



Orca Spout Out Newsletter

December 15, 2020

As we get ready to close out 2020, we want to thank you for your ongoing support for Highland Terrace Elementary and our community. All of our students, families and staff are well-deserved of the break from online school and to be together as families. We hope all of our families stay safe and healthy during this time.



Reading at Home - Makes a Difference: While we know students are ready to have a break from the daily school routine, we strongly encourage students to read daily. You can help your child by having regular reading routines, reading to them, listening to them read, taking turns sharing the reading, and talking about the reading.

By **reading** together every day, you stimulate and strengthen your child's language and literacy skills. By **reading** and talking with your child each day, you bond with them and model the love of **reading**, which will benefit them in school and throughout life.

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

Sincerely,

Lara Drew

Principal | Highland Terrace
lara.drew@shorelineschools.org

FROM OUR EQUITY TEAM

Hello Families,

This month's equity work focused on staff rather than students. Staff engaged in learning around the district's [Equity Resolution](#) and [Social Justice Standards](#). The resolution, passed in July 2020 focuses on increasing staff training in culturally responsive teaching, adoption of more diverse books for schools, Racial Equity Book Studies, Equitable Family Engagement Program, among other things.

You can see examples of our adoption of more diverse books at [Highland Terrace's Virtual Library](#). Check out a book or two over the break!

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

Sincerely, HT Equity Team

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

FINE MOTOR SKILLS

Our Highland Terrace Orcas have been doing a phenomenal job accessing their education remotely through Zoom and Seesaw—my students have even taught me a few tech tricks along the way! It is still important for all students to practice their fine motor skills at home so that their fingers and hands are ready for in-person instruction. The [Occupational Therapy Activity/Handwriting Videos](#) document has several video lessons demonstrating a variety of fine motor activities (scissor skills, handwriting, dressing skills, etc.). Here are a few quick ideas to incorporate into your student's remote learning plan at home:

Primary Grades:

- 10 minutes of [coloring 3-5x/week](#) (break crayons in half to help promote a functional pencil grip)
- 5-10 minutes of handwriting practice 3-5x/week (focus on letter formation)

Intermediate Grades:

- 10 minutes of [coloring 3-5x/week](#)
- 10 minutes of handwriting practice 3-5x/week (focus on alignment of letters)

FROM OUR HTPTA

GIVE THE GIFT OF THANKS! As with so many other traditions, this year HTPTA has decided to forego our usual Holiday Cookie Boxes for the staff and teachers at Highland Terrace for the sake of everyone's health and safety. In its place, let's show an outpouring of our appreciation by showering our HT community with thanks! All family members are encouraged to send messages through SeeSaw or email to let everyone know how grateful we are for their time, care, and commitment to our big Orca family. We love you, Highland Terrace!

COAT DRIVE FOR THE WORKS – STILL GOING ON!

* The WORKS continues to need warm winter coats. Size needs range from 4T-16 youth or XS-3XL adult - new or Gently used (so if you or your kids have outgrown items, please pass along).

WAYS TO DONATE:

* You can deliver to the WORKS Wednesday 12/16 from 6-8pm, or email (theworks@shorelinepta.org) or leave a message on The WORKS information line at (206) 393-4916 to coordinate a drop-off/pick-up.

* You can order via our Amazon wishlist:

http://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/dl/invite/6LyvKAr?ref_wl_share

Thank you for your ongoing kindness, generosity, and support of The WORKS!

www.shorelinepta.org/the-works.html

BLACK VOICES READ-ALONG – still time to join!

Winter Break is a great time to catch up on the Black Voices Read-Along, taking place across the Shoreline school district through February 2021! To learn more, sign up, find read-along resources, enter for prize giveaways, and find out how to get free/discounted copies of the books in partnership with Third Place Books Lake Forest Park, visit www.shorelineschools.org/blackvoices.

SCIENCE KITS - coming in 2021!

The STEAM Committee continues to work hard creating cool kits to send home to students in 2021! Stay tuned for more information in the new year. In the meantime, check out the national PTA website with how to make invisible ink and a balloon boat! <https://www.pta.org/home/programs/stem/at-home>

SHOP VIA AMAZON SMILE & SUPPORT THE PTA

Amazon Smile is an automatic way for you to support our school every time you shop on Amazon. Highland Terrace PTA will receive a portion of every dollar spent on eligible items.

Visit <http://www.highlandterracepta.org/passive-fundraisers-for-htpta/> to find out about other ways you can contribute to HTPTA while you shop – Box Tops, Fred Meyer Rewards, and more!

COMING IN 2021...

HTPTA is hard at work brainstorming ideas of how to reach every student and family in ways that can provide enrichment and community engagement. Science Kits, Read-A-Thon, more enrichment programs, oh my! Please email us with your thoughts and ideas – highlandterracepta@gmail.com – we'd love to hear from you!

THANK YOU!!

A heartfelt Thank You and Happy Holidays to the HTPTA board, members, and all that are working hard - every staff person, HT community member, and family - to support every child in this wild and crazy 2020. A safe and happy holiday break to all and a healthy and joyful new year - see you in 2021, Orcas!

TONIGHT – December 15, 2020 @ 630pm – HTPTA Board Meeting – via Zoom. All are welcome! Please email 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