

# Orca Spout Out Newsletter

January 12, 2021

Dear Orca Families,

All of our HT Orcas have been in my thoughts and on my mind through the terrible acts last week at the Capitol and the ongoing injustices happening at a national and local level. As we continue to talk about this and help our children understand, we hope you will read the [Superintendent's message](#) from Friday and explore the resources provided.

## **Survey: Please Complete Your Hybrid Learning Intent Survey**

Families of elementary students (K-5) received this [survey](#) regarding their intent to have their children continue with remote learning or shift to in-person hybrid learning when it becomes available. This survey asks for specific student information so that we know which students intend to participate in each of the learning models. The information you provide is important to planning. **We hope all elementary families [complete this survey](#) by 8:00 pm on Tuesday, January 12.**

## **Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance 2021**

Throughout January and February, we will be engaging in our Black History Observances. We deeply value the life experiences and standards of excellence our Black students, families and staff contribute to Highland Terrace every day.

Our staff continue to actively engage in the work necessary to deepen our understanding of equity and racial injustices. We commit to creating a community of inclusion and partnership. As a part of that commitment, we are working to undo the institutional racism that exists within education through our curriculum, practices, and systems. We are deeply invested in demonstrating solidarity and allyship with the Black community.

The learning begins with our **Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. Observance 2021**. Our Equity Team has curated and developed lessons on the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. Classrooms will engage activities outlined below. Lessons will be anchored around a children's book or video, with classroom discussions and Seesaw activities to help students deepen their thinking. Different grades will explore different books, so ask your student's classroom teacher which books and activities they plan to engage in. You can check out the books and videos [here](#).

- **Monday:** Who was Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr.?
  - [HT MLK Assembly Video](#): This video includes messages from HT staff and students about the impact Dr. King has had on them.
  - [Student/Family Reflections](#): This is a link to a padlet where we are inviting students and families to share. *What is it about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr that*

*makes him a hero to you or your family? What does Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. day mean to you? Why is Dr. King's message important to you today?*

- **Tuesday:** Learning more about Dr. King and the civil rights movement
- **Wednesday:** Exploring individuals who fought for civil rights with Dr. King
- **Thursday:** Exploring Dr. King's speeches
- **Friday:** Creating an action plan to increase inclusion and social justice today

We thank our Highland Terrace Equity Team for their continued leadership.

- Kelsey Graves, 3rd grade teacher
- Christina Simmons, 1st grade teacher
- Christine Chmielniak, 4th grade teacher
- Amy Gourde, Dean
- Teresa Osborne, Counselor
- Alicia Wilson, Librarian

**Black Voices Opportunity:** Join OSPI Teacher of the Year Brooke Brown in a conversation about Ethnic Studies!

Come hear OSPI Teacher of the Year Brooke Brown present on how Ethnic Studies became a reality in her classroom and district, the work she's doing at a state level, and how to connect with students through the telling of their own stories. This event is co-sponsored by Black Voices & the Shoreline Education Association.

- **Date:** Thursday, January 14
- **Time:** 4:00-6:00 pm
- **Registration:** Click [here](#).

Please reach out if you have any questions. We value your perspectives and thinking.

Sincerely,

**Lara Drew**

Principal | Highland Terrace

[lara.drew@shorelineschools.org](mailto:lara.drew@shorelineschools.org)

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**ATTENDANCE MATTERS**

Thank you to the families contacting the attendance office. Reminder: Schools must take attendance during remote learning.

Similar to in person attendance if your child will be absent, I must speak to or receive an email from a parent or guardian with the reason for the absence. A student's parent/guardian can excuse an absence by calling or emailing within five (5) days of the absence. Your phone calls and emails help us to ensure our attendance is accurate and that your child does not accrue unexcused absences.

If your child(ren) will be absent send an email to [ht.attendance@shorelineschools.org](mailto:ht.attendance@shorelineschools.org) or call the attendance line (206) 393.4342 available 24 hours. In your email or message please include the date, student name, teacher or room number and the reason for the absence.

