

news

Highlights

- 10/31: **Poet's Afternoon**
1-3PM at Carpe Diem
- 11/01: **HOS Coffee Morning**
9:05AM at Carpe Diem
Parent coffee chat with Mark
- High School Test Prep Class for 8th Graders**
3-4:30PM (optional)
- 11/2: **Día de los Muertos**
1:30PM at Harbor School
- Art Exhibit Opening**
Bellarmine Prep in Tacoma
(see page 9 for details)
- 11/3: **HOS Coffee Morning**
8:05AM at Harbor School
-  **NOON DISMISSAL**
All grades
- 11/5: **Daylight Savings**
Set your clocks back 1 hour!
- 11/8: **High School Test Prep Class for 8th Graders**
3-4:30PM (optional)
- Race Equity Book Club Reading**
4-5PM at Vashon Library
- Race Equity Focus Group**
7PM at Harbor School
- 11/9: **Game Time!**
4-5PM at Harbor School
with Admission Q&A to follow for interested families
- 11/10: **NO SCHOOL**
Veterans Day Observed
- 11/13: **WS Education Fair**
7PM at Alki Masonic Center
(see page 8 for details)
- 11/15: **OPEN HOUSE**
6:30PM at Harbor School
- 11/16: **PROMISED LAND**
Documentary Film Screening
6:30PM at Harbor School

11/22 - 11/24

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Corner Art: 6th Grade collaboration

A Week With No Wheels

I ended last week's *Cornerstone News* article by looking forward to another exciting week. I got what I wanted!

On Tuesday, 6th grade took a trip to VCA to hear the first in a series of Art History talks. It turned out they were the only class this week that we were able to shuttle to an event on the bus!

Wednesday morning when I went to start the school bus so I could pick up our West Seattle students from the ferry it wouldn't start. I guessed that the battery was flat and started figuring out how to collect more kids than would fit in my car. Thankfully, Joleen arrived at about that time and we drove to the ferry in two cars to collect the students. Later, when I went to jump start the bus it turned out that the battery had been stolen, along with the on-board fire extinguisher. On any day this would be bad news. On Wednesday it was made worse by the fact that this was the day that grades 3-8 were going to VCA. We had arranged to listen to two alumni parents and former board members, **Bruce Morser** and **Bob Horsley**, share watercolor paintings and tales from their summer bike ride across the United States. It was a bad day to be 'busless' but after some flexibility, rethinking, and volunteering, we were able to get all students to the VCA on time to

enjoy a great talk by our two friends.

On Thursday we faced a similar but much more manageable challenge as we shuttled 8th graders down to be an audience for our Carpe Diem students as they rehearsed for their upcoming *Poet's Afternoon*. It was great to hear our 8th graders giving thoughtful and supportive feedback to our younger students. Equally impressive was the feedback from Carpe Diem students to our 8th graders on their presence in the audience.

Finally, with the bus still out of service, 7th grade took advantage of the sunny Friday to walk down to Carpe Diem and back so they could participate in the *Crafternoon*. Seeing our older students interact and learn from and with our younger students was one of the great pleasures of my week and something I hope we will do with greater regularity this year.

As Todd said on Wednesday when we had returned to school, it was great to see the staff, faculty and parents pull together to ensure our long planned trip to VCA happened. It was indeed, and it was equally impressive to see our students out and about taking advantage of learning in the community. Long may it continue!

-Mark McGough

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Bob Horsley (left) and Bruce Morser (right) share their cross-country story with students at VCA.

Día de los Muertos

Thursday, November 2



Please join us for our annual cultural gathering celebrating *Día de los Muertos*, **Thursday, November 2**, on THS campus, beginning at 1:30 pm. This is an all school event, Kindergarten through 8th Grade. All family, friends, and members of the community are welcome.

We will gather for cultural information and sharing followed by a tour of 8th Grade projects, decorations provided by 6th and 7th Grades, and Sugar Skulls crafted by Upper Elementary students. Cultural projects done with Alisara in art classes will also be on display. As we reflect on the holiday and view projects, as is our custom, we will feast on cultural food of the holiday.

