2021

The Redhawk Review

The class of '21 at their last homecoming assembly *(Photo by Jan Boutillier)*

Graduation!

By Grace Wentzel

As of this paper's publishing, graduation is set to be on June 11th at 7 pm at Memorial Field. (Details are ever subject to change due to COVID.) This location, a central spot for the years of high school events enjoyed by Port Townsend students, allows the class of 2021 to sit all together for one of the last times while being surrounded by family and loved ones. Complete with a serpentine, speeches, and performances, Photos and videos of the event and other senior festivities will be uploaded to a shared Google Drive folder, linked via the QR code. Send in your photos by June 11th to have them added. Congratulations graduates!

Senior class president Sorina Johnston helped to organize this year's graduation ceremony, and wanted the event to preserve all the crucial elements of connectedness and, of course, a tad of grandeur while keeping safety as a top priority. "I hope graduation will give a sense of closure to all the seniors. It's been a long ride,

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Messages for the Senior Class

Coordinated by River Kisler

Dear Class of 2021,

What a journey your high school experience has been! We know that there have been many challenges since March 2020, and you have been resilient, creative, caring, supportive, and understanding during these unique times. One of my greatest joys, as a high school principal, is watching the transformation of each class from nervous freshmen to confident seniors who are ready to step out into the world. I too feel that I have missed out on many aspects of school this past year, and I am sorry that you have not enjoyed many of the traditions which come with a "normal" senior year experience. I am, however, confident that you are ready to move into the next phase of your life. Know that whichever path you walk, whether it is attending college, trade school, or continuing education, entering the military, entering the workforce, or other unique adventures, I am proud to have served as your principal, and wish you all the best that life has to offer you. As an adult, you will have many celebrations as well as challenges ahead. My advice to you is to work hard, be a good member of your family and of your community, find joy in the simple things, seek help when you feel helpless, and try to make the world a better place for us all. Congratulations to the Class of 2021!

Carrie Ehrhardt, Principal

Class of 2021,

Nobody could have ever predicted how your high school careers would end. Nobody could have ever prepared you for the trials you have faced. Nobody can tell you what comes next or how this all turns out. On a positive note, nobody could be prouder of you all than me. I have seen so many examples of compassion and perseverance from this class of young adults. When the dust settles, I know you will continue to do your absolute best just as you always have. I encourage each of you to take advantage of what we have learned about the importance of relationships. The all too brief moments I have had with you made my day brighter each time I was lucky enough to share a moment of your life with you. Words can never express the regret of what could have been. However, in the end, you all still have much to accomplish and many positive things to add to our world. Keep doing your best, lean on one another, be compassionate and helpful. Make someone smile every day and the world becomes a better place. Thanks for all you have given me.

Patrick Gaffney, Dean of Students

Elementary Interviews

By Melanie Bakin

The Class of 2021 is a mish-mash of people. Some have been in the district since kindergarten, others joined senior year. In the process of interviewing previous teachers, one common thread prevailed: that the Class of 2021 was going to change the world for the better.

Kindergarten teacher, Dawn Braden, remembers meeting the Class of 2021 on the first day of school. "You were radiating with nervous smiles, new backpacks, and a desire to learn more about this world." After watching us grow, she now sees the Class of 2021 as "changemakers committed to protecting our planet, standing up for the marginalized, and leaving the world better than you found it. You are still radiating, but now with passion, determination and unstoppable forward momentum. I have to say, I am proud to have taught you. Don't. Stop.

Love, Teacher Dawn."

Third grade teacher, Allen Fox, has a similar memory to Dawn. When he looks at the Class of 2021's third grade photo, he sees "bright smiles and clever kids who really blossomed into thinkers and doers that year." Now, nine years later, he said, "It is a blessing to get to know you and it's been great fun to watch you through the years. You have become leaders who can change the world!"

As the Class of 2021 entered middle school, they continued to exhibit traits of leadership, courage, and perseverance. Melinda Schroeder, 8th grade ELA and publications teacher, has fond memories of class conversations and lively students. She remembers "the one afternoon during 6th period when we blasted music to drown out Shively's thumping bass. Then, her entire class came through acapella to The White Stripes' "Seven Nation Army" and marched through my room. Such a funny experience and time. I loved that!" As a whole, Schroeder loved "the team work and determination, cooperation, and competitiveness during some of the challenges at each of the place based experiences."

