

HIGHLANDER HILLTOP 3/26

Good afternoon Highlanders,

It has been a busy week here on the hilltop. We were excited this week to hold our first in-person grade level assemblies. While the main topic of the assembly was school safety, we also discussed some exciting changes on the horizon. The first was the fact that we even had the ability to be all together for the first time in over a year in our school auditorium, although still socially distanced. We also discussed some changes for next week, when we will begin reintroducing our cafeteria and lockers to students. This will still be organized with strict social distancing protocols, but the news was received with quite a bit of excitement.

The PTO also met this week, as we have begun the planning process for our annual 8th grade celebration. Typically, this is organized by a collaborative group of 7th grade parents, and I will be working with the PTO next week to begin to recruit volunteers for both planning and chaperoning, so be on the lookout for that email. To begin to raise money for this annual event, a subcommittee of our student council has developed a plan to hold a Portland Middle School Walk-a-thon, on April 9th. I will not steal this incredible group's thunder, as they will be sending out some advertisements for this event, starting next week.

We are just two weeks away from the end of quarter 3, which closes on April 8. Be sure to talk with your child about reaching out to their teachers about any missing or incomplete assignments.

Finally, we will be holding our parent meeting for spring sports on Monday, 3/29, from 7 to 8 pm. This will be done in conjunction with the high school, so parents of children in both schools only need to attend this one informational session. The join link is as follows: <https://meet.google.com/ukw-igzk-eic>

Have a spectacular spring weekend.

-Chuck

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Chuck Hershon

Principal - Portland Middle School



Spring Sports Parent Meeting

Monday, March 29 · 7:00 – 8:00pm—link ABOVE

Registration for sports participation at Portland Middle School is facilitated in part by a web-based registration application. This application is used by parents/guardians to register student-athletes for all interscholastic sports at Portland Middle School and Portland High School. The window will close on April 3rd, 2021.

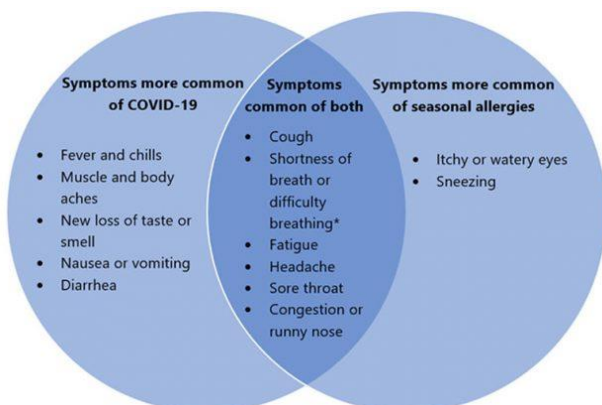
Please contact Michele Iannello at portlandad@portlandct.us with any questions.

<http://www.familyid.com/>



FROM THE NURSE'S OFFICE:

Parents! Seasonal allergies are starting to affect us. Please know that if any child presents with symptoms in the below categories for COVID or "both" while in school, they will be sent home for either a Dr.'s note confirming allergies vs Covid, or a negative PCR test. Confirmed allergy symptoms will need to be under control with appropriate medication for return to school to prevent repeated dismissals. Please contact your pediatricians for guidance. We're sorry to say that we can't accept a parental report of allergies as a definite diagnosis for illness complaints in school, it MUST come from a licensed provider.





Drama: 10 Ways to Survive Life in a Quarantine, premiering April 10th on our district YouTube channel! Sign up to receive the link at: <https://portland-middle-school.ticketleap.com/10-ways/>

Actor Spotlights: Part 1.....more spotlights next week



Lily Gaetani - Lily is in 7th grade at Portland Middle School. When she is not working on the play, she likes to draw, read, hang out with friends, and play basketball. She would like to thank her parents for being supportive and encouraging.



Liz Barr - Liz is a 7th grader at Portland Middle School. When she's not working on the play, she likes writing, playing basketball and soccer and hanging out with her friends. She would like to thank her parents for letting her completely destroy her room.



Evelyn Hair - Evie is a 7th grader at Portland Middle School. When she isn't working on the play she is reading, drawing, figure skating, or playing board games with her family. She would like to thank her parents, siblings, friends, and family for supporting her.

Logan Kehoe - Logan is a 7th grader at Portland Middle School. When she is not working on the play, she likes to go on hikes, read books, play with friends, do origami, make people laugh, and make stories. She would like to thank her parents, pets, family members and friends for all the support and encouragement.



Skyler Keoppen - Skyler is an 8th grader at Portland Middle School. When she isn't working on the play she likes to work with Oddfellows, read, and eat. She would like to thank her friends and family for supporting her and tolerating her not very good singing and cat obsession.



Madeline Vardon - Maddie is in 7th grade at Portland Middle School. When she is not working on the play, she likes to read, hang out with friends, and skateboard or play soccer. She would like to thank her parents for supporting her and letting her tear up a lot of paper.

