

news

Calendar

- 11/07: HS Test Prep Class (2 of 3)
3:15-5PM
8th Grade Sign-Up Course
-
- 11/08: 7th Grade away to Cispus

Carpe Diem Field Trip
Seattle Children's Theatre
-
- 11/10: 7th Grade returns from Cispus
-
- 11/11: NO SCHOOL: *Veterans Day*
-
- 11/14: HS Test Prep Class (3 of 3)
3:15-5PM
8th Grade Sign-Up Course
-
- 11/15: **Open House, 6:30PM**
at Harbor School
-
- 11/16: Team Pizzazz Invention Convention, 8 - 9AM
Harbor School
-
- 11/18: Jumping Mouse!
Carpe Diem Primary
-
- 11/21 - MS Conferences
11/22 *No Classes for 6th, 7th & 8th*
-
- 11/23- THANKSGIVING Break
11/25 *No School*
-
- 12/01: Trivia Night with Mark
6:30pm
Snapdragon - Adults only!
-
- 12/02: Jumping Mouse!
Carpe Diem Primary
-
- 12/09: Early Dismissal at Noon
THS & CD
-
- 12/15: Winter Celebration
Carpe Diem Primary
-
- 12/16: Holiday Community Potluck, 5-8PM
Burton Lodge
-
- 12/19 - 1/02
NO SCHOOL
Happy Holidays!
-
- 1/03: First Day Back!
-
- 1/06: Jumping Mouse!
Carpe Diem Primary

LEAF PRINTS by Upper Elementary

MS Conferences: What to Expect

Conferences in Middle School inevitably feel different from conferences in elementary school. Students have moved from having one primary teacher responsible for their academic growth to a series of teachers, all with expectations, all with assessments and feedback on growth and all with insights into a student's participation and engagement in class. It is a wonderful time for our students - they begin to take their first steps on a journey that will lead them to independence and wisdom and that is a great, if challenging thing, for everyone connected to them.

It is obviously also a challenge. The beginning of any journey is always so. There are things that need to be packed in the case and things that need to be kept separate and carried by hand. There are deadlines that need to be met, plans that need to be carried out on time and there are many people to coordinate with in order for the journey to be as rewarding as it can be.

Conferences in Middle School need to take all that into account. This year, as in years past, Middle School conferences will give you an opportunity to meet with a team of teachers. These teachers will together share with you their perception of how your child is progressing in school. We believe that the team approach employed at Harbor School provides you with a more rounded understanding of how your child is progressing from multiple perspectives and gives you a more complete understanding of your child in school. That said, I recognize that some of you may feel the need for more specific subject information from teachers. Our faculty are always willing to meet with you to discuss progress in a specific subject and I ask that you reach out to teachers and request an individual conference if this is something you would like. - Mark McGough

Word of Mouth

Small independent schools like ours are hugely dependent on enrollment to create a dynamic and engaging learning environment. We want and need students who are thoughtful, engaging, critical thinkers with the ability to reflect on their learning and apply themselves with excitement and energy to whatever task is at hand. With that in mind we are looking forward to next year and hosting our **next Open House at Harbor School on November 15th at 6:30pm.**

Time and time again schools report that the critical driving force in sustaining enrollment is word of mouth. Often the families that join us do so because of what they have heard from current parents. What you, our families, say about our school is crucial to our ongoing success. With November 15th around the corner, I ask that each one of you think about who you know who may be interested in our school and that you invite them to join us on the 15th to learn more about us.

I realize that this is a small request but I know from many years of working in small independent schools that it can have a big impact on enrollment and the ongoing success of our school. [MORE NEWS >](#)

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

WINDERGARTEN THROUGH GRADE 8
OPEN HOUSE
WED, NOV 15 at 6:30PM RSVP 206.567.5955
CAMPUS LOCATED AT 1500 WASHO WAY SW NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS BY FALL 2017
www.harborschool.org

Team Building Together

This past Friday's early dismissal, allowed our faculty and staff an opportunity to gather at Carpe Diem for a brainstorming and team-building session with Mark. The afternoon discussion and group exercises were focused on our "values" as a school. **What are our key values? What do we see in daily practice? What do we communicate to students and families?**

Mark guided us through several brainstorming sessions and together we worked through identifying what we each consider our values to be. We then began pulling together all the common threads and creating a concise list of those values. It was productive and insightful!

