

# The REDHAWK REVIEW



The girls basketball team enjoyed many worthwhile and triumphant moments this season.

## Winter Sports Finish Strong

By Addison Asbell

This winter sports season has been a groundbreaking one, to say the least. With three wrestlers heading to state, and both basketball teams making it into playoffs, the Rivals sports teams have played hard this winter.

The Boy's basketball team

fought for their spot in the playoffs Thursday, February 9th against Klahowya, ultimately walking away with the win (58-55) and securing a spot in the playoffs, confronting the Vashon Pirates on their home court. Boys Basketball played hard, but Vason squeaked out a win 57-43. The Rivals

Boys Basketball ended their season with 6-10 in the league and 9-12 overall. 5th seeded East Jefferson Girls Basketball played 4th seeded Cascade Christian Saturday the February 11th at an away game. The girls walked onto the court hopeful it was not their last game. The most recent time

the Rivals faced the Cougars had been on the Rivals' home court, where they had ended up losing 33-28. The team fought hard at Cascade Christian but ended their season with a loss 43-34. When asked about the season, senior Liz Storm said: "I was proud to see the improvement that everyone

# A Celebration of Multicultural History: How the Legacy of the Past Informs the Present

## *An interview with Darrell Thomas*

By Sophia Lumsdaine

In January, a historic moment for PTHS took place when the recently established BIPOC Student Union and adult advisors ran the MLK assembly rather than the ASB. Representatives of the student union from various grade levels spoke about what Dr. Martin Luther King's life and work meant for them and shared quotes from him that they felt had particular meaning. Darrell Thomas, Port Townsend School District's newly hired Director of Wellness, who is the BIPOC Student Union's principal advisor, explained that the importance of BIPOC student leadership in the assembly "was to help our youth take pride in their identity and the accomplishments of BIPOC people throughout history, such as MLK and other civil rights leaders, and also to allow them to be seen in front of their peers for who they are and to hear their voice."

The BIPOC Student Union was recently formed in the 2021-2022 school year, and has continued with greater strength this year under the guidance of Thomas. Darrell explained the sense of belonging that its members can gain. "I think it gives a community to youth of color in an area that doesn't have many people of color. It gives a sense of society outside of Port Townsend. When kids go to college they're going to see all kinds of groups- so much diversity- and this gives a sense of that. But it also is a place where

people can build community and have people they can connect with, because being a minority can be isolating."

In February, Black History Month is celebrated across the US, and while acknowledging the history of oppression and discrimination in our nation is very important, Thomas highlighted that this must be considered along with the incredible successes and vibrancy of African American people and heritage. "I think Black History Month goes beyond just civil rights. It encompasses art, inventions, culture, and Black peoples' contributions to society." Rather than a time to become weighed down by injustice, Thomas believes it is "more of a celebration." He hopes that students and staff in the PTHS community used Black History Month as an opportunity "to reflect on the greatness of others." People should investigate what they are passionate about, Darrell says. Whether you want to learn about figures in "jazz or poetry or sports or you want to learn about historical leaders -women like Harriet Tubman," the important thing is simply "acknowledging that we all contribute to society, and we all contribute to culture."

"King was a transformational leader. He placed our morals, values, principles, dignity, and equality above everything else; that's how he was able to lead effectively," Thomas stated. We all have a lot in common

with each other as people, so seeing humanity in one another is essential. Dr. King shows us how "our value and our dignity and justice should come before

anything else," Thomas explained an attitude of human respect and appreciation which can be applied to the present moment and to our everyday lives.

