

CORNERSTONE

Newsletter for Harbor School & Carpe Diem Primary community

news



Calendar

12/15: **Winter Celebration, 7PM**
Carpe Diem

12/16: **Ice Skating Outing**
Grades 4 - 8

Pajama Day/Half Day
Carpe Diem

Holiday Potluck, 5-8PM
*Families, Alumni & Friends
at Burton Lodge*

Financial Aid Deadline
for Current Families
Details on page 3

12/19 - 1/02
NO SCHOOL
Winter Holiday Break!

1/03: **First Day Back!**

1/06: **Jumping Mouse!**
Carpe Diem

1/13: **Crystal Mountain Ski Trip**
Grades 4 - 8 only

Jumping Mouse!
Carpe Diem

1/16: **NO SCHOOL**
Martin Luther King Jr. Day

1/20: **Jumping Mouse!**
Carpe Diem

2/10: **Crafternoon!**
Carpe Diem

NOON Dismissal
CD & THS

Auction Preview Party, 7PM
Hosted by the Baker family

2/17: **Valentine's Day Celebration**
Carpe Diem

MERCADO!
Harbor School

2/20 - 2/24
NO SCHOOL
Mid-Winter Break

Corner Mosaic: A closeup photo from the mosaic at the base of the Harbor School bell (created in 2008).

Message from Mark

As we come to the end of the first term of the school year, I want to thank everyone who has already made a contribution to our Harbor Fund. We are making slow but steady progress toward our goal of 100% participation. To date, 37% of our families have participated but it would be wonderful to see that participation rate reach the halfway mark by the end of December.

The Harbor Fund is a key component of our budget, allowing us to bridge the gap between tuition and the true cost of a Harbor School education. Your contribution to this fund allows us to continue to provide diverse programs and exciting opportunities for our students. The Harbor Fund allows us to keep our class size small, as well as retain and recruit excellent teachers.

On a personal note, my own gift to the Harbor Fund is rooted in the firm belief that an independent school education is both necessary and important and that supporting our school's efforts is worthy not only of my mental and physical energy, but also of my philanthropic energy. It is a pleasure for me to support the commitment made by our faculty and staff on a daily basis.

I am also hugely thankful for all the support our school receives from you, our parents, and from our amazing alumni who continue to invest their hearts, time, and money in our school, and from all our grandparents and extended families who believe in and support our students and programs. I am reminded regularly of the special place that a Harbor School education holds in the minds of our alumni students and their parents and I know that all the faculty and staff are fully committed to ensuring that our school continues to provide memories that last long beyond a student's enrollment at Harbor School.

With that commitment in mind, if you have not yet made a contribution to our Harbor Fund, I ask that you consider doing so as part of your end of year giving. Every contribution makes a difference and every gift allows us to better fulfill our mission.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our school. - *Mark McGough, Head of School*

Important Events for Families

Our final week before the holiday break is a busy one at school. We know it's busy for families as well with the onset of holiday travels, festivities and more; but we hope you can join us in coming together for several wonderful events:

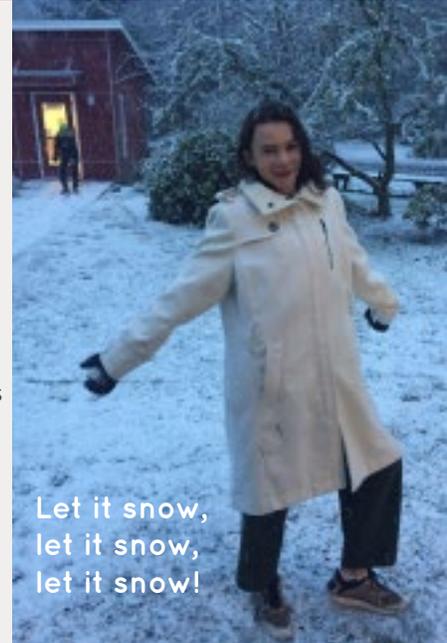
Carpe Diem Winter Celebration is Thurs., Dec. 15 at 7PM

A Carpe Diem tradition, **Winter Celebration** brings our K-3 families together to celebrate our students (*through their own unique and creative performances*) and spread good cheer for the beginning of our holiday break. Festivities begin at 7PM in the chapel at the Presbyterian Church. Refreshments follow afterwards in the community room.

