

# news



## Calendar

- 11/14: HS Test Prep Class (3 of 3)  
3:15-5PM  
*8<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>*
- 
- 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*

## Reflection & Routine

In my time in different schools in different countries over the past thirty years, I have experienced a number of challenging and often traumatic events. Some of these events played out on the world stage. Some of them played out in a classroom. Some in the wider school community. Almost all of them were traumatic and shocking in one way or another and involved loss, pain and grief.

While all were different in nature, what unites those experiences in my mind and memory are two things.

**The first is the importance of reflection in moments of turmoil.** For a school that means giving students space and encouraging adults to listen and guide without judgement.

**The second is the value of routine.** Schools are many things but on a very simple level, they are places of routine and most children I know find great comfort in that routine. Allowing days to unfold in a familiar fashion provides a safe place for students. A safe place gives students the freedom to think out loud, talk about values and process feelings with their teachers and peers. In short routine encourages reflection, particularly in challenging times.

The conclusion of the presidential election on Tuesday reminded me once again that we must continue to always provide a safe place for both reflection and routine at our school.

In their processing of this information Wednesday morning, students reflected on the election results and on Thursday our 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students watched President Obama's speech on the White House lawn from the day before. As they talked and responded to each other, we reaffirmed our own individual and communal commitment to the values of **respect, compassion and integrity** that make up the cornerstone of our schools values.

A few weeks ago I wrote about the line our students walk; the line between being a child and an emerging adult. As we move forward over the next few weeks it is now perhaps even more important for us to guide our emerging adults and nurture and love them as children. We will certainly continue to do that at school as we provide time and opportunity for reflection, maintain our important routines, and recommit to our cornerstone values that guide who we are and how we both act and react as people and as a community. - Mark McGough



The hot glue gun came out in Art this week for some creative craft projects.

**Corner Art:** Anonymous clay face created in art class this week and headed to the kiln for firing.

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## Art Happens Here

Every Friday at Carpe Diem, ART happens. All students receive Art every week as part of our commitment to integrating arts into our curriculum. Teacher Andrea leads the Art instruction for all Carpe Diem kids; and Emma Hathaway provides Andrea and the students with assistance on their art projects.

### Here's what Andrea had to say about teaching art:

"I have always enjoyed linking the art curriculum to the themes that are going on, to explore our topics more deeply. Though I have a lot of favorite projects I'm always excited to try new ideas. I think it's important for the kids to learn a variety of art processes, and work with a variety of quality materials. I also like to expose them to the work of well-known artists, and art from different peoples and places. I would like every child to leave Carpe Diem with the knowledge that there are concepts and skills in art that can be learned, and the feeling that it is a joyful process. I encourage them to become observers, not judges when looking at art. In my own art experience I've played with photography, jewelrymaking, printmaking and painting, and I look forward to carving out the space in my life to spend time on my own art. Some of my favorite projects I've done with kids: a giant inflatable sculpture inspired by Claes Oldenburg, and I always love to do self portraits. Matisse, Alexander Calder and Georgia O'Keefe are also some faves." - *Andrea Braganza*

Before teaching on Vashon, Andrea spent 9 years as the Art Specialist at The Bertschi School, a leading private elementary school in Seattle. We are fortunate to have a skilled art instructor like Andrea on our Carpe Diem faculty. She loves art and it shows!

## Carpe Diem Parent Social

Carpe Diem families,

We hope you will join Liz and Andrew Naumann on **Sunday, November 20**, at their home for a very informal afternoon of conversation and camaraderie with Head of School, Mark McGough.

Please come over anytime between 4:00-6:00pm. Wine, cocktails, and appetizers will be served. Liz and Andrew's home address is 14315 107<sup>th</sup> Way SW (*Needlecreek neighborhood off of Cedarhurst*).

Spread the word and bring a friend who might be interested in learning more about our amazing school!

Childcare is available at Harbor School during this gathering. Please let Liz know if you plan to use the provided childcare. Email Liz at [naumann08@comcast.net](mailto:naumann08@comcast.net).

Liz and Andrew look forward to seeing you on the 20<sup>th</sup>!!

## New Theme Begins

As we dive into our studies of **Pacific Northwest Native Peoples, Flora and Fauna**, we are discovering and discussing the geography and climate of Washington State. This information will help to give a sense of how our environment shapes the way that we live. We are starting to set up our diorama and we have all created a rainfall/land forms map that will go into our books for this theme.



## 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**
- 11/30: **"Meet & Greet"**  
*8:00-8:20am.*

*From Erin's Weekly Email*

## Meet 'n Greet Followup

Thank you to everyone who was able to join us for our second Meet 'n Greet morning last Friday. The kids reflected afterward that they felt like it was helpful for you all, and that they noticed you all leaving smiling and well-informed. The idea of these casual gatherings is simply to do that: let you into the wonderful web of the goings-ons of our day. I hope you're enjoying them! We will have our next Meet 'n Greet at the end of this month on **Wednesday, November 30**, from 8-8:20AM. Please RSVP so that I can have students invite their 8<sup>th</sup> grade buddies if a grownup won't be able to attend.