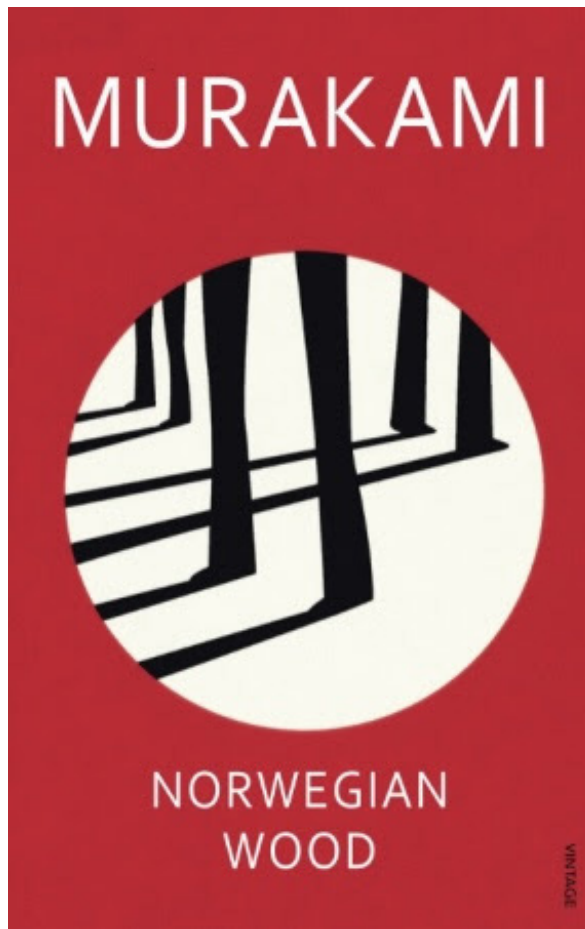


**Darrell Thomas serves as advisor to the PTHS BIPOC Student Union and was recently hired by the school district as Director of Wellness.**

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# Book Reviews



Written by Haruki Murakami

Haruki Murakami's beautiful and strange writing has always been a personal favorite. Named after a song by the Beatles, the book truly shines as one of Murakami's best works and is cherished by many. This story is so beautifully sad and nostalgic whilst also being simple and curious. It follows a young student in Tokyo named Toru Watanabe who is completely entranced by Naoko, a young woman who is unlike anyone he had ever met. Naoko belongs in her own world- she is quiet and introspective, she is never fully present. Their connection is disrupted after a mutual friend suddenly dies and Naoko eventually leaves Watanabe and

has to quit college to retreat and start a new life at a sanatorium. Watanabe struggles with finding himself and losing Naoko over and over again in a way that only Haruki Murakami could elucidate.

The beautiful, odd, and genius of Murakami's words has drawn much love to his works and book-lovers have doted upon him for years. "A masterly novel... Norwegian Wood bears the unmistakable marks of Murakami's hand." The Chicago Tribune and I are in full agreement that "Norwegian Wood... not only points to, but manifests the author's genius."

By Rennie O'donnell



Written by Taylor Jenkins Reid

As a slight tribute to the new show based off of this book, I have chosen to write about one of the most popular young adult books of 2020. The book is loosely based on Fleetwood Mac, and recounts similar affairs, characters, and music to that of the real-life band. Daisy Jones and the Six is told in a documentary-like style, which works surprisingly well and creates a surreal story.

Daisy Jones is a beautiful and rising star in 1960's Hollywood. She joins a rock band called "The Six," and struggles with drugs, affairs, and stardom. Her reckless and immature ways are countered by beauty, money, and talent. Daisy Jones is the most real and

complex character I have seen in young adult fiction.

The show version, featuring Riley Keough, Sam Claflin, and Suki Waterhouse, was released March 3rd on Amazon Prime video. I couldn't put the book down once I had started and I would highly recommend it. Though simple, it is a great read.

By Rennie O'donnell



# What's Up with the "New" Calendar? The Implications of a Balanced School Schedule for PTHS

By Zoe Pruden

Alongside most high school experiences comes the long-awaited summer break where teachers, grades, and the ambient presence of classes fade away. At PTHS, there's talk of an updated calendar. This calendar shortens summer break from 11 to 8ish weeks, leaving many students less than excited. Let's delve a little deeper into what this new calendar entails, as well as opinions from both teachers and students.