All School Holiday Potluck is Fri., Dec. 16, 5-8PM

We'd like to share in the warmth of our strong community of families by inviting everyone to our **2nd Annual All School Holiday Potluck on Friday, December 16, from 5-8PM at the Burton Lodge**. Alumni families, grandparents and relatives all welcome and encouraged to attend! Families attending should bring a potluck item for a communal dinner buffet. Drop by for a short visit or stay for awhile - *We hope to see you there!*

[MORE NEWS >](#)





COMING UP FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16!

Holiday Ice Skating

Harbor School students in grades 4-8 will be headed to the ice rink on Friday, December 16, for our traditional holiday ice skating field trip. Students should dress warmly (*in layers and gloves strongly recommended*). Make sure your child brings a water bottle and sack lunch as well.

On Friday, Dec 16th, students should arrive on campus by 7:50AM and no later. We will be loading onto a bus to head to the Talequah ferry shortly after 8AM and we want to make certain that everyone is here. We will plan to return to campus in time for our regular dismissal at 3PM.



Hour of Code

On Thursday, students in grades 4 through 8 participated in the International Hour of Code movement as part of Computer Science Education week across the world! Current parents Dylan Fitterer and Jason Staczek volunteered their programming expertise in the classroom to support this effort.

Throughout this week's Cornerstone News you'll find photos of the students on ipads and on computers as they try their hand at coding. There was great enthusiasm from students as they learned all about the world of coding!

See "Chariots of Fire" and Support Our Alumni

Isabelle Spence, Class of 2016, attends Vashon High School and runs with the Cross Country team. The team is holding a fundraiser at the Vashon Theatre on Tuesday, December 13, at 6PM. They'll be showing the British historical drama "Chariots of Fire" that premiered in 1981. Considered one of the Top 100 British Films, "Chariots of Fire" also won 4 Academy Awards.

Come out and support the VHS Cross Country distance runners and see a great movie!



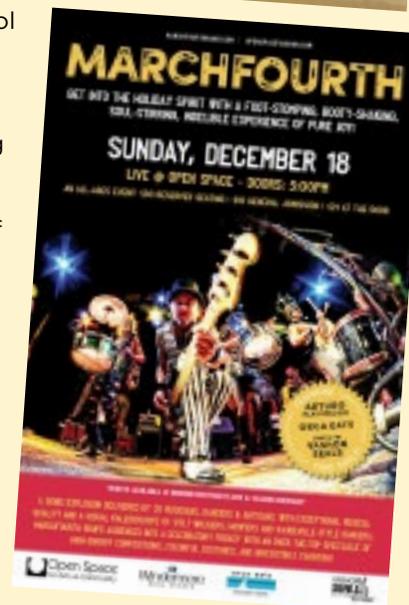
Support Our Swimmers

The Vashon Seals swim team, which many Harbor School students and alumni are team members of, will be presenting a musical spectacular with the band **MarchFourth** on December 18 at Open Space.

Don't miss this "must see" musical spectacular featuring the amazing **MarchFourth**, hosted by Open Space for Arts & Community and Vashon Seals Swim Team. With exceptional musical quality and a visual kaleidoscope of stilt walkers, hoopers and Vaudeville-style dancers, MarchFourth whips audiences into a celebratory frenzy with an over-the-top spectacle of high-energy compositions, colorful costumes, and irresistible charisma!