7th & 8th Grade families are invited to bring a dish to share. We are hoping to focus on culturally authentic food of the holiday but, of course, if you have your favorite Mexican dish you wish to bring, all gifts are appreciated.

COMING UP!

HARBOR SCHOOL & CARPE DIEM RACE EQUITY BOOK CLUB INVITE YOU TO A

BOOK READING

Reading Aloud Stories Inspired by Refugee Experiences

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8
4PM at Vashon Public Library
in the Meeting Room
For children in grades K - 5

FEATURED BOOKS INCLUDE:

- "Stepping Stones: A Refugee Family's Journey"
Written by Margriet Ruess | Art by Neer Al Bah
- "Somos como las nubes" (We Are Like the Clouds)
Written by Jorge Arzueta | Illustrated by Adriano Ruess
- "Our Table of Memories"
Edited by Maria Ann Wacht | Illustrated by Morgan Wright

Over a month, Harbor School & Carpe Diem's Race Equity Book Club invites the Vashon community to read aloud age-appropriate children's books that introduce faiths and people that have been typically underrepresented in children's books. We aim to engage the youngest early readers in kindergarten through 5th grade. These events also include games and creative movement!

FREE | PUBLIC WELCOME



Mark (standing) with our Trivia Night winners, the Black Swans (Darryl Shannon, Michelle Cohen & Tony Furr).

A Night of Trivia

Last Thursday night, more than a dozen parents gathered at Snapdragon Restaurant to enjoy a night of "trivial matters!" Hosted by Mark with former trustee and alumni parent Norine Martinsen on score keeping, there were enough participants to form 4 team - *The Greeners*, *Black Swans*, *White Swans*, and *Triple Threat*. After 8 rounds of challenging (and hysterical) questions, the Black Swans emerged as the winners. Congratulations to all who used their wit and wisdom! We will plan our next Trivia Night for 2018!

GAME TIME!
FOR CHILDREN GRADES K - 5

FREE!
MATH IS FUN!

FUN ACTIVITIES GALORE!

THURSDAY NOV 9 4-5PM

Game Time Relocates

Due to an event at the Presbyterian Church on November 9, we will be moving our Game Time activities to Harbor School's Upper Elementary classrooms. Invite your friends and join in the math learning fun beginning at 4PM. *Game Time* is designed for students in grades K - 5.

Trick or Treat

The staff at the Presbyterian Church (where Carpe Diem is located) have invited us to join them in handing out treats on Halloween. Stop by on your trick-or-treating excursions this week!

“Math is Cool” Returns with Ethan Cudaback

Back by popular demand... **Math is Cool!**

Math is Cool is a statewide competition where same-grade students test their math chops against one another through a series of friendly timed quizzes and activities, in both independent and small group settings. We have been preparing for the competition every Thursday after school from 3-4PM. Even though the competition has been the catalyst for our weekly meetings, these meetings have become an opportunity for students who really enjoy math to stretch their abilities with advanced math problems, regardless of a student's interest in competing. Once again, any student who is interested in challenging themselves mathematically is welcome to join us on Thursdays after school. - *Ethan*

HS Preview Recap

Our annual High School Preview was held last Monday, October 23, and featured representatives from The Northwest School, VHS, Annie Wright Schools, Charles Wright Academy, and Bellarmine Prep. We had expected the folks from SAMI, SOTA and IDEA to be on hand but they had a last minute emergency and were unable to attend. We've asked them to send over admissions information to share with our school community and will let you know as soon as we've received it.

We'd like to thank our alumni **Nick Spranger '14** and **Jacob Gold '14** for representing Bellarmine Prep; **Kai McAlpin Godsey '17** for representing The Northwest School; and **Isabelle Spence '16** for representing Vashon High School. Special thanks to **Callie** and **Emerson, Shannon** and **Harley**, and **Braia** for bringing refreshments!

