

news



Calendar Highlights

- 9/25: **Carpe Diem Curriculum Night**, 6:30PM at Carpe Diem (Grades K-3 parents)
-
- 9/26: **Upper Elementary Curriculum Night** 6:30PM at Harbor School (Grades 4 & 5 parents)
-
- 9/29: NOON DISMISSAL (all grades)
-
- 10/3: **Middle School Curriculum Night** 6:30PM at Harbor School (Grades 6-8 parents)
-
- 10/4: **Board Meeting** 6:30PM at Harbor School
-
- 10/10: **Race Equity Group Mtg.** 7PM at Harbor School
-
- 10/12: **Elementary Parent Conferences** No School - Grades K-5
-
- 10/13: **NO SCHOOL** NWAIS Faculty Conference
-
- 10/17: **Harbor School Student Portraits** with Marla Smith
-
- 10/20: **Elementary Parent Conferences** No School - Grades K-5
-
- 10/21: **OPEN HOUSE**, 12-2PM Harbor School campus PUBLIC WELCOME!
-
- 10/23: **High School Preview** 6:30 at Harbor School Talk to HS representatives, THS alumni and admissions staff to learn more about the high schools in our area. PUBLIC WELCOME!
-
- 10/25: **6th Grade Parent Mtg with Mark McGough** 6:30 at Harbor School

Top Left: Carpe Diem student art

Let's Play by Mark McGough

In 1962 the journal "Childhood Education" published an article titled "Play is Education" by N. V. Scarfe that contained the following passage:

"All play is associated with intense thought activity and rapid intellectual growth. The highest form of research is essentially play. Einstein is quoted as saying, 'The desire to arrive finally at logically connected concepts is the emotional basis of a vague play with basic ideas.' This combinatory or associative play seems to be the essential feature in productive thought."

It appears that it was in fact this article that led to the now famous quote attributed to Einstein, "Play is the highest form of research". Wherever the quote comes from, the idea remains solid today. Play at all levels, stages and ages, allows us to process feelings and ideas, to make new connections between apparently disparate concepts, and to understand how the world works.

Let's Play is our theme for the year. This was introduced at Camp Niwana and served to underpin most of the activities students engaged in over the course of the week from song writing, to field games, to games in the lodge, to activities with bubbles, playdough, sidewalk chalk, bats and balls, and skipping ropes. At Carpe Diem, with a larger kindergarten class than last year, we have introduced a dramatic play area and as always we have time for play throughout the school day. Allowing time for play allows us to laugh,



to experiment, to engage, and to learn. Play gives our students time to practice what they are learning and is a critical and essential part of their day at any age.

As I write this, **Leah Mann** (*mom of Kairos*) is working with our Upper Elementary class, helping them understand the science and play of *murmuration*. Later, we head out to walk the Shinglemill Creek trail to further build community, to enjoy the first day of fall, but also to play in the woods - to learn from and with each other.

I'm excited by our theme this year. Play does not replace traditional work or familiar academic learning in a formal school setting. It does, however, provide an active, engaging, and playful context within which to place our work. It strengthens and deepens learning and inspires all learners. For your children, hard work and hard play are familiar and not dissimilar. I am happy to be part of a school that values both.

[MORE NEWS >](#)

IMPORTANT DATES!

Curriculum Nights

We have made a fantastic start to the year and want to remind that you are invited to our Curriculum Nights that start this next week. Please join us to hear from your child's teacher and to learn more about the curriculum for the year.

- ▶ **CARPE DIEM Curriculum Night**
Monday, Sept. 25, 2017 | 6:30PM at Carpe Diem
- ▶ **UPPER ELEMENTARY Curriculum Night**
Tues., Sept. 26, 2017 | 6:30PM at Harbor School
- ▶ **MIDDLE SCHOOL Curriculum Night**
Tues., Oct. 3, 2017 | 6:30PM at Harbor School

2017-18 Directories

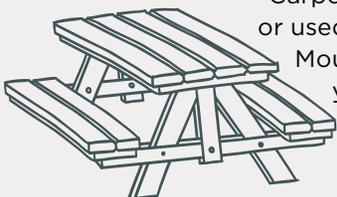
Current families should have received an email with a digital copy of our 2017-18 Directory Handbook. We expect hardcopies of the new directories to arrive next week and will be distributing them as soon as they arrive. Each family will receive one booklet as part of their enrollment. If you'd like to order additional booklets, the cost for extras are \$5 each. **If you wish to order an additional booklet, please email office@hARBORSCHOOL.ORG.**

If you have changes to your contact information during the school year, please send your edits to office@hARBORSCHOOL.ORG and we will email a revised digital version to our current families.