This special event is being held as a benefit for Vashon Seals. The Seals aim to raise money to give some much needed love and attention to Vashon's outdoor pool prior to the May 2017 opening.

Doors open at 5:00pm for this all ages, family-friendly event. Food from Orca Eats and raffle tickets will be available for sale. The main event starts at 6:00pm.



ALL SCHOOL NEWS



Student-Led Service Project Sweatpants Drive

Our student-led sweatpants drive is underway and all donations should be dropped off this next week at the school. Students have a goal to collect 125 gently used sweatpants in larger adult sizes. The bigger the better. Sweatpants will be donated to help keep Seattle's homeless citizens warm and comfortable.

The 7th grade is creating a raffle where for each pair of sweatpants the person donates, their name will go in the jar and a winner will be announced next

Thursday! The prize is a Basket O' Holiday Goodies!

Please consider donating a pair of gently used sweatpants. You can deliver your donation to the main office at Harbor School. *Thank you!*



COMING UP ON DECEMBER 15

Holiday Book Exchange for 4th - 8th Grade

It is the time of year for our Secret Santa-style Holiday Book Exchange on the Harbor School campus. Each student/teacher/staff member has chosen a name out of the name bucket and are now playing detective to determine what would be the perfect book for that secret person to receive at our school celebration on December 15th. Books are wrapped and have some kind of a treat tied to the package (*past examples have been a holiday cookie or candy cane treat*). Please help your child to choose this special book and have it wrapped with fun and care and brought to school on **Thursday, December 15**. The books, once read by the receiver, are then gifted back to the school to add to our growing library.



SECOND REMINDER

Financial Aid Applications due 12/16

Our financial aid application is now open for the 2017-18 school year. For our current families, we are asking that all financial aid applications be completed no later than Friday, December 16, 2016. This allows families to use their tax information from last April, and it will allow the school to have accurate data for re-enrollment contracts in January.

Any families not currently on financial aid but who anticipate a need for the 2017-18 school year will be asked to meet this deadline as well.

Please complete your FA request through Student and School Services at <http://sssbynais.org/parents/>

If you have questions about financial aid, please do not hesitate to contact our business manager, **Jackie Mollison**, at jmollison@harborschool.org for assistance.

Peter Walker Joins Board of Trustees

Harbor School is pleased to announce that current parent **Peter Walker** has joined the Board of Trustees. Peter and his wife Pam Stenerson have been part of our school community since their son Sam enrolled in 2014 as a 5th grader.

Peter is an independent manufacturer's representative and security consultant. Originally from Minnesota, Peter is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stout and has lived on Vashon since 1991. *We extend a big thank you to Peter for his commitment and participation!*

Gratitude

The staff and faculty would like to thank several parents for generously giving their time recently. They are: **Pete Walker** for replacing the Science room door handle, **Jason Williams** for fixing our outside lights, **Trevor Denherder** for finishing the French doors at Carpe Diem! We so appreciate your help!





Baby visitor!



Making Baskets!



Winter Celebration is December 15

SAVE THE DATE! Our annual Winter Celebration is coming up on Thursday, December 15 at 7PM. The presentation will begin in the Chapel and refreshments will follow in the community room.

Pajamas & Half Day on Friday, December 16

On Friday students can wear their pajamas to school! Put on your fleece jammies and bring your slippers! Remember it's a half-day so school will conclude at noon. We will eat snack but not lunch.

In the Classroom with Peggy

We have been having a great time at classroom meeting continuing our study of the brain!

A big highlight was bringing in a special guest Camille Coldeen and her baby Mirabai. The purpose of this visit was for the students to observe an infant in order to learn about the brain and emotions. (See <http://www.rootsofempathy.org/> for more information on where this idea came from).

