

The REDHAWK REVIEW



Photo Credit: Panya Cao

School Spirit

By Zoe Pruden

Just weeks back from Summer break came the long-awaited Spirit and Homecoming week for Port Townsend High School. Many weeks before this treasured time, ASB officers—student council—met and discussed possible themes for the Homecoming game, the dance, and each day of Spirit week. Spirit week is simple: each day of the week before the Homecoming dance is themed, from Pajama Day to Western Wednesday.

This year’s spirit week started off with an oldie, but a goodie. Monday, dubbed “Band-T day” or

“favorite artist day,” circled round the school as most students wore musical masterpieces across their chests. The overall likeability of these themes always conflicted, but in the end no one had much to say about Band-T day.

Tuesday hit it off strong with theatrical students. Tacky Tuesday caused a rioting of clashing colors, patchy patterns, and disgustingly creative outfits. Notably, Profe Aubin showed off, with clashing ties, uneven dress shirts and psychedelic colors in his outfit. After several student interviews, a resounding love of this theme carried through the grades. While Tacky Tuesday not only sounds great, it also allows students to

show a more creative side in their fashion while matching with friends, staff, and encouraging school spirit. Western Wednesday was another hit with PTHS students. Simple in its nature, most students dubbed a pastel cowboy hat, while others dressed up as a classic cowboy, spurs and all. This theme seemed to hit it off most with the majority of students; a plethora of leather, spurs, and cowboy hats browned out the halls. of students; a plethora of leather, spurs, and cowboy hats browned out the halls.

On Thursday, the Homecoming Assembly took place, changed from its usual Friday fun. This day encouraged students to dress in

their grades colors: black for Seniors, red for Juniors, white for Sophomores, and a mix of all three for Freshman. The Homecoming Assembly was a hit as well, with the iconic Barbie themed lip-syncs. The Freshman took home the championship with their dance to “I’m Just Ken” from The Barbie Movie. In a tradition-defying turn of events, the Juniors won the assembly, stealing the gold from the Seniors. Juniors cheered on Homecoming Royalty Sylvie Errichetti and Bryce Harbin as they battled to the finish in musical chairs. In the end, students left the assembly with grins on their faces, school spirit sparkling in the air.

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New Faces at PTHS

By Sylvia Butterfield

The 2023-24 school year brought several new faces to the Port Townsend High School Staff. The newest member of our school's counseling staff, Emily Eldridge, has helped the graduating class with everything from college application support to admissions letters. Originally from Port Angeles, Washington, Eldridge spent seven years working in social services before discovering her love of working with kids and becoming a school counselor. "I started working with kids through social services and coaching," She explains, "And realized how much I enjoyed forming relationships and providing support to kids who needed it." In addition to her work with students, Eldridge loves staying active and spending time outside, as well as playing volleyball (which she played in college).

There are two new additions to the math and science department: math teacher Wayne Shaffer, and chemistry/anatomy and physiology teacher Jeff Taylor. Shaffer lived for 10 years in Phoenix, AZ, before moving to Port Townsend in 2007, but grew up in Klamath Falls, OR. He worked in construction for 30

years before going back to school to become a teacher. He says that "I have always enjoyed working with kids and teaching them new skills, so I figured being a teacher would be a good path for me... Since I'm a big math nerd I knew teaching math was where I needed to end up." Shaffer also enjoys woodworking with locally-found reclaimed wood and working on classic cars. Taylor moved to Port Townsend from Flagstaff, AZ, in 2019 after teaching there for seven years. He previously worked as a Biological Technician at Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, as an interpretive ranger in Olympic National Park, as a teacher in Page, AZ, and in Italy for the Department of Defense Schools. With a Bachelor's of Science in Zoology and a Master's of Science in Ecology, Taylor has previously taught AP Environmental Science and AP Chemistry. Taylor has lived in Port Townsend for four years, but taught up until this year at Quilcene High School. Taylor says that he's "really happy to be here," and that "I feel this school is a great fit for me and that I have a lot to offer the students here. I am really excited to launch our new Anatomy and Physiology course in partnership with Jefferson Health Care, as well as teaching my favorite subject of Chemistry."

