

news

Highlights

Through Friday, December 15

FOOD DRIVE

In support of the Vashon Maury
Community Food Bank.

Please drop off your donations
at either campus.

12/14: **Winter Celebration**
7PM at Carpe Diem

12/15: **Blu Homegroup Breakfast**
9AM at Carpe Diem

NOON DISMISSAL
All grades

12/15: **Financial Aid Applications
due for returning students**

12/18/2017 - 1/1/2018

WINTER BREAK
No School

1/2: **First Day Back**
Classes resume!

1/15: **NO SCHOOL**
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Conferences, Assemblies & Food

Thank you to all of our 6th, 7th and 8th grade parents who participated in the survey on our recently restructured Middle School parent conferences. The new format that allowed all core teachers to be present at the conference was met with overwhelming support. One hundred percent (100%) of 6th grade parents felt that the change was productive and positive with 96% of 7th and 8th grade parents feeling the same way. Comments included the following:

"It was so much better to talk with all the teachers. You get a better understanding of your child's progress and challenges. The most beneficial for me was having the other teachers hear this information as well. Their awareness and input was invaluable."

"Really appreciate the dialogue with the teachers and getting a full picture of how the school year is starting off."

"A wonderful format and with teachers who are engaged and caring..."

In addition to the overwhelmingly positive response to the change in format, we received some great feedback about student goal setting, quality of student reflections, and the balance of teacher and student talk. The comments that were provided were particularly instructive and will help inform our thinking as we continue to think about how best to provide a valuable and collaborative conference for you and your middle school students.

Again, thank you to everyone who participated in this survey. Your feedback is important to us.

Friday Assemblies...

As some of you will know, many of our Harbor School assemblies for Upper Elementary and Middle School students have featured guest speakers this year. Our last two

speakers deserve a special thank you.

Alan Zelez, father of Fanny in Upper Elementary, and **John Watson**, father of Nola in 6th grade, have both taken time away from their work on a Friday afternoon to talk to our students and share their vocation and passion with us. Alan, an air traffic controller at Seatac, and John, a game developer, entertained and educated our students, and I would like to take

this opportunity to thank them for joining us. I would like to encourage all of our parent community to also think about taking time to join us on Fridays. Our assemblies typically start shortly after 2PM. It is a wonderful opportunity to engage with an attentive and exciting group of students so please let me know if you are interested in sharing your world with us.



Guest speaker John Watson with his daughter Nola.

Food Drive Gratitude

And finally....thank you to everyone who has contributed one way or another to the Food Bank Drive. It was so much fun yesterday to see our families outside Thriftway, supporting an invaluable island resource and contributing to our community in such a positive manner. A special thank you to parent **Alice Dorr** for leading this drive with such charm and grace and to **Rachael Hetrick**, Volunteer Manager at the Vashon Maury Community Food Bank, for being so supportive and easy to work with. - Mark McGough

[MORE NEWS >](#)



Holiday Food Drive

Did you know that approximately one in nine people on the island uses the food bank? This is the case, according to **Rachael Hetrick**, Volunteer Program Manager of the Vashon Maury Community Food Bank. She explains that as prices increase on the island, it causes more and more people to need resources. As a result, the food bank is used more than as a last resort, but as a community support. Anyone who needs food is eligible to receive it. If you need food, the food bank has it for you. She added, "There is always a need."

Speaking at each of the campuses last week, Rachael talked about the Food Bank's work and discussed some of the donation needs. The students were acute listeners and contributors to the discussion. The "Shopping List" handed out lists the staple items the food bank tries to keep well-stocked as these are the most commonly used. However, there is a great need for other items that may not come to mind when shopping for food bank contributions unless thinking of it from the perspective of someone without access to cooking facilities or utensils. Examples of such needed items are single-serving cups of "just add water" soup and meal-in-a-can foods with "pop-open" tops. Other items one may not think of but that are also needed are baby food, diapers, cat/dog food, and personal hygiene items. The food bank is also trying to collect higher nutritional value items. These are simply suggestions to take into consideration when selecting food drive contributions. One final tip Rachael provided was to 'Donate what your family uses,' so for example if your family is gluten-free, dairy-free, vegan, etc., then you may want to donate those types of items.

