

The REDHAWK REVIEW



Sophomores wearing their masks on the way to class as per usual. Will this still be the norm in a week? (Photo by Maggie Emery)

Lifting the Mask Mandate

By Maggie Emery

Lately, talk around the high school has been primarily focused on the mask mandate or, rather, the lifting of the mask mandate. The governor, state health officer, and county health officials around the state have recently decided to discontinue the mask requirement indoors, starting on March 21st. I discussed this decision with Dr. Allison

Berry, the county health officer of Jefferson and Clallam County. Many factors are considered in determining whether or not to introduce or rescind mask mandates, and both the county and state health officers meet regularly to discuss this difficult issue. When evaluating mask mandates, Dr. Berry said, “We’re looking at the efficacy of masks (they are still effective), [...] at the need for them, [...] at how much

COVID is still around, and we’re also looking at the effect on other parts of society.” Dr. Berry also explained that these mandates only work with the voluntary compliance of the public. Sure, the orders are enforceable, but only to a certain extent, so the political climate and opinions of people in the area are also taken into account.

The lifting of the mask mandate leaves the decision of whether

or not to wear a mask up to the individual, and this can be a very tough decision. There are a few factors to take into account when one is deciding to wear a mask or not. Dr. Berry explained the first one is case rates, or how quickly COVID-19 is being spread around. “We expect to be at a lower rate of COVID-19 transmission [by March 21st], but if those models don’t come true—if everybody takes off their masks

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Powerline: Explained

By Julia Neville

It seems that, these days, the predominant use for the auditorium is not theatrical in the slightest, but rather, more practical: a space for students to eat their lunch. Tables and chairs occupy the stage on a much more regular basis than actors or props do. In fact, the last play that was performed by the PT Players was in the fall of 2019, when Kelly Doran directed Thornton Wilder's classic *Our Town*. Unfortunately, the spring musical that was set to take place in 2020, *Fiddler on the Roof*, was canceled, along with sports and in-person school, just weeks after rehearsals had begun. However, while both athletics and academics eventually started back up again last spring, the return of the arts was much more delayed. It wasn't until January 28th of this year, when the quirky, pop culture-filled play *Powerline: The Story of Me, Mario and Your Mom* had a one-time debut during seventh period, that theatre became a part of school culture once again.

The ambiguous mouthful of a title makes more sense in conjunction with the plot. "Powerline" refers to the video game hotline that protagonists

Gilbert and Johanna work at in the 80s. The nerdy teenagers meet when Gilbert, a particularly awkward guy in comparison to poised, experienced Johanna, shows up for his first day of work. Lacking confidence in himself, Gilbert is in desperate need of proper customer service training—especially given the eccentricity and unpredictable temperaments of the gamers calling in. Luckily, with Johanna's support and assistance, Gilbert becomes a natural at his job. They realize they have natural chemistry and, skipping forward decades later, the two are married with spoiled teenagers. When Johanna and Gilbert, known as Mom and Dad in present time, tell their kids that it's time for them to get their first jobs, the play transitions into a flashback of when Gilbert and Johanna first met at work. Albeit slightly confusing due to the change in time periods, as well as the abundance of specific video game references, the play was well-received, with laughter present throughout the performance.

Behind the scenes, the experience was just as positive for the actors and crew of *Powerline*, who came with varying degrees of theatrical experience. Sophomore

Ahwrey Smith, who played the part of two characters, decided to audition for the one-act play only twenty minutes before students were expected to meet in the auditorium. "I figured I might as well try it... [Powerline] wasn't my first theatrical rodeo, but it surely was the first time in a long time." Ahwrey landed two roles: the much more cynical Gilbert post-high school, and a caller who was infatuated with Johanna (how ironic!). "I felt like I had the most head canon and overall background in my head for Dad," he confessed.

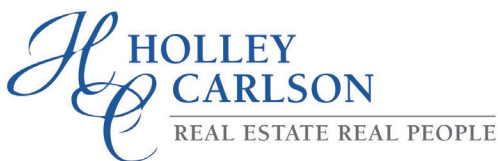
A last-minute decision on Ahwrey's part, his audition was delivered with vivacity

nonetheless, impressing Brendan Chambers, Maggie Bulkley, and Bryanna Kifolo, who composed the panel of directors from Key City Public Theatre.

While *Powerline* was short-lived, with only one performance, the play marked the revival of an important facet of Port Townsend High School: the theatre department. Hopefully, *Powerline* will have set the precedent—not only for our auditorium seats to be filled with audience members again, but for prospective actors, artists, and writers out there to take advantage of the creative opportunities offered here at the high school.