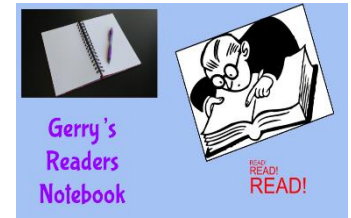
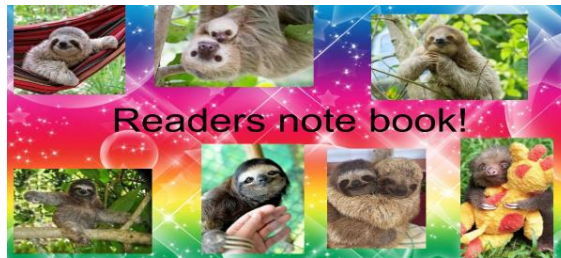
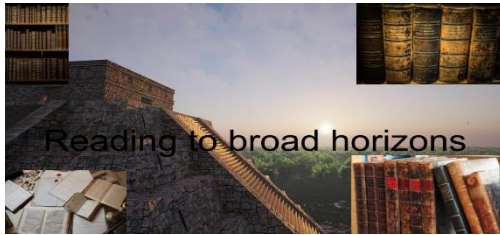


Caitlin Walsh - Caitlin is an 8th grader at Portland Middle School. When she is not working on the play, she likes to bake, hang out with her friends, and is part of the school cross country team. She would like to thank her family but especially her cousin for helping her with the memorization of the script.

Abby Leone - Abby is an 8th grader at Portland Middle School. When she is not working on the play she is on a bike ride or painting. She would like to say thank you to her mom and friends for supporting her all the time



News from the Seventh Grade!

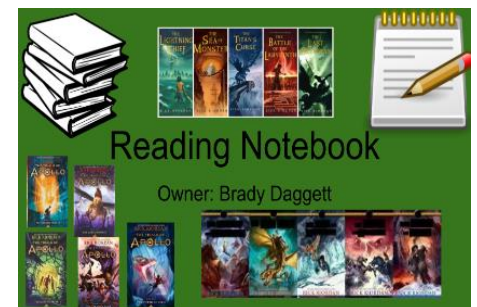
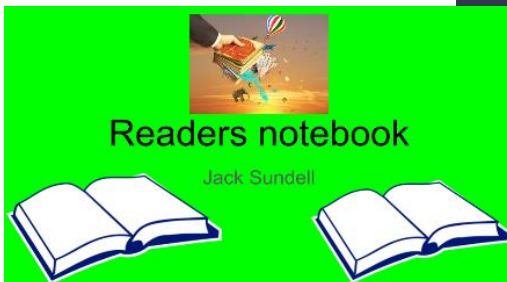
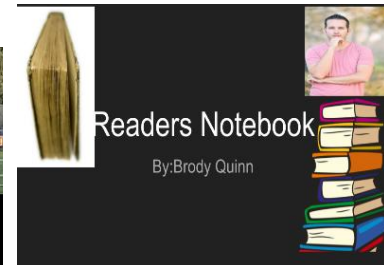
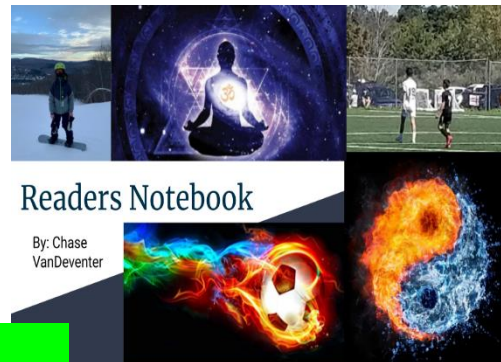
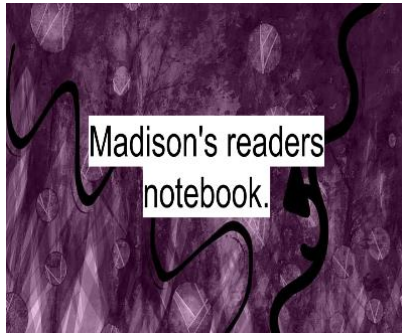


Our seventh grade students have impressed us with their growing skills in the ELA classes, citing evidence as they analyze and interpret their texts, evaluating the role of the “hero,” and recognizing the universal story pattern of the hero’s journey. (Enjoy viewing a sampling of their Readers Workshop notebook covers included here!)

Beyond this, as March is Women’s History Month, we celebrate the role of women through myriad opportunities, from researching female authors, to discovering women’s contributions in the arts and in social activism throughout history.

So, as our students study heroes in literature and in life, that ordinary hero that when called upon will stand up to do the right thing, they come to recognize that they, too, have the power to be the hero of their *own* story. Seventh grade is quite the journey!

Next, we sail into research topics such as the sinking of the RMS Titanic, as well as the plight of endangered species facing natural and environmental threats. Students will research the causes and evaluate the impact that such losses leave upon our world. They will examine the role humans have had on such events; they will take a stance on what can be done to affect change for the future.



7th grade Family and Consumer Science students studied the common benefits and risks of nutrients.