Race Equity Group Meeting Tuesday, October 10, 7PM

The first Race Equity Group Meeting of the school year will take place on **Tuesday, October 10 at 7pm** at Harbor School. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.

Furniture Sought



Carpe Diem is hoping to acquire a new or used picnic table to install at Jumping Mouse and have onsite for the school year. If you have a picnic table you would like to donate, please contact **Jaffrey Clark** at jaffrey@hARBORSCHOOL.ORG.

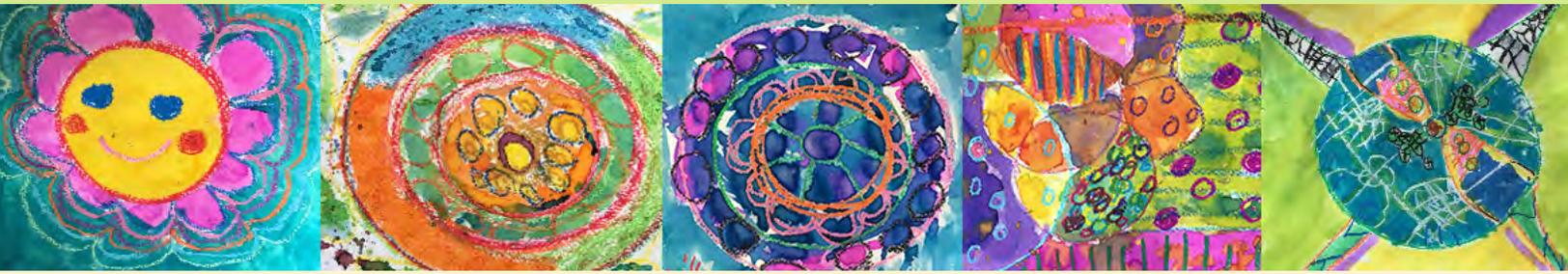
English Teacher **Todd Wooster** is in search of one or two gently used cushioned chairs to create a reading/writing space near the library in his classroom. If you would like to donate a chair, please contact Todd at todd@hARBORSCHOOL.ORG.

A promotional poster for Harbor School's Open House. The top half features a young boy in a red jacket writing at a desk. Text above him reads 'KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 8' and 'inspiring young scholars to contribute their wisdom, compassion, and personal best in the classroom, the community, and the world.' Below the boy are three signs: 'Respect *treating others as you'd like to be treated*', 'Accountability *accepting responsibility for your actions*', and 'Personal Best *setting a high personal standard*'. The middle section has the Harbor School logo and 'OPEN HOUSE SAT, OCTOBER 21 12-2PM'. The bottom section features a young girl smiling and text: 'KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 8 NEW AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM', 'ENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITIES LIMITED SPACES OPEN NOW', 'APPLICATIONS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR', 'OPEN HOUSE on main campus: 15920 Vashon Highway SW', 'RSVP at (206) 567-5955', 'admissions@hARBORSCHOOL.ORG', and 'LEARN MORE AT www.hARBORSCHOOL.ORG'. Logos for NWIS and NWAIS are in the bottom right corner.

Admissions Open House Saturday, October 21, 12-2PM

Our first Fall Open House is fast approaching. The event will be held at Harbor School on **Saturday, October 21, from 12-2PM**. This event will focus on all grades, kindergarten through 8th. Faculty and staff will be on hand to answer questions and give classroom tours.

Word of mouth and positive referrals from you, our school community, are the best ways to help us promote the educational experience at Harbor School and Carpe Diem. If you know a family who may be interested in learning more about our school, please consider inviting them and being on hand to welcome them. If you would like us to send a postcard invitation or include your referral on our prospect email distributions, please contact our Admissions Director, **Niamh Prince**, at nprince@hARBORSCHOOL.ORG. Postcards are available in the main office if you'd like to hand deliver a card to a friend. *Thank you for helping us spread the word!*



Harbor Fund 2017-18

Our Goal is \$50,000 and 100% Participation

The Harbor Fund is our annual fundraising campaign that begins each fall and ends at the conclusion of the school year. Each family is asked to participate by making a charitable donation – *no gift is too small or too large*. Families are encouraged to pledge their support at the start of the school year and to fulfill their support before the end of school in June. Our participation goal is 100% (*from our board of trustees, faculty & staff, and current families*), and our fundraising goal is \$50,000.