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COLDWELL BANKER BEST HOMES



Photo taken by Luca Campbell

the edge of fall

By Panya Cao

Brisk winds shake the trees,
Autumn leaves
Falling, falling, falling down
Seas of gold obscure the ground,
Washing over my feet
And hiding them beneath.
Swirling frost racing across
The frozen lawn
Each crystal refracts
The light of each new dawn
Transmuting from silver to gold
Before melting away
The start of a new day

PTHS Sports

33rd Mat Classic Report

By Savanna Hoffmann

This February was the first WIAA Wrestling State Tournament back since COVID-19 hit right after the 2020 Mat Classic. For a good bit of the season, there were rumors and suspicions that, because of the virus, the post-season would be canceled along with hundreds of kids' dreams of winning a state title. Fortunately for a select few, those dreams ended up coming true. Historically, PT wrestling has sent competitors to state almost every year since the 70s, and this year was no different, albeit that the qualified group was smaller than most we've had in the past.

In 2022, PT sent 3 wrestlers:

Logan Massie at 170 lbs, Mi Amada Lanphear Ramirez at 115 lbs, and Lars Wakefield at 285 lbs. While Logan has been an absolute powerhouse all season, Mi Amada was an exception in a class all her own. As a first-year with only some experience wrestling her siblings at home, she came to the team inexperienced but quickly met and surpassed expectations, continuing to do so until her very last match. While boys' wrestling in Washington is divided into 1A, 2A, etc. classifications, girls' wrestling is all-class, so even the smallest teams in the state battle against the biggest. Because of this lack of division in the incredibly fast-growing sport, qualifying for the postseason as a girl is pretty

difficult. Despite the challenges she faced, Mi Amada went above and beyond, placing 1st at Sub-Regionals, and battling for 2nd at Regionals. When it came time to travel to the Dome, she yet again came out strong, with a 1st round win before stepping up to face the eventual state champion from Moses Lake. After a tough fight but a loss to the future state champion, Mi Amada dropped into the consolation bracket and was 1 match away from becoming a first-year state placer.

Logan Massie showed his dominance all season, ending it with 1st place at Districts, 1st place at Regionals, and a phenomenal battle in State finals, earning him a solid 2nd place in the 1A classi-

fication at 170 lbs. Logan now becomes the 3rd PT wrestler in a row to earn a 2nd place finish at the State Tournament, but one of the only to win 1st place at both Districts and Regionals.

Competing at 285 lbs, despite only weighing around 240, Lars Wakefield qualified for state for his first time and battled some tough competition, who ended up placing 3rd and 5th, respectively. Both Lars and Mi Amada have bright futures ahead of them in the coming years of competition they have left, so make sure to cheer them on when they battle at home in the PT gym!

Rivals Girls' Basketball: A Rollercoaster of a Season

By Addison Asbell

From losses to victories to broken bones, not to mention a COVID-19 outbreak, you could say it was an interesting ride! The season started off well with about 20 girls, a young team but an excited group. Freshman Rennie O'Donnell explained, "The team is like a family. I've been on a lot of sports teams before, but none have been quite as good as this."

Two weeks into the season, our games began on November 30th. After some hard initial losses, we started to pick our feet back up. On the CHS court, we had a close game and a tough loss, the end score being 20-24 vs Seattle Christian. Victory was at our fingertips—we just had to grasp it.

During winter break, we practiced hard to come into the new year stronger, determined to earn some victories by the end of the season.

Little did we know that our first home game after the break would be our last for a while.

Almost every girl on our team caught COVID, so we were stuck home for 10 days. Though we were weak and struggling, recovering from the virus and now having to practice in masks, we kept fighting. Thirteen girls were able to return for the rest of the season after the scare. We were grateful to be able to jump back onto the court.

On Monday, January 24th, the team traveled to Seattle Christian. It was a close and exhilarating game, with the final score being 29-28! However, the sweet joy of victory did not last long. That night, our point guard Maddy Harris played a great game and took many hard falls, continuing to play like a champ. Unfortunately, we got news the next day that she had broken her wrist and would be out the rest of the season.

Knowing we had a really important game coming up that Friday, the team worked harder than ever to prepare for a second win: this time against Charles Wright. We were down our point guard, struggling to get spectators at our

games, and infuriated by an article in the town newspaper written about us. In an attempt to increase the crowd numbers, captain Aurin Asbell came up with the idea to make posters for the Friday game. Our advertising was a success!

Freshmen Kay Botkin and Juliette O'Hara stepped up to the plate of point guards, helping to complete the starting lineup. By the time Friday's game came around, we walked on the court ready and off the court with our second win.

The team continued to see improvement in our skills and we are looking forward to next year! Coach Lorraine Rimson's pride in the team was obvious as she said, "We are incredibly pleased. We've asked the girls to make commitments beyond what we think [have] been asked of them previously, and they have met the challenge and we have made great strides."