If you missed the event or have questions, please contact **Niamh Prince**, our Admissions Director, at nprince@harborschool.org.

Guests visiting with school representatives during our High School Preview event last week.



The Harbor Fund

At Harbor School we believe in a culture of philanthropy. The generosity of our community through volunteerism, participation and support ensure that our school remains an incredible place of learning, where strong relationships with our peers are forged, and the talents and skills of our faculty and staff continue to grow.

Our sincere thanks to those of you who made your Harbor Fund gifts or pledges in the last week. We have reached 12% of our overall goal of \$50,000.



“Harbor School gives a student the perfect mix of challenge and support. This work ethic that Harbor School inspires in its students has brought out the best in me.”

- Alumni, Class of 2010

12%
RAISED

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Water Play!



Our Ofrenda!

7th Grade Helpers

Weaving Community

As I was selecting photos for this issue of *Cornerstone News*, I was struck by a theme running through them all - **Community**. For many, that's why we live on this island, and that's what we love about our school. Bringing in community members like **Nidia Chavez** and **Patty** who generously share their talents with us enriches our learning and weaves through our community in new and richer ways. Having the 8th graders come listen to our young students practicing for *Poet's Afternoon* was another way to pull our community strands a little tighter. On our **ofrenda** altar, photos of all of our loved ones sit side by side and we remember them, together.

As teachers we work to create a positive community in our classroom. Watching the kids of all grades engaged in water play during our wet days work was a beautiful example of our community spirit. At outside play, a group of kids worked to dig a waterway, while others filled a bin with water from the large puddle that had formed on our soccer field. It was so heavy they all had to grab a side to carry it together to the hill. After they made sure all had gathered to watch, the exciting moment arrived: pouring the water and watching it rush down the hill! A hearty cheer went up. I cheered for the water, and also for our special community! -*Andrea*

Classroom Meetings with Peggy

Hi Families! Here's what we've been up to in our classroom meeting on Monday afternoons.

Owls: We have spent the last two weeks learning about peer pressure. Here are the steps you may want to reinforce at home.

1. **Tell the person why you are not going to do it.**
2. **Say what you are going to do instead.**
3. **Walk away and say, "come with me."**

So you may say, "I don't think we are allowed to go off the school grounds so I am going to swing instead." Walk away and turn behind you and say, "Come with me." You can try this with puppets too. We also talked about peer pressure being either spoken or unspoken, big or small and the different forms it can take. And then Weston shared with us the wise words of his mom, "Listen to your belly." I call that the Uh-oh feeling.

I had so much fun with the owls the other day. They are such a sweet and friendly group of kids. They work very well together.

Hawks: The Hawks are also delightful, but in a very different way. They are curious and it is very fun to watch the second graders taking care of the younger kids and showing their leadership skills.

We have been continuing to talk about the rise of emotions—*small, medium and large*. Since these guys like puppets, I'm going with it and having a lot of fun. Yesterday, Gloria the grasshopper taught the kids about her rising emotions when she couldn't find anything to eat. She then taught them the **4 B's**, a strategy we also used last year. Here are the steps:

B is for Brakes (do something to get all that angry energy out).

B is for Breathe (take a few deep breathes)

B is for Brain (talk to yourself and tell yourself a positive message)

B is for Body (put your hand on your heart and feel your body calm down).

We also read a book called *It's Okay to Be Different* by Todd Parr.

I hope this helps you reinforce these ideas at home. Please feel free to share topics with me. The peer pressure lessons came from a parent's request.

Interviewing Classmates and 8th Grade Buddies

In our continuation of our theme, *Passport to You*, we began to talk about interviews that we will do with someone in our family in the next few weeks. We brainstormed what type of questions are best for interviews. We all decided that questions that elicited one-word answers could be changed to a question that could allow for more conversation. We also talked about the interesting bits of information that pop up in an interview that you may want to know more about. We came up with some ways to get more details out of the interviewee. One of the phrases that we came up with is, "Tell me more about _____." We discussed and practiced how to write down key words or phrases during the interview so that we could go back and use our notes to tell about that person. Finally, we interviewed classmates with a list of questions and strategies that would help us to have a successful interview. Next week, we will interview our 8 grade buddies with the same questions and with the same strategies.