Supporting the Harbor Fund is a vital part of building a culture of philanthropy and giving back. All gifts are tax-deductible and directly support the academic programs and students across all grades kindergarten through 8th -- *bridging the gap* between tuition income and our yearly operating budget*.

As a non-profit organization, the charitable support from our school community is essential in helping us reach our financial goals, maintain a reasonable tuition cost for our current families, and provide financial assistance to those families in need.

**The gap between tuition income and our 2017-18 operating budget is approximately \$610 per student.*

HARBOR FUND PLEDGE FORM

Please complete a **Harbor Fund Pledge Form** by clicking on the link below. You'll have the option of choosing how you wish to make your Harbor Fund gift: one-time annual donation, recurring monthly gifts, or signing up to participate during GiveBIG. By completing a pledge form, we count your participation immediately!

PLEDGE FORM

Completed pledge forms can be delivered to the main office or emailed to office@harborschool.org. **NOTE: If you choose to make a Harbor Fund gift online today, you do not need to complete a pledge form.**

MONTHLY RECURRING GIFT

Some families choose to make a monthly recurring payment over the course of the school year. Automatic monthly withdrawals are easy to set up and provide the opportunity to give more over a longer period of time with less impact on a family's monthly budget. When you click on the link below, you will be taken to a secure donation page that provides an option for **'Make My Donation Recurring.'**

MAKE A GIFT TODAY

Questions About Giving

ASK AND WE WILL ANSWER

We invite your questions! Through the course of this school year, we will endeavor to answer questions about charitable giving. Please send your questions to **Allison Reid** at allison@harborschool.org.

Question: If our family receives financial aid, are we expected to make a gift to the Harbor Fund?

Answer: Families receiving financial aid are not always in the position of making a gift to support the Harbor Fund. We do encourage 100% participation for our families - so YES, we do ask for a gesture of support, however small. **The range of single gifts to the Harbor Fund during 2016-17 was as small as \$6 and as large as \$5,000.** Only you can decide what your family is capable of giving, and Harbor School is grateful and appreciative of each and EVERY gift.

We look forward to receiving your Questions in the coming weeks! Look for more Q&A on giving in upcoming issues of the *Cornerstone News!*

ONE-TIME ANNUAL DONATION

If you prefer to make a one-time annual gift, you can click on the MAKE A GIFT TODAY link and make a gift online right now, or complete a pledge form and indicate your preferred gift date.

MAKE A GIFT DURING GIVEBIG IN MAY

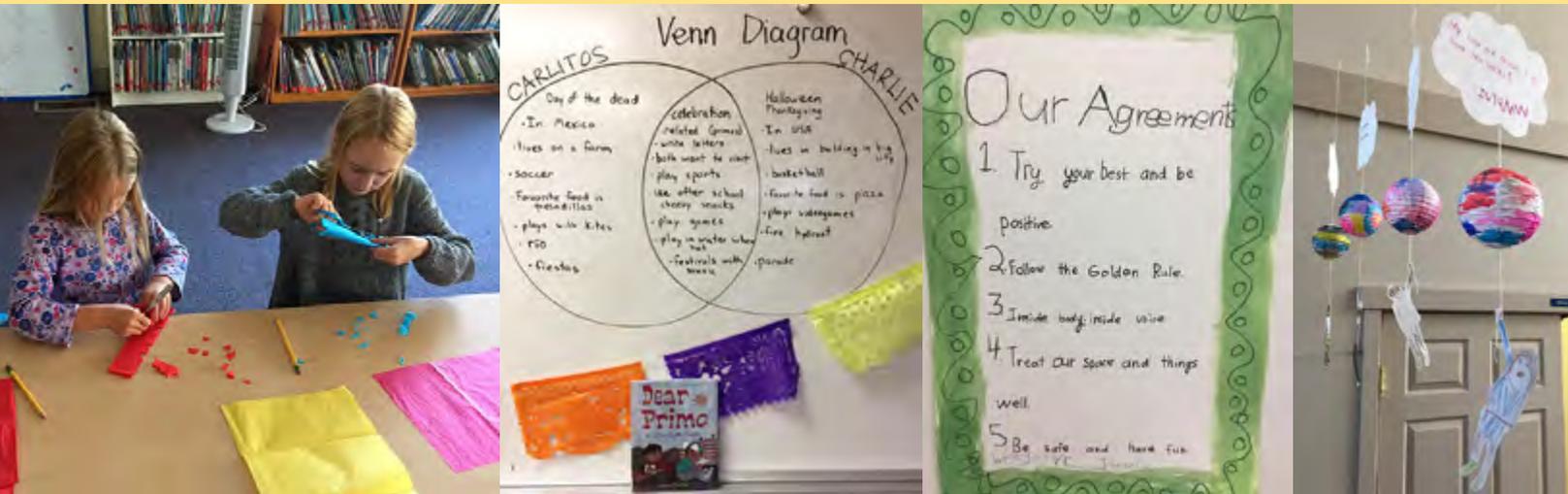
On the pledge forms there is an option to pledge now but delay your gift until GiveBIG in May – an online giving event through The Seattle Foundation. Harbor School has participated in this annual day-of-giving for the past 5 years. The 2018 GiveBIG date is announced in late February. If you choose to make a donation during GiveBIG, we will send out reminders as the date draws near.