The students sang a song to Camille and Mirabai and then Camille walked around the circle allowing each student to make a personal connection with the baby. We learned so much from this. Certain things attracted the babies attention and we all laughed when Mirabai kept staring at Grant. Then the students asked Camille questions that they had prepared that morning. We couldn't believe how great and insightful the questions were. One student asked how you can tell an angry cry from a sad cry? Another asked how Camille got her baby to smile? And one asked how she had time to take care of herself (*hilarious, right?*).

Then we made some connections between the babies emotions and our own, had Camille sing a song that she sings with her baby, talked about the mirror response, and made Camille and Mirabai the gift of a rainstorm (*which is a little peaceful activity we do in our circle*). It really was quite magical and the baby was awake and engaged the whole time. We are hoping to have Camille come back in the Spring so that we can see how Mirabai has grown.

We have also talked about the difference between joking around and teasing or jokes that go too far. We decided to use the simple term "you crossed" to tell someone that a joke is not funny. We also talked about looking for clues that you have gone too far and speaking up if someone has crossed. Finally, we talked about what to do if you hear some teasing towards someone else that you don't feel comfortable with. Students generated great ideas!

In class we also learned some calming techniques. Here is one that you can try at home. Help your child find their pulse and let them listen to their heart beat. Just quietly listening to your heart beat is a very effective calming technique (*but sometimes it's hard for kids to find their pulse, so you may have to help them*).

Thanks parents, it is such a joy and honor to teach these wonderful students.

MORE NEWS >



Burke Museum Field Trip



Colonial America

This week, three groups of colonists (*The History Crushers*, *The Titans*, and *The Revolutionary Warriors*) sailed 3,500 miles across open waters and miraculously all reached the New World. Some days were smooth sailing, with glorious weather, and other days were, well, not. There was only one ship destroyed in the process of crossing the grueling ocean, and everyone made it to the New World with ample food. Teams who were sent by the government and private companies will soon be receiving a new stock of food and supplies, while the colonists who came to the New World for religious freedom are on their own and will need to problem-solve quickly how to survive in this unique new territory. Each group of colonists has chosen a place to land their ships based on geography, and soon will meet the indigenous peoples who already live there. Stay tuned for more about how the process of colonizing these lands proceeds, and come get a first-hand look at our Meet 'n Greet next Tuesday.

To discover more about this time period and to help inform our decision making processes in our simulation, we've watched some videos and read some information about the colonial period. One video that we enjoyed this week, and that sparked some great conversation, was called ***Crash Course in US History: The Natives and the English***. The host talks quite quickly, and has loads of detail tucked within each and every statement he makes. We paused the video every few seconds to dissect the content hidden within. If you'd like to watch it, as well, the link is below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TTYOQ05oDOI>

Math

Coding! This week, students explored the wonderful world of coding--developing and deepening their understanding of Python with Turtle and other coding scripts. Too, we continued our course work at Multi-U, where students learn and practice strategies for solving multi-digit multiplication problems. Finally, mathematicians received a *Math Odyssey* packet this week with some old favorites and new logic adventures. The goal was to try (*not necessarily complete*) at least one puzzle from each page by Friday.

Social Skills

Our focus this week was on impulsive behavior and impulse control. We utilized a component of the Second Step social skills and bullying prevention program on this topic. We discussed first what an impulse is (*the first reaction that pops into your head, doing something without thinking it through*), watched a short video clip about three boys in a sticky situation about stealing a bike, and then trouble-shooting what they could do. We brainstormed and practiced strategies to calm down, slow down, and think before we act. They included:

- 1) **taking deep belly breaths. Some strategies we know and tried were "smelling a bowl of soup," "four square breathing," and "the nose plug." Ask your student to teach you how these work.**
- 2) **Counting backwards.**
- 3) **Thinking calming thoughts and using positive self-talk. "I've got this." "I can do this."**
- 4) **Walk away and get some personal space.**

We'll keep practicing these skills in calm moments so when situations arise, we can utilize these strategies and put them into practice.