On Wednesday, we had a chance to go to VCA to learn about the exhibit they have going on now. The exhibit was the Bob and Bruce Bicycle Talk and Watercolor show. Both Bruce and Bob are alumni parents and also bicycling friends. They went on a two-month ride from Boston to Vashon this past summer. They stopped each day to do a watercolor painting of something that they thought was beautiful or interesting. They gave a great presentation on how they dreamed up the trip, the planning, a pinned map of every stop along the way, and a display of each painting. It was inspiring to hear about the obstacles they faced along the way and the perseverance that a trip like this takes. We were all in awe!

[MORE NEWS >](#)

Photos: Visiting VCA to hear from Bob & Bruce (top photo); "Let's Play" puzzling time (middle photo); and "Let's Play" bubble-making (bottom photo).





7th graders spent the afternoon at Carpe Diem helping out with Crafternoon activities and joining the fun!



Math with Ethan

MATH 6: For the Math 6 students, it's fractions to decimals, and exploring how a number changes when you multiply it by 0.56. The students are eager to demonstrate their attention to detail with the traditional algorithms, as well as show other methods that work best for them. Students love to use the whiteboards at the front of the class, and this helps generate full-class discussions that benefit all.

MATH 7: The Math 7 students are neck-deep in their *"Where Does the Time Go?"* Project (credit to Kim Thal). As they record how they spend each minute of a 3-day time period, they determine the average number of hours spent per day/week/year on each activity, then calculate what percent of their week is spent on each activity. The conversations in the classroom are hilarious, as students exclaim *"Do I really spend an average of 459.26 hours a year playing video games?!"* The students will wrap-up the project with a reflection paper on how they use their time, and how that time-usage may change based on their findings.

ALGEBRA: As 8th graders dive head-first into the waters of Algebra, they work on articulating what an algebraic equation actually means. *"What number, divided by 13 is equal to 17?"* They perform the balancing act, remembering that whatever operation you perform on one side of the equation, must also be performed on the other side, with the goal of always trying to isolate the unknown.

Science with Zoë

6th grade: Students are becoming experts at describing atoms- both their structure and how they bond with each other to form compounds. If you ask them to explain how the periodic table works (*there is one in their planner*), you might be amazed at their geeky knowledge!

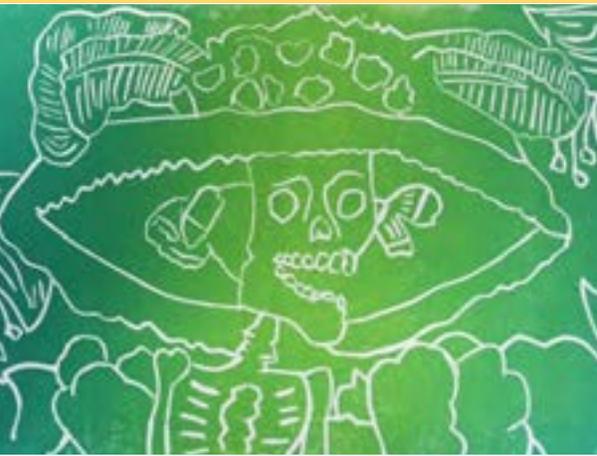
7th grade: We are taking a close look at plant structures. Students are taking apart and examining stems and leaves. They also began an experiment, growing 4 plants each in order to explore how plants grow, develop and photosynthesize. Try this: say "Wisconsin Fast Plants" at the dinner table.

8th grade: Students wrote incredible tales of food as it traveled through the digestive system. There were squirms and squeals as we prepare to dissect a pig heart (*this week!*).