It was also the first of many planning sessions under Mark's leadership where he is bringing all our faculty and staff (*from both campuses*) together. Working toward a common goal of defining WHO WE ARE and WHAT WE DO and HOW WE DO IT, is exciting and motivating! Thank you, Mark! - Allison Reid



Art Supplies Needed

Thanks to all of you who have donated art supplies for the Uweza Art Project! We are still collecting through this week and next. As you can see by the photo above, we've received a trove of material but can still use more! Drop them off at the main office anytime this week or next and we'll make sure Olivia Pendergast has them for her departure at the end of November.

Team Building on Friday



Gratitude

A big thank you to parents **Callie Deegan** and **Pat Dunn** for helping Harbor School bring **Screenagers** to our campus. Students watched it at the end of the day last week and over 50 people came along to watch it on Tuesday evening at our public viewing. It was a thought provoking documentary that sparked animated discussions among and between adults and students. I had the opportunity to continue discussions with students the next day and hope to continue a dialogue around screen time challenges over the next few weeks. Without Callie's and Pat's support we would not have been able to share this thought provoking work with our students or our community. - Mark

Want to Contribute to the Newsletter?

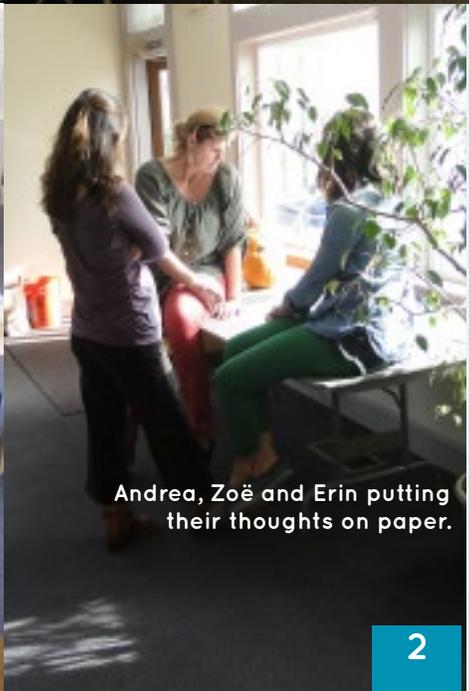
The *Cornerstone News* is distributed weekly and from what I've heard from our community, everyone is pleased to see us return to a more frequent format. Parents have shared how much they enjoy it and have offered suggestions on future articles.

Here's just a few of the suggested articles people have requested: *featured alumni stories, teacher interviews, historical pieces about the school's history, and articles by student.*

As the person responsible for doing the design and layout, I thought I'd reach out and see if anyone has an interest in helping with future article ideas? With regular weekly content being provided by Mark and our teachers, there's not much time in our busy schedules to write additional articles. But if you have an interest in helping write future content, please email me at allison@harborschool.org. I hope to hear from several of you! - Allison



Lauretta and Jaffrey brainstorming together.



Andrea, Zoë and Erin putting their thoughts on paper.



**100%
PARTICIPATION
IS OUR GOAL**

TESTIMONIALS

We Support Harbor School & Carpe Diem because...

"Our children are benefiting in immeasurable ways from Mark's leadership and from their talented, dedicated and nurturing teachers!"

- Liz Naumann,
Carpe Diem Parent & Trustee

"The teachers are developing our children into smart, compassionate global citizens."

- Lisa Pearson,
Harbor School
Parent & Trustee

26%

We grew 3%!

23% on Oct 28

Online Pledge Form

If you have not yet made a Pledge for our 2016-17 Harbor Fund campaign, there's now an easier form to fill out. For families who would like to pledge now but make their gift at a later date this year, we've created a fillable PDF form that can be completed on your computer and emailed directly to the office.

If you have questions about the Harbor Fund, please email Allison Reid at allison@hARBORSCHOOL.ORG.

PLEDGE FORM

DONATE NOW

Meet John James Trustee & THS Parent

How did you come to be involved as a Trustee?

JOHN: I joined the board the first year my son Calvin started at Harbor School in the 4th grade. I was recruited by Foss Miller [*Former Trustee and Alumni Parent*] since he was ready to depart the position of Treasurer after many years. Of course, I was honored to help.