Joining the music department is a new orchestra director, Caitlin Malarkey, who can be seen in the mornings riding her motorcycle to school every day. She grew up in Snohomish, and attended CWU for a music education degree. For the past 4 years, she's lived in Bremerton, commuting to South Seattle to teach band, orchestra, and percussion at Cleveland High School. She has known that she's wanted to teach band and orchestra for a long time, inspired by her own band teachers in high school. "I like spending my summers doing yard work, hiking, camping, and doing home remodel/furniture makeover projects," she says. "In the past I've built my own concrete countertops, refinished my hardwood floors, ripped out laminate and layered tile in my entryway, and a few other things." She also has two dogs, a german shepherd/hound mix named Killian and a great dane/black lab mix named Cormac.

In addition to new teachers, PTHS has a new Dean of Students this year, Mark Harris. Not only has Harris taught math, social studies, English, and science from elementary through college levels (specializing in science), but he's also served as an administrator for elementary, middle and high schools. He lives with his

wife and daughter as well as two cats and a golden retriever. He and his family moved from the Puyallup area to Sequim, but were excited about a job opening at our high school. He says that "I was excited to see if this building and district were moving in a direction that aligned with who I am as a person and my beliefs about education," adding that, "I am excited to have been asked to join the Port Townsend team and I look forward to adding to the positives for students, staff, families and our community."

When asked about our hometown of Port Townsend, many of the new staff were excited about the nature and arts community of PT. As Eldridge explains, "I love the natural beauty of Port Townsend. Being so close to the water and getting to see the beautiful sunsets on the water is pretty incredible." They also said that Port Townsend High School had a very nice environment and school culture. "So far I love how friendly everyone is," says Malarkey. "That's not always the case in a high school setting and it's so beautiful to see that here." Shaffer adds that, "It is great to work in such a supportive environment with such a welcoming group of people."

Experiential Learning in APES

By Hazel Windstorm

This fall, AP environmental (APES) students had the opportunity to go on multiple field trips—better known by the moniker "field experiences". These trips allowed students to broaden their knowledge of classroom concepts, and gain a more meaningful understanding of environmental science as a field of study.

Unfortunately, despite Ms. Lenz's numerous efforts, the first field trip was canceled. The trip— which was supposed to

take place at Padilla Bay— would have allowed students to explore the connection between photosynthesis and oxygen levels by performing multiple experiments with eelgrass.

However, due to a bus mixup, a poorly timed bridge closure, and the cancellation of multiple ferries, APES students arrived the morning of the trip to discover that they were unable to travel to Padilla Bay. More unfortunately still, the specific combination of tides and weather was a rare occurrence, and made rescheduling the trip impossible.

"Ms. Lenz put so much effort into preparing for the trip, and it was really sad that it was eventually impossible for us to go," said one student. Luckily, there were more opportunities for students to test their strengths in the environmental field. A few weeks later, the class boarded a bus— this one on time— and drove to Snow Creek to assist the Jefferson Land Trust in their post-restoration assessment. The class split into teams and measured the biodiversity of various plots, in an effort to determine the health of the forest. "We picked a really



Photo Credit: Maggie Emery

PTHS Clubs

By Maggie Emery

This is a little guide for students hoping to get involved in our school's clubs. Many of these clubs build community, complete daunting projects, and have a fun time along the way. I recommend checking them out if any appeal to you.

Art Club: Art club meets in Ms. Soderstrom's room every Thursday after school. It's a club where you can express your creativity, with the freedom to suggest art projects for the group to delve into.

ASB: The Associated Student Body is our school government. They plan dances, fundraisers, spirit weeks, and other fun events. Elections are held in the spring, and is a great club to join if you're interested in leadership or having a greater influence in school decisions.