Writing

Journalism and newspapers were a BIG deal in colonial America, and were the main form of communication about events, ideas, and people of the thirteen colonies. It's fascinating how many similarities there are between newspapers now and newspapers over 400 years ago. News is news is news. Students are "interviewing" a Founding Father via some brief research, and then writing a breaking news story about him.

Check out this great article about newspapers in the colonial period:

<http://www.history.org/Foundation/journal/spring03/journalism.cfm>



Art with Alisara

Team Pizzazz practiced drawing human proportions from wooden manikins and life as they took action poses for each other. They practiced quick gesture drawing in 30 second and one minute increments



Math with Leslie

Thursday was our official **Hour of Code** day. Every student was treated to a 2 hour coding adventure led by parent volunteers and teachers extraordinaire, Dylan Fitterer and Jason Staczek.

LEVEL 6 - MATH 6

We just completed our chapter on **Basic Operations and Decimals**. We are now beginning **Chapter 4: Negative Numbers** where we will recognize the use of positive and negative numbers in real - world contexts, compare and order positive and negative numbers, and plot them on a number diagram and interpret the absolute value of a positive and negative quantity in real-world situation.

COURSE 2 - MATH 7

We just completed **Chapter 2: Equations** and are beginning **Chapter 3: Graphing and Writing Inequalities** where we will graph and write algebraic inequalities, solve inequalities by adding or subtracting, multiplying or dividing, and solve two-step inequalities using inverse operations.

LEVEL 7 - PRE-ALGEBRA

We continue with a review of **Chapter 4: Algebraic Manipulation**. Soon to begin **Chapter 5: Simple Equations in One Variable** where we will solve linear equations in one variable, solve simpler fractional equations and form linear equations in one variable to solve problems.

Art with Alisara

6TH Grade

Students continued their exploration of atmospheric perspective this week, practicing a drawing that used a wide range of value. They also practiced ordering lights to darks to create the illusion of space in a cityscape silhouette.

Homework: students should finish their cityscape drawing OR, if it is done, draw the student-choice assignment "design a dream school art supply set."

7TH Grade

Students had fun gesture drawing and modeling for each other after practicing drawing proper human proportions.

Homework: Students should draw a full color magazine style advertisement for their headphone case (*designed a few weeks ago*), that highlights the features of the case.

8TH Grade

Students put their composition skills to work this week on a series of winter themed relief cuts that will be made into a set of gift cards. Student of the week honors go to Dalton. You may not know that Dalton's hallmark iconography has always included the whimsical themes of holidays, sweets, and magical scenes. He is in his element this week and designed a snowman card inspired by the beautiful snowy weather on Monday.

Social Studies with Laretta

6TH Grade

Students are learning about the rise and fall of ancient Athens. They are also doing some great critical thinking work around discussions of what it takes for any civilization to rise, and then fall. We are also reading *The Odyssey*.

7TH Grade

Students are in the process of teaching their classmates what they have learned about the religion they researched. In small groups, they are creating both a factsheet and a bulletin board that will show what they know. A vital aspect of their work this week is practicing group dynamics and understanding what it takes to be an excellent group member. The focus is creativity, collaboration and communication..

8TH Grade

Students are engaged in the research portion of the *Big, Wide, Wonderful Project*. The topic under investigation is Sacred Places. Each student has chosen a sub-topic to explore and analyze this week. Next week comes a synthesis of the information gathered and an attempt to find themes, commonalities and connections that will help students grapple with the idea of sacredness and how it might differ (*or not*) in different societies.



In the Community

UMO Students Showcase their talents on December 16

Next Friday night, you can head over to Open Space for a 7:30PM performance of student work - featuring Harbor School's very own alumni, Josie Slade, '14!

If you've ever wanted to learn Aerial, Gymnastics and other Circus Arts, this is a great chance to see students present. Plus, it's great fun for the whole family!

