

CORNERSTONE

Newsletter for Harbor School & Carpe Diem Primary community

news

Calendar

- 9/24: Carpe Diem Open House, Saturday 12-2pm
at Carpe Diem Primary
- 9/29: Carpe Diem Curriculum Night at 6:30pm
at Carpe Diem Primary
- 9/30: Jumping Mouse!
Carpe Diem Primary
- 10/4: Middle School Curriculum Night at 6:30pm
at Harbor School
- 10/7: Carpe Diem & Upper Elementary Conferences
No School for Carpe Diem and Upper Elementary kids
- 10/13: Carpe Diem & Upper Elementary Conferences
No School for Carpe Diem and Upper Elementary kids
- 10/14: No School
Faculty Professional Development
- 10/15: THS Open House, Saturday 12-2pm
at Harbor School
- 10/18: Carpe Diem Open House, Tuesday, 7pm
at Carpe Diem Primary
- 10/21: Jumping Mouse!
Carpe Diem Primary
- 10/24: High School Preview Monday, 6:30pm
at Harbor School and open to the public
- 10/21: Jumping Mouse!
Carpe Diem Primary
- 11/04: Early Dismissal at Noon
THS & CD
- 11/11: NO SCHOOL
Veterans Day

TOP CORNER ART:
Cat by Freddy Langley, Grade 6

REFLECTIONS by Mark McGough

I have an amazing job. On most days this week, by the time it is 11:00AM, I have chatted with kids and parents as they arrive at school, joined 8th grade as they stare intently at dancing paramecium, heard 7th graders reflect on Todd's quote of the day (*an example being, "The best way out, is always through"* by Robert Frost), watched 6th graders unveil their emerging understanding of the three branches of government, marveled once again at the endless ways to resolve equations with positive and negative numbers, sat in with Team Pizazz as they continue to discover their own community and emanate such amazing early morning energy, and visited Carpe Diem to take part in their fantastic morning circle and join in as they head off to their small core group instruction in reading, writing and math. It is truly an inspiring way to spend my mornings. The depth of learning and the diversity of experiences is something of which everyone of us can be truly proud.

Your children are focused, intelligent, welcoming, and warm individuals who help us create the unique feel of our school.

Camp Personal Best

Camp Niwana has come and gone and with it a week of perfect weather and **personal best**. It's an interesting concept - **personal best** - and I spent some time last week reflecting on how best we clarify and talk about that idea with our students, and articulate it with you, our families. **Personal best** for some may be surviving four nights of sleeping in a cabin. **Personal best** for others may be getting on the bus on Monday morning to head out to camp. For others still, the four nights out in the fresh Northwest nights is nothing more than exactly what they want, and not a challenge at all. So what does **personal best** mean for those among us? Is it committing 100% to every activity? Is it ensuring that they are inclusive in as many ways as possible?

As I sat outside my tent and the beautiful harvest moon rose over a quiet camp, I reflected on how I would articulate what my own **personal best** was for the week. Was it

simply survival? Or was there more I could expect from myself to ensure that when I crashed at home on Friday, I was certain that I had given my **personal best**.

And as I reflected on all these questions and watched students dance to YMCA, fire arrows at targets, swim, build fairy houses, wash their dishes, contemplate leadership and prepare their cabins and tents for inspection, it became apparent that **personal best** requires at least two things. It requires inspiration - I needed the energy of others and leaders in the group to inspire me to be better than I thought I could be. It also requires self-awareness - a knowledge of who I am and what I can do in order for me to demand more of myself.

And that, in a nutshell, is a skill that develops over a lifetime of work and play. And yet it is one that we are wholly committed to instilling in all of our students - from Kindergarten thru Grade 8. Knowledge of self will allow us to know how much more we can expect from ourselves. If we know that, and we stretch ourselves to be the best we can be, then when we fall asleep at night we will know that we have done our best - our **personal best**.



It's a Hula Hoop kind of day!
PE class exercising outdoors
with hoops on a sunny day.

MORE NEWS >



Jake Guadnola

MEET OUR TRUSTEES

Jake Guadnola

Throughout this school year, we hope to feature a monthly snapshot of a member of our Board of Trustees. Each trustee was asked to answer a few key questions, some serious and some not, so that members of our community can get to know who these dedicated volunteers are and why they are committed to helping our school.

