

# news

## Highlights

- 1/15: **NO SCHOOL**  
*Martin Luther King Jr. Day*
- 1/17: **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting**  
with Head of School  
6:30PM at Harbor School
- 1/24: **Art Time at Carpe Diem**  
After school at 4PM  
*Public Welcome!*
- 1/25: **Re-Enrollment Contracts  
for Returning Students  
are Due**
- 1/30: **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting**  
with Head of School  
6:30PM at Harbor School
- 2/1: **Rise Up & Read at 4PM**  
Book Reading Event  
at Vashon Public Library
- 2/2: **NO SCHOOL**  
*Teacher In-Service Day*
- 2/9: **Crafternoon**  
1-3PM at Carpe Diem
- 2/16: **Service Learning  
at NW Harvest**  
for grades 4-8
- February 19 - 23  
**Mid-Winter Break**  
*No School!*
- 2/27: **Morning Coffee**  
with Head of School  
8:05AM at Harbor School
- 2/28: **Morning Coffee**  
with Head of School  
9:05AM at Carpe Diem
- 3/2: **Auction Preview Party**  
7PM - *More details to come!*
- 3/9: **NO SCHOOL**  
*Teacher In-Service Day*
- 3/11: **Spring Forward!**  
*Daylight Savings Time*
- 3/12: **Voyagers Week Begins!**  
for grades 4-8

## Fiscal Responsibility by the Board of Trustees

We hope you all have had an enjoyable holiday season relaxing and celebrating with family and loved ones!

In our last update we discussed the next steps in refining our strategic goals. We've decided to postpone this work to focus our efforts on a more pressing topic. Our recent review of financial and enrollment projections for Harbor School reveals that the school will continue operating at a deficit if we do not make significant changes.

One of the roles of the Board of Trustees is to maintain accountability for the financial stability of the school. To this end the Board is working closely with Mark to develop and implement a plan to achieve financial sustainability. After careful review, we believe we have developed a plan which achieves financial sustainability within two years.

As we look to balance our operating budget, the Board is thinking about more than building a budget that allows the school to just meet its financial obligations. We are also working to better position the school to channel donations to investments that enhance the school's programs and facilities. We are committed to a financial model that allows us to do more than sustain the school; one that builds value for students and their families and sustains the legacy of Harbor School for the future.

For the past several years the school's operating budget has presumed we are supporting a school of approximately 100 students; enrollment numbers across the school have instead fluctuated around 85. Harbor School will continue to welcome as many mission-appropriate students as we can, and you can help by sharing your positive Harbor School experiences with prospective families. The school is also working with a *pro bono* consultant through Northwest Association of Independent Schools to improve our enrollment management. Knowing that we can not depend solely on enrollment increases in the near future to resolve our operating deficit, we are focusing planning efforts on what we can reasonably control.

With this in mind, and after thorough analysis and discussion, the Board has put in place improvements to our financial model. Our goal with these improvements is to allow the school to operate with tuition covering close to 80% of operating costs. This level is within a range of 70-80% that is typical of independent schools nationally. As the enrollment numbers for 2018-19 come into focus in March the Board will turn its attention to improving donations and operating expenses. Our goal will be to strike the right balance between the number of enrolled students and the programs and facilities needed to sustainably deliver an excellent educational experience. Fundraising will play a very important role in meeting this goal and we expect to share more as our efforts continue.

We look forward to putting Harbor School in a strong financial position and then returning to the work of defining our strategic goals and supporting Mark, the teachers, and staff in nurturing our school.

**Below: Students led a 'Dream March' on Friday to honor Martin Luther King Jr.**





Photos from our latest Rise Up and Read event that was held on January 8!

## Rise up and Read!

### New Name for Book Reading Event

**Rise up and Read** is the new name of our monthly book readings initiated by the work of our school's Race Equity Focus Group. I wanted to take some time and explain what we are doing with these book readings since it's been a year now and we will continue to host monthly readings. The readings are open to the entire community and the time and place are selected to make it as easy as possible for all kids to attend - *children in the public school, independent schools, and homeschooled*. We openly encourage the broader community to attend.

