campus childcare for the Preview Party and the auction. For the Preview Party, there will be a \$10 suggested donation per child. Parent chaperones will be on hand with assistance from our 8<sup>th</sup> grade and alumni teens. Age-appropriate activities and snacks will be provided. Children may be dropped off as early as 6:45PM and pick up no later than 9:45PM. **RSVP for the Preview Party childcare by emailing [office@harborschool.org](mailto:office@harborschool.org)**.

## MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup> CHILDCARE

Childcare will be offered to current families on Saturday, March 4, for parents attending *Voyagers Auction*. Younger siblings are also welcome! **There is a \$20 suggested donation for childcare on March 4.**

Adult chaperones will be on hand with the current Class of 2016 eighth graders who will be there to lead fun activities and games. We will offer an age-appropriate movie for K-3 grades as well as 4-8 grades (*in separate classrooms*). In addition, the art room will be set up with crafty projects for those students who prefer not to watch a movie.

There will be plenty of food and snacks throughout the night. If your child has food sensitivities, please bring appropriate food and snack for your child and let us know when you RSVP.

**Auction guests must RSVP for March 4th childcare by emailing [office@harborschool.org](mailto:office@harborschool.org)**. Children may be dropped off as early as 4:45PM and pick up no later than 9:45PM.

*Childcare proceeds on auction night will benefit the Class of 2016 spring trip to Iceland.*

**VISIT OUR AUCTION WEBSITE TO  
PURCHASE TICKETS OR DONATE AN ITEM**



**AUCTION WEBSITE**



## Game Time Fun!

The numbers came marching in for Carpe Diem's first **'Math is Fun' GAME TIME**, and it all added up to a positively winning equation! Numerous tables with games and puzzles to be solved provided lots of opportunity for engaging play for kids and parents alike. It was a wonderful opportunity to connect with the larger community and to enjoy each other's company and conversation. Fun was clearly the common denominator, as one young attendee had this to say, "It was an awesome, fun time!" Seeing all pluses and no minuses, this is an event that will surely be repeated.

2-4-6-8, who do we appreciate? All of the volunteers who made **'Math is Fun' GAME TIME** at Carpe Diem possible, and the multitude of families that joined in. **Special Thanks** to our Game Time volunteers: Rebecca, Alice, Leah, Haley, Tom, Stephanie, Irene, Erin, Liz, Eric, Alice, Steve, Joleen, Jaffrey, Andrea, and Mark.

- written by Kerri Grace



In our Native American study, we learned about ceremonial clothing like the Raven Mask.



## Important Dates:

- 1/30: Jenny Sorensen presents...presentations!
- 2/2: Literature Group meeting
- 2/6: Acting out the Revolution workshop with Mik Kuhlman
- 2/9: Literature Group meeting
- 2/10: Team Pizzazz' Revolutionary Tea Party! 8-9AM
- 2/14: Pink Elephant Valentine's Day Gift Exchange
- 2/16: Literature Group Final Project Due! Day trip to DAR Seattle Chapter

## Pink Elephant

With Valentine's Day right around the corner, it is time to begin preparing for our in-class celebration! With attempts to reduce, reuse, and recycle, we are going to be going green (or perhaps pink!) for our Valentine's Day celebration. Each person is asked to bring in a found object from their house (or garage, or attic, or elsewhere) with permission. The item can have something to do with love and appreciation of others to fit the Valentine's Day theme, or can simply be something that you once loved and know someone else will get enjoyment from. The object cannot be larger than can be carried independently. So, no trucks or grown up muscles should be involved in the hauling of this chosen item to school! Wrap the found object at home, perhaps even including a treat of some sort, to then contribute to our PINK ELEPHANT (*as opposed to white elephant*) gift exchange.

We will have our celebration on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>. We will not be having a whole class Valentine card exchange, but if students would like to make cards or bring a small treat for everyone, kids are absolutely welcome to do so.