Ms. Manning noted that it had been "kind of a bummer year for an amazing class of seniors. However, I think all of you persevering through this school year will mean that you can meet any life challenge head on and overcome it. This year was just like the engineering challenges many of you solved back when you were in STEAM class. With this pandemic, you had a set of constraints and parameters to work around to accomplish a task and you did it, you're graduating! As the graduating seniors of the COVID Pandemic 2021, you will forever be known as the most resilient group of seniors to ever graduate Port Townsend High School."

The Class of 2021 will forever be remembered as a class of changemakers, who will go forward in their lives and change the world for the better.

Along with the Seniors, Jan Boutilier Bids Farewell to PTHS

By Sophia Lumsdaine

As a kindergartener, Jan Boutilier went to school in the Gael Stuart building—in the room now used for the media and photography classes. She later attended PTHS as a teenager, graduating from the same school where she has devoted so many years of dedicated work. Now, after serving the Port Townsend School District for 35 years and after much careful reflection, Jan has decided that it is time for her to depart from her work at PTHS and transition into a different direction in her life.

Jan has served the school district in many ways over the years, working in special education and filling administrative positions in various programs and schools. "I will never forget the happiness I experienced on the day that I learned I was finally hired for my first job with the PT School District," she reflected. Recounting each step of the way, Jan described the various roles she took over the years. "I started in Special Education with the preschool [...] then went to [be an] OPEPO aide and part-time office work at the Intermediate School. I was transferred to PTHS in [...] 1988 as a SPED paraeducator, In-School Suspension supervisor, then moved on to become the Vocational Secretary and Counseling Secretary before becoming the Principal's Secretary."

Though her time spent on administrative work was definitely fulfilling to her, it was the connections she made with her coworkers and students that really stood out: "I learned that being a school secretary was much more than sitting at a desk." Jan described the staff at PTHS as being "fabulous," saying, "Our office team is truly A+." She also specifically shared her appreciation for our principal, Carrie Ehrhardt by noting, "I am very thankful for the 20 years of working with the best principal ever."

Some of the best memories that Jan has at PTHS have been made with students. In her time here she has chaperoned many school dances, supervised and participated in lively homecoming activities, chartered and advised the Key Club, and had the opportunity to travel to Italy, Greece, Slovenia, and Austria with Visit History. Happy memories, both big and small, have filled her years at the high school. At the same time, Jan found that some of her most gratifying experiences were the times when she's been able to offer assistance to students who were experiencing difficulties in their lives, helping them through the troubles they faced.

Looking back on her years of work for the Port Townsend School District, and PTHS specifically, Jan expressed "My time with students, and making a difference in their lives, has truly been the most rewarding thing of all. The small things end up to really be the most important things in life. […] PTHS has my heart—and my heart is full. It has been a true honor to serve the students in the Port Townsend School District for the past 35 years."

Thank you Jan, for all your dedicated work over the years!

Jan as a senior at PTHS *(photo courtesy of Jan Boutilier)*

A photo snapped during the 1997-1998 school year, Jan is pictured working to serve the Port Townsend School District, as she has done now for 35 years. *(photo courtesy of Jan Boutilier)*

Graduation, Cont.

the past 12 years of public education; and the last year and a half being particularly bumpy. Our class has always been close, so it was hard to give up a senior year that we've all been looking forward to since we were freshmen. With every senior activity that's happened, it's like we're all releasing a little bit of a breath we've been holding. Just seeing each other's faces and getting to remember the class we're a part of and the experiences we've shared is so gratifying. I hope everyone has fun, cries a lot, and feels like they've had a chance to adequately celebrate ourselves and our class, because we deserve it. And it's a chance to say goodbye. The year has been anticlimactic—I realized I basically graduated last spring, because that was when high school ended for me. So before we all shoot off on our different paths, I'm so excited to say goodbye. I just can't believe this is my class that I've shared school with, and I think of all the wonderful people in it, and feel so grateful to be accepted in it and to lead it. Everyone's amazing—beautifulpeople who are going to do beautiful things."