What do you value about serving on the Board?

JOHN: A strong board of dedicated and resourceful volunteers is very healthy for the school. It's our job to ensure the school succeeds. I felt that my experiences in leadership and analytical skills would bring a solid voice to the board.

What do you find special about our school?

JOHN: Harbor School offers a unique environment for our kids to grow as individuals within a framework of teamwork. The 8th grade graduations always amaze me. You see these young kids turn into mature individuals ready to step into high school with confidence and curiosity.

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

JOHN: Being the President at Sawbones keeps me busy. I find tremendous satisfaction in knowing that our company provides valuable jobs for 175 employees and those jobs have a significant impact on Vashon. As a company, I am proud that we support our community both financially and with community spirit - *Harbor School, Vashon Schools, Land Trust, Vashon Community Care, and VIRC are just a few!*

What's something we might not know about you that would be fun to share?

JOHN: I used to climb mountains like Rainer and Baker. Now I cycle and ride fundraising events like the *Courage Classic* and *P2P (in spirit anyway as a volunteer)*. Sailing is where I really feel at ease and someday I plan to do some ocean passage-making. Anything to do with our local Puget Sound waters - *in a boat or under the water with SCUBA gear* - that keeps the sea in my blood.

Ice Cream Matters. What's your favorite flavor?

JOHN: Rocky Road is my all time favorite ice cream.

Trustee and current parent, John James, fishing with his son Calvin this past summer.



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Reflections on Middle School

by Oakley Reid, Class of 2013

I grew up on an influx of knowledge, most of which was appreciated and trusted, but some of which was pushed aside or regarded as false. One of the strongest examples of the latter was an article my mother frequently talked about stating that middle school was the most crucial period of a child's life because it had the power to determine who they would be later. At the time, I was questioning why my family bothered to put me into a private middle school and spend the extra money when there seemed to be a perfectly viable option just ten minutes away, but they were convinced that my middle school, Harbor School, had the power to have a lasting impact on who I became. I thought, at the time, that they could not be more wrong. However, as I go into my senior year in high school with all the confidence and trust in who I am now and who I will become next year in college, I realize that they could not have been more right.

"I learned to see service as less of a requirement and more of a gift meant to be given and received."

sense that the students across the world also spoke freely in class, expressed themselves to the fullest, and were liberated from fear of judgment. To me, the way I felt about myself and my school from 6th to 8th grade had to be the only way to feel, because if it wasn't, why even bother showing up?

I now look back on those years with my friends who will be graduating with me this year and realize that not everyone travelled to Louisiana for two weeks in 8th grade, not everyone

What convinced me of the article's truth was not my own experience in middle school but the realization afterwards that not everyone shared it. At Harbor School, I took for granted concepts like travel study, personal relationships with my teachers, and a love for learning. I assumed, incorrectly, that everyone had fun at school. It only made

had the opportunity to leave the country with their classmates, not everyone dedicated a set number of days during the school year to being outside the classroom. My field trips were to Civil War battle sites, the White House, and the mountains of Packwood.

There is no way in words to describe the significance of

Oakley (left) with classmate Lili on a 2012 Voyagers Week trip to the Historic Triangle.



travel study at Harbor School. Most of the alumni who come back to talk about the school try, but it is difficult to articulate the feeling of staring down at DC from the Washington Monument, looking at real-life glaciers in Iceland, or arriving in Madrid and realizing everyone speaks a different language than you. Travel study has been the single most valuable out-of-classroom experience of my entire life and the results of early exposure to other regions and cultures shows in the traveling I do today. My friends who were in the same class with me at Harbor School have gone to Bolivia, Peru, Spain, Germany, Thailand, Africa, and more, on study abroad programs or trips with their schools and families. We all share the same interest in learning about more than just what is close to home.

However stunning the locations I have seen with Harbor School and beyond, the things more important than the beaches of Greece, forests of China, and rivers of Louisiana have been the educational benefits of travel. Harbor School places a huge focus on the importance of service learning, so we would travel and rebuild homes, take field trips to centers for the blind, spend days planting trees, and culturally enrich ourselves in the process. In high school, I have continued to live out these kind of ideas that the school instilled in me. I regularly wake up at 5:00am to go into the city and serve the homeless population of Tacoma and on the last Sunday of every month I spend three hours with classmates in a shelter serving food. Harbor School presented these opportunities less as resume builders and more as responsibilities we had to the community. I learned to see service as less of a requirement and more of a gift meant to be given and received.