**First Tech Club session with Jason had us learning how to fix a Chrome book screen!**



**Our guest storyteller, Allison, shared stories of the indigenous perspective during the Revolutionary War.**

## Literature Groups

This week, students did a stellar job discussing overarching themes, interesting views about how religion plays into each of these novels, and helping to answer some of each other's questions. Yesterday afternoon students were enthralled with five different stories of the Revolutionary era in American history, and we left school all abuzz from this amazing event...and all the while I forgot to return their Story Quad packets!

## Math

Our journey into the wonderful world of fractions is continuing this week, and our focus now is on how to take what we've learned via the Hands On Fractions program and apply it to the Singapore Math curriculum. Concepts covered and practiced this week: equivalents, ordering fractions, and adding and subtracting fractions.

## Narrative Assessments

Get excited, too, for narrative reports to come home for your reading pleasure in a couple short weeks. These detailed and carefully thought-out bits of feedback are an excellent way to get some information about how your student is doing both academically and socially. Too, the main goal of them is to spark a conversation, make changes if needed, highlight what's working, and ensure we're all on the same page in giving your student what they need to live up to their personal-best potential. My attention this week has been on these reports, which explains the shortened and delayed weekly update.



## Social Studies with Laretta

6<sup>TH</sup> Grade

Students are learning about the Roman republic this week, and about the man who brought that Republic down - Julius Caesar. They will also be creating rap songs about Roman accomplishments.

7<sup>TH</sup> Grade

We are looking at the Middle East analyzing data, particularly economic data, and comparing countries and hypothesizing what different statistics might mean. For instance, why can a country have a low unemployment rate and yet have a high percentage of people living below the poverty line. Lots of great critical thinking going on!

8<sup>TH</sup> Grade

The Big, Wide Wonderful presentation is the sole focus of this week. Kudos to the Class of 2017 for their hard work and creativity in teaching what they learned.

## Art with Alisara

6<sup>TH</sup> Grade

We learned and practiced the tetradic, square, triadic, complementary and split-complementary color schemes in a free draw this week.

7<sup>TH</sup> Grade

Students practiced in collaborative teams to improve the two most cited goals, better figure and face drawing.

8<sup>TH</sup> Grade

Students worked on their grid self-portrait.

## Math with Leslie

MATH 6

We are speeding along nicely in **Chapter 6: Rate**. Monday we continue with **Lesson 6.3: Speed**. We will have an investigation of real life practice questions on Tuesday, review on Wednesday and a test on Thursday.

MATH 7

We have just begun **Chapter 4: Ratios, Rates and Proportions** which has seven lessons. Day one, 4.1 went well. Day two, 4.2 using rates to compare was more challenging. We will be pacing ourselves about two class periods per lesson.

PRE-ALGEBRA

We are more than halfway through **Chapter 5: Simple Equations in One Variable**. We have finished 5.3 and will work on 5.4, the final lesson, on Monday. We will have a 'How ready are you for the test?' quiz on Tuesday. Students can then assess where they should focus their study time. Wednesday will be an all class review where I will go over the most commonly missed items on the quiz. If students appear confident we will have the test on Thursday. The study guide was handed out last Thursday.

## Geometry with Kim

This week the geometers learned about four points of concurrency of triangles: circumcenters, incenters, orthocenters, and centroids. We charted the similarities, differences, and interesting attributes of each. Did you know the centroid of a triangle is also its center of gravity?

## English with Todd

6<sup>TH</sup> Grade

In 6<sup>th</sup> grade English this week, we presented on our '5 Best, 5 Worst' papers. Students informed us of their choices and reasoning, and the audience was then given an opportunity for questions and observations. I was very impressed with how professional and knowledgeable our presenters were. Great work on this initial foray into persuasive writing!

7<sup>TH</sup> Grade

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, we focused on revising our dystopian short stories, and we handed in a final version on Thursday. In revising we focused, once again, on how to 'show' rather than 'tell' with our writing, and so students attempted to subtly reveal to the reader what their future worlds were like. I continue to marvel at the inventiveness and sophistication of the seventh grade fiction writing.