A/V Club: A/V club was founded this year and is for students interested in learning media skills from Mr. Eagler. They're currently planning an exciting trip to New York akin to the advanced media trip to LA last year. A/V club meets in Mr. Eagler's room on Fridays during lunch.

BIPOC Student Union: BIPOC Student Union is a club with the goal of improving the high school experience for BIPOC students. They have brought light to social issues through presenting school assemblies with guest

speakers. The BIPOC Student Union is advised by Wellness Director, Darrell Thomas, and meets in the Wellness Center on Wednesdays.

Boys Volleyball: Boys volleyball hasn't started practicing yet this year, but they're attending a tournament in November. Normally, practice takes place on Sundays. Contact Stuart Dow if you're interested in joining.

Drama: Drama club is in full swing, putting on their fall production of *Masks Off* in the early weeks of November. Last year, they put on a stunning performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Join them in the spring for their second production of the year.

Key/Interact Club: This is one of PTHS' service clubs (along with SFS). They meet on Wednesday in Ms. Grace's room. Key/Interact Club do a variety of service activities in our town every year, connecting our schools and students with the community and generally helping out in the surrounding area.

Knowledge Bowl: Come to the Dow's rooms during lunch on Mondays or after school Fridays to test your trivia skills. There are three competitions every year where the team competes against high schools from the surrounding area. Last year, the team even went on to win the state competition.

Mock Trial: Mock Trial is a club that effectively prepares students for careers in the legal industry, but also improves skills

in public speaking, case analysis, and critical thinking. The team consistently ranks at state, and is one of our most successful clubs. Talk to Mr. Peirson if you're interested in joining.

Redhawk Mentors: The Redhawk Mentors do an incredible job of welcoming in Freshmen and new students every year. They help out year-round—not just in the very beginning of the year—so if you're an upper-classman interested in joining, talk to Ms. Bledsoe in the counseling office.

Redhawk Review: The Redhawk Review is the monthly PTHS newspaper and is for anyone, regardless of writing skill level. You can submit news articles, creative writing, editorials, poetry, photography, comic strips, music playlists, recipes and so much more. It's a great club to join if you're interested in improving your writing, or contributing to our school media. Reach out to myself (24m.emery@ptschools.org) or Zoe Pruden (25z.pruden@ptschools.org) if you'd like to contribute to an issue of the Redhawk Review.

Sailing Team: The sailing team has a spring, summer, and fall season, competing against teams from Washington and Oregon. Currently, they're ranked 5th in their district and have qualified for the district championships this year. The team works hard—practicing 3 days a week—but still has lots of fun. If you're interested in joining, signups can be found on the Maritime Center website.

Spectrum Alliance: Spectrum Alliance is a place for anyone determined to help queer people feel comfortable within their community. Currently, they're planning a movie night for anyone interested in attending. Last year, club members went to Pink Prom—an all inclusive dance—and presented to the district staff on proper name and pronoun usage. Spectrum meets in the Wellness Center on Tuesdays during lunch. Snacks are always provided.

Students for Sustainability: This club, also known as SFS, is our environmental club. They have a great reputation county-wide and lots of support from the community. They are best known for their city-wide plastic straw-ban, native plant garden, and idling ban efforts. SFS gets things done that have an enormous impact on the environmental health of our town. They meet every Friday in Ms. Grace's room.

Underwater Robotics: Underwater robotics has been a club for a while, but it recently started up again last year after a pause for COVID. This year's underwater robotics team is focused on redesigning and fabricating a new robot rather than using a previous year's robot. The team learns how to code as well as the electrical engineering skills involved in creating a robot. They meet Thursdays after school in Mr. Behrenfeld's CAD lab. Talk to CEO, Arrow Kempthorne if you're interested in joining, to Ms. Bledsoe in the counseling office.

School Spirit Cont.