Make Harbor School a priority in your annual charitable giving and help send a powerful message to our school community - it really does make a difference!

If you have questions about making a gift to the Harbor Fund, please contact **Allison Reid**, *Director of Advancement*, at allison@harborschool.org.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Each week the *Cornerstone News* will share highlights from our teachers and bring you news of activities that are happening in the classrooms. If you have a child in Carpe Diem, this is the page you'll want to make sure you read each week!



Learning About Mexico

We started our **Mexico** theme this week. We began by talking about culture. We used the symbol of the iceberg to talk about how there are both visible surface elements of culture as well as 'deep' culture. Students helped make this iceberg visual that will be kept up for the year.

We then went on to read a story about two cousins, one of whom lived in a big city in the United States and another of whom lived in a small town in Mexico. We compared and contrasted the two boys using a *Venn diagram* and then compared our own lives to those of the two boys from the book. Students were surprised to see how much they had in common with the boy from the small town while in many ways it was harder to relate to big city culture!

Finally this week we explored *papel picado*, or 'cut paper,' a traditional decoration and craft that is common in Mexico. Students learned how to make *papel picado* from tissue paper and were quite industrious! Our classroom will now be decorated with their work. It has been a great start to our 2017-18 themes and we look forward to studying geography of Mexico next week!

Hopes & Dreams

We started our year at Carpe Diem talking about our hopes and dreams for the school year. We made a list of all the reasons of why we come to school and then each student chose a couple of hopes and dreams. We honored these hopes and dreams by creating art projects that now decorate the main hallway!

We then used these art projects to discuss the behaviors we all need to follow so that everyone can achieve success in their hope and dream. Through these discussions students decided on agreements for the school year. These agreements are now posted in all of our classrooms!

Spanish with Profe

Welcome and welcome back! We are off to a great start learning numbers 0-30, introducing ourselves, and following classroom directions in Spanish. We are also beginning to describe ourselves and others with words like strong, brave, clever, and beautiful. I look forward to our journey ahead.

Here is the link to my wikispace, **HUACHINANGO**.
<http://huachinango.wikispaces.com/>

I built this wikispace several years ago, I continue to update and expand it's content. Please bookmark this address for use at home. We use many of these pages in class and they are great reinforcement at home. I have also heard they work well in the ferry line or on long car trips. - *Profe*

Conference Sign-Up

It is time to sign up for the October Carpe Diem Conferences with Andrea, Jaffrey and Kate!

IMPORTANT ITEMS TO NOTE:

1. Your child's conference will be either **Thursday, October 12** or **Friday, October 20**, depending on which date and time you select.
2. On the day of your child's conference, your child will only come to school during your scheduled conference time. On the day that your child does not have a conference, your child will not come to school as there are no Carpe Diem classes or activities scheduled on conference days.
3. Once we have all of the scheduling requests in, we will publish a schedule that reflects your child's conference time.

Please click the link below to let us know your TOP THREE conference time preferences.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6VWZRL5>
 Thank you for your attention to this matter!

