

November 6, 2019

SUPERINTENDENT'S SALUTATIONS

DEAR SOUTH WHIDBEY COMMUNITY,

Congratulations to Damian Greene, Charlie Currier and Brook Willeford, our newly elected School Board members. We look forward to working with you and making our vision a reality for the district. Thank you to Linda Racicot and Shawn Nowlin for their years of service on the Board. Your time and dedication to our district, staff, students and families are truly appreciated.

We continue to work toward our vision for South Whidbey School District, that our students are **lifelong learners** who are **multiculturally engaged, literate and active community members** able to meet the challenges of a **global society**.

LIFE LONG LEARNERS

Several teachers and staff are continuing their own learning by attending conferences and trainings. Karyn LeWarne and Suzanne Haugen will be traveling to the National Conference on Trauma Sensitive Schools in February, 2020. Five of our Special Education Instructors (including Erin Gutzmer, Jeremy Frye, Becky Breeze, Michael Swenson, Sonja Ringsrud) will be attending a Special Education Conference.

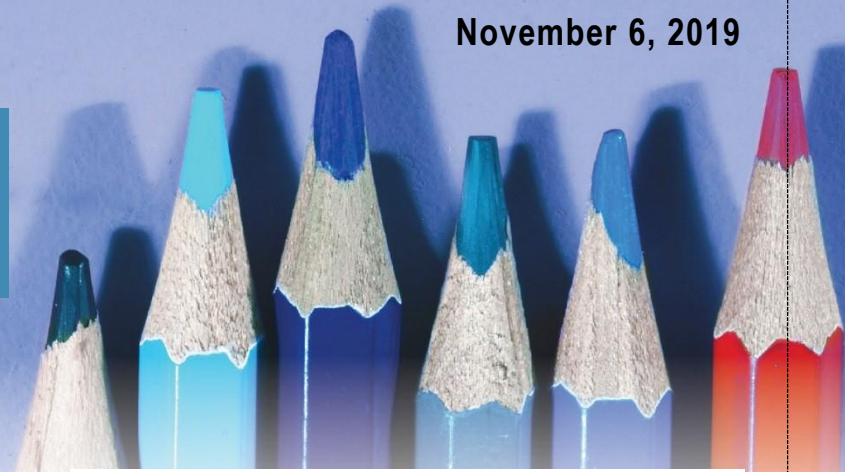
Amanda Fisher, Human Resource Specialists, will be attending the Activities for Courageous Conversations. This workshop will teach how to facilitate some of our favorite and most effective activities to move participants in their understanding of racism, the impact of stereotypes, and awareness of institutional privilege. Many of these activities are supported through the generosity of south Whidbey schools foundation.

We learned from our community and updated our website with more information about our [safety protocol linked here](#). We will be offering a presentation on our safety protocol in the next few weeks, date to be determined.

MULTI-CULTURALLY ENGAGED

Our district Equity Team provided training to all staff on October 30th. This is our third staff training since June as we continue to use the work of Dr. Caprice Hollins and Ilsa Govan. This week we focused on *privilege*. We continue to emphasize our agreed upon norms and work with staff to improve school culture. Next month, we will continue to look at privilege and empathy. It is critical for all of us to continue these conversations with each other and our students.

[Washington Family Engagement discussed this on the NPR Morning Edition. Check out the article linked here.](#)



On November 7th SWHS Leadership with the help from choir and band, will have their **Veterans Day** assembly for students in grades 7-12. All Veterans are invited to attend. The event is from 12:30-1:15 in the SWHS Main gym. Special guest, Major General Trish Rose, USAF (retired) will be a guest speaker at each of the school assemblies. Assemblies are also occurring at the Elementary K-4 and the South Campus 5-6 sites.

On December 6th SWHS ASB is hosting Inter-high. A collaboration of league schools to get together and share strategies, ideas and collaborate on projects.

Our elementary school music enrichment program has taken off. Our fourth grade classes learned percussion and rhythm patterns with visiting instructor Blessing Bhimanga, who traveled all the way from Zimbabwe as Dana Moffett's guest instructor.