Our next *Rise Up and Read* event will be held on **February 1 from 4-5pm** at the Vashon Library and we will read books on the Civil Rights movement. We will read ***The Book Itch***, a nonfiction picture book about a historic bookstore in Harlem that fostered new ideas and helped people stand up for what they believed in. We will also read a picture book ***Sit-in: How four friends Stood Up by Sitting Down*** about the Woolworth's lunch counter incident. The book introduces peaceful protest, patience and Jim Crow laws all in a short non-fiction picture book. We will likely read these two books but we may also adjust our books based on interest of the kids attending. We always bring a handful of books with us and are prepared to change course if the kids get bored, show more interest than we anticipated, etc. We also like to weave in music or movement to add an active element to compliment the event. Sometimes we invite members of our community (*parents or friends*) to share their personal stories that relate to the topic or theme of that month's event.

The topics of the books we choose may at times feel controversial or even scary for a parent. Although the books we choose may address tough concepts, they generally have gentle content and delivery. We put a lot of time and intention into choosing books that are beautifully written, strikingly illustrated and age appropriate.

At the reading, we do not typically provide time to lead a discussion. We feel the best discussions at this age result in a setting where trust has been built with the child - *at home or at school with teachers*. We do wish to introduce ideas and concepts to children in the context of stories, and we do hope to encourage questions and discussions beyond the reading event itself.

I hope you can join us for the next event! - Rebecca

## Special Thanks

We wish to thank **Akiko Leonard** and the Langley families Japanese interns **Hiro** and **Nanao** for attending our most recent **Rise Up & Read** event last Monday, January 8. We read stories and shared stories together about the Japanese New Year - *Shōgatsu!* We especially enjoyed the sour lotus and sweet adzuki beans with mochi dish that Akiko made and served us.

HARBOR SCHOOL & CARPE DIEM RACE EQUITY BOOK CLUB  
INVITE YOU TO AN AFTERNOON BOOK READING EVENT

# RISE UP AND READ!

Sharing Stories About Civil Rights  
in Honor of Black History Month

**THURSDAY  
FEBRUARY 1**  
4-5PM at the Vashon Library  
For children in grades K - 5

FEATURED BOOKS INCLUDE:  
**The Book Itch: Freedom, Truth & Harlem's Greatest Bookstore**  
Written by Vanessa Michouas Nelson and illustrated by R. Gregory Christie

**Sit-In: How Four Friends Stood Up By Sitting Down**  
Written by Andrea Davis Pinkney and illustrated by Brian Pinkney

THIS EVENT WILL BE HELD AT THE VASHON LIBRARY

FREE | PUBLIC WELCOME



## Art on Display

Carpe Diem students created a collaborative art project in honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day (read more about it on page 5). It will be displayed at the Vashon Methodist Church as part of Vashon's 27th annual MLK Day celebration on Monday, January 15th. It will then be on display at the Vashon Ferry Terminal for all to see!

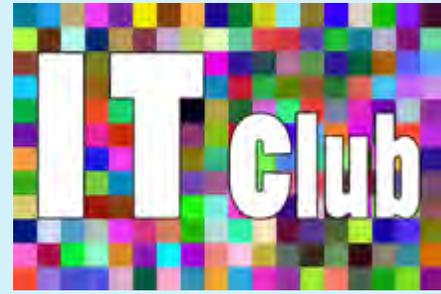
Below: More photos from Friday's "Dream March."

## IT Club Begins with Jason Staczek

Current parent Jason Staczek has volunteered his time and energy to create Harbor School's new IT Club for grades 4 through 8.

Have you ever wondered what puts the "net" in "internet"? Have you ever asked yourself, "Why WiFi?" Maybe you accidentally brought a pixel for lunch? Or looked up at the sky and wondered where exactly this "cloud" thing is supposed to be? If you're curious about what's behind the curtain, inside your laptop, and lurking between those antennas on your router then you might be a good candidate for the Harbor School IT Club! Our goal is to learn how all of the pieces and parts of today's desktop and mobile computing environments go together to make it possible to watch Netflix on Android, play Minecraft on iPads, make websites on Windows, and Snapchat with people all over the globe! No experience is required! Just curiosity and a love for weird words like 1000BaseT, Ethernet and Cat6. This will be different from coding. The IT Club will be looking into all the things that make coding possible. And while we're doing it, we'll also try to improve the Information Technology systems at the Harbor School to make using computers there as fast and efficient and frustration-free as possible. Tag! You're IT!!!