Thank you to everyone who has already supported the food drive, be it by volunteering at Thriftway, adding donations to the collection bins or simply talking about the food bank or food drive with your family. Your support is appreciated! We also extend our thanks to Costco on 4th Avenue for donating a \$50 gift card to be used towards a food drive donation purchase.

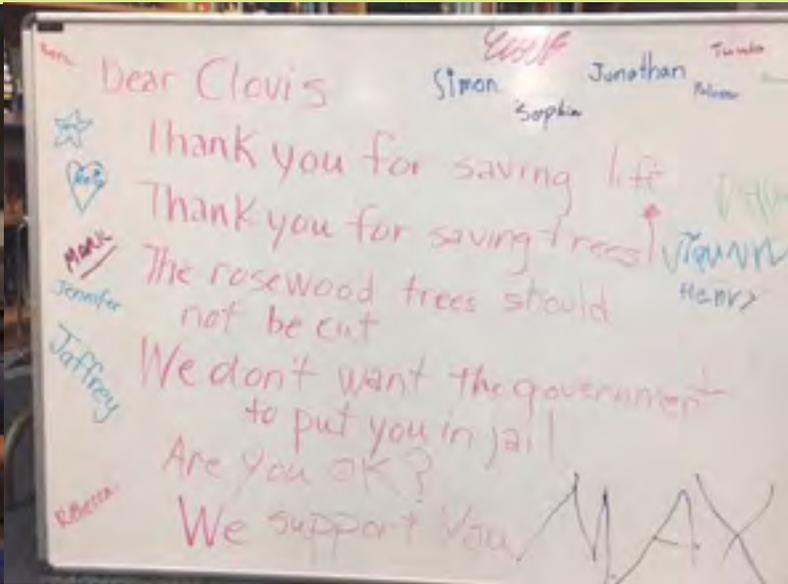
Please continue to bring your donations in this week to the red collection bins on either campus. The general public may also contribute to our food drive by leaving donations at the main office on the Harbor School campus or by calling the office to make special arrangements. Keep an ear open for the public service announcement about our food drive, being aired this week on Voice of Vashon!

The food drive runs through the end of school on Friday, Dec. 15. If you have questions, please contact parent **Alice Dorr** who is coordinating Harbor School's food drive efforts. Alice can be reached at **(206) 612-2912** or by email at **alicedorr@hotmail.com**.



Big thank you to everyone who has donated food so far! Special thanks to our Saturday volunteers for greeting customers at Thriftway and passing out Food Bank flyers. Thank you Kerri & Avery; Jeff, Svea & Uli; Shannon, Tuula & Poppy; Connor, Carl and Jennifer; Paloma & Nancy; Danny & Caroline; Ivy & Teanna; Fanny, Jenny & Alan; Danny & Emily; Joy, Grace & Emily-Skye; Scott, Atticus, Delilah & Amelia; Coco, Cassandra & William; Irene, Alexis & Jonathan; Garrett, Weston, Russ & Alice; and Sasha & Kari.





Our December 4th Book Reading Event honoring the Universal Declaration of Human Rights featured a letter writing activity.

Book Reading Event Highlights by Rebecca Lanphear

After our November book club reading we had parents fill out a survey and one of the responses was from 5th grader Tuula with a suggestion to have a letter writing activity included. We explored this idea and discovered Amnesty International's campaign *Write for Rights* that culminates on December 10th each year honoring the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

We read a nonfiction picture book highlighting each of the rights in pictures of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* document and played a game finding similarities amongst paired participants.

The Amnesty International *Write for Rights* campaign provides an easy way for people to join a wider movement and provides educational tools and support. We used these tools and wrote letters in support of an environmentalist in Madagascar (the older kids wrote the government official and the youngest kids collectively wrote a letter to the environmentalist in solidarity and support.) We presented the power of voicing your opinion through letter writing and the power of community, what it means to be part of a broader movement, and the difference in receiving 10 letters versus 100 versus 10,000. The letter writing was a challenging concept for the youngest participants (*kindergarten*); nonetheless, several participated with guidance. If you or your child has ideas for the book club readings please share them with parents Rebecca Lanphear or Leah Mann.