After interviewing Mr. Gambill (PTHS' 10th-grade English teacher and member of the calendar committee), several reasons for changing the current PTHS calendar to a "year-round" or "balanced" schedule become clear.

The "regular", or nine-month calendar, has a summer break normally spanning 10-12 weeks, but can often be detrimental to learning retention once back in school. A longer summer break allows more time to forget what's learned the previous year. In most schools, several weeks are wasted re-teaching new material rather than diving back in right after they left off. The balanced calendar combats this by shortening summer break to around 8.5 weeks (for PTHS specifically). This improves memory retention as there is less time to forget what has been taught.

At face value, many students (including myself, at first) groan at the idea of a shorter summer, since it allows less time for summer jobs, traveling, or spending fun

in the sun. However, the balanced calendar also moves to equalize time spent learning outside of school in higher-income and lower-income families. Mr. Gambill says, "Research shows that children from disadvantaged homes begin to fall behind their peers very early in elementary school and the long summer break is part of why that happens." Lower-income children don't have as many opportunities as higher-income children, such as going to summer camps, enrichment activities, and international travel. Over many years, these children fall significantly behind their advantaged peers, a problem that the balanced calendar attempts to fix.

Another major plus of the balanced calendar is that it provides for more breaks during the school year, elongating spring break, Thanksgiving, and breaks between semesters. Students and staff who have a balanced calendar often report decreased stress and anxiety, as there is more time to escape burnout or excess

stress during the school year. I know many students with busier schedules who would benefit from longer breaks during the school year, especially around the end of semesters or testing periods.

The balanced calendar also benefits teachers and schools with serious understaffing (as we've seen in Port Angeles' school district). Mr. Gambill reports, "Schools who transition to a balanced calendar report much higher levels of staff satisfaction than those with traditional calendars." He endorses the idea of longer breaks during the school year, especially considering how expensive it can be to travel during traditional breaks. If PTHS shifts our schedule, Gambill thinks it will be easier to travel affordably, especially during the ski season (since we'd have a break in the middle of it).

A large con of the balanced schedule at PTHS concerns its timeframe. Extending the first day of school to early August eliminates summer break from one of the best months (weather-wise)

in Port Townsend. After talking with other students, the consensus concerning the balanced calendar is almost unanimous: Most believe the balanced calendar goes a little too far, with many believing that a whole week off near Thanksgiving, or a spring break doubled in length is not necessary. Many strongly disagree with starting in early August, and would rather push the last day of school to mid-late July. Another main complaint surrounds sports. Scheduling practices during these breaks is challenging, and students find it difficult to adjust to school (especially their sleep schedules) after 4-5 days of break.

Overall, this balanced calendar has some major upsides, despite cutting three weeks off summer break. Reactions to the balanced calendar seem mixed, with many people expressing a reluctance towards any school during August. For now, the best thing we can do is wait and see what this balanced calendar may bring, for better or worse.



The debate over the possibility of a switch to a "balanced schedule" is a contested topic, with both sides carrying valid arguments.

# PTHS Library: an Inspiring and Welcoming Student Resource

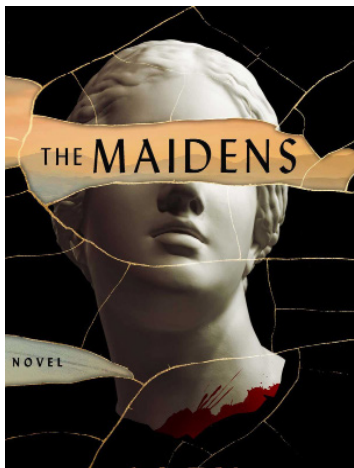
By Sophie Kunka

When you first walk into the high school library, you're greeted by a friendly librarian, a shelf of carefully curated books, and cozy seating. You could choose to browse the section on Washington State history, the graphic novel display, or recent news from the Port Townsend Leader, New York Times, and more. Besides such literary options, the library offers a wide variety of services. Club meetings, after school tutoring, career advice, and various classes are hosted in the library throughout the week.