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## 2021-22 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Welcome Class of 2034!

Open Enrollment for incoming Kindergarten students will begin on **Monday, February 8th through March 31, 2021**. Enrollment will be available online and via paper registration packets. Online enrollment is the preferred method this year but registration packets will be available for pick up in the office beginning in February. The District web site will be updated by **January 22nd** with all information and links. The online registration link will be visible but not activated until Open Enrollment begins on Monday, February 8th.

<https://www.shorelineschools.org/Domain/64>

There will not be a Kinderfest Event this year. If you have questions please reach out to the Registrar Kristie Brown. She can be reached by email at [kristie.brown@shorelineschools.org](mailto:kristie.brown@shorelineschools.org) or by phone at 206.393.4342.

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## FERPA OPT-OUT NOTICE

Please review the District's updated FERPA Opt-Out Notice. The new FERPA Opt-Out form is available by contacting Kristie Brown at [kristie.brown@shorelineschools.org](mailto:kristie.brown@shorelineschools.org). If your family wishes to opt out of releasing information you must complete a new form each school year.

[FERPA.pdf](#)

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## FROM OUR HTPTA

**HTPTA WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!**

We continue to work to find ways to provide enriching opportunities for students and community building activities for all. We're interested in your input – take this BRIEF SURVEY and enter to win an item of Orca Wear!

**SURVEY LINK:** <https://bit.ly/35BAJoH>

**AFTERNOON CHESS AND CODING ARE BACK!** Sign-ups are open for Highland Terrace Elementary's Chess Club and Creative Coding! Email [HTPTATreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:HTPTATreasurer@gmail.com) to inquire about scholarships.

- Virtual Chess Club – Starts Monday January 11<sup>th</sup> 3:30pm-4:30pm - \$104 – register by January 10<sup>th</sup>. Register at <https://www.chessmates.org/bravo/chooseschool.php>
- Creative Coding – Starts Tuesday January 12<sup>th</sup> 3:30pm-4:45pm - \$25/session with rolling weekly sign ups. Register at <https://creativecoding.com/highland-terrace/>

Plan to attend every session with your child? Email [highlandterracepta@gmail.com](mailto:highlandterracepta@gmail.com) to find out how to become a chaperone and get free tuition! Visit <https://highlandterracepta.org/enrichment-programs/> for more information about these and other Highland Terrace Elementary enrichment program ideas and offerings.

### **STEAM-ING INTO 2021!**

The STEAM Committee has been hard at work compiling materials and instructions to bring every Orca some pretty cool hands on science, coming to you via distribution soon!

As part of their work, they've pulled together an amazing website full of resources for fun STEAM activities:

- Interesting science websites to tickle your senses
- Links to check out from our very own Science Night exhibitors
- Interesting experiments to try at home
- And coming soon, instructions and videos for our upcoming Science Kits!

Check it out! <https://highlandterracepta.org/steam/>

### **HELP US AMPLIFY OUR VOICE IN SUPPORT OF CHILDREN & YOUTH**

You can make a difference in the key things that matter most to making sure every child in the State of Washington has a robust, enriching and supported educational experience. Sign up for

Action Alerts and learn how you can support Washington State PTA's legislative priorities during the 2021 Legislative session, from the comforts of home. Visit <https://www.wastatepta.org/events-programs/focus-on-advocacy/> and sign up!

## **JANUARY 2021 BOARD MEETING**

January 19, 2021 @ 630pm – HTPTA Board Meeting – via Zoom. All are welcome! Please email [highlandterracepta@gmail.com](mailto:highlandterracepta@gmail.com) to let us know if you plan to attend.

**MEET THE BOARD:** <https://highlandterracepta.org/htpta-board/>

**JOIN THE PTA -** <https://highlandterracepta.org/join/>

**VOLUNTEER -** <https://highlandterracepta.org/volunteer/>

**GOT QUESTIONS?** Email [highlandterracepta@gmail.com](mailto:highlandterracepta@gmail.com)