UMO SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL ARTS PRESENTS

LIGHT THE NIGHT WITH STARS

Friday, Dec 16 at 7:30pm

OPEN SPACE FOR ARTS & COMMUNITY
ADMISSION BY DONATION

BRING THE WHOLE FAMILY!

SHOWCASE CREATED BY THE STUDENTS!

COME SEE THEM SHINE!

HOLIDAY REFRESHMENTS & CHEER!

Open Space for Arts & Community

UMO SCHOOL

SIGN UP! CLASSES START IN JANUARY!

Announcing the 16th year of UMO School of Physical Arts!
The UMO School of Physical Arts seeks to inspire creative possibility and recognize students' creative force by giving them a safe place to learn and a variety of tools based on UMO's dynamic physical theatre.

2017 WINTER/SPRING CLASSES
Starting January 9th Open Space for Arts & Community
Choose one class per week or sign up for multiple classes!

YOUNG AERIAL TUMBLERS for ages 6-8 Mondays at 4PM	OPEN GYM for ages 6-8 Fridays 3:30-5PM
INTRO TO AERIAL for ages 8-10 "A" Group Wednesdays at 3PM "B" Group Tuesdays at 5:00PM Wednesdays at 4PM Thursdays at 4PM	YOUNG TUMBLERS for ages 6-8 Tuesdays at 2:45-3:30PM
AERIAL 1 for ages 10-12 Mondays at 4PM	CIRCUS GYMNASTICS 1 for ages 8-10 Tuesdays at 4PM Thursdays at 4PM
AERIAL 2 for ages 12-17 Wednesdays 3-4:30PM	CIRCUS GYMNASTICS 2 for ages 10-12 Tuesdays at 3-4:30PM Thursdays at 3-4:30PM
AERIAL 1-2 for ages 12-17 Thursdays at 3PM	PARKOUR BASICS for ages 10-12 Wednesdays at 5-6:30PM Fridays at 4PM
ADVANCED AERIAL PERFORMANCE for ages 12-17 Tuesdays 3:30-5:30PM	PARKOUR ADVANCED for ages 12-15 Wednesdays at 3:30-5PM
	AIR-CLIMB AIKIDO for ages 12-17 Thursdays at 4PM
	STRETCHING & CONTORTION for ages 18+ Thursdays 3:30-5PM

Tuition for 12-Week Sessions
45-Min Class = \$200 | 1-Hour Class = \$320 | 75-Min Class = \$420 | 90-Min Class = \$480

To Register: Enrollment class required with student's age to www.umo.org
Classes for additional classes and siblings' tuition drops available upon request.
*PREREQUISITES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST -
Questions? Please call Deborah at 206-463-1666

Open Space for Arts & Community
Class details are posted online at www.umo.org

AERIAL, AIKIDO & MORE!

UMO School Winter Classes Start on January 9! Register Today.

UMO School begins their Winter/Spring 2017 classes right after the holiday break. Sign up today or purchase a tuition certificate for your child - a wonderful gift for the holidays! Plenty of options, age groups and fantastic instructors. All classes are taught right here on Vashon Island at Open Space! Visit their website to learn more or email school@umo.org.



Positive Discipline Class

Practical strategies and bag-of-tricks to make parenting easier and to empower your children and yourself.



I was able to identify that some of our family dynamics were power plays or struggles. It was so empowering to create strategies to accomplish our challenging morning routine. This has transformed our household and given us a key to address everything next! I highly recommend!

Lash Kern



For Parents and Guardians with Kids in K-8th Grade

Positive Discipline is experiential and very fun!

Non-judgmental

Class will be held in a private home and each class will include a small self-care element

Limited child-care and scholarships available

7 week class on Tuesdays from 6-8 PM \$115.00

January 17th, 24th, 31st, February 7th, 14th, 28th, March 7th

Peggy Rubens-Ellis, M.Ed., Certified Parenting Coach, School Counselor, Positive Discipline Facilitator

(206)-335-9051

m.rubens@comcast.net