Anyone can find a book they enjoy, as librarian Joy Wentzel has taught in her inspiring lessons to PTHS english classes. In these lessons, she explains the concept



A sunny day in the PTHS library (photo courtesy of PTSD)



The Maidens, a recommendation on the new Redhawk Reads shelf

of “doorways” into a book, a way of finding the aspect of a story that captivates you. For some, it’s an action packed plot, but for others a poetic writing style could capture their attention. Some may enjoy finding a character that they resonate with or a setting that whisks them into a far-off land. This concept is the inspiration behind the new student and staff curated Redhawk Reads shelf. Students fill out a simple form with a review of their favorite book to nominate it for display. Redhawk Reads illustrates the wide range of books that can interest students: Catch-22, Ulysses, and The Maidens were all recommended for varying reasons. The recommendation for The Maidens by Alex Michaelides was brief yet compelling: “[This book is for] anyone who likes Cambridge, cults, or hot men emerging from rivers,”. The student who suggested Catch-22 by Joseph Heller briefly explained the plot. “The book is set in Italy in 1944 and follows an American bomber

squadron as they struggle through the horrors of war and their attempts to maintain their sanity amongst these horrors which culminate in absurdity,” he wrote, then going on to say, “I personally find all of the doorways very interesting, but the main draw for most people will be the well-rounded characters.” This new display of Redhawk Reads makes reading more accessible and personalized for students. Seeing what their peers recommended is the perfect place to begin exploring the land of reading. A library is meant to enrich and nurture minds, and that is just what the school’s library does best. The library provides access to a plethora of books in any genre through inter-library lending, so students can check out books from anywhere in the Jefferson County Library system and pick them up conveniently at school. This is an amazing resource for any in-depth research needed for long essays or senior projects. The library also provides all students with a

free subscription to the New York Times to meet all your Wordle, Crossword, and current event needs. Additionally, a specially-curated information database is provided through the Port Townsend Public Library system. Any website found through that site is already approved as a credible source and can be utilized in academic and research writing. More than just books and information, our school library is a support system for students. It is open before and after school nearly every day of the week— an inviting place for students to chat or study. After school Monday through Thursday various teachers host after-school tutoring. This is a helpful time to ask questions and can also simply be a structured space to catch up on homework.

Not just a place to read, the PTHS library is a hub of student activity and learning. The welcoming space is used for perusing books, playing chess, meeting with a club, and chatting with friends.

# Invading Plants



Poison Hemlock, an invasive plant species

By Maggie Emery

Growing up in a school district that is focused on “Learning Through a Sense of Place” we have been taught about the local forests, salmon life cycles, and maritime ecosystems. As students at Blue Heron Middle School, many of us worked with the North Olympic Salmon Coalition, pulling invasive blackberry brambles from Salmon Creek’s river banks. The Himalayan Blackberries were spreading quickly, blocking sunlight and hoarding water from the saplings that were just planted. This was disastrous as the young alevin and fry needed fallen trees in the creek to create those safer

nooks and crannies to swim around in. Those trees actually gave them a higher survival rate.

Spring is approaching and with it, many plants are reemerging and beginning to grow and flourish. Some of these plants are wanted and needed, but others are destructive and are only harming other plants. Each native plant plays a critical role in the ecosystems of our area, and when invasive species are introduced and left to their own devices, they can take over, often killing off those vital plants. Many people know about the dangers, but do not know which plants, specific to the Pacific Northwest,

are creating these problems nor do they know how to deal with unwanted species.

Scotch broom is one of the most common invaders in our area. It is a shrub spreading across the Peninsula through its pea-like pods of seeds. It presents numerous yellow flowers and stiff thin branches that can often be found along the roadside. If you’re looking for a specific example in our area, the section of Highway 19 just beyond the county airport is a great place to find them. It is common for people to be allergic to scotch broom, causing suffering from symptoms like runny noses, coughing, and itchy eyes.