Each week the *Cornerstone News* will share highlights from our teachers and bring you news of activities that are happening in the classrooms. If you have a child in the Upper Elementary, this is the page you'll want to make sure you read each week!

Getting Started in U.E.

Wow! We have been busy having fun, learning about each other and about ourselves. I have been so impressed with the returning students being flexible with the changes this year. They are great about letting me know how something ran worked last year. They are also very understanding and quick to follow along when something is different from how they did it before.

This week, we have started filling out checklists to find out about our different types of intelligence. We are finding out about how each of us learns, interacts with the world and what we are interested in. The cool part is not finding out how we are different but finding the spaces where we overlap and have commonalities.

We had our first Classroom Meeting on Wednesday. We had a great session that Steve and I led. We talked about the structure of classroom meeting and how it was a time to work on any issues, positive and negative, that may come up in our days together at school. Next week, we will start with 5th grade student leaders. I chose the returning 5th graders to put on the schedule first as they know the basic structure of how to run a classroom meeting. I let all of the 5th graders know that they had an option to pass on their first round of leading the meeting if they were not comfortable enough yet.

I can't tell you enough what a great bunch of kids we have in the class. Everyone is seeming to be more comfortable everyday. There are new friendships forming and a safe place is being created so that we can all take risks that will help us all grow! - *Joleen*

Spanish with Profe

Welcome and welcome back! We are off to a great start learning numbers 0-30, introducing ourselves, using weather terms, and following classroom directions in Spanish. I am SO pleased with how our students engage and have already garnered multiple victories on our journey to higher proficiency. I shared with our students that our first day was possibly the single most impressive opening day of classes of my career. *Thank you, students! Thank you, parents!*

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Conference Sign Up

It is time to sign up for the October 2017 Upper Elementary Conferences with Joleen and Steve!

IMPORTANT ITEMS TO NOTE:

1. Your child's conference will be either **Thursday, October 12** or **Friday, October 20**, depending on which date and time you select.
2. On the day of your child's conference, your child will only come to school during your scheduled conference time. On the day that your child does not have a conference, your child will not come to school as there are no Upper Elementary classes or activities scheduled on conference days.
3. Once we have all of the scheduling requests in, we will publish a schedule that reflects your child's conference time.

Here is what we need from you at this point: please click the link below to let us know your TOP THREE conference time preferences.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PWYXD8Q>



[Friday's hike on the Shinglemill Creek trail >](#)

Each week the *Cornerstone News* will share highlights from our teachers and bring you news of activities that are happening in the classrooms. If you have a Middle Schooler, this is the page you'll want to make sure you read each week!

English with Todd

6TH Grade

We dove into our writing workshop. We began the well by constructing lists of possible writing topics and ideas, and the students then choose an item from that list to develop further. We've already seen some fascinating pieces: a historical fiction piece set during the Black Plague, a series of poems about rain, a persuasive defense of a character from *The Office*, a personal narrative about Camp Niwana, even a dramatic tale about a family of raccoons. I love the variety of ideas and genres!

Next week we will continue our writing, and we will start discussing and employing various writing strategies to aid us in our projects. What an invigorating first week!

7TH Grade

We began an investigation into the idea of story. We began by brainstorming what we thought the elements of a story are, and from there we discussed and defended our opinions as to how those elements come together to form an effective story. We then took our categories and used them as lenses through which to look at a short story by Edward P. Jones entitled *The First Day*. Students also began their own forays into storytelling, as they each came up with several 'six word short stories' of their own (*modeled after the famous six word story often erroneously attributed to Ernest Hemingway: "For sale: baby shoes, never worn."*) Students had fun paring down a tale to its barest elements, and there were some intriguing entries! Next week we dive into reading our short story collection; I can't wait to see what our students can do with them!

8TH Grade

We began our investigation of American poetry (*and of poetry as a literary genre*). We started the week by doing a close reading of Robert Frost's classic poem, *The Road Not Taken*, and tried to see how it contains several layers of possible meanings. Ask an 8th grader about how the poem might mean more than what it is traditionally taken to mean - they'll be happy to enlighten you! From there, we read two poems by the recently deceased John Ashbery and modeled our own poems off of them. Students were thoughtful, playful, and courageous with their writing, and I was struck by the maturity of a number of the poems. Next week we will look more closely at the elements of poetry, starting with an examination of some poems by Emily Dickinson.



Scenes from the 8th Grade hike up Mt. Townsend.