Lifting the Mask Mandate, Cont.

now and we're still running at incredibly high levels of transmission—then I would have a lot of caution about unmasking in [certain] settings.” The second consideration is your environment. Is it inside or outside, an unvaccinated or vaccinated gathering, and are there many or few people? “Many of our kids are not vaccinated, so if you're going into a largely unvaccinated classroom to sit with twenty-five of your friends for the next eight hours, that's actually a space where I think it would make a lot of sense to wear a mask,” said Berry. The last component to take into consideration is your health history, as well as the health history of the people you are living with. “If you're really healthy then it's lower risk to go without a mask, but if you have people at home that could get really sick if you brought COVID-19 home to them, that's a risk as well,” Dr. Berry pointed out. To summarize, keep in mind current COVID transmission rates, the space you're in, as well as whether or not you or the people around you (either immediately or in your greater community of interactions) are high-risk.

If you are going to wear a mask, N95s, KN95s, and KF94s are your friends. When attempting to find the perfect mask, remember that it should be comfortable to wear for long periods of time and that it should “have a good seal all around so that, when you breathe in, you see it actually bend in a little bit.” Pharmacies often go through the process of making sure their masks are not counterfeit, so the best place to purchase these masks is

in person, though this isn't always possible. “Interestingly, KF94s have not had a lot of fakes and they're very heavily regulated by the Korean government, so, if it was made in Korea, your KF94 is good,” explained Dr. Berry. On the other hand, KN95s have had many counterfeit replicas made of them, mostly coming through Amazon. Sites like projectn95.org check their masks for you and are reliable sources for mask purchases.

The future remains unknown, but predictions can be made based on other places that have already lifted their mask mandate. In the UK, “they lifted it about halfway down their curve and their cases just flattened,” said Dr. Allison Berry. This is one of the reasons the lifting of the mask mandate is scheduled for late March rather than right now. The health officials are hoping cases will drop a bit more before they plateau on March 21st.

The important thing to remember is that these regulations keep changing. “We want to protect people but we actually don't want to infringe on your lives any more than we have to, so we adjust our recommendations based on the threat in the current moment,” said Dr. Berry. At the beginning of the COVID pandemic we didn't have vaccines or treatments, so regulations were much more strict. Now we do, and regulations are starting to loosen up. Describing the mandate in relation to our current COVID situation, she explained, “When we see our case numbers go down low enough, we might actually stop recommending masks for a period of time. But we anticipate

there will come a time when our case numbers will go up again, likely in the fall, and we're likely to recommend masks again.” Dr. Berry also expressed that she thinks the probability of the mask mandate being reinstated is fairly low: “The big trigger for that would be if we saw such a surge that we were shutting down the healthcare system.”

Dr. Allison Berry and other county health officials are open to hearing community feedback. “Your needs, your wants, letters we are getting about people's comfort or discomfort with masks actually do play a big role in these decisions. You have a powerful voice in this space and so I encourage folks to use it,” Dr. Berry stated. A critical influence on making your opinion heard is to do it kindly and effectively. We've seen examples of what not to do by some of the adults in the community, right here at the high school with the anti-vax protesters. “Write to your public officials. Do so respectfully, do so personally, and they're actually very likely to read it and do something about it.”

Ultimately, the decision is left up to you on whether or not you want to wear a mask starting on March 21st, but be sure to make this decision with diligence. Be thoughtful, act with intention, and consider all of the different factors that play into this decision, thinking of our whole community and its wellbeing. If you are able to, get vaccinated, and, if you decide to wear a mask, wear a high-quality one. Wearing a mask is not required, but it is recommended.

Redhawk Review Editors' Notice: Our Upcoming March Issue will be an Art-Focused Special Edition! Submissions due March 18th at the latest.

The March edition of the Redhawk Review will be devoted to student artwork (of any kind, from paintings to poetry to photography and everything in-between. Video and music submissions can be included with QR codes). We are excited to publicize and highlight the work of student artists in our school community, and are eagerly welcoming submissions for our upcoming issue! Students who have previously submitted artwork to us are encouraged to contribute to this edition, but we are also hoping to display the work of students who may not have been involved with the Redhawk Review yet. We know there are many talented artistically inclined individuals in our student body, and we would love to share your work in our newspaper.

If you are interested in learning more, or think you might have something to share, don't hesitate to let us know! **Reach out to Elio Wentzel or Sophia Lumsdaine in person, or contact Elio through email or at (360) 390-4849.**

We look forward to displaying your creations!

Comic by Fin Watson

February Music Horoscope by Rennie O'Donnell

Clash Royale Deck of the Month: Motherwitch Fireball Bait by Kenny Nichol



Hi. I'll be your heart surgeon today. Any questions?