GLOBAL SOCIETY



Thank you to the Whidbey Watershed Stewards. the Outdoor Classroom has hosted our students on a number of field trips. Last week, the fourth graders explored the forest and food chains.

On Nov 5th the SWHS Marketing and Merchandising class visited Mukilteo Roasters. The commitment and collaboration from Mukilteo Roasters to support these budding business students goes way back. Mukilteo Roasters trains all students to be baristas so they can successfully implement these skills and run the Falcons Nest, the student store at SWHS. On their field trip they will gain knowledge of Mukilteo Roaster's plant, business plan and more hands-on learning about running a business!

THANKFUL

LITERACY



Program Review on Special Education occurred the week of October 22nd. Interviews were conducted by a team sent from the Washington Association of School Administrators. A report will be sent to us in the near future.

Program Review on Communication is ongoing. Our communications advisory team has met with the consultant and is involved in this process. Thank you to our group of volunteers that are dedicated to improving communication at South Whidbey.

Each of the schools have their own school bulletins and newsletters that provide updates on the happenings in their buildings. At the Elementary School, Principal Richards publishes a bi-monthly newsletter, the *Orca Splash*, that is emailed to all families [and linked on their website](#). At the South campus, Principal Fankhauser has a [monthly newsletter linked here](#). At South Whidbey Middle School, here is a [daily bulletin that can be read online linked here](#). At South Whidbey High School, there is a weekly bulletin for students, staff and families ([linked here](#)). Please check these building communications for updates. On each website and on the SWSD App, there are news articles.

SWHS ASB Exec Board, run by Chandra Wallace, kicks off its House of Reps on November 12th. Students elected representatives in their Advisory classes and they will meet on November 12th to continue to focus on communication and gathering feedback from the student body.

SWHS child development students are beginning to explore education in different settings--many students will take advanced child development applying their learning while supporting our small community of early education either at playscape, sw children's center or the elementary school beginning in January.

The food advisory team led by Doug and Laura Bedell, is actively looking at providing nutritious and delicious meals. They visited several lunch programs including Coupeville and will be reporting on committee work to the board in January.

ACTIVE COMMUNITY MEMBERS

SWHS World Classic Class is holding their annual **Warm Clothing Drive**. Clean Out the Closet Challenge! Students are asked to bring gently used, warm clothing to their period 1 class through December 3rd. Five points is given to each class for each warm jacket, coat, pair of shoes or boots and blankets. All other items are 2 points each. The winning class receives a special treat! All items will be delivered to Good Cheer. Great job Falcons!

Our South Campus 5th and 6th graders raised over \$450 for the American Cancer Society at their **Pink Day Bake Sale**. Great Job South Campus!

The 6-12th Grade Band members entertained our community on October 30th at their annual **Creepy Concert and Carnival fundraiser**. There, they wore their costumes and provided some spooky tunes. Our **bond advisory group** is chaired by Dan Poolman. This team is looking at large projects that are beyond the scope of the annual levy. Please join this group to help with determining whether or not South Whidbey should propose a bond and which projects should be prioritized.

Thank you to the work of our McKinney-Vento Liaison, Mary Michell, who is battling for the homeless students in our district with Patti Maddux and Lindsey Hensrude. [Mary was featured in a state-wide article about the battles South Whidbey faces, article is linked here.](#)

South Whidbey CARES, developed from the Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative grant awarded to South Whidbey School District, wants your input. Please complete the survey. Find the survey online by using the link below <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ISSOWH2019EN> or swing by the SW Community Center for a hard copy! Your participation is greatly appreciated!



Our Boys and Girls Cross Country teams are headed over for the State Meet, leaving tomorrow. Our harriers have had an amazing season! Boys are ranked 3rd in State, 2X Conference Champions, District 1 Champions, and now headed for the big one! Girls are 2nd in Conference and 5th in District--awesome also. Great job Falcons! Best of luck at States!