In the right photo above is the letter of support from our youngest participants for Clovis Razafimalala, an environmental activist in Madagascar. To learn more about the *Write for Rights* campaign and Clovis Razafimalala, visit <https://write.amnestyusa.org/>.



Lunchtime Chess Club at Harbor School.

Chess Club!

Thursdays at lunch have a new theme: **Chess Club!** We had four different games of chess being played simultaneously this Thursday, with more than a few spectators. Who knew that so many of our students (*and teachers*) had a love of chess?! And who knew that our English teacher Todd would continue to beat the socks off our Math teacher Ethan game after game?! The beautiful thing is, people are playing on days other than Thursday, as well.

Side note: *Magic the Gathering*, a role playing card game by Wizards of the Coast (*think Pokemon mixed with Dungeons and Dragons*), is also a regular lunchtime activity with a few students (*and a teacher*) at the school. Lots of strategy and creativity is involved in building a competitive deck, and the artwork on the cards is fantastic.

Message from the Board

by Lisa Pearson, Board President

It's been a busy and exciting fall at Harbor School! As we enter the holiday season, the Board is grateful for the faculty, staff, and parent volunteers who have been enriching the classroom experience. From screening the film *Promised Land* and Book Reading Events hosted by our Race Equity group, to *Crafternoons* and *Game Time* at Carpe Diem, to parents sharing their careers and interests at Friday assemblies, to the current Food Drive underway, not a week goes by that our school community isn't putting forth valuable time and energy in support of our school.

The Board and its subcommittees have been busy too. Our subcommittees have all met separately and established goals and activities for this school year. The subcommittees allow us to work on specific, tactical objectives with relevant staff. Subcommittees and their board members are **Development** (Lisa Pearson and Damon Lanphear with staff member Allison Reid); **Marketing & Admissions** (Alice Dorr, Erin Schulz and Mark McGough with staffers Niamh and Allison); and **Finance** (Peter Walker, Tom Baker, Kevin Crayton and Mark). Scott Shawver is the Board's representative on the Race Equity Committee.

Several feedback sessions on our Strategic Plan initiative were held with parents earlier this fall. We'd like to thank everyone who took the time to provide feedback on the draft strategic plan. This is a critical document for the school - it provides a map for our activities and will drive where the board spends its energy over the next three years. The input we received generated good discussion among the board on how to strengthen that draft plan, and we are working on incorporating that feedback and ensuring that we are targeting the right opportunities. We expect to roll out a final document in the first quarter of the new year.

Farewell & Welcome

The Board expresses its gratitude to **John James**, parent of 8th grader Calvin, who has finished his tenure on the board. We are grateful for the countless hours of volunteer support he has provided as a board member as well as his participation as a parent volunteer over the years. Whether helping install a new playset, wash windows for campus clean up, or fill a table of guests at our auction, John has been an incredible support to our school and we will miss his wisdom and guidance. *Thank you, John!*

As we say farewell to John, we welcome **Damon Lanphear**. Damon and his wife Rebecca have called Vashon home for close to 20 years. Damon has been delighted to watch as his daughter Sophia, son Simon and their community of classmates at Carpe Diem have thrived through their school experiences. He serves as the Chief Technology Officer of 98point6, an emerging healthcare company, and has more than a decade in senior and executive leadership for companies as large as Amazon and as small as a four-person startup. Damon is an alumnus of Hamilton College, where he developed a profound appreciation for interdisciplinary liberal arts education and the value of intellectual curiosity. Translating goals into strategy and team culture is a passion of Damon's professional work and he looks forward to sharing this passion in support of the Harbor School's mission. *Welcome, Damon!*

SAVE THE DATE!



2018 Voyagers Auction

The date has been set and the theme chosen! Harbor School's Voyagers Auction, our annual benefit fundraiser, will be held on **Saturday, March 24, 2018**, at Open Space for Arts & Community.

This year's theme "*Oh, the treasures you'll find!*" conjures up beachcombing, found objects, and the excitement of finding lost items returned to our shores. Student art projects that will be up for bid at this year's auction will follow this theme — such as driftwood art, sea glass creations, beach shard mosaics, and more! Parent **Erika Ellison** will be coordinating the art projects when we return from break.

