

# School News

“Friday Blast”

## Principal’s Corner

Greetings to all the Otters out there! Spring Break is upon us, and I hope it brings excitement, joy, and happiness to every family, student, and staff member.

For my family, Spring Break means more than just relaxation—it’s spring-cleaning time! My wife, Tina, and I dedicate our spring breaks to thorough interior cleaning, tackling yard work, decluttering the garage, and sprucing up our flower beds. It might not sound thrilling, but Tina and I cherish this tradition. It’s our chance to catch up on tasks we’ve postponed. As a busy person and a natural procrastinator, my to-do list tends to grow, causing a bit of stress.

At times, that list seems insurmountable. However, once we’ve completed our spring-cleaning tasks, Tina and I feel a sense of relief, satisfaction, and accomplishment. Our list of things to do shrinks significantly.

As the principal of OPA and DVS, I work with students who, like me, carry perpetual to-do lists. Each week, they receive class assignments and homework. Some tackle these tasks promptly, while others succumb to natural procrastination. For the latter group, the list grows longer until it feels overwhelming.

I empathize because, as a former student, I was also a natural procrastinator. I’d promise to complete my homework but often let it simmer on the back burner until I found the motivation. At times, my “homework to-do list” grew overwhelming, causing me to fall behind and my grades to suffer. The feeling was dreadful, and I convinced myself I couldn’t catch up, leading to more procrastination and a looming homework crisis. I vividly recall eighth grade when I postponed all my math assignments until the semester’s end. Sleepless nights with mountains of homework were my only path to a passing grade.

When my mother discovered my predicament, she ensured I tackled every task—painful but necessary. From that experience, I learned a valuable lesson: never let that “to-do list” balloon again. To solidify this change, I

## A LOOK AHEAD:

**March 30th:** PTO Spring Bazaar (see page 4)

**April 1st-5th:** Spring Break

**April 17th:** PTO: Sweet Spot Takeover 3-6pm

**May 9th:** Burke Museum in OPA Gym

**May 10th:** Snow Make-up Day (School in session-OPA LABS)

**May 13th-16th:** SBA Testing for 3rd-12th grade

**May 21st-5th & 8th** WACAS (Science Test)

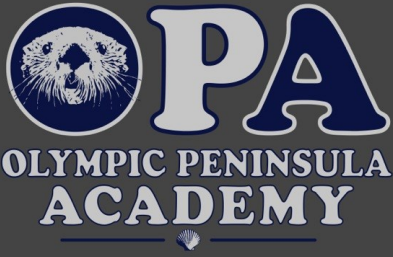
**OPA Scholastic Book Fair is still open for online orders.**

**Click [HERE](#) to shop.**

Here is the [link](#) for SDS (School Data Solutions). Make sure to submit your monthly parent feedback by

**[April 25th, 2024](#)**

**Go Otters!**



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## Principal Corner-continued

adopted better habits. First, I maximized my productivity at school, reducing the homework load. Second, I maintained a consistent routine, focusing on challenging assignments during class. This allowed teacher and peer assistance. I prioritized easier tasks for homework over in-class work.

To strengthen my transformation, I consistently met with teachers as an accountability measure. These sessions provided essential support and helped me rebuild trust with my educators. By making minor adjustments, I effectively managed my studies and achieved passing grades. Interestingly, my teachers emphasized effort over mere outcomes, recognizing that diligence leads to positive results. Additionally, I discovered that dedicating myself to assignments made completing them easier.

As Spring Break approaches, I hope your students don't have an extensive 'homework to-do list.' While I encourage you and your student(s) to enjoy the break, let's also prepare to return to school with positive momentum. This means tackling incomplete assignments and reducing the to-do list.

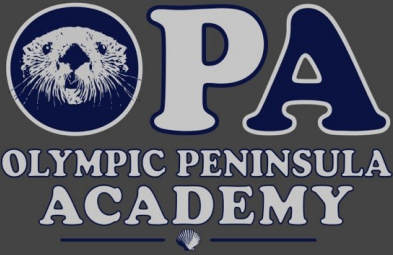
Serving as Principal of OPA is a privilege, and I look forward to continuing our partnership in maintaining OPA as a great place for your student to learn and grow. Have a fantastic Spring Break!"\*\*

Ned

## K/1st Fieldtrip to Post Office



**Go Otters!**



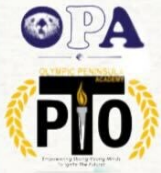
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## OPA PTO Happenings!