## Reading & Social Skills

This week, students practiced cause and effect as readers and as social beings. What happened (*effect*) and why did it happen (*cause*)? Students are using this tool as a way help interpret stories, character decisions, and the development of the plot of their just-right books. Too, they are using role-plays to practice real-life scenarios that happen right here at school to observe the causes and effects of decisions they make.

## Literature Group

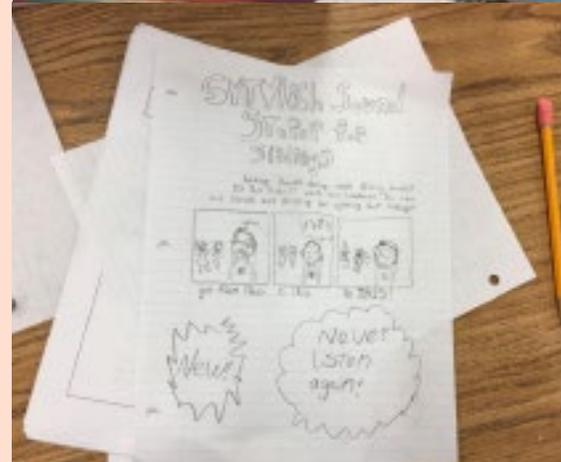
Student will bring their final project work to school on **November 22** and will share with the class. Please help your reader choose which project they want to do, and break it into small, manageable chunks. Using their planner is a great tool to use for this.

## Math

This week in math, students discovered the awesome hidden in a new logic puzzle called *Logic Links*. Did you get a chance to try them out with your mathematician at home? In Core Math this week, students began the final component of our unit on **Whole Numbers** and learned about and practiced the order of operations (*PEMDAS...parenthesis, exponents, multiplication, division, addition, subtraction*). To boot, we will have another day of coding exploration with parent **Dylan Fitterer**, where students built upon what they already know utilizing different coding programs.

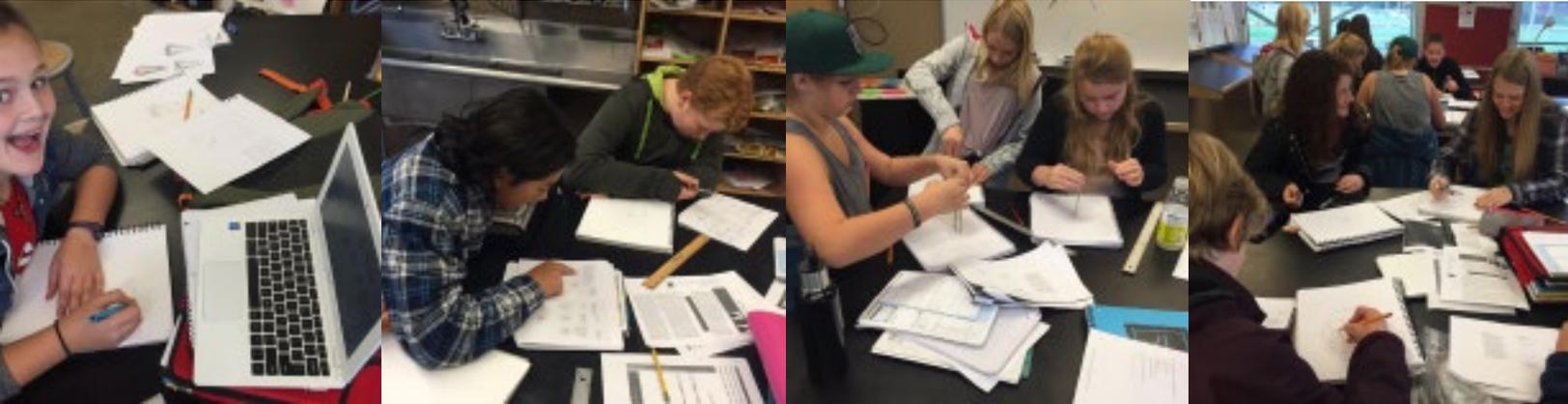
## Service Learning

Our current unit of study on **Simple Machines, Inventors, and Inventions**, is the lens that we used to tie into our first service learning opportunity of the year. A couple of weeks back, in order to forge relationships with our community via "crowd sourcing," which to us meant asking our intergenerational friends what dreams they have for inventions they'd like to see with their current needs, observations, experiences, dreams, or other, we went to the Vashon Community Care Center to gather information. And wow, the kids were great! They were prepared with thoughtful yet very open-ended questions that sparked conversation, gave opportunity to live outside of their comfort zone in chatting with people of a different generation, and implement respectful conversing technique. Then, we took these ideas back to our workshop, aka our classroom, to do some thinking and sketching. The kids then came up with some inventions to solve problems based upon their conversations with the VCC residents, are put their ideas into some simple drawings, that they turned into greeting cards, as well.) Come swing by the classroom to get a sneak peek of these gems, if you're so inclined, before we hand-deliver them down to the VCC next week.