8<sup>TH</sup> Grade

In 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students continued to write their short essays on Thoreau's 'Walden.' Writing on topics like 'nature' or 'morning,' students have been engaged in close readings of Thoreau's words, and they have done an admirable job of deciphering his sometimes gnomic utterances. I look forward to reading the final versions of what they wrote!

# In the Community



## Vashon Island Community PTSA-Chess Club

One Saturday per month. Join us for a great time forking, skewering, castling, and en passanting!

Casual chess games, all skill levels are welcomed k-12.

Parents interested in being a chess mentor/teacher please let us know.

For more information or to sign up please contact our club director Joe Schonbok at [jobok@gmail.com](mailto:jobok@gmail.com).

**Save the date:** The next meeting will be **Saturday, Feb. 18th from 10am-12pm in the CES multimedia room.**



So Much  
Happening  
at VCA!  
SPRING  
CLASSES

Space is still available in many wonderful classes starting soon:

### Oil Painting with Pam Ingalls

starts Friday, January 27, 7-9 pm

### Chants of the Devine Feminine with Erin Durrett

starts Sunday, January 29, 2:30-3:30 pm

### Gregorian Chant Choir with Erin Durrett

starts Sunday, January 29, 4-5:30 pm

### Late Start Art: Dr. Seuss Story Play - Grades K-1

Next Class: Thursday, February 2 - 8:30-11:30 am

Pro-rated tuition available.

Visit [Vashon Center for the Arts](http://Vashon Center for the Arts) for more information or call 206-259-3005

Scholarships are available to make art education available to everyone.

## V.I.B.E.S.

Sunday, January 29, 2pm

Hello Band Families,

We wanted to let you know about an exciting opportunity to see some great music AND raise money for the McMurray and VHS Bands! One of our band parents (Kim Thal) has arranged for the Tacoma-based South Sound Saxophone Ensemble to present a benefit concert at 2 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 29 at the Vashon High School Theatre.

The ensemble, formed in 2015 and conducted by Erik Steighner, features over 20 saxophonists playing soprano, alto, tenor, baritone, and bass saxophones. The all-volunteer group includes both amateur and professional players ranging from high schoolers to retirees. The program will feature works by J.S. Bach, Steven Bryant, Paul Hindemith, Darius Milhaud, and Jean Sibelius. "The ensemble is excited to present its first performance off the PLU campus," said Steighner. "With so many teachers and recent college graduates in the group, we leapt at the chance to support a local music program with our playing."

McMurray and Jazz band will also perform.

**Suggested donation is \$10.** (\$25 for family groups of 3 or more). All proceeds will help supporting the VHS and McMurray bands through V.I.B.E.S\*.

No one will be turned away for lack of funds.

*PLEASE COME SEE SOME GREAT MUSIC AND SUPPORT OUR BANDS!*

**HELP NEEDED:** We will be having a bake sale during the Intermission. If you can contribute a plate of cookies or other goodies, please email ToniJean Green, [tj@greenfamily.name](mailto:tj@greenfamily.name). We will also need extra hands to collect money at the door, help set up the bake sale, etc. Please let us know if you can help in any way.

*\*\*V.I.B.E.S. is a nonprofit organization that supports band education at McMurray Middle School and Vashon High School. V.I.B.E.S. raises money through donations and other fundraisers to pay expenses related to the band programs that are not covered by the school district's budget. These might include field trips, honor band and contest fees, master's classes, band t-shirts, and other activities and materials that will enhance the learning experiences of our band students.*

## Parenting the Teenage Brain

**February 15 at McMurray Middle School**

7:00-9:00pm

with Jennifer S. Kennett, MA, MBA, LMHC

**FREE!**

Have you ever wondered just why teenagers seem so alien and so likely to take risks? There is new research showing that the answer lies in the brain. Discover how a teenager's brain differs from an adult's, and what you can do to communicate with a brain still under construction!

**Great information whether you have a 5th grade student or a high schooler.**