Plans are underway for an Auction Preview Party and an Online Auction prior to the big event. We will share more details with you soon so keep an eye on the *Cornerstone News!*

The auction committee is still looking to fill a few more volunteer roles. Auction sign up sheets can be found in the main campus office.

If you have any questions about the 2018 Voyagers Auction, please contact Allison Reid at allison@hARBORSCHOOL.ORG.

Many Special Guests Came to Campus

It has been a busy week at both campuses with more than one special guests coming to visit. Here are just a few highlights featuring our guest speakers and assemblies.



Jeremy Davis, VHS Track coach, visited with 8th graders to share her experience of finding a painted swastika on an island bench and how that impacted her. It has led Jeremy to want to share her experience and talk with island kids, our country's future. Thank you, Jeremy, for making a difference and spending time with our students!



Rachael Hetrick, Volunteer Program Manager at the Vashon Maury Community Food Bank, spoke to students on both campuses about the Food Bank and how we need to support island families in need. Thank you, Rachael!



Parent John Watson visited Harbor School for Friday's assembly where he spoke to students about his work in video game development. Thank you, John, for sharing your knowledge with us!



Islander and retired veterinarian Tag Gornall is one of the world's foremost Marine Mammal veterinarians. Students at Carpe Diem were thrilled to have Tag come in as part of their Whale unit and talk about his experiences. Thank you, Tag, for bringing your specimens and knowledge to share!



Winter Celebration is Thursday Night!

Winter Celebration has been a Carpe Diem tradition forever! Featuring performances and sharing by our students in grades K-3, Winter Celebration is also our last activity before we head into our holiday break. Our entire school community is invited to attend.

Friday Breakfast & Dismissal

We have a special treat in store for the morning after Winter Celebration. On Friday, December 15, before we break for the holidays, Harbor School's Blu homegroup will be hosting a community breakfast for all Harbor School and Carpe Diem students at Carpe Diem. *Yum!*

Please remember that Friday is also a noon dismissal.

Classroom Meeting with Peggy

We have been continuing to have a GREAT time in classroom meeting!

After our unit on good sleep, we talked about Kelso's choice. Kelso is a frog and the idea is to identify big problems and small problems. For a big problem you tell an adult right away and for a small problem Kelso has 8 different choices. We put a Kelso poster up on the fence outside so that kids could refer to it as needed.

We then talked about the ups and downs of friendship. The students had a lot to say and we will be continuing the conversation. This Monday, the teachers asked me to talk about personal space. We watched a video of a book called *Miles is the Boss of His Body*. Here is a link to view it:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FMU_8evmFSo

I think this video is really cute and makes its point quite well—check it out! We then did a fun activity about personal body space.

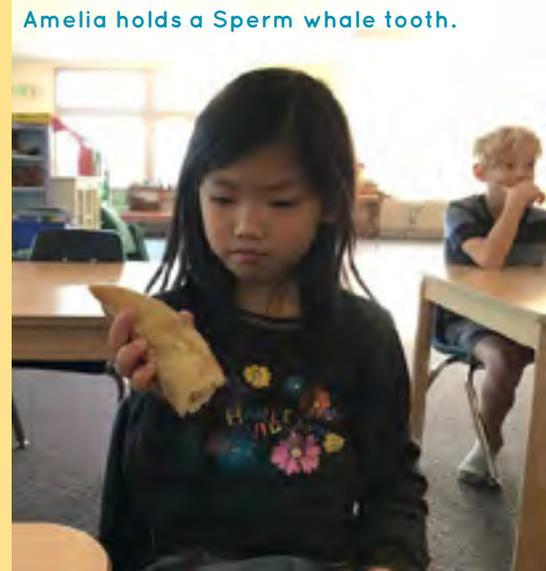
Also, look for a surprise from us at Winter Celebration!

< Crafternoon photos on the left by Emma.

Photos right from our visit with Tag Gornall. >



Josie with a walrus jaw!



Amelia holds a Sperm whale tooth.



Poppy holds a section of whale baleen.

We have been busy wrapping up our theme unit and getting ready for our museum! We have been cutting, hot gluing, painting, sewing, molding, mapping, drawing and writing in our quest to find more about where our families came from, why they emigrated from their homes and what it was like to be an immigrant in America.