We're approaching this by investigating the aging WiFi and internet infrastructure in the school, learning to use tools to analyze it, planning for repairs and upgrades and finally putting everything in place. That's project #1. So far we've learned a lot about networking basics and used a WiFi sniffer to discover a long-forgotten WiFi router hidden behind a potted plant, covered in dirt and spiders! It's very fun, very interactive and very practical. - Jason



## afterschool PROGRAM

Just a quick reminder to all our current families that the **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM** is in full swing with many parents utilizing the extended day care that runs from **3-6PM on school days**. There is plenty of room for more students to join, whether parents need a short drop-in solution on a busy day, or if they'd like to sign up to be on a regular schedule.

Harbor School's After School Program is held at Harbor School in the Upper Elementary classrooms. Students from Carpe Diem who are signed up to participate are transported by our coordinator Shannon Johns. Parents then pick up their children on the main campus.

If you'd like to sign up for 5-day extended care, please contact the main office about rates. Or, purchase a 20-Hour Punch Card to use as you need it. Punch Cards are \$200 for 20 hours worth that you can use as you go!

## RAW Homegroup Is Collecting Toiletries

**Have a collection of small toiletries from hotel stays?** The RAW homegroup earned approximately \$200 from their bake sale this week and will be purchasing toiletry and personal hygiene items to make kits for island residents in need. We welcome those little bottles of shampoo, lotion, and cakes of soap that you might have building up in the corner of a bathroom cupboard. Simply send them to school with your child, and RAW students will add these items to our kits. Thank you!

Below: More photos from Friday's "Dream March."



## Host Families Sought

The Rotary International Youth Exchange Program is looking to recruit three island families who would be interested in hosting an exchange student who will be attending Vashon High School for the 2018-19 school year. Host families would host an exchange student for three to four months in their home.

To be selected for an exchange, students must complete an extensive application and have two interviews with the program staff. They are carefully chosen and are expected to integrate into the host family and be helpful. The candidates must prove they are mature enough and open minded enough to complete the exchange.

Time is of the essence, since the Vashon Rotary Club needs to guarantee that the incoming students will have places to live next year.



**"I would be happy to talk to anyone who would like to know more. Hosting has greatly enriched our family and provided our kids with an extended family throughout the world. It's truly one of the best things we have ever done."** - Sandie McTighe

If you are interested in being a host family for an exchange student, please contact **Sandie McTighe** at **206.919.9459** or by email at [sandiemctighe@comcast.net](mailto:sandiemctighe@comcast.net). Sandie has offered to help recruit host families because her high school daughter Marisa will be travelling abroad next fall to be an exchange student through the Rotary International Exchange Program.



Art Project: Students painting and working together to create their collage of Martin Luther King Jr.

## Let's Dance!

Sometimes you take a gamble and... you WIN! Last school year, Andrea and Jaffrey were tasked with choosing field trips for this year. They decided to think outside the box and sign up for the Pacific Northwest Ballet. On Wednesday, we arrived in Seattle Center right on time for our dance lesson. Students used their bodies for heavy/strong and light/soft movements as they considered how dancers need to convey character traits, as well as feelings and emotion, to their audience. We were so impressed that every one of our students fully participated, holding nothing back. After class, we were able to see, feel, and learn about costumes and their design. Did you know that it is not uncommon for a dancer to go through 100 pairs of shoes in a season!?! We then headed into a rehearsal space where professional dancers were practicing for *Swan Lake*. Their strength, flexibility, and grace were truly awe inspiring. It was a deep and intimate look at what goes into preparing for a performance and will, undoubtedly, enrich our future experiences as audience members. - Kate

BELOW: Carpe Diem students visited Pacific Northwest Ballet last week for a "moving" field trip experience!