QR Code for Senior Photo Album. Check back for post graduation updates!

“It Wasn’t Like High School Musical At All” - Senior Reflections

Coordinated by Sorina Johnston

Just twelve short years ago, the class of 2021 sat in kindergarten classrooms and learned the basics: to share toys, to color within the lines, and not to run with scissors. Now, they are finishing their last year of a government required public education - no longer small children needing constant supervision (except maybe Pierre), but mature, young adults, who are well-prepared to take on the world. Here are some pieces of reflection from the Port Townsend High School Class of 2021:

Fondest Memories:

“Hanging out with my crazy friends at our lunch table.”

“An hour long debate about capitalism as a religion.”

“Lip syncs and watching our whole class collaborate.”

“Mock trial and APUSH”

“The sheer joy of ripping a huge poster off the wall with all your friends, screaming at the top of your lungs.”

“CABARET and green room shenanigans.”

“Watching O’ Brother Where Art Thou.” (Thank you JNiel)

“When someone dropped a full plate of food in the cafeteria and then left to let someone else clean up.” (Don’t be like whoever that jerk was)

Lessons Learned:

“That everyone wants to be loved and respected, even the people who seem like they’re not interested.”

“Don’t be afraid to contradict yourself. It IS possible to hold two beliefs at once.”

“It all goes by really, really, quickly. But it goes by even quicker if you sleep in class.”

“Show kindness. You truly never know what someone has been through.”

“Not to care what other people think.”

“The best way to learn is to circumvent all the rules you are given.”

Experiences Seniors Were Grateful For

Realizing that “first impressions can be wrong.”

“Working in the service industry.”

“Having Mr. Gambill as a teacher.”

Making huge mistakes “because they’ve made me who I am.”

“I’m grateful for the friends I met, all 3 of them.”

“The close knit community here at PTHS”

Expectation vs Reality?

“It wasn’t like high school musical at all”

“It’s nothing like Mean Girls!”

“Really wasn’t like the movies.”

“It was about as different as it could get.”

…” and i blame every piece of content ever made about high school for putting these ideas in my head as a kid.”

Advice to Freshman Self

“Listen to the upperclassman when they told me High School goes by in a flash. I never believed them and now here we are 1 month away from graduation and it truly went by in a flash.”

Don’t buy F76.

“Worry less about the future. As we all saw in 2020, everything can change instantaneously.”

“DO WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY.”

“Nobody is looking at you or judging you too closely, so don’t act like they are.”

“Give up, you’re not going to get taller.” - Finn

“Just keep on moving forward.”

“Invest in GameStop.”

“Relax, hangout with your friends, you’ll be fine:)”

Pause. Deep Breath.

I once had an english teacher describe the most frustrating aspect of writing: having something you know you want to share, but not being able to find the words. He linneareated that as bad thinking, not bad writing. So, consider this not bad writing, but bad thinking:

I am unable to sum up the sensation of graduating from the school district I have been a part of for the last twelve years. So I, like many other seniors, will shirk that impossible task with jokes and sarcasm for the next couple weeks, or years, until we’re able to comprehend what the heck high school was.

Maybe, it’s because the growth that’s occurred over the past four years is too immense to understand just yet.

Prom Fashion: A Different Masquerade

By Zinnia Hansen

I have to admit that one of the main reasons I attended prom was because it was a chance to dress up, something I’ve had few opportunities to do living in Port-Townsend, and even fewer during the pandemic. Fashion, for me, is like poetry. It’s a chance to present myself. it’s about connection... dialogue. When I get dressed, I feel like I am having a conversation with society. I’ll wear a neon purple nightgown that looks like it belongs on a crazy cat lady, but I’ll pair it with an undeniably preppy pair of Stan-Smiths. This year, at prom, people reached out to their classmates through their fashion choices. Their outfits glimmered: the classic and the revolutionary paired together with startling alchemy. I saw handsewn ball-gowns, sequened slips, brightly patterned suits, and sleek tuxedos. Our fashion statements were sophisticated and verbose. They told a story, they revealed a desperate need to be seen.