Some of the kids may have brought home the rough drafts of their ancestor narratives to work on or to type. If they work on it at home, feel free to email me a copy and they can work on it at school as well or we can print it out to edit or to publish.

Some are still working on their rough draft and that is fine too. They should have the rough draft done by Monday. We will spend Monday and Tuesday doing final edits if needed.

They can choose to rewrite their narrative in their "Personal Best" handwriting or to type it out at home and some at school. We do only have two computers to type on so they can take turns.

Our goal is for the narratives to be completed by this Wednesday, December 13th to be ready for our museum!

Students should bring an artifact from home on Monday. It doesn't have to be from a specific family member. Just something that has been passed down, has a story or something that your family treasures or has a tradition around it. Some kids may want to bring in more than one thing, that is fine. They can bring little things that they want to add to their trunk or their display for the museum. Yes, they can bring a quilt. Yes, they can bring in their great grandma's candle holders. A few kids asked to bring in miniature rifles (*lego size*) which is fine. I am fine with almost anything that they want to add to their display as long as it is appropriate for the time period and the theme. Let me know if you have any questions! - Joleen



UE Math with Joleen, Steve, Mark, and Ethan

Every Thursday, Middle School Math teacher Ethan Cudaback gets to help with math in the UE classroom as the students solve math puzzles, play math games, and work on problems that require higher order thinking. This week, Joleen presented the class with an awesome Rubik's Cube-type of puzzle, where kids had to build a 3x3x3 cube where all 9 different colors had to be displayed on each side of the 6 sides. A surprisingly challenging activity that took most kids (and teachers) the whole class period to solve.

Shining Star

Delilah was this week's Shining Star. Delilah's mom Mariette brought homemade scones and jam to share with the class on Thursday.

Thinking Notes

Wow! That's a bookful of sticky notes in Paloma's book. In fact, Paloma wins the honor of having the most 'thinking notes' in her book club book. Well done, Paloma!

Reminder: Passport to You Event

Don't forget this Wednesday, December 13, we'll be hosting an after school Passport to You Immigration Museum for families and friends. Please mark your calendar and come by to see the Upper Elementary students' beautiful displays.

Math with Ethan

We welcomed two Harbor School alumni to our Math 7 this week. Late start at Vashon High School meant that Harbor School alumni **Hannah Spranger '16** and **Isabelle Spence '16** were free to come back and show us their math skills when they visited us in Math 7. Our students worked on factoring as Hannah and Isabelle performed informal checks with the students. I was the only one in the room who had never met the two alums, and it was great for me to see the rapport between past and present students. I can barely wait for the students I teach now to come back after a year in high school and share their experiences with future Harbor School students.



Class of 2016 alumni Hannah Spranger and Isabelle Spence visited Math 7!

English with Todd

This week in 6th grade we've started reading Homer's *Odyssey*, and the students are loving hearing about the wanderings and travails of Odysseus. Ask a 6th grader to tell you about the Lotus-eaters, or Polyphemus, the monstrous cyclops! Also, look out for the inaugural issue of our student literary zine, to be published next week. We've already had a number of submissions!

Social Studies with Laurretta

Our 6th graders, like countless artists and poets throughout the centuries, create works of art and poetry inspired by Greek myths.



Art inspired by Greek myths In 6th Grade Social Studies.

An annual 8th grade Social Studies project **The BIG, WIDE WONDERFUL PROJECT** was revealed to the Class of 2018 this week. They will be examining **FAKE NEWS** in the next couple months. This week consisted of some foundational work, including defining truth, lies, and baloney. Students also discussed the different theories of truth (*correspondence, coherence, consensus, etc.*) and were introduced to **logical fallacies**.

Science with Zoë

GRADE 6: We have wrapped up the Matter unit- look for the End-of-Unit Update to come home along with a portfolio of work. Our next unit, Energy, requires lots of hands-on work to explore the concepts, making this a favorite unit for science students. We will be finding the energy in a peanut, solving the mystery of Goldilock and the Three Bears (*why was baby bear's porridge "just right"?*), debating the pros and cons of nuclear energy- and so much more!