## MLK Art Project

Carpe Diem students have been learning about the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We have been reading children's stories about his life, listening to parts of his speeches, and having discussions about his life and work. Our third grade students even read part of his 'Letter from a Birmingham Jail' as a part of our persuasive letter unit in writing class!

The Owls group has been busy working on an art project to celebrate MLK. Each student carefully reproduced a portion of a photograph of Dr. King. This involved careful observation and rendering of color, value, proportion and line. Kids were thrilled to see the puzzle put together!

This work will be displayed at the Vashon Methodist church as a part of Vashon's 27th annual MLK day celebration on the 15th at 7pm. We will also display a copy of this work at the Vashon Ferry Terminal. - Jaffrey

## Spanish with Profe

We are playing with food and expressing likes and dislikes. This week we did a *Diccionario de Dibujos* (a picture dictionary) that goes home on Friday. We continue to sing about orange juice! Here is a link to the *la comida* (the food) page of HUACHINANGO for some fun at home:

<http://huachinango.wikispaces.com/La+Comida>



## Highlights from the Week

Our UE wagon trains are well on their way to Oregon. They have had to deal with dysentery, loss of oxen, broken bones and a treacherous river crossing! One train has almost run out of food on the trail with many miles to go before they reach Fort Laramie where they will be able to stock up again. Another wagon train has offered to sell them some food for double the price that you can buy it from the forts. They are deciding if they will take a chance of shooting a buffalo or buy food at an exorbitant price from a fellow wagon train. They are excited to make their miles each day as they also get to explore the newly acquired Louisiana Territory that has doubled the size of the United States. - *Joleen*

## Spanish with Profe

What a great week! We are reading *La Rana Hambrienta*. We are playing with a storyboard, drawing the story as we go. The storyboard helps us scaffold writing and talking about the story. Here is a link to *La Rana Hambrienta*:

<http://huachinango.wikispaces.com/La+Rana+Hambrienta>

## Flex Time

During Flex time on Friday, Florian, our resident Rubik's Cube expert had an audience as he completed 7 Rubik's Cubes within 15 minutes! What a fascinating ability to watch in action!

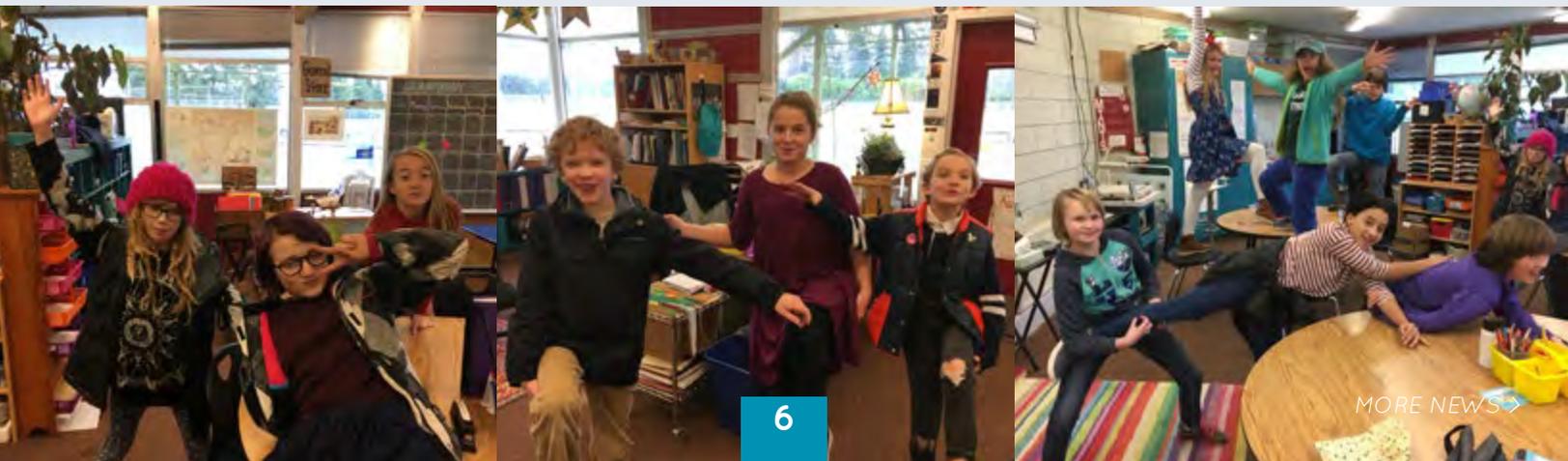
## More P.E.