Spanish with Profe

Welcome and welcome back! In Middle School, we are writing, in our planners, what we did in class and/or the homework assignment each day. Students are to have their planners signed or initialed by a parent, each day. Thanks for your part in our process!

6TH Grade

Bad Baby! In addition to introducing ourselves, counting 0-30, using ordinal numbers, interrogative words, following classroom directions, and naming the world around us, we are playing with a story called *El Bebe*, (*The Baby*). This baby doesn't listen to his mom, runs around the table at Pizza Hut, and hits his friend. Reading, writing, drawing Picture Dictionaries, Readers' Theater, interpreting and producing storyboards are media through which we are playing with this baby.

I am so pleased with how our students are staying in Spanish, engaging, and quickly acquiring the target language. Special acknowledgements to our new students who have bravely dived into the deep end with us--**REALLY IMPRESSIVE JOB!**

7TH Grade

Bad Baby! In addition to introducing ourselves, counting 0-30, using ordinal numbers, interrogative words, following classroom directions, and naming the world around us, we are playing with a story called *El Bebe*, (*The Baby*). This baby doesn't listen to his mom, runs around the table at Pizza Hut, and hits his friend. Reading, writing, drawing Picture Dictionaries, Readers' Theater, interpreting and producing storyboards are media through which we are playing with this baby.

I am so pleased with how our students are staying in Spanish, engaging, and quickly acquiring the target language. The tremendous victories we celebrated last year provide a substantial platform for a fertile year ahead. We will begin reading a new novel soon. *Tumba* is a great cultural story of Día de los Muertos which will provide opportunities, in addition to acquiring new vocabulary, to compare/contrast cultural elements including subjects like school schedules and even, uniforms! Playing with these topics should be fun and lively.

8TH Grade

I am so pleased with how our students are staying engaged in Spanish and quickly acquiring the target language. Our energy and focus the first week has been impressive. I look forward to a fun and productive year. We will begin reading a new novel soon. *Tumba* is a great cultural story of *Día de los Muertos* which will provide opportunities, in addition to acquiring new vocabulary, to compare/contrast cultural elements including subjects like school schedules and even, uniforms! Playing with these topics should be fun and lively.

For All Middle School Parents:

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Science with Zoe

All classes have been working to answer the question, "What is Science?" and brushing up their measurement skills. They all completed multiple labs this week, always working with focus and joy! One big highlight of the week were the squeals of joy during a lab exploring the volume of liquids: "**Test tubes! Colored liquids! Pipettes! It's all so science-y!**"

Next week we dive into the first units of the year:

8TH Grade

The Human Body

7TH Grade

From Molecules to Organisms

6TH Grade

Matter and Its Interactions



Are you a boy in kindergarten through 5th grade?
Do you and your family like to...

- Meet with a group of other boys your age for an hour or two, every other week
- Get together with scouts of other ages at monthly pack meetings
- Go camping and hiking, learn outdoor skills
- Build a pinewood derby race car, launch rockets, and explore other STEM topics
- Give back to the community with service projects
- ...and explore new hobbies while learning about good citizenship?

→ Consider **Cub Scouting with Pack 275!**

- an inclusive, welcoming troop without religious or political affiliation.
- no previous experience necessary -- jump right in at any age!
- annual dues: \$65, handbook (English or Spanish) \$13, uniforms: free to \$70... *no one turned away for lack of funds!*

Learn more:

- At an information meeting: **Monday, September 25th, 6:30-8:00pm** at **Vashon Sportsman's Club**, Singer Rd SW (next to the cemetery) -- traductor disponible a pedido!



- Additional questions? Contact our parent-volunteer leaders at vashoncubleaders@googlegroups.com or Jenny at 206-795-3996 (txt ok)



Teaching Mindfulness To Children And Youth



Join us at the Puget Sound Zen Center Sunday October 1 at 10am for a service including guest speaker Brigid Normand.

Brigid is Program Development Manager at Committee for Children. She works with a team of developers to create research-based curricula that teaches self-regulation and social and emotional skills.

Puget Sound Zen Center
Sunday October 1
10am-12pm

Suggested donation: \$5-\$20

15401 Westside Highway
(The Havurah)

pszc.org

Our first Sunday services include tea and chanting; meditation and a talk for adults; stories, games, and activities for children; and a potluck afterwards. All are welcome. Questions? Email kids@pszc.org