**Team Pizzazz** is finishing their inventors quilt and had a great sewing and fabric arts open studio this week.

**6th Graders** are wrapping up the unit with a review and starting the first projects of the new unit. We continue to work on our drawing from observation skills and are working with one point perspective as well. The student choice homework is to draw your dream pet. This assignment will focus on the following criteria: Spending 30 minutes drawing, filling the page with your composition, and including at least three levels of value.



**7th Graders** started the week with an academic integration with social studies. We looked at the art history of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam and practiced the geometric patterns seen in all three of the traditions. This was a mini unit bridging the first and second units of this trimester. As we work on the beginning assignments of the next unit *The Artist as Designer*, students are taking on several in class design challenges that will lead up to a group project later in the year. The student choice homework is to illustrate, without any text, your favorite quote or phrase. Students are asked to spend 30 minutes drawing, filling the page with their composition, and to use at least four levels of value in their shading.



**8th Graders** started working on facial proportions and drawing self-portraits. This is the start of a long unit on self portraiture, drawing from observation, and drawing with mood and feeling. The self-portraits start with sketching exercises, skill building with oil and acrylics, and detailed pencil drawings. The final piece will be drawn from a photograph of the students choosing. I encourage you to work with your student to take a good resolution photo that captures their personality, and they would be proud to work from for several weeks. The photo needs to be able to print at a crisp resolution at 8.5 X 11. The homework is to practice drawing your face from observation, using a mirror or other reflection, focusing on proper proportions. Students are encouraged to use guidelines and drawing tools (such as the acetate frame they made in class). Students are welcome to take there provided art supplies home, as long as they return them the next class.

## Upcoming Workshop for Middle Schoolers

Most sixth, seventh, and eighth graders don't automatically know how to manage—as one twelve year old called it—the “muchness” that begins in sixth grade: all those books, teachers, assignments, paper, projects, and tests. And, unless they're taught school management skills, children will practice not-knowing right through middle school and high school.

The “**Strategies for Middle Schoolers**” **Workshop Series** will be taught at McMurray Middle School, Sunday afternoons, November 20 (12-3pm) and 27 (12-2pm), and December 4 (12-2pm). These lively, interactive workshop sessions are purposely staggered so that students can practice these Strategies in-between sessions, in school and at home, reinforcing the skills to track assignments, plan for tests, and organize the “stuff” of school: binders, notebooks, and papers. This is the same (*but updated*) workshop which has been taught to hundreds of Vashon and Seattle middle schoolers, since 2004. This series of strategies is easily learned and remembered, resulting in a more confident, deliberate student throughout middle school, high school, and college.

The cost of the three-part “Strategies for Middle Schoolers” workshop is \$190, including supplies, snacks, and daily emails to parents. For registration and information, call or email Devon Atkins, 206-353-9227, [atkins.devon@gmail.com](mailto:atkins.devon@gmail.com). (*Workshop enrollment is limited.*) Scholarships are available.

Devon Atkins is a tutor for Harbor School and VISD students.

## LET'S TALK

### Safe Communities and Guns

*We're all part of the solution!*



**TUESDAY NOV. 15**  
**VHS AUDITORIUM, 7:00 PM**

We are excited to bring public health, injury prevention specialists, gun safety experts and parenting coaches together with you, our island community, to learn about how we can all help make Vashon-Maury a safer place to live.

- Learn about how to talk to the families of your kids' friends about securing guns.
- Know the options for securing your or your loved ones' firearm.
- Find out how gun violence is a public health issue, and what you can do about it.

**This free event is for everyone — gun and non-gun owning community members.**

**Attendees will receive FREE firearm cable locks (while supplies last)**



**Keynote Speaker**  
**Dr. Ali Rowhani-Rahbar** will talk about gun violence as a public health

issue, and address the role guns play in teen suicide. He is a Core Investigator, the Leader of the Violence Prevention Section, and the Director of the Research Methods Core at the Harborview Injury Prevention & Research Center. Dr. Rowhani-Rahbar joined the faculty of the University of Washington in 2012.



**VARSA's Community Trainer and Mental Health Counselor**  
**Woody Pollock** will talk about

starting and navigating difficult conversations: How to talk with friends, neighbors and relatives about firearm safety.

**Island firearm safety experts** will share options for safe gun storage.



**LOK-IT-UP** Vashon raises awareness about the importance of safe drug, alcohol, & firearm storage, informs the public about safe storage options, and promotes the availability of safe storage devices. The campaign focuses on family and community safety and is not intended as a policy or crime prevention program, nor does it address the issue of gun control or a private citizen's right to bear arms. The campaign is a tangible step toward reducing access to guns to prevent firearm-related deaths, injuries, suicides, theft, and school-based threats.

For more information call 206-567-2647.