GRADE 7: We had a wonderful time at the Point Defiance Zoo! The SAMI student guides were fun, informative, welcoming and great role models for science and math focused education. The animals were active and our students made lots of keen observations. Our second unit, Heredity, began on Thursday. Students will explore DNA, genetic inheritance, GMOs, and more!

GRADE 8: Our 2nd unit, Evolution, began last week. We will look into the evidence for and the mechanisms of Biological Evolution, the cornerstone of modern biology. This unit builds on the 7th grade Heredity unit where we looked at DNA and basic inheritance.

Algebra with Zoë

Functions, functions, functions; the heart of algebra. This week we are learning to identify and graph functions.

Things happen. Learn what to do before it does.



Tues, Dec 12 | Vashon Library | 6:30-8:00pm

TEEN SAFE

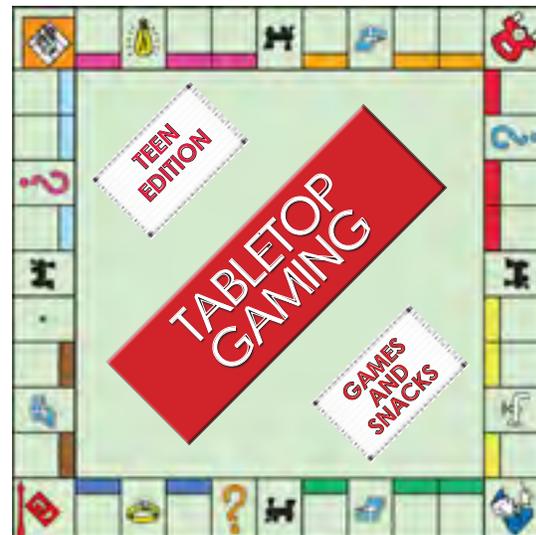
TEENS & PARENTS: Join us for a **FREE** workshop to learn about drug facilitated sexual assault, bystander intervention, and how to partner with your teen to make a plan if they or a friend are in trouble. **Let's work together to keep our teens safe and healthy.**

For more information, contact Betsey@vashondoveproject.org



SAVE THE DATE:
Teen Safe Workshop
 December 12 from 6:30-8PM

VARSA is proud to partner with The Vashon Dove Project and Vashon Social Services Network to bring you a Free **Teen SAFE** workshop for Island high schoolers, their parents, and young adults. For more information, please contact Betsey@vashondoveproject.org.



Wednesday, December 20

3:45-5:45pm

Vashon Library

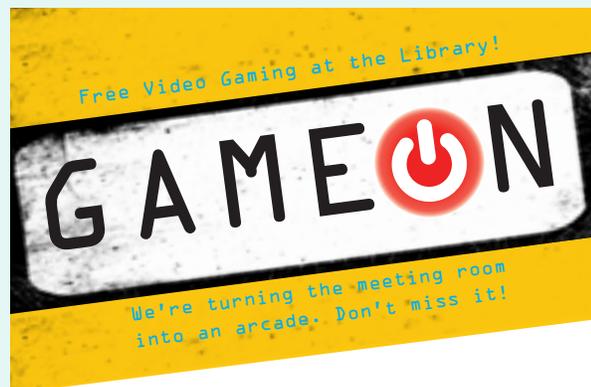
Grades 6-12.

Unplug and enjoy gaming with other teens. Feel free to bring your own games to share as well.

Snacks provided by Vashon Friends of the Library.

Reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities is available please contact the library prior to the event if you require accommodation.

Vashon Library • 17210 Vashon Highway SW • Vashon Island, WA 98070 • 206.463.2069
 Monday-Thursday, 10am-5pm • Friday, 10am-5pm • Saturday, 10am-5pm • Sunday, 11am-5pm
kcls.org/vashon



Vashon Library

Thursday, December 21, 1-3pm

Friday, December 29, 1-3pm

Grades 6 to 12.

Take a break from school work and play video games at the library! Hone your gaming skills with Wii U, PS3, Xbox One, and the NES. Not a gamer? Come hang out and eat some snacks, do a craft or play a tabletop game. Sponsored by the Vashon Friends of the Library

Reasonable accommodation for individuals with disabilities is available please contact the library prior to the event if you require accommodation.

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