Friday ended the week with the hardest theme of all: Y2k. Many students were unsure what to wear when faced with this topic. It was especially difficult for male and nonbinary students. What were they supposed to wear other than baggy pants? While Y2k was a tough topic, each student who truly tried to fit the aesthetic rocked it. Butterfly clips, rainbow makeup, and low-rise pants filled the halls. In the end, Y2k seemed to be the least popular theme, though it was a personal favorite of mine.

As the week ended, students spilled out of the halls and onto the football field; the Homecoming football game was starting in several hours. While the Hoco game's theme was less creative—blue and red for Rivals Colors—school spirit was strong at Memorial Field. Cheering, stomping, and screaming, PTHS was roaring for their Homecoming Royalty and football players. The outlook of this game wasn't positive for PTHS. A loss of 12 to 61 left some students disgruntled. All negative feelings had disap-

peared by the next day at 8pm, as the pink-clad doors opened up for the Homecoming dance.

The almost unanimous decision left ASB centered on Barbie for the Hoco dance theme. This manifested as pink tulle decorations, lavender coiled streamers, and even maroon fairy lights. The dance was an all-time success, with over 200 tickets sold. A highlight from this year's Hoco focused on the "low-stim room," or a quiet, closed off area in the wrestling gym. Garnished with pillows, blankets, and low

lighting it was a great break from the insanity on the dance floor. The music was less of a hit—the dj straying from Stegner's student-requested playlist, concerned about the explicit songs.

All in all, this year's Spirit Week was overflowing with school spirit, fun, and lots of laughs. As an ASB officer and Junior, I can't wait to see what we'll come up with next year. I hope PTHS students have as much fun, if not more, than this year.

Experiential Learning in APES Cont.

difficult plot," said Senior Ocean Smith, "so we ended up climbing through brush and getting stuck in downed trees. It was great!"

Just a week later, the class traveled to another river, the Dungeness, to explore how invertebrates can indicate how healthy or unhealthy a stream is. Because some organisms only survive in unpolluted water, their presence can be very telling in determining water quality. Students collected a variety of invertebrates and identified them: stoneflies, alder

flies, damselflies, and more.

Just as salmon play a large role in our Pacific Northwest ecosystems, they have played a large role in the "place based learning" experience of Port Townsend students. "My entire public school career has placed a focus on salmon— both their cultural and ecological significance," said one APES student, "but sometimes it can be a bit repetitive." This year, though, many students felt they were learning new information.

Most of us know that a polluted

stream can have negative impacts on returning fish, but it is less common knowledge that historic log jams played an essential role in slowing rivers swollen with spring snow melt, and that many of those log jams were removed in the early 1900s. A key part of the recent restoration process was to install "engineered log jams", so named because of the complex mechanical knowledge necessary to create infrastructure that will last. At Snow Creek, only a mile of stream was restored, so the log jams needed to be built to

withstand all of the water flowing from above the project.

The final consensus from students was that the trips were a success; they were engaging, informative, and relevant. On top of all that, they were fun. "Going on trips in APES is a really nice break from classwork," said Senior Ava Butterfield, finishing that "it allowed me to learn about things in an experiential way, which felt more real than your typical class."

Maggie Emery - Editor-in-Chief

Zoe Pruden - Junior Editor

Zoe Guinan - Graphic Design

Rennie O'Donnell - PR Coordinator

We hope you've enjoyed your peruse through this issue of the 2022-2023 Redhawk Review! This paper is written and produced by students, for students. Its aim is to both inform our student body about current events in our school, community, and world, and to provide an opportunity for students to get involved with journalism. We are always looking for more students to work with us, either as committed staff members or as contributors of independent pieces. In addition to welcoming articles, we are eager to work with students interested in creative writing, poetry, photography, cartooning, illustration, and other art forms. If you're curious about our paper or want to learn more, please let me know! We would love to have you on board. We are creating this with the student interest in mind, so feedback and thoughts for the future are always appreciated!

Thanks for reading,

Maggie