While everyone’s outfits were fabulous, there were a couple that seemed to exemplify the atmosphere of the night. Joseph Molotsky wore a Polka-Dot suit that highlighted his expert dance moves. Subtle and sequins are not normally two words that are paired together, but Willow Hoins’ stunning dress quietly shimmered. Max Stewert stitched his own pair of gorgeously tailored trousers. And Erin Fenton arrived, swathed in tulle and flowers, looking like a fairytale princess.

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Max Stewart rocked a hand sewn outfit *(Photo by Cyan Adams)*

Grad Libs: Advice for the Graduates of the Class of 2021

Hey there Seniors,

Ooh La La! I can't believe you are furtively graduating! I'm so Stinky of you that I
(exclamation) (adverb) (adjective)

Could disassemble. All those eons of Zooming and swiping left
(verb) (measurement of time) (verb) (verb)

finally paid off. I know some of the grads are pursuing anything from creative writing and

criminal justice to finance and engineering to cosmetology and music production, but if I'm

being honest… I always thought River Kisler would end up exploring eyeballs instead. I
(name of senior) (noun)

remember when three of Ms. Dow's students dressed up as the XYZ affair for halloween.
(funny memory of the class or a particular student)

It was so Rad; I'll miss that most. My advice to you all is to make time to sneeze,
(adjective) (action)

always launch when failing,
(verb) (action/activity)

and never (under no circumstances) reproduce. .
(Bad decision)

Don't be afraid to chuckle, and don't ever stop sailing Read a book about
(verb) (verb ending in ing)

Tinder at least once in your life, or learn how to Pogil. .
(subject) (something you loved to do)

One thing I'll never forget about your class is ambition.
(unforgettable class trait or memory)

So, as you take your next steps, I wish you the digging and soaring in
(verb) (verb)

the world. It has truly been a funky experience.
(adjective)

Congratulations,
PTHS Teachers
(your name)

P.S. Wear sunscreen, and floss!
(final note or piece of advice to the class of 2021)

Senior Superlatives

Photo by Rebecca Storm-Krajewski

Most Iconic Duo:

Katie Ballard and Nikki Robison

Photo by Iris Mattern

Most likely to become a reality TV star:

Olivia Mattern

Photo by Rachel Lott

Best Dressed:

Sam Lott

Photo by Elias Herman

Most likely to win the lottery and lose the ticket:

Elias Herman

Photo by Audrey Drake

Best Candidate for the CIA:

Emilia Nunn

Photo by Cedar Elliott

Most Changed:

Cedar Elliott

Photo by Olivia Mattern

Most likely to become Tik Tok famous:

Maddie Hess

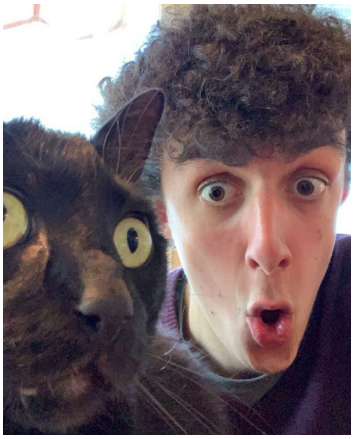

Photo by Pierre Ballou

Class Clown:

Pierre Ballou

A (Prom)ising Night

By Julia Neville

The night of May 22nd was marked with blissful excitement for PTHS juniors and seniors alike, who gathered several hours before dusk at the tennis courts as they awaited the prom experience of their lives. It would be the first time in two years that PTHS was able to organize and execute a prom, and although initially, some might have termed the venue unconventional, the night ended up being as successful as it was celebratory of everything the students had endured during the pandemic. With whimsical bar lights hanging over dancers' heads, streamers and tapestries in fantastical colors covering the tennis court's insipid fencing, and of course, the unmatched energy of bubbly students, Spring Prom 2021 offered every component of an event done just right. It was a refreshingly unifying experience for students, albeit a surreal one.