English with Todd

On Thursday, the 8th grade visited Carpe Diem to watch a rehearsal for *Poet's Afternoon*. Carpe Diem students recited poems (*some that they had written themselves*), and they sang several songs as well. I think I can speak for the 8th grade in saying that we were all extremely impressed! Everyone was struck by the confidence and speaking skills of the younger students; I couldn't believe how long some of the recited poems were! We even had time afterwards for a joint recess session. Nice job, Carpe Diem! Good luck on Tuesday afternoon, and hopefully the 8th graders can present some poems to you in a couple of weeks!

[MORE MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS >](#)



6th graders getting ready for Dia de los Muertos with their collaborative print designs!

Social Studies with Laretta

6TH Grade: We listened to the ancient Greek creation story this week. A wonderful tale that begins with Chaos (*an awakening*), and ends with a battle between Zeus and his dear old dad, Cronos. Students will continue to listen to different voices re-telling these classic myths even while learning more factual information about this important culture.

7th Grade: Students wrapped up their Comparative Religion unit debating the question of whether religion was still important in 21st Century America. Students did a fantastic job being engaged, respectful debaters. I should add that the YES team was pronounced the winner of the debate.

8th Grade: Students are hard at work determining the overall character of our founding fathers. I can't wait to see what their process of discovery turns up.

Art with Alisara

The 6th grade worked in teams today to cut designs that the 8th grade started for the *Dia de los Muertos* celebration this week.

The 8th grade worked to prepare their pieces for display at Bellarmine Preparatory School and Harbor School. They cut mats, drilled holes, wired fasteners, and mounted pieces. They had a great blend of aesthetics and math as they ensured their pieces were hanging or matted to hang evenly on the wall. *Great job 8th grade!*

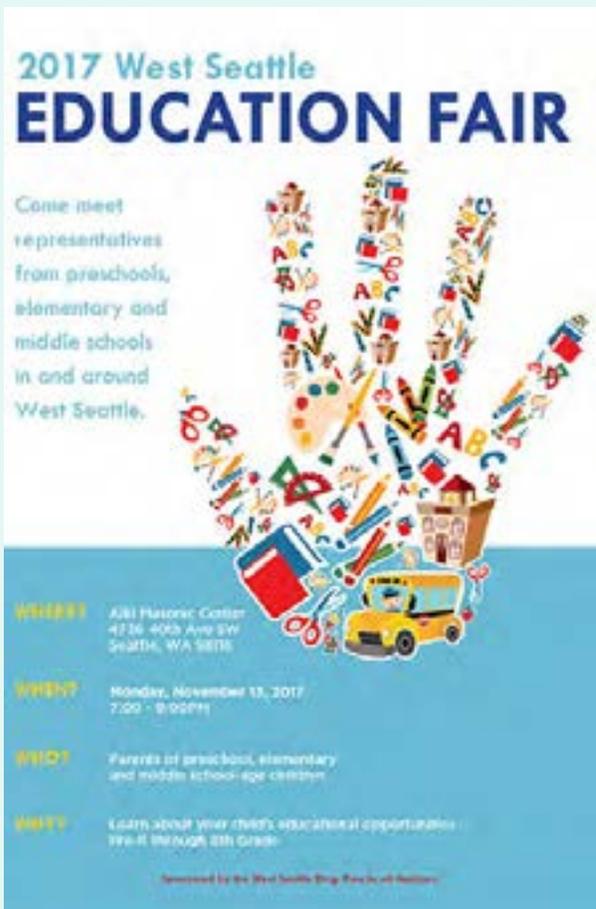
Parents, please check out the Art Exhibit flyer and details on page 9 for the upcoming Bellarmine Preparatory show that opens on November 2nd and runs through the 27th featuring work by our 7th and 8th graders!

Pictured below: 8th graders busy preparing their art pieces to exhibit.

[EVENTS & COMMUNITY NEWS >](#)



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



2017 West Seattle EDUCATION FAIR

Come meet representatives from preschools, elementary and middle schools in and around West Seattle.

WHERE: Alki Masonic Center
4736 40th Ave SW
Seattle, WA 98146

WHEN: Monday, November 13, 2017
7:00 - 9:00PM

WHO: Parents of preschool, elementary and middle school-age children

WHAT: Learn about your child's educational opportunities from K through 8th Grade.