Cherry Laurel trees are the tall thick hedges that always look intentionally placed. Owners of Cherry Laurels often prune these hedges to be rectangular, making them act like a natural fence in their yard. However, this natural fence blocks an incredible amount of sunlight from smaller shrubs, and of course steals water from every species in its vicinity. Because Cherry Laurels are considered an evergreen tree, their many chloroplasts maintain the same level of photosynthesis all year round making them spread faster and be even more of a force to be reckoned with.

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# Invading Plants Cont.

Faux English Ivy has become extremely popular as a decoration for kids bedrooms, but the real living English Ivy spreads without slowing. It suffocates trees by climbing up their trunks and into their canopies. English Ivy can also blanket the ground, impeding other plants from sprouting up.

Keeping along the track of English plants, English Holly with its spiky leaves and bright red spherical berries is another plant to watch out for. It can be spread from miles away, as birds will pick up its berries, eat them, and poop them out. English Holly

also happens to be an evergreen, making it spread all year long. Examples of English Holly can be found Uptown in some people's yards.

Poison Hemlock has given our town lots of trouble. Behind Blue Heron Middle School and in some areas of Fort Worden infestations of Poison Hemlock can be found. Work parties have labored for many hours working to rid the middle school and the Fort of this plant, but it's extremely difficult as it spreads so quickly and keeps coming back. Not only is poison hemlock an invasive species, but

it is also dangerous to touch and even inhale. Be sure to wear a mask and other adequate personal protective equipment when removing Poison Hemlock.

Invasive species cause lots of problems, taking away water and sunlight from other plants, suffocating the canopies and roots of native species, and presenting their own unique problems, like being poisonous. In your own yard, removing these invasive plants is important. Most of the time invasive species are more difficult to remove and stop from growing back than regular plants,

so be sure to research the best, and most environmentally friendly way to banish the invasive plants from your yard. Once removed, consider replacing them with native plants that can make the landscaping of a yard even more beautiful and more water efficient or drought resistant. The Vine Maple, Red Flowering Currant, and Salal bushes are all good shrubs to add. If you're looking for trees, the Pacific Madrone, Western Red Cedar, and of course the Douglas Fir are some other native options.



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*Photo Taken By Panya Cao*



*Photo Taken By Panya Cao*

## *The Redhawk Review*

Sophia Lumsdaine - Editor-in-Chief

Maggie Emery - Junior Editor

Rennie O'Donnel - PR Coordinator

Zoe Guinan - Graphic Design

We hope you've enjoyed your peruse through this issue of the 2022-2023 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, community, and world, 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 independent pieces. In addition to welcoming articles, we are eager to work with students interested in creative writing, poetry, photography, cartooning, illustration, or other art forms. If you're interested in journalism, or just in learning more, please let me know! We would love to have you on board. We are creating this with the student interest in mind, so feedback and thoughts for the future are always appreciated!

Thanks for reading,

Sophia

## Winter Sports Finish Strong Cont.

50% of their league games and making it to districts.

The East Jefferson Wrestling team sent three wrestlers to state this season. Freshman Jameson Henery, junior MiAmada Lanphear-Ramirez, and senior Devon Bennett-Anderson achieved this impressive honor. Henery went in the 152 weight class, and Bennett-Anderson went in the 220 weight class. Lanphear-Ramirez got 3rd place in the 115 weight class. When Lanphear-Ramirez was asked about the season she said, "We had a lot of new people joining wrestling, and

because of that, it created a sense of unity. We're kind of like a big family."

This sentiment of unity with fellow teammates is an experience shared almost universally by EJ Rivals. Now that winter sports seasons have concluded, ballers and wrestlers alike can be proud of their accomplishments and sure of the connections they made with their team. With both basketball teams making it to districts, and wrestlers represented at state, the PTHS community should enthusiastically celebrate the accomplishments of its winter athletes.