"To dance, you kind of have to get out of your head and just move, and it was so nice to see everyone doing that," Sorina Johnston, a key organizer of the event, reflected. Along with the rest of the ASB team, Soso had a special perspective as both an attendee and planner of prom. She explained that planning prom from the beginning and watching those plans come to fruition made the end result feel all the more satisfactory. As for the venue, "we'd actually been planning an outdoor prom even before COVID hit. I think the tennis courts came up jokingly at a meeting, but the more we talked about it, the more we realized it would work," Soso revealed. And in the end, especially after their transformation, the tennis courts ended up being more than well-received. Kenny Nichols, a junior, concluded that "the vibe was there. Everyone was happy. I think it was really shocking not wearing masks, but I felt safe because we were vaccinated."

Another vital component of the prom experience was having Caleb "Captain" Peacock as DJ. Peacock's son, Yarrow Dean, spoke of his father being on music duty at his prom: "I'm pretty used to going to events that he DJs at, so it wasn't that weird. It's something I've done a lot." Furthermore, Yarrow said that instead, what struck more of a chord in him was being able to dance with friends maskless and closer than 6 feet. "It was a breath of fresh air—no pun intended." Sophia Morris was in full agreement with Yarrow. "My favorite part of the night was just seeing everyone's faces, and being able to dance with them together. As a senior, it was awesome to have this end-of-high-school experience."

Historically, prom night has always been one of absolute joy, laughter, lighthearted chaos, true exhilaration, and even unity among the classes. Everyone has shown up happy, complementary and ready to dance; this prom night was no different. In fact, if it hadn't been for the past year and a half spent in isolation, missing out on moments where people were truly living, these sentiments may not have been as present or as amplified as they were that night on the dance floor.

Fog from Captain Peacock's DJ booth added to the ambiance of the night *(Photo by Rebecca Krajewski)*

With the dance beginning at 8, students enjoyed watching the sky turn pink before the night took off. *(Photo by Rebecca Krajewski)*

Prom Fashion, Cont.

Often fashion requires you to express yourself within a set of guidelines: current trends, dress-codes… Because prom was in the tennis courts this year, an additional constraint was added: we were required to wear tennis shoes. But I think this actually made the outfits more interesting. A fashion statement can be analyzed in a similar way as a literary one. The sneakers hiding (or proudly displayed) beneath the ball-gowns and suits were juxtaposed against prom's formal connotation. Not only did they make us seem a lot cooler than we actually are, they also allowed us to dance with far more comfort and ease. I think this was part of the reason so many attendees stayed till the end of the event.

In many ways, our prom was the antithesis of a masquerade ball; it was a chance to see each other unmasked. But, as Max Stewert pointed out in Contemporary World Problems a couple days after the event, seeing people's faces fully exposed and their bodies decked out in exuberant formal wear felt unusual, freeing in a similar way masquerades are intended to be. It was cathartic and thrillingly novel to walk through the tennis court gate and into an alternate reality where we could escape the pandemic for a few hours.

Willow Hoins showed her sparkle, and accessorized with class. *(Photo by Rowan Lachlan)*

Spotify code for Senior playlist!

Graphic Design by Maya Dow

finnriver
FARM & CIDERY

HOLLEY CARLSON
REAL ESTATE REAL PEOPLE
COLDWELL BANKER BEST HOMES

The Redhawk Review

We hope you've enjoyed your peruse through this issue of the 2020/2021 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 and community 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 single articles addressing topics writers are passionate about. We'd also love to work with students interested in creative writing, photography, or other art forms. If you're interested in journalism, or just in learning more, please let me know! We'd love to have you on board. We are creating this with the ideas and interests of students in mind, so feedback and thoughts for the future are always happily accepted! Thanks for reading,

Senior Editor - Stella Jorgensen (360) 821-1578

Junior Editor - Grace Wentzel gracefulheart11@gmail.com

Redhawk Review readers,

It has been my absolute pleasure to edit and produce this paper for the past two years. I hope you've enjoyed reading it as much as I've enjoyed bringing it to you. While my time as editor has come to a close, the Redhawk Review continues as an official PTHS club under new editor Grace Wentzel and team! The club is as always looking for new contributors–reach out to us via Instagram (@theredhawkreview), via email (gracefulheart11@gmail.com), or look for blue Redhawk Review Staff sweatshirts around campus.

Thank you for continuing to follow the journey of this organization, and congratulations to the class of '21!

Stella Jorgensen