Our first featured trustee is **Jake Guadnola**, who joined the Board in 2014. Jake is the Director of the Upper School at Annie Wright Schools in Tacoma where he has worked since 2000. He earned his BA from Pomona College and his EdM from Harvard University. He is also an alumni of Bellarmine Preparatory in Tacoma.

What was your relationship to Harbor School before you became a board member?

I guess you would say I was an admirer, having worked with many Harbor School alumni at Annie Wright over the years.

Why did you want to join our Board?

I joined the Board because I have always been tremendously impressed with Harbor School's rich, experience-based learning; it seems to imbue students with confident creativity and self-knowledge. I believe such educational opportunities are desperately needed in our region, and the opportunity to contribute to one in my own backyard seemed like an opportunity I couldn't pass up.

What is something you like most about Harbor School?

It's likely a bell that will be rung many times, but I am a big fan of the Travel Study program. Experiences like these transform students in ways that in class experiences simply can't.

Besides education, what are other areas that are near and dear to your heart?

I believe strongly in supporting non-profit ventures, particularly those targeting youth. Hand in hand with this, I believe young people today need to understand the importance and power of philanthropy, particularly reflective, strategic, philanthropy. I work with a non-profit called *Make the Dash Count* that strives to teach high school students the role philanthropy can and does play in shaping community

What can you share about yourself that our families might find interesting?

With my two boys—Gus and Luke—I developed a math card game for kids. It's called *Dragon Slay*. We had an absolute blast building the game's mechanics, sketching the cards, etc. Look for the Kickstarter sometime in the next year.

What is your favorite flavor of ice cream?

Easy. Cookie dough.

Thanks, Jake!

Would you like to ask our Board of Trustees a question? Is there an article you'd like to see written? Please feel free to email your suggestions to allison@harborschool.org.



Open House this Saturday at CARPE DIEM CAMPUS

Just a quick reminder that we are holding an Open House for prospective families interested in learning more about our Carpe Diem Program, grades K - 3, this Saturday from 12-2PM.

Please join us, bring a friend, or just pop by to say 'hello!' We'd love to see you.



Adela performs at Camp Niwana during the Variety Show.



More musical talent - Atticus on piano.

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Let's Grow the Harbor Fund!

100% PARTICIPATION IS OUR GOAL

Thank you to the families who made their donations and pledges this past week. We have just begun to move our Harbor Fund thermometer as we set a goal of 100% participation by our school community.

If you would like to make your gift today and see our thermometer grow, please click on the button below for a digital Pledge Form or to make your gift directly online.

5%

[DOWNLOAD PLEDGE FORM](#)

[DONATE ONLINE NOW](#)

New Playset Opens

On Sunday, September 19, a group of volunteers raced to complete the playset frame and make sure the pea gravel was evenly distributed. There was much urgency to make sure it came together in time for students returning on Monday after a week away at Camp Niwana. When Monday arrived, the rain held off and the students gathered around the new play equipment before the first class of the day. There was much excitement and Mark took the first "official" slide down. The new play area was open for business.

Thank you to everyone who gave their time and financial support to make this happen! Students are thrilled and the playset is a hub of activity now!



In the Community

Educational Therapist on Vashon Island to receive certification as a Dyslexia Therapist by the International Dyslexia Association

OFFERING INDIVIDUALIZED SUPPORT TO STRUGGLING LEARNERS

Mary Blomgren McFarlin, an educational therapist since 2006, will be receiving her certification as a Dyslexia Therapist by the International Dyslexia Association this fall. Mary's research-based, systematic, multi-sensory intervention is available to students of all ages on Vashon Island. She currently has several openings in her schedule for new students. Educational therapy strengthens the underlying cognitive, sensory and perceptual weaknesses which cause difficulties in a variety of academic areas, including reading, spelling, writing, and math. In a one-on-one intensive and interactive setting, students' thinking skills are strengthened as they develop tools for independent learning.

Educational therapy helps students become more competent, confident learners!

Contact: Mary Blomgren McFarlin, M.A., PCET
Professionally Certified Educational Therapist
Certified Feuerstein Instrumental Enrichment Provider
mcfarlin2@gmail.com | (206) 229 - 8196



PHOTO: Carpe Diem students spent time learning about insects this week and then building their own creations!

Fun for the Family