Olympic Peninsula Academy  
Parent Teacher Organization

# Spring Bazaar



Saturday, March 30, 2024  
Sequim High School Cafeteria  
601 N. Sequim Ave  
9:30 am- 4:30pm

## “Every Holiday”

Crafts & Gifts • Fashion & Jewelry • Homemade  
Decor • Direct Sales • Food & Drinks •  
Live Entertainment • Easter Bunny Visit

For more info or to apply to be a vendor,  
contact Dede Bessey 360-670-1320

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Help clean up after  
the Bazaar at  
4:30pm on  
Saturday & earn  
volunteer hours.

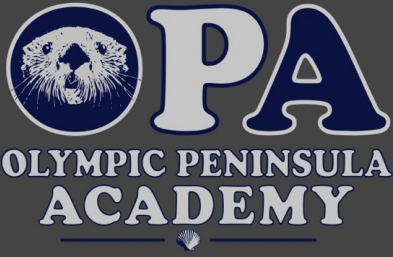
Call/text Dede  
Bessey at  
360-670-1320 if  
you can help.

Spring Bazaar will  
host the following  
food vendors:

- ◆ Southern Nibble
- ◆ Benny B’s Fair Bites
- ◆ Diamond Coffee







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## OPA PTO Happenings!

### **FUNDRAISER ALERT!!!**

We are helping at the Sequim Irrigation Festival’s Crazy Callen Weekend **May 4th and 5th** at Carrie Blake Park.

**[SIGN UP TODAY BY CLICKING HERE!](#)**

**This will earn a donation to the PTO!!!**

**These hours count towards volunteer time!**



### ~ PTO Meeting ~

Join us for the next PTO meeting on Tuesday, 4/16 at 5pm in Room /6B.

The meeting counts for volunteer hours, you’ll learn about other volunteer opportunities, and much more!



We are TAKING OVER  
Sweet Spot Frozen  
Yogurt  
on April 17th  
3-6pm!

— Stay Connected —  
Sign up for newsletter,  
find us on FB, etc. at:

**[OPA PTO Linktree](#)**



## Books for Belize

Belize is a small Central American country with many amazing and beautiful places to explore. It has the 2<sup>nd</sup> largest barrier reef in the world, rainforests with jaguars, monkeys, and exotic birds, beautiful beaches, sugar cane field and orange groves. But on a recent trip to serve as a literacy coach, I discovered that something important was missing?!?—

### BOOKS!

While volunteering in four schools it was evident that there were very few books. Some classrooms had only a handful of books for students to read. The children shared that they did not have books at home. The staff dream of having a school library so children can access books for school and to read at home with their families.

You see, in Belize, English is the language that is taught in school, but most students speak a different language at home. In Central America books in Spanish are available. There are no children's bookstores, a few libraries in larger towns (an hour bus ride away), no elementary school libraries, and no book fairs to purchase books in English.

Can families in Sequim help? **YES!!!** During the month of April, schools all around Sequim will be participating in a book drive to gather books to help create libraries for schools in Belize. Please consider donating any new or gently used books and drop them off in the **Books for Belize** collection box at school. We will ship the books this spring so schools can set up and organize their new libraries to welcome their students next September. They will be so excited!

Thank you for your support. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at [reneemullikin@yahoo.com](mailto:reneemullikin@yahoo.com)

Renee Mullikin

Retired Sequim Teacher





# HEALTHY KIDS DAY®

April 20, 10 a.m. – Noon | Free to the Public

For a better us.®

» FIND YOUR JOY.  
FIND YOUR Y.



Healthy Kids Day is an annual national event celebrated at YMCAs across the country to help inspire healthy habits in kids and families.

- ACTIVITIES • ARTS & CRAFTS • SNACKS • PRIZES  
• OBSTACLE COURSE & FITNESS FOR KIDS •  
• "APRIL POOL'S DAY" TALK WITH  
FREE LIFE JACKETS • AND MORE!

\* Anyone ages 18 and older must bring a valid photo ID.

YMCA OF SEQUIM  
610 N. 5th Ave.  
Sequim, WA  
360-477-4381



National Sponsor

PEANUTS

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[olympicpeninsulaymca.org/hkd](http://olympicpeninsulaymca.org/hkd)

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# Sequim Bike Rodeo

Saturday, April 27th, 2024

1:00 - 3:00 PM

For kids Kindergarten - 5th

**It's FREE!**

**Helen Haller Elementary School  
Football Stadium Lot East of School**

**Parents must sign Release Form and be present**

Learn how to ride your bike better in a safe space. Loaner helmets and bikes will be available. Takes an hour to complete.

**Bike Inspection, Helmet Adjustment, Seven Bike Courses & Celebration**



**Olympic  
Peninsula  
Bicycle  
Alliance**

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