We've added a change to our Upper Elementary schedule. We will now have PE on Mondays and Wednesdays! Please be sure to remind your child to wear appropriate shoes and raincoats if needed. We are all happy to add some more movement to our week.

## Brain Breaks

We've started a new "brain Break" routine that goes throughout the day. I have collected a ton of fun, quick "brain breaks" that we will jump up and do to take a break from the academic work that we are doing. Research says that productivity and happiness go up when we are able to stop our work and move, laugh or just do something unexpected. The release of dopamine in the brain helps our mood as well as giving our brains a vehicle to drive our new learning into our long term memory! - *Joleen*

BELOW: Brain Breaks in action!





Social Studies poster by Katherine, grade 7

## Social Studies with Laurretta

The 7<sup>th</sup> grade read a wonderful book about an 11 year old Afghani girl living in Kabul when the Taliban took over. Upon completing the book, students created posters identifying the protagonist's character traits as well as their own. They had to provide evidence for each of these traits on a separate document and also fill a poster board with images of their life juxtaposed with images of Parvana's. The posters are quite stunning. If you get a chance, drop by my room and take a look at the 7<sup>th</sup> graders beautiful and poignant project.



## English with Todd

This week, the students were able to produce our first edition of *Echo*, our student-produced zine! We had submissions from all ages, and the final product emerged due to some very hard work by our editors and staff members (especially our seventh graders). Ask for a copy when you are on campus!

PE Teacher Nicky has been taking students to Bethany Church's indoor gymnasium for PE class. An especially nice option on rainy cold days!

## Spanish with Profe

**GRADE 6:** We continue playing with *Brandon Brown* and his puppy. Is it his puppy? Does his friend Jake put peer pressure on Brandon when he tells him, "¡Llévatelo!"? Here is a link to the page of HUACHINANGO that supports the novel:

<http://huachinango.wikispaces.com/Brandon+Brown+quiere+un+perro>

Here is a link to the site where you can purchase a copy of *Brandon Brown quiere un perro*, if you wish to have a copy for at home practice:

<https://fluencymatters.com/product-category/readers/spanish-readers/>

**GRADE 7:** We continue playing with a new tense, the preterite tense. We are writing and talking about what we did over the weekend or after classes the previous day. I am SUPER PLEASED with our progress, thus far. We have just finished chapter one of *El Viaje de su vida*, a new novel. This novel represents a big, bold, leap forward in vocabulary and grammatical structures. Again, I am SUPER PLEASED with our progress, thus far. Here is a link to the Amazon page where you can purchase a copy of *El viaje de su vida*, if you wish to have a copy for at home practice:

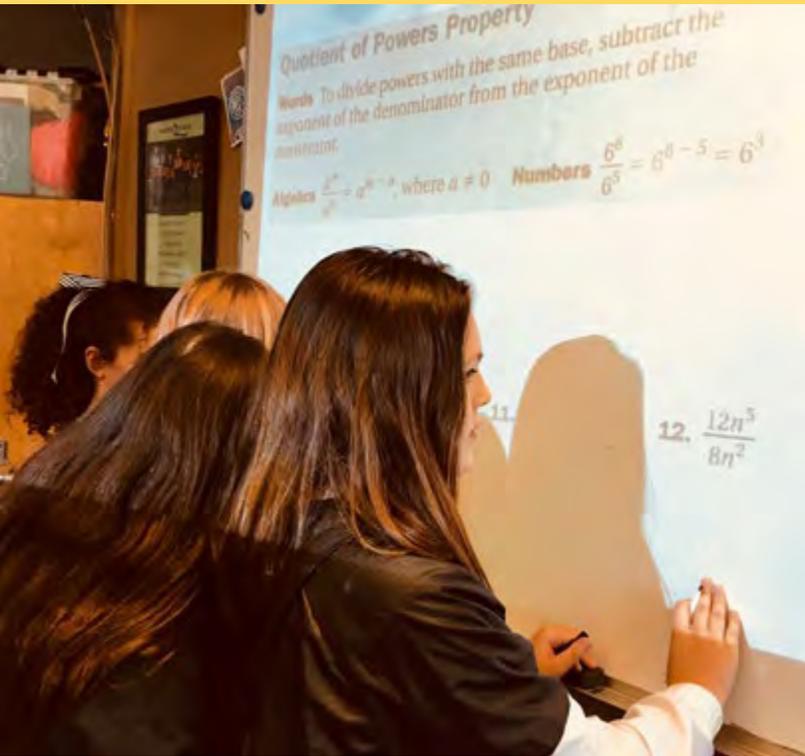
[https://www.amazon.com/Viaje-Vida-Nivel-Libro-Spanish/dp/0929724496/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1515790078&sr=8-1&keywords=el+viaje+de+su+vida](https://www.amazon.com/Viaje-Vida-Nivel-Libro-Spanish/dp/0929724496/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1515790078&sr=8-1&keywords=el+viaje+de+su+vida)

**GRADE 8:** This week seemed to be a leap forward with proficiency. Great job, 8<sup>th</sup> grade! We continue playing with *Sandra y el vestido perfecto*. We have read through slide 90. We are reading for cultural content and also changing the present tense verbs into the preterite (*past*) tense. Here is a link to the *Sandra y el vestido perfecto* page of HUACHINANGO:

<http://huachinango.wikispaces.com/Sandra+y+el+vestido+perfecto>

We, also, continue writing and talking about what we did over the weekend or the previous day after classes. Usual themes we include are food, time, family, locations, activities, and employing several irregular verbs.





Above: 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-Algebra class hard at work.

## Math with Ethan

**MATH 6:** Students started a new unit this week on Cribbage! Cribbage, a Vashon Island favorite, is a card game that helps develop mental math and number pattern recognition, and is just a great vehicle for some good old-fashioned competition with members of one's community and family. It's a game that is certainly close to my heart, having played quite a bit over the last 35 years with my Grandparents, parents, siblings, children, and friends. Math 6 students will learn to play the game, and then design and build their own Cribbage boards with the help of me and Alisara. Hearing the students chant "fifteen-two, fifteen-four, and a double-run for eight is twelve," is music to my ears!

**7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE COMPUTER SCIENCE:** 7<sup>th</sup> graders continued to develop their understanding of Java this week, using the web-based **IDE repl.it** to write their code. The students designed a program that prompts the user to enter 3 numbers, and then prints the mean average and square root of those numbers. A big thanks to Dylan, Lorelei's dad, and Jason, Ivy's dad, for some good ideas and technical support.

**8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE PRE-ALGEBRA:** Students are learning some important rules of exponents and monomial multiplication and division. The presence of exponents can have a dramatic (or even exponential) effect on how numbers grow or shrink, and the students are surprised at how easy it is to understand the rules for exponents in these problems. Some big learning happening in this unit that helps pave the way for understanding more complex math in years to come.

## Algebra with Zoë

Oh, the many ways to express an equation for a line: **slope-intercept**; **standard form**; **point-slope**. We practice using these forms, converting between the forms and identifying which is best in which situation. Tough, but rewarding!



Above: Ethan introduces Cribbage to the 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Science with Zoë

**GRADE 6:** You might say that our classroom is electric this week! It's all about electricity and magnetism: we'll build circuits, motors and generators. So much fun!

**GRADE 7:** This week, we consider genetic modification: how is it done? How is it used? What are the pros? What are the cons? Fascinating stuff!

**GRADE 8:** We look at the evolution of whales. We consider the many types of evidence that have led to our understanding of how these giant sea mammals came to be!

Below: 6<sup>th</sup> grade scientists determining the calories of peanuts.