Sponsored by the West Seattle Drug-Free Schools Act Initiative



KINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 8

Inspiring young scholars to contribute their wisdom, compassion, and personal best in the classroom, the community, and the world.

HARBOR SCHOOL
PIONEER INDEPENDENT CHOICE

OPEN HOUSE
WED, NOVEMBER 15 6:30PM

NOW ENROLLING
APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE NOW FOR THE 2018-19 SCHOOL YEAR

OPEN HOUSE on main campus:
15920 Vashon Highway SW
RSVP at (206) 567-5955
admissions@hARBORSCHOOL.ORG

LEARN MORE AT www.hARBORSCHOOL.ORG



IT IS THE RIGHTEOUS FIGHT

PROMISED LAND

ALL PROCEEDS FROM PROMISED LAND GO TO THE AMERICAN RED CROSS AND THE AMERICAN LUNG SOCIETY

NOW PLAYING

Presented by Harbor School and Carpe Diem Race Equity and Diversity Committee

Thursday, November 16 | 6:30PM

Admission is FREE

West Seattle Families

Harbor School will be participating in the West Seattle Education Fair on **Monday, November 13**, at the Alki Masonic Center. For our West Seattle families - please help us spread the word to friends who may be exploring their educational options for grades K-8!

Next Open House

We are now accepting applications for the 2018-19 school year at Harbor School and Carpe Diem. If you know an interested family, please consider inviting them to our next Open House event on **Wednesday, November 15, beginning at 6:30PM.**

Promised Land

The location of our upcoming screening of PROMISED LAND will be held at Harbor School instead of Carpe Diem due to a Thursday evening conflict at the Presbyterian Church.

Please spread the word that the movie event will now take place on our main campus beginning at **6:30PM on Thursday, November 16, 2017.**

In the Community

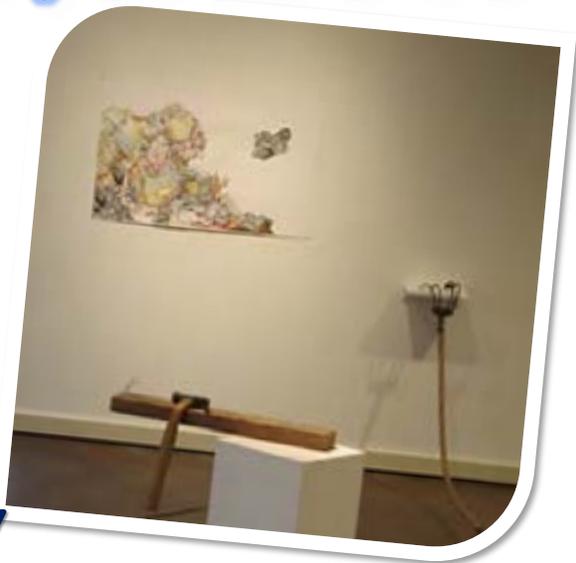
Don't miss the Art Exhibit at Bellarmine Prep in Tacoma. This exhibit will feature works by Harbor School's 7th and 8th grade students! If you would like to attend the opening reception on Thursday, November 2, from 5-7PM, Alisara will be driving the school bus over for anyone who RSVPs. The exhibit will run through November 27. Please email alisara@hARBORSCHOOL.ORG to RSVP.

Art Exhibit

ATTENTION

**ALL 7TH and 8TH
GRADE ARTISTS!**

**Showcase your art in a
professional setting in The
Gathering Space Art Gallery at
Bellarmine Preparatory School!**



Our themes for this show are:

*“What is Tacoma
or the Puget Sound?”
~ and ~*

*“What does compassion/
justice/empathy look like?”*

You are invited to interpret these
themes in any way you wish.

Catered opening reception
on November 2, 2017.

Exhibit will run
thru November 27, 2017.

See your nearest
Art Teacher for more details!