Now in my final year of high school with college applications to complete and essays to write, I reflect back on my journey as a student and can say with conviction that Harbor School had a profound affect on who I am, what I desire to do with my life, and how prepared I am for the adventure ahead. Am I grateful that I had the opportunity to spend my formative middle school years at Harbor School? Most definitely.

Oakley '13 is currently a Senior at Bellarmine Preparatory School in Tacoma, WA. She will spend her 2017 Spring Break rebuilding homes in New Orleans as part of Shirts Across America New Orleans Immersion Trip.



Oakley (left) with fellow students on Bellarmine's World Cultures trip to Greece, Summer 2015.



Poet's Afternoon 2016



An invasion of Lady Bugs!



Who is that?!



Wonderful Costumes were on display!



Poems to share!



Announcing the program.

Poet's Afternoon

On Monday, October 31, Carpe Diem students welcomed their families and Team Pizzazz students for their annual Poet's Afternoon where they shared poems and sang songs.

Spanish with Profe

We are singing *Los pollitos dicen*. It ties in to focus vocabulary from our story. We are also practicing the date.

<http://huachinango.wikispaces.com/Calendario>



Poems were rehearsed and memorized!



Upper Elementary Dates:

- 11/15: **Open House at 6:30pm**
Attendance is optional
- 11/16: **Invention Convention**
8:00-9:00am. Everyone welcome!
- 11/22: **Lit Group Project Due**
- 11/28: **NEW INTEGRATED UNIT STARTS -
Revolutionary War
& Early American**

From Erin's Weekly Email

Halloween

We had such a festive day on campus for Halloween—what fabulous traditions we were able to partake in with traveling to Vashon Community Care to trick-or-treat with our elders and to Carpe Diem to celebrate and support our young friends during *Poet's Afternoon*.

Reading

We continued to practice summarizing texts, both in our read aloud book and in students' independent reading books. We know that summarizing is taking large sections and reducing it down to the bare essentials: the gist, the key ideas, the main points worth remembering and noting. For practice, students have been stopping and jotting down key phrases as they read. Then, after they've gathered a handful of key ideas, students look at all of those key ideas, pick the most important ones and combine them into a summary.

Planners

Staying organized, planning ahead, and learning and practicing effective study habits are skills that students cultivate during this magical stage of their development. Utilizing their planners and finding effective ways of organizing information in their planner is an ongoing process over their two-years in Upper Elementary. While it is a goal for students to practice responsibility via independently sharing their planner with you daily, checking off tasks they complete, and marking in daily goals, it takes baby steps to get there. Please invite your student to share their planner with you if they forget, sign it after they share it with you, and use it as a conversation starter to discover highlights from and insights into their day. *Thanks for your support!*

Inventions

This past week, students neared the finish line in the development of their unique inventions. They have worked diligently to take their abstract ideas and construct them into a real-life versions. Starting this week, students will refine their inventions, looking critically at their creations to see if it does what they say it should do, if it looks aesthetically pleasing, and how it could be generally improved upon. Later in the week, students will enter the wonderfully wacky world of advertising. We will dissect advertisements, looking closely at components hidden within. What works? Why is that? They will then craft an ad of their own to "sell" their product.

Greek & Latin

Students explored two roots this week: **-aster/astro** and **-geo**. What do they mean? Can you find any examples of these roots in use to share with your student in the "real" world via a book you're reading, the newspaper, or a work document perhaps?

Science with Zoe

We had a fantastic time building "Mayflower" ships to transport the most pilgrims possible! Ask your students about their designs and the modifications they made for improvement! Next week's design challenge: Design a Thanksgiving table (out of popsicle sticks) that will hold all of the bounty of the Thanksgiving dinner without collapsing!

[MORE NEWS >](#)



7TH GRADE TO CISPUS

Just a quick reminder that 7th graders will be heading to Cispus for a 2-night stay. Students depart on **Tuesday, November 8**, at 1:30PM and return on **Thursday, November 10**, at approximately 11:30AM.

The Cispus Learning Center is a 68-acre campus, located in the Gifford Pinchot National Forest that provides a unique northwest outdoor learning environment for students. It is open 364 days a year to elementary, middle school and high school students for environmental and leadership education.

The current site of the Cispus Learning Center was first constructed as a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp in the early 1930's. While much has changed since the construction of this "New Deal" project, the chimney and building shell of the Sasquatch Lounge are still standing and in use today.

Today, Cispus is also home to the Association of Washington Student Leaders (AWSL), the Cispus AmeriCorps team, and several programs, camps, and retreats that annually bring thousands of students from all around Washington to its campus.

If you have any questions about this week's 7th grade trip to Cispus, please contact Leslie Blair at leslie@harporschool.org.

Social Studies with Laurretta

6TH Grade

This week included getting folders ready to send home for End-of-Unit Updates, as well as introducing students their new unit - **Ancient Greece**.

7TH Grade

This week included getting folders ready to send home for End-of-Unit Updates, as well as introducing students to their new unit - **Comparative Religion**. We also walked down to the Church of the Holy Spirit to talk with Rev. Joseph Hickey-Tiernan about Christianity.

8TH Grade

Students continue to work on the **Founding Father Project** even as we occasionally stop what we are doing to talk about the election.

Math with Leslie

LEVEL 6 - MATH 6

Students have just taken their **Chapter 2: Fractions** test. They are gathering their chapter assignments and review. Watch for the test and materials to come home for you to enjoy, sign and return. We continue to work on our divisibility rules. We are set to begin **Chapter 3: Decimals**. On Wednesday I will be out of town with the 7th graders and Dylan Fitterer, Lorelei's dad, has graciously agreed to come in and continue with the coding adventures.

COURSE 2 - MATH 7

We finished our shoring up of skills from **Chapter 1: Integers and Rational Numbers**. If you have not yet, watch for a collection of Chapter 1 materials to come home for you to enjoy, sign and return. We are continuing with **Chapter 2: Equations** after an intense dive into the Distributive Property.

LEVEL 7 - PRE-ALGEBRA

We completed and scored our tests on **Chapter 3: Introduction to Algebra**. After assessing the scores it has become apparent that we will need to revisit one concept in particular before we begin **Chapter 4: Algebraic Manipulation**.

Algebra with Zoë

The last unit test (Polynomials and Factoring) came home for a parent signature this week. We have started the next unit: Quadratic equations. Ask your kiddo's to show you the unit calendar to get an idea of what they will be up to for the next few weeks. Quiz Friday.

English with Todd

6TH Grade

This week in 6th grade we organized our new English binders and more formally set up our writing notebooks. These tools will help us stay organized as we begin to accumulate more and more papers as the year progresses. We also began looking at parts of speech, starting with verbs! Try improvising with some action-packed and distinctive verbs this weekend!

7TH Grade

In honor of Halloween, the 7th grade read Edgar Allan Poe's immortal tale of crime and guilt, "*The Tell-Tale Heart*." We wrote about whether or not we thought the narrator was sane or not, and we thought about what the beating heart at the end of the story might represent. Then we began reading Jack London's

"*To Build a Fire*," focusing on the importance of setting in a story. Two classic tales in one week!

8TH Grade

Students in 8th grade were busy working on projects based on the life and work of an American poet of their own choosing. From Elizabeth Bishop to Ezra Pound to Mark Strand, the chosen poets represent a range of styles and movements. Over the next two weeks, students will be looking closely at selected poems of the poet, and then they will respond creatively to the poet's work. I'm already impressed with what the students have produced, and I can't wait to see what comes next!

Science with Zoë

6TH Grade

The students have completed multiple projects to show their understanding of matter and chemical reactions. **On Monday, November 7**, they will bring home their work and an End-of-Unit Update. Please look through your kiddo's science journal and projects to get a taste of what they have worked so hard on for several weeks! Next unit: **Energy**. Look for a Beginning-of-Unit Update that gives a summary of what we will be learning in this exciting unit!

7TH Grade

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8TH Grade

Students are preparing to show off their knowledge of the human body by designing and implementing a lesson for their Team Pizzazz buddies that teaches them the basics of a body system. **Quiz Friday:** Functions of all the body systems.